

1 **Evaluation of Japanese potatoes using single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs)**

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25 **Abstract**

26 An understanding of the genetic diversity and structure of a breeding population is fundamental
27 information for breeders to develop strategies for variety improvement. The genetic diversity of 250
28 diverse North American potatoes was previously characterized using an 8K single nucleotide
29 polymorphism (SNP) array. In this study, using a 12K SNP array, 164 Japanese potatoes including 70
30 breeding clones for chip processing were characterized and compared with North American and European
31 potatoes. A cluster analysis using 5972 polymorphic SNP loci grouped recently released Japanese chip
32 processing varieties and breeding clones with North American and European chip processing varieties.
33 The other Japanese potatoes, including those for starch processing, were not clearly differentiated to
34 specific market types. A unique group of double-cropping varieties was identified, suggesting that
35 strong selection pressure was applied to the cultivation system (spring-season product is used for fall-
36 season cropping). The inter-populational distance between Japanese and foreign genotypes (mean
37 Euclidean distance of 48.4) was significantly lower than the within-populational distance of foreign
38 genotypes (49.3), indicating that the Japanese potatoes are not uniquely differentiated but are included
39 within the genetic diversity of foreign genotypes. This study demonstrates the usefulness of SNP array
40 technology for performing a cost-effective, robust and direct comparison of genetic diversity among
41 different gene pools.

42

43 **Keywords** Potato, Diversity, Breeding population, Single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP)

44

45 **Introduction**

46 Genetic diversity and variability are fundamental for breeding because the larger the genetic variation in a
47 base population, the greater the potential breeding achievements can be. Thus, it is important for
48 breeders to understand the extent of genetic diversity and the genetic structure of populations of interest.
49 Since the advent of molecular markers such as restriction fragment polymorphism (RFLP), random
50 amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD), amplified fragment length polymorphism (AFLP), and simple
51 sequence repeat (SSR, or microsatellite) markers, various crop species have been evaluated for genetic
52 variation. Currently, with the advent of next-generation-sequencing and single nucleotide
53 polymorphism (SNP) array technologies, genotype data from thousands of SNP loci can be obtained with

54 a relatively low cost and low labor input (Myles et al. 2010; Hamilton et al. 2011; Song et al. 2013;
55 Uitdewilligen et al. 2013; Torkamaneh et al. 2018).

56 Potato has undergone extensive changes since its first introduction from South America to Europe
57 in the early 16th century. Due to devastating epidemics caused by late blight (*Phytophthora infestans*)
58 in the 1840s, almost all varieties of European potatoes grown at that time disappeared. As a result, a
59 Chilean potato, Rough Purple Chili, was introduced by C. Goodrich in 1851, and Early Rose, a
60 grandchild of Rough Purple Chili, contributed greatly to later potato breeding because of its earliness,
61 which significantly reduced the severity of late blight (Plaisted and Hoopes 1989). Consequently, Early
62 Rose is the basis of the genetic variability of potato worldwide, resulting in a narrow genetic base of
63 modern potato varieties (Mendoza and Haynes 1974). Since R. N. Salaman first found late blight
64 resistance in *Solanum edinense* Berth. (a natural hybrid of *S. demissum* Lindl. × *S. tuberosum* L.) in 1906,
65 11 *R* genes (*R1–R11*) have been identified from the progenies of *S. demissum* (Ross 1986). In addition,
66 exotic germplasm, such as that of Andean primitive varieties and their closely related wild species, has
67 been frequently utilized in potato breeding since the beginning of the 20th century (Plaisted and Hoopes
68 1989; Ross 1986; Vos et al. 2015).

69 As part of the USDA SolCAP project, an Infinium 8303 SNP array was developed based on SNPs
70 in six potato varieties: Atlantic, Bintje, Kennebec, Premier Russet, Shepody, and Snowden (Hamilton et
71 al. 2011; Felcher et al. 2012). The 8K SNP array revealed that within diverse North American varieties,
72 the chip processing market class was the most distinct, being clearly separated from all other market
73 classes. Further clustering identified the French fry processing and table russet group, the yellow and
74 round white table group, and the pigmented group (Hamilton et al. 2011; Hirsch et al. 2013). The same
75 8K SNP array was used by Kolech et al. (2016) to evaluate the genetic diversity of Ethiopian potato
76 cultivars, and to assess their relationships with germplasms from North America, Europe and the
77 International Potato Center (CIP). They found that most of the Ethiopian local cultivars were duplicates
78 and that most local cultivars in the northwest originated in Europe, whereas the predominant southern
79 cultivars were most closely related to germplasm developed by CIP. Vos et al. (2015) developed a 20K
80 SNP array and genotyped a total of 569 potato genotypes. They found that 96% of the genetic variants
81 present in cultivars released before 1945 remained polymorphic in modern cultivars and that new genetic
82 variation introduced in the last decades caused an increase of genetic variation in the potato gene pool.

83 Potato was first introduced into Japan during the Keicho period (1596–1614) (Kawakami 1948;
84 Asama 1978) or in between 1609 and 1615 (Laufer 1938). It is believed that Dutch traders brought
85 potatoes to Nagasaki. Through repeated famines, potatoes spread over the country as a hardy crop,
86 particularly into cooler mountain regions in central and northern Japan. For approximately 200 years
87 until 1854, Japan had been closed to the outer world except to Chinese and Dutch traders. Since 1873,
88 new materials were successively introduced from European countries and the United States of America
89 (Tsukikawa 1990). Among these new materials, Irish Cobbler and May Queen were selected and
90 continue to be leading varieties in present day. Inter-varietal cross-breeding started in 1916, and in
91 1939, the first interspecific crosses were made (Takase 1977). In 1938, three decades after the first use
92 of *S. demissum* for late blight resistance breeding in Germany, *S. demissum* was introduced to Japan. In
93 1940, selfed seeds labeled “*S. demissum* forma *atrocyaneum*” were obtained from S. M. Bukasov. This
94 accession was used to derive the first late blight resistant varieties, Yoraku and Rishiri (released in 1958
95 and 1960, respectively).

96 Potato chips have been industrialized since 1970s. The chip processing varieties, Waseshiro
97 and Toyoshiro (a great grandchild and a second great grandchild of Irish Cobbler, respectively), were
98 released in 1974 and 1976, respectively. The high yield and good quality of Toyoshiro promoted the
99 rapid growth of the potato chipping industry. Approximately 35% of the potatoes in Japan are used for
100 starch production (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 2018). The current major variety for
101 starch processing is Konafubuki, released in 1981. The unfortunate arrival of the golden cyst nematode
102 (*Globodera rostochiensis*) occurred in 1972. Rapid spread of the cyst nematodes has threatened potato
103 cultivation and forced the breeding of cyst-nematode-resistant varieties. None of the top four varieties,
104 Irish Cobbler, May Queen, Toyoshiro, and Konafubuki, are resistant to golden cyst nematodes. Thus,
105 the last three to four decades have been a period of struggle against cyst nematodes (Mori et al. 2007).
106 Genetic variation of these Japanese potato varieties was previously analyzed by RAPD marker analysis,
107 which revealed that Japanese potatoes are an interesting collection of genetic diversity including North
108 American, European, and Andean germplasms and relic potatoes (Hosaka et al. 1994).

109 Toyoshiro is the most important chip processing variety in Japan. However, it cannot be stored
110 for long periods because reducing sugar contents increase after cold storage (cold sweetening), resulting
111 in an undesirable dark chip color. In addition, Toyoshiro does not have cyst nematode resistance.

112 Aiming to achieve a year-round supply of high-quality potatoes, Calbee Potato Inc. (hereafter,
113 abbreviated ‘CP’), a subsidiary company of Calbee Inc., the largest chipping company in Japan, started
114 breeding for chip processing varieties in 1984. First, they introduced superior chip processing varieties
115 from the United States of America (US). Among many varieties such as Atlantic, Yankee Chipper,
116 Kanona, and others, Snowden and Norking Russet were successfully adopted for their longer storability
117 and commercialized. Inter-varietal cross-breeding at CP was started in 2003. Poroshiri was the first
118 variety released from the CP potato breeding program in 2017. It is a chip processing variety with
119 extreme resistance to cyst nematodes and fairly good resistance to common scab. Recently, European
120 varieties have been incorporated into the CP gene pool.

