

Characterization and molecular identification of grapevine samples from different Catalan regions and comparison with other worldwide varieties

Vitis vinifera L. is a species of the genus *Vitis* that originated at the Pleistocene Era (Quaternary Period) and is considered one of the oldest cultivated by humans. Vine and wine production culture in Catalonia is due to the expansion of the Roman people from the 3rd century B.C., who established Tarraco (the current Tarragona) as their capital, making it one of the wine exporting cities of the Roman Empire. The main objective of this study was to molecularly characterise a population of Catalan grapevines. Seventy-five samples were genotyped using 20 SSRs (Simple Sequence Repeats). The most relevant results ranged from the molecular characterisation of some unknown individuals to the relocation of other samples that were reported as *Vitis vinifera* L. but turned out to be DPH (Direct Producing Hybrids). Regarding the lexicographical characterisation, new synonymies have been proposed and some erratic names have been found. In addition, as a result of this study, the Canary Islands and other areas have been proposed as possible Centres of Biodiversity.

Key words: *Vitis vinifera* L., Microsatellites or SSR, variety, Direct Producing Hybrids (DPH), rootstocks, Catalan.