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# **Nuclear and Chloroplast Microsatellite Markers to Assess Genetic Diversity and Evolution in Hazelnut Species, Hybrids and Cultivars**

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#### **Abstract**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), National Clonal Germplasm Repository (NCGR) in Corvallis, Oregon, preserves more than 800 accessions of hazelnut (*Corylus*) including *C. avellana* cultivars and representatives of 10 other recognized shrub and tree species. Characterization and study of genetic diversity in this collection requires cross-transferable markers such as trinucleotide microsatellite or simple sequence repeat (SSR) markers and universal chloroplast SSR markers. We developed new SSR markers, and evaluated 114 *Corylus* accessions representing 11 species and 44 interspecific hybrids. Eight of 23 SSRs generated easy-to-score alleles in all species and seven were highly polymorphic. For the seven, the average heterozygosity was moderate at 0.49 while allele number, genetic diversity and PIC were high at 11.71, 0.79 and 0.76, respectively. The three most polymorphic SSRs were CaC-C008, CaC-C040 and CaC-C118. Neighbor joining (NJ) clustering and structure analysis agreed with taxonomic analysis and supported inclusion of *C. maxima* in the large polymorphic species *C. avellana*. Analysis also indicated that *C. californica* is a distinct species rather than a botanical variety of *C. cornuta*. Six universal cpSSRs were polymorphic in *Corylus* and generated an average of 3 alleles per locus and 21 chlorotypes. Diversity at these cpSSRs was high and ranged from 0.33 to 0.64, with an average of 0.69. Incongruence in NJ topologies between the nuclear and chloroplast markers could be attributed to chloroplast capture during the ancestral diversification of the genus, or homoplasy. The phylogeographical relationships among the 21 chlorotypes in the 11 *Corylus* species support Asia as a refugium where several hazelnut lineages survived during glaciation and from which they reappeared only later after the dispersal event from Asia through the Mediterranean to Europe, and across the Atlantic to North America.

*Keywords*: *Corylus*, filbert, simple sequence repeat (SSR) markers, universal chloroplast SSRs.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

 Hazelnut, *Corylus* L., belongs to the family Betulaceae and subfamily Coryloideae. In addition to *Corylus*, the Coryloideae contains hornbeam (*Carpinus* L.), hophornbeam (*Ostrya* Scopoli), and *Ostryopsis* Decne. (Crane, 1989; Cronquist, 1981). The second subfamily, the Betuloideae, consists of alder (*Alnus* Mill.) and birch (*Betula* L.). The oldest known fossil record attributed to *Corylus* is a fruit involucre from the middle Eocene  $(-45 \text{ mya})$  in the Republic Flora of central Washington (Chen et al. 1999; Pigg et al. 2003). Coryloideae is supported as a monophyletic group (Yoo and Wen 2002, 2007) and shares several distinguishing characters including nutlets without lateral wings, vessels without spiral thickenings, absence of tracheids, and pollen without arci. Hazelnuts, like other members of the birch family, are deciduous, wind-pollinated, monoecious shrubs and trees with toothed, simple, ovate to obovate leaves alternately arranged. Morphological synapomorphies that are characteristic of *Corylus* include large animal-dispersed nuts and filaments that are completely divided longitudinally (Chen et al. 1999). The chromosome number of the genus is  $2n = 2x = 22$  (Thompson et al. 1996).

 The taxonomy of *Corylus* has been investigated since the mid-nineteenth century, with the number of described species depending on the emphasis placed by the author on certain anatomical and morphological characters (illustrated in Table 1 of Whitcher and Wen 2001). The inclusion of taxa within each section or subgenus of *Corylus* has varied significantly. The division of the genus into two sections, *Acanthochlamys* and *Corylus*, as proposed by de De Candolle (1864) and followed by Schneider (1916), and Li and Cheng (1979), agrees with internal transcribed spacers (ITS) phylogeny (Whitcher and Wen 2001). The tree species *C. ferox* Wall., with its distinctive spiny bur-like involucres, has invariably been placed in section or subgenus *Acanthochlamys* Spach.. Within section *Corylus*, three subclades are traditionally recognized. Subclade *Colurnae* Schneider consists of the tree species *C. colurna* L.*, C. jacquemontii* Decne., *C. chinensis* Franch. and *C. fargesii* C. K. Schneider. The latter species was described by Hu (1948). Subclade *Siphonochlamys* contains the bristle-husked

shrubs *C. cornuta* Marshall*, C. californica* Marshall and *C. sieboldiana* Blume. Subclade *Phyllochlamys* includes the shrubs with leafy involucres, *C. avellana* L., *C. americana* Marshall and the *C. heterophylla* Fisch. complex. Based on morphological traits (especially the husk or involucres) and molecular ITS and chloroplast rbcL phylogenetic analysis, *Acanthochlamys* is sister to the remainder of the genus *Corylus,* and subgenera *Siphonochlamys* and *Phyllochlamys* are sister taxa (Erdoğan and Mehlenbacher 2000a; Forest and Bruneau 2000; Forest et al. 2005; Whitcher and Wen 2001).

*Corylus* contains 11 commonly recognized species disjunctly distributed in the Northern Hemisphere. Of 11 species, two species occur in Europe and Asia Minor (*C. avellana* and *C. colurna*), three in North America (*C. americana* and *C. cornuta* in the east and *C. californica* in the west), and one in the Himalayas (*C. jacquemontii*). The remaining species are endemic to eastern Asia and include the tree hazels *C. chinensis*, *C. fargesii* Schneid. and *C. ferox*, and the shrub hazels *C. heterophylla* and *C. sieboldiana* (Whitcher and Wen 2001). Although these 11 species are commonly recognized, other species designations appear in the literature. *C. maxima* Mill., *C. pontica* Koch., and *C. colchica* Alb. have been described by some authors (Kasapligil, 1972) as distinct species closely related to *C. avellana.* Others consider these three to be variants within the highly polymorphic species *C. avellana*. Their morphological traits show continuous distributions, they are easily crossed with each other and give fully fertile offspring, and their geographic distributions overlap (Mehlenbacher, 1991; Rovira, 1997; Thompson et al. 1996). Within the bristle-husked shrubs (*Siphonochlamys*), *C. californica* is recognized as a distinct species by some authorities, and as a subspecies or botanical variety of *C. cornuta* by others. Within the Asian leafy-husked shrubs, var. *sutchuensis* Franch. and var. *yunnanensis* Franch. are adapted to warmer climates than *C. heterophylla*. They are recognized as botanical varieties of *C. heterophylla* by some authorities, and as the separate species *C. kweichowensis* Hu (Liang, 1988) and *C. yunnanensis* (Franch.) A. Camus , respectively, by others. Further, *C.* 

*thibetica* Batalin is sometimes listed as a variant of *C. ferox* and *C. mandshurica* Maxim and *C. hallaisanensis* Nakai occasionally appear in the literature as synonyms or variants of *C. sieboldiana* while *C. wangii* Hu is considered a form of *C. chinensis*. In this paper, we follow the consensus recognition of six shrub species (*C. avellana*, *C. americana*, *C. heterophylla*, *C. cornuta*, *C. californica*, and *C. sieboldiana*) and five tree species (*C. colurna*, *C. jacquemontii*, *C. chinensis*, *C. fargesii* and *C. ferox*).