121 As mentioned above, Japanese potatoes have a long history of cultivation and breeding. In
122 contrast, the CP potato breeding program emerged recently as a unique program focused on the breeding
123 of chip processing varieties. Although we introduced many foreign varieties in the past and used them
124 as parents, it is important to know the extent of genetic diversity and the genetic relationships among
125 Japanese varieties and between Japanese and foreign varieties, which can facilitate the development of
126 strategies for future breeding. In this study, we obtained 12K potato V2 SNP array data for Japanese
127 potatoes, including parental clones of the CP potato breeding program, and compared them with 8K
128 potato SNP array data on foreign varieties, mostly US varieties, investigated by Hirsch et al. (2013). In
129 addition, cytoplasmic genome types were determined for the CP clones because they are often associated
130 with different types of male sterility (Hosaka and Sanetomo 2012).

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132

133 **Materials and Methods**

134

135 **Plant materials**

136 A total of 432 genotypes, designated the population ‘All’, was used, which included Japanese potatoes
137 and those studied by Hirsch et al. (2013) (Table 1). One hundred sixty-four were Japanese-bred
138 genotypes, designated the population ‘Japan’, which included 92 named varieties (60 table potatoes, 19
139 for starch processing, 9 for chip processing, and 4 for French fry processing), two advanced breeding
140 clones (for table potatoes), and 70 advanced breeding clones bred by Calbee Potato Inc. (referred to as CP

141 clones). Four varieties (Kintoki-imo, Nemuumurasaki, Seinaiji-ki-imo, and Kobo-imo) were old
142 varieties of unknown origin and were treated as Japanese landraces and table potatoes. The table
143 potatoes also included five diploid (Inca Gold, Inca-no-hitomi, Inca-no-mezame, Inca Rouge, and
144 Benihisashi) varieties and one triploid (Neodelicious) variety. Note that Inca Gold is different from a
145 US-bred tetraploid variety Inca Gold. Irish Cobbler and some other foreign varieties and breeding
146 clones have significantly contributed to the Japanese potatoes. Thus, to evaluate the Japanese potatoes,
147 38 important foreign varieties and breeding clones and four species, *S. acaule*, *S. tuberosum* Andigenum
148 Group (referred to as *S. tuberosum* ssp. *andigena* by Hawkes 1990, hereafter Andigena), *S.*
149 *pinnatisectum*, and *S. phureja* DM, as an outgroup (using the SNP data from Hirsch et al. 2013) were
150 added to the population ‘Japan’ to form the population ‘Japan Plus’ (Supplementary Table 1). Some
151 European varieties and breeding clones that Calbee Potato Inc. introduced were not available for the
152 original identities and were therefore described by the CP identity numbers C44–C69. Hirsch et al.
153 (2013) used 250 genotypes. However, a survey of their SNP data revealed that Russet Burbank and
154 Burbank were similar at all available SNPs, as described by Bethke et al. (2014), and three Russet
155 Nokotah clones with different sources were all similar. Consequently, 247 genotypes formed the
156 population ‘US’.

157

158 Determination of cytoplasm types

159 Hosaka and Sanetomo (2012) classified potato cytoplasm into six distinct types (M, P, A, W, T, and D
160 types). The A-type cytoplasm is the most prevalent type in Andigena, whereas the T-type cytoplasm is
161 the most prevalent type in the common potato (referred to as *S. tuberosum* ssp. *tuberosum* by Hawkes
162 1990, hereinafter Tuberosum). The D-type and W/γ-type cytoplasm were introduced from *S. demissum*
163 and *S. stoloniferum*, respectively, into the common potato gene pool and cause functionally male sterility
164 (Dionne 1961; Lössl et al. 2000; Sanetomo and Hosaka 2011). The procedures used to determine the
165 cytoplasm types are described in Hosaka and Sanetomo (2012).

166

167 SNP data

168 Total DNA was extracted from fresh leaves by either the Doyle and Doyle (1987) or Hosaka and
169 Hanneman (1998) methods. Five micrograms of dried DNA from each of 164 Japanese and 26 foreign

170 varieties were sent to GeneSeek (Neogen Corporation, NE, US) to obtain 12K potato V2 SNP array data.
171 For the population ‘US’, all of the 8K SNP array data were available from the literature (Hirsch et al.
172 2013). All informative loci of the 8K SNP array are included among the 12K SNP loci. Using a
173 diploid genotype model, AA, AB, and BB were converted to the ordinal variables 0, 1, and 2,
174 respectively. Hierarchical cluster analysis was performed by the Ward method (Ward 1963) using the
175 software JMP Pro 14.0.0 (SAS Institute Inc.). To evaluate the extent of within and between
176 populational differences, the genotype data 0, 1, and 2 were treated as categorical variables, and the
177 dissimilarities between genotypes were calculated as Euclidean distances using the software JMP Pro.
178 An overall mean of pairwise Euclidean distances was obtained for both within and between populations.

179

180 **Results**

181 We obtained 12K potato V2 SNP array data for 190 genotypes, of which SNP genotypes for 94 Japanese
182 varieties and breeding clones are provided in Supplementary Table 2. Four genotypes (Andover, Pike,
183 NY115, and NY121) were duplicated between our 12K SNP array data and the 8K SNP array data of
184 Hirsch et al. (2013). For all comparable SNP loci, genotypes were perfectly identical between the
185 duplicates. Our data contained fewer missing values, so they were used for subsequent analysis. Inca-
186 no-mezame and Inca Rouge (a sport of Inca-no-mezame) had perfectly identical genotypes at all SNP
187 loci. Thus, Inca Rouge was discarded from further analyses, and the size of the population ‘Japan’ was
188 reduced to 163 (Table 1). In each population, monomorphic SNP loci and those with more than 10%
189 missing values were discarded. Consequently, 10810 of 12720 SNPs (85.0%) were used to calculate the
190 percentage of heterozygous SNP loci of the population ‘Japan’ (Table 2). The 6373 SNP loci reported
191 in the literature (Hirsch et al. 2013) were identified in the 12K SNP array data, of which 83.3%, 96.9%,
192 and 93.7% were polymorphic with less than 10% missing values in the populations ‘US’, ‘Japan Plus’
193 and ‘All’, respectively (Table 2).

194

195 Evaluation of the population ‘Japan Plus’

196 Of the 94 Japanese varieties, landraces, and advanced breeding clones, 63 (67.0%) had T-type, 21
197 (22.3%) had D-type, seven (7.4%) had P-type, one had A-type (1.1%), and two (2.1%) had W/ γ -type
198 cytoplasm, as mostly published previously in Hosaka and Sanetomo (2012). In contrast, D-type

199 cytoplasm was the major cytoplasm among CP clones (54.3%; Supplementary Table 1). T- and W/ γ -
200 type cytoplasm was found in 37.1% and 7.1%, respectively, of the CP clones. One P-type cytoplasm
201 was found among the CP clones, whereas the M- and A-type cytoplasm were not found among the CP
202 clones.

203 The population 'Japan Plus' was analyzed using 6172 polymorphic SNP loci with a diploid
204 genotype model (AA, AB and BB). A total of 205 genotypes were separated into four distinct clusters
205 (Fig. 1). Cluster 4 was composed of the outgroup of wild species and all of the diploid varieties.
206 Cluster 1 contained the oldest variety of Early Rose and the other named varieties, whereas Clusters 2 and
207 3 were formed mostly by chip processing varieties and CP clones.

