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# **Identification of cultivars and accessions of *Lolium*, *Festuca* and *Festulolium* hybrids through the detection of simple sequence repeat (SSR) polymorphism**

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## Abstract

Molecular diversity and genetic affinity in the *Lolium/Festuca* grass complex have been assessed using simple sequence repeat (SSR) marker technology. The genotypic set was derived from three accessions of *Lolium perenne*, two cultivars of *Lolium multiflorum*, two cultivars of *Festuca pratensis*, two cultivars of *Festuca arundinacea* and ten accessions from different intergeneric hybrid (*Festulolium*) combinations. The majority of the genomic DNA-derived SSR primer pairs from perennial ryegrass (LPSSR) and Italian ryegrass (LMSSR) produced clear, simple and distinctive amplification products from the majority of the genotypes. The efficiency of cross-specific amplification for LPSSR markers varied from 38% in *F. pratensis* to 93% in two cultivars of *Festulolium* and for LMSSR markers from 57% in *F. pratensis* to 87% in *L. multiflorum*. Of 40 amplified markers, fourteen (35%) produced species-difference alleles in the relation to cultivars used in the present study. Thirty-five LPSSR locus-derived alleles were found to be specific to *Lolium* species, 4 to *F. pratensis* and 6 to *F. arundinacea*. For LMSSR alleles, 8 were specific to *Lolium* species and 5 were only associated with *L. multiflorum*, and null alleles were detected for *F. pratensis* in all instances. These species-difference markers could clearly identify different accessions of *Festulolium*. Cluster analysis separated the individual taxa and showed grouping of intergeneric hybrids based on genomic composition. The data distinguished between the species and reflected the known pedigree of the cultivars and the differences between the species. The dendrogram also distinguished between the *Festulolium* accessions and clearly demonstrated the relations between *Festulolium* hybrids and their parent species.

## Keywords

*Festuca arundinacea* — *F. pratensis* — *Festulolium* — *Lolium multiflorum* — *L. perenne* — *Lolium/Festuca* complex — genetic diversity — SSR marker

The closely allied genera *Lolium* and *Festuca* are classified in the tribe Poeae of the sub-family Pooideae in the grass family and contain a number of important species for temperate grassland agriculture (Jauhar 1993). The *Lolium* genus contains only eight species, including the agronomically important taxa annual or Italian ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum* Lam.) and perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne* L.). By contrast, the genus *Festuca* is large and diverse, including the cultivated species meadow fescue (*Festuca pratensis* Huds.) and tall fescue (*Festuca arundinacea* Schreb.). These forage grass species are all obligate outbreeders with a gametophytic self-incompatibility system (Lundqvist 1962, Cornish et al. 1979) and many commercial cultivars are derived as synthetic populations from the polycrossing of multiple parental clones.

Ryegrasses provide forage of high digestibility with good water soluble carbohydrate (WSC) content, while the fescues show superior persistency, and better ability to withstand extremes of temperatures and water availability (Thomas and Humphreys 1991). Forage grass breeders and geneticists have long aspired to combine these favourable attributes in a single genotype by producing novel *Festulolium* hybrids (Buckner 1960, Buckner et al. 1961, Thomas and Humphreys 1991, Jadas-Hécart et al. 1992). Intergeneric hybridisation has generated several successful amphidiploids (Breese and Lewis 1984, Kleijer 1984, Zwierzykowski et al. 1994), such as cultivar 'Prior' (*L. perenne* × *F. pratensis*: Thomas and Humphreys 1991). The high level of homoeologous chromosome pairing between the different genomes in amphidiploids leads to genetic instability and loss of hybridity in later generations. To overcome these problems, selective introgression of genes for appropriate traits from *Festuca* into *Lolium* has become a favoured methodology. This process involves the transfer of small segments of alien chromatin into the recipient genome (Humphreys 1989, Humphreys and Pašakinskienė 1996), and has been successfully employed to produce novel *Festulolium* lines (Humphreys and Thomas 1993).

