

ISOLATION AND SEQUENTIALIZATION OF THE CHLOROPLAST DNA OF THE AUSTRIAN BLACK PINE

(*Pinus nigra* Arnold subsp. *nigra*)

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The chloroplast DNA (cpDNA) is a round, closed DNA molecule. With about 150 kb and containing about 120 genes (Shinozaki 1986). One of the main characteristics of cpDNA is its evolutionary conservatism and this feature is very important in the phylogenetic studies. For the study of generic relationships there is an increasing use of the mapping of cpDNA restriction fragments.

In this paper the specimens of the taxon *Pinus nigra* Arnold subsp. *nigra* were used, firstly for the purpose of adopting this method which is completely new in research works in our country. Secondly, also, because extensive researches are planned which would include specimens from the entire generic circle of *P. nigra* s. l., and which could contribute to resolve generic relationship within this widely understood species. Chloroplasts were isolated from the homogenised leaf tissue by means of centrifugation on the percoll gradient. Isolation of the pure cpDNA was made by using the modified procedure such as described by White (1986).

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Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Mitteilungen der Ostalpin-Dinarischen pflanzensoziologischen Arbeitsgemeinschaft](#)

Jahr/Year: 1993

Band/Volume: [1993_SB](#)

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