

THE EFFECT OF MICROSATELLITE CORE SEQUENCE IN THE DIFFERENTIATION OF *AMARANTHUS CRUENTUS* GENOTYPES

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ABSTRACT

A collection of *Amaranthus cruentus* accessions was analysed to compare the characteristics of different dinucleotide core sequences of microsatellites repeats. ISSR analysis was performed to obtain corresponding genetic fingerprints and based on them, to construct dendrograms for every individual primer used in the study. A total of eighteen accessions were analysed. Dinucleotide sequence of (CA)₆ repetition anchored by GG bases resulted in a total of 65 DNA fragments and 100-percent polymorphism. This marker has differed completely only 10 from all of the analysed genotypes. Dinucleotide sequence of (CT)₈ repetition anchored by AC bases has resulted in the amplification of totally 97 fragments and 84.62 % of polymorphism. Only seven accessions were different among themselves when regarding this microsatellite core sequence. Dinucleotide sequence of (GA)₆ repetition anchored by CC bases has resulted in the amplification of totally 171 DNA fragments and 100 % polymorphism. Not all the genotypes were separated based on this marker, two of them - Ames 5638 RRC 1139 and Ames 5648 RRC 1148 - possess the same profile of amplified ISSR fragments. The most distant genotype separated by all of the used primers was a landrace PI 511876 Huatle originated in Mexico.

Keywords: *Amaranthus cruentus* L., dinucleotide microsatellites, ISSR, core sequence

INTRODUCTION

Microsatellites, a unique untranscribed sequences through the entire genome defined by 4 parameters (motif, frequency and variability of motifs, form of interaction between single motifs and/or their copies and length of motifs and microsatellites). Their stability is a result of DNA recombination by unequal crossing-over or gene conversion while replication slippage costs losses or gains of a few copies and together affect a mutation rate decrease and improve sequence purity. Microsatellites or simple sequence repeats and short tandem repeats (SSR and STR) has no limits in genome appearance. Primarily, SSRs and STRs are parts of non-coding regions mostly AT-rich DNA, but they were found also in genes and pseudogenes which spread them by their own activity throughout the genome almost well as transposable elements.

Kalia et al. (2011) split microsatellites based on number of nucleotides per repeats into 6 classes: mononucleotide (A)_n, dinucleotide (CA)_n, trinucleotide (CGT)_n, tetranucleotide (CAGA)_n, pentanucleotide (AAATT)_n and hexanucleotide (CTTTAA)_n (n = number of variables) and at the same based on location of SSRs in the genome into nuclear (nuSSRs), chloroplastic (cpSSRs) and mitochondrial (mtSSRs). The most common motifs in plant and fungal genomes are poly(A)_s, poly(T)_s, (AT)_n, (AC)_n motifs and (GATA)_n sequences. In rice, sequences containing (CGG/GCC)_n were most frequently identified, with the exception of (GC/CG)_n, (AGT/TCA)_n and (GACC/CTGG)_n (Miah et al., 2013). Among all 35 annotated EST-SSR markers assessed for cross transferability in the selected plants (*Datura metel* L. (86.45 %), *Datura innoxia* Mill. (81.29 %), *Withania coagulans* Stocks (96.77 %), *Withania somnifera* L. (98.06 %), *Capsicum annuum* L. (85.16 %), *Stevia rebaudiana* Bertoni. (34.84 %), *Eclipta alba* L. (49.68 %), *Citrullus colocynthis* L. (54.19 %), *Ocimum sanctum* L. (43.23 %), *Catharanthus roseus* L. (58.71 %), and *Moringa oleifera* Lam. (58.66 %)), tri-nucleotide repeats AAG/CTT, CCG/CGG, and AGC/CTG were highly abundant followed by tetra-nucleotide AAAT/ATTT and AAAG/CTTT, di-nucleotide AG/CT and AT/AT, and penta-nucleotide repeats AAAAC/GTTTT (ul Haq et al., 2014).

