Musa acuminata

Musa acuminata Colla\(^1\) is a wild species of banana best known for being at the origin of the vast majority of cultivated bananas, by itself or through hybridization with Musa balbisiana. It donated the so-called A genome found in the cultivated bananas that have the following genomic formulae: AA, AB, AAA, AAB and ABB.

Musa acuminata is diploid, that is it has two sets of chromosomes. The basic chromosome number is 11. In other words, the species' genes are distributed over 11 pairs of chromosomes.

A doubled haploid derived from an acuminata subspecies was used to sequence the acuminata genome\(^2\).

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### Subspecies

According to the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants\(^3\), the epithet of the first subspecies to be described should repeat the species epithet. According to David Constantine, Musa acuminata ssp. acuminata was created by default when Norman Simmonds published the Musa acuminata ssp. banksii name in 1956\(^4\) because it was the first subspecies to be described\(^5\). The World Checklist of Selected Plant Families (WCSP) considers Musa acuminata ssp. acuminata to be an accepted name, and lists several synonyms, even though no description of this subspecies exists\(^6\).

The genetic signature of at least four subspecies (banksii, zebrina, malaccensis and burmannica) has been found in banana cultivars\(^7\). Of these four subspecies, only Musa acuminata ssp malaccensis is an accepted name, according to the WCSP\(^8\).
Distribution

Distribution of subspecies of *Musa acuminata* in southeast Asia. Source *Perrier et al. 2011*

References

3. The 2018 International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants
5. *Musa acuminata ssp. acuminata* in *Musa*, An annotated list of the species of Musa by David Constantine.
6. *Musa acuminata ssp. acuminata* in the World Checklist of Selected Plant Families
8. *Musa acuminata subsp. malaccensis* in the World Checklist of Selected Plant Families.

Further reading

Special issue on the history of banana domestication in Ethnobotany Research & Applications. First glimpse at the banana genome in InfoMus@.

Also on this website

Search for photos of *Musa acuminata* in the Musarama image bank
Musapedia pages on subspecies of *Musa acuminata*
*Musa acuminata ssp. banksii*
*Musa acuminata ssp. burmannica*
*Musa acuminata ssp. malaccensis*
*Musa acuminata ssp. zebrina*
Musapedia pages on wild banana species