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**MOLECULAR-PHYLOGENETIC RESEARCH
OF THE GENUS *Hypericum* L. IN FLORA OF AZERBAIJAN**

©*Fatdayeva A.*, Institute of Botany Azerbaijan NAS, Baku, Azerbaijan, ayten.fetdayeva@mail.ru

**МОЛЕКУЛЯРНО-ФИЛОГЕНЕТИЧЕСКОЕ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЕ
РОДА *Hypericum* L. ВО ФЛОРЕ АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНА**

©*Фатдаева А.*, Институт ботаники НАН Азербайджана,
г. Баку, Азербайджан, ayten.fetdayeva@mail.ru

Abstract. *Hypericum* is one of the 100 largest flowering plant genera forming the family Hypericaceae Juss., which belongs to the clusoid clade of the Malpighiales. *Hypericum* is represented in Azerbaijan flora by 19 native species and 1 subspecies belonging to 7 taxonomic sections. The chloroplast DNA of 8 species from the genus was studied by PCR-RFLP analysis. Total genomic DNA was extracted from leaf tissue using the DNeasyPlantMini kit. (Qiagen Inc.; Valencia, CA, USA) following the supplied protocol and quanti field using a Nanodrop (Nanodrop Technologies; Wilmington, DE, USA) spectrophotometer. The article is part of an experimental study that comprises molecular-phylogenetic research of this genus in the flora of Azerbaijan.

Аннотация. Зверобой — один из 100 крупнейших родов цветковых растений, образующих семейство Нурерисасеае Juss., которое принадлежит к кластероидкладам Malpighiales. Зверобой представлен во флоре Азербайджана 19 аборигенными видами и 1 подвидом, относящимися к 7 таксономическим разделам. ДНК хлоропластов 8 видов этого рода исследовали методом ПЦР-ПДРФ. Тотальную геномную ДНК извлекали из ткани листа с помощью набора DNeasyPlantMini (Qiagen Inc.; Валенсия, Калифорния, США) в соответствии с прилагаемым протоколом и полем количества с использованием спектрофотометра Nanodrop (Nanodrop Technologies; Уилмингтон, Делавэр, США). Статья является частью экспериментального исследования, включающего молекулярно-филогенетические исследования этого рода во флоре Азербайджана.

Keywords: *Hypericum*, species, subspecies, molecular-phylogenetic research.

Ключевые слова: *Hypericum*, виды, подвиды, молекулярно-филогенетические исследования.

Introduction

Hypericum is one of nine genera and represents approximately 80% of the diversity of the family Hypericaceae Juss. This genus is originated from Eurasia and widely distributed in tropical and subtropical regions. Species of this genus grow on damp soils, meadows, and swamps.

Morphologically genera of *Hypericum* are characterized by the presence of different kinds of secretory glands and channels, including transparent, dark glands. The secretory structures are the

accumulation of biologically active substances and their various configurations are important in the classification of the genus.

Species of this genus are annual and perennial herbaceous, semi-shrubs, and shrubs. The leaves are opposite, rarely whorled, whole-edged, sessile, or with short petioles on the surface and at the edges often with transparent, sometimes with black point glands. Flowers are collected in the corymbose inflorescence.

Plant material and DNA extraction

Fieldwork was conducted during the expeditions (2015-2018) between May-September, at different stages of plant development (Table 1). Dried herbarium specimens deposited in the Herbarium fund of the Institute of Botany ANAS (BAK) and were examined according to standard procedures.

Table 1.

PLACES OF COLLECTION OF MATERIAL

<i>Species</i>	<i>Collecting data</i>
AZ0001 <i>Hypericum helianthemoides</i>	Shach-buz (Kuku village) 2260 m
AZ0002 <i>H. perforatum</i> subsp. <i>veronense</i> .	Gabala 503 m
AZ0003 <i>H. elongatum</i>	Shach-buz (mountain of Yellica) 2300 m
AZ0004 <i>H. tetrapterum</i>	Lankaran (Dasdatuk village) 800 m; Gadabay (Soyudlu village) 1473 m
AZ0005 <i>H. lydium</i>	Shach-buz (Kuku village, Safdara) 2270 m
AZ0006 <i>H. androsaemum</i>	Zagatala (Gabizdaravillage) 643 m, Gakh (Lakit village) 1571 m, Gabala (Vandam village) 563 m
AZ0008 <i>H. perforatum</i>	Zagatala (Gabizdara village) 562 m, Car 666 m

Also, the Herbarium specimens stored in the Herbarium fund of the Institute of Botany ANAS were used in this study. Classic comparative morphological and results of the molecular-phylogenetic analysis were used for the identification of species. From each sample of 100-200 mg of young leaf plants put in 2 ml tubes. Leaf material was obtained from three individual plants per accession, flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at -200°C .

