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
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