

## **GENETIC DIVERSITY IN *ARTEMISIA PETROSA* SSP. *ERIANTHA***

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### *Molecular markers, AFLP, in vitro propagation*

*Artemisia petrosa* ssp. *eriantha*, a Central Apennines' sub-endemic species, is an aromatic plant used for preparation of herbal medicines, with anti-spasmodic and anti-inflammatory properties, and for the production of a traditional liqueur (*genepi*). It differs in morphologic characters (length of basal leaves, ear density, length of glandular trichomes) from *A. petrosa* (Baumg.) Jan. ssp. *eupetrosa* Giac. & Pignatti, which typically grows in the Alps, Central Pyrenees, Carpathians and Balkans, but is absent in the Central Apennines. *A. petrosa* ssp. *eriantha* has been reported in different locations around the National Park of Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga, and also in the Majella, Sibillini mountains and Maritime Alps.

In the present study AFLP molecular markers were used to assess the genetic diversity in natural populations of *A. petrosa*; gathered on Gran Sasso and Majella mountains. Genomic DNA polymorphisms were studied using six primer combinations. The amplification products were evaluated by capillary electrophoresis and visualized by GeneMapper software 4.0. The data obtained, in the matrix form 1-0 (presence/absence), were examined by statistical analysis.