There are only 30 % suitable primers/markers for analyses. So for future of these techniques is „transferability“ the breakpoint. It requires precise sequences in related species for exchange microsatellites, because development a new ones is too much expensive. There already exist a similarity in flanking regions but only in few and very related species as triticale, oat or rye (Yildirim et al., 2009). SSRs arose from ESTs, called EST-SSRs are more consistent, significant and

transferable into rice (Cho et al., 2000), barley (Thiel et al. 2003), sugarcane (Cordeiro et al., 2001), grape (Scott et al., 2000), tomato (Areshchenkova and Ganal, 2002), rye (Hackauf and Wehling, 2002), cereals (Zhang et al., 2005), leguminous and nonleguminous plants (Gupta and Prasad, 2009) and/or medical plants (Mishra et al., 2001). Up to 17 of 23 barley markers and 23 of 27 wheat markers were found at least in 1 another species (barley, wheat, rye and oat) (Yildirim et al., 2009).

Nowadays, we're able to use microsatellites as DNA markers, especially long enough SSRs. If we're going down along the scale of system's features from (a) to (i): (a) marker system availability; (b) complexity of the technique and time investment; (c) estimated polymorphism levels within the study population; (d) quantity and quality of available DNA; (e) transferability between laboratories, populations, pedigrees and species; (f) the size and structure of the population to be studied; (g) availability of skilled workers and equipment; (h) cost per data-point and funding availability; (i) method of marker inheritance (e.g., dominant vs. codominant) and the type of genetic information needed in the population (Staub et al., 1996), we manage ourselves into conclusions only by the integration of our aim fitting in the area of taxonomic and phylogenetic studies and diversity and cultivar analysis that key features for our studies correspond with marker system inter-simple sequence repeats (ISSR).

ISSRs do not require exact sequence information for each marker compared to SSRs. Also have no problem with a small number of potential microsatellite loci to identify, polymerase slippage when analysing di-nucleotide repeats and non-homologous co-migrating fragments. ISSRs produce multilocus and highly polymorphic pattern per reaction, although, uninterpreted band profiles in terms of loci and alleles, frequently appearance of dominant alleles and non-homologous similar-sized fragments make serious limitation. In contrast, high level of polymorphism, co-dominant inheritance and very high reproducibility of SSRs. technical simplicity and low expenses are much more effective objections. Additional, ISSRs use two approaches, main approach is based on targeting multiple loci with knowledge of abundance of repeats in the genome which terminate them, alternative approach demand assistance radioactive labeled anchors (2-4 nucleotides) providing no primer slippage. Xu and Sun (2001) showed that ISSR markers have a vast potential for generating a huge amounts of informative signs for phylogenetic analyses also as AFLP, and by the way, the unique advantage of ISSR is in ability to amplify various volume of DNA with qualitative profiles. Xu and Sun (2001) applied two ISSR primer combinations, 807/888 ((AG)₈T/BDB(CA)₇) and 811/891 ((GA)₅C/HVH(TG)₇) from amaranth

with combination of 5 AFLP markers. This strategic step of choosing ISSRs help provide a strong support for a monophyletic origin of grain amarath, and could be used also in searching of existing cultivars with potencial traits significant for marker-assisted breeding and selection.

Except these are 2 marker systems, simple repeats are used by another one system, REMAP (retrotransposon-microsatellite amplified polymorphism) when in combination of primer pairs is the one microsatellite and the second is LTR (long tandem repeats of arbitrary retrotransposon) (Gupta et al., 1999) which create very precise and specific matches in genomes. SSRs are superior to SNP markers because SSR markers can reveal more information per locus than biallelic SNP markers. This was a point of view of Xu et al. (2013) to release an information about more than 4 000 SSR markers have been developing and using in genetic mapping studies of wheat. E. g., Chinese spring wheat, at a density of 36.68 SSR/Mb is extremely low, even more with the reported numbers in the monocot species Brachypodium (191.3 SSR/Mb), sorghum (175.4 SSR/Mb), rice (363.3 SSR/Mb), Arabidopsis (418.6 SSR/Mb), Medicago (495.8 SSR/Mb), and Populus (667.9 SSR/ Mb) (Han et al., 2015).