208 Within Cluster 1, the European chip processing varieties and their derived CP clones formed a
209 closely related subcluster with the old variety group. Nagasaki-bred varieties formed four distinct
210 clusters, each containing a parent and their progeny. Most subclusters within the Cluster 1 did not
211 reflect market classes (table stock, chip, French fry or starch processing varieties) but indicated parentage
212 relationships: parents and their immediate progenies were grouped together. For example, Toyoshiro
213 (chip) was first united with its parent Eniwa (starch); then, it was clustered with the child Hokkaikogane
214 (French fry) and then with the grandchild North Chip (chip). Musamaru was bred from a maternal
215 parent Tunika, which is a German variety frequently used in Japan as a source of a resistance gene (*HI*)
216 against golden cyst nematode (*Globodera rostochiensis*) and has D-type cytoplasm. Musamaru (French
217 fry) was then used as the maternal parent for Pearl Starch (starch), Koganemaru (French fry), and
218 Natsufubuki (starch) and as the grandmother for Konayutaka (starch). These five varieties formed one
219 subcluster and had the D-type cytoplasm in common. C55 has the W/ γ -type cytoplasm, which causes
220 complete male sterility, known as tetrad sterility (Hosaka and Sanetomo 2012). Four of five CP clones
221 derived maternally from C55 clustered with C55 and had the W/ γ -type cytoplasm in common. The
222 remaining one CP clone derived from C55 clustered with the paternal parent Kitahime in Cluster 2.

223 Clusters 2 and 3 consisted of 89 genotypes, of which 84 (94.4%) were chip processing clones.
224 Except for Lilas Chip, the recently released Japanese chipping varieties were present either in Cluster 2 or
225 Cluster 3 together with their immediate parents: ND860-2, Norking Russet, Pike, or Atlantic. For
226 example, Poroshiri was bred from Norking Russet \times Pike.

227 Of the 70 CP clones, 30 (42.9%) were included in each of Cluster 2 and Cluster 3. For the 70
228 CP clones, the most frequently used parent was NY115 (for 13 clones), followed by Kitahime, a
229 grandchild of ND860-2 (for 10 clones), C44 and Monticello (for 9 clones each), Pike (for 8 clones), and
230 Andover (for 6 clones). These parents and their progeny clones were united together and formed
231 distinct subclusters. D-type cytoplasm was incorporated into the CP clones most frequently from
232 Monticello (in 9 clones as the mother and in 4 as the grandmother), C44 (in 5 clones as the mother and in
233 3 as the grandmother), and MN12828 (in 4 clones as the mother and in 2 as the grandmother).

234

235 Re-evaluation of the population ‘US’

236 The population ‘US’ is similar to the population analyzed by Hirsch et al. (2013). They used 3763 SNP
237 markers with a tetraploid genotype model (AAAA, AAAB, AABB, ABBB and BBBB) and an
238 unweighted pair group method with arithmetic mean (UPGMA) for clustering. They defined market
239 classes within cultivated potatoes (chip processing, French fry processing, pigmented, table russet, round
240 white table, and yellow). The French fry processing and table russet group, the yellow and round white
241 table group, the pigmented group, and the three chip processing groups, derived from Lenape, ND860-2,
242 and S440, were classified in distinct clusters.

243 We used a diploid genotype model (AA, AB and BB) for 5306 polymorphic SNP loci. When
244 we used the UPGMA method, in which the distance between two groups is defined as the average
245 distance between each of their members, a very similar dendrogram to the one given by Hirsch et al.
246 (2013) was obtained. Instead, we used the Ward method for clustering, in which the distance between
247 two clusters is the ANOVA sum of squares between the two clusters summed over all of the variables.
248 That is, at each step, the two clusters that result in the least increase in the pooled within-group sum of
249 squares are fused. Thus, the Ward method tends to produce a large number of clusters with a small
250 number of members. We also treated the ordinal variables 0, 1, and 2 as the categorical variables and
251 conducted cluster analyses. Approximately similar dendrograms were obtained when using either the
252 UPGMA or Ward method. As shown in Fig. 2, the wild species and a subset of the genetic stocks were
253 distantly clustered as an outgroup. The second most distantly related group contained *S. phureja*-
254 derived genetic stocks and Inca Gold (a US-bred tetraploid variety). The French fry processing and
255 table russet group, the yellow and round white table group, the pigmented group, and the chip processing

256 group were classified into distinct clusters. The chip processing varieties Lenape, ND860-2, and S440
257 formed distinct subclusters. In addition, we identified another subcluster within the chip processing
258 group that contained old chip processing varieties (Belchip, Atlantic and Wauseon).

259

260 Evaluation of the population ‘All’

261 To understand the genetic relationships between Japanese potatoes and other potato varieties, all 432
262 genotypes were evaluated using 5972 polymorphic SNP loci with a diploid genotype model (Fig. 3).

263 Similar to the clustering results obtained with the other populations, the group of wild species and some
264 germplasms clustered most distantly. The second most distant cluster contained *S. phureja*-derived
265 genetic stocks, US-bred Inca Gold and four Japanese diploid varieties, including Japanese-bred Inca Gold
266 (a diploid with 37.5–62.5% *S. phureja* germplasm, bred from W822229-1 × W872209-5). The other
267 genotypes were classified into three large clusters.

268 Cluster 1 was a mixture of all market classes. Out of 89 Japanese genotypes other than 2x
269 varieties and CP clones, 80 genotypes were present in this cluster. The subcluster 1a is a group of old
270 varieties such as pre-1930’s US varieties Garnet Chili, Early Rose, Irish Cobbler, Russet Burbank, Green
271 Mountain and pre-1950’s Japanese varieties Norin 1 and Norin 2. One of the Japanese landraces, Kobo-
272 imo, closely clustered with a group comprising Early Rose, Green Mountain, and Russet Burbank.
273 Subclusters 1b and 1e contained Japanese and foreign genotypes of all market classes. Within the
274 subcluster 1b, the Japanese landraces Nemumurasaki and Kintoki-imo were clustered together.
275 Subclusters 1c and 1f contained mostly the CP clones and their parents Andover, C44 and MN12828.
276 Subcluster 1d contained one of Japanese landraces (Seinaiji-ki-imo), two CP clones, and 34 foreign
277 genotypes, of which half were of the market class ‘yellow’. Seinaiji-ki-imo clustered with the old
278 European varieties May Queen and Bintje. Subcluster 1g contained exclusively Japanese genotypes,
279 within which Nagasaki-bred varieties formed a distinct cluster, reflecting the close parentage
280 relationships. The others within the subcluster 1g were Touya (released in 1992) and varieties released
281 after 1992.

282 Cluster 2 was composed of the French fry processing and table russet subcluster and the
283 pigmented subcluster, similarly identified in the population ‘US’. Only one Japanese genotype in each
284 subcluster was found.

285 Cluster 3 contained mostly chip processing varieties. Pike, NY115, Kitahime, and Monticello
286 formed respective subclusters with their progeny CP clones. However, three major sources for US chip
287 processing varieties (Lenape, ND860-2, and S440) did not form clusters with any Japanese genotypes or
288 CP clones with the exception of North Chip, bred from Hokkaikogane × ND860-2, which was closely
289 clustered with ND860-2. Furthermore, the old US chip processing varieties Belchip, Atlantic and
290 Wauseon were not clustered immediately with any Japanese genotypes. Although the Japanese
291 varieties, Snow March, Fugenmaru, Star Queen, and Okhotsk-chip and one of CP clones, C9132, were all
292 bred from Atlantic as the maternal parent, only Snow March and C9132 exhibited close relationships to
293 Atlantic. There was no Japanese genotype in the subcluster of Wauseon.

294 In the Fig. 3, parental clones currently used in the CP breeding program are indicated by stars.
295 Two stars indicate important parents frequently used in the past and present, whereas one star indicates a
296 parent rarely used. CP clones and their parents were clearly represented as subclusters. The parents
297 Andover, C44, C55, MN12828, Pike, NY115, Kitahime and Monticello were the most frequent
298 contributing parents to the CP clones. However, interestingly, however, six frequently used European
299 genotypes (C53, C54, C64, C65, C67 and Sassy) were members of the cluster 1d, in which no CP clones
300 were present.

