

NEW VALLEY JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE Published by Faculty of Agriculture, New Valley University, Egypt Print ISSN 2805-2420 Online ISSN 2805-2439

10.21608/NVJAS.2024.268996.1276





Evaluation of some apricot strains El Amar Qalyubia Governorate

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Abstract

doi

The research aims to select distinctive local apricot strains before they disappear due to their limited area and lack of spread. The selection was 6 strains that were valuable and had high traits; the selected strain was given abbreviated names Am₁, Am₂, Am₃, Am₄, Am₅ and Am₆. The study showed the following results, Strain Am₁ was early in flowering and harvesting, while strain Am5 was the most delayed. Strain Am₂ was distinguished by a reddish color with greenish sepals and the presence stipules for leaves from the rest of the strains. It also gave the highest yield and highest measurements of vegetative growth. Strain Am₄ had the highest fruit weight and size. The highest fruit hardness was for strain Am₅. The highest fruit TSS were for the Am₁ strain. The genetic relationships among six strains and total bands with SCoT-ISSR primers revealed a sum of 68 bands. These bands were identified as 29 monomorphic and 39 polymorphic ones with polymorphic % (57.35%) and the polymorphic bands were scored as 17 unique markers.

Keywords: Strains of El Amar apricot, yield, TSS, SCoT and ISSR Molecular Markers

Introduction

One of the major objectives of the research aspects of the Horticulture Research Institute is to introduce new varieties and strains that are suitable for the Egyptian markets.

Apricots (Prunus armeniaca L.; 2n = 2x = 16) are among the more significant seasonal fruits of the Rosaceae family. Despite reaching almost 21,000 feddan in 2003, the total planted area of apricot trees in 2021 decreased to 10829 feddan, with a production of 66207 tons, according to Ministry of Agricultural Statistical Reports. The reasons for this decrease area is due to the cessation of cultivation and propagation of widespread local strains which are distinguished by excellent quality characteristics that suit the taste of the Egyptian consumer, compared to imported apricot varieties such as Canino. As it lacks quality characteristics and is not suitable for fresh consuming quality as it is rather a cultivar dedicated for manufacturing (Ennab et al., 2020 and also it is a late-ripening variety (Guillamón et al., 2022). However, despite the high eatind quality of these strains, the cultivated area in the El Amar region is decreasing due to their limited supply in the markets, which does not exceed two weeks. They are soft fruits of low firmness and thus difficult to handle (Awad et al, 2019).

El Amar apricot strains are distinguished by their high TSS content, distinctive taste and marvelous eating quality. These strains readily decline and thereby losing a valuable germplasm; thus, it was necessary to evaluate these strains for the purpose of selecting what is suitable with respect to cropping in terms of quality, quantity and harvest time in order to keep and propagate them to spread them.

It is well recognized in Egypt that a portion of the apricot-growing region known as Baladi, El Amar, and Hamwi is seedplanted. Trees vary widely in size, production, fruit quality and maturity date (Bakr et al., 1985; Saif and Hassan, 1992). Because these varieties lacked firm, fleshy

fruits and only have a two-week commercial presentation time, they a limited and poor selling potential (Awad et al., 2019).These genetic differences can be taken advantage of by selecting early, medium, and late apricot strains from locally grown trees to increase the supply of these distinctive strains in the markets, Also selecting strains with high firmness and long fruit shelf life.

El Amar apricot strains have few cold requirements, in line with Egyptian weather conditions, related to other varieties such as the "Canino" variety which reaches his needs chilling requirement 806 Chilling Units accoding to Fadón et al., 2020.

Scientists have shed light on the genetic differences of these local apricot strains. In comparison to the "Canino" cultivar, Mohamed et al. (2015) revealed that distinct bands were discovered as 19 genotype-specific markers and are helpful identifiers for the chosen local apricot lines of El Amar apricot strains. This recommended propagating these selected strains in desert land conditions and using these strains in breeding programs with the "Canino" variety. Also, this shows that these markers can be utilized as markers that aid selection in enhancing salt tolerance in the origin of El Amar apricots rootstock (El-Aziz, et al., 2019).

