

Molecular characterization of *Heliconia* by RAPD assay

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Abstract

Seventeen *Heliconia* species and varieties were analyzed using RAPD markers. Eight primers, which produced the highest number of bands, were used for DNA amplification. The genetic similarity matrix constructed with Jaccard's coefficient using RAPD marker scores showed that the highest value was between Petra Orange and Parakeet, while the lowest was between Golden Torch and *H. humilis*. The 17 species and varieties of *Heliconia* formed nine distinct clusters at similarity coefficient value of 0.42, implying a strong parallelism between genetic and morphologic/ taxonomic variability of *Heliconia* genotypes. Petra Orange, Deep Orange, Parakeet, Pascal, and Alan Carle formed a big cluster within which Petra Orange and Parakeet formed a more cohesive entity.

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