The aim of the study was to analyse the resolution power of the microsatellite markers with different dinucleotide core sequences for the purpose of genetic variability description of *Amaranthus cruentus* genotypes.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Eighteen genotypes of *Amaranthus cruentus* were used in the study (Table 1). The seeds of a world collection of *Amaranthus cruentus* were obtained from North Central Regional PI Station (NC 7), Iowa State University, Ames. The plant seedlings were cultivated under *in vitro* conditions on the basal Murashige and Skoog (1962) medium. Total genomic DNA was extracted according Rogers and Bendich (1994) protocol. Each of the accession was represented by a pool of five plants.

Primers used in ISSR reactions are listed in the Table 2. Amplification of ISSR profiles was assigned using the 1 U of polymerase, 20 mmol.dm⁻³ Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 50 mmol.dm⁻³ KCl, 3 mmol.dm⁻³ MgCl₂, 0.2 mmol.dm⁻³ primer (all INVITROGENTM, Life Technologies (Thermo Fisher Scientific)), 0.1 mmol.dm⁻³ dNTP (PROMEGA Corp.) and 20 ng DNA in 25 ml PCR mixture. PCR amplification was performed in C1000 TOUCHTM THERMAL CYCLER BIO-RAD (Life Science Research) using the following cycle profile: 2 minutes at 94 °C followed by 45 cycles: 1 minute at 94 °C , 1 minute at 50 °C and 2 minutes at 72 °C with a final polymerization step 7 minutes at 72 °C.

Table 1 *Amaranthus cruentus* L. accessions used in the study

| Number analysis | in | Genotype | Origin | Type |
|-----------------|----|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | | Ames 1959 RRC 1 | Ghana | Variety |
| 2 | | Ames 5129 RRC 360 | Nigeria | Unknown origin |
| 3 | | Ames 21948 | Papua New Guinea | Unknown origin |
| 4 | | PI 566896 Komo | USA, Arizona | Landrace |
| 5 | | PI 511719 Niqua | Guatemala | Cultivated material |
| 6 | | PI 511876 Huatle | Mexico | Landrace |
| 7 | | PI 527567 IZ 32 | Burundi | Landrace |
| 8 | | PI 604558 Mapes 821 | Mexico | Landrace |
| 9 | | PI 612169 Tibet Yellow | China | Cultivated material |
| 10 | | Ames 5638 RRC 1139 | Mexico, Puebla | Unknown origin |
| 11 | | Ames 5648 RRC 1148 | Mexico, Sonora | Unknown origin |
| 12 | | PI 477913 RRC 1011 | Mexico | Variety |
| 13 | | Ames 5493 RRC 768 | Mexico, Morelos | Unknown origin |
| 14 | | Ames 5369 RRC 685 | Kongo | Variety |
| 15 | | Ames 5310 RRC 659 | Mexico, Sonora | Landrace |
| 16 | | CEN/IB/97/AMA/003 | Nigeria, Oyo | Wild |
| 17 | | Ames 2215 RRC 308 | Mexico, Sonora | Landrace |
| 18 | | PI 566897 Kerala Red | India, Kerala | Cultivated material |

Footnotes: Alternative accessions of genotypes: 1 - RRC 78S-1, Yendi 15; 3 - DRL 1294; 4 - Ames 2259, Ames 5319, Cr071, GN 1101, LSK 113, RRC 537, RRC 80S-537; 5 - 87, Alegria, HH 87, Chang; 6 - 851109-05, CN351; 7 - CN374; 8 - Ames 22655; 9 - Ames 25450, Tibet; 10 - JMdC 13; 11 - Cr020, GN CO 2005; 12 - 81S-1011, Ames 2241, Cr048, LSK 481, PI 490661, RRC 104, RRC 78S-104; 13 - LFD/JMdC 138-2; 14 - Lenga-lenga; 15 - Alegria, Cr044, GN 1144, Guegui, PI 451711, Quequi, Weywi; 16 - Ames 25121; 17 - Ames 5320, GN 855, Guegui, RRC 538, RRC 78S-308, Wehwi; 18 - Ames 18058, Cr072, Red Spinach.
Komo; RRC 537; GN 1101; Ames 2259; Ames 5319; RRC 80S-537

