

Article

## Distinctiveness of Bean Landraces in Italy: the Case Study of the ‘Badda’ Bean

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**Abstract:** In this study, we present the morphological and molecular characterization of the ‘Badda’ bean, a landrace of outstanding organoleptic qualities that is diffused in the area of Polizzi in the province of Palermo in Sicily, Italy. This landrace is entitled to be valorized in the local market and therefore needs a thorough description to draw criteria to establish its distinctiveness from landraces with morphological and geographical proximity. Three ‘Badda’ accessions, representing the morphological variability within the landrace, have been evaluated together with suitable references. With the help of morpho-physiological traits, digital scanning of apical leaflets and ISSR molecular markers, we describe a spectrum of descriptors useful to distinguish the ‘Badda’ accessions among themselves and from similar landraces.

**Keywords:** Badda bean; genetic diversity; germplasm; landraces; *Phaseolus vulgaris* L.

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## 1. Introduction

The cultivated forms of common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) originated in America during two independent events of domestication occurring, respectively, in the Central and in the South-Western regions of the continent [1]. According to these two origins, the common bean germplasm can be classified as belonging to the Mesoamerican or to the Andean gene pool by using morphological, biochemical and molecular descriptors [2,3]. When the Spaniards introduced the common bean into Europe at the beginning of the 16th century, germplasm from both Central and South America was involved, thus representing the two gene pools also in the Old World [4]. In Europe, common bean rapidly spread into cultivation, being most successful in the South Western countries where it found a secondary center of diversification. Its adaptation to the new environment resulted in a wide array of variants that became more or less fixed into landraces that have been cultivated for centuries [3]. Many of these landraces are still commonly found at local markets [5,6].

Unfortunately, nowadays this variability is endangered; in Italy a great number of landraces have been dropped from the National Register, due to lack of commercial interest from major seed companies that focus on the breeding of the few types preferred by the market (e.g., borlotto and cannellino types). At the same time, relatively few traditional types have been accepted into alternative variety protection systems. To counteract this phenomenon, owing to the interest raised by bean landraces both as a germplasm source for breeding programs and as an added-value produce to be valorized in local and niche markets, the characterization of the Italian treasure of bean local varieties has recently been undertaken by several authors [5,7-12].

The ‘*Badda*’ bean is an Italian landrace that has been cultivated for more than two centuries in the area of Polizzi Generosa (province of Palermo, Sicily) in the natural park of the Madonie mountains, between 700 and 900 m above sea level. In this environment, ‘*Badda*’ finds optimal conditions for the production of both fresh pods and dry seed, giving a product with superior organoleptic qualities. The name in local dialect means “ball” and refers to the round seed shape. The seed is typically spotted bicolor; two sub-types are distinguished, the ‘*Badda Bianco*’ (White Badda) with ivory background and a spot ranging from brown to brownish, and the ‘*Badda Nero*’ (Black Badda) with ivory background and a spot ranging from black to purple. According to the classification reported by Santalla *et al.* [13], the ‘*Badda*’ bean morphotypes belong to the market class of white (bi-colored) seed, having the types Hen eye, Rounded Caparron and Kidney Caparron as references for the ‘*Badda Nero*’ and the ‘*Badda Bianco*’ with brownish and brown spot, respectively [13].

A group of farmers recently funded a consortium for the protection and valorization of the ‘*Badda*’ bean, thus raising the need for a thorough characterization of the landrace and the establishment of distinctiveness criteria. These actions are generally necessary in order to pursue landrace valorization through quality marks or the inscription to the Register of Conservation Varieties [9]. In this work, we set out to describe with morphological traits and molecular markers three accessions belonging to the ‘*Badda*’ landrace, in comparison with several reference materials and with landraces showing morphological and/or geographical proximity.

Several classes of genetic markers have been used in order to infer genetic variability, phylogeny and distinctiveness in common bean, including biochemical polymorphisms [2,6,8,14] and molecular markers such as random amplified polymorphic DNAs (RAPDs) [15,16], amplified fragment length

polymorphisms (AFLPs) [5,9,15,17,18], simple sequence repeats (SSRs) [9,10,12,18] and inter simple sequence repeats (ISSRs) [10,16,19,20]. Here, we adopt ISSR marker analysis on DNA bulks from different plants, in order to maximize cost-effectiveness and information for landrace distinction.

