

Enlarged Editorial Committee

TC-EDC/Mar18/18

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ILLUSTRATIONS FOR SHAPE AND RATIO CHARACTERISTICS

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this document is to report on developments concerning the revision of guidance available in document TGP/14 on providing illustrations for shape and ratio characteristics.
2. The TC-EDC is invited to note that the comments by the TWPs, at their sessions in 2017, would be reported report to the TC, at its session in 2018.
3. The structure of this document is as follows:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY1
 BACKGROUND1
 CONSIDERATION BY THE TECHNICAL WORKING PARTIES1
 NEXT STEPS2
 ANNEX GUIDANCE ON SHAPE CHARACTERISTICS

BACKGROUND

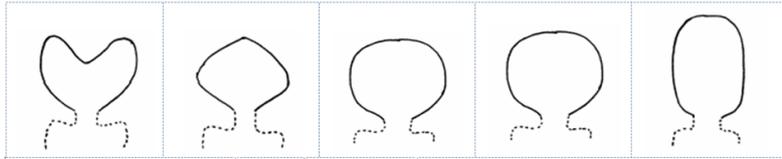
4. The TC, at its fifty-third session, held in Geneva from April 3 to 5, 2017, agreed to improve guidance available in document TGP/14 on providing illustrations for shape and ratio characteristics by the inclusion of additional examples. The TC agreed to invite the TWPs, at their sessions in 2017, to consider the issue and report to the TC at its session in 2018 (see document TC/53/31 “Report”, paragraph 253).

CONSIDERATION BY THE TECHNICAL WORKING PARTIES

5. The TWA, TWV, TWO, TWF and TWC, at their sessions in 2017, considered document TWP/1/18 “Illustrations for shape and ratio characteristics”, which invited the TWPs to consider whether additional examples could be provided to improve guidance in document TGP/14 (see documents TWA/46/10 “Report”, paragraphs 53 and 54; TWV/51/16, paragraphs 48 and 49; TWO/50/14 “Report”, paragraphs 40 to 42; TWF/48/13 “Report”, paragraphs 49 to 53; and TWC/35/21 “Report”, paragraphs 43 to 44).

6. The TWA, TWV, TWF and TWC agreed that no additional examples were available at this time for improving the guidance on providing illustrations for shape and ratio characteristics in document TGP/14. The TWO noted the examples of illustrations for shape and ratio characteristics provided in document TGP/14 and agreed that no further examples were necessary to improve the guidance.

7. The TWF agreed with the TWO that guidance on providing illustrations for shape and ratio characteristics in document TGP/14 should be amended to clarify that the base of a structure was at the point of attachment. The TWF further agreed that the example 6 of Shape-Related Characteristics in document TGP/14: “Variation between range of shapes indicated by the illustrations”, reproduced in document TWP/1/18, may be put upside-down in order to make clear that the base on shape illustrations should preferably be represented the same way, and as follows:



8. The TWO noted that characteristics with very few states of expression could be displayed in a single row as in the first two examples in document TWP/1/18, provided that the basis for the different states of expression was clear to readers. The examples are reproduced below:

“Example 1: variation in ratio length/width only.

[...]

Alternative 1:	ratio length/width: low	ratio length/width: medium	ratio length/width: high
Alternative 2:	1 Shape: broad obovate	2 Shape: medium obovate	3 Shape: narrow obovate

“Example 2: variation in position of the broadest part only.”

[...]

broadest part towards base 1	broadest part at middle 2	broadest part towards apex 3
ovate	elliptic	obovate

9. The TWF agreed that clarification might be needed on the reasons to produce a grid when illustrating shape. The TWF invited the experts of New Zealand and Germany to check whether to develop a wording to explain when it is appropriate to use a grid in Test Guidelines, and to circulate a proposal by correspondence by end of December 2017 to the TWF for its approval. The proposal would be then presented to the TC-EDC, at its session in March 2018, for consideration by the TC at its session in October 2018.

10. On January 25, 2018, the Office of the Union was informed by the expert from New Zealand that a proposal was still under discussion and would be circulated for consideration by the TWPs, at their sessions in 2018.

NEXT STEPS

11. It is proposed that the comments by the TWPs, at their sessions in 2017, be reported report to the TC at its session in 2018.