Komo; RRC 537; GN 1101; Ames 2259; Ames 5319; RRC 80S-537
Komo; RRC 537; GN 1101; Ames 2259; Ames 5319; RRC 80S-537
Komo; RRC 537; GN 1101; Ames 2259; Ames 5319; RRC 80S-537
Komo; RRC 537; GN 1101; Ames 2259; Ames 5319; RRC 80S-537
Komo; RRC 537; GN 1101; Ames 2259; Ames 5319; RRC 80S-537
Komo; RRC 537; GN 1101; Ames 2259; Ames 5319; RRC 80S-537
Komo; RRC 537; GN 1101; Ames 2259; Ames 5319; RRC 80S-537

Amplified fragments were electrophoretically separated in 2 % AGE (3 : 1, AMRESCO E776-250G). Electrophoreograms were processed with documentation system G:BOX in GeneSnap program - Product version: 7.09 (SYNGENE) and GeneTools - Product version: 4.01 (SYNGENE). Pair-wise matrices were generated by Jaccard's coefficient of similarity (Jaccard, 1908) for every couple of accessions using the SYNTAX softwer. Dendrograms were constructed under the UPGMA algorithm with the HIERCLUS module of SYNTAX to show a phenetic representation of genetic relationships as revealed by the dissimilarity coefficient.

Table 2 Sequences and characterization of ISSR primers used in the study

| Primer | GC content (%) | Sequence length in bp |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| (CA) ₆ GG | 57 | 14 |
| (CT) ₈ AC | 50 | 18 |
| (GA) ₆ CC | 57 | 14 |

Footnotes: All primers are 3'-anchored. Standard content of guanine-cytosine bases is 50-72 % and sequence length around 11-18 nucleotides.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Different ISSR profiles were compared among collection of *Amaranthus cruentus* from the point of view of different characteristics of intra-specific variability of analysed accessions. Dinucleotide sequence of (CA)₆ repetition anchored by GG bases resulted in a total of 65 DNA fragments of 11 levels (Figure 1). None of the obtained level was monomorphic what represents 100-percent polymorphism. The average count of amplified fragments was 3.61. The highest number of fragments (5) were obtained in the ISSR profile of genotype PI 566896 Komo and the lowes (3) was obtained for genotypes Ames 21948, PI 511876 Huatle, PI 527567 IZ 32, PI 604558 Mapes, Ames 5638 RRC 1139, Ames 5493 RRC 768, Ames 5310 RRC 659 and Ames 2215 RRC 308. The value of resolution power for this primer was Rp = 3,44. The length of the amplified ISSR fragments was in the range from 470 bp up to the 2375 bp. Constructed dendrogram based on the UPGMA has resulted in two basic branches where the genotypes PI 511719 Niqua and PI 511876 Huatle were the most distinct from all of the other accessions (Figure 2). In the case of this primer, a totally same profiles were obtained for three groups of genotypes. The first group has consisted from genotypes of Ames 5129 RRC 360 originated in Nigeria, Ames 5648 RRC 1148 originated in Mexico and Ames 5369 RRC 685 originated in Kongo. The second group comprises from genotypes originate in Mexico PI 604558 Mapes 821 and Ames 5493 RRC 768 and are connected to the first group at the level of the third cycling with average euclidian distance of 0.1. The third group of the same ISSR profiles is connected with the previous two at the level of average euclidian distance 0.306 and consisted from genotypes Ames 21948 originated in Papua New Guinea and two genotypes originated in Mexico - Ames 5638 RRC 1139 and Ames 5310 RRC 659. This marker has differ completely only 10 from all of the analysed *Amaranthus cruentus* genotypes.