## 2. Experimental Section

### 2.1. Plant Material and Morphological Analysis

Bean accessions representative of the morphological variability for the seed color found in the 'Badda' landrace, 'Badda Nero' and 'Badda Bianco', were collected from farmers in the Polizzi Generosa area in Sicily. For a preliminary assessment of molecular diversity and a classification of the 'Badda' type according to the main gene pools described for common bean, the accessions were grown in a first trial together with reference genotypes including three landraces from central Italy, two cultivars and the American control accessions BAT93 and JaloEEP558 as representative of the Mesoamerican and Andean gene pool, respectively (Table 1). In this trial, DNA was extracted from two plants of each 'Badda' accession and from one individual from the other populations. The DNA was analyzed with primers ISSR1 to ISSR12 (Table S1). Primers ISSR1 to ISSR6 were adopted because they were already used with success in the estimation of genetic diversity in bean [20,21], whereas primers ISSR7 to ISSR12 were derived from a work carried out in lentil [22].

A second field trial included a selection of Italian bean landraces mainly from Southern regions and characterized by bicolored seeds. Seeds were imbibed in Petri dishes and seedlings transferred in Jiffy-pots. At the third leaf stage, plantlets were pricked out in open field according to a randomized block design with two blocks and six plants per elementary experimental unit. Plants were grown according to standard agronomic practices. Morpho-physiological traits, which were scored on a single plant basis, were selected from the list of Shalch and De la Rosa [23] following the IPGRI and UPOV descriptions. The traits scored or measured were: date of flowering, of fruit setting and of harvesting (respectively FLO, code 1.01 according to [23], SET and HAR, code 1.06, corresponding to days after sowing (das) to the first open flower, to the first pod set and to the first pod ripen respectively), type of growth (HAB, code 2.05; 1, determinate; 2, indeterminate), flower standard color (FCO, code 5.11; 1, white; 2, lilac; 3, purple). After harvesting, pod length and width (PLE, code 6.01.02, and PWI, code 6.01.03; in cm) were measured on two representative pods per plant, which also served to judge pod beak position (PBP, code 6.01.14; 1, marginal; 2, central), pod beak shape (PBS, code 6.01.15; 1, outwards; 2, straight; 3, inwards), degree of pod curvature (PCU, code 6.02.02; 1, straight; 2, slightly curved; 3, curved), ripe pod color (PCO, code 6.02.05; 1, red mottled; 2, violet mottled; 3, yellow-brownish; 4, violet; 5, white yellowish/brownish). The seed produced by each plant was scored for the seed color (SCO, codes 7.04 and 7.05; 1, white; 2, white/black; 3, white/brownish; 4, white/brown; 5, white/purple; 6, purple/brownish) and seed type (STY, code 7.06; 1, uniform; 2, spotted bicolor; 3, striped).

For the continuous variables (FLO, SET, HAR, PLE, PWI), differences in mean values between accessions were estimated through an analysis of variance adopting the General Linear Model (GLM) using the SAS software [24]. The continuous and discrete variables, together, were used for multivariate analysis according to the Ward method using the procedures DISTANCE and CLUSTER

of the SAS program [24]. The distance matrix was calculated using the algorithm of Gower [25], which analyzes continuous and discrete variables jointly. The dendrogram was constructed with the TREE procedure of the same software.

**Table 1.** List of the landraces and cultivars included in the trials, their origin, codes and growth habit (HAB).

Accession type	Origin			Accession name	Accession code	Trial		HAB
	Region	Province	Location			1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	
Landraces	Sicily	Palermo	Polizzi Generosa	'Badda Bianco'	BA4	x	x	2
		Palermo	Polizzi Generosa	'Badda Bianco'	BA7	x	x	2
		Palermo	Polizzi Generosa	'Badda Nero'	BA6	x	x	2
	Basilicata	Potenza	Rotonda	'Castelluccisa'	CA		x	2
		Potenza	Rotonda	'Zà Vincenza'	ZV		x	2
		Potenza	Sarconi	'Monachella'	MO		x	2
		Potenza	Sarconi	'O'Marozzo'	MA		x	2
	Campania	Salerno	Casalbuono	'Munaciedd'	MU		x	2
		Salerno	Cilento	'Tuvagliedd'	TU		x	2
		Salerno	Casalbuono	'Panzariedd'	PA		x	2
	Latium	Rieti	Colle di Tora	'A pisello'	PH		x	2
		Viterbo	Gradoli	'Fagiolo del Purgatorio'	PU	x		1
	Marche	Pesaro e Urbino	Urbania	'Borlotto rosso'	AN8		x	2
		Pesaro e Urbino	Leccia	'Borlotto'	AN9		x	1
		Macerata	I Colli	'Borlotto uova di quaglia'	AN23	x	x	2
		Macerata	B.go S. Antonio	'Monachello'	AN39	x	x	2
Commercial				Big borlotto	BB	x		1
				Clio	CL	x	x	1
References				BAT93	BAT	x		1
				JaloEEP558	JA	x		1