 The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), National Clonal Germplasm Repository (NCGR) in Corvallis, Oregon, preserves more than 800 accessions of hazelnut representing cultivars and representatives of each of the recognized shrub and tree species. Microsatellite or simple sequence repeat (SSR) markers have become valuable molecular tools for fingerprinting accessions, assessment of genetic diversity in collections and linkage mapping due to their abundance, high degree of polymorphism, co-dominance and suitability for automation. In such a diverse collection, markers that are transferable across species are needed. Tri-nucleotide SSRs seem to be better candidates than dinucleotide SSRs for cross-transferability (Kutil and Williams 2001; Morgante et al. 2002; Scotti et al. 2002; Wang et al. 1994; Young et al. 2000). They are often clustered in regulatory genes (Young et al. 2000) and are more likely than dinucleotide SSRs to be found within expressed regions (Morgante et al. 2002; Wang et al. 1994). Trinucleotide repeats were three times more frequent in transcribed than in non-transcribed regions of the *Arabidopsis thaliana* and *Zea mays*  genomes (Morgante et al. 2002). They are more likely to be conserved across taxa, but tend to be less polymorphic than dinucleotide SSRs (Kutil and Williams 2001; Rajora et al. 2001; Shepherd et al. 2002). Alleles at trinucleotide SSRs are easier to score due to absence of the characteristic stuttering that plagues most dinucleotide alleles. Trinucleotide and tetranucleotide repeats have become the markers of choice for population, linkage and forensic studies in humans and other animal species (Gastier et al. 1995; Sheffield et al. 1995; Tozaki et al. 2000) and are recommended as universal

markers in plants (Testolin and Cipriani 2010). SSR markers were developed in *C. avellana* (Bassil et al. 2005a, b; Boccacci et al. 2005; Gürcan and Mehlenbacher 2010a, b; Gürcan et al. 2010a) and used for linkage mapping (Mehlenbacher et al. 2006; Gürcan et al. 2010a), to assess genetic relationships among cultivars (Boccacci and Botta 2010; Boccacci et al. 2006, 2008; Ghanbari et al. 2005; Gökirmak et al. 2009, Gürcan et al. 2010b) and to fingerprint cultivars in collections, identify synonyms, and determine parentage (Botta et al. 2005; Gökirmak et al. 2009; Sathuvalli and Mehlenbacher 2011). Cross-species transference of SSRs was demonstrated in *Corylus* (Bassil et al. 2005a; Boccacci et al. 2005) and in the Betulaceae (Gürcan and Mehlenbacher 2010b).

The chloroplast genome has a lower evolutionary rate than the nuclear genome. It is nonrecombining and shows a uniparental mode of inheritance, usually maternal in angiosperms and paternal in gymnosperms (Provan et al. 2001). Thus in angiosperms the chloroplast genome can only be disseminated by seeds or cuttings and chloroplast DNA markers provide information on past changes in species distribution that is unaffected by subsequent pollen movements. Despite its conserved gene order and a lack of recombination, the chloroplast genome shows length polymorphism associated with mononucleotide repeats. Non-coding intron and intergenic spacers are particularly variable and contain microsatellite and non-microsatellite polymorphisms even between closely related individuals and taxa in a range of plant groups (Provan et al. 2001). In recent years universal primer pairs have been developed for the analysis of chloroplast SSRs (cpSSRs) in different species (Provan et al. 2001). In several studies, cpSSRs provided insights into intraspecific phylogeographic variability (e.g. Petit et al. 2003) and allowed investigation of origin and domestication in different crop species (e.g. Arroyo-Garcìa et al. 2006). Their application to hazelnut is recent and to date has only been applied to *C. avellana* for investigating the post-glacial migration of wild populations in Europe (Palmé and Vendramin 2002) and studying the origin and diffusion of hazelnut cultivars in the Mediterranean basin (Boccacci and Botta 2009).

 The aim of this study was to determine cross-transferability of nuclear (n) SSRs isolated from a *C. avellana* library enriched for trinucleotide repeats to 11 species preserved at the NCGR; to identify the nuclear and chloroplast SSR markers most suitable for future studies in *Corylus* species; to fingerprint representative accessions from each species; and to assess diversity, structure and evolution of *Corylus* species.

#### **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

# **Plant material and DNA extraction**

The hazelnut accessions evaluated in this study were in the collection at USDA-ARS-NCGR and the Oregon State University's Smith Horticultural Research Farm in Corvallis, OR (Table 1). A total of 158 accessions were evaluated including: 6 *C. avellana* (which include 3 previously assigned to *C. maxima*), 26 *C. americana*, 30 *C. californica*, 9 *C. chinensis*, 13 *C. colurna*, 11 *C. cornuta*, 2 *C. fargesii*, 2 *C. ferox*, 7 *C. heterophylla*, 5 *C. jacquemontii*, 3 *C. sieboldiana* and 44 hybrids. DNA was extracted from actively growing leaves collected from the NCGR field in the spring using a modified PUREGENE® kit (Gentra Systems Inc., MN) protocol. Proteinase K and RNAse A treatment were added and the protein precipitation step was repeated twice.

# **Cross-species amplification**

GAA-enriched library 'C' construction and primer design were previously described (Bassil et al. 2005a; Gürcan et al. 2010). Twenty-three primer pairs were designed from 22 SSR-containing sequences and were tested for amplification in each of the accessions. Amplification success was indicated by the presence of a PCR product after ethidium bromide staining of 3% agarose gels. All 11 *Corylus* species were represented by the accessions. The 15 unique SSR primer pairs (Suppl Table 1,

Suppl Table 2) that generated a product in all of the species representatives were investigated further, with sizing by capillary electrophoresis.

