

# Genetic Diversity of Provitamin A Cassava in Uganda

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## Abstract

Global efforts are being made towards developing provitamin A cassava (*Manihot esculenta* Cranz) varieties for sustainably addressing vitamin A malnutrition commonly noted in communities where cassava is a major staple. To elucidate the diversity in Uganda's core collection of yellow root cassava germplasm, genetic variability was assessed for 64 yellow and white root cassava accessions including Ugandan landraces, and accessions introduced from the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA). Phenotypic characterization was based on 12 morphological descriptors, total carotenoid content (TCC) and dry matter content (DMC). Variation of twenty six simple sequence repeat (SSR) markers was assessed and compared with morphological data. Total carotenoid content varied from 1.2 to 14.2 µg/100 g and correlated negatively ( $R^2 = -0.46$ ) with dry matter content which ranged from 27.2 to 39.8 %. Genetic diversity was high in all accession groups with an average heterozygosity of  $0.5583 \pm 0.0182$ . Phenetic

analyses using Unweighted Pair Group Method with Arithmetic Mean (UPGMA) and Principle Coordinate Analysis (PCoA) clustered the CIAT accessions into a distinct group, discriminating them from the landraces and IITA accessions. Based on the clustering pattern, it suffices to suggest limited gene flow between CIAT accessions and the landraces/IITA accessions which is an opportunity for broadening the genetic base through hybridization by exploiting the heterotic pool in the germplasm.

**Keywords:** Provitamin A cassava, Total carotenoid content, Genetic diversity, SSR markers, Cassava genetic improvement

## 1. Introduction

The low nutritional composition of cassava (*Manihot esculenta* Cranz) is a major factor which underrates the crop as a complete food crop. Notably, vitamin A deficiency (VAD) that ranges from night blindness to *Xerophthalmia* and *Keratomalacia* causing total blindness has been noted as a major health hazard in communities whose nutritional security heavily relies on cassava (Gichuki *et al.*, 2010; Rice *et al.*, 2004). It is estimated that globally, over 250 million children are at risk of VAD, 21 % being attributable to heavy reliance on cassava (WHO, 2009). Consequently, cassava is often excluded from the concept of a food-secure world, where all people at all times should have physical, social and economic access to adequate, nutritious, culturally acceptable and safe supply of food to meet their dietary needs and preferences for an actively healthy life (FAO, 2001).

However, existence of yellow root cassava (Sanchez *et al.*, 2006; Nassar, 2007) offers a different perception on nutritional benefits associated with the crop. Enhanced content of  $\beta$ -carotene (provitamin A) in yellow root cassava (Chavez *et al.*, 2007; Sanchez *et al.*, 2006) provides sufficient opportunity to sustainably address vitamin A malnutrition through deployment of provitamin A cassava varieties where the crop is a major staple (Makokha and Tunze, 2005; Nassar and Ortiz, 2010). It suffices to note that global efforts towards breeding cassava for high  $\beta$ -carotene content are only recent with low progress registered towards development and deployment of carotene rich varieties to farmers (Hershey, 2011; Ross Welch and Robin Graham, 2004), attributable to the negative association between  $\beta$ -carotene and dry matter (Vimala *et al.*, 2008; Akinwale *et al.*, 2010). Subsequently, the need for sufficient knowledge on genetic diversity in cassava germplasm collections for use by breeding programmes is a priority for effective utilization of the genetic resources in improvement of the crop (Nassar & Ortiz, 2007; Nassar & Ortiz, 2010).

In light of this development, the National Cassava Programme in Uganda introduced yellow root cassava accessions from CIAT and IITA, under the plant import permit number 000438, for adaptation and evaluation under local field conditions. However, these were the pioneer efforts made in Uganda towards nutrient enhancement in cassava. Therefore, in order to effectively select parental lines to breed for higher  $\beta$ -carotene content in cassava, it was invaluable to ascertain the genetic diversity of the germplasm. Here, we report the phenotypic and molecular diversity of yellow root cassava germplasm assembled in Uganda.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1 Plant material

Sixty four cassava accessions maintained at the National Crops Resources Research Institute (NaCRRI) were assayed for phenotypic variability and SSR allele diversity. Fifty five of the accessions were yellow root genotypes: 23 from CIAT, 23 from IITA and nine landraces from Uganda. Nine white root cassava varieties commonly grown by Ugandan and Tanzanian farmers were included for comparison with the yellow root accessions. The names of the accessions are presented in Figure 1.

