



**TWA/29/16**

**ORIGINAL:** English

**DATE:** June 6, 2000

**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS**  
GENEVA

**TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY  
FOR  
AGRICULTURAL CROPS**

**Twenty-Ninth Session  
Uppsala, Sweden, June 27 to 30, 2000**

COMMENTS ON RICE

*Document prepared by experts from Australia*

## Comments on UPOV Working Paper on Revised Test Guidelines for Rice

I think the guidelines are restrictive. Although there is the capacity to use other characters, I do not think there are sufficient characters to distinguish varieties in any detail. I also believe that the categories are not well defined in many cases and there will be confusion in assigning a category. If the categories are to be subjective, a representative variety should be given for each category.

Some of the characteristics will be site specific so testing location will be an important specification. Duration, for example, will vary considerably across location or season. Photoperiod or temperature sensitive varieties can vary from very early to very late maturing across locations or seasons.

Actual measurement would be preferable where possible. This will vary across locations but no more so than will maturity, height, panicle exertion or many other characteristics.

Generally the categories are acceptable as far as they go. It would be preferable to include other morphological characters such as:

- Basal leaf sheath color

Penultimate leaf angle

Ligule color

Ligule shape

Auricle color

Awning

Awn color

Culm length

It may also be possible to include some endosperm characters:

- Endosperm type

Scent

Other potential characters of importance are excluded. These could include:

- Amylose content

Gelatinisation temperature.

Some examples of these characters are in the accompanying table. Subjective classifications have been given but for those characters that are marked (\*), actual measurement would be preferred.

Much of the information included in the attached table was taken from the International Rice Research Institute Standard Evaluation System for Rice.

Table of potential additional characters for classification of varieties.

Characteristic	Stage	Class
Basal leaf sheath color	40	Green Purple lines Light purple Purple
Penultimate leaf: angle	40	Erect Horizontal Drooping
Ligule color	40	White Purple lines Purple
Ligule shape	40	Acute Cleft Truncate
Auricle color	40	Absent Short and partly awned Short and fully awned Long and partly awned Long and fully awned
Awn color	60	Straw Gold Brown Red Purple Black
Culm length (*)	90	Actual
Endosperm type	92	Glutinous Glutinous Intermediate
Scent	92	Non-scented Lightly scented Scented
Amylose content (*)	92	Low Intermediate High Very high
Gelatinisation temperature (*)	92	Low Intermediate High

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