In *Festulolium* hybrid breeding, it is desirable to be able to distinguish the DNA of the parental species, in order to monitor the extent of the introgressed

regions. Fluorescence *in situ* hybridisation (FISH) methodology using labelled genomic DNA (genomic *in situ* hybridisation: GISH) has been widely used to identify alien chromatin (Thomas et al. 1994, Humphreys et al. 1995, Humphreys and Pašakinskienė 1996). However, there are potential difficulties in the identification of small introgressed chromosome segments using this technique (Humphreys et al. 1998).

The development of molecular genetic marker technologies provides alternative procedures for the assessment of genetic diversity, cultivar identification and the genomic composition of polyploid and hybrid taxa. Several marker systems have been applied to pasture grass systems including AFLP (Guthridge et al. 2001, Roldan-Ruiz et al. 2002), RAPDs (Stammers et al. 1995, Huff 1997), RFLPs (Xu and Sleper 1994, Charmet et al. 1997, Yamada and Kishida 2003). Simple sequence repeat (SSR) markers provide the current marker system of choice due to their abundance, ubiquitous distribution in plant and animal genomes, high level of reproducibility and ease of PCR-based analysis, and detection of co-dominant multiallelic loci. SSR markers are capable of surveying high levels of allelic diversity in many crop plant species, including forage grasses (Liu et al. 1995, Kubik et al. 1999, 2001, Jones et al. 2001). Moreover, SSRs have been shown to provide a powerful means for discrimination between closely related genotypes in many plant species (Yang et al. 1994, Russell et al. 1997, Röder et al. 1998). Recently, unique SSR markers derived from genomic enrichment libraries of *L. perenne* (LPSSR markers: Jones et al. 2001) and *L. multiflorum* (LMSSR markers, Fujimori et al. in preparation) have been developed. In the research described here, we have analysed the informative nature of these distinct sets of SSR markers in multiple genotypes derived from taxa of the *Lolium/Festuca* complex, and applied this data to investigate introgression and genetic relatedness in *Festulolium* accessions.

## Materials and Methods

**Plant materials:** Three accessions of *Lolium perenne*, two cultivars of *L. multiflorum*, two cultivars of *Festuca pratensis*, two cultivars of *F. arundinacea* and ten *Festulolium* accessions of different provenance were chosen as the plant material for this study (Table 1). Two of the *Festulolium* accessions were developed from hybridisation between *L. perenne* and *F. pratensis*, four from hybridisation between *L. multiflorum* and *F. pratensis*, two from hybridisation between *F. pratensis* and *L. multiflorum* (corresponding to different paternal parental origins) and two from hybridisation between *F. arundinacea* and *L. multiflorum*. Seeds of the *Festulolium* hybrids 'Prior' and 'Bx350' were provided by Dr. Mervyn Humphreys of the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER), Aberystwyth, UK. Seeds were germinated and grown to maturity in a glasshouse, and young seedlings were harvested for the purpose of DNA extraction.

**Preparation of genomic DNA:** Genomic DNA was isolated from seven individual plants from each accession using the protocol of Murray and Thompson (1980) with modifications as follows: leaf tissue (1.5 g) was harvested from each plant in the glasshouse and transported to the laboratory on dry ice, followed by storage at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The leaves were ground in the presence of liquid nitrogen and 650  $\mu\text{l}$  of extraction buffer (Tris-HCl 1 M pH 8.0, EDTA 0.5 M, CTAB 1.5% [w/v]) was added. The homogenate was incubated at  $65^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 30 min. Most of the proteins and polysaccharides were removed by centrifugation following the addition of 650  $\mu\text{l}$  chloroform/isoamyl alcohol (24:1). A volume of 100  $\mu\text{l}$  of 70% (v/v) ethanol was added to the supernatant. After 10 min, the DNA was obtained as a pellet following centrifugation, then dissolved in T/E buffer (pH 8.0) and stored at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  prior to further use.

