

Genetic relationships in *Saccharum* complex germplasm collections based on morphological and molecular markers

Hubungan kekerabatan koleksi plasma nutfah tebu (Saccharum complex) berdasarkan penanda morfologi dan molekuler

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Received 28 January 2021/ Accepted 27 April 2021

Abstract

Sugarcane has a high degree of heterozygosity and is a cross-pollinator, so information about the genetic relationship between the accessions in germplasm collections is very important for selecting the prospective parent in crossbreeding. This research aims to determine the phylogenetic relationship of 24 Saccharum complex accessions and to verify the grouping of accessions using 37 morphological and three microsatellite molecular markers. Interpretation of morphological and molecular data was obtained from the analysis using the NTYSYpc-2.02i program. The results show that within the 24 accessions analyzed using morphological markers, some accessions did not cluster as the classification at the conservation time. This difference is due to the morphological markers, so the value of genetic similarity among accessions analyzed is increased. In contrast, the grouping of molecular markers shows that each accession was grouped according to the classification at the conservation time. These accessions had a low genetic similarity of 0.20 with a broad genetic distance of 0.80. This broad genetic distance indicates that the twenty-four accessions have a distant genetic relationship with one another, so that the genetic diversity of these accessions is relatively high. The high genetic diversity in germplasm collections improves its potential as a crossing parent to obtain a high heterosis effect.

[Keywords: *germplasm collection, heterozygosity, heterosis, microsatellites, Saccharum complex*]

Abstrak

Tebu memiliki derajat heterozigositas yang tinggi dan menyerbuk silang, sehingga informasi tentang hubungan kekerabatan aksesori dalam koleksi plasma nutfah sebagai calon tetua persilangan merupakan hal yang sangat penting. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui hubungan kekerabatan 24 aksesori *Saccharum* complex dan memverifikasi pengelompokan aksesori tersebut menggunakan 37 penanda morfologi dan 3 penanda molekuler mikrosatelit.

Interpretasi data morfologi dan molekuler diperoleh dari hasil analisis menggunakan program NTYSYpc-2.02i. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa dari 24 aksesori yang dianalisis menggunakan penanda morfologi, ditemukan beberapa aksesori yang tidak mengelompok sesuai klasifikasi pada saat konservasi. Perbedaan ini disebabkan oleh penanda morfologi, sehingga nilai kemiripan genetik di antara aksesori yang dianalisis meningkat. Sebaliknya, pengelompokan menggunakan penanda molekuler menunjukkan bahwa masing-masing aksesori mengelompok menurut spesies sesuai dengan klasifikasi pada saat konservasi, dan 24 aksesori tersebut memiliki kemiripan genetik rendah yaitu 0,20 dengan jarak genetik sebesar 0,80. Jarak genetik yang lebar ini menunjukkan bahwa dua puluh empat aksesori tersebut memiliki hubungan genetik yang jauh antara satu dengan yang lainnya, sehingga keragaman genetik aksesori tersebut cukup tinggi. Keragaman genetik yang tinggi pada koleksi plasma nutfah ini meningkatkan potensinya sebagai tetua persilangan untuk mendapatkan efek heterosis yang tinggi.

[Kata kunci: plasma nutfah, heterosigositas, heterosis, mikrosatelit, *Saccharum* complex]

Introduction

Sugarcane is one of the most important industrial crops in tropical and subtropical regions because of its ability to store high carbohydrates to produce sugar and biofuel. Sugarcane is an economically important agricultural crop cultivated in over 90 countries, contributing to nearly 80 % of global white sugar production (Raj *et al.*, 2016; Diederichs *et al.*, 2016; Aitken *et al.*, 2018; Pocovi *et al.*, 2020).

Currently, the national sugar production has not been able to meet consumption needs due to several constraints, including low sugarcane and sugar productivity. One of the efforts to overcome this food problem is to intensify breeding activities to obtain superior sugarcane varieties. The assembly of new superior sugarcane varieties is highly dependent on the availability of genetic

diversity of *Saccharum* spp.

The genetic diversity of *Saccharum* spp. is abundant in Indonesia because this country is known as one of the original centers of *Saccharum* (FAO, 2019). The collection of sugarcane germplasm in the Indonesian Sugar Research Institute (ISRI) began in the 1890s by Dutch researchers through obtaining accessions of sugarcane from within the Indonesian archipelago and introducing clones from abroad (ISRI, 1997). Lamadji (1994) reported that six expeditions conducted in Indonesia to explore wild sugarcane in Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Maluku, North Sumatera, and Irian Jaya (West Papua) in 1976, 1984, 1985, and 1995. In 2014, the volume of sugarcane germplasm collections managed and conserved by ISRI consisted of 5,294 accessions. The collection consists of a group of native cane (*Saccharum officinarum*), wild cane (*Saccharum spontaneum*, *Saccharum robustum*, *Saccharum barberi*, *Saccharum sinensis*, and *Saccharum edule*), wild relatives of *Saccharum* (*Erianthus* and *Miscanthus*), and *Saccharum* hybrid (Mirzawan *et al.*, 2014). The modern sugarcane cultivars originated from the *Saccharum* complex, which consists of two wild *Saccharum* species (*S. spontaneum*, and *S. robustum*), four cultivated species (*S. officinarum*, *S. sinense*, *S. barberi*, and *S. edule*), and four interrelated genera (*Erianthus*, *Miscanthus*, *Narenga*, and *Sclerostachya*) (Todd *et al.*, 2014).

Sugarcane is a polyploid plant and has a very complex genome. The *Saccharum* species present large genomes and variations in the number of chromosomes (Liu *et al.*, 2016; Vieira *et al.*, 2018). The complexity of the *Saccharum* genome is inherited by modern sugarcane cultivars, in which its levels of ploidy, often aneuploidy, and have a large genome size of about 10 GB (Vieira *et al.*, 2018; Zhang *et al.*, 2018).

Pollination of sugarcane is both open-pollinated and cross-pollinated. Individual plants have a high degree of heterozygosity and the appearance of superior varieties caused by heterosis (Birchler & Riddle, 2014). With these types of pollinations, sugarcane will produce genetically distinct offspring: between individual offspring, between offspring and their parents, between generations of one offspring and other offspring generations. To maximize the utilization of the sugarcane germplasm collection, it is necessary to evaluate and analyze genetic relationships between the accessions. Genetic relationships between collected germplasm can be evaluated and analyzed through morphological and molecular markers. This will facilitate the selection process of crossing parents and optimize selection procedures (Khan *et al.*, 2009).

An important step before crossing is the selection of the correct parent cross to obtain superior offspring. The strategy for selecting parents can be carried out by characterizing the germplasm with morphological and agronomical

markers. However, errors can occur because the vegetative traits are influenced by the environment and often do not reflect the genetic diversity of actual *Saccharum* accessions (Manechini *et al.*, 2018; Medeiros *et al.*, 2020). Therefore, molecular markers can be used as a complementary tool to characterize morphologically and to identify accessions accurately and reliably so that the combination of accessions as cross parents is suitable for breeding purposes (Marconi *et al.*, 2011; dos Santos *et al.*, 2012; Singh *et al.*, 2018).

