

STEPS TOWARDS THE PRODUCTION OF A FUNCTION MAP IN PEACH (*PRUNUS PERSICA*)

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Peach is currently considered a model species for genomics studies in Rosaceae. An international effort is aimed to the improvement of the available EST collections, to the sequencing of gene rich regions and to the production of high-density maps, for integration of QTLs, monogenic traits and functional maps.

We report the development and mapping of genetic markers based upon expressed sequence tags (ESTs) polymorphisms and the positioning of ESTs in a physical framework map for peach genome. Based on ESTree DB (a collection of 20924 cDNA sequences), contigs and EST were selected as candidate genes (CGs) based on sequence similarity with genes relevant for fruit quality, already characterized in other related species like apple, apricot and strawberry.

To rapidly identify SNPs, the ESTs generated from six different peach genotypes (Suncrest, Bolero, Oro, Loring, Fantasia, Redhaven) and from almond were aligned by AutoSNP, a program that allows *in silico* SNP (isSNP) detection. A total of 1863 isSNP was identified and further analysis concentrated on a subset of 67 isSNPs, derived from ESTs representing genes putatively involved in important aspects of the secondary metabolism. Confirmed SNPs were genotyped in selected individuals of the segregating population *Texas* [almond] x *Earlygold* [peach]. In a parallel approach a strategy based on the identification of contigs representing putative genes potentially affecting fruit quality was adopted using online resources offered by the ESTree web site. SNPs were thus scanned by sequencing of amplified products from parental lines of mapping populations. SNPs scoring was conducted on segregating populations by minisequencing.

Approximately 200 ESTs were selected for mapping on a physical framework map and 17 out of 46 ESTs which hybridized to the filters containing the BACs clones were localized on physically mapped contigs.