**Selection of SSR primer pairs:** In total, forty-four primer pairs corresponding to SSR markers were used in this study. Thirty LPSSR markers were obtained from *L. perenne* (Jones et al. 2001, 2002) and fourteen LMSSR markers were obtained from *L. multiflorum* (LMSSR, Fujimori et al. in preparation). LPSSR markers that had previously been demonstrated to efficiently amplify PCR products from *L. perenne* related species (Jones et al. 2001) were used in this study. Among this set, twenty LPSSR primer pairs detected polymorphic loci that were mapped on the p150/112-based reference genetic map as a framework set to cover the whole genome (Jones et al. 2002), with at least three SSR loci on each linkage group.

**PCR amplification:** The PCR amplification reactions for each of the SSR loci were performed in a 10 µl reaction volume containing 25 ng of genomic DNA, 1 µl of 10 × PCR buffer (50 mM KCl, 10 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.3) (Promega, USA), 2.5 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.1 mM of each dNTP, 1µl each forward and reverse primer (20 ng/µl) and 0.04 µl of Taq polymerase (5 U/µl) (Promega, USA). PCR amplification for LPSSR markers was performed in a DNA thermal cycler (Bio-Rad), as described by Jones et al. (2001).

The cycling regime for the PCR amplification of LMSSR markers consisted of an initial denaturation step of 10 min at 94°C, followed by denaturation for 1 min at 94°C followed by 30 s at 94°C, 30 s at 60°C, 2 min at 72°C; repeated for 35 cycles, and a final extension of 7 min at 72°C (Fujimori et al. in preparation).

**Detection of SSR polymorphisms:** The samples were prepared for polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE) by addition of 2 µl gel loading buffer to the reaction mixture. Ten µl of amplification products were loaded on 10% (w/v) non-denaturing polyacrylamide gels for electrophoresis in 1×TBE. Each gel was run for 2.5 h at constant voltage (250V). The banding patterns were visualised following staining with ethidium bromide (50 µg/ml) and were photographed under ultraviolet light using a transilluminator system.

**Data analysis:** Only bands showing a clear polymorphism were scored as 1 for presence and 0 for absence for each genotype to produce a primary data matrix. Pair-wise comparisons of genotypes, based on the presence or absence of unique and shared polymorphic bands were used to generate similarity coefficients. The similarity coefficients were then used to determine the genetic distance between pairs of accessions on the basis of the Jaccard coefficient. The matrix of genetic distances was analysed by the unweighted pair-group method using arithmetic averages (UPGMA) by using the NTSY-pc version 2.2 software (Rohlf 1989). The genetic identity and the genetic distances (Nei and Li 1979) between the groups of the dendrogram were estimated.



## Results

### ***Cross-species amplification***

Forty-four primer pairs designed to SSR-containing genomic clones from *L. perenne* and *L. multiflorum* were evaluated for cross-species amplification. Of this set, 40 primer pairs (91%) produced amplified product from all of the taxa tested. The efficiency for LPSSR locus cross-amplification ranged from 38% (*F. pratensis* cv. 'Tomosakae') to 93% in two cultivars of *Festulolium* ('Prior' and 'Perun'). For LMSSR markers, the cross-amplification values were ranged from 57% (*F. pratensis* cv. 'Tomosakae') to 91% (*L. multiflorum* cv. 'Akioba') (Table 1).

### ***Species- difference alleles***

For many of the amplified marker loci, individual SSR alleles that were detected for all individuals of a given species or species group but were absent from all individuals of all other species were observed, and are here termed species-difference alleles in relation to the cultivars used in this study. Of the forty efficiently amplified SSR markers, fourteen primer pairs (35%) produced species-difference alleles. From the total number of alleles amplified by LPSSR primer pairs, 35 were found to be specific to both of the *Lolium* species (*L. perenne* and *L. multiflorum*), 4 were specific to *F. pratensis* and 6 alleles were specific to *F. arundinacea* (Fig. 1). For the alleles amplified by LMSSR primer pairs, only 8 species difference alleles were found in both *L. perenne* and *L. multiflorum*, and null alleles were observed for *F. pratensis* for these markers, providing the basis for identification of *Festulolium* hybrids between *F. pratensis* × *Lolium* spp. Three of the other LMSSR primer pairs produced 5 alleles specific to *L. multiflorum* and common allele sizes for all of the other species studied here. The representatives of the three species groups (*Lolium* spp., *F. pratensis* and *F. arundinacea*) in this study were all distinguishable using a single marker detected by primer pairs designed to clone LPSSRH01A07 (SSR motif = [GT]<sub>9</sub>, genetic locus assigned to