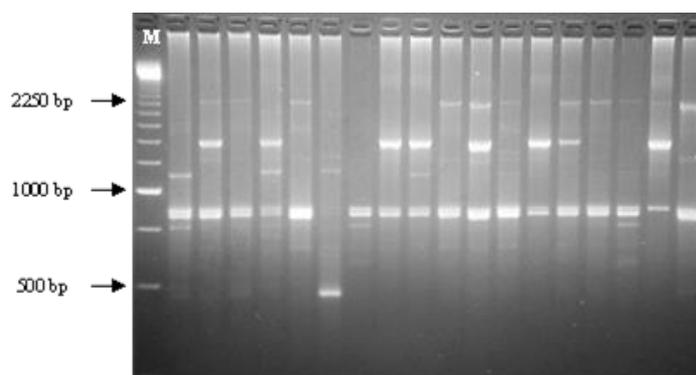


Figure 1 ISSR profiles of analysed *Amaranthus cruentus* accessions obtained by the microsatellite marker (CA)₆GG.

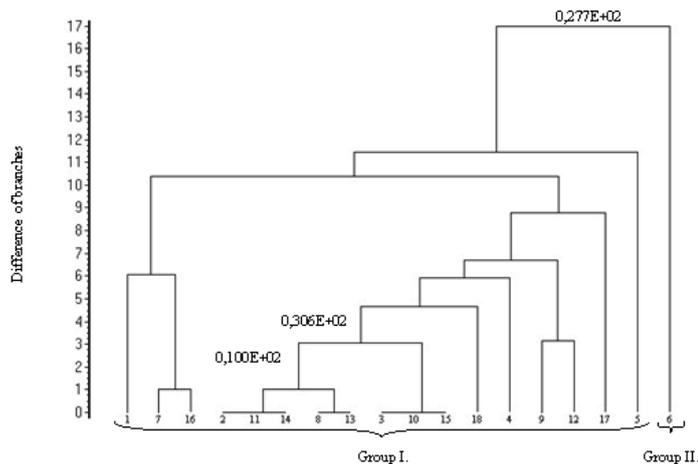


Figure 2 Dendrogram of analysed *Amaranthus cruentus* accessions constructed on the base of amplified ISSR profiles of (CA)₆GG marker.

Dinucleotide sequence of (CT)₈ repetition anchored by AC bases has resulted in the amplification of totally 97 fragments distributed in 13 levels (Figure 3). Two of the obtained levels were monomorphic what represents 84.62 % of polymorphism. The average count of the amplified fragments per genotype was 5,39 with the maximum of 9 for PI 566896 Komo originated in Arizona and the minimum of 4 for genotypes Ames 5129 RRC 360 originated in Nigeria, PI 511719 Niqua-alegria-chang originated in Guatemala, PI 527567 IZ 32 originated in Burundi, Ames 5369 RRC 685 originated in Kongo, Ames 25121 CEN/IB/97/AMA/003 originated in Nigeria and PI 566897 Kerala Red originated in India. The resolution power of this primer has the value of 3.00. The length of the amplified ISSR fragments was in the range from 357 up to the 2000 bp. Constructed dendrogram based on the UPGMA has resulted again in two basic branches where the genotypes PI 566896 Komo and PI 511876 Huatle (the same situation as for the marker (CA)₆GG) were the most distinct from all of the other accessions. Here, the same ISSR profile was obtained for most of the analysed *Amaranthus cruentus* accessions (11 from 18; Figure 4). They are distributed between two branches with the counts of six or five, respectively, genotypes. The first group of the genotypes with the same ISSR profile comprises from: Ames 5129 RRC 360, Ames 25121CEN/IB/97/AMA/003, PI 511719 Niqua-alegria-chang, PI 527567 IZ 32, Ames 5369 RRC 685 and PI 566897 Kerala Red. In the second group are genotypes all originated in Mexico: PI 604558 Mapes 821, Ames 5638 RRC 1139, PI 477913 RRC 1011, Ames 5493 RRC 768 and Ames 5310 RRC 659. From these genotypes, following has resulted as having the same ISSR profile with the primer (CA)₆GG, too: Ames 5638 RRC 1139 and Ames 5310 RRC 659. Only seven accessions were different among themselves when regarding this microsatellite core sequence with the Jaccard coefficient of dissimilarity range from 0.31 up to the 1.00 with the average value of 0.79. The most distant genotypes are Ames 21948 originated in Papua-New Guinea and PI511876 Huatle originated in Mexico.

