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UPOV

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS

GENEVA

DRAFT

YAM

UPOV Code: DIOSC

Dioscorea L.

*

GUIDELINES

FOR THE CONDUCT OF TESTS

FOR DISTINCTNESS, UNIFORMITY AND STABILITY

prepared by an expert from Japan

to be considered by the
Technical Working Party for Vegetables
at its forty-first session, to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from June 11 to 15, 2007

Alternative Names:*

Botanical name	*English*	*French*	*German*	*Spanish*
Dioscorea L.	Yam	Igname	Yamswurzel	Ñame

The purpose of these guidelines ("Test Guidelines") is to elaborate the principles contained in the General Introduction (document TG/1/3), and its associated TGP documents, into detailed practical guidance for the harmonized examination of distinctness, uniformity and stability (DUS) and, in particular, to identify appropriate characteristics for the examination of DUS and production of harmonized variety descriptions.

ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

These Test Guidelines should be read in conjunction with the General Introduction and its associated TGP documents.

* These names were correct at the time of the introduction of these Test Guidelines but may be revised or updated. [Readers are advised to consult the UPOV Code, which can be found on the UPOV Website (www.upov.int), for the latest information.]

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1. Subject of these Test Guidelines

These Test Guidelines apply to all varieties of *Dioscorea alta* L*., D. batatas Dence* and *D. Yaponica.*

From MALAYSIA
Yam (Dioscorea) comprises a number of species – which can be quite different morphologically. Perhaps, it will be better to specify the more common species, e.g. D. esculenta and D. alta.

2. Material Required

2.1 The competent authorities decide on the quantity and quality of the plant material required for testing the variety and when and where it is to be delivered. Applicants submitting material from a State other than that in which the testing takes place must ensure that all customs formalities and phytosanitary requirements are complied with.

2.2 The material is to be supplied in the form of tubers.

2.3 The minimum quantity of plant material, to be supplied by the applicant, should be:

30 tubers

2.4 The plant material supplied should be visibly healthy, not lacking in vigor, nor affected by any important pest or disease.

2.5 The plant material should not have undergone any treatment which would affect the expression of the characteristics of the variety, unless the competent authorities allow or request such treatment. If it has been treated, full details of the treatment must be given.

3. Method of Examination

3.1 Number of Growing Cycles

The minimum duration of tests should normally be two independent growing cycles.

3.2 Testing Place

Tests are normally conducted at one place. In the case of tests conducted at more than one place, guidance is provided in TGP/9 “Examining Distinctness”.

3.3 Conditions for Conducting the Examination

3.3.1 The tests should be carried out under conditions ensuring satisfactory growth for the expression of the relevant characteristics of the variety and for the conduct of the examination.

3.3.2 The recommended method of observing the characteristic is indicated by the following key in the second column of the Table of Characteristics:

MG: single measurement of a group of plants or parts of plants
MS: measurement of a number of individual plants or parts of plants
VG: visual assessment by a single observation of a group of plants or parts of plants
VS: visual assessment by observation of individual plants or parts of plants

3.4 Test Design

3.4.1 Each test should be designed to result in a total of at least 20 plants, which should be divided between 2 or more replicates.

3.4.2 The design of the tests should be such that plants or parts of plants may be removed for measurement or counting without prejudice to the observations which must be made up to the end of the growing cycle.

3.5 Number of Plants / Parts of Plants to be Examined

Unless otherwise indicated, all observations should be made on 20 plants or parts taken from each of 20 plants.

3.6 Additional Tests

Additional tests, for examining relevant characteristics, may be established.

4. Assessment of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability

4.1 Distinctness

4.1.1 General Recommendations

It is of particular importance for users of these Test Guidelines to consult the General Introduction prior to making decisions regarding distinctness. However, the following points are provided for elaboration or emphasis in these Test Guidelines.

4.1.2 Consistent Differences

The differences observed between varieties may be so clear that more than one growing cycle is not necessary. In addition, in some circumstances, the influence of the environment is not such that more than a single growing cycle is required to provide assurance that the differences observed between varieties are sufficiently consistent. One means of ensuring that a difference in a characteristic, observed in a growing trial, is sufficiently consistent is to examine the characteristic in at least two independent growing cycles.

