

New Source of Resistance in *Cucumis melo*

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In spring-summer 2007 some new wild *Cucumis* accessions coming from Cabo Verde were sown in a greenhouse in order to regenerate and classify them.

Material and Methods: Accessions were cultivated in sandy soil with drip irrigation during the period April-July of 2007. Data related to plant habit, leaf and fruit characteristics were recorded.

Results and Conclusions: The accession from Cabo Verde, C-835 (registration number at the EELM germplasm collection), was classified as *C. africanus* Lindl attending Kirkbride (1993). Plants were of low vigour, with leaves 5-palmately lobed, 12-13 cm long and 9-10 cm wide. Fruits were small, 8 cm long and 3 cm wide, cylindrical shaped, fruit skin was mainly white color, with longitudinal purplish brown stripes; fruits had aculei of 0,4 cm long. Flowers of this accession were found to be very aromatic.

The accession C-836 was classified as *C. melo* subsp. *agrestis* (Naudin) Pangalo based on the character of pubescence type on the female-flower hypanthium (Kirkbride, 1993). Plants were vigorous, monoecious, with shallowly ovate leaves of 10-12 cm long and 7-8 cm wide. Fruits were very small, 4-5 cm long and 3-4 cm wide, smooth skinned, green coloured with dark green longitudinal stripes (Picture 1).

During the season, observations under natural infestation conditions were also recorded. C-836 showed scarce presence of *Bemisia tabaci* in spite of the high whitefly population observed in the greenhouse. This accession was also tested for tolerance to *A. gossypii* in the laboratory, following the methodology described by Ivanoff (1945). Experiments were carried out in climatic chamber at 25 °C (light) and 20 °C (dark) and 16:8 h (L:D) photoperiod.

Each plant of fifteen was infested with 10 recently emerged aphids at the emerging first true leaf stage. No curled leaves were observed seven days after infestation, so the accession was considered aphid tolerant. Non-choice tests are in progress to evaluate its possible resistance against whitefly.

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Literature Cited

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Picture 1. Fruit of C-836 accession

