Morphological and molecular barcode analysis of the medicinal tree *Mimusops coriacea* (A.D.C). Miq. collected in Ecuador

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Background

Mimusops coriacea (A.D.C). Miq. a species from the Sapotaceae Family, originated from Africa. *Mimusops coriacea*plants were introduced to coastal areas in Ecuador with material from the tree now extensively used as traditional medicine to treat various human diseases in Ecuador. Different therapeutically uses of the species include: analgesic, antimicrobial, hypoglycemic,inflammation and pain relieve associated with bones and articulation-related diseases. Furthermore, *M. coriacea*could be used as anti-oxidant agent. However, botanical, chemical, or molecular barcode information related to this much used species is not available. In this study, morphological characterization was performed in different plant tissues including leaves, stem and seeds. Furthermore, genetic characterization was performed using molecular barcodes for *rbc*L, *mat*k, ITS1 and ITS2 using DNA extracted from leaves.

Methods

Macro-morphological description was performed in fresh plant material including leaves, stem and seeds. For anatomical evaluation, tissues were embedded in paraffin and transversal dissections were done following incubation with sodium hypochlorite and safranin for coloration and fixated later in glycerinated gelatin. DNA extraction was performed using a modified CTAB protocol from leaf tissues and amplification by PCR was accomplished for the molecular barcodes *rbc*L, *mat*K, ITS1 and ITS2. Sequence analysis was performed using blast in the GenBank and phylogenetic analysis was performed with accessions queried in the GenBank belonging to the subfamily Sapotoideae.

Results

Leaf size was for the length of 13.56 ± 1.46 cm and 7.49 ± 0.65 cm for the width; while the fruit is rounded and contains one or two seeds. The peel of the seeds is dark brown. Sequence analysis revealed that amplicons were generated using the four barcodes selected. Phylogenetic analysis indicated that the barcodes *rbc*L and *mat*K, were not discriminated between species, and different genus were grouped in one clade of the subfamily Sapotoideae. On the other hand, the ITS1 and ITS2 were discriminative at the level of genus and species of the Sapotoideae.

Manuscript Title

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revealed that amplicons were generated using the four barcodes selected. Phylogenetic analysis indicated that the barcodes *rbc*L and *mat*K, were not discriminated between species, and different genus were grouped in one clade of the subfamily Sapotoideae. On the other hand, the ITS1 and ITS2 were discriminative at the level of genus and species of the Sapotoideae.

Introduction

In the genus *Mimusops* (Sapotaceae), a total of 45 species have been described that are distributed in Asia, Africa, Australasia and Oceania. Although *Mimusops coriacea* (ADC) Miq, has been cultivated widely in the tropics for centuries, it is native only to Madagascar and the Comoro Islands. *Mimusops* spp. are trees reaching a height of up to 25 meters, with a dense cope and an irregular short trunk, which exhibit a cracked bark structure. The tree contains simple leaves that are alternated and clustered with a brilliant color green. In Ecuador, inventory of *M. coriacea* is lacking; however, a restricted abundance is observed mainly in coastal regions, in areas where the soil is well drained and with a rainy climate. *M. coriacea* trees shared the habitat with other tree species, some of them of the Sapotacea family. Trees from the *M. coriacea*. have been observed in the Amazon has also been reported. Trees from the *M. coriacea* specie are evergreen tree, somewhat tortuous, that can reach up to 20 meters high, with dense and somewhat irregular crown and a short trunk, with very cracked bark. Simple, alternate leaves, usually grouped towards the end of the twigs, with elliptical or obovate to oblong-elliptical sheet of up to 20 x 11 cm, base obtuse, margin entire and slightly revolute and obtuse or rounded apex are observed. Leaves show thick and leathery texture, glabrous, bright green, with the central nerve highlighted and 10-20 pairs of lateral nerves. Petiole are 1-1.5 cm long, at first pubescent, then glabrous. The axillary inflorescences, are compose of solitary flowers or fascicles of 2-6 flowers, white, aromatic, on hairy pedicels 5-7 (-8) cm long. The calyx contains 8 triangular sepals, 11-12 mm long, with brown hairs externally; while the outer sepals are slightly larger than the interior ones. The corolla with a tube is about 2 mm long and contains 8t lobes of 9-10 mm long, each with 2 deeply lacunar appendages. The androceo contains 8 stamens opposed to the petals, with filaments 3-3.5 mm long, hairy at the base, and the anthers are 4-4.5 mm long, alternating with 8 staminodios of about 5 mm long and hairy on the external side. The conical pubescent ovary, contains 8 locules with glabrous style. The fruit is a sub-spherical berry of 3-4 cm in diameter, on a peduncle more than 6 cm long,

yellowish at maturity, with a sweet and fleshy-floury, edible pulp, containing one to several ellipsoid seeds, yellowish brown (Sánchez, 2011).

This specie, as well as others of the genus, is used for different medicinal purposes: the cooked bark is used as a painkiller for liver colic and intestinal pain (López et al., 2006); the decoction of the stems is considered useful as a tonic and febrifuge; the tender stems are useful in the treatment of urethroorrhea, cystorrhea, diarrhea and dysentery (Manjeshwar et al., 2011; Semenya, et al., 2012); and traditional use for the treatment of Diabetes is noted. Traditionally in Ecuador, *M. coriacea* is used as an analgesic and anti-inflammatory (Erazo, 2010). Chivandi et al. (2016) noted the species industrial application. The most important industrial use refers to the latex obtained by shallow incisions in the trunk bark and is used in the preparation of insulating layers for electrical cables, waterproof sheets, plants for waterproof footwear, root canals in dentistry, and the industry of chewing gum and golf balls (Rivera et al., 2013).

