

# A COMMON SET OF MICROSATELLITE MARKERS FOR FINGERPRINTING AND GENETIC DIVERSITY STUDIES IN *PRUNUS* SPECIES

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In recent years a great number of microsatellite markers have been developed and used in different *Prunus* species, including peach, apricot, almond, plums or cherries for cultivar genotype characterization, germplasm management and studies of genetic diversity. Often microsatellites developed in one species have been used in a different species demonstrating their transferability and ability to detect polymorphism. In some studies microsatellite loci have only been tested for amplification in a different species, but the information of their possible polymorphism is lacking. The objective of this work is to identify a set of microsatellite loci that are polymorphic in different *Prunus* species and that, therefore, can be used for cultivar and rootstock genetic identity or genetic diversity studies. The use of a common set of markers will allow the comparison of genotype identity among different works and the comparison of genetic diversity among species, while avoiding pre-screening searches of polymorphic loci for each species. A group of candidate microsatellite markers, polymorphic in some *Prunus* species, were initially selected from the bibliography. These markers were tested for amplification and polymorphism in 10 *Prunus* species (*P. persica*, *P. dulcis*, *P. armeniaca*, *P. cerasifera*, *P. domestica*, *P. salicina*, *P. insititia*, *P. avium*, *P. cerasus* and *P. mahaleb*) and a set of polymorphic markers, that amplified single loci, in these species were selected.