# **Microsatellite marker analysis**

Fluorescently-labeled forward primers for the 15 SSRs were used for PCR amplification (Suppl Table 2). PCR reactions were carried out separately for each primer pair and up to three PCR products (one per SSR primer set) were multiplexed and separated using an ABI 3100 capillary electrophoresis instrument (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, Calif.) at the Core Labs of the Center for Genome Research and Biocomputing at Oregon State University. PCR reactions were carried out in 10 µL volumes using forward primers fluorescently labeled with 6-FAM, 5-HEX, or NED and unlabeled reverse primers (Operon Biotechnologies, Huntsville, AL). The PCR reactions were diluted with water by a factor ranging from 1:80 (FAM-labeled amplicons) and 1:160 (HEX-labeled products) to 1:320 (NED-labeled amplicons) and 0.5 µL was injected into the instrument. GeneScan version 2.1 (Applied Biosystems) was used for automated data collection and Genotyper version 2.0 (Applied Biosystems) was used for estimation of allele sizes.

PCR reactions were performed in a 10  $\mu$ L volume containing1x reaction buffer, 2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.2 mM dNTPs, 0.3 µM of each primer, 0.25 units of Biolase *Taq* DNA polymerase (Bioline USA Inc., Randolph, MA), and 2.5 ng genomic DNA. The PCR protocol consisted of one cycle of initial denaturation at 94 ºC for 3 min, followed by 35 cycles of denaturation at 93 ºC for 40 s, annealing at optimum Ta (Suppl. Table 1) for 40 s, and extension at 72 ºC for 40 s. A final extension cycle at 72 ºC for 30 min followed. DNA was amplified in an Eppendorf Gradient thermocycler (Brinkmann Instruments, Inc., Westbury, NY) or an MJ Research Tetrad thermocycler (MJ Research Inc., Watertown, MA). The success of the PCR reaction was verified by 2% agarose gel electrophoresis prior to capillary electrophoresis.

#### **Diversity and clustering**

 Of the 23 primer pairs that were tested, eight (CaC-C001a, CaC-C010, CaC-C020, CaC-C023, CaC-C035, CaC-C103, CaC-C115 and CaT-C502) were either difficult to amplify or failed to amplify in one or more *Corylus* species and were not pursued further (Supplementary Table 1). Of the 15 primer pairs that generated a product in all of the species, CaC-C114 generated up to four PCR products, indicating its presence in more than one location in the hazelnut genome. Data for CaC-C114 were not included for analysis or clustering. PowerMarker (Version 3.25) (Liu and Muse 2005) was used to calculate genetic diversity parameters for the 11 species at the remaining 14 SSRs (Table 2). These diversity measures consisted of: number of alleles (*A*); observed heterozygosity (*Ho*) or the number of heterozygous individuals in that population; gene diversity, often referred to as expected heterozygosity  $(H_e)$  and defined as the probability that two randomly chosen alleles from the population are different; and polymorphism information content (*PIC*) (Botstein et al. 1980). Speciesspecific or unique alleles  $(A_u)$  observed in only one species were also noted (Table 2).

Eight of the 14 SSRs characterized in each species were easy to score in all species and generated allele sizes expected on the basis of repeat motif (Supplementary Table 1). Genetic distance matrices were computed with PowerMarker using data for these eight SSRs by the proportion of shared alleles distance (*Dsa*):

$$
D_{sa} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^{m} \sum_{i=1}^{a_j} \min(p_{ij}, q_{ij})
$$

where  $p_{ij}$  and  $q_{ij}$  are the frequencies of the *i*th allele at the *j*th locus, *m* is the number of loci examined, and *aj* is the number of alleles at the *j*th locus. Neighbor joining (NJ) cluster analysis was used to group accessions using the eight SSRs (Fig. 2).

#### **Structure analysis**

The software program Structure 2.3.3 (Prichard et al. 2000) was used to infer population structure and assign individuals to populations based on the SSR genotypes. Structure uses a Bayesian approach to model-based clustering. Multiple runs were performed by setting the number of populations, k, from 5 to 12. The burn-in length was set to 200,000 with runs of 100,000 steps and each run was replicated three times.

#### **Chloroplast haplotype determination and data analysis**

A total of ten cpSSR loci were analyzed: ccmp1, ccmp2, ccmp3, ccmp4, ccmp5, ccmp6, ccmp7, ccmp8, ccmp9, and ccmp10. The primer pairs were designed by Weising and Gardner (1999) for *Nicotiana tabacum* L. and loci were initially tested in 40 accessions representing 11 *Corylus* species. Then, polymorphic cpSSR were used to determine the chloroplast haplotype in a total of 158 accessions of which 114 represented *Corylus* species and 44 were interspecific hybrids. PCR amplification was carried out using a reaction mixture (15 µl) consisting of 40 ng DNA template, 0.5  $\mu$ M of each primer, 200  $\mu$ M dNTPs, 2 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1.5  $\mu$  10x NH<sub>4</sub> buffer [160 mM (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, 670 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.8 at 25°C), 0.1% Tween-20], and 0.5 U BioTaq DNA polymerase (Bioline, London, UK). A thermocycler (MJ Research Inc., Watertown, MA) was used with the following temperature profile: 3 min of denaturation at 95°C, then 28 cycles of 30 sec of denaturation at 95°C, 45 sec of annealing at 54°C, and 90 sec of extension at 72°C; 10 min at 72°C as final extension step. Amplified fragments were loaded on a capillary sequencer ABI-PRISM 3130 Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, Calif., USA). Results of the run were processed with Genemapper v. 4.0 software and allele sizes were estimated using a GeneScan-500 LIZ size standard (Applied Biosystems).

In order to characterize the allelic diversity and informativeness of polymorphic cpSSRs in *Corylus* species, the number of alleles (*A*) and the gene diversity (*He*) were calculated for 114 *Corylus*

accessions (excluding hybrids) and 37 additional *C. avellana* cultivars characterized by Boccacci and Botta (2009) using the aforesaid methods (PCR amplification and SSR analysis). *A* was directly estimated, while  $H_e$  was calculated as:

$$
H_e = 1 - \Sigma p_i^2
$$

where  $p_i$  is the frequency of the  $i<sup>th</sup>$  allele (Nei 1987).