4.1.3 Clear Differences

Determining whether a difference between two varieties is clear depends on many

factors, and should consider, in particular, the type of expression of the characteristic being examined, i.e. whether it is expressed in a qualitative, quantitative, or pseudo-qualitative manner. Therefore, it is important that users of these Test Guidelines are familiar with the recommendations contained in the General Introduction prior to making decisions regarding distinctness.

4.2 Uniformity

4.2.1 It is of particular importance for users of these Test Guidelines to consult the General Introduction prior to making decisions regarding uniformity. However, the following points are provided for elaboration or emphasis in these Test Guidelines:

4.2.2 For the assessment of uniformity, a population standard of 1 % and an acceptance probability of at least 95 % should be applied. In the case of a sample size of 20 plants, 1 off-type is allowed.

4.3 Stability

4.3.1 In practice, it is not usual to perform tests of stability that produce results as certain as those of the testing of distinctness and uniformity. However, experience has demonstrated that, for many types of variety, when a variety has been shown to be uniform, it can also be considered to be stable.

4.3.2 Where appropriate, or in cases of doubt, stability may be tested, either by growing a further generation, or by testing a new plant stock to ensure that it exhibits the same characteristics as those shown by the previous material supplied.

5. Grouping of Varieties and Organization of the Growing Trial

5.1 The selection of varieties of common knowledge to be grown in the trial with the candidate varieties and the way in which these varieties are divided into groups to facilitate the assessment of distinctness are aided by the use of grouping characteristics.

5.2 Grouping characteristics are those in which the documented states of expression, even where produced at different locations, can be used, either individually or in combination with other such characteristics: (a) to select varieties of common knowledge that can be excluded from the growing trial used for examination of distinctness; and (b) to organize the growing trial so that similar varieties are grouped together.

5.3 The following have been agreed as useful grouping characteristics:

(a) Tuber: length (characteristic 3)
(b) Tuber: general shape (characteristic 6)
(c) Tuber: flesh color (characteristic 9)

5.4 Guidance for the use of grouping characteristics, in the process of examining distinctness, is provided through the General Introduction.

6. Introduction to the Table of Characteristics

6.1 Categories of Characteristics

6.1.1 Standard Test Guidelines Characteristics

Standard Test Guidelines characteristics are those which are approved by UPOV for examination of DUS and from which members of the Union can select those suitable for their particular circumstances.

6.1.2 Asterisked Characteristics

Asterisked characteristics (denoted by *) are those included in the Test Guidelines which are important for the international harmonization of variety descriptions and should always be examined for DUS and included in the variety description by all members of the Union, except when the state of expression of a preceding characteristic or regional environmental conditions render this inappropriate.

6.2 States of Expression and Corresponding Notes

States of expression are given for each characteristic to define the characteristic and to harmonize descriptions. Each state of expression is allocated a corresponding numerical note for ease of recording of data and for the production and exchange of the description.

6.3 Types of Expression

An explanation of the types of expression of characteristics (qualitative, quantitative and pseudo-qualitative) is provided in the General Introduction.

6.4 Example Varieties

Where appropriate, example varieties are provided to clarify the states of expression of each characteristic.

6.5 Legend

(*) Asterisked characteristic – see Chapter 6.1.2

QL: Qualitative characteristic – see Chapter 6.3
QN: Quantitative characteristic – see Chapter 6.3
PQ: Pseudo-qualitative characteristic – see Chapter 6.3

MG, MS, VG, VS: See Chapter 3.3.2

(a)-(d) See Explanations on the Table of Characteristics in Chapter 8.1

(+) See Explanations on the Table of Characteristics in Chapter 8.2

7. Table of Characteristics/Tableau des caractères/Merkmalstabelle/Tabla de caracteres

		English	français	deutsch	español	Example Varieties/ Exemples/ Beispielssorten/ Variedades ejemplo	Note/ Nota
1.	**VG**	**Plant: vigour**					
QN	**(a)**	weak				Ise-imo	3
		medium					5
		strong				Naga-imppo	7
2.	**VG**	**Plant: number of branches**					
QN	**(a)**	few				Ise-imo	3
		medium					5
		many				Naga-imppo	7
3. **(*)**	**VG/ MS**	**Tuber: length**					
QN	**(b)**	Short					3
		medium				Tokkuri-imo	5
		Long				Naga-imo	7
4. **(*)**	**VG/ MS**	**Tuber: width**					
QN	**(b)**	Narrow					3
		medium					5
		Broad					7
5.	**MS/ QN**	**Tuber: ratio length/width**					
QN	**(b)**	small					3
		medium					5
		large					7

