

## **CURRENT RESULTS ON THE LOCALIZATION AND MOLECULAR CHARACTERIZATION OF FOUR STANDS OF *AMYGDALUS WEBBII* SPACH**

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### *Amygdalus webbii*, morphological and molecular characterization

*Amygdalus webbii* (Spach) Vierh. (sin. *Prunus webbii* Spach,  $2n=2x=16$ ) is a wild species found only in marginal areas and is thought to be closely related to the cultivated almond. *A. webbii* is the only wild relative of almond growing in Italy and can be found only in Apulia and Sicily, particularly at the edge of denser maquis formations.

In the present paper results on the identification, GPS localization, morphological and molecular characterization of *A. webbii* populations collected in several sites of Apulia region are reported. Four stands of *A. webbii* were identified and their stational data described.

Over twelve hundred nuts were grown, establishing a nursery in the “Martucci” experimental farm located in Valenzano (Bari). Two hundred of them were genotyped and the plantlets were characterized by means of morphological analysis. The genotypes were determined by means of SSR analyses, using primers developed on cultivated almond. These specific primers were able to amplify also wild almond DNA, thus allowing the establishment of three polymorphic descriptors for *A. webbii* SPACH.

This report is part of a larger study for the development of an integrated action (INTERREG IIIB – ARCHIMED: ECOMEMAQ) toward the sustainable development of Mediterranean areas characterized by maquis formation.