For similar species, including *M. elengi*, triterpenoids have been described (Fayek et al., 2012), phenolics and flavonoids (Chanda et al. 2010a; Baky et al. 2016) and fatty acids (Chivandi et al., 2016), among others. For the genus *Mimusops*, different pharmacological properties have been indicated including antioxidant (~~Rao et al., 2011; Kar et al., 2012~~; Gilliani and Shahwar, 2017), anti-inflammatory (Konuku et al., 2017), antimicrobial activities (~~Baliga et al., 2011; Gami, et al., 2012~~; Kiran Kumar et al. 2014) and hypoglycemic activity (Saradha et al. 2017). In Ecuador, the studies in *Mimusops* are limited to pharmacognostic evaluations of leaves and stems and to the analysis of the oil of the seeds, which have been performed by this research group and is in preparation for publication. *Mimusops coriacea* is an important medicinal species in Ecuador, however, little is known about the morphological and anatomical characteristics of leaves, stems and seeds; as well as the molecular barcode. Molecular barcodes will be as a complement for proper species identification. Several molecular barcodes have been used in medicinal plants for these purposes (reviewed by Techen et al., 2014); including *rbc*L, *mat*K, ITS1 and ITS2. Although differentiation at the species level is not suitable by using the *rbc*L and *mat*K; the ITS have shown to discriminate at the species level (Techen et al., 2014; Zhang et al., 2015). Furthermore, barcodes could be used to study patterns of diversifications of the Sapotaceae (Armstrong et al. 2014) and for phylogenetic relationships of different genera (Gautier et al., 2013). This study investigated morphological and molecular barcode characteristics of the *M. coriacea* to support subsequent

chemical and pharmacological studies, especially for morphological and molecular validation and phylogenetic studies.

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Materials and Methods

Study area description

Plant material was collected during the month of May 2018 at the "Jardín Botánico", a protected natural vegetative area located in the North zone of "Las Orquídeas" area, next to the Ave. Francisco de Orellana Avenue, in the hills of "Cerro Colorado" of Guayaquil city, Guayas province, Ecuador (coordinates 02 ° 12'13.6800 "S 079 ° 53'50.6400" W). The area is located in an altitudinal belt between 50 and 200 masl with tropical dry forest climate, with alluvial and sedimentary soils, cumulative rainfall of 1150 mm/year, with monthly average temperatures of 31.1º C in winter and 22.6º C in summer, average relative humidity of 72% and total evaporation of 1638.7 mm per year (Rosero et al., 2010).

Morphological analysis

Samples were collected from three adult plants identified by a botanist. Furthermore, trees are labeled. Trees with approximately 30 m in height, with flowers and fruits were selected for sampling randomly. One branch containing leaves, fruits and flowers is placed at the GUAY herbarium of Guayaquil University, where the botanists analyzed the samples with taxonomic characters, following proper classification and assignation of a number. Samples from the M. coriacea was assigned the accession number 13111.

Morphological description of different organs was performed on fresh and mature leaves, stems and seeds with a stereoscope (model: Zeizz LUMAR.V12, adapted with an ACXION MRc5 camera. AXION VISION Rel 4.8 (Zeizz, Germany) software was used in, accordance to the method of (Miranda and Cuéllar (2000) to analyze leaf (n=100) shape, edge, apex, base, petiole, venation, consistency, and color. Size was measured in micrometer. For the stems, the characteristics analyzed includes shape, color, external and internal surfaces, and fracture. For fruit characterization, 60 fruits and extracted seeds were analyzed in shape and dimensions, seed coat, and endosperm.

For histological analysis, transversals cuts of fresh leaves were performed manually, which were hydrated and clarified with 1% sodium hypochlorite. Tissues were colored with 1% safranin in water, following fixation with glycerinated gelatin according to Gattuso and Gattuso (1999). To analyze anatomical aspects of the leaf epidermis, a longitudinal cut followed with a diaphanization technique was performed. Cleared leaves were obtained with sodium hypochlorite following incubation with 1% safranin in water. Micro-morphological characteristics of cortex were performed to the drug in powder, performing histochemical reactions including: starch determination (Lugol reagent), lignine (1% saphranine in water), and essential oil (5% Sudan III solution in 70% ethanol) (Gattuso and Gattuso 1999). Micromorphology of seeds was performed using dried fragmented material following the procedure described above for leaves and cortex.

DNA extraction and PCR

Leaves from collected samples from one specimen were ground using liquid nitrogen in the grinder MM400 (Retsch) and stored at -80°C upon DNA extraction. Approximately, 100 mg of leaf was used for DNA extraction using a CTAB protocol with some modifications (Pacheco Coello et al. 2017). PCR was performed using the 2x GoTaq® master mix (Cat. # M7123, Promega) using 0.5 µM of each primer (Table 1). The final volume was 50 µl per reaction. PCR conditions were 95°C to start denaturation; 35 cycles of: 95°C for 30 s, 60°C (for *rbc*L) or 56°C (for *mat*K, ITS1 and ITS2) for 30 s, 72°C for 90 s, with a final extension of y 72°C for 5 min. Five microliter of PCR reaction was loaded on a 1.5% gel to check for the presence of amplicons. The remaining 45 µl were purified using the Wizard SV Gel and PCR Clean-Up System (Cat. # A9282, Promega) and sequenced commercially (Macrogen, Maryland, USA). At least three technical replicates were sequenced and a consensus was developed.

Bio-informatics analysis of sequences

Sequences were trimmed from low quality using FinchTV or Chroma's 2.6.5 (Technelysium). Processed sequences were blast (Zhang et al. 2000) in the GenBank using the nucleotide database. Sequences from the Subfamily Sapotoideae were selected (GenBank) for phylogenetic analysis using MEGA 7.0.26 (Kumar et al., 2016) including *Mimusops caffra* (HF5422847), *Mimusops*

186 *elengi* (KF686246), *Palaquium amboinense* (HF542854), among others. For each barcode, the
187 recommended model from the MEGA7 was used for the phylogenetic analysis after alignment
188 with MUSCLE. For the phylogenetic analysis, the Maximum Likelihood methods was used for
189 each barcode using bootstrap test (100 replicates).
190
191 **Results**
192 **Morphological evaluation of the leaves:**
193
194 The macro-morphological evaluation allowed the observation of oblong leaves of coriaceous-
195 waxy texture, short petiole, retuse apex, entire border and obtuse base. Macroscopic details of the
196 leaves are shown (Fig. 1). In respect to the dimensions of the leaves (n=100), the average value
197 observed for the length of the leaves was 13.56 ± 1.46 cm and 7.49 ± 0.65 cm for the width.
198

Morphological evaluation of the crust:

The crust presented a rugose cuticle of intense gray color, with an underneath slightly brown outer surface (Fig. 2A) with rough streaks. The internal surface was reddish brown, fibrous and furrowed (Fig. 2B).