## 2.2. Morphometric Analysis of Leaf Shape

To estimate leaf shape in detail, six representative apical leaflets from fully developed trifoliate leaves for each of the 15 landraces adopted in the second trial were scanned into digital images and subjected to morphometric analysis by the Tomato Analyzer ver 1.2 Software [26,27]. Although the software was specifically implemented to analyze fruit morphology, the following descriptors could properly be detected on the leaflet silhouette: leaf perimeter (LP), leaf area (LA), leaf width at mid-height (LWM), maximum width (MW), maximum height (MH), leaf shape index (LSI), proximal leaf blockiness (PLB; "proximal" refers to the tip of the leaflet), distal leaf blockiness (DLB; "distal"

refers to the peduncular end of the leaflet), leaf shape triangle (LST), ellipsoid (ELL), circular (CIR), widest width position (WWP). All parameters are described in detail by Brewer *et al.* [26] and Gonzalo *et al.* [27]. After standardization, the arithmetic means over landrace were used to perform an Agglomerative Hierarchical Clustering (AHC) procedure with the XLSTAT 7.5.2 Package (<http://www.xlstat.com/>). Clustering was based on the Euclidean distance and the Ward method chosen as a fusion criterion.

The dissimilarity matrices obtained from the morpho-physiological and from the leaf shape data were compared by Mantel test using XLSTAT.

### 2.3. Molecular Analyses

DNA was extracted from single plants using 2–3 young healthy leaflets according to Doyle and Doyle [28]. The extracted DNA was quantified after running an aliquot on 1.2% (w/v) agarose gels and compared with standards of known concentration. For the analysis of the second trial, the DNA extracted from four single plants per accession was separately checked with a control amplification and then bulked by mixing equal amounts. DNA pooling was adopted as a strategy to highlight inter-population diversity and better identify those bands with diagnostic value for distinctiveness.

Thirty ISSR primers, 12 degenerate and 18 non-degenerate, were used for the study (Table S1). The non-degenerated primers (primer codes from ISSR15 onwards) were developed by the authors. ISSR PCR amplification was done in 20 µL of reaction mixture containing 30 ng of DNA, 2.0 µL of 10 × PCR buffer, 2 µL of 100 mM dNTPs, 75 ng of primer and 1.0 U of Taq DNA polymerase (Pharmacia Biotech, San Francisco, CA). The PCR program was 94 °C for 4 min, followed by 35 cycles of 94 °C for 1 min, 56 °C for 1 min, 72 °C for 2 min and a final extension of 5 min at 72 °C. Primer ISSR1 to ISSR6 were given an annealing temperature of 42 °C instead of 56 °C. The PCR products were resolved in 2.0% (w/v) agarose gels in Tris-boric acid/EDTA buffer (1 × TBE) and electrophoresis was carried out for 3 h at a constant voltage of 75 V. Gels were stained with ethidium bromide and photographed with an image analyzer.

Each polymorphic ISSR band was considered as a locus with two alleles: presence (1) or absence (0), thus generating a binary matrix. Weak bands were not taken into consideration. Binary data were used to calculate a genetic distance [29] matrix. Dendrograms were constructed with the unweighted pair-group method of arithmetic clustering (UPGMA) [30] using the TREECON Ver. 1.3b software [31]. Levels for support for the nodes were evaluated using a bootstrap analysis with 500 replicates.

The dissimilarity matrices obtained from the morpho-physiological and from the leaf shape data were compared with that yielded by the ISSR analysis by Mantel test using XLSTAT.

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1. Preliminary Characterization of the ‘Badda’ Bean Landrace

A first agronomic trial and analysis with ISSR markers were carried out in order to classify the ‘Badda’ landrace into one of the major bean gene pools and to preliminary assess its distinctiveness from other bean types (Table 1). The analysis produced a total of 138 ‘readable’ ISSR amplification products, two-thirds of which were polymorphic in the studied material (Table 2). The analysis separated the accessions into two clusters, one harboring ‘BAT93’ (BAT) and ‘Fagiolo del Purgatorio’ (PU) and the second grouping the other accessions (Figure S1). In this second cluster, the three ‘Badda’ accessions were shown to be distinguishable from the reference type JA, the other spotted-bicolor (AN39) and Borlotto-type striped beans (CL, AN23 and BB). This distinction reflects the division into the main gene pools of common bean, because BAT is the reference type for the Mesoamerican gene pool and PU has been similarly classified having the S type of phaseolin pattern [11], which is typical of Mesoamerican beans [10]. On the other hand, although an analysis of phaseolins was not performed in this study, the ‘Badda’ landrace grouped together with JA, the reference genotype for the Andean gene pool, and with Borlotto types that in other studies have shown the H and T phaseolin patterns [8], typical of large seeded beans from the Andean region [2,32]. Altogether, the data indicated that the ‘Badda’ landrace belongs to the Andean gene pool, that includes the majority of the genotypes spread in Europe and in particular in Italy [3,8,10,16]. Consequently, the analysis for distinctiveness was addressed to a selected group of accessions, mostly including Italian landraces from the Andean gene pool [33] having phenotypic similarity and geographic proximity to ‘Badda’.