### 2.2 Phenotypic characterization

The 64 cassava accessions above were assessed for variability in morphological and root quality traits. The root quality traits evaluated were total carotenoid content (TCC) and dry matter content (DMC). To estimate provitamin A content, TCC was measured. This was extracted using acetone and petroleum ether as described by Rodriguez-Amaya and Kimura (2004). Absorbance of the extract was measured at 450 nm using UV/visible spectrophotometry (Specord 210, Analytikjena model Torre Boldone BG, Italy). TCC was quantified using the formula:

$$\text{TCC } (\mu\text{g/g}) = \frac{A \times V \text{ (mL)} \times 10^4}{2592 \times W}$$

where: A = absorbance, V = total extract volume, W = sample weight, 2592 =  $\beta$ -carotene absorption coefficient in petroleum ether. The yellow pigmentation in cassava roots is predominantly due to  $\beta$ -carotene (provitamin A).

Thus the levels of TCC based on spectrophotometric screening give good estimates of  $\beta$ -carotene in cassava. The white root cassava varieties were not analyzed for TCC because the procedure employed here was only effective enough to measure absorbance of coloured extracts.

To estimate DMC, a 20 - 30 g fresh root sub-sample obtained from the one used to estimate TCC was dried in oven at 60 °C for 24 h, and weight before and after drying compared. The morphological descriptors including colour of apical leaf, pubescence, petiole colour, leaf colour, shape of central leaf, number of leaf lobes, lob margins, colour of stem cortex, colour of stem exterior, growth habit, branching habit and shape of plant were evaluated for variability using the standard procedure as described by Fukuda *et al.* (2010) (Table 1).

### 2.3 SSR genotyping

Genomic DNA was extracted using Dellaporta method (Dellaporta *et al.*, 1983). The DNA was checked for quantity and quality using microvolumetric Nanodrop ND-1000 and diluted to 25 ng/100  $\mu$ l. The 64 cassava genotypes were assayed with 26 polymorphic SSR markers (Table 2). These markers were selected from 13 of the 18 linkage groups on cassava genome map on the basis of single locus amplification, high degree of polymorphism and reproducibility. Amplification with the SSR primers was performed in 10  $\mu$ l reactions containing 25 ng of DNA template, 1 pmole of each primer, 1X Taq polymerase buffer, 2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.2 mM deoxynucleotide phosphates (dNTPs) and 0.37 U Taq polymerase. The PCR profile was 95 °C for 2 min, followed by 30 cycles of 95 °C for 30 sec, annealing at 55-57 °C for 1 min, extension at 72 °C for 1 min and a final extension at 72 °C for 30 min. Because amplicons were of different sizes and the forward primers were fluorescently labeled (MWG-Biotech), co-loading of amplicons from the same individual, but at different loci, was therefore possible. Seven co-loading sets were optimized and used for the entire analysis. For each co-loading set, 1-2  $\mu$ l of the different amplicons were mixed and vortexed. Aliquots of 1  $\mu$ l of the mixture were added to 9  $\mu$ l of a master mix containing HiDi formamide and GeneScan 500-LIZ size standard (1 ml of HiDi + 12  $\mu$ l of 500-LIZ). The amplicons were denatured at 95 °C for 3 min and subjected to capillary electrophoresis using ABI 3730 DNA sequencer (Applied Biosystems), and allele calls made using GENEMAPPER software version 3.7 (Applied Biosystems).