Morphological evaluation of the seeds:

In the macro-morphological study, the length and width of the green and ripe fruits, the seeds with the husk and the endosperm of the seeds were considered (Fig. 3). The fruit is rounded and contains one or two seeds. The seeds with a peel are dark brown. The dimensions are presented (Table 2).

Anatomical evaluation:

Leaves: In the leaf anatomy at the level of a cross section of the central nerve (Fig. 4A) the adaxial surface is convex, slightly wavy and the abaxial face is concave. An enlarged view of the nerve (Fig. 4B) shows a cuticle of waxy texture that covers the entire leaf, and well visible in the macro-morphological study, followed by the epidermis, which is made up of tabular cells, which gives way to the set of cells that form the spongy parenchyma, given the intercellular spaces which are defined. Possible crystals of calcium oxalate are also observed.

Bordering the central part of the central nerve, there is a cord (Fig. 4C), colored red, corresponding to the endodermis, the structure that surrounds the pericycle. In the middle the conductive tissue formed by the vascular system xylem and phloem is observed (Fig. 4C).

An image of the leaf mesophyll (Fig.4D) shows a somewhat thick cuticle on the abaxial surface, followed by the epidermis, a parenchyma palisade with elongated cells that at times become stratified. In the same way, the entire center of the structure occupied by the spongy parenchyma is observed, which borders on the upper epidermis that ends with the cuticle, previously mentioned.

The diafanization of a portion of the leaf by the adaxial side showed an epidermis with cells of variable shape and size (Fig. 5A). However, the abaxial epidermis evidenced a large number of anomocitic type stomata where the epidermal cells surrounding the pair of occlusive cells are not morphologically different from the rest of the epidermal cells (Fig. 5B). A stain with Sudan III reagent at the level of the epidermis, allowed the visualization of bags with essential oils, which took reddish coloration (Fig. 5C).

The microscopic analysis of the powder drug showed different fibers and vascular bundles, in this case belonging to the xylematic tissue, classified as scalariform. Figure 5 shows the observed microscopic characteristics.

Bark: The micro-morphological analysis of the powder drug showed different fibers and the vascular system, belonging to the xylematic tissue, responsible for the transport of the crude sap to the photosynthetic centers and the circulation of the highest percentage of water. The xylematic vessels are classified as scalariform (Fig. 6).

Seeds: The micro-morphological analysis of the seed powder (Fig. 6), allowed the visualization of a section of the episperm (outer layer of the seed or testa) where the presence of cells of the sclerenchyma tissue corresponding to the supporting tissue is observed. This cell has a well-defined compact arrangement and the walls are slightly thick. The sclerides of the macro-sclerosis type and elements of the conductive tissue was observed. Histochemical reactions on the samples, demonstrated a well-defined red-colored oil pocket that could be observed through the reaction with the Sudan III reagent. Starch granules of ovoid shape and blackish color were also observed when using the Lugol reagent.

Molecular barcode of *M. coriacea.*

As a complement analysis for characterization and identification of the *M. coriacea* sample, PCR of the molecular barcodes *rbc*L, *mat*K, ITS1 and ITS2 was performed. Amplicons were detected for all the molecular barcodes (Fig. 7). Sequences will be submitted in the GenBank (Table 3).

After alignment of the barcode's sequences from the GenBank with the *M. coriacea* sample, the best model for phylogenetic analysis are shown (Table 4). The phylogenetic analysis revealed that for the barcodes *rbc*L and *mat*K, most of the *Mimusops* spp. are clustered together with other *genera* (Supplementary Figure). On the other hand, the ITS1 and ITS2 sequences revealed several clades for the different genera including the *Mimusops* (Supplementary Figure).

Discussion

Morphological evaluation of the leaves:

The morphological characteristics of the leaves correspond to that reported by Miranda and Cuéllar (2000) and Gami, et al., (2012).The venation is a closed type, which corresponds to a reticular system (the veins branch and anastomose with each other forming a network that facilitates the diffusion of liquids); which is very common in the dicotyledons. In this case, of the penninervia type, the vascular system is one of the most advanced systems that ensures nutrition to all parts of the leaf (Gami et al., 2012).

The information referenced in the literature regarding the characteristics of the leaves is scarce; thus, comparison with respect to two species of the genus was performed. For *Mimusops elengi* L., Gami et al, (2012) reported that the leaves are elliptical in shape, little acuminate at the apex, glabrous with an acute base, and petioles 1.3 - 2.5 cm in length. The dimensions of the leave range between 6.3-10.0 cm by 3.2 - 5.0 cm wide, while *Mimusops hexendra* Roxb (without Manilkara hexendra Roxb) present oblong leaves, rounded at the apex, glabrous, dark green in the beam and clear on the underside, with a dimension of 2.5 – 11 cm long and 1.0 6.0 cm wide (Chanda et al., 2010b). Some species genetically similar to the species under study, present some differences especially in the dimension of the leave with respect to those study, which are superior.

Morphological evaluation of the crust:

Related to the crust, no referenced information was found.

Morphological evaluation of the seeds:

For the seeds, significant differences were observed between the evaluated parameters of the whole fruits and their seeds at maturity (Gopalkrishna and Shimpi, 2011); for *M. elengi* seed husk was light brown to blackish, with measures of 1.7 -1.9 cm long and 1.2 -1.5 cm wide, with differs from those obtained for the species studied. The endosperm presented dimensions of 1.42 x 1.0 cm when it came from green fruits and 1.43 x o.91 cm when it came from ripe fruits, decreasing its thickness in this case

Anatomical evaluation:

Leaves: The microscopic analysis of the powder drug showed different fibers and vascular bundles, in this case belonging to the xylematic tissue, classified as scalariform.

Crust and seeds: Related to the crust and seeds, no referenced information was found para for anatomical characteristics.