301

302 Genetic diversity

303 The extent of genetic diversity within population and between populations was measured using mean
304 Euclidean distances (Fig. 4). All distances were significantly different from each other by *t* test
305 ($P < 0.0005$) except for the distance of 48.4, obtained between Japanese 4x genotypes and foreign 4x
306 genotypes, between Japanese 4x genotypes and US 4x varieties, and among all 4x genotypes. The
307 largest within-population distance of 51.4 and the largest between-population distance of 57.6 were,
308 as expected, obtained from the population of wild species and genetic stocks and between this population
309 and the population of all 4x genotypes, verifying that the wild species and genetic stocks are most
310 distantly related from each other and from varieties and breeding clones. The Japanese 4x genotypes (86
311 named varieties, 2 breeding clones and 70 CP clones) showed a populational mean of 46.3, among which
312 named varieties (mean distance of 45.3) were less diverse than were CP clones (46.2) but more diverse
313 than Nagasaki-bred varieties (41.9). Inter-population distances between Japanese 4x genotypes and

314 foreign 4x genotypes or US 4x varieties were 48.2–48.7, which were lower than the within-population
315 distances of US 4x varieties (49.1) or foreign 4x genotypes (49.3). These results indicate that the
316 Japanese genotypes are less diverse and do not form a unique group but are included within the gene pool
317 of US and foreign genotypes.

318

319 Heterozygosity

320 The percentage of heterozygous SNP loci (percent heterozygosity) in foreign genotypes including wild
321 species and genetic stocks with all ploidy levels is shown in Fig. 5. Most of the data for foreign
322 varieties were obtained from Hirsch et al. (2013). Thus, a very similar graph to Fig. 3A of Hirsch et al.
323 (2013) was obtained. Early Rose was created from open-pollination of Garnet Chili; the seeds could
324 have resulted from selfing or natural hybridization. Of the 5083 comparable SNP loci between the two
325 varieties, 714 (14.0%) were homozygous in Garnet Chili and heterozygous in Early Rose. Thus, the
326 average percent heterozygosity of Garnet Chili was 55.2%, whereas that of Early Rose was 61.8%.
327 Apparently, Early Rose was derived by hybridization from Garnet Chili, as suggested by isozyme
328 analysis (Douches et al. 1991). Irish Cobbler was formerly believed to be a sport of Early Rose
329 (Plaisted and Hoopes 1989) but was later suggested to be a hybrid by isozyme analysis (Douches et al.
330 1991) and RAPD analysis (Hosaka et al. 1994). In the present study, the percent heterozygosity does
331 not support a hybrid origin of Irish Cobbler because it is lower in Irish Cobbler (56.6%). However, of
332 the 5149 comparable SNP loci between the two varieties, 397 (7.7%) were homozygous in Early Rose but
333 heterozygous in Irish Cobbler. A likely explanation is that Early Rose was hybridized with a very
334 closely related variety and originated Irish Cobbler.

335 The highest percent heterozygosity was observed in Atlantic (80.5%), followed by Lenape
336 (74.3%), Snowden (69.6%), Pike (68.7%), MegaChip (68.3%), J138K6A22 (68.3%), Belchip (68.2%),
337 Marcy (66.9%), Lehigh (66.6%), Yankee Chipper (66.4%), and Andover (66.3%). All of these except
338 J138K6A22 (genetic stock) are chip processing varieties.

339 Using the 5972 SNP loci evaluated for the population ‘All’, or using 10810 SNP loci, 163
340 Japanese genotypes were analyzed (Table 3, Fig. 5). The average percent heterozygosity in the foreign
341 4x genotypes (56.7%) was not significantly different from that of the Japanese 4x varieties and breeding
342 clones (57.3% using 5972 SNP loci, or 56.8% using 10810 SNP loci). However, the CP clones

343 exhibited a significantly higher percent heterozygosity (60.1% or 60.6%) than did the foreign and
344 Japanese 4x genotypes by *t*-test ($P<0.001$). The average percent heterozygosity of the 2x varieties (23.1
345 or 23.8%) was much lower than that of the 4x genotypes. One 3x variety showed 51.0% or 51.5%
346 heterozygosity, which was among the lowest heterozygosity of the 4x genotypes.

347

348 **Discussion**

349

350 Among currently available molecular markers, SSR markers have been widely utilized for variety
351 identification and the assessment of genetic diversity in potato (Spooner et al. 2007; Ghislain et al. 2009;
352 de Galarreta 2011; Salimi et al. 2016). Over 1000 European varieties have been characterized with
353 unique SSR profiles (Reid et al. 2011). When the same system was transferred to the Canadian Food
354 Inspection Agency to differentiate 217 varieties, occasional discrepancies between the two laboratories
355 occurred due to their different interpretations of the presence/absence of the alleles (Côté et al. 2013). In
356 contrast, identical results at all comparable SNP loci were obtained for the four sets of duplicates between
357 Hirsch et al. (2013) and the present study. A high concordance of 99.98% between 39 replicated
358 tetraploid samples was reported in a survey of 14530 SNP markers (Vos et al. 2015). These
359 observations demonstrate that SNP array markers are highly reproducible. Hirsch et al. (2013) used
360 3763 SNP loci with a tetraploid genotype model (AAAA, AAAB, AABB, ABBB, and BBBB) and the
361 UPGMA method for clustering 250 US genotypes. Although most of the genotypes used in this study
362 were tetraploid, we used a diploid genotype model (AA, AB, and BB) for 5972 SNP loci and the Ward
363 method for clustering, resulting in sufficient resolution for 432 genotypes. We treated the genotype data
364 as ordinal variables (e.g., AA<AB<BB) for cluster analysis. However, treating these genotype data as
365 categorical variables (e.g., AA≠AB≠BB) yielded similar clustering results. These findings indicate that
366 if a large number of SNP data are used, the distinctiveness of observed clusters becomes robust regardless
367 of the genotype model, clustering method, or variable type used. Therefore, the SNP array can readily
368 generate a large number of reproducible data and is cost effective for analyzing the genetic relationships
369 among potato varieties.

370 When the 8K SolCAP SNP array was applied to 250 diverse North American varieties, diploid
371 genotypes were clearly separated from tetraploid genotypes, and the chip processing market class was the

372 most distinct group, clearly separated from all other markets classes (Hamilton et al. 2011; Hirsch et al.
373 2013). This is in good agreement with our results. Simko et al. (2006) analyzed 47 potato genotypes
374 with 1088 SNPs and observed no subgroups despite the inclusion of 1 monoploid and 17 diploid
375 genotypes. The number of SNPs analyzed by Simko et al. (2006) might have been insufficient to
376 separate diploid genotypes from tetraploid ones. Using the same 8K SolCAP SNP array for European
377 varieties, Stich et al. (2013) reported a clear separation of tetraploid from diploid genotypes but no
378 distinct subgroups among 36 tetraploid genotypes. This lack of distinct subgroups may have been partly
379 due to the method for detecting subgroups, which might have been inappropriate, and the lower
380 differentiation of European potatoes than of US chip processing potatoes. However, Uitdewilligen et al.
381 (2013) analyzed the population structure of 84, mostly European, cultivars, using 43K sequence variants
382 and identified three divergent groups, consisting of heirloom cultivars, frying cultivars, and cultivars and
383 germplasm used in the starch industry. Thus, it is clear that a sufficient number of SNPs is needed to
384 reveal the distinctiveness of genotypes.

