

Technical Working Party on Testing Methods and Techniques**TWM/4/20****Fourth Session****Cambridge, United Kingdom, June 2 to 5, 2026****Original:** English**Date:** May 13, 2026

THE OIV KEY ACTIONS ON GRAPEVINE GENETIC RESOURCES AND THE PUBLICATION OF THE 3RD EDITION OF THE OIV AMPELOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTORS*Document prepared by the Secretariat of the International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV)**Disclaimer: this document does not represent UPOV policies or guidance***ABSTRACT**

1. The International Organisation of Vine and Wine (OIV) is the intergovernmental scientific and technical reference body for the vine and wine sector, currently gathering 51 Member States committed to the harmonisation of international standards, scientific cooperation, and knowledge exchange across viticulture, oenology, economics and law.
2. Within Commission I “Viticulture”, the OIV Expert Group on Genetic Resources and Vine Selection (GENET) is responsible for scientific and technical activities related to grapevine genetic resources, varietal identification, clonal selection, breeding, disease-resistant varieties, and the conservation and characterisation of *Vitis* biodiversity. In a context marked by climate change, emerging phytosanitary pressures, and increasing demand for resilient plant material, the management and valorisation of grapevine genetic diversity represent a strategic priority for the sustainability of the global vitivinicultural sector.
3. Over recent years, OIV has reinforced its actions in this domain through several complementary initiatives, including work on grapevine variety identification protocols, inventories of disease-resistant varieties, harmonised approaches for plant material characterisation, and scientific reflection on innovation in breeding, including New Genomic Techniques, always under a science-based and consensus-driven framework.
4. A major recent achievement of the GENET Group has been the revision of the 2nd edition of the OIV Descriptor List for Grapevine Varieties and *Vitis* Species, based on the Resolution OIV-VITI 702-2023. The 3rd and new edition, which is expected to be published in 2026, constitutes a substantial revision and modernisation of the international reference framework for grapevine description and identification. The revision process, initiated in 2016, involved several rounds of international expert consultation and resulted in: confirmation of 70 descriptors, revision of 79 existing descriptors, and inclusion of 27 new descriptors, notably addressing morphological traits, resistance to biotic and abiotic factors, and additional SSR markers relevant for grapevine identification.
5. Beyond the scientific update of descriptors, the new edition introduces important structural innovations, including harmonisation with descriptors used by other international organisations, dedicated correlation tables with UPOV and Bioversity International descriptors, updated reference varieties and expression scales, revised annexes, modern illustrations, and the launch of a digital Ampelographic Descriptor Database facilitating free access, implementation, and continuous dissemination.
6. This presentation will provide an overview of OIV’s strategic actions on grapevine genetic resources and highlight how the revised descriptor framework contributes to international harmonisation, varietal traceability, germplasm management, breeding activities, and potential technical cooperation between OIV and UPOV in the field of plant variety characterisation and testing methodologies.

References

1. OIV, Bulletin de l'OIV 23, 235 (1950).
2. OIV, Registre Ampélographique International, 5 volumes (1961-1972).
3. OIV, Code of Descriptive Characteristics of the Varieties and Species of *Vitis* (1983).
4. OIV, 2nd edition of the List of OIV Descriptors for *Vitis* Varieties and Species (2007).
5. OIV, Resolution OIV-VITI 702-2023 (2023).
6. Publication of the 3rd edition of the OIV ampelographic descriptors (<https://doi.org/10.58233/Xk2jsdGQ>).

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