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Characterization and Determination of Phenotypic Similarity among *Cucurbita moschata* Accessions from Northeastern Brazil

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Butternut pumpkin is a cucurbit species of great economic and social importance for the Northeastern Region of Brazil. About 500 accessions are maintained in the Active Germplasm Bank of Embrapa Tropical Semiarid. This great potential for agricultural production has stimulated research on the characterization and study of the species' divergence, with a view to identify promising preserved accessions for breeding programs. The purpose of this study was to detect similarity groups among the 73 *C. moschata* accessions from the above-mentioned Cucurbit Germplasm Bank. Seed descriptors were used to observe the relationship between collection site and formation of divergent groups. Twenty-four seeds per accession and six multicategorical descriptors were used to generate a Jaccard similarity matrix and an UPGMA dendrogram. The formation of two major groups with four subgroups each, with a minimum phenotypic similarity of 31.5% and 35.8%, respectively, was observed. In conclusion, wide variability and no relationship between site collection and phenotypic similarity were observed among the accessions.

Keywords – *c. moschata*, genetic resources, seed descriptors.