The buffer is added to the dried DNA and stored in the refrigerator for 1 night. Amplification reactions were shown in Table 2.

Table 2.

AMPLIFICATION REACTIONS

<i>Components</i>	<i>Stock Cons.</i>	<i>Reac. Cons.</i>
PCR Buffer	10X	1X
MgCl ₂	25mM	1,5 mM
dNTP mix	20 mM	0,2 mM
F. Primer	10 μM	0,3 μM
R. Primer	10 μM	0,3 μM
Taq DNA Polymerase	5U/ μl	2 U
DNA template	3 μl	
PCR grade with H ₂ O		35 μl

Amplifications were performed as follows: first denaturation (3 min at 94⁰C), 35 cycles of denaturation (15 s at 94 °C), elongation (at 72⁰C), and final extension of (5 min at 72 °C). The amplified products were precipitated with ice-cold ethanol, washed with 70% ethanol, and dissolved in water. PCR products were verified by electrophoresis on 1.5% agarose gels containing ethidium bromide in this-acetate EDTA (TAE) buffer and detected under UV light (Table 2).

The restriction fragments with 100 bladders (Gene Ruler TM 100 bp ladder, Fermentas) as a size marker were separated on 1% agarose gels in Tris-acetate EDTA (TAE) buffer (Figure 1).

Table 2.

CYCLES AND THE DURATION OF THE POLYMERASE CHAIN REACTION

Temperature of PCR	Duration	Cycle
94 ⁰ C	3 min	1
94 ⁰ C	15 sec	} 35
50 ⁰ C	15 sec	
72 ⁰ C	30 sec	
72 ⁰ C	5 min	1

Checking the amount and purity of DNA

The amount of DNA is determined by a spectrophotometer (260 and 280 nm) (Nano Drop 200⁰C UV-Vis Spectrophotometer-Thermo Scientific). The mixture was used to determine the amount of 20 µl extracted DNA and 1980 µl of DD H₂O. The density of the DNA solution is calculated as follows: DNA density (NG/µl) = (OS₂₆₀/H₁₀₀ (dilution factor) x 50 ng/ml) / 1000. The optical density ratio between 260 and 280 nm (OS₂₆₀/OS₂₈₀) shows the purity of sound acids. The optimum cleaning speed for the PCR is 8-2.0. After determining the amount of DNA, from each sample, are prepared 50 ng / µl of DNA for each PCR reaction.

100 BP DNA LADDER

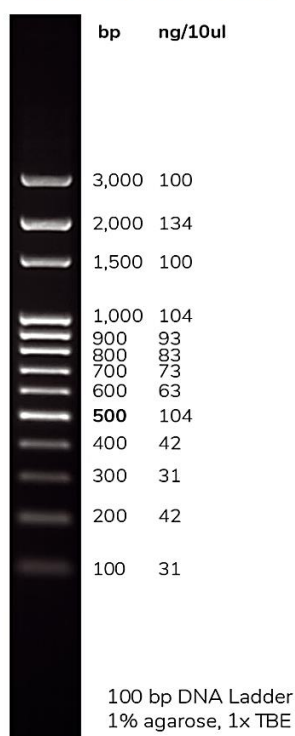


Figure 1. 100bp_DNA_Ladder

PCR reaction with its primers

The total volume of reaction for 1 sample is 20 µl (2 µl of DNA sample + 18 µl of the reaction mixture). The whole reaction should be carried out outside the ice and the unit needs to be centrifuged. The tags added to the reaction mixture, stirring, and the total reaction mixture thoroughly vortex. The amount of DNA is pre-placed in a tube or RDA (plate) and then stop reaction. Then, 18 µl is poured from the reaction mixture onto each sample and swirled again. After the reaction tube is placed in the apparatus PCR (Gene Amp System 2720, Applied Biosystems Foster City, CA and BigDye Terminator v3.1 Cycle) and the programs are compiled in the following sequence.