Genetic distances (1000 bootstraps) between 151 *Corylus* accessions were computed as:

 $D = [1 - (proportion of shared alleles)]$ 

using the program Microsat (Minch, 1997). A NJ tree was constructed using Mega v. 5 software (Tamura et al. 2011), including an individual of *Carpinus betulus* L. as outgroup taxon. To reconstruct a chloroplast DNA genealogy, a reduced median (RM) network was built based on the length multistate of microsatellites. This maximum-parsimony analysis was performed using the Network software (Bandelt et al. 1999), selecting the reduced median algorithm and the maximum parsimony (MP) option in order to clean the unnecessary median vectors and links.

# **RESULTS**

#### **SSR amplification and polymorphism**

 SSRs developed from a GAA-enriched library contained GA/CT, GAA/CTT, AGG/TCC, and GTAA motifs (Supplementary Table 1). Only CaC-C001b and CaC-C119 contained dinucleotide motifs while CaC-C001a contained the hepta-nucleotide motif CACAGAG. Amplification and polymorphism at the 23 SSRs was assessed first after 3% agarose gel electrophoresis (Supplementary Table 1). Polymorphism in *C. fargesii* was not evaluated since a single accession (Table 1) was available from this species at that time. Amplification rate across species was high and ranged from 74% to 100 %. All 23 primer pairs amplified in *C. avellana* as well as *C. americana*. In fact, CaC-C103 only amplified in these two species and failed to amplify in any of the accessions in the other

nine species. Of the SSRs that amplified for all the species, the polymorphism rate ranged from 41% in *C. jacquemontii* to 90% in *C. heterophylla*. The results (Supplementary Table 1) indicate that a variety of options are available for researchers interested in using SSRs for *Corylus* diversity assessments, even in those that are disjunctly distributed (Fig. 1).

 Of the 15 primer pairs that were evaluated by capillary electrophoresis in the 158 accessions, six proved less reliable for inclusion in the analyses. CaC-114 generated one or two PCR products ranging in size from 260 to 279 bp in *C. avellana*, the bristle–husked species *C. californica*, *C. cornuta* and *C. sieboldiana,* and the tree hazels *C. fargesii* and *C. chinensis*, where it can be used for genetic studies. However, it generated up to four PCR products in the remaining species, indicating a possible presence in two locations of the genome. Of the two dinucleotide-containing SSRs identified in this library, CaC-C001b was highly diverse as estimated from *A*, *Ho*, *He* and *PIC* in each of the species while CaC-C119 was less polymorphic in hazelnut species (*A,* 2 - 4; *PIC*, 0.22 - 0.63) and amplified a single product in *C. californica, C. jacquemontii* and most of the *C. cornuta* accessions (Table 2). CaC-C001b also generated a large number (9) of species-specific alleles (Table 2). Four of the trinucleotide containing SSRs (CaC-C108, CaC-C112, CaT-C501 and CaT-C504) generated many alleles that differed by 1 or 2 bp, possibly indicating sequence differences other than in repeat number. The resulting alleles were also difficult to score and were thus excluded in cluster or structure analyses. The abovementioned 6 SSRs were excluded from further analysis.

 Among the remaining 8 SSRs that generated easy-to-score alleles in all species, CaC-C036 contained a tetra-nucleotide motif and amplified the same allele (163) in all species except in *C. californica* and *C. jacquemontii* where it generated a 155 bp long fragment. In the other 7 SSRs, the average heterozygosity was moderate at 0.49 while allele number, genetic diversity and PIC were high at 11.71, 0.79 and 0.76, respectively. A single allele, 128, was in common between *C. cornuta* and *C. fargesii* accessions at CaC-C028 which generated another single unique allele, 138, in *C. ferox*. CaC-

C028 was polymorphic in the remaining species. The three most polymorphic tri-nucleotide SSRs based on largest number of alleles (*A*) and a relatively high number of unique alleles (*Au*) as compared to the other SSRs were CaC-C008, CaC-C040 and CaC-C118 (Table 2). The largest number of alleles  $(A = 21)$  was observed at CaC-C008; this included five species-specific alleles. At CaC-C040, *A* was 15 and *Au* was 4 (Table 2). At CaC-C118, *A* was 4 and *Au* was 2 (Table 2).

# **Nuclear microsatellite-based clustering**

 NJ cluster analysis based on the shared allele distance (D) is depicted in Figure 2. The hazelnut accessions were grouped into six groups: a 'Species' group that contained eight of the species but not *C. americana*, *C. avellana* or *C. fargesii*; two small hybrid groups (Hyb1 and Hyb2); two *C. americana* groups (Americana-Winkler and Americana-Rush) and a *C. avellana* group.

#### *Species cluster*

In the 'Species' group, accessions of the tree species *C. colurna*, *C. jacquemontii* and *C. chinensis* were grouped together, as were accessions of the bristle-husked species *C. sieboldiana*, *C. cornuta* and *C. californica*. Five of the seven *C. heterophylla* accessions formed a *C. heterophylla* group, which also included one *C. heterophylla* x *C. avellana* hybrid (Estrella #1). *C. heterophylla* CCOR124 was in a mixed subgroup in the Americana group and the sole C. *heterophylla* var. *thunbergii* accession (CCOR64) was sister to the *C. colurna* group. The two *C. ferox* accessions grouped together and were sister to the *C. cornuta* complex. Three groups of *C. colurna* x *C. avellana* accessions were also found in this large group: Newberg (CCOR168) grouped with *C colurna* accession CCOR450 in the tree species group; five *C. colurna* x *C. avellana* hybrids, mostly from Gellatly's work in British Columbia, grouped together and with the *C. heterophylla* x *C. avellana* hybrid Estrella #2 and *C.* x *colurnoides* CCOR9; and a third group was composed of two hybrid accessions Filcorn and Chinoka.

# *Hybrid groups*

The first hybrid group (Hyb1) contained the only *C. ×vilmorinii* accession (CCOR14) which grouped with a *C. americana* accession from Missouri (CCOR228). These two accessions were adjacent to the *C. colurna* x *C. avellana* hybrids Moturk-B from Michigan and Eastoka from British Columbia. The second hybrid group (Hyb 2) was formed by the *C. americana* x *C. avellana* hybrids CCOR638 and NY 200.