385 Although we frequently used foreign varieties as parents in the past, most of the Japanese
386 varieties in this study descended from Irish Cobbler (Supplementary Table 1), suggesting a narrow
387 diversity of Japanese potatoes. This was verified by the significantly lower mean Euclidean distance
388 among the Japanese varieties than that among the foreign genotypes (Fig. 4). However, we found a
389 unique group of Japanese varieties (subcluster 1g in population 'All'), in which no foreign varieties were
390 included. Within this subcluster, varieties bred in Nagasaki (all for table stocks) formed a distinct
391 cluster. The Nagasaki potato breeding program is responsible for breeding varieties for double cropping
392 (spring-season product is used as seed for fall-season cropping). Upon double cropping, the varieties are
393 not in fact early-maturing but are late-maturing, and the tubers are bulked and harvested well before
394 natural senescence and sold as "fresh new potatoes" at market. Consequently, fast emergence, rapid
395 growth with low or no sensitivity to day length, early tuber bulking, and short tuber dormancy are
396 required for double-cropping varieties. Apparently, high selection pressure was applied to achieve
397 double cropping, resulting in a group of closely related varieties. European varieties for starch
398 processing were identified as a distinct group; they were so identified because germplasm of *S. vernei*
399 was incorporated to confer resistance to *G. pallida* (Uitdewilligen et al. 2013). In Japan, most starch
400 processing varieties were initially selected as high-yielding clones for table stocks. However, their

401 inferior tuber quality lead to their use for starch production. Thus, these starch-processing varieties did
402 not form a distinct cluster. Only a few Japanese varieties were found within clusters of the yellow, the
403 pigmented, or the French fry and table russet groups of the population 'US'. There are yellow flesh
404 potatoes of recently released Japanese varieties (e.g., Kita-akari, Touya, Inca-no-mezame, Harimaru, and
405 Nagasaki Kogane). However, these were not intentionally selected for their flesh color; thus, they did
406 not cluster with the US yellow group. However, there are several varieties selected for their flesh color:
407 Inca Purple, Kitamurasaki, and Shadow Queen for purple flesh; and Inca Red and Northern Ruby for red
408 flesh. None of these varieties clustered with the US pigmented group. Therefore, we conclude that
409 although we found a distinct group of Japanese potatoes, Japanese varieties have not been genetically
410 differentiated for market types except for chip processing varieties. The first and still major chip
411 processing varieties, Waseshiro (released in 1974) and Toyoshiro (released in 1976), are a great-
412 grandchild and a second great-grandchild of Irish Cobbler, respectively, and were grouped with other
413 table stocks. However, the chip processing varieties released after 2000 were bred using the US chip
414 processing varieties Andover, Pike, Atlantic, Norking Russet and ND860-2 to improve chip color after
415 cold storage. For this reason, White Fryer (released in 2000), Kitahime (2001), North Chip (2002),
416 Okhotsk-chip (2005), and Poroshiri (2017) were grouped with the US chip processing varieties to form
417 Cluster 3 in population 'All' (Fig. 3).

418 Four landraces are of unknown origin and have been grown locally in very limited areas for
419 home consumption for many years since at least the early 1900s. There are many synonyms for each of
420 the four genotypes, but their genetic identities have been confirmed by RAPD and AFLP analyses
421 (Hosaka, unpublished). Nemuromurasaki has *Andigena*-type chloroplast DNA (Hosaka 1993). Its
422 close relationship with *Andigena* was demonstrated by RAPD analysis (Hosaka et al. 1994), providing
423 strong evidence that Nemuromurasaki is a relic potato of early European introduction (Hosaka et al.
424 1994). However, the present study does not support this hypothesis. Nemuromurasaki (purple tuber
425 skin) was most closely related to the other landrace in this study, Kintoki-imo (white tuber skin, T-type
426 cytoplasm) and was not separated from the other Japanese varieties (Figs. 1 and 3). Kobo-imo clustered
427 closely with Early Rose (Figs. 1 and 3), suggesting that the former is an immediate derivative of the
428 latter. Seinaiji-ki-imo was found within the cluster of European varieties, suggesting a European origin.
429 As Japan has systematically introduced foreign varieties since 1873 (Tsukikawa 1990) and tested for

430 local adaptability, some of those old foreign varieties might have escaped and spread without their correct
431 names. Further investigation is needed to correctly identify these genotypes by comparing them with
432 old foreign varieties.

433 Frequently used parents for the CP clones were Andover, Pike, NY115, and Monticello
434 (Supplementary Table 1), all released from the Cornell University breeding program. These Cornell
435 varieties formed large subclusters with CP clones (Fig. 3), suggesting that the CP clones are Japanese
436 derivatives of Cornell chip varieties. Calbee Potato Inc. initially attempted to introduce superior US
437 chip processing varieties and cultivate them in Japan. A threat against golden cyst nematodes (*G.*
438 *rostochiensis*) forced the company to introduce varieties possessing the *H1* gene, which were available
439 only from the Cornell breeding program at that time. Unfortunately, most of the US varieties did not
440 perform well in Japanese environments. Thus, the CP breeders started to use the introduced Cornell
441 varieties as parents for crossbreeding. Additional input of the other US and European varieties further
442 modified the gene pool of CP clones. However, with these new introductions, the frequencies of D and
443 W/γ cytoplasm increased, worrying the CP breeders with male sterility problems. One of the most
444 important characteristics required for chip processing varieties is a low reducing sugar content after cold
445 storage (cold-sweetening resistance). Three sources for cold-sweetening resistance have been identified
446 among the US chip processing varieties (Hirsch et al. 2013): Lenape, the resistant variety originally
447 derived from *S. chacoense* (Akeley et al. 1968); ND860-2, originally from *S. phureja* (Ehlenfeldt et al.
448 1990); and S440, originally from *S. tarijense* (Hermundstad 1986). Of the three sources, ND860-2 was
449 used to incorporate resistance into Kitahime (a grandchild of ND860-2) and used frequently in Japan and
450 for CP clones as well. To achieve more efficient breeding of chip processing varieties, the utilization of
451 alternative sources for cold-sweetening resistance and crossing designed to avoid increasing the
452 frequencies of undesired cytoplasm among the parental clones are suggested.

453 The maximum heterozygosity hypothesis is a well-known hypothesis that states that maximum
454 heterosis is achieved by maximizing intra-locus diversity in autopolyploids (Chase 1963). However,
455 Hirsch et al. (2013) demonstrated that after ~150 years of breeding, including intensive breeding in the
456 chip and French fry processing market classes, substantial changes in heterozygosity and allele dosage
457 have not occurred. The relationship between genome-wide percent heterozygosity and tuber yield has
458 not been supported universally (Bonierbale et al. 1993). However, we recognized that highly

459 heterozygous US varieties tend to grow relatively in larger areas. Atlantic had the highest percent
460 heterozygosity of the studied varieties and is the most popular variety grown worldwide. We introduced
461 many foreign varieties in the past. However, only a few varieties, such as Atlantic, Snowden, and
462 Andover, are grown in Japan at present. Thus, the genome-wide percent heterozygosity may be
463 associated with the genetic plasticity: The higher the percent heterozygosity, the wider adaptability or
464 more consistent performance the variety is expected to exhibit. An alternative explanation for the higher
465 heterozygosities of Atlantic and Snowden is that the 8K and 12K SolCAP SNPs were originally
466 developed as a collection of polymorphic nucleotides among these varieties (Hamilton et al. 2011).

467 The wild species were all clustered together in a single cluster, as shown in Figs. 1–3. Some of
468 these, such as *S. bulbocastanum* and *S. pinnatisectum*, are reproductively isolated Mexican diploid
469 species and the most distantly related potatoes from the cultivated potatoes in this study (Hawkes 1990).
470 According to whole-genome re-sequencing of 20 South American landraces, 23 North American
471 cultivars, 20 wild progenitor species, and four outgroup species (Hardigan et al. 2017), 68.9 million SNPs
472 were found. Nucleotide divergence from the reference genome sequence (= *S. phureja* DM in this
473 study) averaged 2.2% for Andigena, 2.4% for cultivars, 3.4% for wild progenitor species, and 4.2% for
474 Mexican diploid species (Hardigan et al. 2017). Simko et al. (2006) found one SNP in every 23 bp in 66
475 DNA fragments from 47 potato genotypes. Thus, there must exist many SNPs in wild species that differ
476 from the SolCAP SNPs detected among only six cultivars (Hamilton et al. 2011). This could result in
477 significant bias when the SolCAP SNP array is applied to much wider or different germplasm (Moragues
478 et al. 2010; Thomson et al. 2012; Vos et al. 2015; Torkamaneh et al. 2018) and likely caused contracted
479 clustering of all of the wild species (as seen in Figs. 1–3), the unexpected positioning of the relic cultivar
480 Nemuumurasaki, and biased heterozygosity.

