Grape breeding at UC Davis

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Development of PM and DM resistant varieties

INRA-ResDur1 program, 2018

Floreal

Downy mildew (*Rpv1* & *Rpv3*) Powdery mildew (*Run1* & *Ren3*)



Downy mildew (without phytosanitary protection)

Intensity of damage on foliage

Intensity of damage on cluster

Very rare symptoms on inflorescences or clusters, without impact on the harvest, whereas the control grape varieties are severely impacted. Signs of powdery mildew were observed on 14/113 **Run1-positive** seedlings in October 2010 in Geneva, N.Y

Blockage of vascular tissue caused by *X*. *fastidiosa*

Development of Pierce's disease resistant varieties

Dr. Walker's PD-resistant varieties

Camminare Noir

Paseante Noir

Caminante Blanc

Upcoming new wine grape varieties from UCD

- >95% vinifera
- PdR1 allele, which confers full resistance to Pierce's disease
- Multiple powdery mildew resistance genes for durable protection (e.g., Run1, Ren1, 4, 6, 7)
- For different regions, management, and wine profiles:
 - Early ripening
 - Varietal wines and blends
 - Teinturiers
 - Wine profiles influenced by the last vinifera parent

90% of scions are grafted to these three species (as solo or hybrids)

North America is home is >30 *Vitis* species: salt tolerance

- Pest and disease tolerance
- Drought tolerance
- Excellent sources of salinity and boron tolerance

Chloride tolerance (chloride exclusion)

All three vines irrigated with 75 mM NaCl

North America is home is >30 *Vitis* species: boron tolerance

Boron tolerance

0.5 ppm (control)

0.5 ppm

8.0 ppm

Limitations for using wild *Vitis* germplasm

- Many are difficult to propagate
- Wood production or characteristics might be limited
- Reduced vigor

Image annotation for automatic identification of primary and secondary roots

- These accessions have been genotyped
- ~1M high-quality SNP markers/accession
- 400 accessions
- GWAS

The breeding process

- Plant breeding is a process that involves:
 - 1 parent selection
 - crossings

2

3

- progeny evaluation
- Progeny evaluation takes 2 to ~10 years, depending on the trait being targeted

Single-gene vs. polygenic traits

- Single-gene traits can be selected earlier in the breeding pipeline (through phenotypic selection or markers)
 - Controlled by one gene with a very strong effect
 - Phenotypic expression is more consistent year-to-year
- Polygenic traits are complex
 - Controlled by many genes with small effects
 - Larger environmental influence
 - More data (replication) is needed to assess progeny merit and select new parents

Approaches to increase rootstock breeding efficiency

- Breeding is a numbers game
- Increasing the size of the breeding populations can increase genetic gain
- Scalable phenotyping techniques are required
- The phenotyping cost per plant is lower at early breeding stages
- Informative traits that can be recorded earlier in the breeding pipeline can enrich the proportion of positive alleles in field trials

Screening for chloride tolerance is timeconsuming

Plant propagation

- Plants grown on fritted clay & treated with salty water (e.g., 50 mM NaCl)
- Leaves are collected, dried, and ground

Chloride concentration is recorded with a chloridometer

Stressed plants produce different spectral profiles

wavelengths

reflectance

Tests with different spectrometers

HR-1024i 350-2500 nm \$\$\$\$\$

CI-710 360-1100 nm \$\$

NIR-S-G1 900-1700 nm \$

Sadikshya Sharma

salt treatment 🛱 0 mM 🚔 50 mM 🚔 75 mM

Predicting chloride content is challenging, but the prediction of excluders is feasible

- Prediction accuracy for chloride content was <0.5, depending on the method (PLSR, RF, SVM, spectra transformations)
- However, classes can be predicted with accuracy >0.9
 - Excluders and non-excluders are determined based on a threshold
 - PLSDA models are trained with these classes

Model development for boron screening

- We do not have the equipment to measure
- \$18/sample at the analytical lab, and it's destructive
- Current experiment:
 - 20 Vitis species
 - 4 weeks of stress
 - 5 boron treatments
 - 0.5 ppm (control)
 - 1 ppm
 - 2 ppm
 - 4 ppm
 - 8 ppm

Yaniv Lupo

Most of the differences at early stages appear in the NIR range

500 1000 1500 2000 2500 500 1000 1500 2000 2500 500 1000 1500 2000 2500 Wavelength (nm)

Our Team

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Previous breeders at the program

https://diazgarcia.github.io