Molecular barcode

Analysis of the molecular barcodes is a complement study for the characterization of the *Mimusops* spp. for medicinal application. Molecular barcode is useful for genotyping organisms, and different *loci* have been proposed characterized land plants (CBOL. Plant Working Group 2009). Although, the two proposed *loci* for barcodes are from plastid genome and includes the *rbcL* and *matK* (Techen et al., 2014), other *loci* including ITS1 and ITS2 are widely used for medicinal plants (Kim et al., 2016). Furthermore, the ITS2 region is suggested as a barcode for species identification over *rbcL* and *matk* (Zhang et al., 2016). Therefore, the phylogenic analysis for differentiation between genera and species is not practical while using *rbc*L and *mat*K. On the other hand, the ITS1 and ITS2 of the present study were in the same clade as the *M. coriacea*. from Madagascar, while the *M. elengi* (accessions KF686246, KF686245, HF542849, KF686245) were in different clades (Supplementary Figure). Furthermore, other molecular barcodes could be included in future analysis by sampling in different regions in Ecuador; and also by comparing with other results of individual specimens from the family Sapotaceae. Other barcodes may include the plastids *rpl32-trnL, rps16-trnK*, and *trnS-trnFM* (Armstrong et al., 2014); and *trnH-psbA* spacer, the *trnC-trnD* region (consisting of the *trnC-petN* spacer, the *petN* gene, the *petN-psbM* spacer, the *psbM*gene and the *psbM-trnD* spacer), the *trnC-psbM* region, and the 3′ end of *ndhF* (Richardson et al., 2014). However, the ITS is more variable than the plastids barcodes (Richardson et al., 2014). Further analysis could be performed to evaluate intraspecific and intraspecific variations of different barcodes to even evaluate at subspecies level.

Conclusions

For the first time, the macro and micro-morphological characteristics of the leaves, stems and seeds, of the *M. coriacea* collected in Ecuador were performed. The evaluation of the identity of the species, which is classified taxonomically as *Mimusops* sp., which is a novelty of this work, was confirmed by using molecular barcodes. Most important, the ITS1 and ITS2 indicate more resolution at the species level (*M. coriacea*) than the *rbc*L and *mat*K, confirming published results in medicinal plants. However, further molecular barcode characterization should be performed in *Mimusops* spp. to further validate resolution at the species level as a complement for proper identification using morphological characteristics. Further pharmacognostic analysis will be performed to study medicinal properties of *M. coriacea*.

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Figure 1. Macro morphological details of leaf from *M. coriacea.*

435 **A:** retuse apex, **B:** whole edge, **C:** obtuse base, **D**, **E** and **F**: closed rib
436
437 **Figure 2. Macro morphological details of crust from *M. coriacea.***
438 **A**: external surface, **B**: internal surface
439
440 **Figure 3. Macro morphological characters of fruits and seeds from *M. coriacea.***
441 **A:** green fruit, **B:** ripe fruit, **C:** seeds green fruits with peel, **D:** seeds ripe fruits with peel,
442 **E:** endosperm green seeds, **F:** endosperm mature seeds
443
444 **Figure 4. Microscopic characteristics of leaf from *M. coriacea.***
445 **Transversal section of the central nerve of the leaf (I): A:** central nerve of the leaf, **B** and **C:**
446 enlarged view of the central nerve, **D:** mesophilic, Cu: cuticle, Ep: epidermis, COC: calcium
447 oxalate crystals, SP: spongy parenchyma, VS: vascular system, En: endodermis, AdE: adaxial
448 epidermis, PP: palisadeparenchyma, AbE: abaxial epidermis.
449
450 **Figure 5. Microscopic characteristics of leaf from *M. coriacea.***
451 **Diafanized of the leaf (II): A:** adaxial epidermis, **B** and **C:** abaxial epidermis
452 EpC: epidermal cells, S: stomata, EO: essential oils
453
454 **Figure 6. Powder drug characteristics of *M. coriacea.* A:** powder drug from leaf. **B, C, D, E:**
455 powder drug from bark. **F, G, H, I, J:** powder drug from seed.
456 VS: vascular system, F: fibers, S: starch, ST: suberoustissue, SF: septate fibers,
457 COC: calcium oxalate crystal, SC: sclerides cells, MS: macrosclerides, OB: oilbag,
458 SG: starch granules
459
460 **Figure 7. Gel electrophoresis of amplicons generated for the molecular barcodes with the**
461 **genomic DNA of *M.coriacea*.** (A) Amplification of rbcL (rbcLA_F/ rbcLA_R), matK
462 (matK_3F_KIM f/matK_1R_KIM R). (B) Amplification of ITS1 (5a_F/ITS 4_R), and ITS2
463 (S2f/S3R). Numbers from 1 to 3 are technical replicates of DNA of each species. + is the
464 positive control. – is the negative control. M is the 100 bp DNA Ladder (Cat. # G2101,
465 Promega).

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Table 1(on next page)

Primers used for amplification of *rbc*L, *mat*K, ITS1 and ITS2.

Table 1. Primers used for amplification of *rbc*L, *mat*K, ITS1 and ITS2.

Primer pairs	**Sequence**	**Estimated size (bp)**	***Locus***	**Reference**
rbcLA_F/ rbcLA_R	ATGTCACCACAAACAGAGACTAAAGC	550	*rbc*L	Costion et al. 2011
	GTAAAATCAAGTCCACCRCG			
matK_3F_KIM f/matK_1R_KIMR	CGTACAGTACTTTTGTGTTTACGAG	850	*mat*K	Costion et al., 2011
	ACCCAGTCCATCTGGAAATCTTGGTTC			
ITS 5a F/	CCTTATCATTTAGAGGAAGGAG	700	ITS1	Schultz et al. 2005
ITS 4 R	TCCTCCGCTTATTGATATGC			
S2F/	ATGCGATACTTGGTGTGAAT	400	ITS2	Schultz et al. 2005
S3R	GACGCTTCTCCAGACTACAAT			

Table 2(on next page)

Dimensions of the fruits and seeds of *M.coriacea*

1 Table 2. Dimensions of the fruits and seeds of *M.coriacea*

Type of fruit or seed	Length cm	Width cm
Green Fruit	2.97 ± 0.18	3.14 ± 0.25
Ripe Fruit	2.89 ± 0.2	2, 97 ± 0.25
Green Seeds	1.66 ± 0.13	1.15 ± 0.21
Ripe Seeds	1.79 ± 0.09	1.20 ± 0.09

2

Table 3(on next page)

Samples and sequences submitted in the GenBank from the samples of *M. coriacea* barcoded.