481

482 **Conclusion**

483

484 This study demonstrated the usefulness of SNP array technology for performing a cost-effective, robust
485 and direct comparison of genetic diversity among different gene pools. We conclude that Japanese
486 varieties have not been genetically differentiated for market types except for recently released chip
487 processing varieties. Compared with foreign genotypes, Japanese potatoes are not uniquely

488 differentiated but are included within the genetic diversity of foreign genotypes. In fact, we identified
489 unutilized genetic variation in US French fry processing varieties and pigmented varieties (Cluster 2 in
490 Fig. 3). This study was made possible by direct comparison using publicly available SNP data produced
491 by Hirsch et al. (2013). Although the ascertainment bias is unavoidable in a SNP array technology,
492 accumulation of the SNP data generated from the same SNP array could make it possible to compare the
493 genetic diversity and relationships of different gene pools or breeding programs worldwide, which would
494 be effective for understanding our potatoes and for developing breeding strategies, including
495 determinations of what should be introduced next and what mating combination should be used.

496

497

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500

501 **Author contributions** TI, MT and KH conceived and designed the experiments. TI, KO, EK, and RS
502 performed the experiments and analyzed the data. TI, RS, and KH wrote the paper. All authors have
503 read and approved the manuscript.

504

505 **Conflict of interest** The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

506

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631

632 **Table 1** The numbers of genotypes in each population

Population and category	Market class	n
1) Population 'Japan'		164
Japanese variety	Table (4x)	50
	Table (3x)	1
	Table (2x)	5
	Starch	19
	Chip	9
	French fry	4
Japanese landrace	Table	4
Japanese advanced breeding clone	Table	2
Calbee Potato breeding clone	Chip	70
2) Population 'Japan Plus'		205
Population 'Japan'		163
US variety	Table	5*
	Chip	3+6*
Canadian varieties	French fry	1
US advanced breeding clones	Chip	8+1*
European varieties	Table	1
	Chip	8
European advanced breeding clones	Chip	5
Wild species as an outgroup		4*
3) Population 'US' (Hirsch et al. 2013)		247

	Round white table	38
	Table russet	11
	Pigmented	31
	Yellow	28
	Chip	69
	French fry	33
	Genetic stock	25
	Wild species	12
4) Population 'All'		432

633 The SNP data of the genotypes shown by asterisks used in the population 'Japan

634 Plus' were cited from Hirsch et al. (2013)

635

636 **Table 2** The number of SNPs used for cluster analyses and heterozygosity calculation

Population	No. of clones	Initial no. of SNPs	Monomorphic			>10% missing value	Final no. of SNPs
			AA	AB	BB		
US	247	6373	56	0	56	970	5306
Japan	163	12720	250	177	278	1269	10810
Japan Plus	205	6373	59	0	64	84	6172
All	432	6373	54	0	54	304	5972

637

638

639

640

Table 3 The mean heterozygosity and standard deviation in parenthesis

641

calculated using 5972 (upper column) or 10810 (lower column) SNP loci

Category	n	Heterozygosity (%)
Foreign 4x genotypes	232	56.7 (4.70)
		- (-)
Japanese 4x varieties and breeding clones	88	57.3 (3.63) 56.8 (3.37)
Japanese 3x variety	1	51.0 51.5
Japanese 2x varieties	4	23.1 (3.45) 23.8 (3.43)
Calbee Potato breeding clones	70	60.1 (2.79) 60.6 (1.83)

642

643

644
645 Figure Legends
646

647 **Fig. 1** A Ward dendrogram, the upper (A) and the lower (B) parts shown separately, exhibiting
648 relationships among genotypes in the population “Japan Plus”. Cytoplasm types and market classes of
649 the genotypes are indicated by different colors in the box and on the branches, respectively. Genotypes
650 with diamond symbols are Nagasaki-bred varieties.

651

652 **Fig. 2** A Ward dendrogram exhibiting relationships among genotypes in the population “US”. Market
653 types of the genotypes are indicated by different colors on the branches.

654

655 **Fig. 3** A Ward dendrogram, the upper (A), the middle (B) and the lower (C) parts shown separately,
656 exhibiting relationships among genotypes in the population “All”. Japanese genotypes and market types
657 for foreign genotypes are indicated by different colors on the branches. Parental clones frequently used
658 in the Calbee Potato breeding program are indicated by stars (see text). Genotypes with diamond
659 symbols are Nagasaki-bred varieties.

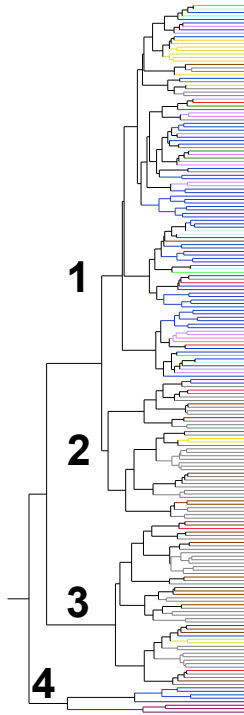
660

661 **Fig. 4** Within and between populational mean Euclidean distances \pm standard deviation calculated
662 using 5972 SNP loci. The numbers of genotypes are shown in parentheses.

663

664 **Fig. 5** Heterozygosity (%) in foreign and Japanese varieties. 1x (red), 2x (green), 3x (purple), 4x (light
665 blue or blue), and Calbee Potato breeding clones (black) are represented.