		English	français	deutsch	español	Example Varieties/ Exemples/ Beispielssorten/ Variedades ejemplo	Note/ Nota
6 (*) (+)	**VG**	**Tuber : general shape**					
PQ	**(b)**	lash shape					1
		long spindle shape					2
		spindle shape					3
		cylinder shape					4
		sake-bottle shape					5
		fan shape				Icho-imo	6
		hand shape				Tukune-imo	7
		globular				Yamato-mo	8
		massive				Ise-imo	9
From Malaysia: Botanical descriptive term should be used instead of “lash”, “sake bottle” and “massib” shapes.							
7.	**VG**	**Tuber : color of skin**					
PQ	**(b)**	yellow brown				Ise-imo	1
		pale brown					2
		Medium brown				Naga-imo	3
		blackish brown					4
		black					5
		red					6
		purple					7
8. (+)	**VG/MS**	**Tuber : length of neck**					
QN	**(b)**	very short					1
		short					3
		medium				Tokkuri-imo	5
		long				Naga-imo	7
From Malaysia: Is the tuber neck an important enough characteristic?							

		English	français	deutsch	español	Example Varieties/ Exemples/ Beispielssorten/ Variedades ejemplo	Note/ Nota
9. (*)	**VG**	**Tuber : flesh color**					
PQ	**(b)**	white				Naga-imo	1
		creamish orange					2
		cream				Ise-imo	3
		purple red					4
10.	**VG**	**Tuber : hardness of flesh**					
PQ	**(b)**	soft				Naga-imo	1
		medium				Icho-imo	2
		hard					3
11. (+)	**VG**	**Tuber: viscosity of flesh after grating**					
QN	**(b)**	weak				Naga-imo	3
		medium				Icho-imo	5
		strong					7
12.	**VG**	**Varieties with white or cream flesh color only Tuber: browning flesh after grating**					
QN	**(b)**	absent or very weak				Naga-imo	1
		weak					2
		medium					3
		strong					4
13. (+)	**VG/MS**	**Stem: thickness**					
QN	**(a)**	thin					3
		medium				Ise-imo	5
		thick				Naga-imo	7

		English	français	deutsch	español	Example Varieties/ Exemples/ Beispielssorten/ Variedades ejemplo	Note/ Nota
14.	**VG**	**Stem: anthocyanin coloration**					
QN	**(a)**	Absent or very weak					1
		weak					3
		medium				Yamato-imo	5
		strong				Naga-imo	7
15.	**VG/MS**	**Varieties with aerial tubers only: tuber: size**					
QN	**(b)**	small				Yamato-imo	3
		medium				Naga-imo	5
		large					7
16. (*)	**VG**	**Aerial tuber: shape**					
QN	**(b)**	globular				Naga-imo	1
		pear shape					2
17.	**VG (b)**	**Aerial tuber: intensity of brown color of skin**					
QN		light				Yamato-imo	3
		medium				Naga-imo	5
		dark					7
18.	**VG/MS**	**Aerial tuber: number**					
QN	**(b)**	few				Ise-imo	3
		medium					5
		many				Naga-imo	7

		English	français	deutsch	español	Example Varieties/ Exemples/ Beispielssorten/ Variedades ejemplo	Note/ Nota
19.	**VG/MS**	**Leaf blade: length**					
(+)							
QN	**(a)**	short				Icho-imo	3
		medium				Naga-imo	5
		long					7
20.	**VG/MS**	**Leaf blade: width**					
(+)							
QN	**(a)**	narrow				Yamato-imo	3
		medium				Icho-imo	5
		wide					7
21. **(*)** **(+)**	**VG**	**Leaf blade: ratio length/width**					
PQ	**(a)**	small				Icho-imo	1
		medium				Ise-imo	2
		large				Naga-imo	3
22.	**VG**	**Leaf blade: color**					
PQ	**(a)**	yellow green					1
		light green				Ise-imo	2
		medium green					3
		dark green				Naga-imo	4