### 2.4 Data analysis

Descriptive statistics on TCC and DMC were obtained using the Genstat Computer Package. Dissimilarity matrix generated from single morphological data was used for phenetic analysis using DARwin5 software version 5.0.158 (Perrier and Jacquemoud-Collet, 2006). Diallelic data generated from the 26 SSR markers were used to estimate the genetic diversity within and among accessions using PowerMarker software package (version 3.25) described by Liu and Muse (2005), with the following statistics: percentage of polymorphic loci, mean number of alleles per polymorphic locus, average observed heterozygosity ( $H_o$ ), average gene diversity ( $H_e$ ) (Nei, 1978). Dissimilarity matrix generated diallelic SSR data was subjected to principal coordinate analysis (PCoA) using GenAlEx software version 6 (Peakall and Smouse, 2006).

## 3. Results

### 3.1 Variation in total carotenoid content, dry matter content and morphological traits

TCC varied from 1.2 (in Ugandan landraces) to 14.2  $\mu$ g/100g (in IITA accessions) (Table 3). IITA accessions had higher mean TCC ( $5.5 \pm 2.01$   $\mu$ g/100g) and the landraces had the least mean TCC ( $4.3 \pm 1.32$   $\mu$ g/100g) with skewness of 1.29 and -0.45 respectively. The differences between the TCC means were not significant (LSD,  $P < 0.05$ ). DMC varied from 27.2 % (in CIAT accessions) to 39.8 % (in local white root varieties) (Table 3). The mean DMC of local white root varieties was significantly different (LSD  $P < 0.05$ ) from means of other accessions, and the same was true with the mean DMC of the yellow root landraces compared to other yellow root accessions.

A phenogram constructed by the Unweighted Pair-Group with Arithmetic Mean (UPGMA) method revealed three clusters within the genotypes evaluated (Figure 1). Clusters II and III were constituted, without clear discrimination, by accessions from IITA, Ugandan landraces and white root varieties, but cluster I was almost entirely constituted by CIAT accessions. The most discriminating morphological traits were shape of the central leaf in which frequency of CIAT genotypes with lanceolate leaves was 0.85 and colour of apical leaf where frequency of CIAT genotypes with purplish green apical colour was 0.73, however the correlation between the morphological characters and TCC or DMC was not significant.

### 3.2 SSR diversity

The number of alleles per locus averaged at  $4.2 \pm 0.16$ , with yellow root accessions from IITA having the highest number at an average of 4.7 alleles per locus (Table 4).  $H_o$  was high in all accession groups and ranged

from 0.47 to 0.66 at an average of  $0.57 \pm 0.024$ . The expected heterozygosity ranged from 0.51 in white root accessions to 0.60 in CIAT accessions. Total heterozygosity ( $H_T$ ) over all loci was high in all accessions ( $0.59 \pm 0.11$ ), but only 4.7% ( $G_{ST} = 0.047 \pm 0.0551$ ) was due to differentiation among accession groups i.e., between CIAT, IITA, Uganda and white root accessions. Most of the diversity was found within accession groups ( $H_S = 0.56 \pm 0.099$ , Table 4). Indeed, analysis of molecular variance (AMOVA) showed that most of the variation was distributed within populations (80%) and the rest distributed among populations (Table 5), corroborating the genetic diversity results above.

An examination of genetic relationship between accessions using both UPGMA (Figure 2) and PCoA (Figure 3) methods confirmed the three clusters. The three main eigenvalues of the PCoA on the similarity matrix explained 33 %, 19 % and 15 % of the total variation, respectively. In both cases, the CIAT accessions clustered into distinct group while mixtures of IITA and Ugandan accessions constituted the other two clusters.

#### 4. Discussion

The wide range of TCC and DMC, and distribution of morphological variability in the cassava accessions analyzed here provide a broader scope for the crop's improvement through hybridization and selection. Although the inverse relationship between TCC and DMC reported in this study and elsewhere by Vimala *et al.* (2008) and Akinwale *et al.* (2010) may be undesirable where high DMC is preferred, independent inheritance of  $\beta$ -carotene and DMC (Akinwale *et al.*, 2010; Nasser and Rodomiro, 2010) makes selection from populations segregating for the traits effective in developing pro-vitamin A cassava varieties. The higher DMC observed in local white root varieties and the landraces is most likely resulting from the effect of selection by farmers. During cassava variety development, high DMC is a priority trait at yield evaluation stage, and farmers tend to maintain landraces with good root qualities among which is DMC (Nassar *et al.*, 2009; Hershey, 2011).