**Table 2.** Statistics of the molecular analyses carried out with ISSR markers in the preliminary trial (13 genotypes from 10 accessions of the two gene pools) and in the second trial (16 DNA bulks of four plants each, representing landraces belonging to the Andean gene pool from Southern Italy plus the cv Clio). Percentages are reported in parentheses.

Trait	1 <sup>st</sup> trial	2 <sup>nd</sup> trial		
		Total	Degenerate primers	Non-degenerate primers
No. of informative primers	12	28	11	17
No. of bands	138	194	69	125
No. of bands per primer	11.5	6.9	6.3	7.4
No. of polymorphic bands	93 (67.4)	50 (25.8)	20 (29.0)	30 (24.0)
No. of polymorphic bands per primer	7.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
No. of private bands	5 (3.6)*	15 (7.7)**	4 (5.8)	11 (8.8)
No. of private bands per primer	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.6

\* Four out of five bands are private of the Mesoamerican gene pool (BAT and PU).

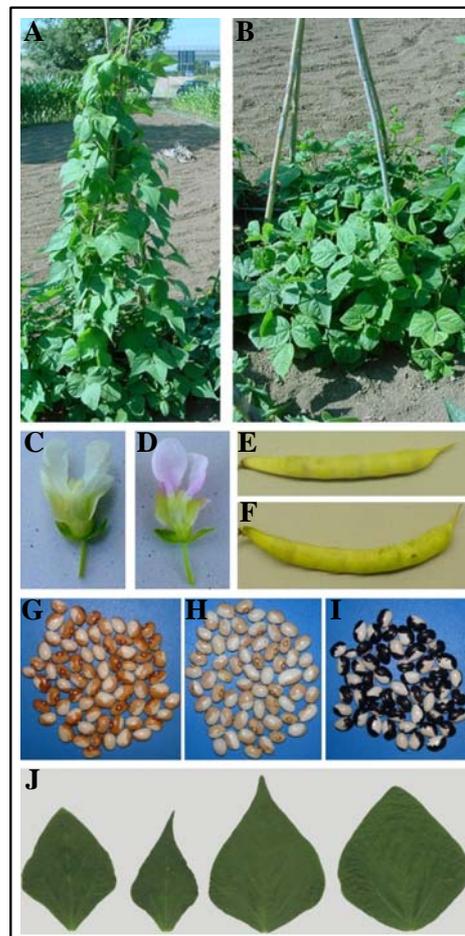
\*\* Nine out of 15 bands are private of the Clio cultivar.

### 3.2. Morpho-Physiological Analysis

In addition to the three ‘*Badda*’ accessions, the second trial included four landraces from the Basilicata region, three from Campania, one from Latium and four from Marche (Table 1). The cultivar Clio (CL) was left as a commercial reference.

All the accessions in this trial showed an indeterminate growth habit with the exception of AN9 and CL (Figure 1A, B; Table 1). For all the quantitative variables, the accessions showed significant differences (Table S2). All the ‘*Badda*’ accessions showed very late flowering time (FLO > 80 das) together with three accessions from Basilicata and ripened the pods only in late summer (Table S2). The ‘*Badda*’ accessions all had plants with white flower standards (Figure 1C). The other accessions had either white or lilac (Figure 1D) flowers, with the exception of CL, whose flowers were purple.