perennial ryegrass linkage group 2) which is of potentially high value for the identification of *Festulolium* hybrids from both *Lolium* spp. × *F. pratensis* and *Lolium* spp. × *F. arundinacea* crosses and their reciprocal combinations. Another two markers detected by primer pairs designed to clones LPSSRK10F08 (SSR motif = [CAA]<sub>12</sub>, genetic locus assigned to perennial ryegrass linkage group 1) and LPSSRK10H05 (SSR motif = [CT]<sub>26</sub>, genetic locus assigned to perennial ryegrass linkage group 7) produced specific alleles for each of the *Lolium* spp. and *F. arundinacea* but a null allele in *F. pratensis*, which is also of potential value for the identification of intergeneric *Festulolium* hybrids involving each of the four species.

### **Diversity structure**

Although forty LPSSR and LMSSR primer pairs generated efficiently amplified PCR products, only thirty of them identified polymorphisms among the set of cultivars/accessions used in this study. The estimation of genetic similarity (GS) based on pair-wise comparisons of the individual genotypes within the accessions is presented in Table 1. The *F. pratensis* cv. 'Tomosakae' showed the highest GS value and the *L. multiflorum* cv. 'Waseaoba' showed the lowest GS value among the accessions. The 'Hokkai-2' had a higher GS value than the other two accessions of *L. perenne*. The cultivars of *F. arundinacea* showed high GS values, while those of the *Festulolium* accessions were varied and ranged from 0.903 ('Prior') to 0.950 ('Felina').

Twenty-seven polymorphic SSR markers were scored as dominant markers and were used to construct a UPGMA dendrogram based on the genetic distances between accession pairs (Fig. 2). All of the accessions of *L. perenne*, *L. multiflorum*, *F. pratensis* and *F. arundinacea* clustered separately, in accordance with the known differences between the species, with sub-clusters that reflect the known pedigree of the individual cultivars. However, the *L. multiflorum* clade is separated from the *L. perenne* clade by the *F. arundinacea* sub-group, despite the very close phylogenetic relationship between these two species. The *L. perenne* × *F. pratensis*-derived *Festulolium* hybrids ('Prior' and 'Bx350'), which

are believed to be true amphidiploids, were placed in between the two cognate parent species. The other *Festulolium* accessions ('Evergreen', 'Paulita', 'Felopa', 'Sulino', 'Perun', 'Tandem'), which are believed to be derived from *L. multiflorum* × *F. pratensis* intergeneric crosses, are clearly separated from 'Prior' and 'Bx350' and are placed near to *L. multiflorum* in the dendrogram. This result suggests that the majority of the genetic background of these hybrid genotypes is derived from *L. multiflorum* with selective introgression of *F. pratensis* genomic segments. The two *Festulolium* hybrid accessions that are thought to be derived from *F. arundinacea* × *L. multiflorum* intergeneric crosses ('Felina' and 'Kenhy') were located in a separate group close to the *F. arundinacea* clade. These two *Festulolium* hybrids are morphologically similar to *F. arundinacea*, and so it may be concluded that these two cultivars contain introgressed *L. multiflorum* genomic segments in a genetic background predominantly derived from *F. arundinacea*. As the detailed pedigree of the majority of other *Festulolium* cultivars was unknown, this dendrogram may only partially reflect the genetic relationships between the accessions and their putative parents.