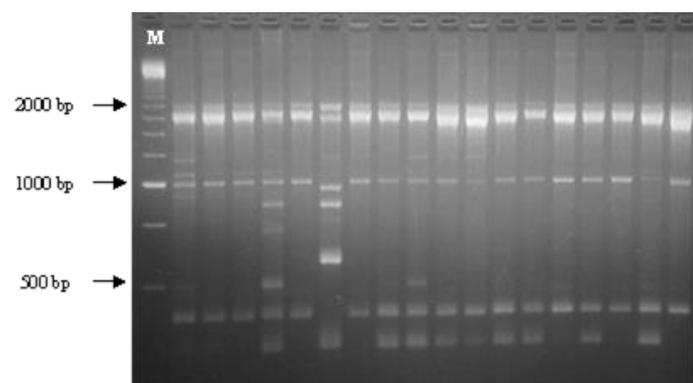


Figure 3 ISSR profiles of analysed *Amaranthus cruentus* accessions obtained by the microsatellite marker (CT)₈AC.

Dinucleotide sequence of (GA)₆ repetition anchored by CC bases has resulted in the amplification of totally 171 DNA fragments distributed in 21 levels (Figure 5). All of the levels were polymorphic. The average count of amplified fragments for a genotype was 9.5 with the maximum of 13 (genotype PI 612169 Tibet Yellow) and minimum of 4 (genotype PI 511876 Huatle). The resolution power of the primer has the value of 10.33. The length of the amplified fragments has ranged from 500 up to the 1875 bp. Constructed dendrogram based on the UPGMA has resulted again in the most variable branch when comparing them to the previous cases (Figure 6, Table 2). Genotype PI 511876 Huatle was here, as well as in both of the primers used in the study the most distinct from all of the

other accessions. Here again, not all the genotypes were separated based on the obtained ISSR profiles, but here only two of them (Ames 5638 RRC 1139 and Ames 5648 RRC 1148) possess the same profile of amplified fragments. All of the other accessions were distinguished among themselves. The values of Jaccard coefficient of dissimilarity ranged from the 0.15 up to the 1.00 with the average value of 0.6. The most distant genotypes were PI 511876 Huatle and Ames 5638 RRC 1139 as well as genotypes PI 511876 Huatle and Ames 5648 RRC 1148.

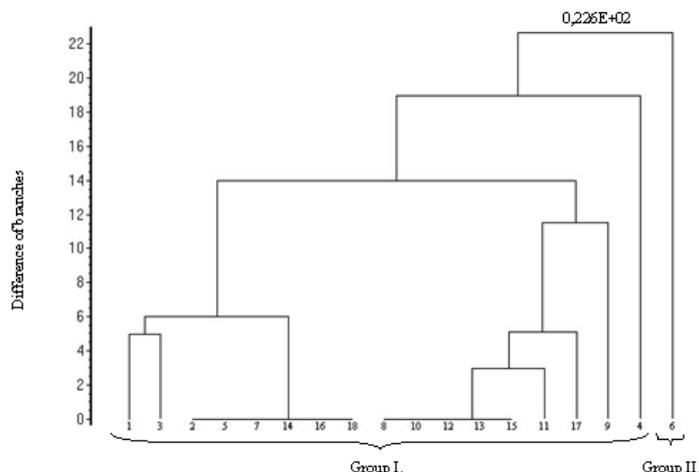


Figure 4 Dendrogram of analysed *Amaranthus cruentus* accessions constructed on the base of amplified ISSR profiles of (CT)₈AC marker.