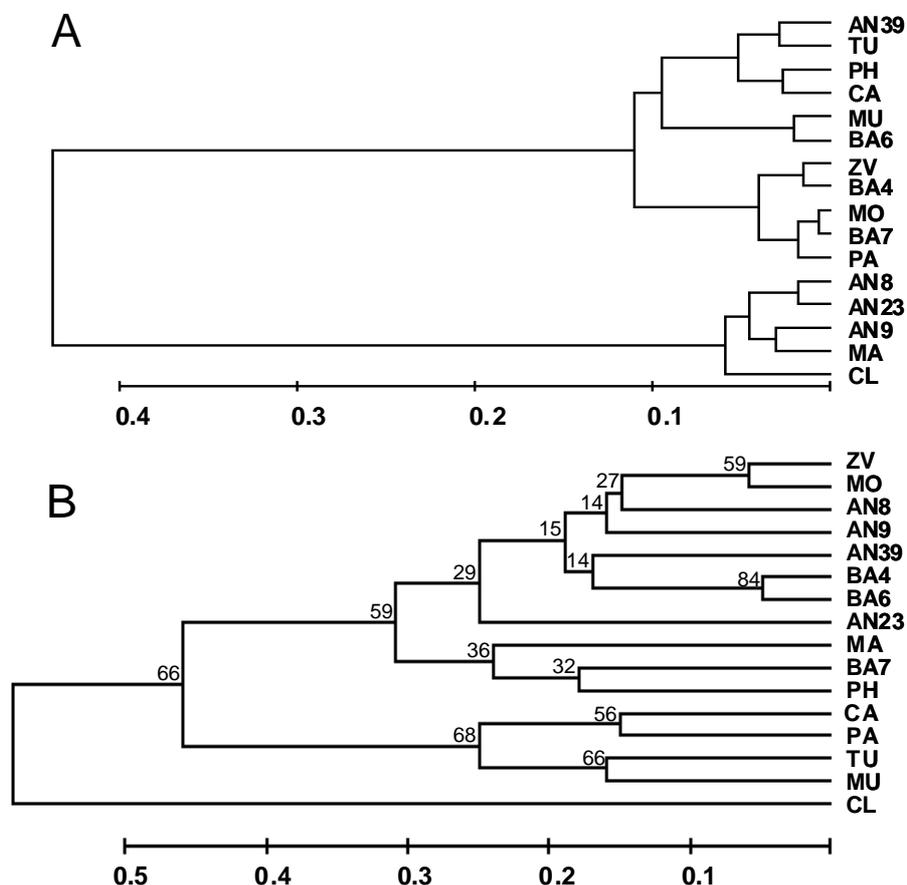
**Figure 1.** Morphological characteristics of the ‘*Badda*’ bean accessions. Indeterminate growth habit in ‘*Badda*’ (A) compared with the determinate growth habit of the cv Clio (B); flower at anthesis from one ‘*Badda*’ accession (C) and from the accession MA (D); straight immature pod from the accession BA6 (E) and curved pod from BA4 (F); seed samples from BA4, and BA7, the ‘*Badda Bianco*’ accessions (G-H) and from BA6, the ‘*Badda Nero*’ (I); silhouettes of typical apical leaflets from bean accessions representing the four groups yielded by the analysis of leaf shape data (J, from left to right, BA4, BA6, BA7 and MO).



Only the accessions AN8 showed a pod length significantly longer than the others (Table S2). Pod width was more diverse overall; notably, BA4 showed a thinner pod compared to BA6, whereas BA7 was intermediate. The accessions showed high variability for the other descriptors of the pod and the seed, but the three ‘Badda’ accessions were homogeneous for PBP and STY. ‘Badda Nero’ (BA6) differentiated for having a straight pod and beak shape (Figure 1E) whereas the other ‘Badda’ accessions showed curved phenotypes (Figure 1F). Secondary seed color was finally differentiating the three ‘Badda’ accessions, being brown, brownish or black in BA4, BA7 and BA6 respectively (Figure 1G-I).

When the morpho-physiological data were subjected to multivariate analysis, the lower Gower’s distance was found between BA7 and MO (0.16) and the highest between CL and CA (0.86, data not shown). The cluster analysis sharply separated the accession into two clusters, one including the Borlotto-type accessions (with striped seed, STY = 3; AN8, AN23, AN9, MA, CL) and the other the remaining accessions, all with bicolored seed except PH, which has white uniform seed (Figure 2A). The first cluster included the two accession with determinate habit, and was characterized by plants with lilac/purple flower standards and early flowering (FLO range 43-65 das). The second cluster was further divided into two sub-groups, mainly based on differences in pod curvature and pod beak shape (Figure 2A).

**Figure 2.** UPGMA dendrograms based on Gower [25] matrix following 13 morphological descriptors (A) and Nei *et al.* [29] matrix following ISSR analysis (50 polymorphic bands; numbers at the nodes indicate bootstrap values) (B) of 16 bean accessions.



### 3.3. Morphometric Analysis of Leaf Shape

The taxonomic value of the shape of the terminal leaflet in the trifoliate leaf was highlighted in previous studies, where four principal morphotypes (cordate, ovate, rhombohedric and hastate) were described on the basis of leaf length and width [34]. Here, morphometric differences in the apical leaflet (hereafter referred to as leaf shape data) were detected by 12 descriptors, adopting the Tomato Analyzer digital system [26], in order to improve the quantity and quality of leaf descriptors. A hierarchical analysis of the data separated the landraces into two groups according to leaflet symmetry as expressed by distal leaf blockiness (DLB; “distal” refers to the peduncular side) and leaf shape triangle (LST, Table 3). Accessions with symmetric or rhombohedric [34] leaves (among which there was BA4, Figure 1J) showed lower values of DLB and higher values of LST (Table 3). Differently, BA6 and BA7 were classified among the accessions with asymmetric or hastate [34] leaves (Figure 1J). Within each first-level group, the accessions were further subdivided according to the size; this was related to different values of LA, which were supported by different MH in the ‘symmetric leaf’ group and different LSI in the ‘asymmetric leaf’ group (Table 3).

