

Nuclear, chloroplast, and mitochondrial data of a US cannabis DNA database

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FSF Emerging Forensic Scientist Award
Paper Presentation

NIJ Disclosure

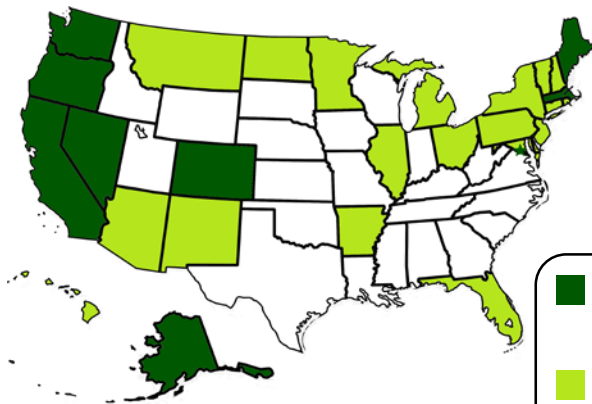
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Disclosure

There is no real or apparent conflicts of interest related to the content of this presentation.

Statement of the Problem

Marijuana legalization



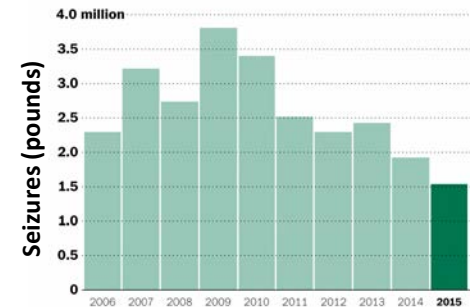
**RECREATIONAL AND
MEDICAL USE LEGALIZED**