The wide genetic variability of yellow root cassava, confirmed by comparison with popular white root accessions, further confirms the value of this germplasm collection for breeding efforts that include provitamin A as one of several important traits. Values of  $H_o$  and  $H_e$  showed moderate amounts of heterozygotes in the populations studied. The broad genetic base of cassava in South America (Olsen and Schaal, 2001) can account for the relatively high heterozygosity observed in CIAT accessions. However, recombination events during hybridization could explain the comparably high heterozygosity in both CIAT and IITA accessions. Since their establishment in the 1970s, CIAT and IITA have been greatly involved in production of improved cassava varieties in Colombia and Nigeria, respectively. This has been achieved through controlled hybridization, sometimes using diverse exotic parents, thus providing high levels of genetic variability (Glazmann *et al.*, 2010). The mean number of alleles (4.25) detected per locus is similar to those obtained in previous cassava diversity studies (Fregene *et al.* 2003; Raghu *et al.*, 2007; Siqueira *et al.*, 2009), attesting to the heterozygous nature of cassava as an out-crossing crop. The genetic differences observed between the white root and the yellow root accessions in this study cannot be associated with provitamin A because the SSR markers used were neutral.

The relatively high heterozygosity found in the landraces studied can be attributed to farmers' role in selection and maintenance of desirable genotypes. It is also possible that genotypes classified as landraces could be hybrids derived through local x elite hybridisations. Kizito (2006) noted that during periods of scarcity of planting materials, subsistence farmers generated their own materials from cuttings of cassava plants in forests or fields in a fallow and from volunteer plants derived from sexually reproduced seedlings. This practice favors heterozygosity in cassava because as farmers select for vigor among spontaneous seedlings, they indirectly select for heterozygous genotypes (Jarvis & Hodgkin, 1999). The variability in the landraces may be associated with favorable genes which are often the most appropriate background into which a breeder can introduce new traits (Nasser 2007; Siqueira *et al.*, 2009). As such, the landraces may form the nucleus of germplasm assemblage for  $\beta$ -carotene because farmers often have selected these clones for many years for adaptation, cultural practices and quality traits required by local markets (Nasser, 2007).

#### 5. Conclusion

Collectively, the core Ugandan cassava germplasm collection now including Ugandan landraces, as well as accessions introduced from CIAT and IITA represents a valuable resource for inclusion of high provitamin A as a trait in the national breeding program. This study now allows informed breeding strategies to be devised and executed. The high level of differentiation between CIAT and IITA yellow root cassava accessions represents a heterotic pool, presenting an opportunity for systematic exploitation of hybrid vigor to create broader genetic base for developing pro-vitamin A varieties. Additionally, the diversity in Ugandan yellow root cassava landraces presents an invaluable germplasm resource for cassava genetic improvement targeted to the region. The results provide a starting point for establishing a functional conservation strategy and for inclusion of

provitamin A as a trait in Ugandan national cassava breeding, targeting utilization of the yellow root accessions for cassava genetic improvement.

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Table 1. Traits and assessment procedure for morphological characterization of landraces