The grouping of landraces according to leaf shape data was not correlated to that obtained with the other morphological descriptors; the matrices of dissimilarity were not significantly correlated ( $r = -0.09$ ,  $P = 0.20$ ).

**Table 3.** Group mean value and range of individual means (in parenthesis) for the leaflet morphometric traits discriminating the landraces into four groups.

1 <sup>st</sup> -level groups	1 <sup>st</sup> -level discriminant traits		2 <sup>nd</sup> -level groups	2 <sup>nd</sup> -level discriminant traits			Landraces
	DLB	LST		LA	LSI	MH	
‘Symmetric leaflet’	0.48 (0.40–0.63)	0.35 (0.28–0.50)	‘Big leaflet’	33.6 (30.9–35.9)	1.32 (1.28–1.38)	8.6 (8.2–9.3)	AN8, MO, CA, PH
			‘Small leaflet’	25.1 (23.7–27.2)	1.34 (1.32–1.40)	7.6 (7.4–7.7)	BA4, AN39, ZV
‘Asymmetric leaflet’	0.60 (0.53–0.70)	0.26 (0.19–0.39)	‘Big leaflet’	31.3 (29.9–33.6)	1.36 (1.32–1.41)	8.4 (8.2–8.7)	BA6, AN23, MA, MU
			‘Small leaflet’	27.5 (22.3–32.6)	1.46 (1.39–1.54)	8.4 (7.5–9.4)	BA7, PA, AN9, TU

### 3.4. Molecular Analysis

Because primer ISSR12 and ISSR35 did not amplify readable profiles in this analysis, the results are yielded by amplification with 28 informative primers. The molecular analyses on the 16 DNA bulks corresponding to the accessions evaluated in the second trial yielded a total of 194 bands with a size variable between 110 and 2,200 bp. Of these, 50 were polymorphic among the studied accessions (26%). The mean number of bands per primer was 6.9 and the mean number of polymorphic bands per primer was 1.8 (Table 2). The percentage of polymorphic bands was not significantly different ( $\chi^2$  for homogeneity 0.63, ns) between the groups of degenerate and non-degenerate primers, nor was the

number of polymorphic bands per primer (Table 2). This indicated that the choice of ISSR primers from the literature according to previous experience in the same family, as was the case of the degenerate primers [20-22], is not crucial for their efficiency, because the non-degenerate primers, developed by the authors, highlighted similar levels of polymorphism. Bulking plant DNA in the second trial had the effect to drastically lowering the number of polymorphic markers compared to the first analysis (Table 2) and to other reports [16] and of doubling on average the frequency of private bands.

The dendrogram obtained from the Nei distance matrix highlighted the difference of CL from the landraces; the latter were divided into two main clusters, one containing the accessions from Campania (PA, TU, MU) plus CA from Basilicata and the other the remaining accessions (Figure 2B). The two 'Badda' accessions BA4 and BA6 grouped very close, showing the highest bootstrap value in the dendrogram. Differently, the accession BA7 was related, more loosely, to the landraces PH and MA (Figure 2B).

Thus, BA4 and BA6 could be referred to a molecularly distinct 'Badda' type, whereas BA7 represent a more distant population, possibly derived from a different introduction or contaminated by foreign germplasm. This was supported by the detection of one band private for BA7 and three bands specific to BA7, PH and MA. No private bands were detected either for BA4 or BA6. Only one amplification product was detected specifically in the three 'Badda' DNA bulks.

The dissimilarity matrices based on the full range of morphological descriptors and on the molecular markers were significantly but loosely correlated ( $P = 0.02$ ,  $r = 0.27$ ). However, when the CL cultivar was excluded from the matrix, the dissimilarity matrix obtained by molecular analysis was not significantly correlated either to that based on general morphology or on leaf shape data ( $r = 0.09$ ,  $P = 0.20$  and  $r = -0.02$ ,  $P = 0.47$ , respectively). This demonstrated that the three levels of analysis likely sample different regions of the genome and that the most powerful criteria to establish landrace distinctiveness are those combining, at least, two levels of description. Thus, the 'Badda Nero' accession is very close to MU for morphological (differing only for the beak position and the seed color; Figure 2A; Table S2) and leaf shape data (Table 3); however, they result well separated by ISSR analysis (Figure 2B). The 'Badda' accession with brownish seeds, BA7, is very close to MO in general morphology (differing only for the pod color; Figure 2A; Table S2), but they show definitely different leaf shape classification (Table 3) and are well separated by ISSRs (Figure 2B).