**MEDICAL USE
LEGALIZED**



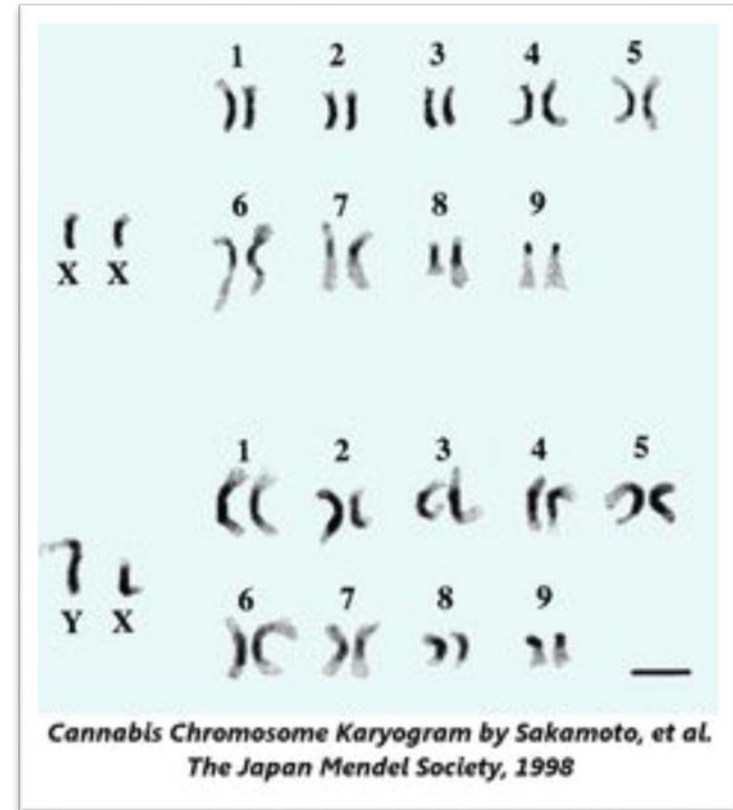
Illegal trafficking

Cartel marijuana exports tumble



Marijuana Background

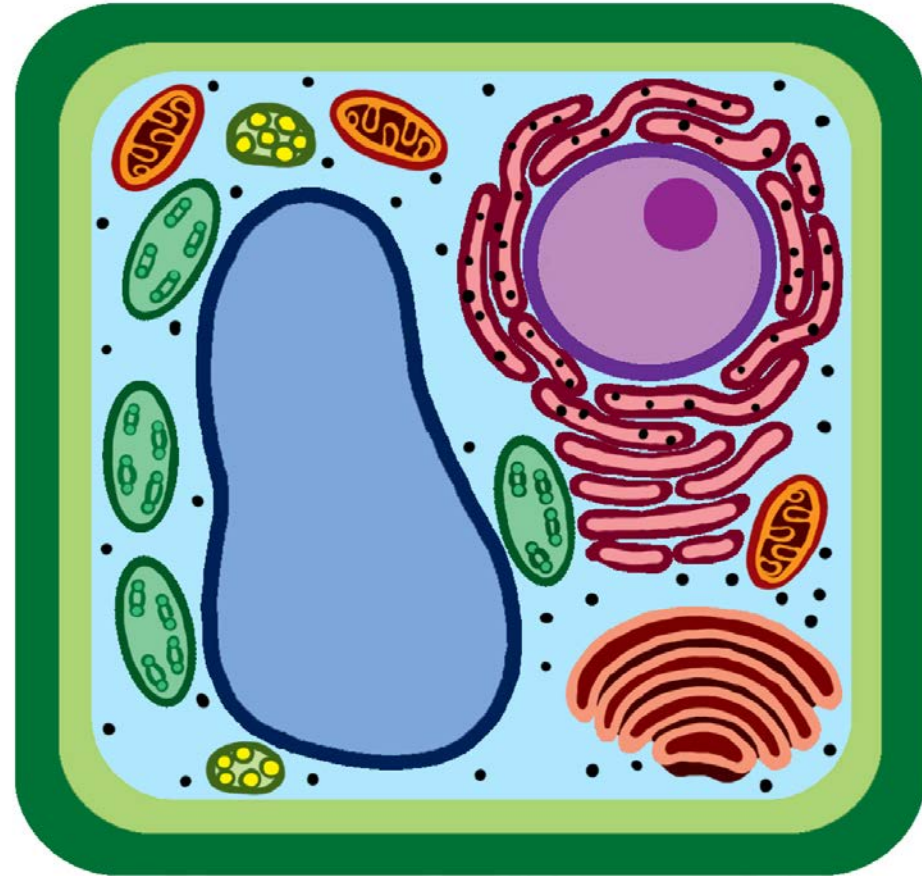
- Family: Cannabaceae
- Dioecious plant
- Diploid genome: $2n = 20$
 - 9 pairs of autosomes
 - Pair of sex chromosomes
- Draft genome complete¹
 - 818 Mb for female (haploid)
 - 843 Mb for male (haploid)



¹van Bakel, Stout et al. 2011)

Organelle DNA

- Uniparentally inherited
- Circular genome
- Chloroplast
 - 153,871 bp²
- Mitochondria
 - 415,499 bp³

