PHYLOGENITIC RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN ORCHID OF THE SERAPIAS GENUS DETECTED BY MOLECULAR MARKERS

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The means by which new species arise remain a fundamental question in the Orchidaceae family evolution. The Orchid-pollinator interactions are highly specific but cross-hybridization is possible and represents a central issue of plant evolutionary biology. Italian Orchids display a wide variety of pollination systems and highly diverse floral traits considered one of the main driving force in the Orchid speciation processes. In this work we study the assessment of the genetic diversity between spontaneous species pertaining to the Serapis genus, which is widely distributed in Italy, and we trace a phylogenetic tree using AFLP markers. The species considered in this study are: Serapis vomeracea, S. parviflora, S. lingua, S. cordigera, S. neglecta, S. nurrica and some interspecific hybrids between them.