Results

Nucleotide sequence reading (Sequencing)

For the sequencing of the resulting products PCRQIA quick Gel Extraction Kit was cleaned by using a kit (Qiagen, Germany). Then PCR sequence was automated ABI 3730 XL with the head edition of primers is placed and nucleotides were sequenced.

Table 2.

THE (5-3) NUCLEOTIDES SEQUENCE OF ITS PRIMERS

DNA region	Primer	Primer sequence 5-3	Reference
ITS	ITS 1	TCC GTA GGT GAA CCT GCG G	White and other, 1990
	ITS 4	TCC TCC GCT TAT TGA TAT GC	White, and other 1990
Trn L intron	trnL C	CGA AAT CGG TAG ACG CTA CG	Taberlet et al., 1991
	trnLD	GGG GAT AGA GGG ACT TGA AC	Taberlet et al., 1991

The obtained nucleotide sequences were analyzed by Clustal W [8]. Results of some kinds of America Gen Banker and data-fornication were taken. The nucleotide sequences were included in the Molecular Evolutionary Genetics Analysis program (MEGA 6.0). The phylogenetic tree according to the model of Tamura-Nei [9] was constructed with 500 bootstrap-sample using the Maximum Likelihood (ML) method (Figure 2).

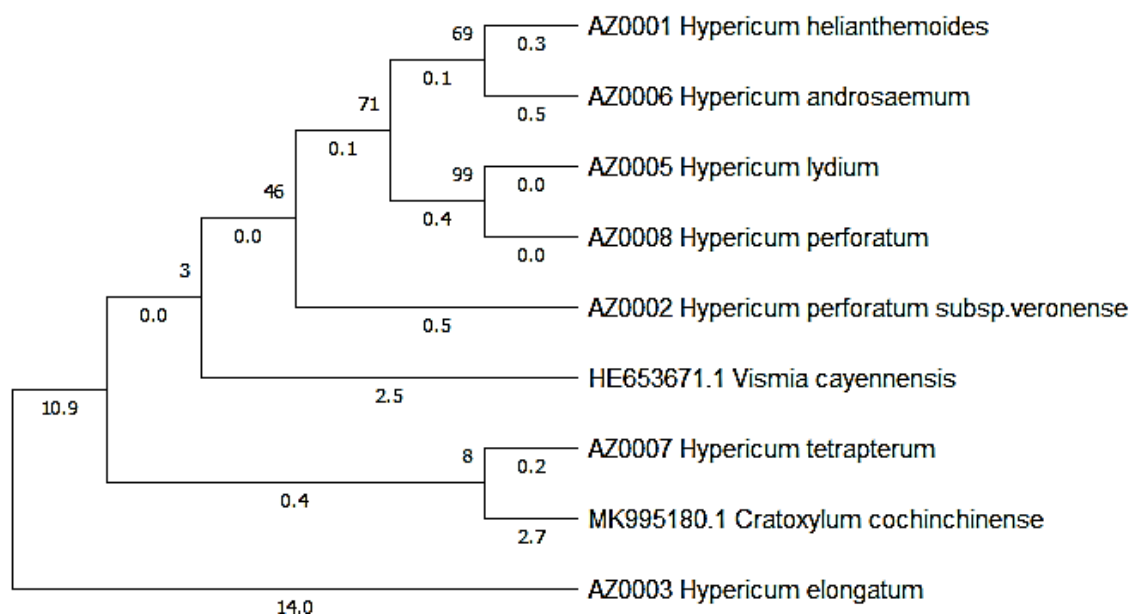


Figure 2. Phylogenetic tree of the genus Hypericum based on the Maximum Likelihood (ML) method

The obtained nucleotide sequences were compared with the data centers of the USA General Bank and the following results were obtained:

Sample AZ0001 with the data of Gen Bank with the type of *Hypericum helianthemodes* Spach.

Sample AZ0002 with the data of Gen Bank with the type of *Hypericum perforatum* subsp. *veronense*. Schrank.

Sample AZ0003 with the data of Gen Bank with the type of *Hypericum elongatum* Ledeb.

Sample AZ0005 with the data of Gen Bank with the type of *Hypericum lydium* Boiss.

Sample AZ0006 with the data of Gen Bank with the type of *Hypericum androsaemum* God.

Sample AZ0007 with the data of Gen Bank with the type of *Hypericum tetrapterum* Fries.

Sample AZ0008 with the data of Gen Bank with the type of *Hypericum perforatum* L.

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