

Reference to document TC/37/9,  
Comments 1 (TWC)



**TWV/35/16**

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

**TECHNICAL WORKING PARTY FOR VEGETABLES**

**Thirty-Fifth Session**  
**Salerno, Italy, June 25 to 29, 2001**

COMMENTS ON DOCUMENT TC/37/9(A):  
DRAFT DOCUMENT TG/1/3 "REVISED GENERAL INTRODUCTION  
TO THE EXAMINATION OF DISTINCTNESS, UNIFORMITY AND  
STABILITY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
HARMONIZED DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

*Document prepared by the Office of the Union*

The TWC have proposed the following amendments to the draft TG/1/3 text presented in TC/37/9(a):

Proposed Amendments to TC/37/9(a)	Explanation
<p>TGP/8, <u>“Use of Statistical Procedures in DUS Testing”</u> <del>“Good Statistical Practices for DUS Testing,”</del></p>	<p><i>The TWC propose to broaden the scope of TGP/8 to explain how statistical procedures can be applied to DUS Testing (e.g. the use of scale levels according to the type of characteristics), rather than just presenting the procedures.</i></p>
<p>4.4.1 <u>Qualitative Characteristics</u></p> <p>38. Qualitative characteristics are those that are expressed in discontinuous states (e.g. sex of plant: dioecious female (1), dioecious male (2), monoecious unisexual (3), monoecious hermaphrodite (4)). These states are self-explanatory and independently meaningful. All states are necessary to describe the full range of the characteristic, and every form of expression can be described by a single state. The <u>order of states is not important</u> <del>states do not necessarily have any logical order</del>. As a rule the characteristics are not influenced by environment.</p>	<p><i>The TWC proposal for improved wording.</i></p>

Proposed Amendments to TC/37/9(a)	Explanation
<p>4.4.2 <u>Quantitative Characteristics</u></p> <p>39. “Quantitative characteristics” are those <u>that can show the full range of variation from one extreme to the other and whose expression can be recorded on a one-dimensional, continuous or discrete, linear scale</u> <del>whose expression can be recorded on a one-dimensional, linear scale and which show continuous variation from one extreme to the other</del>. The range of expression is divided into a number of states of expression for the purpose of description (e.g. length of stem: very short (1), short (3), medium (5), long (7), very long (9)). The division seeks to provide, as far as is practical, an even distribution across the scale. The Test Guidelines do not specify the difference needed for distinctness. The states of expression should, however, be meaningful for DUS assessment.</p>	<p><i>The TWC observed that quantitative characteristics can be recorded on a discrete scale (e.g. 1,2,3.... days to ear emergence) and not just a continuous scale. It is therefore considered better to avoid the use of the phrase “continuous variation”. It was also noted that the full range of variation is <u>not always seen</u> and it should be clear that it is more accurate to state that it <u>can</u> show the full range of variation.</i></p>
<p>4.5.2 <u>Bulk Samples</u></p> <p>42. If it is necessary to examine characteristics in the form of bulk samples specific guidance will be considered in document <u>TGP/8 “Use of Statistical Procedures in DUS Testing”</u>. <del>TGP/10, “Examining Uniformity.”</del></p>	<p><i>The TWC noted that it is also important to consider the assessment of distinctness where characteristics are examined in bulk samples and therefore propose to deal with bulk samples in TGP/8 “Use of Statistical Procedures in DUS Testing”.</i></p>

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