A

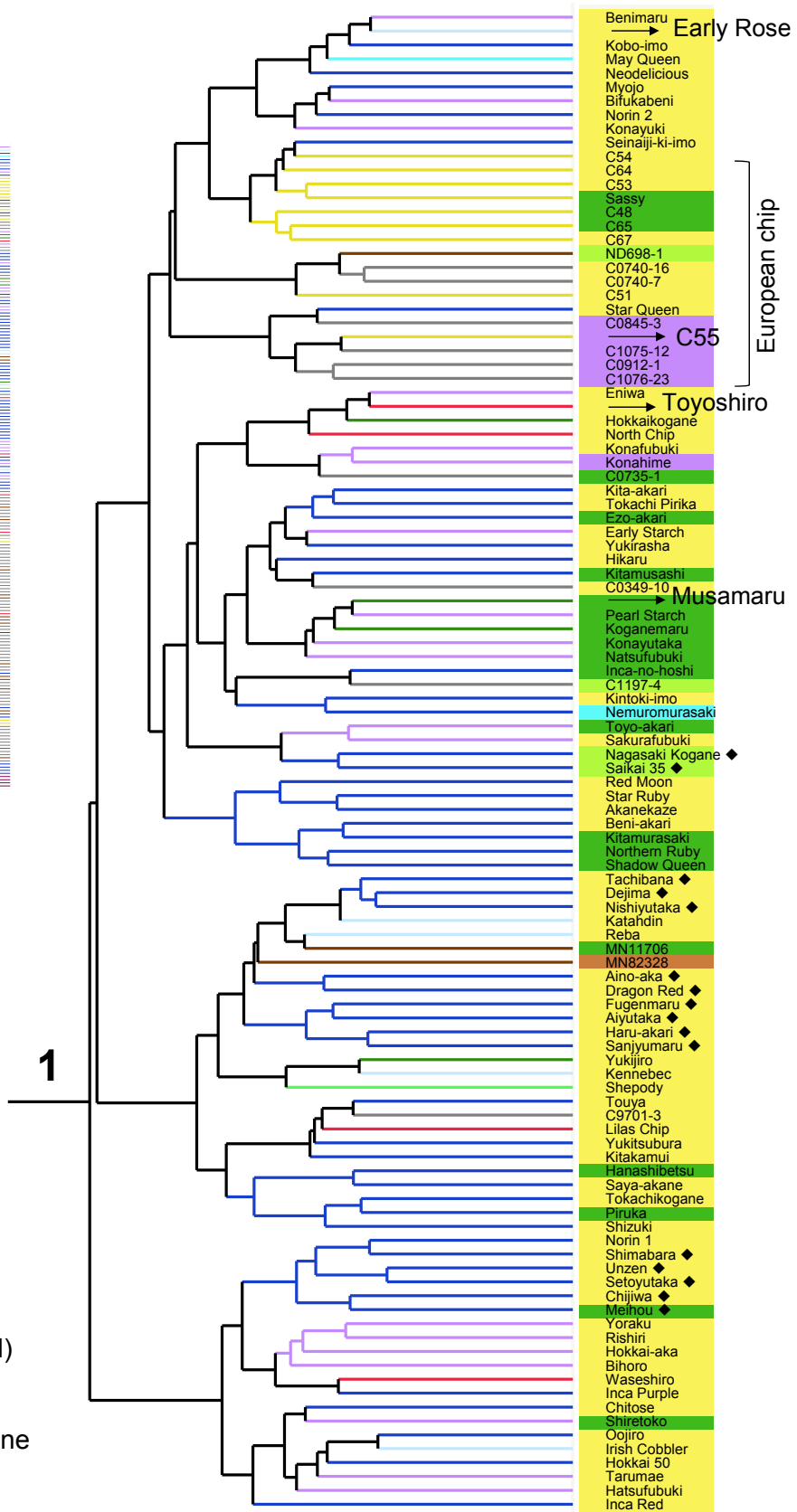


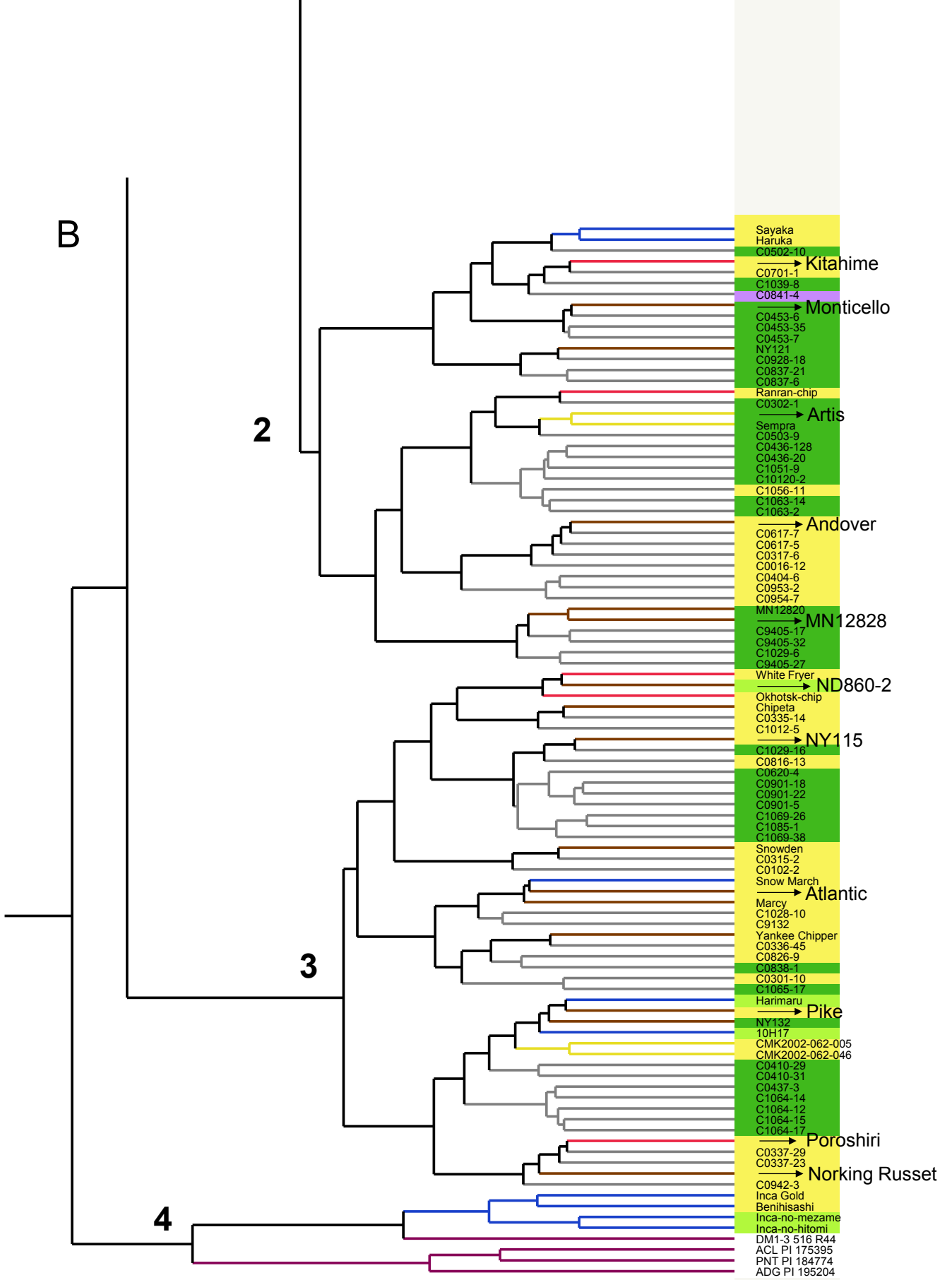
Cytoplasm type

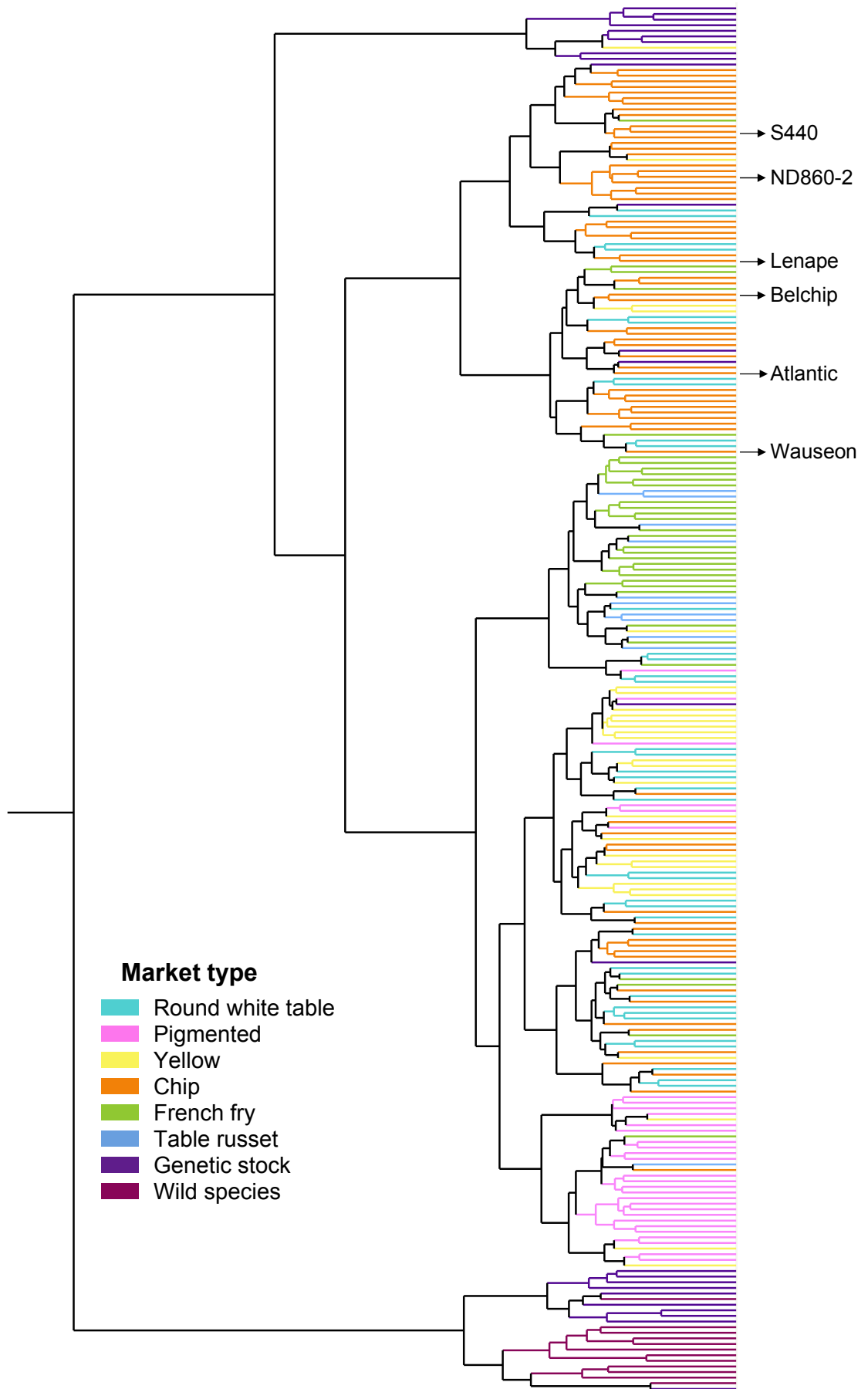
- T
- D
- P
- W/y
- A
- M

Market type

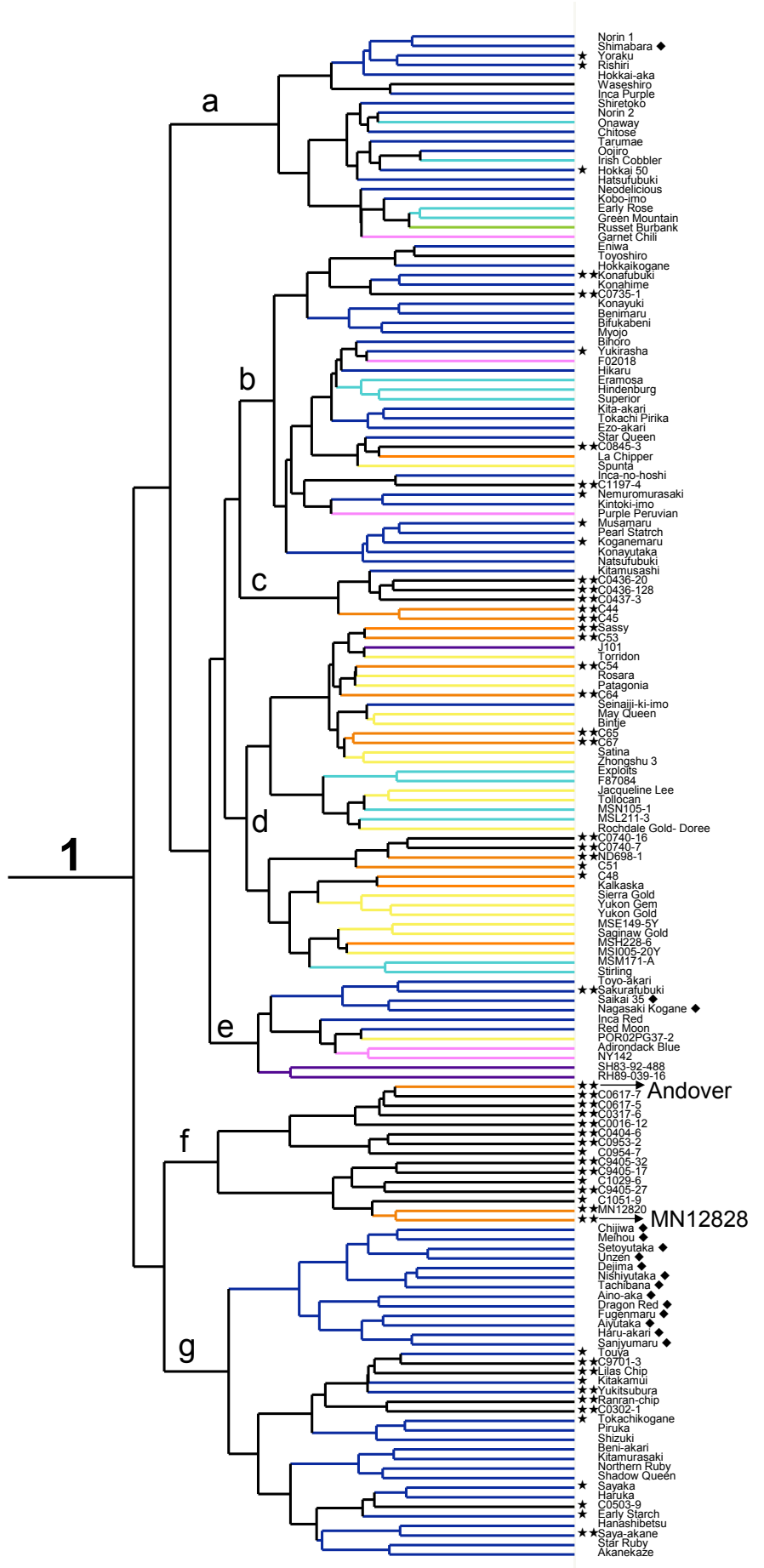