Genetic variety evaluations are offered by molecular markers, using RAPD and ISSR (Zhang et al., 2015; Etminan et al., 2016 and Aswathy et al., 2017). Higher polymorphism and improved marker resolution capability distinguish SCoT from other dominant DNA marker systems such as RAPD and ISSR (Gorji et al., 2011).

The objective of this study was to assess the pomological features of the six strains that originated at El Amar region Qalyubia Governorate in terms of flowering dates, setting and harvesting dates, fruit set percentage and cropping and its' attributes Also their vegetation. Additionally, the six strains were analyzed for their molecular genetic traits in order to compare them, determine which one is older than the others, and determine which one produces better fruit and is better for marketing.

Materials and Methods

This study was carried out to evaluate some apricot strains that were locally selected from seedy mother trees grown under El-Amar region- Oaliubia governorate. The outstanding Strains of high crops and supreme quality were propagated by budding on seedling rootstocks and planted in a private orchard in El Amar region. Six strains were considered and given the abbreviated names of Am1, Am2, Am3, Am4, Am5 and Am6.Trees were 20 years old at the beginning of this investigation which extended from 2020 through 2022 growing seasons. Trees were planted at 5*6 m in loamy soil. From each strain 3 trees were selected, each acting as a replicate. All selected trees were uniform in size and growth vigour as much as possible.

For well evaluation the following traits were assessed:

Time of phonological dates: (beginning of bloom, Full bloom, Fruit harvest and number of days from beginning of bloom to harvest) was recorded periodically.

Cropping attributes

Fruit set (%): It was calculated 2 weeks after full bloom using the following equation.

Fruit set percent = (Number of fruit set*100)/ Total number of flowers

Fruit yield (Kg /tree): it was calculated by multiplying number of fruits per tree x Average fruit weight.

Quality attributes: At harvest a representing sample of 10 fruits per tree were picked to evaluate following physical and chemical attributes:

Physical attributes: fruit weight (g) using a digital scale, fruit size (cm³) by water displacement, fruit dimensions using a vernier caliper, firmness Fruit firmness (Lb/Inch²): It was determined from the two sides of fruits by using a pressure tester (Advance Force Gorge RH13, UK), Flesh thickness (cm using a vernier caliper. Seed weight (g)

Chemical attributes: juice TSS% by hand refractometer model (Portable Refractometer ATC), Total acidity (%): determined as anhydrous malic acid as a percentage after titration by 0.1 N sodium hydroxide using phenolphthalein as an indicator (A.O.A.C., 2000).

Vegetative growth parameters were measured on October^{1st on 4} current season's shoots per tree located at the four directions to assess the following: Shoot **length (cm):** using a ruler. **Shoot diameter (cm):** At the base of shoot by using a vernier caliper. **number of leaves/shoots, Leaf area (cm²):** was measured for the 5^{th and} 6th leaves from the base by using a leaf area meter.

Molecular Genetic Markers

Fresh leaves were used to obtain genomic DNA. Using six SCoT and six ISSR primers, genomic DNA was amplified using Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). Operon Technologies, located in Alameda, California, provided the ISSR primers. The consensus sequence used to create the SCoT primers was obtained from Biobasic Com and came from earlier research conducted by Joshi et al. (1997), Collard and Mackill (2009), and Mohamed et al. (2015). The procedures outlined by Fathi et al. (2013) and Xiong et al. (2011) were followed to perform the amplification reactions for the ISSR and SCoT approaches. Statistical analysis: Three replicates, each of a single tree from each strain, were used in this experiment, which was set up as a randomized full-block design. Snedecor and Cochran (1990) provided the statistical analysis for the data acquired. The least significant difference (LSD) test was used to compare treatment means at P < 0.5.

