ASSESSING GENETIC DIVERSITY IN THE GRAPEVINE CULTIVAR AGLIANICO DEL VULTURE TYPICAL FROM A SOUTH ITALY AREA

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The grapevine (Vitis vinifera L.) is a clonally propagated crop and several morphological markers have been used for the characterization of plant germplasm. Ampelographic and morphological features have been useful in the identification of grape varieties clarifying ambiguous denominations. Unfortunately, these processes are more time-consuming and based on characters which can be highly affected by the environment. The methods based on genetic variation have frequently been used for these purposes with more or less success, depending on the genetic relationships among the materials analysed and the number of markers employed. Isozyme and molecular markers, such as RAPD, RFLP, microsatellite and AFLP have been used on Vitis vinifera in several studies in order to discriminate among grape cultivars. However, few researches based on molecular markers and focused on the genetic variation within different clones of the same cultivars showed sufficient resolution to identify with a specific cultivar or to distinguish clones from somatic mutation or clonal selection.

The present research was focused on a typical grapevine cultivar of Basilicata region, named Aglianico del Vulture, which represents an ancient grape variety mainly produced in a specific geographical location, Venosa, where Orazio Flacco was born. It is a red wine with remarkable characteristics, traditionally produced by the spontaneous fermentation of grape juice by yeasts that originate from the grapes.

In the present paper starting from six Aglianico del Vulture vineyards, the genetic variability among different locations and intra-situ were assessed based on different classes of molecular markers (RAPD, AFLP).