Trait evaluated	Age* (month)	Scale for evaluation	Remark
Colour of apical leaf	3	3-Light green; 5-Dark green; 7-Purplish green; 9-Purple	Top three leaves considered
Pubescence	3	0-Absent; 1-Present	Top three leaves considered
Petiole colour	6	1-Yellowish green; 2-Green; 3-Reddish green; 5-Greenish red; 7-Red; 9-Purple	Leaf taken from a mid-height position
Leaf colour	6	3-Light green; 5-Dark green; 7-Purplish green; 9-Purple	A leaf from middle of the plant observed
Shape of central leaf	6	1-Ovoid; 2-Elliptic-lanceolate; 3-Obovate-lanceolate; 4-Oblong-lanceolate; 5-Lanceolate; 6-Straight or linear; 7-Pandurate; 8-Linear-pyramidal; 9-Linear-pandurate; 10-Linear-hostatilobalate	Leaf taken from a mid-height position
Number of leaf lobes	6	3-Three lobes; 5-Five lobes; 7-Seven lobes; 9-Nine lobes; 11-Eleven lobes	A leaf taken from a mid-height position
Lobe margins	6	3-Smooth; 7-Winding	A leaf from the middle third of the plant observed
Colour of stem cortex	9	1-Orange; 2-Light green; 3-Dark green	A leaf from the middle third of the plant observed
Colour of stem exterior	9	3-Orange; 4-Greeny-yellowish; 5-Golden; 6-Light brown; 7-Silver; 8-Grey; 9-Dark brown	A leaf from the middle third of the plant observed
Growth habit	9	1-Straight; 2-Zigzag	Most occurrence considered
Branching habit	12	1-Erect; 2-Dichotomous; 3-Trichotomous; 4-Tetrachotomous	Observed at first branching
Shape of plant	12	1-Compact; 2-Open; 3-Umbrella; 4-Cylindrical	Most occurrence considered
Extent of root peduncle	12	0-Sessile; 3-Pendunculate; Mixed	Main roots considered
Root constrictions	12	1-Few to none; 2-Some; 3-Many	Measured on mature roots
Root shape	12	1-Conical; 2-Conical-cylindrical; 3-Cylindrical; 4-Irregular	Most occurrence considered
Color of root cortex	12	1-White or cream; 2-Yellow; 3-Pink; 4-Purple	Most occurrence considered

\*The traits were evaluated at different developmental stages of the plants, as described by Fukuda *et al.* (2010)

Table 2. Optimized co-loading sets of 26 SSR primers based on amplicon size and dye colour

SSR locus	Forward primer sequence	Reverse primer sequence	LG <sup>1</sup>	CS <sup>2</sup>	Amplicon size	Dye label <sup>3</sup>	Annealing temp (°C)
SSRY21	CCTGCCACAATATTGAAATGG	CAACAATTGGACTAAGCAGCA	B/D	1	120-230	NED	57
SSRY38	GGCTGTTCTGTGATCCTTATTAAC	GTAGTTGAGAAAACCTTTGCATGAG	G	1	80-140	6-FAM	57
SSRY59	GCAATGCAGTGAACCATCTTT	CGTTTGTCCTTCTGATGTTTC	M	1	130-180	PET	55
SSRY69	AACTGTCAAACCATCTACTTGC	GCCAGCAAGGTTTGCTACAT	F	1	180-270	VIC	57
NS911	CACGACGTTGTAAAACGAC	TGTTGTTTCAGACGATGTCCAA	nd	2	90-150	VIC	59
SSRY5	TGATGAAATTCAAAGCACCA	CGCTACCACCTGCCATAAAC	J	2	70-150	6-FAM	57
SSRY52	GCCAGCAAGGTTTGCTACAT	AACTGTCAAACCATCTACTTGC	H	2	230-280	PET	57
SSRY161	AAGGAACACCTCTCCTAGAATCA	CCAGCTGTATGTTGAGTGAGC	nd	2	200-240	NED	55
SSRY9	ACAATTCATCATGAGTCATCAACT	CCGTTATTGTTCTGGTCTCT	D	3	245-285	VIC	57
SSRY110	TTGAGTGGTGAATGCGAAAG	AGTGCCACCTTGAAAGAGCA	L	3	230-260	PET	57
SSRY151	CACGACGTTGTAAAACGAC	AGTGGAATAAGCCATGTGATG	nd	3	160-240	6-FAM	57
SSRY155	CACGACGTTGTAAAACGAC	CGTTGATAAAGTGAAAGAGCA	nd	3	130-180	NED	59
SSRY12	AACTGTCAAACCATCTACTTGC	GCCAGCAAGGTTTGCTACAT	F/H	4	220-290	NED	57
SSRY100	ATCCTTGCCTGACATTTTGC	TTCGACAGTCCAAATGTTG	K	4	170-280	PET	57
SSRY102	TTGCTGCTTTCACTAATGC	TGAACACGTTGAACAACCA	M	4	160-200	6-FAM	57
SSRY147	CACGACGTTGTAAAACGAC	GTACATCACCAACACGGGC	nd	4	80-140	VIC	57
SSRY63	TCAGAATCATCTACCTTGGCA	AAGACAATCATTTGTGCTCCA	H	5	240-340	PET	57
SSRY148	CACGACGTTGTAAAACGAC	GGCTTCATCATGGAAAAACC	nd	5	90-140	VIC	57
SSRY181	GGTAGATCTGGATCGAGGAGG	CAATCGAAACCGACGATACA	K	5	130-230	6-FAM	57
SSRY182	GGAATTCCTTTGCTTATGATGCC	TTCCTTTACAATCTGGACGC	M	5	190-260	NED	57
SSRY135	CCAGAAACTGAAATGCATCG	AACATGTGCGACAGTGATTG	G	6	230-265	PET	57
SSRY169	ACAGCTCTAAAACTGCAGCC	AACGTAGGCCCTAACTAACCC	D	6	70-130	6-FAM	55
SSRY171	ACTGTGCCAAAATAGCCAAATAGT	TCATGAGTGTGGGATGTTTATG	C	6	240-330	NED	55
SSRY19	GCCAGCAAGGTTTGCTACAT	TCTCTGTGAAAAGTGCATGA	K	7	190-250	6-FAM	57
SSRY51	AGGTTGGATGCTTGAAGGAA	GGATGCAGGAGTGCTCAACT	I	7	230-330	PET	57
SSRY64	CGACAAGTCGTATATGTATTCACG	GCAGAGGTGGCTAACGAGAC	J	7	160-230	VIC	57