#### 4. Conclusions

Nowadays, the on-farm survival and commercial valorization of Italian bean landraces is only guaranteed for beans from 'Lamon', 'Sarconi' and 'Sorana', that are endowed with a I.G.P. mark of the European Community [35]. However, many other bean types deserve characterization and description to be included in the list of the protected landraces. Several levels of analysis are available to study genetic diversity and distinctiveness of cultivated populations. The discrimination power of manually-scored morpho-physiological traits is greatly improved by the wealth and accessibility of specific and random molecular markers. In addition, new useful strategies may be developed by the use of digitally acquired data that may expedite and objectivise the detection of organ shape, size and

color. Detection systems based on digital analysis of seed properties have been successfully proposed to distinguish bean landraces [36].

In the present work, the morphologically diverse ‘*Badda*’ landrace has been characterized by a combination of continuous and categorical morphological descriptors, morphometric measurements of the leaflet shape and a number of polymorphic ISSR loci. All the levels of analysis yielded a contribution to discriminate the ‘*Badda*’ accession among themselves and from the other landraces. Accordingly, the better strategy to assess distinctiveness would be the adoption of, at least, two classification criteria. The use of DNA bulks for the ISSR analysis, lowered, as expected, the average number of polymorphic bands per primer, but highlighted those amplification products that can be used to ‘label’ distinct landraces.

Taken together, the analyses showed that the ‘*Badda*’ accessions share a degree of genetic similarity with other landraces from nearby regions such as Basilicata [35], but that nevertheless the present characterization is sufficient for declaring their identity and distinctiveness.

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## Appendices

**Appendix 1.** Degenerate and non-degenerate ISSR primers used in the analyses, their sequence and annealing temperature (Ta) used in the amplification.

Primer type	Primer code	Primer sequence	Ta (°C)
Degenerate*	ISSR 1	(GACA) <sub>3</sub> RG	42
	ISSR 2	(GACAC) <sub>2</sub>	42
	ISSR 3	(GA) <sub>8</sub> RG	42
	ISSR 4	YR (GACA) <sub>3</sub>	42
	ISSR 5	(ACTG) <sub>3</sub> RG	42
	ISSR 6	(GACA) <sub>3</sub> RT	42
	ISSR 7	(AG) <sub>8</sub> YG	56
	ISSR 8	(CA) <sub>8</sub> RY	56
	ISSR 9	(AC) <sub>8</sub> YA	56
	ISSR10	(GA) <sub>8</sub> YT	56
	ISSR11	(GT) <sub>8</sub> YC	56
	ISSR12	BDB (CA) <sub>7</sub>	56
Non-degenerate	ISSR 15	GTGC(AC) <sub>7</sub>	56
	ISSR 16	GGGC(AC) <sub>7</sub>	56
	ISSR 17	CAGC(CT) <sub>7</sub>	56
	ISSR 19	CCTGC(AC) <sub>7</sub>	56
	ISSR 32	(AGC) <sub>4</sub> C	56
	ISSR 35	(AGC) <sub>4</sub> GA	56
	ISSR 38	(AGC) <sub>4</sub> AT	56
	ISSR 39	(AGC) <sub>4</sub> AC	56
	ISSR 50	CCA(GCT) <sub>4</sub>	56
	ISSR 51	GCACC(CA) <sub>9</sub>	56
	ISSR 52	GGCAC(CA) <sub>9</sub>	56
	ISSR 53	CGCAA(CA) <sub>9</sub>	56
	ISSR 54	GGCTA(CA) <sub>9</sub>	56
	ISSR 55	CCATC(CA) <sub>9</sub>	56
	ISSR 56	GCTAC(CA) <sub>9</sub>	56
	ISSR 58	CGAAC(CA) <sub>9</sub>	56
	ISSR 59	GGCCA(GCT) <sub>6</sub>	56
	ISSR 60	GCCAC(GCT) <sub>6</sub>	56