Table 3. Samples and sequences submitted in the GenBank from the samples of *M. coriacea* barcoded.

Barcode	Accession
*rbc*L	2198607
*mat*K	2199742
ITS1	MK577640
ITS2	MK577643

Table 4(on next page)

Best model to describe the substitution pattern using Mega7.

Table 4. Best model to describe the substitution pattern using Mega7.

Barcode	Best model
*rbc*L	JC
*mat*K	T92
ITS1	T92+G
ITS2	T92+G

KG: Kimura 2-parameter; +G: Gamma distribution; T92: Tamura 3-parameter; GTR: General Time Reversible. K2: Kimura 2-parameter. JC: Jukes-Cantor.

Figure 1

Macro morphological details of leaf from *M. coriacea*

A: retuse apex, **B:** whole edge, **C:** obtuse base, **D**, **E** and **F**: closed rib

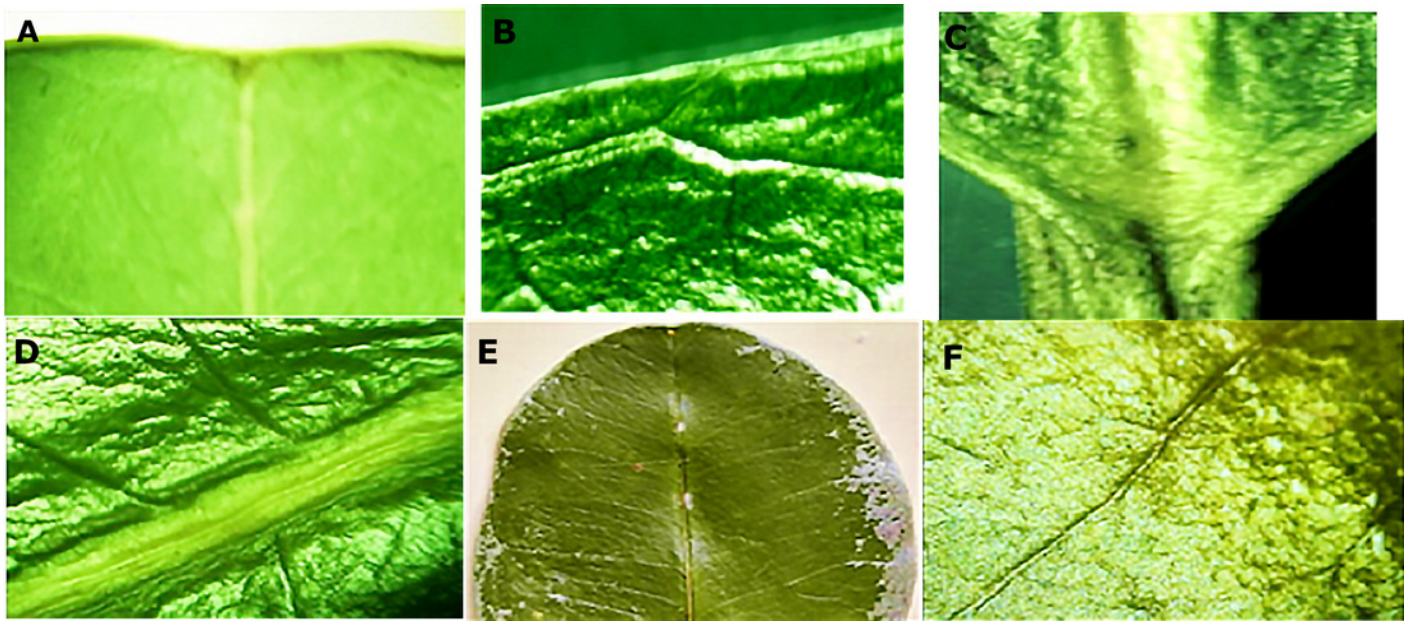


Figure 2

Macro morphological details of crust from *M. coriacea*

A: external surface, **B**: internal surface

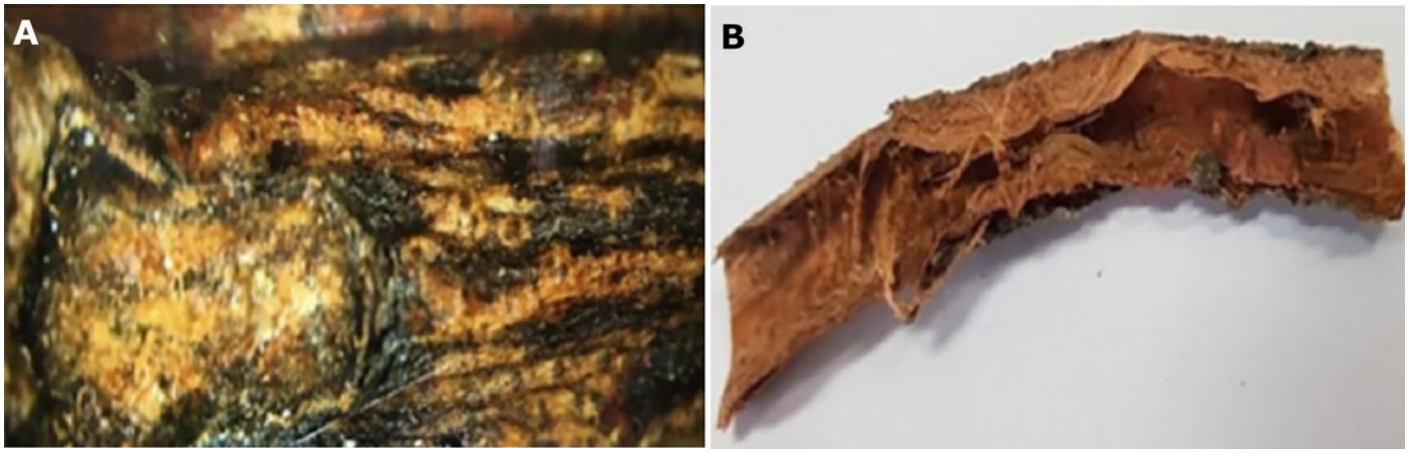


Figure 3

Macro morphological characters of fruits and seeds from *M. coriacea*

A: green fruit, **B:** ripe fruit, **C:** seeds green fruits with peel, **D:** seeds ripe fruits with peel, **E:** endosperm green seeds, **F:** endosperm mature seeds

