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UPOV

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

DRAFT

Associated Document
to the
General Introduction to the Examination
of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability and the
Development of Harmonized Descriptions of New Varieties of Plants (document TG/1/3)

DOCUMENT TGP/12

"SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS"

Section 2: Chemical Constituents: Protein Electrophoresis

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

to be considered by the Enlarged Editorial Committee at its meeting
to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, January 11, 2005

1. The General Introduction (Section 4.6.2) states that "Characteristics based on chemical constituents may be accepted provided they fulfill the criteria specified in Section 4.2. It is important for those characteristics to be well defined and an appropriate method established for examination. More details can be found in document TGP/12, 'Special Characteristics'."

2. With regard to protein characteristics derived by using electrophoresis, UPOV has decided to place these characteristics in an annex to the Test Guidelines, thereby creating a special category of characteristic, because the majority of the members of the Union is of the view that it is not possible to establish distinctness solely on the basis of a difference found in a characteristic derived by using electrophoresis. Such characteristics should therefore only be used as a complement to other differences in morphological or physiological characteristics. UPOV reconfirms that these characteristics are considered useful but that they might not be sufficient on their own to establish distinctness. They should not be used as a routine characteristic but at the request or with the agreement of the applicant of the candidate variety.

3. For protein characteristics derived by using electrophoresis to be included in an annex to the Test Guidelines, it is necessary:

(a) to establish the genetic control of the protein(s) concerned, with each locus forming one characteristic and each allele one state of expression; and
(b) to specify an appropriate method for the examination.

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