### **Genotype identification for Festulolium**

As indicated previously, the LPSSR marker LPSSRH1A07 produced alleles different for the *Lolium* spp., *F. pratensis* and *F. arundinacea* with respect to the cultivars used. These species - difference alleles were represented to different degrees in the population samples for the respective *Festulolium* hybrid combinations. The allele frequencies present in different *Festulolium* accessions derived from intergeneric crosses between *Lolium* spp. and *F. pratensis* are presented in Fig. 3. The cultivar 'Prior' and accession 'Bx350' showed allele frequencies of 50%, corresponding to the cumulative contributions of each parental genome. The cultivar 'Evergreen' showed a frequency of 77% for the *L. multiflorum*-derived species-deference allele as compared to 23% for the *F. pratensis*-derived species-deference allele. The cultivars 'Felopa' and 'Sulino' showed similar proportions (a frequency of 57% for the *F. pratensis*-derived

allele as compared to 43% for the *L. multiflorum*-derived allele). The other *Festulolium* hybrid cultivars also showed a higher frequency of the allele derived from the *L. multiflorum* (61-66%) and a lower frequency of the allele derived from *F. pratensis* (34-39%). The single locus detected by primer pairs designed to clone LPSSRH07G05 (SSR motif = [TTC]<sub>31</sub>, genetic locus assigned to perennial ryegrass linkage group 5) detected an allele common to both parental taxa, in addition to a single species-difference allele for *L. multiflorum*. The *Festulolium* cultivar accession 'Kenhy' showed a frequency of 8% for the allele derived from the *L. multiflorum* parent. However, analysis of *Festulolium* cultivar 'Felina' did not reveal any allelic contribution from the *L. multiflorum* parent of the hybrid.

## Discussion

In this study, primer pairs detecting *Lolium* SSR markers were used to analyse the genetic relationships between *Festulolium* accessions and their respective parental species. The levels of cross-specific amplification for the fescue species *F. pratensis*, *F. arundinacea* and the ten *Festulolium* accessions were very high, confirming previous observations (Jones et al. 2001, Kubik et al. 1999, 2001). The transfer efficiency of SSR markers is likely to be correlated with the phylogenetic affinity between different taxa, which is high for the *Lolium* and *Festuca* genera. In this instance, genomic DNA-derived SSR markers may be valuable for comparative genetics, although this approach is limited over larger taxonomic distances. Effective cross-amplification may be limited in most instances to members of same genus or closely related genera (Peakall et al. 1998, Echt et al. 1999).

A substantial proportion of amplified SSR markers detected alleles different to one or several taxa concerning the cultivars used. The highest number of different alleles detected by LPSSR markers was for *Lolium* spp. (common to both *L. perenne* and *L. multiflorum*), followed by *F. arundinacea* and *F. pratensis* respectively. No alleles different to *L. perenne* and *L. multiflorum* alone were observed. For LMSSR markers, some alleles were also different to both *Lolium* species and three primer pairs detected alleles different to *L. multiflorum* alone, while the markers detected null alleles for *F. pratensis*. The marker detected by primer pairs designed to clone LPSSRH1A07 produced diagnostic banding patterns for each of the three species and consequently could be used to discriminate almost all of the *Festulolium* accessions in this study. The results with species-different alleles presented here are in agreement with those of Prasad et al. (2000) and Scott et al. (2000) in wheat and *Vitis* species respectively.

Using the UPGMA clustering method, all accessions of *L. perenne*, *L. multiflorum*, *F. pratensis* and *F. arundinacea* could be separated according to their known species of origin. The relative position of *F. pratensis* and *F.*

*arundinacea* accessions with respect to the *L. perenne* clade is consistent with known taxonomic relationships. The *Lolium* and *Festuca* genera share a monophyletic origin (Darbyshire and Warwick 1992, Xu and Sleper 1994, Charmet et al. 1997) and are closely related (Jenkins 1989). The polyploid *F. arundinacea* is thought to have arisen as a result of several interspecific hybridisation events between different *Lolium* and *Festuca* species, a hypothesis supported by both cytogenetic (Jenkin 1954) and molecular (Xu and Sleper 1994) analysis. In this study, the *L. multiflorum* accessions formed a separate clade distinct from the other species. This result is inconsistent with the data of Šiffelová et al. (1997). However, Charmet and Balfourier (1994) reported the clustering of *L. perenne* and *L. multiflorum* in different groups.

