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Genetic Diversity and Population Structure of Tea Gemplasms Conserved in Korea Genebank

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[Introduction]

Tea (*Camellia sinensis* (L.) O. Kuntze) has been cultivated widely in many developing Asian, African, and South American countries, where it is the most widely consumed beverage in the world next to water. It has critical importance to understand the genetic diversity and population sturcutre for effective collection, conservation, and utilization of tea germplasm.

[Materials and Methods]

In this study, 462 tea accessions collected in National Agrobiodiversity Center at RDA were analyzed using 33 SSR markers.

[Results and Discussion]

A total of 428 alleles were detected in 33 SSR loci among 462 tea accessions. The Shannon-Wiener index and Nei's geneic diversity were estimated to be average of 1.78 and 0.77, respectively. Analysis of the SSR data using neighbor-joining method grouped the sampled accessions into three major clusters. In STRUCTURE analysis, 462 tea accessions were divided into two subpopulations (ΔK =2). Using discriminant analysis of principal components, the four clusters were detected in 462 tea accessions. The result of AMOVA showed that most of the variation observed was within populations rather than among populations. Our results might contribute to provide data about genetic diversity for the conservation of tea germplasm and future breeding programs.

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