Results and Discussion

Table (1) shows the differences between 6 strains in the timing of the beginning of bloom, full bloom, and harvest. Strain Am1 was the earliest and the rest of the strains were average for these parameters, with slight differences between them according to the seasons, except for strain Am5, which was late during the three seasons of the study. From the apparent appearance in Figure No. 1, it was noted that all strains flowers had a reddish color, while strain Am₂

has a reddish color with greenish sepals for flower and hearty toothed with stipules for leaves.

| Table (1): Time of date of beginning of bloom, | full bloom | and fruit | harvest i | for El | Amar | apricot | strain |
|--|------------|-----------|-----------|--------|------|---------|--------|
| during three seasons | | | | | | | |

| Strain | Beginning of bloom | | Full bloom | | Harvesting date | | N of days from beginning of bloom to harvest | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|------|------------|------|-----------------|------|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Am ₁ | 8/2 | 15/2 | 3/2 | 15/2 | 23/2 | 19/2 | 10/5 | 20/5 | 24/5 | 92 | 95 | 111 |
| Am ₂ | 15/2 | 18/2 | 16/2 | 26/2 | 28/2 | 5/3 | 12/5 | 28/5 | 1/6 | 87 | 100 | 106 |
| Am ₃ | 17/2 | 18/2 | 19/2 | 26/2 | 27/2 | 5/3 | 12/5 | 26/5 | 28/5 | 85 | 98 | 99 |
| Am ₄ | 17/2 | 20/2 | 12/2 | 26/2 | 28/2 | 23/2 | 12/5 | 26/5 | 4/6 | 85 | 96 | 113 |
| Am ₅ | 20/2 | 23/2 | 20/2 | 28/2 | 2/3 | 8/3 | 15/5 | 30/5 | 7/6 | 85 | 96 | 108 |
| Am ₆ | 15/2 | 18/2 | 13/2 | 26/2 | 27/2 | 25/2 | 12/5 | 25/5 | 28/5 | 87 | 97 | 104 |



Figure (1): Color of flower sepals and the shape of the leaf in strains. A =a model for other strains and B = Am_2 .

Fruit Set (%): Data in Table (2) reveal that fruit set percentage for Am1 had significantly the highest fruit set percentage followed by Am_2 strain. While Am_5 had the lowest significant fruit set percentage during the three seasons.

Yield (kg/tree): Am2 strain given the highest significantly yield per tree (Table 2) despite the lower percentage of fruit set than the Am_1 strain, this increase in the yield is due to the higher fruit weight of the Am_2 strain fruits compared Am1 strain (Table 3). This result is due to lower competition for assimilates which led higher fruit weight and thus an higher final yield (Pawar and Rana, 2019). While Am_5 El Amar apricot strain given the lowest significant of yield during three seasons.

| | | Fruit Set (%) | | Yield (Kg/tree) | | | |
|-----------------|---------|---------------|---------|-----------------|---------|---------|--|
| Strain | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | |
| Am ₁ | 18.95 A | 6.95 A | 18.95 A | 44.30 E | 37.14 D | 56.01 D | |
| Am ₂ | 15.33 B | 6.90 A | 15.33 B | 75.03 A | 70A | 90.50 A | |
| Am ₃ | 7.000 C | 6.56 AB | 7 C | 56.25 B | 50 B | 67.75 B | |
| Am ₄ | 7.000 C | 5.83 B | 7 C | 47.03 D | 40 C | 56.89 D | |
| Am ₅ | 4.690 D | 5.74 B | 4.70 D | 35.50 F | 30 E | 44.97 E | |
| Am ₆ | 8.200 C | 6.45 AB | 8 C | 53.33 C | 40 C | 60 C | |
| LSD at 0.05 | 1.77 | 0.95 | 1.83 | 1.04 | 0.68 | 1.55 | |

Table (2): Fruit set and yield (Kg/tree) for El Amar apricot strains during three seasons

Fruit attributes

Physical attributes: The presented results showed that strain Am4 was the best strain in terms of fruit weight and size (Table 3& Figure 2) and length, while strain Am₂ was the highest in fruit diameter (Figure 2), seed weight and flesh thickness compared to the rest of the strains (Table 4& 5), especially Am_6 , which scored the lowest values.