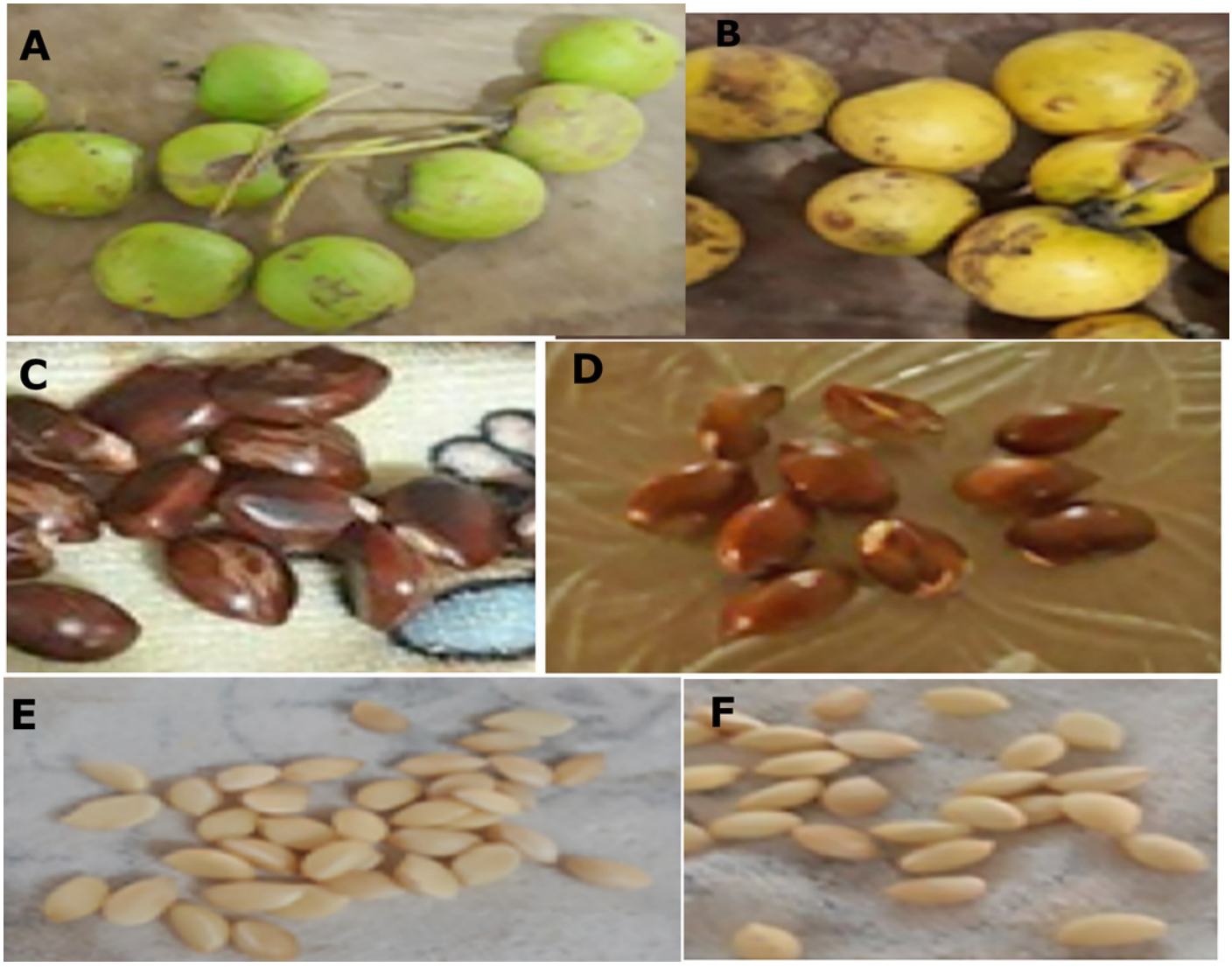


Figure 4

Microscopic characteristics of leaf from *M. coriacea*

Transversal section of the central nerveof the leaf (I): A: central nerve of the leaf, **B** and **C:** enlarged view of the central nerve, **D:** mesophilic, Cu: cuticle, Ep: epidermis, COC: calcium oxalate crystals, SP: spongy parenchyma, VS: vascular system, En: endodermis, AdE: adaxial epidermis, PP: palisadeparenchyma, AbE: abaxial epidermis