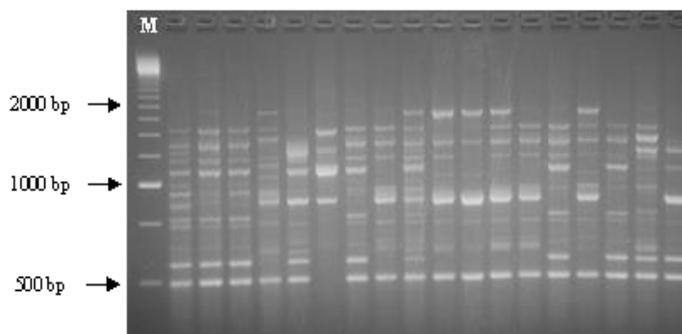


Figure 5 ISSR profiles of analysed *Amaranthus cruentus* accessions obtained by the microsatellite marker (GA)₆CC.

Amplification of microsatellite primed markers is reported to be highly variable in different studies and types of used primers. Generated loci very often correlated to the number of core bases in repeat units. Blair et al. (1999) has reported that the number of amplified fragments by GA or GT repeats is different and correlate with the diversity of these repeats in rice (Blair et al., 1999).

The repeated motif of GA-CA rich regions in the amaranth genome has been reported by Lee et al. (2008). The authors reported in total twelve polymorphic microsatellite markers for different *Amaranthus* species and using the SSR markers they have found the average of microsatellites alleles ranged from 1.2 up to the 2.9 for the individual repetitions. In the study of Ray and Roy (2007), dinucleotide repeats with the core sequences of CA and AC resulted in a successful fingerprints patterns, however when the CA repeat was anchored by G or A, no amplification was obtained. In our study, an amplification profile was obtained, but when comparing it to the others, the lowest value of the primer resolution power was generated.

Microsatellites are widely reported to a good marker to determinate the variability between related subjects (Vivodik et al., 2017; Joshi et al. 2007) where the microsatellite based markers were used to distinguish parental lines and hybrids in maize, bajra, rice, sunflower and sorghum hybrids. The ISSR technique was previously used successfully for distinguishing of *Amaranthus cruentus* mutant lines where a different levels of differentiation ability was obtained for individual microsatellite core sequences (Ražná et al., 2012). The primers with the GACA and GATA-GACA core sequence reveals inter-species DNA polymorphism to the different *Amaranthus* species as well as the ability to find DNA polymorphism among the mutant lines of the *Amaranthus cruentus*.

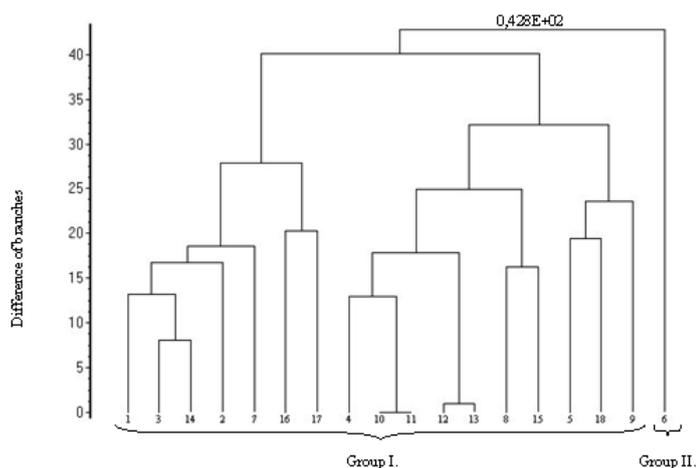


Figure 6 Dendrogram of analysed *Amaranthus cruentus* accessions constructed on the base of amplified ISSR profiles of (GA)₆CC marker.

CONCLUSION

Different ISSR profiles that were obtained for *Amaranthus cruentus* based on the specific microsatellites repeats were evaluated for the ability of the corresponding primers to distinguish the accessions of the analysed collection. Resolving power of dinucleotide repeats seems to be core sequence dependent. All of the markers used in the study has generated a high polymorphism but none of analysed microsatellite core sequences was suitable for the distinguishing of all of the collection accessions. All of the used ISSR primers has determined the landrace PI 511876 Huatle originated in Mexico as the most distinct when comparing them to the other genotypes from the analysed accessions.

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