12. *The TC-EDC is invited to note that the comments by the TWPs, at their sessions in 2017, would be reported report to the TC, at its session in 2018.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

GUIDANCE ON SHAPE CHARACTERISTICS

Pseudo-qualitative characteristics

- Document TGP/1/3 “General Introduction to the Examination of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability and the Development of Harmonized Descriptions of New Varieties of Plants” (General Introduction) explains that shape can be considered in terms of a pseudo-qualitative characteristic when each individual state of expression can be identified to adequately describe the range of the characteristic.
- Document TGP/9 “Examining Distinctness” explains that the use of pseudo-qualitative characteristics has limitations due to the difficulty to define a general rule on the difference in Notes to establish distinctness within a characteristic.

Components of shape

- Document TGP/14 explains that it can be useful to develop quantitative or qualitative characteristics related to shape, rather than considering shape as a single pseudo qualitative characteristic. In that respect, document TGP/14 defines a plane shape using the following components:
 - Ratio length/width (or ratio width/length, thickness/length, diameter/length, thickness/width);
 - Position of broadest part;
 - Shape of base;
 - Shape of apex;
 - Lateral outline.

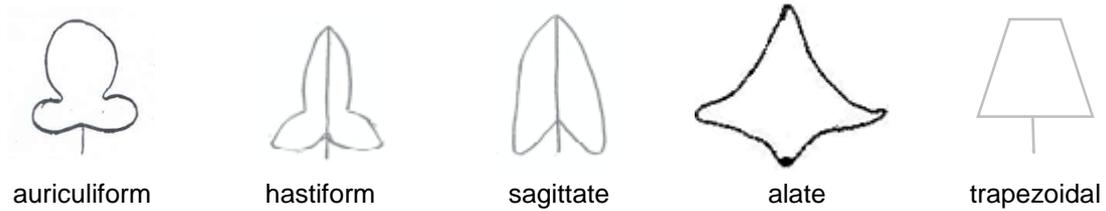
Illustrating shape characteristics

- To ensure that the ratio length/width is clearly understood, document TGP/14 recommends to present the characteristic as a shape with states such as “very compressed” to “very elongated”, or to present the characteristic as “ratio length/width” with states such as “very low” to “very high” and to provide an illustration. Both alternative characteristics are placed as headers in the following “Chart for simple symmetric plane shapes” (partially reproduced). The position of broadest part is presented in different rows:

Chart for Simple Symmetric Plane Shapes

shape	very compressed	moderately compressed	slightly compressed	medium	slightly elongated	moderately elongated	very elongated
ratio length/width	very low	low	low to medium	medium	medium to high	high	very high
Parallel set							
oblong	 12	 11	 10	 9			
Rounded set							
ovate	 8	 7	 6	 5			
elliptic	 8	 7	 6	 5			
obovate	 8	 7	 6	 5			

5. Document TGP/14 proposes the development of charts for other types of plane shapes by describing the ranges for ratio length/width and position of broadest, in a similar way to that shown in the Chart for Simple Symmetric Plane Shapes. The following are shapes used as example in document TGP/14:



Developing Shape-Related Characteristics

6. Document TGP/14 explains that “in general, it can be most useful to consider the variation in shape between varieties in the variety collection using the following steps”:

- Step 1: Ratio length/width;
- Step 2: Position of broadest part;
- Step 3: Shape of base;
- Step 4: Shape of apex;
- Step 5: Lateral outline.

Examples of Shape-Related Characteristics

7. Document TGP/14 provide 6 examples of variation in full plane shape components (ratio length/width, position of broadest part and lateral outline) for the development of characteristics, either as characteristics for the individual components or as a single overall shape characteristic:

Example 1: variation in ratio length/width only.

Alternative 1

Plant [part]: ratio length/width (low to high) (QN)

Alternative 2

Plant [part]: shape (broad obovate (1); medium obovate (2); narrow obovate (3)) (QN)

with the following illustration:

Alternative 1:	ratio length/width: low	ratio length/width: medium	ratio length/width: high
Alternative 2:	1	2	3
	Shape: broad obovate	Shape: medium obovate	Shape: narrow obovate

Example 2: variation in position of the broadest part only.