Table (3): Fruit weight and volume for El Amar apricot strain during three seasons

| Strain | | Fruit Weight | Fruit Volume (d | Fruit Volume (cm3) | | |
|-----------------|---------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------|---------|
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Am ₁ | 20.81 D | 24.41 E | 17.44 E | 22.22 D | 25.25 E | 18.38 E |
| Am ₂ | 46.70 A | 49.62 B | 39.25 B | 44.11 B | 49.29 B | 39.51 B |
| Am ₃ | 39.00 B | 41.83 C | 31.33 C | 41 B | 42.77 C | 32.17 C |
| Am ₄ | 48.11 A | 56.63 A | 42.17 A | 48.61 A | 57.89 A | 42.50 A |
| Am ₅ | 31.50 C | 36.89 D | 24.83 D | 32.33 C | 37.41 D | 25.08 D |
| Am ₆ | 15.57 E | 20.50 F | 18 E | 19.40 D | 19.36 F | 17 E |
| LSD at 0.05 | 1.48 | 1.666 | 1.88 | 4.40 | 1.87 | 1.81 |

Table (4): Fruit length and diameter for El Amar apricot strain during three seasons

| | | Fruit length | | | Fruit diameter | |
|-----------------|--------|--------------|---------|--------|----------------|--------|
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Am ₁ | 3.55 C | 3.98 B | 3.45 B | 3.34 C | 3.50 C | 3.26 B |
| Am ₂ | 4.37 A | 4.58 A | 3.90 AB | 4.25 A | 4.88 A | 4 A |
| Am ₃ | 3.97 B | 3.85 B | 3.82 AB | 3.27 C | 3.41 C | 3.18 B |
| Am ₄ | 4.51 A | 4.73 A | 4.22 A | 3.86 B | 4.74 A | 3.77 A |
| Am ₅ | 4.35 A | 4.47 A | 3.81 AB | 3.74 B | 4.33 B | 3.17 B |
| Am ₆ | 3.47 C | 3.48 C | 3.45 B | 2.94 D | 3.39 C | 3 B |
| LSD at 0.05 | 0.37 | 0.34 | 0.61 | 0.3044 | 0.33 | 0.43 |



Figure (2): Fruit size and shape for 6 strains

| Strain | Seed weigh | ıt | | Flesh thickness | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|---------|---------|-----------------|---------|---------|--|--|
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | | |
| Am ₁ | 2.15 C | 2.43 C | 1.53 C | 0.527 C | 0.597 F | 0.457 D | | |
| Am ₂ | 3.62 A | 4 A | 3.183 A | 1.110 A | 1.227 A | 0.940 A | | |
| Am ₃ | 2.46 B | 2.69 BC | 2.400 B | 0.773 B | 0.787 D | 0.710 C | | |
| Am ₄ | 2.71 B | 2.73 BC | 2.357 B | 0.897 B | 0.993 B | 0.850 B | | |
| Am ₅ | 2.50 B | 2.87 B | 2.300 B | 0.777 B | 0.873 C | 0.663 C | | |
| Am ₆ | 1.48 D | 1.63 D | 1.51 C | 0.590 C | 0.68 E | 0.610 C | | |
| LSD at 0.05 | 0.27 | 0.35 | 0.17 | 0.16 | 0.057 | 0.084 | | |

 Table (5): Seed weight and flesh thickness for El Amar apricot strain during three seasons

The results in Table 6; show significantly highest fruit firmness for strain Am5 compared to the rest of the strains, and the least firmness was acquired by Am6 strain.

Chemical attributes: As presented in Table 6, strain Am1 attained the highest TSS percentage and least acidity compared to the rest of the strains during the three study seasons. While the Am_6 strain had the lowest percentage of TSS, the strain also recorded the highest percentage of fruit acidity.

| Table (6): Firmness, | TSS and acidity | for El Amar | apricot strain | during three seasons |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|----------------------|
| | | | ··· · · | |

