



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	American Journal of Experimental Agriculture
Manuscript Number:	2013_AJEA_8682
Title of the Manuscript:	Assessment of Genetic variability within the genus <i>Citrus</i> in Syria Assessing genetic relationship of Citrus species in Syria using SSR markers
Type of the Article	Original Research Article

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

To know the complete guideline for Peer Review process, reviewers are requested to visit this link:

(<http://www.sciencedomain.org/page.php?id=sdi-general-editorial-policy#Peer-Review-Guideline>)



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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	The manuscript presents the results on genetic relationship within the genus of <i>Citrus</i> in Syria. This manuscript provides some useful data on genetic relationship between four groups of Citrus. It however requires significant improvement before it is considered for publication. The following are some general that need to be addressed: * The materials and method: - The plant samples are not consistent: in Abstract were 116, but in this section actually only 113 (37 cultivars x 3 + 2 Kumquat). - The methods for calculation of PIC value and observation heterozygosity were not provided. * Results: - The presentation of the results is not clear. - The explanation of the relation of "primer pairs" and "Loci" should be given. - The primer pair Org-30-F-98 that mentioned in the text was not seen in Table 2 and Table 4. - The paragraph 3.3 (page 5) can be changed as "Genetic relationship of investigated Citrus species". - The figure 2 is not clear: the sample's names could not be seen. In addition, in the text, it's necessary to give more detail how many and what cultivars belong to Lemon group, Mandarin cluster (subgroup), sweet orange cluster etc. In general, this paragraph needs to be thoroughly revised.	* The materials and method: - The number was corrected (114 samples) , 3 samples of Kumquat were used. - The formula to calculate PIC value was added, and observed heterozygosity was detected through the number of alleles detected on the gel. *Results: - A locus is recognized by a primer pair, so a primer pair allows the amplification of different alleles on the same locus (wasto the text).. - Name of primers were corrected. - Figure 2 was modified and became clear. - Title of paragraph 3.3 was modified as suggested. - Paragraph was revised.



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	*Discussion In the sentences “The analysis of SSR data..... They were used to evaluate the genetic similarity between the different cultivars and to establish the dendrogram of genetic relationship in the genus Citrus (Fig. 2.) is not correspond to the figure 2, as in the figure 2 the author used coefficient of genetic distance. It’s necessary to make clear the relationship of genetic distance and genetic similarity. * References - The format of references is not consistent with the Journal’s guideline.	*. Discussion: Genetic distance (dissimilarity) = 1- genetic similarity. (Term was corrected in the text.). It was modified in the text. *References: Done.
<u>Minor</u> REVISION comments	The title of the manuscript is not appropriate. I suggest the following title: Assessing genetic relationship of Citrus species in Syria using SSR markers.	Modified with reservation.
<u>Optional/General</u> comments	In general, the manuscript provides some useful data on genetic relationship between four groups of Citrus in Syria. The results revealed new information on genetic diversity within sweet orange group in Syria. The data from analyses of other Citrus groups in Syria have supported the published results of other laboratory. However, before considering for publication, the manuscript requires significant revision of English and scientific presentation. Especially, authors must clarify some parts such as materials, methods, results and discussion. For all mentioned above, the manuscript can be acceptable for publication in this journal after Major revision.	Revision was done.