The true *Festulolium* amphidiploids 'Prior' and 'Bx350' were also located according to their known pedigree. However, the other eight *Festulolium* clustered adjacent either to *L. multiflorum* or *F. arundinacea*. This data suggested that the majority of the *Festulolium* hybrids of *L. multiflorum* × *F. pratensis* origin have a predominant *L. multiflorum* genetic background with limited introgression from *F. pratensis*. However, the cultivars 'Felopa' and 'Sulino' were reported to be amphidiploids between *F. pratensis* and *L. multiflorum* (Zwierzykowski et al. 1998) and showed a similar different allele frequency from each of their parent species. The *Festulolium* cultivars 'Felina' and 'Kenhy' were located close to *F. arundinacea* in the dendrogram. This is consistent with the data of Buckner et al. (1977). The low frequency of the allele derived from *L. multiflorum* in cultivar 'Kenhy' is consistent with its breeding history. However, no allele derived from *L. multiflorum* was detected in cultivar 'Felina'. The breeding history of this cultivar is unknown.

The accessions of different species studied here showed wide or narrow genetic bases according to the genetic distances between parental clones. Levels of genetic variability may also be affected by the number of foundation clones used in the cultivar development, leading to a restricted or non-restricted genetic base (Forster et al. 2001, Guthridge et al. 2001). The estimation of genetic similarity (GS) within the accessions in this study is influenced by these

two factors. The *F. pratensis* cv. 'Tomosakae' showed the lowest internal genetic variability and the *L. multiflorum* cv. 'Waseaoba' had the highest internal genetic variability among the varieties of grasses studied here. 'Tomosakae' is a synthetic cultivar developed from only four clones, while 'Waseaoba' is a long-established cultivar developed through mass selection from a Japanese ecotype. Yamada and Kishida (2003) demonstrated similar results for 'Tomosakae' using RFLP markers. The *L. perenne* accession 'Hokkai-2' accession is a tetraploid synthetic, showing lower within-variety variability compared to the diploid accessions 'Yatsugatake D-12' and 'Yatsugatake D-13'. In general, tetraploid cultivars showed lower genetic variability due to narrow genetic base. In this study, accessions of *F. pratensis* showed low within-cultivar variability compared to *L. multiflorum* and *L. perenne*, consistent with the data of Kölliker et al. (1999) using RAPD markers. The genetic variability of two hexaploid *F. arundinacea* cultivars was also found to be lower than that of *L. perenne* and *L. multiflorum* accessions.

In conclusion, SSR markers derived from *L. perenne* and *L. multiflorum* provide an opportunity to estimate levels of relatedness among breeding materials. Species-difference alleles are suitable for rapid quantification of genotype similarities in *Festulolium* of different combinations. The selected SSR markers may consequently be used for clone and cultivar identification and for implementation in *Festulolium* breeding.

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## Figure Legends

**Fig. 1:** Number of species-difference alleles detected in *Lolium* spp., *F. pratensis* and *F. arundinacea* (Lm = *L. multiflorum*, Fa= *F. arundinacea*, Fp= *F. pratensis*) with the genomic DNA-derived SSR primer pairs from perennial ryegrass (LPSSR) and Italian ryegrass (LMSSR).

**Fig. 2:** UPGMA dendrogram for individual plants from accessions of *L. perenne*, *L. multiflorum*, *F. pratensis*, *F. arundinacea* and *Festulolium* calculated using measurements of average taxonomic distance.

**Fig. 3:** Frequency of alleles in populations of different *Festulolium* accessions detected by the marker LPSSRH01A07 (SSR motif = [GT]<sub>9</sub>).