Sugarcane breeders and geneticists have discovered the use of numerous DNA markers, including amplified fragment length polymorphisms (AFLP) (Caroll & Curtis, 1996; D'Hont & Glaszmann, 2001), restriction fragment length polymorphisms (RFLP) (Burnquist *et al.*, 1995), single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP), simple sequence repeats (SSRs) (Pandey *et al.*, 2011; Hameed *et al.*, 2012), random amplification of polymorphic DNAs (RAPD) (Ullah *et al.*, 2013), inter simple sequence repeat (ISSRs) (Devarumath *et al.*, 2012; Rao *et al.*, 2016; Oliveira *et al.*, 2017), r-DNA-ITS sequence and expressed sequence tag-simple sequence repeat (EST-SSRs) to improve the *Saccharum* breeding (Ali *et al.*, 2019). Among these molecular markers, SSR (microsatellite) markers have been widely used to study sugarcane genetic diversity, genetic mapping, cross-transferability, paternity analysis, segregation analysis, and marker-assisted selection. SSR primer pairs are considered the most capable marker for plant genetics and breeding programs because of their characteristics that are co-dominant, multi-allelic nature, and relatively abundant with an excellent genome coverage (Pan, 2010; Costa *et al.*, 2011; dos Santos *et al.*, 2012; Silva *et al.*, 2012; Lopes *et al.*, 2015; Viera *et al.*, 2016; Ali *et al.*, 2019).

This study aims to determine the genetic relationship of 24 clones of *Saccharum* complex members based on morphological and microsatellite molecular markers and to verify the grouping of 24 *Saccharum* complex clones based on microsatellite markers.

Materials and Methods

This research was conducted in the ISRI's germplasm collection station and Biotechnology Laboratory in the 2017/2018 planting season. Twenty-four accessions of ISRI's sugarcane germplasm were members of the *Saccharum* complex, consisting of *S. officinarum*, *S. barberi*, *S. sinense*, *S. robustum*, *S. spontaneum*, *Erianthus*, *Miscanthus*, and *Saccharum* hybrids as an outgroup used in this study (Table 1).

Morphological characterization

Morphological characterization was carried out directly in the ISRI's germplasm collection station when the plants were \pm seven months old. Each accession was planted in 2 rows, and each row

consisted of 10 clumps in the germplasm station. Data on measurable morphological characters were recorded in 2017/2018 planting season. Morphological traits were measured on ten random stems for each accession. A total of 37 morphological characters covering three main organs, namely leaves, stems, and buds, were evaluated according to Sastrowijono (1996). Most of these attributes were not subjected to selection in breeding programs; 7 of them related to leaves, 9 of them related to stem traits, while the other seven were subsidiary traits related to buds (Table 2). All measures and observations were carried out in the ISRI's germplasm station and laboratory by means of metric rule and color chart, by the same operators for each attribute, considered stable enough observations for the different genotypes.

Molecular characterization

Deoxy Nucleic Acid (DNA) extraction was carried out using the CIMMYT Laboratory method. This method followed Saghai-Marooof *et al.* (1984) with minor modification by reducing one cycle for precipitation. DNA was precipitated without overnight incubation at room temperature but incubated for 60 minutes at -20°C. This method had been used in the molecular research of sugarcane by Alix *et al.* (1998). The molecular

characterization in this study used three types of microsatellite primers, as shown in Table 3.

The PCR results were visualized by electrophoresis on 1.5% agarose gel with 100 bp DNA ladder (Fermentas) and 1 kb DNA ladder (Promega) as DNA markers. The gel was visualized using Ethidium Bromide by incubated for 45 minutes in a dark room and observed with a UV transilluminator and documented with Doc XR Gel (Biorad).

Data analysis and interpretation

Morphological character data were transferred to the binary data format with number 1 for the character that appeared (present) and number 0 for the character that did not appear (absent). Likewise, molecular data in the form of amplified DNA bands were interpreted as qualitative data. Then the data were presented in the form of binary data as seen from the presence and absence of DNA bands. The presence of DNA bands was marked with the number 1, while the absence of DNA bands as indicated by the number 0 in the same array. The interpretation of this data referred to the research of Pan *et al.* (2003). The DNA bands generated through microsatellite markers were marked with numbers 1 and 0 and presented in the form of binary data.

Table 1. Sugarcane germplasm accessions were used in the study
Tabel 1. Akses plasma nutfah tebu yang digunakan dalam penelitian

No.	Accession name/ <i>Nama aksesi</i>	Species/ <i>Spesies</i>	Locations/ <i>Lokasi</i>	Years of expedition/ <i>Tahun exepedisi</i>
1.	IS 76-202	<i>Erianthus</i>	Sulawesi	1976
2.	IS 76-205	<i>Erianthus</i>	Sulawesi	1976
3.	IK 76-149	<i>Erianthus</i>	Kalimantan	1976
4.	IK 76-150	<i>Erianthus</i>	Kalimantan	1976
5.	IK 76-153	<i>Erianthus</i>	Kalimantan	1976
6.	IJ 76-374	<i>Erianthus</i>	Irian Jaya	1976
7.	IJ 76- 375	<i>Erianthus</i>	Irian Jaya	1976
8.	IJ 76-370	<i>Erianthus</i>	Irian Jaya	1976
9.	IJ 76-348	<i>Erianthus</i>	Irian Jaya	1976
10.	IJ 76-396	<i>Erianthus</i>	Irian Jaya	1976
11.	M 442-51	<i>Saccharum</i> spp. Hybrids	B37172 X M213-40	*)
12.	PS-862	<i>Saccharum</i> spp. Hybrids	POJ 2722 (polycross)	*)
13.	TD 50	<i>S.officinarum</i>	Jawa	*)
14.	TD 53	<i>S.officinarum</i>	Jawa	*)
15.	15 OC 18	<i>S.sinense</i>	*)	1915
16.	15 OC 19	<i>S.sinense</i>	*)	1915
17.	IK76-36	<i>S.spontaneum</i>	Kalimantan	1976
18.	IK76-41	<i>S.spontaneum</i>	Kalimantan	1976
19.	IS 76-175	<i>Miscanthus</i>	Sulawesi	1976
20.	IS 76-181	<i>Miscanthus</i>	Sulawesi	1976
21.	IJ 76-412	<i>S.robustum</i>	Irian Jaya	1976
22.	IJ 76-415	<i>S.robustum</i>	Irian Jaya	1976
23.	X OC 55	<i>S.barberi</i>	*)	1921
24.	X OC 56	<i>S.barberi</i>	*)	1925