| Strain | Firmness | | | TSS | | | Acidity | | |
|-----------------|----------|--------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
| Am ₁ | 9.72 B | 7.67 B | 9.83 B | 19 A | 18 A | 21.00 A | 0.073 D | 0.180 AB | 0.051 C |
| Am ₂ | 11.67 A | 6.33 B | 12.33 A | 15.50 CD | 14.50 B | 17.83 B | 0.134 B | 0.165 B | 0.060 C |
| Am ₃ | 9.50 B | 4.50 C | 7.50 C | 17.50 B | 16.83 A | 19.00 B | 0.096 C | 0.090 C | 0.077 B |
| Am ₄ | 10.95 AB | 7 B | 12.50 A | 16 CD | 14 B | 18.00 B | 0.102 C | 0.192 AB | 0.083 B |
| Am ₅ | 12.06 A | 9.33 A | 13 A | 16.50 BC | 15 B | 17.50 B | 0.308 A | 0.224 A | 0.102 A |
| Am ₆ | 2.83 C | 2.17 D | 2.5 D | 15 D | 13.83 B | 16.60 C | 0.109 C | 0.147 BC | 0.085 B |
| LSD at 0.05 | 1.86 | 1.41 | 1.21 | 1.14 | 1.19 | 1.78 | 0.024 | 0.058 | 0.018 |

Vegetative Growth Measurements: Strain Am₂ attained the significantly highest values for shoot length, diameter, and leaf area,

while strain Am5 had the highest number of leaves per shoot due to shorter internodes and closeness of the leaves for this strain.

| Strain | | Shoot length | | | Shoot diameter | | | |
|-----------------|---------|--------------|---------|----------|----------------|----------|--|--|
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | | |
| Am ₁ | 11.25 E | 14 D | 9.03 E | 0.350 DE | 0.433 CD | 0.317 C | | |
| Am ₂ | 35 A | 39 A | 34 A | 0.580 A | 0.630 A | 0.517 A | | |
| Am ₃ | 27.03 B | 30.10 B | 24.01 B | 0.513 B | 0.557 AB | 0.487 A | | |
| Am ₄ | 22 D | 28.50 C | 22.03 C | 0.450 C | 0.477 BC | 0.440 AB | | |
| Am ₅ | 23 C | 29.50 B | 20 D | 0.390 D | 0.440 CD | 0.397 BC | | |
| Am ₆ | 7 F | 10 E | 8 E | 0.307 E | 0.367 D | 0.310 C | | |
| LSD at 0.05 | 0.55 | 0.64 | 1.30 | 0.058 | 0.100 | 0.084 | | |

Table (7): Shoot length and shoot diameter for El Amar apricot strain during three seasons

Table 8: Shoot length and shoot diameter for El Amar apricot strain during three seasons

| Strain | | N. leaves | | Leaf area | | | | |
|-----------------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|--|--|
| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | | |
| Am ₁ | 17.17 C | 16 C | 12 D | 33.67 C | 32.03 C | 36.03 C | | |
| Am ₂ | 25 B | 26.97 B | 22.50 B | 51.90 A | 49.00 A | 56.55 A | | |
| Am ₃ | 23.03 B | 27.38 B | 20 C | 34.47 C | 31.67 C | 36.00 C | | |
| Am ₄ | 24 B | 28 B | 18.67 C | 39.83 B | 36 B | 42.00 B | | |
| Am ₅ | 37 A | 46 A | 29.67 A | 34 C | 28.50 D | 36.19 C | | |
| Am ₆ | 7 D | 10 D | 6 E | 24.67 D | 33 C | 26 D | | |
| LSD at 0.05 | 5.48 | 1.18 | 1.86 | 2.26 | 1.96 | 0.88 | | |

Molecular genetic evaluation of El Amar apricot strains: SCoT-PCR molecular genetic evaluation: Using SCoT primers, a total of 35 bands with molecular widths ranging from 170 to 2680 bp are shown in Figure 3 and Table 9 of the molecular genetic analysis of the six strains of El Amar Apricot that were the subject of the study. Despite a polymorphism proportion of 51.42%, the results show that there were 18 total polymorphic bands. Primers SCoT15 and SCoT 5 provided the greatest and least polymorphic percentages, respectively, at 80% and 25%, respectively. Primer SCoT 5 had a minimal enhanced band count (4 bands), whereas primer SCoT 14 had the greatest enhanced band count (9 bands).