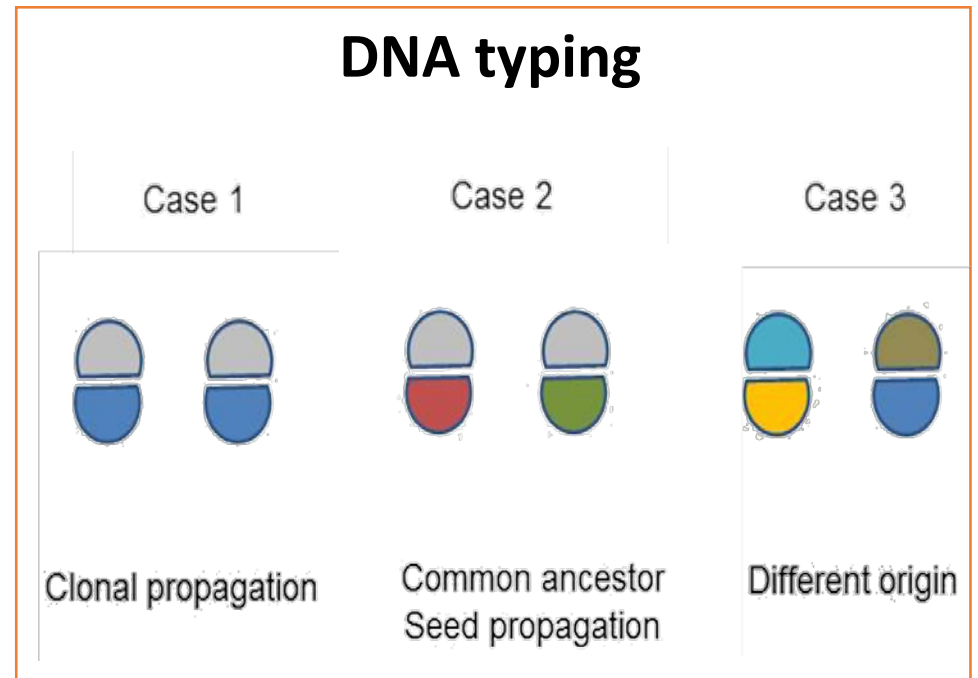


²Vergara, White et al. 2016

³Vergara, White et al. 2016

Goal of Research

- Build a database of DNA profiles
- Autosomal genotyping
 - Short tandem repeats
 - Individualizing plants
 - Genetic relatedness
- Organelle genotyping
 - Haplotypes
 - Biogeographical origin



Materials and Methods



- Samples (4 sources)



- DNA Extraction (DNeasy[®] Plant Mini Kit)