#### *Americana groups*

Two large groups contained the majority of the *C. americana* accessions. The first group included 'Winkler', and the second included 'Rush'. The Americana-Winkler group contained the largest number of *C. americana* accessions and was divided into three subgroups. The first two subgroups consisted of *C. americana* accessions from West Virginia, North Dakota, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts and Minnesota. The third subgroup included *C. americana* accessions CCOR675 from Illinois and CCOR686 from Pennsylvania, and *C. heterophylla*  CCOR124 from China. Also in this subgroup were *C. americana* x *C. avellana* hybrid Rutter G227S, *C. colurna* LB01.26 from Serbia and a *C. colurna* x *C. avellana* hybrid Freeoka from British Columbia. The second subgroup contained the two *C. fargesii* accessions which grouped together, in addition to a *C. colurna* accession (97093) from Serbia and a group of *C. americana* accessions from Iowa ('Winkler' and CCOR684), Pennsylvania, Missouri, New Jersey and Minnesota.

The Americana-Rush group contained the early selections of *C. americana* x *C. avellana* hybrids of early breeders John F. Jones (Lancaster, Pennsylvania), Clarence A. Reed (Washington, DC), George L. Slate (Geneva, New York), and Carl Weschcke (St. Paul, Minnesota). This group was subdivided into two subgroups. The first one contained the three 'Weschcke' hybrids (TP1, TP2 and

TP3), Slate's New York selections NY F-45, NY 110, NY 104, and NY F-20, and two *C. americana* accessions, CCOR685 from Wisconsin and CCOR694 from Minnesota. The second subgroup contained Jones hybrid 'Buchanan' which grouped with its parent 'Rush', the hybrid selections of Reed ('Reed' and 'Potomac'), Yoder #5, *C. americana* accession CCOR386 from Missouri, the Slate selections NY 616 and NY 1464, and Medium Long whose origin is unknown but was maintained and described by Slate.

#### *Avellana group*

The Avellana group contained a single *C. americana* x *C. avellana* hybrid accession Rutter G081S and three subgroups. Subgroup 1 contained the 3 *C. maxima* and 3 *C. avellana* accessions in this study in addition to the *C. colurna* x *C. avellana* hybrid Chinese Trazel J-1 from Oregon. Subgroup 2 was close to Subgroup 1 and contained three *C. colurna* x *C. avellana* hybrids: 'Dundee' and USOR 13-71 from Oregon, and Turkish Trazel Gellatly #15 from British Columbia. Subgroup 3 contained the remaining *C. colurna* x *C. avellana* hybrids from British Columbia (Chinese Trazels Gellatly #6 and #11, and 'Faroka', and three selections of Cecil Farris (Grand Traverse, 88BS and Lisa) which are descended from Faroka.

#### **Structure analysis**

We evaluated population structure and differentiation in the 109 *Corylus* accessions and 44 hybrid accessions (153 in total) with a Bayesian Markov Chain Monte Carlo approach implemented in Structure 2.1 (Pritchard et al. 2000). This approach is well-suited for outcrossing taxons like hazelnuts and minimizes deviations from Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium within an inferred population. The analyses using Structure with the species only dataset produced a clear 'plateau' in the estimated log probability of data Pr(X/K) between k = 9 (-1756.43 on average) and k = 10 (-1741.23 on average) and increased after  $k = 11$  (-1766.13 on average). Therefore we chose  $k = 9$  (Fig. 3) based on the ad hoc ln

Pr(X|K) method (Pritchard et al. 2000) which recommends picking the smallest value of *K* that captures the major structure of the data. However, when the hybrid accessions were included in the dataset, log probability of data  $Pr(X/K)$  did not reach a plateau at  $k = 11$  and thus we elected to describe population differentiation in the data from only species. However, it is interesting to note that in the Structure analysis of the full data set, unlike the species only data set, *C. colurna* x *C. avellana* hybrids formed a distinct group at  $k = 9$ , before *C. ferox* accessions which were differentiated at  $k = 10$ . In the species only data set, at k = 2, the hazelnut accessions split into two groups, the *C. cornuta* complex + *C. ferox* group and the remaining *Corylus* species. At k = 3, *C. americana* accessions separated from the species group. At k = 4, *C. avellana* accessions formed a distinct group. At k = 5, *C. californica*  accessions differentiated into a distinct group. At  $k = 6$ , *C. jacquemontii* accessions formed a distinct group while at k = 7, *C. chinensis* formed a distinct cluster. At k = 8, *C. colurna* accessions and *C. heterophylla* accessions were clearly differentiated. Finally, at  $k = 9$ , the two *C. ferox* accessions were differentiated into single cluster. The *C. fargesii* accessions had the highest average ancestry coefficient (defined as the inferred proportion of membership in the hazelnut gene pool) from the *C. americana* population (0.56) followed by that from *C. chinensis* population (0.39) (Fig. 3). *C. sieboldiana* accessions had an average ancestry coefficient of 0.35 and 0.34 from *C. ferox* and *C. cornuta*, respectively. As K increased, accessions from these two species, *C. fargesii* and *C. sieboldiana* never differentiated into their respective species populations.

 In each of the species groups differentiated by Structure, the highest ancestry coefficient for each accession was from that population except for some accessions of *C. americana* and *C. colurna* and one accession of *C. heterophylla*. *C. americana* accessions CCOR180, CCOR685, CCOR694 (4, 17 and 21, respectively in Fig. 3) had the highest average ancestry coefficient from *C. avellana*. These results agree with those obtained from NJ cluster analysis where these three *C. americana* accessions, along with 'Rush' (7 in Fig. 3) whose highest ancestry coefficient was from the *C. colurna* gene pool

(0.567) followed by *C. avellana* (0.226), were found in the Americana-Rush cluster (Fig. 2). CCOR228 (6 in Fig. 3) also had the highest ancestry coefficient from *C. avellana* (0.8) and was not found in the major *C. americana* only clusters of the NJ dendogram. Instead, it grouped with *C. avellana* hybrid accessions in the Hyb 1 cluster. The highest ancestry coefficient in CCOR679 (12 in Fig. 3), the only accession from West Virginia, was from *C. chinensis* (0.675) indicating its diversity from the included *C. americana* gene pool. One (*C. colurna* 97098, 47 in Fig. 3) out of the three *C. colurna* accessions [97100, CCOR452 = 49 and 53, respectively in Fig. 3) that had the highest ancestry coefficient from the *C. chinensis* pool grouped with *C. chinensis* accession in the NJ cluster dendrogram (Fig. 2). Both of the *C. colurna* accessions that had the second highest ancestry coefficient from the *C. americana* pool (97093 and LB1\_26, 42, and 50, respectively, in Fig. 3) grouped with *C. americana* accessions in the Americana cluster (Fig. 2), as did the sole *C. heterophylla* accession (CCOR124, 96 in Fig. 3) that had the highest ancestry coefficient from the *C. americana* population.