Figure (3): Banding patterns of SCoT -PCR products for six strains of El Amar Apricot produced with six primers

| Primer | Sequences | Total | Monomorphic | Polymorphic | Unique | Polymorphic |
|---------|-----------------|-------|-------------|-------------|--------|-------------|
| Name | | Band | Band | band | Band | % |
| SCoT 3 | ACG ACA TGG CGA | 5 | 2 | 3 | - | 60.00 |
| | CCC ACA | | | | | |
| SCoT 5 | CAA TGG CTA CCA | 4 | 3 | 1 | 1- | 25.00 |
| | CTA GCG | | | | | |
| SCoT 6 | CAA TGG CTA CCA | 5 | 3 | 2 | - | 40.00 |
| | CTA CAG | | | | | |
| SCoT 12 | CAA CAA TGG CTA | 7 | 4 | 3 | - | 42.85 |
| | CCA CCG | | | | | |
| SCoT 14 | ACC ATG GCT ACC | 9 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 55.55 |
| | AGC GCG | | | | | |
| SCoT 15 | CCA TGG CTA CCA | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 80.00 |
| | CCG GCT | | | | | |
| Total | | 35 | 17 | 18 | 6 | 51.42 |

Table 9: Banding patterns data as estimated for six strains of El Amar Apricot using SCoT technique

ISSR-PCR molecular genetic evaluation

The ISSR molecular genetic analysis of six strains of El Amar Apricot was acquired as 33 bands overall, with molecular weights ranging from 230 to 2340 bp. Figure 4 and Table 10 illustrate this result. The results show that just one total polymorphic band with a polymorphism percentage of 63.63%. The primer HB-12 produced the highest polymorphic percentage of 80%, while primer HB-8 generated a minimum polymorphic percentage of 25%. In contrast, primer 89B had a minimal number of amplified bands (3 bands) while primer HB-10 had the maximum number (8 bands). However, all six primers showed 12 monomorphic bands and 11 unique bands.



Figure (4): Banding patterns of ISSR-PCR products for six strains of El Amar Apricot produced with six primers

| Primer Name | Sequences | Total Band | Monomorphic Band | Polymorphic band | Unique Band | Polymorphic % |
|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 49A | 5` CAC ACA CAC ACA AG 3` | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 50.00 |
| 89B | 5` CAC ACA CAC ACA GT 3` | 3 | 1 | 2 | - | 66.66 |
| HB-8 | 5` GAG AGA GAG AGA GG 3` | 4 | 3 | 1 | - | 25.00 |
| HB-10 | 5` GAG AGA GAG AGA CC 3` | 8 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 50.00 |
| HB-12 | 5' CAC CAC CAC GC 3` | 7 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 87.50 |
| HB-13 | 5` GAG GAG GAG GC 3` | 7 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 57.14 |
| Total | | 33 | 12 | 21 | 11 | 63.63 |

Table (10): Molecular banding patterns data estimated for six strains of El Amar Apricot using ISSR technique

Combination evaluation of SCoT and ISSR data analysis

Table 11 displays the combined information on SCoT and ISSR primers for the six strains of El Amar Apricot, which totaled 68 bands. These bands were classified as 29 monomorphic and 39 polymorphic, with the polymorphic bands scoring 17 unique markers and the polymorphic bands having a polymorphism percentage of 57.35%. Given that the ISSR marker is derived from a functional area of the genome, genetic investigations utilizing this marker are likely to yield greater insights for agricultural improvement initiatives.

 Table (11): Polymorphic, Monomorphic, Specific Markers and Polymorphic percentage generated by the (SCoT and ISSR) analysis for six strains of El Amar Apricot

| Primer Name | Total Band | Monomorphic Band | Polymorphic band | Unique Band | Polymorphic % |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| SCoT | 35 | 17 | 18 | 6 | 51.42% |
| ISSR | 33 | 12 | 21 | 11 | 63.63% |
| Total | 68 | 29 | 39 | 17 | 57.35% |

Genetic similarity and cluster analysis based on SCoT and ISSR markers: The variation of molecular similarities (MD) determined by SCoT and ISSR ranged from 0.74 (between Am4 and Am6 strains) to 0.95 (between Am₁ and Am₂ strains), as shown in Table 12, which reflected the MD among six strains of El Amar Apricot according on SCoT and ISSR results.