<sup>1</sup>Linkage group on cassava genome map, the alphabets represent the chromosomes on which the primers are located; <sup>2</sup>Co-loading set; <sup>3</sup>PET = Red, VIC = Green, NED = Yellow, 6-FAM = Blue; nd = no linkage data

Table 3. Carotenoid and dry matter content of yellow root cassava accessions

Accession source/type	No. of genotypes	TCC ( $\mu\text{g}/100\text{g}$ )			DMC (%)			Skewness	
		Min.	Max.	Mean	Min.	Max.	Mean	TCC	DMC
CIAT	23	1.3	10.2	5.2 $\pm$ 2.41	27.2	35.6	32.8 $\pm$ 0.62	-0.61	0.11
IITA	23	1.5	14.2	5.5 $\pm$ 2.01	28.3	35.1	33.1 $\pm$ 1.55	1.29	-0.58
UGLR <sup>1</sup>	9	1.2	7.8	4.3 $\pm$ 1.32	32.6	36.5	34.9 $\pm$ 1.27	-0.45	-0.33
LWRV <sup>2</sup>	9	-	-	-	35.3	39.8	37.4 $\pm$ 2.11	-	0.09

<sup>1</sup>Ugandan yellow root landraces, <sup>2</sup>Local white root varieties (TCC was not analysed in the white root accessions because the TCC levels were below the minimum threshold detectable by the spectrophotometry protocol)



Table 4. Estimates of genetic diversity parameters of yellow root cassava accessions from different groups

Population	Sample size	Alleles/locus	H <sub>o</sub>	H <sub>e</sub>	H <sub>cc</sub> <sup>1</sup>	F <sub>isp</sub> <sup>2</sup>
CIAT	23	4.5	0.66	0.60	0.62	-0.09
IITA	23	4.7	0.59	0.59	0.61	0.06
LWRV	9	3.7	0.47	0.51	0.54	0.25
UGLR	9	3.8	0.55	0.54	0.57	-0.03
Mean		4.2	0.57	0.56	0.58	-0.01
SD		0.16	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.03
	H <sub>T</sub>	H <sub>S</sub> <sup>3</sup>	D <sub>ST</sub> <sup>4</sup>	G <sub>ST</sub> <sup>5</sup>		
Mean	0.5922	0.56	0.03	0.047		
SD <sup>6</sup>	0.1104	0.10	0.03	0.055		
95% CI <sup>7</sup>	0.7103	0.66	0.02	0.031		
99% CI <sup>7</sup>	0.8122	0.78	0.04	0.068		