Table 1: Estimates of mean genetic similarity (GS) within cultivars and percent of cross-species amplification obtained by the SSR primer pairs from perennial ryegrass (LPSSR) and Italian ryegrass (LMSSR)

Species	Cultivar/Line	Ploidy level	Mean GS****	Cross-species amplification (%)	
				LPSSR Loci	LMSSR Loci
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	'Yatsugatake D-12' *	Diploid	0.929	84	61
	'Yatsugatake D-13' *	Diploid	0.911	81	65
	'Hokkai-2' **	Tetraploid	0.934	80	67
<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>	'Waseaoba'	Diploid	0.880	67	87
	'Akioba'	Tetraploid	0.894	82	91
<i>Festuca pratensis</i>	'Harusakae'	Diploid	0.951	43	59
	'Tomosakae'	Diploid	0.972	38	57
<i>F. arundinacea</i>	'Hokuryo'	Hexaploid	0.938	59	74
	'Yamanami'	Hexaploid	0.934	58	72
<i>Festulolium</i>					
<i>L. perenne</i> x <i>F. pratensis</i>	'Prior'	Tetraploid	0.903	93	83
	'Bx350' ***	Tetraploid	0.933	79	80
<i>L. multiflorum</i> x <i>F. pratensis</i>	'Evergreen'	Tetraploid	0.916	91	80
	'Paulita'	Tetraploid	0.915	90	85
	'Perun'	Tetraploid	0.909	93	81
	'Tandem'	Tetraploid	0.930	89	81
<i>F. pratensis</i> x <i>L. multiflorum</i>	'Felopa'	Tetraploid	0.926	91	85
	'Sulino'	Tetraploid	0.927	84	83
<i>F. arundinacea</i> x <i>L. multiflorum</i>	'Felina'	Hexaploid	0.950	59	72
	'Kenhy'	Hexaploid	0.948	64	69

\* Lines developed at the Yamanashi Prefectural Dairy Experimental Station, Japan

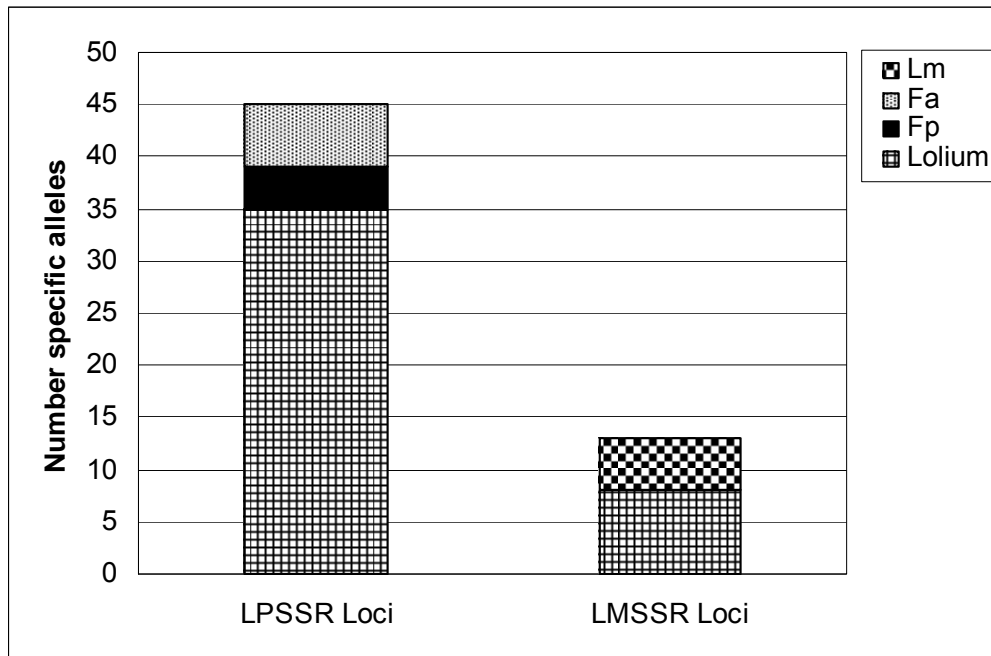
\*\* Line developed at the National Agricultural Research Center for Hokkaido Region, Japan

\*\*\* Line developed at the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research, UK