- Table (JPN)
- Table (US)
- Table (EU)
- Chip (JPN)
- Chip (US)
- Chip (EU)
- French fry (JPN)
- French fry (US)
- Starch (JPN)
- CP breeding clone
- Wild species



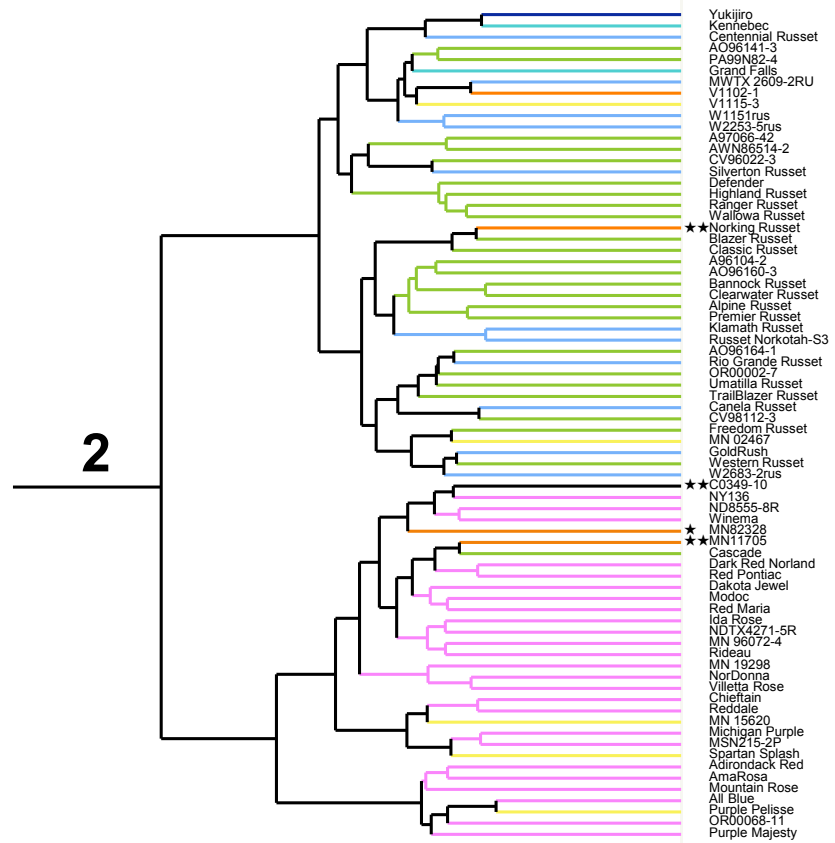




A



B



C