Notes : *) unknown

Keterangan : *) tidak diketahui

Table 2. Qualitative and quantitative morphological markers are assessed in 24 accessions of the *Saccharum complex*. Abbreviation, morphological markers/characters, and descriptors were indicated for each observed variable

Tabel 2. Penanda morfologi kualitatif dan kuantitatif yang digunakan untuk menilai 24 aksesi *Saccharum complex*. Singkatan, penanda/karakter morfologi dan descriptor ditunjukkan untuk setiap variabel yang diamati

Abbreviation <i>Singkatan</i>	Morphological markers/characters <i>Penanda/karakter morfologi</i>	Descriptors <i>Deskriptor</i>
D1	Curved leaf blade of the plant <i>Lengkung helai daun</i>	A. Upright (<i>Tegak</i>) B. Curve $<1/2$ (<i>Melengkung $<1/2$</i>) C. Curve $\geq 1/2$ (<i>Melengkung $\geq 1/2$</i>)
D2	Leaves color <i>Warna daun</i>	A. Green (<i>Hijau</i>) B. Dark green (<i>Hijau tua</i>) C. Yellowish green (<i>Hijau kekuningan</i>)
D3	The width of leaf blade <i>Lebar daun</i>	A. Narrow ($<4\text{cm}$) (<i>Sempit ($<4\text{cm}$)</i>) B. Medium ($4\text{-}6\text{cm}$) (<i>Sedang $4\text{-}6\text{cm}$</i>) C. Width ($>6\text{cm}$) (<i>Lebar ($>6\text{cm}$)</i>)
D4	Auricles position <i>Kedudukan telinga daun</i>	A. Upright (<i>Tegak</i>) B. Oblique (<i>Serong</i>) C. Absent (<i>Tidak bertelinga</i>)
D5	The height of auricles <i>Tinggi telinga daun</i>	A. 1 cm B. $>1\text{-}3\text{cm}$ C. $\geq 3\text{cm}$ D. Absent (<i>Tidak bertelinga</i>)
D6	Dewlap color <i>Warna sendi segitiga daun</i>	A. Yellowish green (<i>Hijau kekuningan</i>) B. Brownish green (<i>Hijau kecoklatan</i>) C. Green brownish yellow (<i>Hijau kuning kecoklatan</i>) D. Green (<i>Hijau</i>) E. Others (<i>Lainnya</i>)
P1	Hairy ligule <i>Bulu bidang punggung</i>	A. Absent (<i>Tidak ada</i>) B. Rarely (<i>Jarang</i>) C. Heavy (<i>Lebat</i>)
P2	The length of the hairy ligule <i>Panjang bulu bidang punggung</i>	A. Not reaching the top of the ligule (<i>Tidak mencapai puncak bidang punggung</i>) B. Nearly reaching ($\leq 1\text{cm}$) the top ligule (<i>Hampir mencapai ($\leq 1\text{cm}$) puncak bidang punggung</i>) C. Reaching the top of the ligule (<i>Mencapai puncak bidang punggung</i>) D. Absent (<i>tidak ada</i>)
P3	Hairy ligule width <i>Lebar bulu bidang punggung</i>	A. Narrow ($<1/4$ ligule) (<i>Sempit ($<1/4$ lebar bidang punggung)</i>) B. Width ($\geq 1/4$ ligule) (<i>Lebar ($\geq 1/4$ lebar bidang punggung)</i>) C. Absent (<i>Tidak ada</i>)
P4	Hairy ligule position <i>Kedudukan bulu bidang punggung</i>	A. Fall down (<i>Rebah</i>) B. Leaning (<i>Condong</i>) C. Upright (<i>Tegak</i>) D. Absent (<i>Tidak ada</i>)
P5	Leaf midrib wax <i>Lapisan lilin pelepah</i>	A. Little (<i>Sedikit</i>) B. Medium (<i>Sedang</i>) C. A lot (<i>Banyak</i>)
P6	Removing leaf midribs <i>Sifat lepas pelepah</i>	A. Hard (<i>Sulit</i>) B. Rather easy (<i>Agak mudah</i>) C. Easy (<i>Mudah</i>)
P7	Leaf midrib color <i>Warna pelepah</i>	A. Dark green (<i>Hijau tua</i>) B. Yellowish green (<i>Hijau kekuningan</i>) C. Green purplish yellow (<i>Hijau kuning keunguan</i>) D. Reddish yellow green (<i>Hijau kuning kemerahan</i>) E. Others (<i>Lainnya</i>)

Table 2. (Continue)

R1	Internode color <i>Warna ruas</i>	A. Yellowish green (<i>Hijau kekuningan</i>) B. Green (<i>Hijau</i>) C. Green brownish yellow (<i>Hijau kuning kecoklatan</i>) D. Green purplish yellow (<i>Hijau kuning keunguan</i>) E. Reddish yellow green (<i>Hijau kuning kemerahan</i>) F. Others (<i>Lainnya</i>)
R2	Internode wax <i>Lapisan lilin ruas</i>	A. Absent (<i>Tidak ada</i>) B. Thin (<i>Tipis</i>) C. Medium (<i>Sedang</i>) D. Thick (<i>Tebal</i>)
R3	Internode arrangement <i>Susunan ruas</i>	A. Straight (<i>Lurus</i>) B. Zig zag (<i>Berliku</i>)
R4	Internode shape <i>Bentuk ruas</i>	A. Cylindrical (<i>Silindris</i>) B. Tumescant (<i>Tong</i>) C. Bobbin (<i>Kumparan</i>) D. Conoidal (<i>Konis</i>) E. Obconoidal (<i>Konis terbalik</i>) F. Convex-concave (<i>Cembung-cekung</i>)
R5	Corky path <i>Noda gabus</i>	A. Absent (<i>Tidak ada</i>) B. Few (<i>Sedikit</i>) C. A lot (<i>Banyak</i>)
R6	Corky cracks <i>Retakan gabus</i>	A. Absent (<i>Tidak ada</i>) B. Few (<i>Sedikit</i>) C. A lot (<i>Banyak</i>)
R7	Growth crack <i>Retakan tumbuh</i>	A. Absent (<i>Tidak ada</i>) B. Rarely (<i>Jarang</i>) C. Almost all internode (<i>Hampir di seluruh ruas</i>)
R8	Cross section of internode <i>Penampang melintang ruas</i>	A. Round (<i>Bulat</i>) B. Flat (<i>Pipih</i>)
R9	Bud furrow <i>Alur mata</i>	A. Absent (<i>Tidak ada</i>) B. Shallow (<i>Dangkal</i>) C. Deep (<i>Dalam</i>)
R10	The width of bud furrow <i>Lebar alur mata</i>	A. Absent (<i>Tidak ada</i>) B. Narrow (<i>Sempit</i>) C. Width (<i>Lebar</i>)
R11	The length of bud furrow <i>Panjang alur mata</i>	A. Absent (<i>Tidak ada</i>) B. Not reaching the middle of the internode (<i>Tidak mencapai tengah ruas</i>) C. Reach the middle of internode (<i>Mencapai tengah ruas</i>)
B1	Growth ring position <i>Letak cincin tumbuh</i>	A. Above the top of the bud (<i>Di atas puncak mata</i>) B. Offends the top of the bud (<i>Menyinggung puncak mata</i>) C. Behind the top of the bud (<i>Di belakang puncak mata</i>) D. Below the top of the bud (<i>Dibawah puncak mata</i>)
B2	Growth ring shape <i>Bentuk cincin tumbuh</i>	A. Circular flat (<i>Melingkar datar</i>) B. Curved (<i>Melengkung</i>)
B3	Root band number <i>Jumlah mata akar</i>	A. 1 row (<i>1 baris</i>) B. 2-3 rows (<i>2-3 baris</i>) C. 3-4 rows (<i>3-4 baris</i>) D. > 4 rows (<i>>4baris</i>)

Table 2 (Continue)

B4	Node shape <i>Bentuk buku ruas</i>	A. Cylindrical (<i>Silindris</i>) B. Conoidal (<i>Konis</i>) C. Obconoidal (<i>Konis terbalik</i>) D. Tumescient (<i>Tong</i>) E. Bobbin (<i>Kumparan</i>)
M1	Bud position <i>Kedudukan mata</i>	A. On the former leaf midrib (<i>Pada bekas pangkal pelepah daun</i>) B. Above the former leaf midrib (<i>Di atas bekas pangkal pelepah daun</i>)
M2	Bud shape <i>Bentuk mata</i>	A. Round (<i>Bulat</i>) B. Oval (<i>Oval</i>) C. Ovate (<i>Bulat telur</i>) D. Rhomboid (<i>Bulat telur terballik</i>) E. Triangular (<i>Segitiga</i>)
M3	The widest part of the bud <i>Bagian terlebar mata</i>	A. Under the middle of the bud (<i>Di bawah tengah-tengah mata</i>) B. In the middle of the bud (<i>Pada tengah-tengah mata</i>) C. Above the middle of the bud (<i>Di atas tengah-tengah mata</i>)
M4	Bud wing size <i>Ukuran sayap mata</i>	A. Equal width (<i>Sama lebar</i>) B. Narrow base (<i>Basis sempit</i>) C. Base width (<i>Basis lebar</i>)
M5	Growth center <i>Pusat tumbuh</i>	A. Under the middle of the bud (<i>Di bawah tengah mata</i>) B. In the middle of the bud (<i>Pada tengah mata</i>) C. Above the middle of the bud (<i>Di atas tengah mata</i>) D. At the top of the bud (<i>Di puncak mata</i>)
M6	The hair on the edge of the bud basal <i>Rambut tepi basal mata</i>	A. Absent (<i>Tidak ada</i>) B. Present (<i>Ada</i>)
M7	Hair on top of bud <i>Rambut jambul mata</i>	A. Absent (<i>Tidak ada</i>) B. Present (<i>Ada</i>)
M8	Bud size <i>Ukuran mata</i>	A. Small (<i>Kecil</i>) B. Medium (<i>Sedang</i>) C. Big (<i>Besar</i>)
M9	The edge of the bud wing <i>Tepi sayap mata</i>	A. Flat (<i>Rata</i>) B. Jagged (<i>Bergerigi</i>) C. Notched peaks (<i>Puncak berlekuk</i>)

Table 3. Three types of microsatellite primers were used in this study
Tabel 3. Tiga jenis primer mikrosatelit yang digunakan dalam penelitian

No.	Primers/ Primer	SSR Sequences/ Sekuen SSR
1.	MCSA053C10	(CAG)5
2.	SMC1047HA	(GA)26
3.	mSSCIR5	(GGC)9

Furthermore, binary data were also used to determine the value of genetic similarity and arrange genetic relationship trees. The genetic similarity coefficient used for morphological markers was the Simple Matching similarity coefficient (Sneath & Sokal, 1973). For molecular data, relationships between pairwise accessions were estimated using the Jaccard Coefficient (Cordeiro *et al.*, 2003; Pan *et al.*, 2003; Pocovi *et al.*, 2020).

In this study, the accessions were then clustered by the Unweighted Pair-Group Method with

Arithmetic Averages (UPGMA) cluster method with the Numerical Taxonomy and Multivariate Analysis System (NTSYS-PC-2.02i) program (Schenk *et al.*, 2004; Alwala *et al.*, 2006; Parida *et al.*, 2008; Pocovi *et al.*, 2020). Cophenetics value matrices of the UPGMA clustering were used to test the goodness-of-fit of the clustering to the similarity matrix on which it was based by means of computing the product-moment correlation (r) with 1000 permutations (Mantel, 1967).

Results and Discussion

Morphological characterization

The 24 accessions of the *Saccharum* complex analyzed, based on 37 morphological characters, showed similarities and differences in morphological descriptors. The most similar morphological characters in the 24 accessions were on the leaves, internodes, and buds. On the leaves, similar traits are curved leaf blade, leaf color, auricle position, auricle height, dewlap color, the length of the hairy ligule, the width of the hairy ligule, hairy ligule position, midrib wax, removing leaf midribs, and leaf midrib color. On the internode, similar characters are internode color, internode shape, corky path, corky cracks, growth cracks, and the cross-section of the internode. In the bud, similar characters are bud furrow, bud furrow width, bud furrow length, growth ring position, growth ring shape, bud position, bud shape, the widest part of the bud, growth center, the hair on the edge of the bud basal, hair on top of bud, bud size and the edge of the bud wing.

The accessions within the *Saccharum* species show several similar morphological characters. Two *S. officinarum* accessions (TD50 and TD53) have 27 characters in common, two *S. sinense* accessions (15OC18 and 15OC19) have 31 characters in common, two *S. spontaneum* accessions (IK76-36 and IK76-41) have 33 characters in similarity, two *S. barberi* accessions (XOC55 and XOC56) and two *S. robustum* accessions (IJ76-412 and IJ76-415) each have 17 characters in common.

The morphological characters distinguished between the accessions analyzed from the genus *Erianthus* and *Saccharum* in this study were located in the internode and bud. The distinctive character included the arrangement of internode (*Erianthus*: straight, *Saccharum*: zigzag); cross-

section of internode (*Erianthus*: flat, *Saccharum*: round); the number of root buds (*Erianthus*: 1 row, *Saccharum*: 2-3 rows); and the widest part of the bud (*Erianthus*: under the middle of the bud, *Saccharum* in the middle of the bud). This resembles the observations reported by Amalraj and Balasundaram (2006), concerning the difference between *Saccharum* and *Erianthus*, among others, on the number of root buds. *Erianthus* had only 1 row of root bud number, whereas in *Saccharum* the number of root buds was two rows or more.

Qualitative data of morphological characterization were transformed into binary data to make a relationship dendrogram. Figure 1 shows that the phylogenetic relationship among 24 accessions of the *Saccharum* complex is divided into two large clusters at the similarity value of 0.66 (66%). The first cluster consists of 22 accessions and the second cluster consists of 2 accessions, namely PS 862 (*Saccharum* hybrid) and XOC55 (*Miscanthus*).

The greatest value of genetic similarity based on morphological characters was between IK 76-375 and IK 76-205 of 0.9683 (97%). The genetic distance between the two accessions was 0.0317, which means that the phylogenetic relationship between the two accessions is close. This was because IK 76-375 and IK 76-205 are both of the *Erianthus* genus originating from Kalimantan. In contrast, the lowest genetic similarity values were PS 862 and IJ 76-396 at 0.5714 (57%), and the genetic distance was 0.4286. PS 862 was a commercial sugarcane variety from ISRI's breeding program (*Saccharum* hybrid), while IJ 76-396 was *Erianthus* from Papua (Indonesia) so that the genetic relationship between the two accessions was farther than the other accessions.

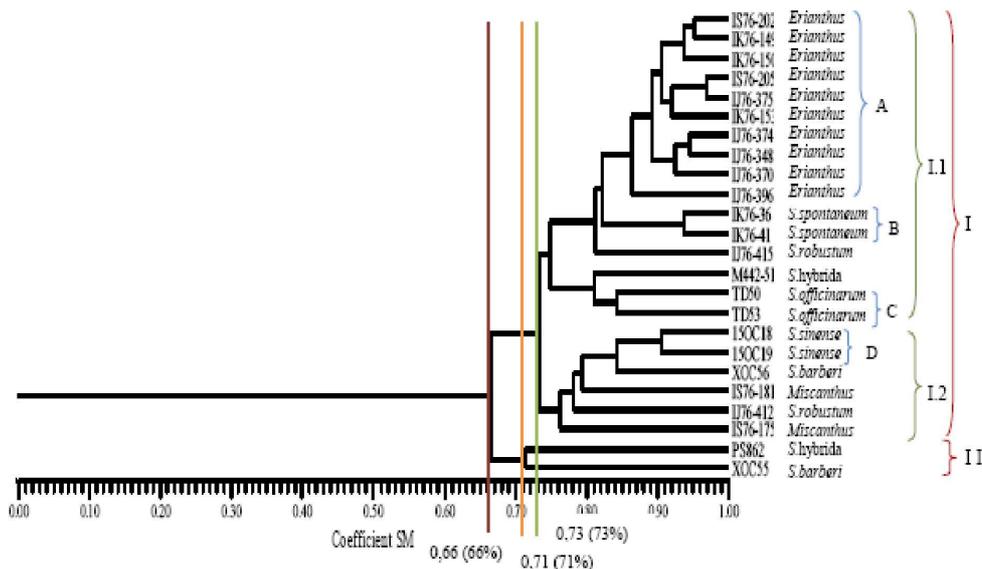


Figure 1. The genetic relationship of 24 *Saccharum* complex accessions constructed with Simple Matching Coefficients based on morphological markers

Gambar 1. Hubungan kekerabatan 24 aksesi *Saccharum* complex yang dikonstruksi dengan koefisien Simple Matching berdasarkan penanda morfologi

The clustering based on morphological markers (Figure 1) mainly corresponded to the classification at the conservation time. However, there were several accessions of *Saccharum barberi*, namely XOC 56 and XOC 55, which were distinct from one another, and accessions of *Saccharum robustum*, namely IJ76-412 and IJ76-415, which were not in the same group. Likewise, M 442-51 and PS 862 were not included in the *Saccharum* hybrids cluster. Meanwhile, the accessions of *Erianthus*, *S. spontaneum*, *S. officinarum*, and *S. sinensis* were clustered according to the classification at the time of conservation.

Molecular characterization

The results of DNA amplification of the three microsatellite primers are shown in Figure 2-4. The three primers produced 90 DNA bands with varying sizes of base pairs. In this study, the DNA bands analyzed were DNA bands that could be seen clearly, regardless of the difference in intensity (thickness or thinness of the DNA bands).

Figure 2 shows that the microsatellite amplification of 24 accessions using mSSCIR5 primer resulted in 44 polymorphic DNA bands, with sizes ranging from 83 bp to 1600 bp.

Meanwhile, Figure 3 shows that the SMC1047HA primer amplified the DNA of 24 *Saccharum* complex accessions to produce 22 bands. The sizes of the DNA bands ranged from 76 bp to 1642 bp. In Figure 4, it can be seen that the MSCA053C10 primer produced 24 DNA bands with sizes ranging from 98 bp to 950 bp.

Three pairs of microsatellite primers produced 90 DNA bands in the range of 76 bp - 1642 bp. The data generated from the three microsatellite primers were transformed into binary data to form a dendrogram for genetic relationships using the NTSYSpc-2.02i program. Jaccard's genetic similarity coefficient used a scale of 0.00 - 1.00. The value of 1.00 indicated 100% similarity, which meant that the value of genetic distance or dissimilarity was 0.00 (Indah *et al.*, 2008; Pocovi *et al.*, 2020).

The dendrogram constructed from three microsatellite primers shows in Figure 5 that the 24 accessions of the *Saccharum* complex were divided into two large clusters at a similarity value of 0.02. Large cluster I at a similarity value of 0.19 formed two subclusters, namely I.1 and I.2. Sub-cluster I.1 was divided into four sub-clusters, namely: (A) *S. spontaneum* cluster, (B). *S. officinarum* cluster, (C). *Erianthus* cluster from Kalimantan and Sulawesi; (D) *S. sinense* cluster.

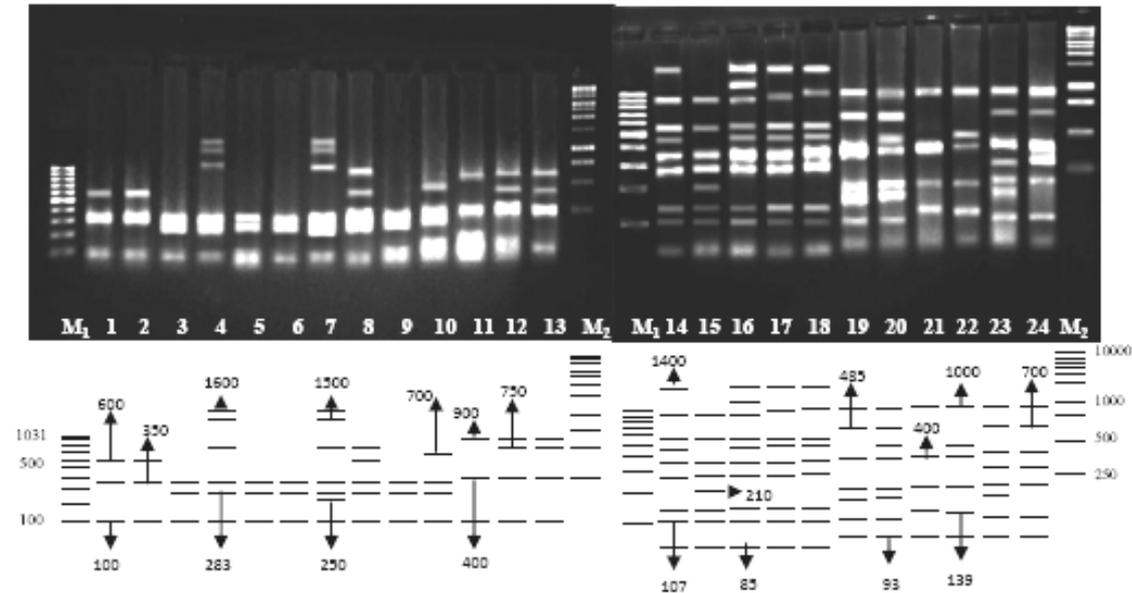


Figure 2. Electrophoregram of 24 accessions DNA amplification results using mSSCIR5 microsatellite

Gambar 2. Elektroforegram hasil amplifikasi DNA 24 aksesi menggunakan mikrosatelit mSSCIR5

Remark: 1S 76-202, 2. IS 76-205, 3. IK 76-149, 4. IK 76-150, 5. IK 76-153, 6. IJ 76-374, 7. IJ 76- 375, 8. IJ 76-370, 9. IJ 76-348, 10. IJ 76-396, 11. M 442-51, 12. PS-862, 13. TD 50, 14. TD 53, 15. 15 OC 18, 16. 15 OC 19, 17. IK76-36, 18. IK76-41, 19. IS 76-175, 20. IS 76-181, 21. IJ 76-412, 22. IJ 76-415, 23. X OC 55, 24. X OC 56, M1. Marker 100 bp and M2. Marker 1kb.

Keterangan : 1S 76-202, 2. IS 76-205, 3. IK 76-149, 4. IK 76-150, 5. IK 76-153, 6. IJ 76-374, 7. IJ 76- 375, 8. IJ 76-370, 9. IJ 76-348, 10. IJ 76-396, 11. M 442-51, 12. PS-862, 13. TD 50, 14. TD 53, 15. 15 OC 18, 16. 15 OC 19, 17. IK76-36, 18. IK76-41, 19. IS 76-175, 20. IS 76-181, 21. IJ 76-412, 22. IJ 76-415, 23. X OC 55, 24. X OC 56, M1. Marker 100 bp and M2. Marker 1kb

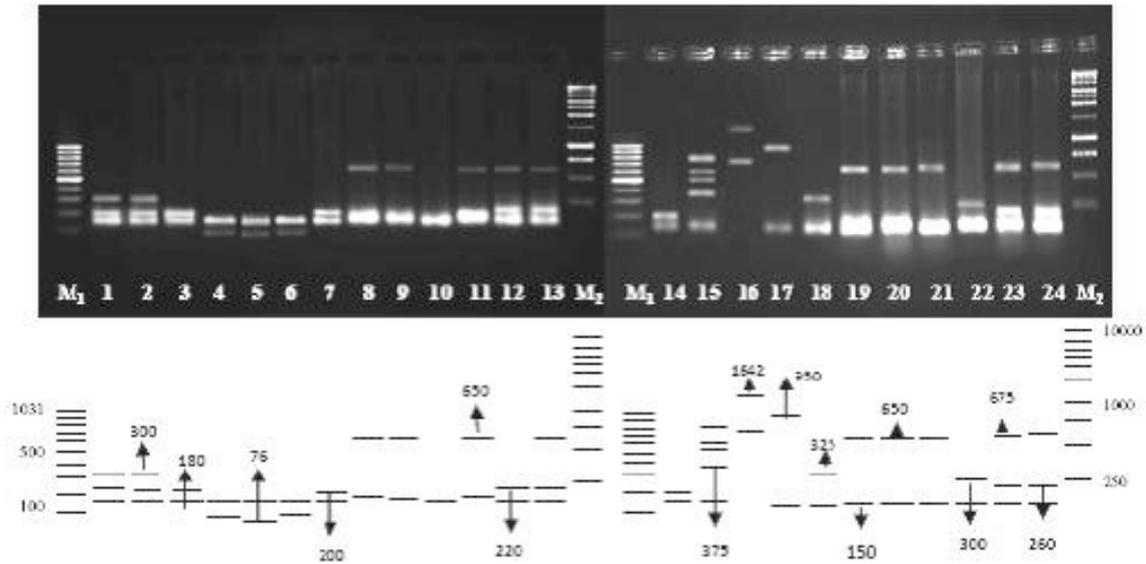


Figure 3. Electrophoregram of 24 accessions DNA amplification using SMC1047HA primers.

Gambar 3. Elektroforegram amplifikasi DNA 24 akses menggunakan primer mikrosatelit SMC1047HA

Remark: IS 76-202, 2. IS 76-205, 3. IK 76-149, 4. IK 76-150, 5. IK 76-153, 6. IJ 76-374, 7. IJ 76- 375, 8. IJ 76-370, 9. IJ 76-348, 10. IJ 76-396, 11. M 442-51, 12. PS-862, 13. TD 50, 14. TD 53, 15. 15 OC 18, 16. 15 OC 19, 17. IK76-36, 18. IK76-41, 19. IS 76-175, 20. IS 76-181, 21. IJ 76-412, 22. IJ 76-415, 23. X OC 55, 24. X OC 56, M1. Marker 100 bp and M2. Marker 1kb.

Keterangan: IS 76-202, 2. IS 76-205, 3. IK 76-149, 4. IK 76-150, 5. IK 76-153, 6. IJ 76-374, 7. IJ 76- 375, 8. IJ 76-370, 9. IJ 76-348, 10. IJ 76-396, 11. M 442-51, 12. PS-862, 13. TD 50, 14. TD 53, 15. 15 OC 18, 16. 15 OC 19, 17. IK76-36, 18. IK76-41, 19. IS 76-175, 20. IS 76-181, 21. IJ 76-412, 22. IJ 76-415, 23. X OC 55, 24. X OC 56, M1. Marker 100 bp and M2. Marker 1kb.

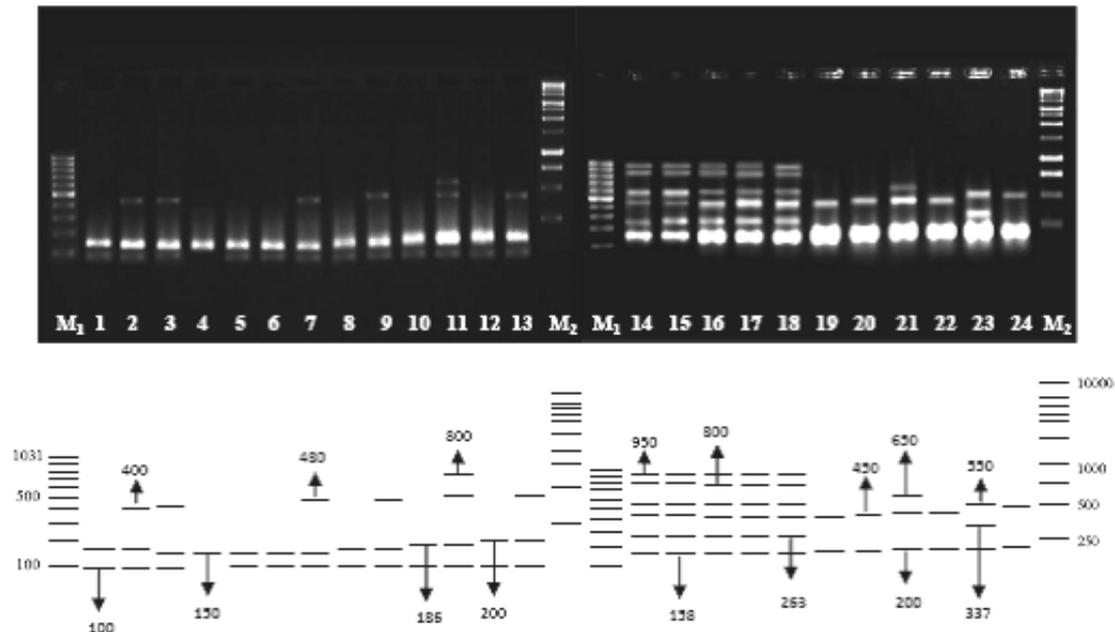


Figure 4. Electrophoregram of 24 accessions DNA amplification results using MSCA053C10 primer.

Gambar 4. Elektroforegram hasil amplifikasi DNA 24 akses menggunakan primer MSCA053C10

Remark: IS 76-202, 2. IS 76-205, 3. IK 76-149, 4. IK 76-150, 5. IK 76-153, 6. IJ 76-374, 7. IJ 76- 375, 8. IJ 76-370, 9. IJ 76-348, 10. IJ 76-396, 11. M 442-51, 12. PS-862, 13. TD 50, 14. TD 53, 15. 15 OC 18, 16. 15 OC 19, 17. IK76-36, 18. IK76-41, 19. IS 76-175, 20. IS 76-181, 21. IJ 76-412, 22. IJ 76-415, 23. X OC 55, 24. X OC 56, M1. Marker 100 bp and M2. Marker 1kb.

Keterangan : IS 76-202, 2. IS 76-205, 3. IK 76-149, 4. IK 76-150, 5. IK 76-153, 6. IJ 76-374, 7. IJ 76- 375, 8. IJ 76-370, 9. IJ 76-348, 10. IJ 76-396, 11. M 442-51, 12. PS-862, 13. TD 50, 14. TD 53, 15. 15 OC 18, 16. 15 OC 19, 17. IK76-36, 18. IK76-41, 19. IS 76-175, 20. IS 76-181, 21. IJ 76-412, 22. IJ 76-415, 23. X OC 55, 24. X OC 56, M1. Marker 100 bp and M2. Marker 1kb.

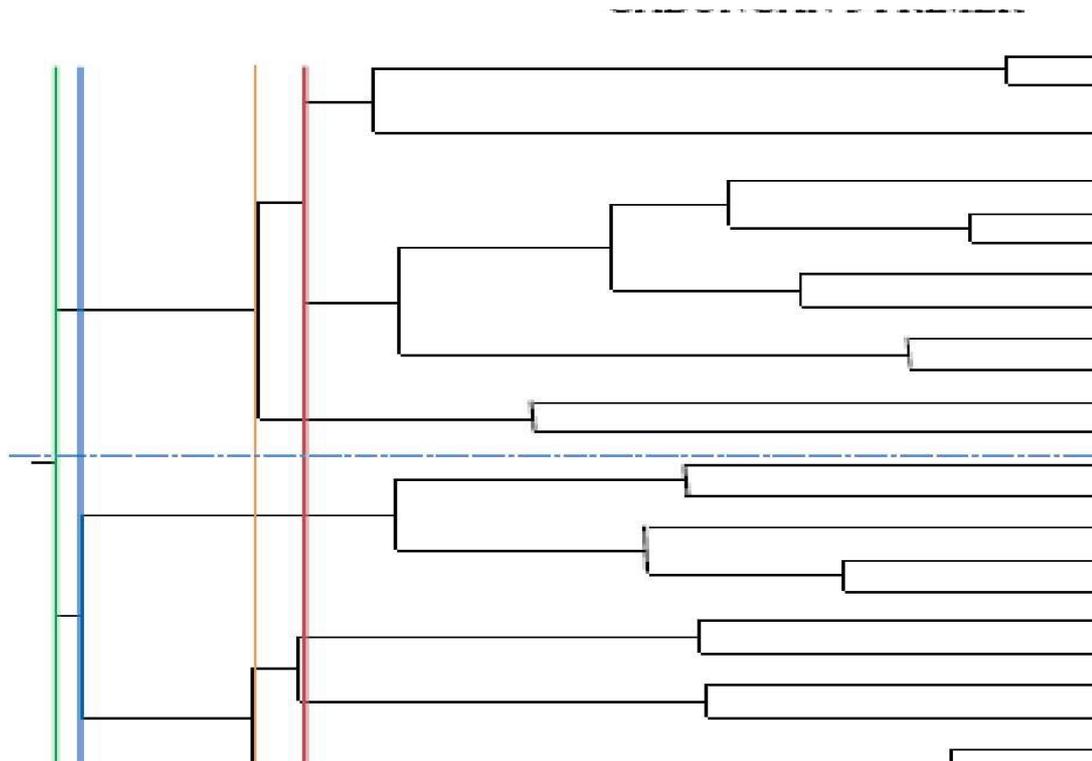


Figure 5. The genetic relationships between 24 accessions of the *Saccharum* complex based on three molecular markers by using the Jaccard coefficient

Gambar 5. Hubungan kekerabatan 24 aksesi *Saccharum* complex berdasarkan penanda molekuler menggunakan koefisien Jaccard

The results of this study similar to the results of research conducted by Oliveira *et al.* (2017) to assess the genetic diversity of 26 accessions of sugarcane from the Active Germplasm Bank of the Embrapa Coastal Tablelands, using inter-simple sequence repeat (ISSR) molecular markers. Sixteen primers were used, resulting in 87 fragments with 91.13% of polymorphism. The similarity of the individuals ranged between 0.22 and 0.87. Four distinct clusters were formed using UPGMA. Despite the large distribution of accessions in most groups, indicating great genetic diversity, these were not separated by a group of the same species in each subcluster, which common alleles could explain among different species, since they are of the same genus. Similar results were found by Raj *et al.* (2016) that there was a close relationship among the different species that constitute the *Saccharum* complex; however *S. spontaneum*, contributing to greater diversity.

Subcluster I.2 consisted of the *S. robustum* accessions. Large cluster II at a similarity value of 0.04 was divided into two subclusters, namely, subgroup II.1 consisting of accessions of the genus *Erianthus* originating from Papua and subcluster II.2 consisting of (A) accessions from *S. barberi*; (B) accession of the genus *Miscanthus*; and (C) accession of the *Saccharum* hybrid. Figure 5 shows that the grouping based on the molecular markers

of the 24 accessions analyzed were grouped according to species, this is the same as the grouping at the time of conservation. The genetic similarity value for the 24 accessions was very low at around 0.20.

As reported by Aitken *et al.* (2018), who analyzed the diversity of several accessions to *S. spontaneum* species from 21 different countries using molecular markers, the results of their analysis revealed that the majority of the accessions were clustered according to the country of origin. Genetic similarity ranged from 0.25 to 0.54, with the highest diversity in accessions collected in Indonesia, followed by China, India, and Thailand, and the lowest in the Philippines. Likewise, the results of the analysis conducted by Manish *et al.* (2014) on 40 genotypes of Indian sugarcane using microsatellites. The molecular results obtained in the study of Manish *et al.* (2014) are represented and agree with the possible evolutionary course of sugarcane genotypes. The UPGMA cluster analysis of 40 genotypes in that study produced meaningful grouping based on pedigree or geographical origin of the accessions. The grouping patterns of 40 genotypes are based on their genetic similarity pattern which shows that sugarcane genotypes from the same geographical regions tend to cluster together which may resulting from a shared evolutionary pathway.

Genetic relationship based on morphological and molecular markers

Information about the value of genetic similarity can be used as a reference to determine the value of genetic distance, phylogenetic relationships, and the level of genetic diversity. The value of genetic similarity is directly proportional to the genetic relationship but inversely proportional to the value of genetic distance or dissimilarity. The greater the value of similarity between two accessions, the greater the genetic relationship (closer), but conversely, the value of the genetic distance is small.

The markers used in this study were morphological and microsatellite markers, each of which had advantages and disadvantages. The use of these two markers in this study was to support and complement the analysis of the grouping and phylogenetic relationship of 24 accessions of the *Saccharum* complex. The data derived from morphological and molecular character were qualitative, so they were transformed into binary data before making the dendrogram of genetic relationship.

The dendrogram of the genetic relationship of the morphological characters was constructed based on the Simple Matching (SM) coefficient similarity (Figure 1). The dendrogram shows that the 24 accessions of the *Saccharum* complex including the genus *Erianthus* and *Saccharum* have a close relationship of 0.5714-0.9683 with a genetic distance of 0.0317-0.4286. This low diversity was due to the 24 accessions analyzed with similar morphological features from the 37 characters observed. Therefore, grouping based on morphological markers was considered insufficient to verify the classification of germplasm collections managed by ISRI, so that molecular markers were still needed to support the validity of existing groupings.

On the other hand, the value of genetic similarity based on molecular markers between 24 accessions ranged from 0.000 to 0.889 (Figure 5). Duplication (similarity value = 1.00) was not found among the 24 clones tested. A high genetic similarity was observed in some accessions because the accessions were included in groups of the same species.

Qualitative data on the characterization of molecular markers were used to construct a dendrogram of genetic relationship with Jaccard's similarity coefficient. The Jaccard's coefficient is appropriate for molecular markers because Jaccard's coefficient only considers the characters or bands that appeared (present) as a contributing factor to individual similarity and ignores zero (0) or absence. As in the research of Cordeiro *et al.* (2003), Widyasari *et al.* (2008) and Pocovi *et al.* (2020) used Jaccard's coefficient to analyze the genetic diversity of sugarcane which based on molecular markers.

The grouping based on the molecular data

shows that of the 24 accessions evaluated, each accession was grouped according to its species. This means that based on molecular markers, the grouping of ISRI's sugarcane germplasm collections was still in accordance with the grouping at the conservation time.

The results of this study indicate that there are differences in the value of genetic similarity in the 24 accessions analyzed based on the markers used. According to morphological markers, the value of genetic similarity was higher than the value of genetic similarity based on molecular markers. The morphological markers caused the difference because the observed morphological characters were 37 characters with 126 descriptions, while the molecular markers, using three microsatellite primers, could produce 90 DNA bands. In addition, descriptions of morphological characters that were equally absent were considered the same variable, even though their morphological characters were different. It was a cause of increased genetic similarity value when the genetic relationship was analyzed using morphological markers.

Another factor influencing these differences is the difference in the similarity coefficient used on morphological and molecular markers in evaluating the genetic relationship of those 24 accessions. Morphological markers used the Simple Matching similarity coefficient, which involved the absent value (d , 0-0). In contrast, the molecular markers used the Jaccard's similarity coefficient, which only involved the present values (a , b , c).

However, the two markers gave the same grouping results. This can be seen in the accessions of *S. officinarum*, TD50 with TD53 into one group; *S. spontaneum*, IK76-36 and IK76-41 in one group; *S. sinense*, 15OC18 and 15OC19 in one group; *Erianthus* clones originating from Irian Jaya (IJ) also form a separate subgroup of *Erianthus* originating from Kalimantan and Sulawesi. Meanwhile, the classification of several accessions was different based on morphological and molecular markers. It was shown in the accessions of *S. barberi*, *S. robustum*, and *Saccharum* hybrid. The fact that grouping based on molecular markers is not exactly the same as a grouping based on morphological markers is also found in Pocovi *et al.* (2020).

Regarding the accuracy of genetic relationships, some researchers argue that molecular markers are considered to be more accurate in phylogenetic analysis than morphological markers. This is because molecular markers analyze individuals at the DNA level, whereas morphological markers had several drawbacks that could affect the accuracy of the data. Bagali *et al.* (2010) stated that morphological markers are markers that recognize a character according to their natural appearance based on the observer's view (subjectivity). In addition, Martinez *et al.* (2003) reported that morphological markers were relatively insignificant and inefficient for accuracy in

distinguishing closely related genotypes and analyzing their genetic similarities when compared to DNA fingerprinting techniques. However, morphological markers are helpful at the beginning or early stage, fast, simple, and inexpensive to identify varieties, and could be used as a general approach to measuring genetic diversity between cultivars of different phenotypes. Karuri *et al.* (2010) stated that it was necessary to combine them with genetic-based markers due to limitations in morphological markers.

Conclusion

The grouping of the 24 accessions of the ISRI's *Saccharum* complex germplasm collection was based on molecular markers according to the grouping at the t conservation time. Meanwhile, the grouping based on morphological markers in several accessions did not match the classification at the conservation time. This occurs in accessions of the *Saccharum robustum*, *Saccharum barberi*, *Saccharum* hybrid, and the genus *Miscanthus*. Based on molecular markers, the 24 accessions of the *Saccharum* complex had a high degree of diversity. These clones can be used as a combination of crossing parents to produce new superior sugarcane varieties.

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