\*\*\*\* Genetic similarity

**Fig. 1: Number of species-difference alleles detected**

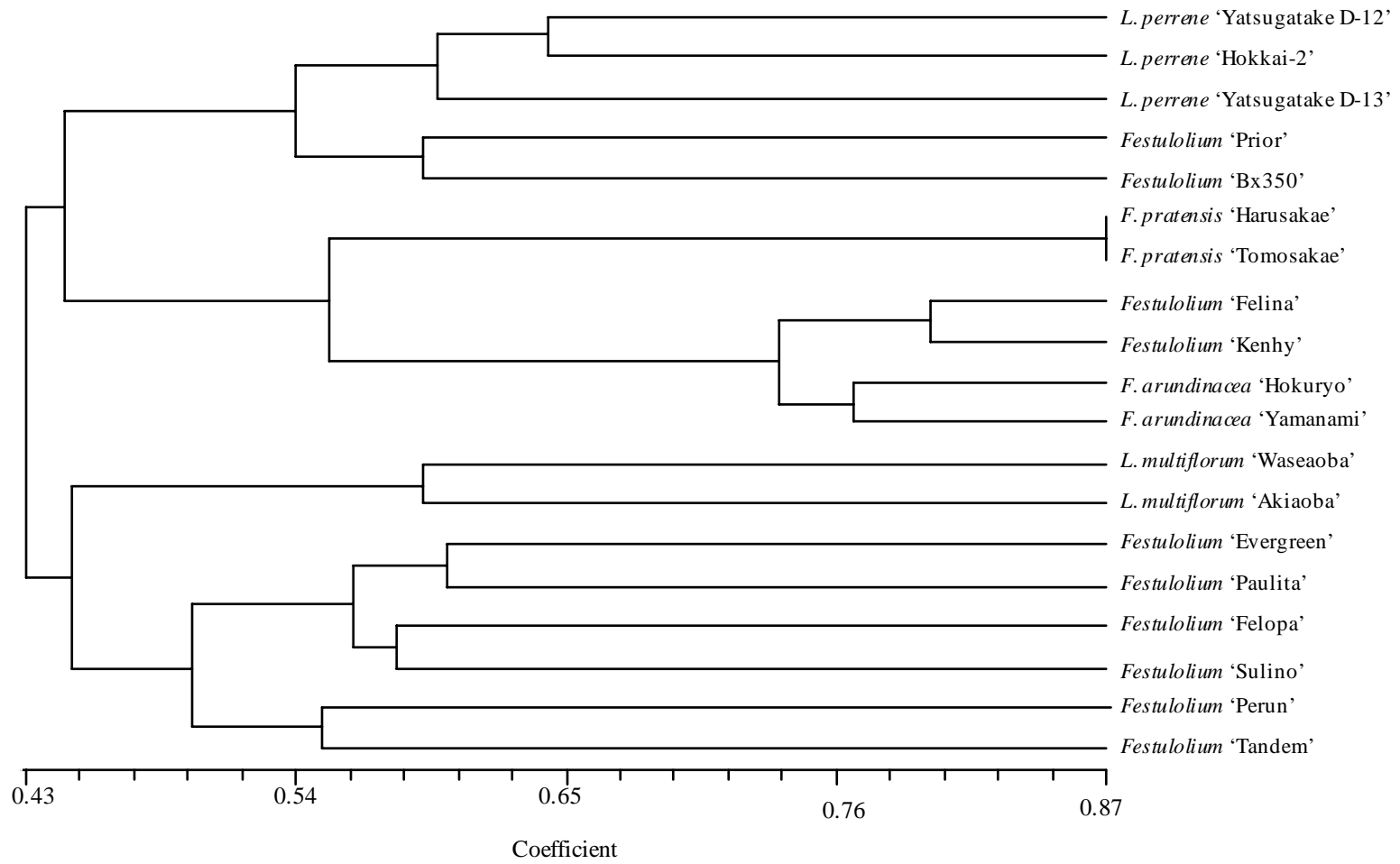
Top





Momotaz, Forster, and Yamada **Fig. 2: UPGMA dendrogram**

**Top**



**Fig. 3: Frequency of alleles in populations of different Festulolium accessions detected by the marker LPSSRH1A07**

Top

