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ISHS Acta Horticulturae 798: III International Symposium on Fig

FIG GENETIC RESOURCES AND RESEARCH AT THE US NATIONAL CLONAL GERMPLASM REPOSITORY IN DAVIS, CALIFORNIA

Authors: E. Stover, M. Aradhya

Keywords: *Ficus carica*, microsatellites

Abstract:
The National Clonal Germplasm Repository (NCGR) in Davis, California houses most of the Mediterranean-adapted fruit and nut crop collections in the US, including the fig. The NCGR is part of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS). Our missions are to acquire, preserve, characterize and distribute germplasm resources of our designated crops. The NCGR fig collection currently includes 190 different accessions: 78 named fruiting cultivars, 44 regional selections from diverse locations, 40 advanced selections from plant breeders, 28 caprifigs, and a small number of species and hybrids. It is NPGS policy to distribute plant material, free of charge, to research interests around the world (see our website http://www.ars-grin.gov/dav/). We have initiated DNA microsatellite fingerprinting of NCGR fig accessions, and anticipate complete testing of our collection over the next year. Proper identification is a key concern of the NCGR since individual fig cultivars have been widely distributed with many synonyms, and often the same name used for different cultivars. To finalize identification, it will also be necessary to compare fingerprints to “type” material from other collections. The microsatellite information and AFLP data will also make it possible to assess relatedness among fig genotypes, and will facilitate understanding of evolution within the genus *Ficus*. We are committed to acquiring additional material and are very interested in learning of opportunities, with a special interest in protecting collections which may otherwise be lost.