		English	français	deutsch	español	Example Varieties/ Exemples/ Beispielssorten/ Variedades ejemplo	Note/ Nota
23.	**VG**	**Leaf blade: anthocyanin coloration**					
QN	**(a)**	absent or very weak					1
		weak					3
		medium					5
		strong				Naga-imo	7
		very strong				Naga-imo	9
24.	**VG/MS**	**Leaf blade: depth of sinus**					
QN	**(a)**	shallow				Yamato-imo	3
		medium				Icho-imo	5
		deep				Naga-imo	7
25.	**VG/MS**	**Leaf blade: undulation of margin**					
QN	**(a)**	absent or very weak					1
		weak					3
		medium					5
		strong					7
26.	**VG/MS**	**Petiole: length**					
QN	**(a)**	short				Naga-imo	3
		medium				Icho-imo	5
		long					7
27.	**VG**	**Time of maturity**					
QN		early				Tokkuri-imo	3
		medium				Naga-imo	5
		late					7

8. Explanations on the Table of Characteristics

8.1 Explanations covering several characteristics

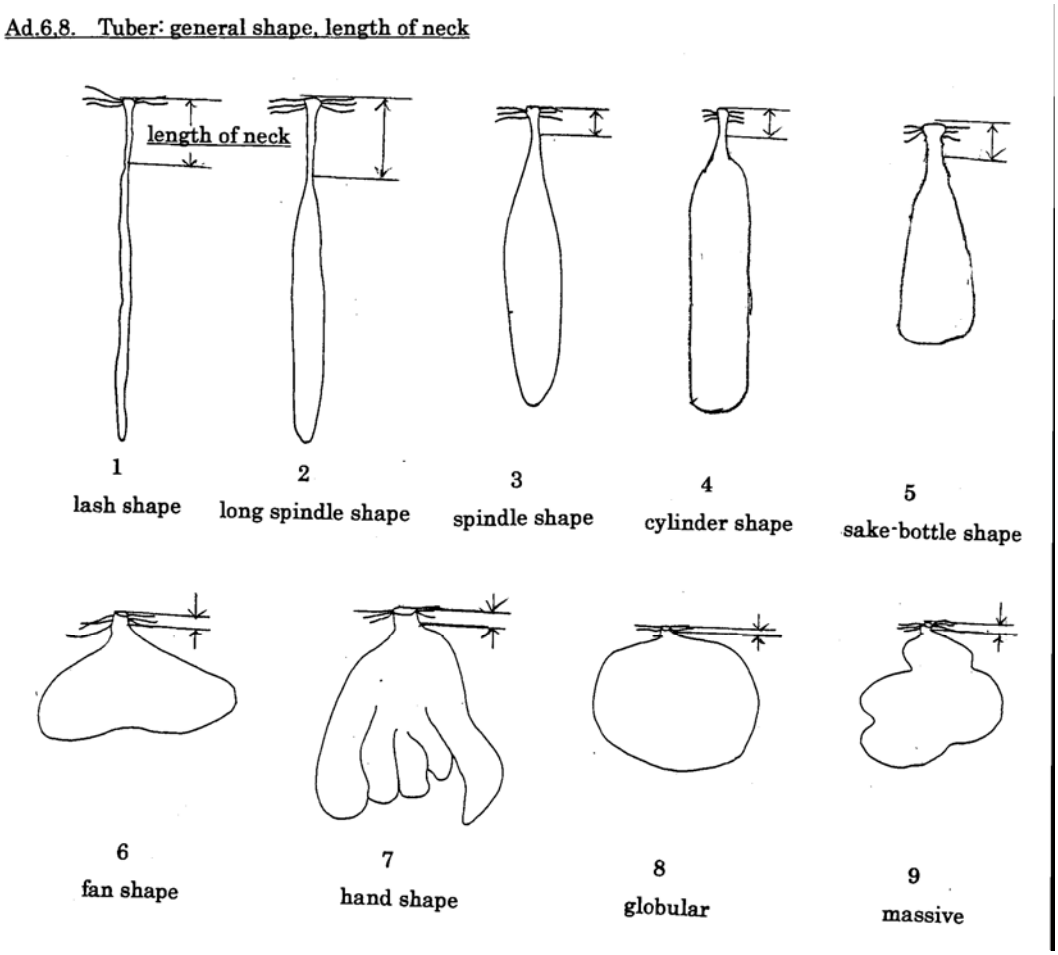
Characteristics containing the following key in the second column of the Table of Characteristics should be examined as indicated below:

(a) Plant, stem, leaf blade, petiole: all observations should be made when the plant is fully developed in late summer.

(b) Aerial tuber, tuber: all observations should be made when the tuber is fully developed in late autumn.

8.2 Explanations for individual characteristics

Ad.6.8. Tuber: general shape, length of neck



Ad. 11: Tuber: viscosity of flesh after grating

Viscosity of fresh is observed as follows:

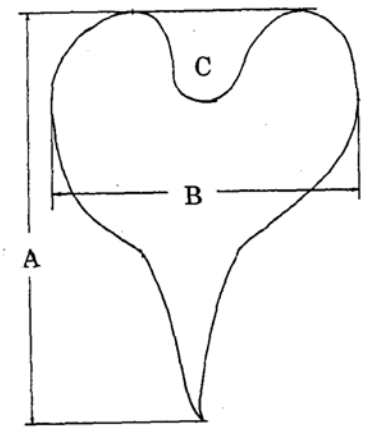
1. Peel the tuber
2. Grate the middle part of tuber with kitchen grater
3. Feel the grated flesh with one's fingers, and estimate the viscosity

Ad. 12: Tuber: browning flesh after grating

Browning fresh is observed as follows:

1. Peel the tuber.
2. Grate the middle part of tuber with kitchen grater.
3. Observe for browning of flesh 1 hour later.

Ad.19,20,24 Leaf blade: length, width, depth of sinus



A: length

B: width

C: depth of sinus

9. Literature

Larkom, J., 1991: Chinese Yam, Oriental Vegetables 121-122, Jon Murry, GB.

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, 1981: National Test Guideline for Yamanoimo, JP

Nanba,T., 1991: Dioscorea L., The Grand Dictionary of Horticulture, Vol. 5. 152-155, Shougakkan, JP.

Phillips,R., Rix M., 1993: Greater Yam, Vegetables 239, Pan Books, GB.

Sato, I., 1988: Nagaimo, Nogyo-Gijutu-Taikei-Vegatable Vol.11, 473-480, Nosangyoson-Bunka-Kyokai, JP.

10. Technical Questionnaire

TECHNICAL QUESTIONNAIRE	Page {x} of {y}	Reference Number:
		Application date: (not to be filled in by the applicant)

TECHNICAL QUESTIONNAIRE
to be completed in connection with an application for plant breeders' rights

1. Subject of the Technical Questionnaire

1.1 Botanical name	*Dioscorea* L.
1.2 Common name	Yam

2. Applicant

Name	
Address	
Telephone No.	
Fax No.	
E-mail address	
Breeder (if different from applicant)	

3. Proposed denomination and breeder's reference

Proposed denomination (if available)	
Breeder's reference	

TECHNICAL QUESTIONNAIRE	Page {x} of {y}	Reference Number:

[#]4. Information on the breeding scheme and propagation of the variety

4.1 Breeding scheme

Variety resulting from:

4.1.1 Crossing

(a) controlled cross [ ]
(please state parent varieties)

(b) partially known cross [ ]
(please state known parent variety(ies))

(c) unknown cross [ ]

4.1.2 Mutation [ ]
(please state parent variety)

4.1.3 Discovery and development [ ]
(please state where and when discovered
and how developed)

4.1.4 Other [ ]”
(please provide details)

[#] Authorities may allow certain of this information to be provided in a confidential section of the Technical Questionnaire.

