

1987 Germplasm Collections of Cultivated Cucurbits from China and Hong Kong

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During the last week of May and the first week of June 1987, we visited five cities (Beijing, Xi'an, Guilin, Yangshou, and Guangzhou) in the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong. As part of our trip, we gathered data and germplasm from a variety of cultivated cucurbits (Cucurbitaceae). We were unable to make germplasm collections of many common cucurbits, particularly bottle gourds (Lagenaria siceraria (Mol.) Standl.) and loofahs (Luffa acutangula (L.) Roxb. and L. cylindrica (L.) M. J. Roem.), because the fruits were sold in the markets only in the immature state. Even from mature fruits, the amount of seeds collected was small. Therefore, we are currently increasing this germplasm with controlled pollinations. We will be sending the increased seed to the USDA-ARS over the next few years. Some original samples of viable, mature seeds have already been sent to USDA-ARS, Germplasm Introduction Office, Building 001, Room 322, BARC-West, Beltsville, Maryland 20705. These include collection numbers 367, 368, 369, 370, 372, 380, and 382 (Table 1).

Species collected in China and Hong Kong and their codes in Table 1 are: Benincasa hispida (Thunb.) Cogn. (BEN), Citrullus lanatus (Thunb.) Matsum. and Nakai (CIT), Cucumis melo L. (CUC-M), Cucumis sativus L. (CUC-S), Cucurbita maxima Duch. ex Lam. (CUK-A), Cucurbita mixta Pang. (CUK-I), Cucurbita moschata (Duch. ex Lam.) Duch. ex Poir. (CUK-M), Cucurbita pepo L. (CUK-P), Cyclanthera pedata (L.) Schrad. (CYC), and Momordica charantia L. (MOM).

Table 1. Germplasm collections of the Cucurbitaceae from China and Hong Kong.

Collection	Species	Locality	Observations
DDW 367	BEN	Hong Kong	seeds bought from large jar
DDW 377	BEN	Guangzhou	fruit oblong, ca. 30 cm x 15 cm
DDW 365	CIT	Hong Kong	seeds bought from large bin, seeds large and red
DDW 368	CIT	Beijing	rind green, flesh pale pink, seeds small and brown
DDW 369	CIT	Beijing	rind green, flesh pale pink, seeds small and brown
DDW 371	CIT	Xi'an	fruit ca. 18 cm diameter, rind dark green, flesh red, seeds large and black
DDW 370	CUC-M	Xi'an	fruit ca. 12 cm diameter, rind pale green, flesh pale yellow
DDW 372	CUC-M	Guilin	fruit ca. 9 cm diameter, rind pale green, flesh white
DDW 380	CUC-M	Guangzhou	fruit ca. 11 cm diameter, rind light brown and netted, flesh orange
DDW 382	CUC-S	Hong Kong	fruit oblong, ca. 18 cm x 7 cm, rind yellowish brown and cracked, flesh white and juicy
DDW 369.5	CUK	Beijing	bag of roasted seeds bought, represented were CUK-A, CUK-I, CUK-M, and CUK-P
DDW 374	CUK-M	Yangshuo	fruit bell-shaped, rind dark green turning orange, flesh pale yellow, seeds immature
DDW 376	CUK-M	Guangzhou	fruit large and squarish, rind green and orange splotched, flesh orange
DDW 383	CUK-M	Hong Kong	fruit bell-shaped, rind green turning white, flesh deep yellow, seeds immature
DDW 366	CUK-P	Hong Kong	seeds bought from large jar, salted
DDW 379	CYC	Guangzhou	fruit elliptic, ca. 17 cm long, rind green and white splotched, seeds with wavy margins, immature
DDW 363	MOM	Hong Kong	rind green, seeds immature?
DDW 378	MOM	Guangzhou	rind green, seeds light brown