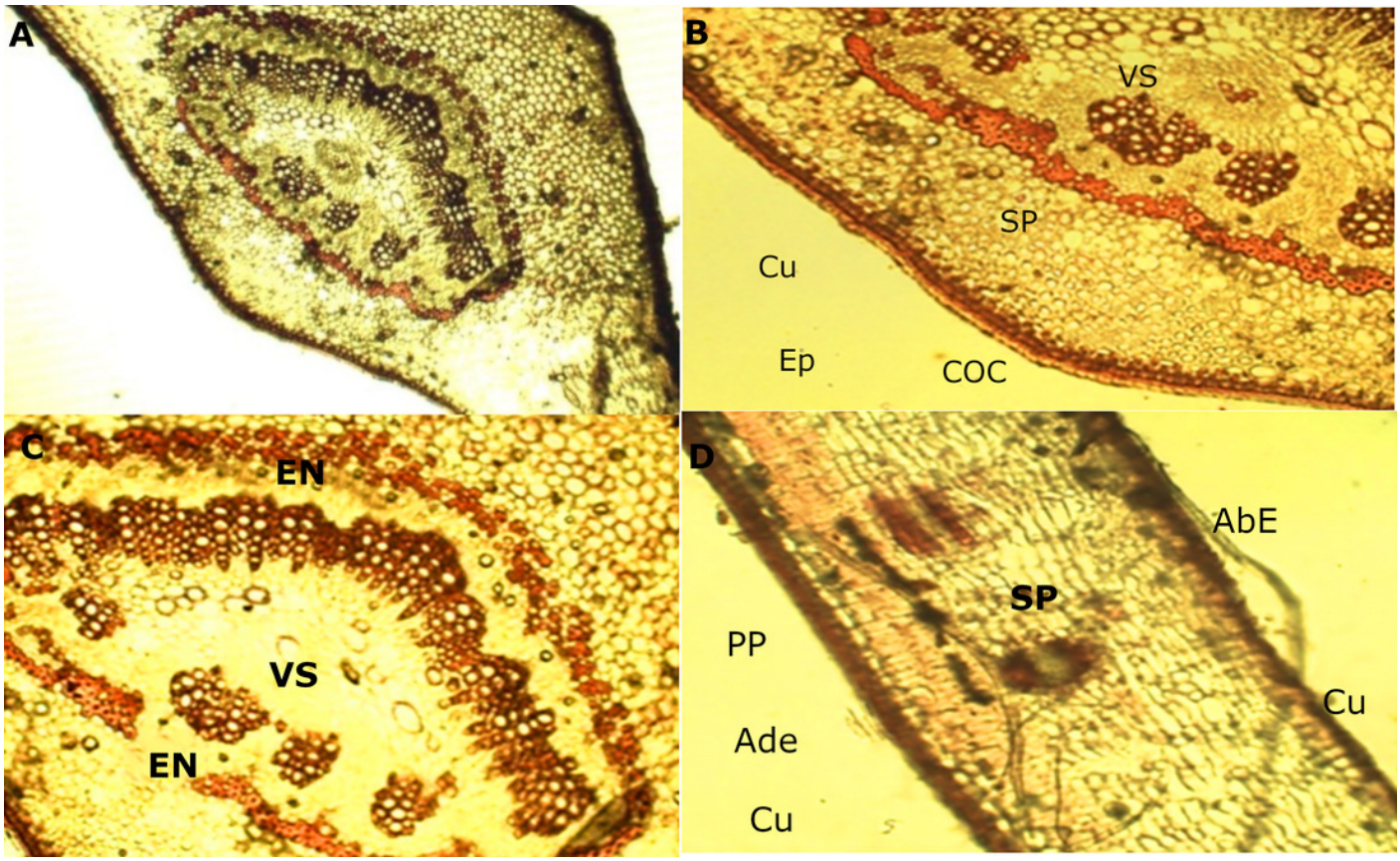


Figure 5

Microscopic characteristics of leaf from *M. coriacea*

Diafanized of the leaf (II): A: adaxial epidermis, **B** and **C:** abaxial epidermis EpC: epidermal cells, S: stomata, EO: essential oils

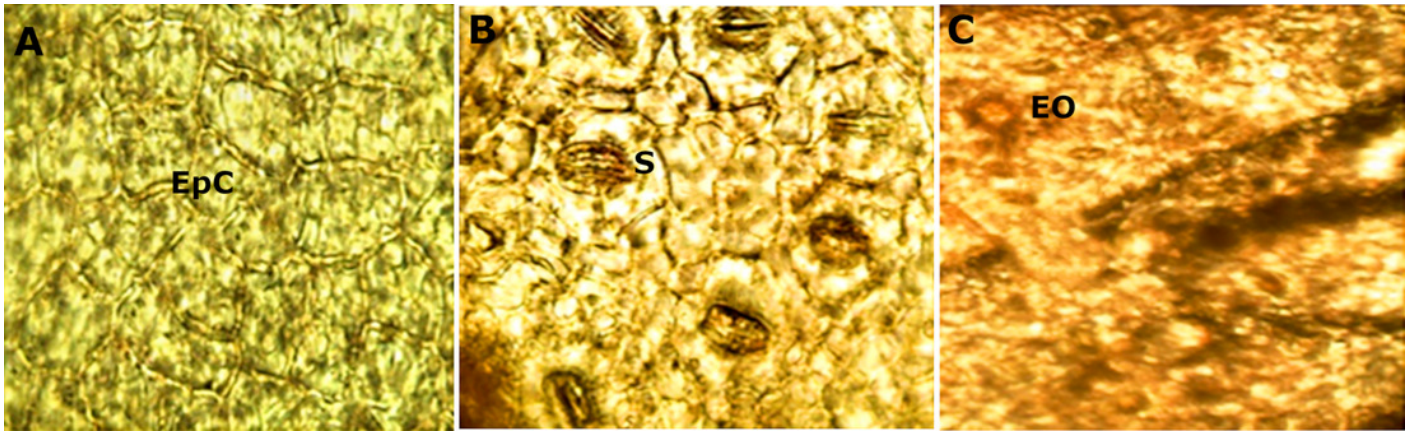


Figure 6

Powder drug characteristics of *M. coriacea*

A: powder drug from leaf. **B, C, D, E:** powder drug from bark. **F, G, H, I, J:** powder drug from seed.VS: vascular system, F: fibers, S: starch, ST: suberoustissue, SF: septate fibers, COC: calcium oxalate crystal, SC: sclerides cells, MS: macrosclerides, OB: oilbag, SG: starch granules