In line with Xanthopoulou et al. (2015), Figure 5 depicts the dendrogram of the AHC analysis produced from the UPGMA method using the Dice dissimilarity measure for combined data of SCoT and ISSR methodologies. Six strains of El Amar

Apricot were separated into two main groups on this dendrogram. One main cluster was further divided into two sub main groups: the first sub-main group comprised the Am₁ and Am₂ strains, while the second sub-main band contained the Am₃ strain individually. Conversely, the remaining three strains were part of the second main group; Am₅ and Am₆ strains were each part of a sub-main group, while strain Am₆ was kept apart. Since they accurately report genetic diversity, this demonstrates that the combined data from SCoT and ISSR approaches were appropriate for assessing the genetic relationships among the studied strains of El Amar apricot.

| | Am1 | Am2 | Am3 | Am4 | Am5 |
|-----|------|------|------|------|------|
| Am1 | 1 | | | | |
| Am2 | 0.95 | 1 | | | |
| Am3 | 0.87 | 0.92 | 1 | | |
| Am4 | 0.81 | 0.77 | 0.80 | 1 | |
| Am5 | 0.77 | 0.78 | 0.76 | 0.81 | 1 |
| Am6 | 0.82 | 0.82 | 0.79 | 0.74 | 0.82 |

Table (12). Molecular distances (MD) between six strains of El Amar Apricot based on Dice-dissimilarity index for SCoT and ISSR combined data



Figure (5): Dendrogram derived by UPGMA method using Dice-dissimilarity coefficient for combined binary data of SCoT and ISSR techniques for six strains of El Amar Apricot

In this study, the high quality of the nutritional characteristics of these apricot strains was found, with TSS ranging from 14 to 21% between different strains and seasons, and the maximum acidity of the fruits was 0.308% compared to Canino, where its TSS were reduced to 12.61%, and the acidity of the fruits increased to 1.22% (Ennab et al., 2020). Therefore, we find that the nutritional characteristics are more suitable to the taste of the Egyptian consumer.

Also, the "Canino" has high cold requirements (806 Chilling Units accoding to Fadón et al., 2020), so it blooms late and needs dormancy breakers (Guillamón et al.,2022), but these strains bloom early and regularly without spraying any dormancy breakers, so they are more suitable for the weather conditions of Egypt and are more adaptable.

Conclusion

From the attained data we could conclude that strains Am_1 and Am_2 were the most distinguished strains, as strain Am_1 was early and had the highest levels of fruit set and sugars, while strain Am_2 was the most productive. There are genetic differences between some strains.

Recommendations

Based on previous results, it is recommended to disperse these strains under study, especially Am_1 and Am_2 strains, into arid environments. These strains could also be used in future breeding and hybridization programs, due to genetic variation.

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تقييم بعض سلالات المشمش العمار بمحافظة القليوبية

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الملخص العربى

هدف البحث هو اختيار سلالات المشمش المحلية المميزة قبل اختفائها بسبب محدودية مساحتها وقلة انتشار ها. تم اختيار 6 سلالات كانت ذات قيمة وذات صفات عالية؛ أعطيت السلالة المختارة أسماء مختصرة Am₁ وAm₂ وAm₃ وAm₄ وAm₅ وAm₅. أظهرت الدراسة النتائج التالية: السلالة Am₁ كانت مبكرة في التزهير والحصاد، في حين كانت السلالة Am₅ وكشم هي الأكثر تأخراً. تميزت السلالة Am₂ بلون محمر مشوب بخضرة للسبلات واذينات للأوراق عن باقي السلالة. كما أعطت أعلى إنتاجية وأعلى قياسات للنمو الخضري. كانت السلالة Am₄ هي الأعلى وزنا وحجما للثمرة. أعلى صلابة للثمار كانت للسلالة Am₅ أعلى نسبة TSS الفاكهة كانت السلالة محمد ملالات، إجمالي النطاقات مع الأشعال SCoT-ISSR عن مجموع 68 نطاقًا. تم تحديد هذه النطاقات على أنها 29 أحادية الشكل و30 متعددة الأشكال مع نسبة متعددة الأشكال (57.35٪) وتم تسجيل النطاقات متعددة الأشكال كـ 17 علامة فريدة.

Strains of El Amar apricot, yield, TSS, SCoT and ISSR Molecular Markers الكلمات الدالة: