

## Genetic variation in Cordia africana Lam. in Ethiopia



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## GENETIC VARIATION IN CORDIA AFRICANA LAM. IN ETHIOPIA



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Cuvillier Verlag Nov 2007, 2007. Taschenbuch. Condition: Neu. Neuware - Biodiversity is an issue of global concern. It is organized in ecosystems, species and genetic diversity within species. Among the various elements of biodiversity, forests represent the biologically most diverse terrestrial ecosystems. However, deforestation poses one of the greatest risks to the maintenance and preservation of biodiversity. Especially deforestation in the tropics is alarming, and it seems hardly achievable to halt it in the near future. It is of utmost urgency that countries should embark on both in-situ and ex-situ conservation activities. Such efforts need primarily to be based on characterizing and understanding the genetic organization of the target species. One of the species that deserves attention in Ethiopia is the broadleaved tropical tree, *Cordia africana* Lam. (Boraginaceae). The present dissertation aims at determining the genetic variation within and among populations of *C. africana* in Ethiopia. The variation in the DNA of *C. africana* was assessed employing two marker systems; namely, amplified fragment length polymorphisms (AFLPs) and chloroplast microsatellites (cpSSR). AFLPs represent DNA markers that are randomly distributed across the genome and are generally considered as dominant markers. The chloroplast genome is a non-recombining genome and is generally inherited maternally in angiosperms. The analysis of chloroplast microsatellites in *C. africana* was presumed to detect genetic structures reflecting efficient gene flow via seeds, as the fruits of the species are indehiscent and edible. The populations were sampled from various geographical locations and altitudinal gradients covering the total distribution range of the species. Furthermore, the populations represented scattered (mainly trees from traditional agroforestry systems) and continuous forest conditions, various regions of provenance (seed zones), natural ecosystems and different levels of fragmentation. The populations can be categorized as belonging to the northern highlands (NHL), the south-west highlands (SWHL), the south-west lowlands (SWLL) or...



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