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Improving the utilisation of germplasm of *Trifolium spumosum* L. by the development of a core collection using ecogeographical and molecular techniques

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Introduction A core collection is a sub-set encompassing more than 70% of the variability of all accessions held in a collection (Brown 1995), the development of one for *Trifolium spumosum* (bladder clover) could assist in future development of the cultivar within southern Australia. The aim of this work is to develop a core collection of *Trifolium spumosum* as a model for other pasture legume species using molecular and ecogeographical data.

Materials and methods Accessions with near complete ecogeographical data were selected from the Australian *ex situ* collection of *Trifolium spumosum*. This collection of 317 accessions was grouped into 5 geographical regions. MStrat Software (Gouesnard *et al.*, 2001)was used to select the preliminary core of 30% of the collection. Fluorescent Amplified Fragment length polymorphism (FAFLP) will be used to screen the diversity within the species. The primers producing the highest number of bands will be used to screen the preliminary core.

Results A preliminary core collection of 95 accessions was selected. In the randomly selected cores the scores (based on Nei index) were different for each repeat, however, scores were constant for cores selected using the maximising strategy (OPT in Table 1). A final core of 32 accessions will be selected using AFLP and ecogeographical data. The AFLP markers with the green fluorescent labelled EcoR-I primer (TET) showed the greatest amount of data with the highest diversity (Figure 1). The genetic profiles of the preliminary core will be scored and recorded in a database with ecogeographical data.

Table 1 Active scores generated from the optimisation (OPT)and random (RAN) sampling methods using MStrat for coresizes of 76 and 109

Core size Method		Final score [#]								
Repeat		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
76 109	OPT RAN OPT RAN	101 84 101 89	85	84 101	83	82 101	101	83	80	81 101

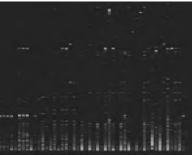


Figure 1 AFLP bands obtained from 48 samples in green fluorescent labelled EcoRI primers

Conclusions The present study hopes to demonstrate that a combination of AFLP marker and ecogeographical data can be used to develop an effective core collection that maintains the majority of the genetic diversity. This model should be used to develop core collections of other pasture legume species that are too large for efficient utilisation.

References

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