Alternative 1

Plant [part]: position of broadest part (towards base to towards apex) (QN)

Alternative 2

Plant [part]: shape (ovate (1); elliptic (2); obovate (3)) (QN)

with the following illustration:

broadest part towards base	broadest part at middle	broadest part towards apex
1	2	3
ovate	elliptic	obovate

Example 3: variation in ratio length/width, shape of base and lateral outline

Alternative 1

- Plant [part]: ratio length/width (low to high) (QN)
- Plant [part]: shape of base (acute, obtuse, rounded) (PQ)
- Plant [part]: lateral outline (clearly rounded to clearly triangular) (QN)

Alternative 2

- Plant [part]: shape (broad ovate (1); medium ovate (2); medium trullate (3); narrow ovate (4); narrow trullate (5)) (PQ)

with the following illustration:

		broad	↔	narrow
triangular outline	↔			
	↔		3 medium trullate	5 narrow trullate
rounded outline	↔			
	↔	1 broad ovate	2 medium ovate	4 narrow ovate

Example 4: variation in ratio height/diameter, position of broadest part and lateral outline in apical half

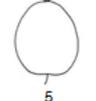
Alternative 1

- (a) ratio height/diameter (QN): very low (1); low (3); medium (5); high (7); very high (9);
- (b) position of broadest part (QN): at middle (1); moderately towards base (2); strongly towards base (3);
- (c) lateral outline in apical half (PQ): rounded (1); parallel (2); flat taper (3); concave (4)

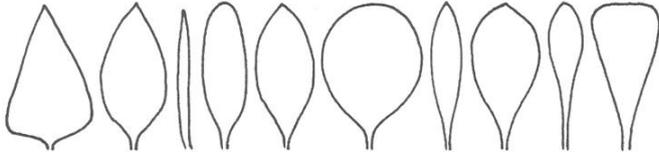
Alternative 2

- (a) ratio height/diameter (QN): very low (1); low (3); medium (5); high (7); very high (9);
- (b) general shape (PQ): cylindrical waisted (1); conic (2); ovate (3); cylindrical (4); elliptic (5)

with the following illustration:

		lateral outline in apical half			
		← concave	flat tapering	rounded	→ flat parallel sides
position of broadest part	→ at middle				
	← at base				
		1 cylindrical waisted	2 conic	3 ovate	4 cylindrical
				5 elliptic (includes round and oblate)	

Example 5: variation between the range of shapes indicated by the illustrations:



Alternative 1

(a) position of broadest part (QN): strongly towards base (1); moderately towards base (3); at middle (5); moderately towards apex (7); strongly towards apex (9)

(b) ratio length/width (QN): very low (1); low (3); medium (5); high (7); very high (9);

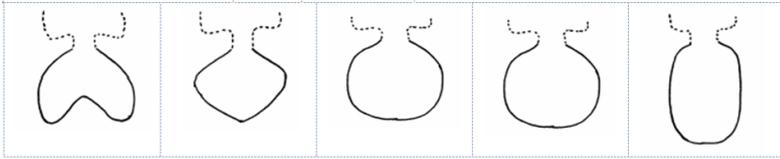
Alternative 2

General shape (PQ): triangular (1); ovate (2); circular (3); elliptic (4); oblong (5); linear (6); obovate (7); oblanceolate (8); spatulate (9); obtriangular (10)

with the following illustration:

		← broadest part →				
		(below middle)	at middle		(above middle)	
broad (low) ← width (ratio length/width) → narrow (high)			6 linear			
			5 oblong	8 oblanceolate	9 spatulate	
		1 triangular	2 ovate	4 elliptic	7 obovate	10 obtriangular
			3 circular			

Example 6: variation between range of shapes indicated by the illustrations:



Alternative 1

(a) lateral outline (QL): e.g. reniform (1); rhombic (2); elliptic (3)

(b) ratio length/width (QN): e.g. low (1); medium (2); high (3);

Alternative 2

General shape (PQ): reniform (1); rhombic (2); oblate (3); circular (4); elliptic (5)

with the following illustration:

low ← ratio length/width → high			5 elliptic
	1 reniform	2 rhombic	4 circular
			3 oblate