<sup>1</sup>Mean expected heterozygosity corrected for small sample size according to Nei 1978; <sup>2</sup>Average inbreeding coefficient with correction for small sample sizes; <sup>3</sup>Average gene diversity within populations; <sup>4</sup>Average gene diversity between populations; <sup>5</sup>Coefficient of gene differentiation; <sup>6</sup>Standard deviations were estimated by Jackknifing over loci (200 replications); <sup>7</sup>Confidence intervals were obtained through 1000 bootstraps over all loci

Table 5. Summary of the AMOVA within and among yellow root cassava accessions

Source	df	SS	MS	Est. Var.	%	Stat	Value	Probability <sup>1</sup>
Among Pops	3	224.551	74.850	3.966	20%			
Within Pops	60	926.184	15.436	15.436	80%			
Total	63	1150.734		19.403	100%	PhiPT	0.204	0.010

<sup>1</sup>The probability is based on permutation across the full data set. PhiPT is a statistic measure for comparison between co-dominant data sets

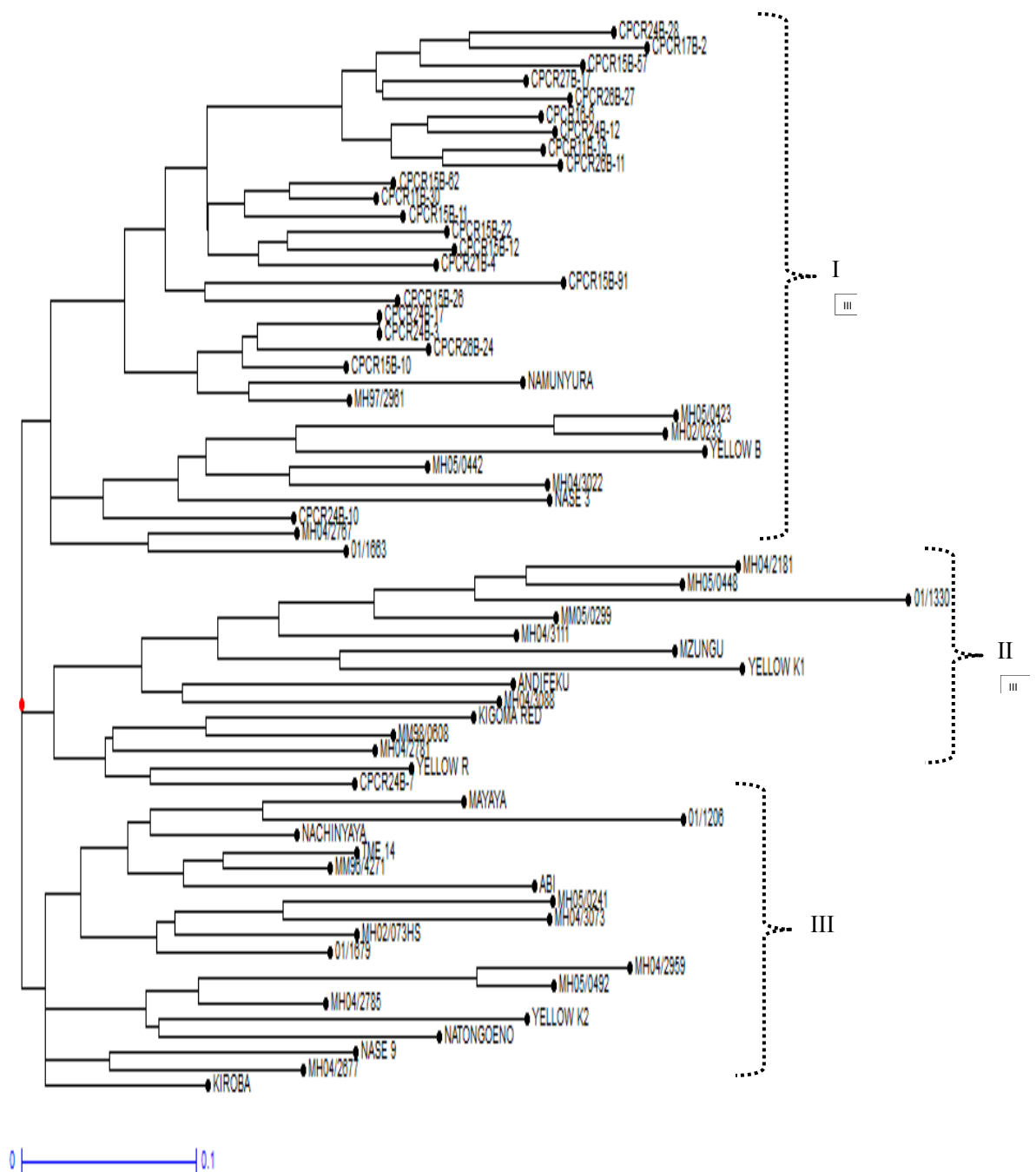


Figure 1. Dendrogram of 64 cassava accessions based on morphological data

Prefix to accessions: CPCR – CIAT accessions; MH/MM/01 – IITA accessions; Others – local names. The white root cassava accessions are Kiroba, Kigoma Red, NASE 9, NASE 3, Mzungu, TME 14, MH97/2961, MM96/4271, and Nachinyaya



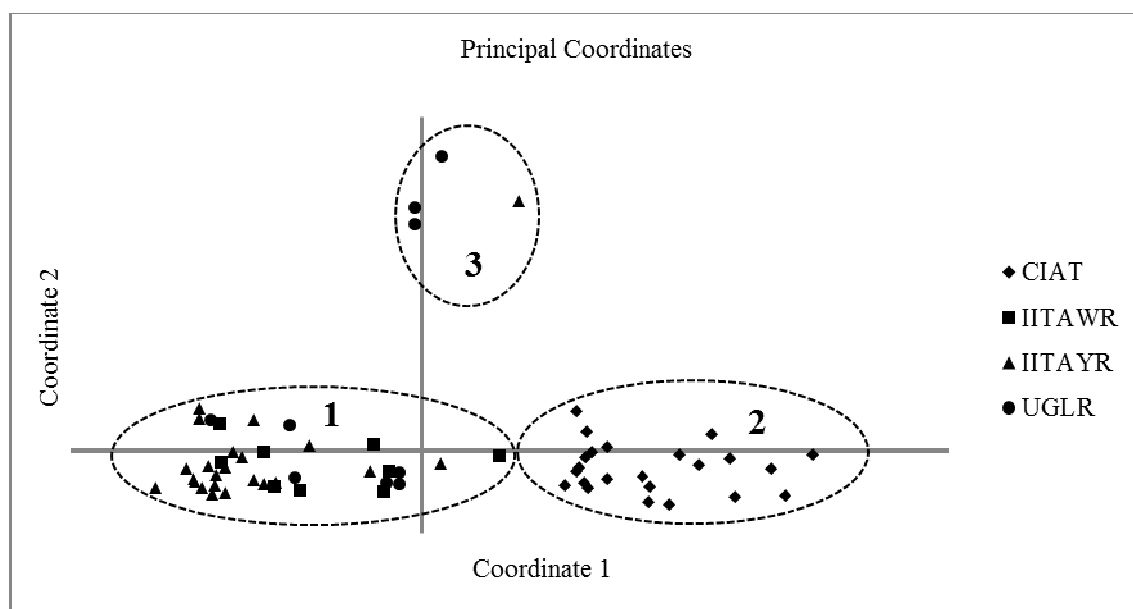


Figure 3. Scatter plot of SSR marker diversity in cassava accessions

CIAT: genotypes from CIAT; IITAYR: yellow root genotypes from IITA; UGLR: Ugandan landraces; IITAWR: white root genotypes from IITA. The plot was constructed using values computed from Jaccard's similarity matrix. Coordinates 1 and 2 explain 33 % and 19 % of the variance observed, respectively.