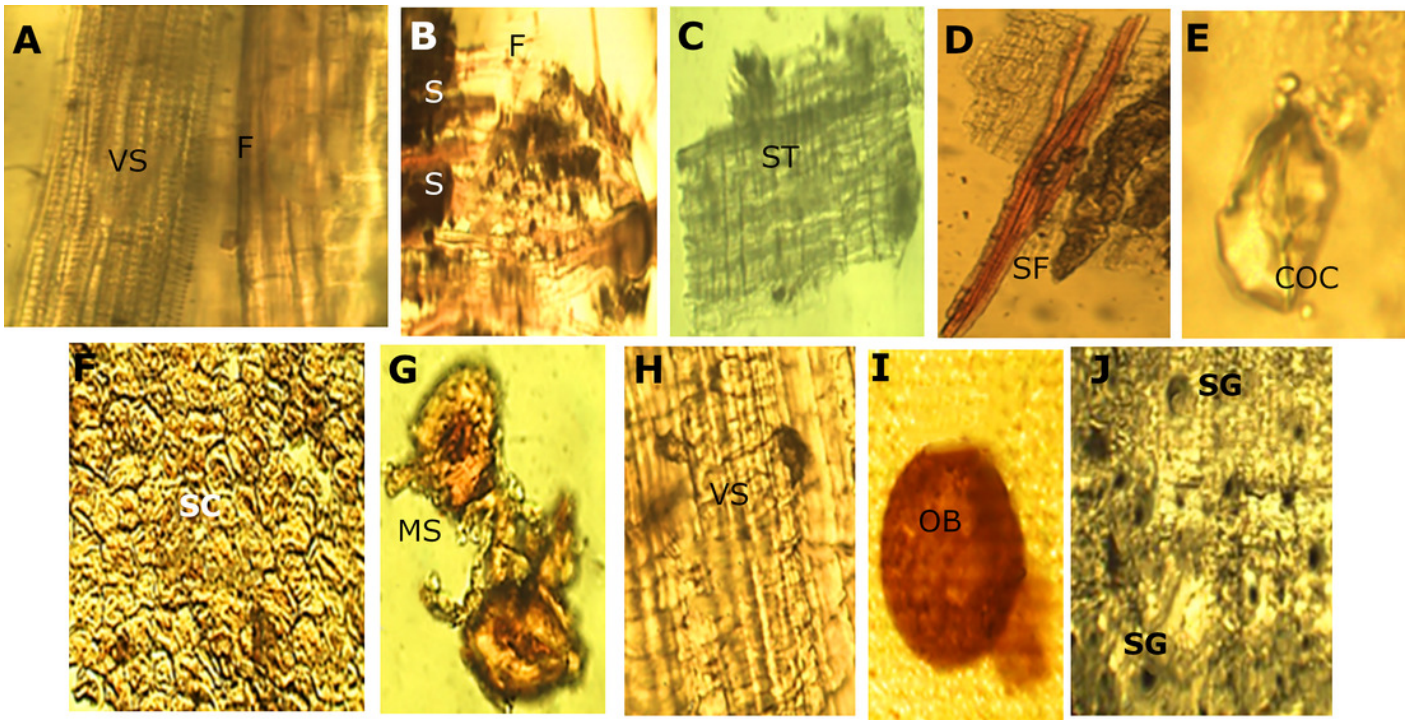
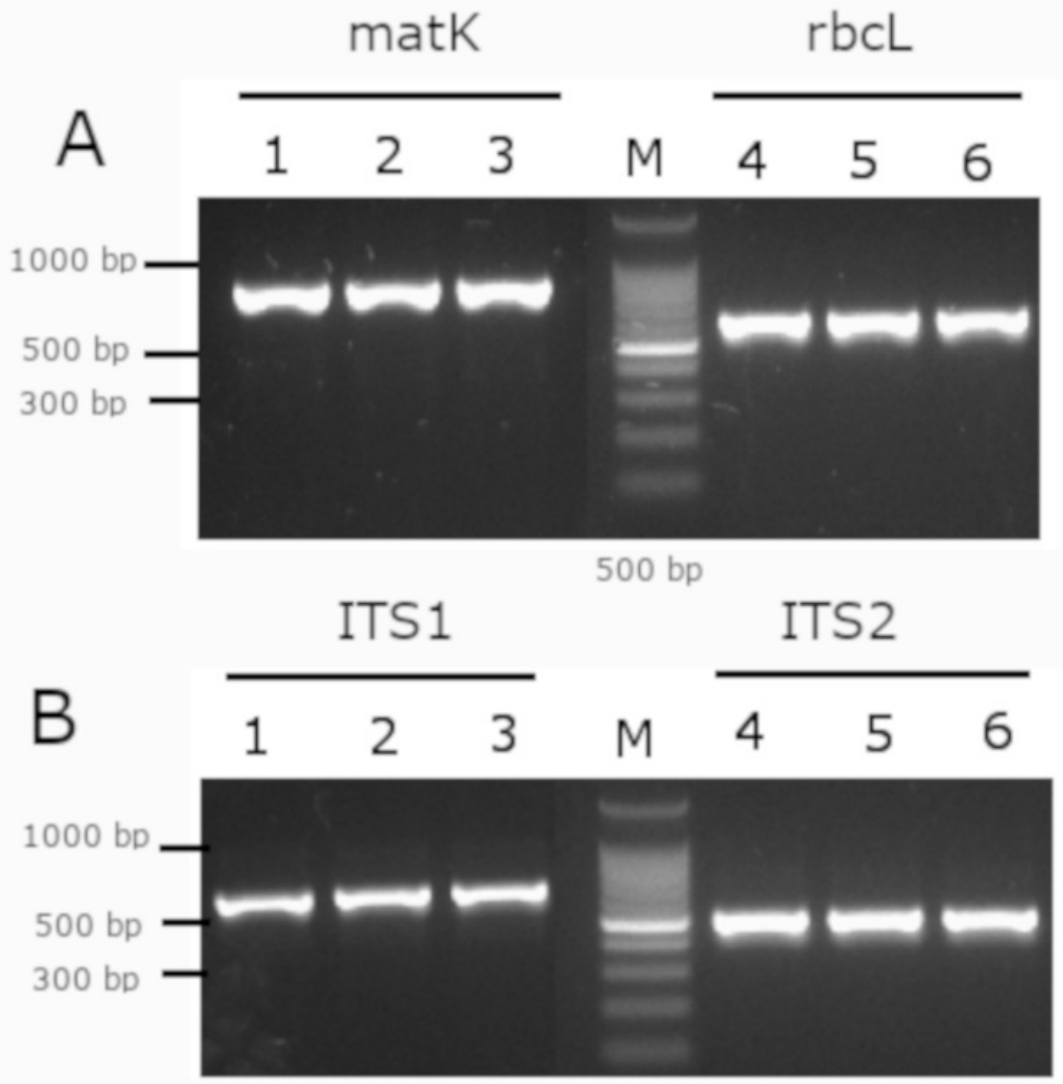


Figure 7

Gel electrophoresis of amplicons generated for the molecular barcodes with the genomic DNA of *M. coriacea*

(A) Amplification of rbcL (rbcLA_F/ rbcLA_R), mat K (matK_3F_KIM f/matK_1R_KIM R). (B) Amplification of ITS1 (5a_F/ITS 4_R), and ITS2 (S2f/S3R). Numbers from 1 to 3 are technical replicates of DNA of each species. + is the positive control. – is the negative control. M is the 100 bp DNA Ladder (Cat. # G2101, Promega).


matK
rbcL
A
1
2
3
M
4
5
6
1000 bp
500 bp
300 bp
500 bp
ITS1
ITS2
B
1
2
3
M
4
5
6
1000 bp
500 bp
300 bp