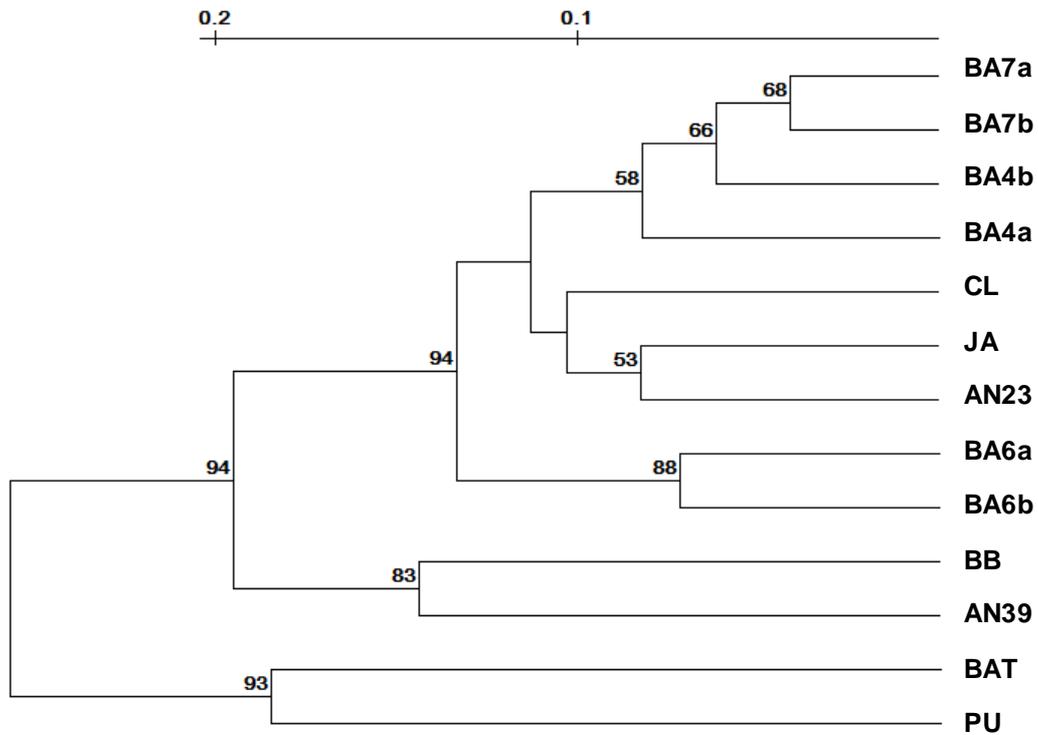
\* R = A + G; Y = C + T; D = G + A; B = G + T + C

**Appendix 2.** Mean values and scores registered for five continuous and seven discrete variables in 15 accessions of bean landraces plus the CV Clio. Means are reported for date of flowering (FLO), of fruit setting (SET) and of harvesting (HAR), type of plant growth (HAB), flower standard color (FCO), pod length (PLE) and width (PWI), pod beak position (PBP), pod beak shape (PBS), degree of pod curvature (PCU), ripe pod color (PCO), seed color (SCO) and seed type (STY). Accession codes are described in Table 1 and variable scores reported in Section 2.1. das, days after sowing.

Accession code	FLO*	SET*	HAR*	PLE*	PWI*	FCO	PBP	PBS	PCU	PCO	SCO	STY
	(das)	(das)	(das)	(cm)	(cm)							
BA 4	83 ab	93 a	150 a	11.4 b	1.2 d	1	1	1	3	3	4	2
BA 7	89 a	92 a	150 a	12.3 b	1.5 bcd	1	1	1	3	5	3	2
BA 6	81 ab	85 ab	150 a	13.9 b	1.7 abc	1	1	2	1	4	2	2
CA	87 ab	93 a	150 a	10.9 b	1.6 bcd	1	1	3	2	3	3	2
ZV	87 ab	93 a	150 a	13.1 b	1.7 abc	2	1	1	3	4	4	2
MO	85 ab	92 a	140 ab	13.3 b	1.7 abc	1	1	1	3	3	3	2
MA	66 cd	71 bc	129 b	11.8 b	1.4 cd	2	1	1	3	1	6	3
MU	59 d	64 cd	129 b	14 b	1.7 abc	1	2	2	1	4	3	2
TU	62 d	68 cd	150 a	11.5 b	1.5 d	1	1	2	2	2	5	2
PA	76 bc	79 ab	140 ab	13.3 b	1.5 bcd	1	1	1	1	1	3	2
PH	64 cd	80 ab	150 a	11.5 b	1.5 bcd	1	1	3	2	4	1	1
AN8	55 d	64 cd	93 c	17.3 a	1.5 bcd	2	1	3	2	1	6	3
AN9	43 e	54 d	93 c	10.7 b	1.7 abc	2	1	1	3	3	6	3
AN23	55 d	64 cd	93 c	10.9 b	2 a	2	1	2	2	4	6	3
AN39	59 d	65 cd	93 c	11 b	1.4 cd	1	1	1	2	1	2	2
CL	43 e	54 c	93 c	13.8 b	1.4 cd	3	2	1	2	1	6	3

\* Means followed by the same lowercase letter in the same column are not significantly different for  $P \leq 0.05$ .

**Appendix 3.** UPGMA dendrogram based on Nei *et al.* [22] matrix following ISSR analysis (93 polymorphic amplification products) of 13 bean genotypes representing 10 accessions. Numbers at the nodes represent bootstrap values after 500 replicates, whereas lowercase letters combined to accession codes indicate different plants of the same accession.



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