#### **Chloroplast haplotype determination**

Preliminary analysis of 40 *Corylus* accessions at 10 cpSSRs identified polymorphism in six loci. Locus ccmp10 showed four size variants. Three variants were found at loci ccmp2, ccmp3, ccmp4, and ccmp5 while two variants were observed at locus ccmp6. The allele variations differed by increments of 1 bp due to variation in the number of A or T residues within mononucleotide repeats. Ccmp2, ccmp3, ccmp4, and ccmp10 loci were previously found to be polymorphic in 26 European natural hazelnut populations (Palmé and Vendramin, 2002) and 75 *C. avellana* cultivars (Boccacci and Botta, 2009) , but ccmp5 and ccmp6 revealed polymorphism only in this work and in other species. This set of 6 cpSSR loci was then used to assess genetic variability in the *Corylus* complex. Of the remaining four loci, ccmp1 (129 bp) and ccmp7 (153 bp) were monomorphic, ccmp8 showed a very low PCR amplification level and ccmp9 gave no amplification products. Since the chloroplast genome

is inherited maternally in hazelnut, results were used to verify which *Corylus* species (known or hypothesized) was the female parent of each hybrid or to identify possible mistakes (Table 1).

The allelic diversity and informativeness of polymorphic chloroplast microsatellites was determined using the number of alleles (*A*) and the diversity values (*He*) in 114 *Corylus* accessions and 37 cultivars of *C. avellana* analyzed by Boccacci and Botta (2009) but not in the hybrids. *Corylus avellana* is economically the most important species of the genus and is the source of the most important cultivars. This species is very polymorphic based on morphology (Mehlenbacher, 1991) and genetic studies (Boccacci and Botta 2010; Gökirmak et al. 2009). Four chlorotypes were observed by Boccacci and Botta (2009) in a study of 75 *C. avellana* genotypes. Thus a representative set of hazelnut cultivars from Spain, Italy, Turkey, and Iran (Table 1) were included in this study in order to better evaluate the polymorphism of cpSSR and to investigate relationships among the *Corylus* species. Eighteen chlorotypes were observed in the 114 *Corylus* accessions and 44 hybrids (Table 1) using 6 polymorphic cpSSR loci (ccmp2, ccmp3, ccmp4, ccmp5, ccmp6, and ccmp10). The number of alleles per locus ranged from 2 to 4, with an average of 3. Diversity values ranged from 0.33 to 0.64, with an average of 0.69 (Table 3). This average value is higher than those reported in rice (Ishii and McCouch, 2000) and wheat (Ishii et al. 2001).

After including 37 previously analyzed *C. avellana* cultivars (Boccacci and Botta 2009), the number of detected chlorotypes increased to 21 (Table 3) and most *Corylus* species showed a unique most frequent haplotype (Table 1). Chlorotypes A, B, C, and D were reported in *C. avellana* by Boccacci and Botta (2009). Of these, chlorotype A was the most frequent and present in all geographical groups. All accessions of *C. colurna* showed chlorotype E with the exception of one individual (CCOR451) that had chlorotype F. A single chlorotype was found in *C. ferox* (H), *C. californica* (P), *C. jacquemontii* (G), and *C. sieboldiana* (N). All but one accession of *C. cornuta* had chlorotype Q. Chlorotype N was observed both in *C. heterophylla* and *C. sieboldiana*, but one

individual of *C. heterophylla* showed chlorotype O. Three chlorotypes were observed in *C. chinensis*  (I, J, and K) and two in *C. fargesii* (L and M). The most frequent chlorotype (Q) in *C. americana* was also most frequent in *C. cornuta*. However, the *C. americana* accession CCOR679 from West Virginia had a *C. avellana* chlorotype (B). Furthermore, four additional chlorotypes were specific to *C. americana*: S (mostly in Iowa accessions), T, U (only in two Michigan accessions), and V (Table 1).

The phylogenetic relationships among *Corylus* species using cpSSRs were examined in a NJ phylogram (Fig. 4) and a RM network diagram (Fig. 5). In the phylogram, 151 *Corylus* accessions were placed in five main clusters (Fig 4). The accessions of *C. colurna* were placed in the first cluster with two *C. avellana* cultivars (Tonda Bianca and Tonda Rossa) from southern Italy. The accessions of *C. chinensis* were placed separately in two subgroups in the second cluster with the *C. heterophylla* and *C. sieboldiana* accessions. The third group included almost all of the *C. avellana* cultivars and the two *C. fargesii* samples. The fourth group consisted of the North American species and the fifth cluster included all accessions of *C. ferox* and *C. jacquemontii* placed in two main clades.

In the reduced median network (Fig. 5), the 21 chlorotypes found in 11 *Corylus* species were placed in three main groups. The first group included the haplotypes observed in *C. heterophylla* and *C. sieboldiana* (N and O) and *C. chinensis* (I, J, and K) from eastern Asia and *C. colurna* (E and F). Moreover, chlorotype E was related to the rare chlorotype D observed in two *C. avellana* cultivars (Tonda Bianca and Tonda Rossa). The second cluster included the chlorotypes reported in *C. avellana* (A, B, and C) that were related to the chlorotypes obtained in *C. fargesii*. Chlorotypes H (*C. ferox*) and G (*C. jacquemontii*) were placed in an intermediate position between the second and the third group. The third group comprised the 6 haplotypes observed in the North American species (*C. californica*, *C. cornuta*, and *C. americana*) (Fig. 5).

# **DISCUSSION**

 The high cross-amplification of hazelnut microsatellite markers in this study (74-100%) agrees with previous reports in *Corylus* (Bassil et al. 2005a; Boccacci et al. 2005; Gürcan and Mehlenbacher 2010a). Based on seven trinucleotide SSRs, the average heterozygosity was moderate at 0.49 while allele number, genetic diversity and PIC were high (means 11.71, 0.79 and 0.76, respectively). The diversity parameters were higher than those previously observed for 6 tri-nucleotide SSRs evaluated in 28 accessions that included seven *Corylus* species (Bassil et al. 2005a). The higher values were expected, as this study included a larger number of species representatives. In fact, for five of the SSRs in common between the two studies (CaC-C003, CaC-C005, CaC-C028, CaC-C111 and CaC-C118) (Bassil et al. 2005a), all of the diversity parameters were higher in this study (Table 2). Based on diversity parameters, trinucleotide motifs have been reported as less informative than the dinucleotide types (Bassil et al. 2005a; Liewlaksaneeyanawin et al. 2004; Stagel et al. 2008) and are typically associated with a low level of variability. When compared in hazelnut (Bassil et al. 2005a), the number of alleles as well as heterozygosity were lower for trinucleotide SSRs. The moderate heterozygosity and high number of alleles of the seven best trinucleotide SSRs chosen for this study is mostly biased as we chose the best performing trinucleotide SSRs.