TECHNICAL QUESTIONNAIRE	Page {x} of {y}	Reference Number:

4.2 Method of propagating the variety

The examples below indicate how this section can be formatted and some appropriate terms which can be used:

4.2.1 Vegetative propagation

(a) dividing [ ]

(b) *in vitro* propagation [ ]

(c) other (state method) [ ]

4.2.2 Seed [ ]

4.2.3 Other [ ]
(please provide details)

TECHNICAL QUESTIONNAIRE	Page {x} of {y}	Reference Number:

5. Characteristics of the variety to be indicated (the number in brackets refers to the corresponding characteristic in Test Guidelines; please mark the note which best corresponds).

	Characteristics	Example Varieties	Note
5.1 (3)	**Tuber: length**		
	short		3[ ]
	medium	Tokkuri-imo	5[ ]
	long	Naga-imo	7[ ]
5.2 (6)	**Tuber: general shape**		
	lash shape		1[ ]
	long spindle shape		2[ ]
	spindle shape		3[ ]
	cylinder shape		4[ ]
	sake-bottle shape		5[ ]
	fan shape	Icho-imo	6[ ]
	hand shape	Tukune-imo	7[ ]
	globular	Yamato-mo	8[ ]
	massive	Ise-imo	9[ ]
5.3 (9)	**Tuber: flesh color**		
	white	Naga-imo	1[ ]
	cream		2[ ]
	creamish orange	Ise-imo	3[ ]
	purple red		4[ ]

TECHNICAL QUESTIONNAIRE	Page {x} of {y}	Reference Number:

6. Similar varieties and differences from these varieties

Please use the following table and box for comments to provide information on how your candidate variety differs from the variety (or varieties) which, to the best of your knowledge, is (or are) most similar. This information may help the examination authority to conduct its examination of distinctness in a more efficient way.

Denomination(s) of variety(ies) similar to your candidate variety	Characteristic(s) in which your candidate variety differs from the similar variety(ies)	Describe the expression of the characteristic(s) for the **similar** variety(ies)	Describe the expression of the characteristic(s) for **your** candidate variety
Example	*Tuber: general shape*	*spindle shape*	*fan shape*

Comments:

TECHNICAL QUESTIONNAIRE	Page {x} of {y}	Reference Number:

[#]7. Additional information which may help in the examination of the variety

7.1 In addition to the information provided in sections 5 and 6, are there any additional characteristics which may help to distinguish the variety?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

(If yes, please provide details)

7.2 Are there any special conditions for growing the variety or conducting the examination?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

(If yes, please provide details)

7.3 Other information

A representative color photograph of the variety should accompany the Technical Questionnaire.

8. Authorization for release

(a) Does the variety require prior authorization for release under legislation concerning the protection of the environment, human and animal health?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

(b) Has such authorization been obtained?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

If the answer to (b) is yes, please attach a copy of the authorization.

[#] Authorities may allow certain of this information to be provided in a confidential section of the Technical Questionnaire.

TECHNICAL QUESTIONNAIRE	Page {x} of {y}	Reference Number:

9. Information on plant material to be examined or submitted for examination.

9.1 The expression of a characteristic or several characteristics of a variety may be affected by factors, such as pests and disease, chemical treatment (e.g. growth retardants or pesticides), effects of tissue culture, different rootstocks, scions taken from different growth phases of a tree, etc.

9.2 The plant material should not have undergone any treatment which would affect the expression of the characteristics of the variety, unless the competent authorities allow or request such treatment. If the plant material has undergone such treatment, full details of the treatment must be given. In this respect, please indicate below, to the best of your knowledge, if the plant material to be examined has been subjected to:

(a) Microorganisms (e.g. virus, bacteria, phytoplasma) Yes [ ] No [ ]

(b) Chemical treatment (e.g. growth retardant, pesticide) Yes [ ] No [ ]

(c) Tissue culture Yes [ ] No [ ]

(d) Other factors Yes [ ] No [ ]

Please provide details for where you have indicated "yes".

……

9.3 Has the plant material to be examined been tested for the presence of virus or other pathogens?

Yes [ ]

(please provide details as specified by the Authority)

No [ ]

10. I hereby declare that, to the best of my knowledge, the information provided in this form is correct:

Applicant's name

Signature Date

[End of document]