The amplification and polymorphism rates were not correlated to the distance of each species from *C. avellana* but were definitely limited by the number of accessions representing each species. For example, a lower rate of amplification (78%) in *C. ferox* and the lowest rate of polymorphism (41%) in *C. sieboldiana* are likely the result of the use of few accessions of these species (2 and 3, respectively). Additional importations of east Asian *Corylus* would benefit future studies. Furthermore, reported polymorphism could also be lower than if assessed by capillary electrophoresis since polymorphism in all species was initially assessed with the relatively lower resolution 3% agarose gel electrophoresis technique. In fact, using capillary electrophoresis, CaC-C028 and CaC-C003 were

polymorphic in *C. avellana* and *C. jacquemontii*, respectively, while four SSRs (CaC-C005, Cac-C112, CaC-C119 and CaC-C501) were polymorphic in *C. colurna* (Supplementary Table 1).

Despite the small number of nuclear SSRs used in this study (8), nuclear SSR-based clustering mostly agreed with previous taxonomic classification in hazelnut (Erdoğan and Mehlenbacher 2000a; Forest and Bruneau 2000; Forest et al. 2005; Whitcher and Wen 2001). The bristle-husked shrub species of subclade *Siphonochlamys* (*C. californica*, *C. cornuta* and *C. sieboldiana*) grouped together in the Species clade; as did the *Colurnae* subclade tree species *C. jacquemontii* (all 5 accessions), most of the *C. colurna* (8 of 13 accessions) and *C. chinensis* (all 9 accessions). However, the two accessions of *C. fargesii* grouped together but were placed in the Americana-Winkler clade. Accessions of other species formed distinct and separate groups: *C. ferox* (n=2) and *C. heterophylla* (5 of 7). Accessions of *C. avellana* (n=3) and *C. maxima* (n=3), grouped together in the dendrogram, supporting their placement in one large, polymorphic species designated *C. avellana*. The sample sizes for each species in this study are small. Still, this study agrees with previous results and does not support *C. maxima* as a separate taxon. However, our data clearly indicates that *C. californica* is a separate species rather than a botanical variety of *C. cornuta* (Erdoğan and Mehlenbacher 2000a).

The leafy-husked shrub species of the subclade *Phyllochlamys* did not group together, most likely due to the large number of hybrid accessions between *C. americana* and *C. avellana*, or that contained *C. avellana*, included in this study. This is illustrated by clade Americana-Rush where 'Rush', the *C. americana* selection used in early efforts to breed hazelnuts adapted to the eastern U.S., grouped with its hybrid offspring 'Buchanan', 'Reed', 'Potomac', and several of the New York selections of Slate. The diversity among accessions of *C. colurna*, *C. americana*, *Americana × Avellana* hybrids, and *Colurna × Avellana* hybrids is striking, as illustrated by their presence in multiple clades in the dendrogram (Fig. 2). These results with *C. americana* and *C. americana*  $\times$  *C. avellana* hybrids agrees with previous findings (Sathuvalli and Mehlenbacher 2011). Hybrids between *C. colurna* and *C. avellana* were found in the Species, Hybrid1, Americana-Winkler and Avellana clades. Hybrids between *C. americana* and *C. avellana* were found in all except the Species clade. *C. americana* accessions were found in the many groups of the Americana-Winkler clade and in the Hybrid1 and Americana-Rush clades. Such diversity in *C. americana* and its hybrids is very useful in the breeding of new hazelnut cultivars adapted to the eastern U.S.

Structure, a Bayesian clustering approach that probabilistically assigns individuals to populations based on genotype, differentiated all species into groups except for *C. fargesii* (n=2) and *C. sieboldiana* (n=3). These two species never differentiated into individual populations, which is not surprising given the small number of accessions available for these two species. Assignment of some individuals from *C. americana* and *C. colurna* to multiple populations (Fig. 3) agreed with their placement in the distance-based NJ dendrogram (Fig. 2) and further supports the high diversity of accessions in these species.

The NJ phylogenetic trees produced from nuclear and chloroplast SSR loci did not give congruent topologies (Fig. 2 and 4, respectively). The phylogeny obtained with nSSR markers corresponded fairly well with those based on morphological characteristics or ITS sequences (Erdoğan and Mehlenbacher 2000a; Whitcher and Wen 2001) and on nontranscribed spacer of the 5S rRNA genes (Whitcher and Wen 2001). The classification based on cpSSR markers is not in agreement with the results of taxonomic classification, but was very similar to that of Erdoğan and Mehlenbacher (2000a) who compared chloroplast *matK* gene sequences. The cpSSR-based tree separated American, European, and Asian species, in spite of morphological similarity of some of the species across continents.

The incongruence between nuclear and chloroplast phylogenetic topologies is typically explained by either lineage sorting or hybridization (Wendel and Doyle 1998). Lineage sorting assumes that there was notable ancestral polymorphism that was rapidly fixed, so that little remains

detectable today. The discrepancy in the two topologies could also result from ancient hybridization and subsequent chloroplast capture, so that chloroplast topologies do not accurately reflect organismal relationships. The cpSSR results suggested possible hybridizations among some *Corylus* species that shared the same chlorotype profile: chlorotype N was observed in almost all *C. heterophylla*  accessions and in all *C. sieboldiana* individuals; and 12 *C. americana* accessions shared chlorotype Q with *C. cornuta*. Sharing of chlorotypes between two potentially hybridizing species only in areas where they are sympatric would lend support to the local hybridization hypothesis. As reported in Figure 1, each pair of species considered are found in the same geographical area: *C. heterophylla* and *C sieboldiana* are from eastern Asia, and *C. americana* and *C. cornuta* from eastern North America. Controlled hybridizations among eight *Corylus* species showed that crosses between *C. heterophylla*  and *C. sieboldiana*, and *C. americana* and *C. cornuta* are very difficult (Erdoğan and Mehlenbacher 2000b). This contrasted with our cpSSR results. However, chloroplast capture might not be recent and could have occurred during the ancestral diversification of the genus (Whitcher and Wen 2001). Alternatively the same cpSSR profile observed in these pairs of species could be a consequence of homoplasy (occurrence of alleles identical in state but not identical by descent). For *C. maxima* and *C. avellana*, cpSSR data agree with nSSR results, and indicate that *C. maxima* is not a separate taxon.

The RM network based on cpSSR polymorphism enabled the identification of three main chlorotype lineages (Fig. 5). General distribution of plastid lineages was not fully congruent with present-day taxonomy, but was very similar to the topology of the cpSSR-based NJ tree (Fig. 4). The clear geographical distribution of lineages supported an early differentiation among *Corylus* species from Asia, Europe, and North America with a few exceptions. *C. fargesii* (chlorotypes L and M) and *C. jacquemontii* (chlorotype G) did not cluster with other Asian species, while two *C. avellana*  accessions (chlorotype D) were closely related to *C. colurna* (chlorotype E) in the Asian lineage. Divergence between the Himalayan *C. jacquemontii* and the other Asian species, particularly the tree

species of the subsection *Colurnae*, was probably due to the rise of the Himalaya mountains (Whitcher and Wen 2001). *C. fargesii* from China, called the paperbark tree hazel, is morphologically distinct from the other tree species in that its bark exfoliates like a paper birch (*Betula papyrifera* Marsh.) (Erdoğanand Mehlenbacher 2000a). The PCR-RFLP and SSR data from cpDNA obtained by Palmé and Vendramin (2002) suggested that hybridization could have occurred between *C. colurna* and several wild *C. avellana* individuals. The close relationship between *C. colurna* and two *C. avellana*  accessions ('Tonda Bianca' and 'Tonda Rossa') supports this hypothesis. Nevertheless, *C. colurna* is found from the Balkans to Asia Minor while 'Tonda Bianca' and 'Tonda Rossa' are only located in southern Italy. This might seem to argue against hybridization, but chloroplast capture might not have taken place directly and transfer could have occurred via wild and cultivated forms of *C. avellana*, during migrations in the Mediterranean Basin (Boccacci and Botta 2009).

The phylogeographical relationships among the 21 chlorotypes found in 11 *Corylus* species support several biogeographic observations reported in the literature (Chen et al. 1999; Whitcher and Wen 2001). Asia may have served as a refugium where several hazelnut lineages survived during the glaciations and from which they reappeared only later after the dispersal event from Asia through the Mediterranean to Europe, and across the Atlantic to North America (Whitcher and Wen 2001). The high number of cpSSR haplotypes observed among the Asian species supports this hypothesis, already demonstrated on the basis of morphological, fossil and molecular data (Chen et al. 1999; Whitcher and Wen 2001). In the RM network, the intermediate position of Asian chlorotypes I, J, and K (*C. chinensis*), and N and O (*C. heterophylla* and *C. sieboldiana*) between the European chlorotypes A, B, and C (*C. avellana*), which were associated with the Chinese chlorotypes L and M (*C. fargesii*), also support the migration hypothesis from Asia to the Mediterranean Basin and Europe from local common ancestors (Whitcher and Wen 2001). Moreover, the position of chlorotype Q in the American group, observed both in *C. cornuta* and in several accessions of *C. americana*, supports the hypothesis that

long distance migration to North America may have occurred during the late Tertiary both from Asia via the Bering land bridge (*C. cornuta* and *C. californica*) and from Europe via the Atlantic (*C. americana*) (Whitcher and Wen 2001).

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**Table 1** List of *Corylus* accessions used in this study. Their Plant Introduction (PI) Number, Local inventory number (prefix CCORfor Corvallis Corylus) taxon, origin and chlorotype are listed. O.P. indicates open pollinated. The number listed for each accession corresponds to the numbers in Fig. 3.

**Table 2** Diversity parameters of 12 single-locus hazelnut loci in each of the 11 species evaluated in this study. Allele number (*A*), observed heterozygosity (*Ho*), expected heterozygosity (*He*), and polymorphism information index (*PIC*) were calculated for each species with PowerMarker. Overall *A*, *Ho*, *Ho* and PIC were calculated only for the eight SSRs that amplified in all species and were used for cluster and structure analysis.

**Table 3** Chlorotypes genotyped and allelic diversity at 6 cpSSR loci in 114 *Corylus* species individuals and 37 additional *C. avellana* accessions

**Fig. 1.** Geographical distribution of *Corylus* species

**Fig. 2.** NJ cluster analysis of hazelnut accessions using the proportion of shared allele distance based on 8 trinucleotide-containing SSRs (except for CAC-C036 which contains a tetranucleotide repeat).

**Fig. 3.** Assignment of 109 *Corylus* accessions to 9 populations by Structure version 2.3.3. Each *individual bar* represents an accession (see Table 1 for accession information) Numbers 1–26=*C. americana*, 27–32=*C. avellana*, 33–41=*C. chinensis*, 42–54= *C. colurna*, 55–65=*C. cornuta*, 66– 90=*C. californica*, 91–92=*C. fargesii*, 93–94=*C. ferox*, 95-101=*C. heterophylla*, 102–106=*C.* 

*jacquemontii*, 107-109=*C. sieboldiana*. The *Y-axis* displays the estimated membership of each individual in a particular cluster or population.

**Fig. 4.** A NJ tree showing phylogenetic relationships among *Corylus* accessions revealed by 6 cpSSR

**Fig. 5.** Reduced median network representing relations of 21 chlorotypes in the *Corylus*  complex. Legend: A, B, C, and D - *C. avellana*; E and F - *C. colurna*; G - *C. jacquemontii;* H - *C. ferox*; I, J, and K - *C. chinensis*; L and M - *C. fargesii*; N and O - *C. heterophylla* and *C. sieboldiana*; P - *C. californica*; Q – *C. cornuta* and *C. americana*; R, S, T, and U – *C. americana*

**Supplementary Table 1**. Amplification and polymorphism of twenty-three SSRs developed from a trinucleotide*-*enriched library (GAA) of hazelnut. Also listed are the SSR motif, primer sequences, expected size, optimum annealing temperature linkage group location, and citation where available.





















**C.** avellana L. **Tabari Rood** Iran **B** C. av\_Tabari Rood **Properties and Secure 2016** Tran **B** C. av\_Tabari Rood **Exercition** in C. *fargesii* included in assessing amplification an polymorphism of the 15 SSRs described i



Table 2.















\*N. individuals did not include any of the hybrids





Fig. 2.