- Autosomal DNA Typing



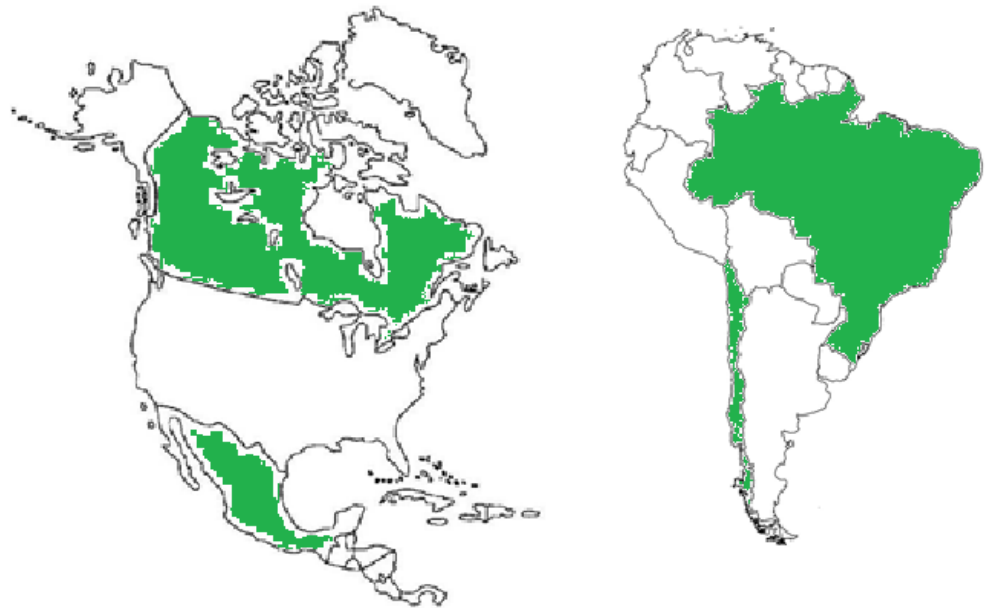
- Organelle DNA Typing



- Statistical Analysis

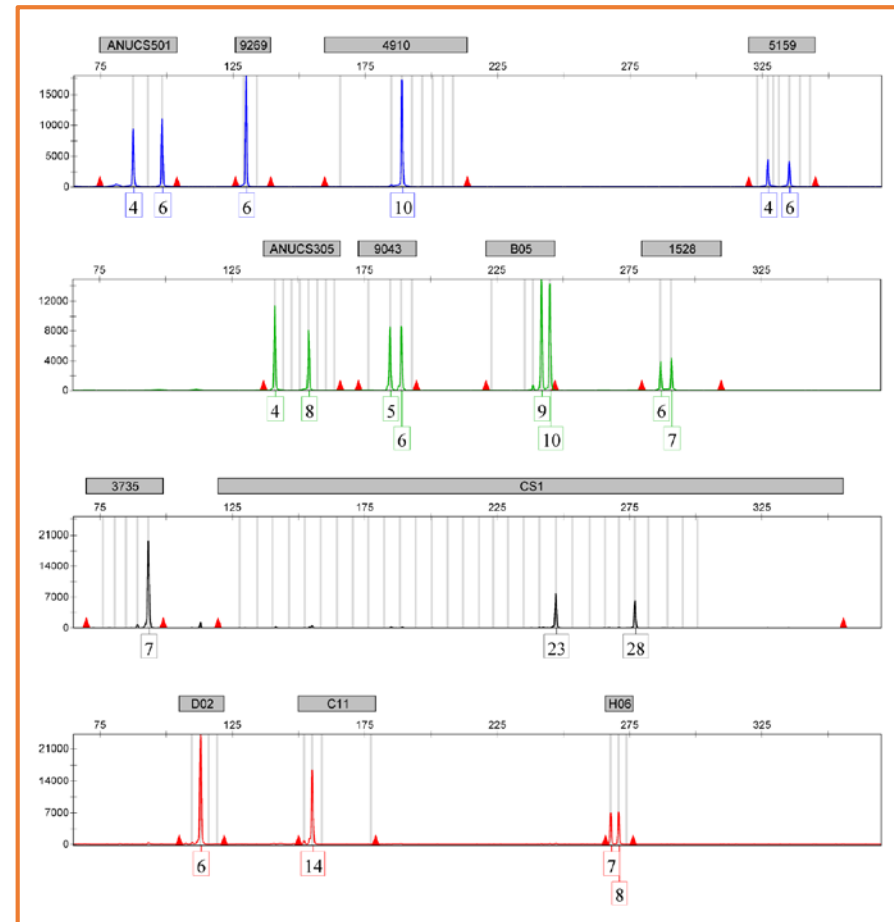
Samples

- US-Mexico Border:
 - 21 seizures
 - $N = 422$ samples
- Chile:
 - 10 seizures
 - $N = 50$ samples
- Brazil:
 - $N = 8$ samples
- Hemp Seeds:
 - Purchased in US (grown in Canada)
 - $N = 30$ samples



Autosomal DNA Typing

- Nuclear quantitation⁴
- Cannabis STR profiling using previously validated STR method⁵

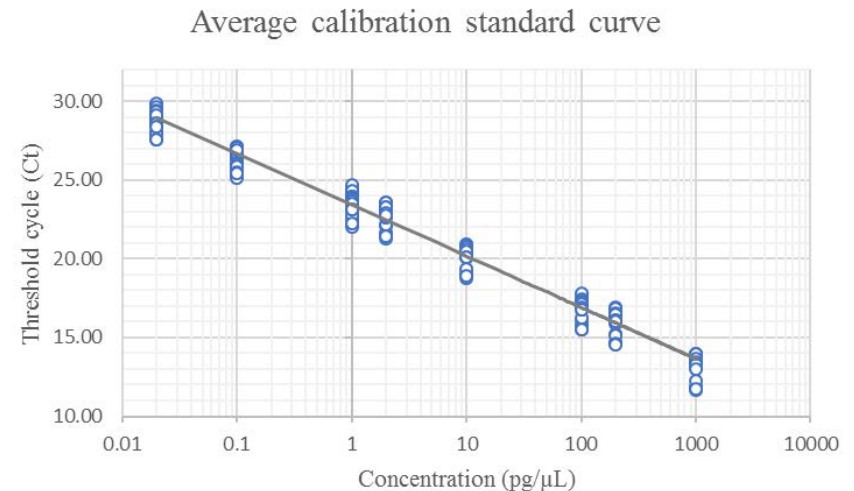


⁴Houston et al. 2016

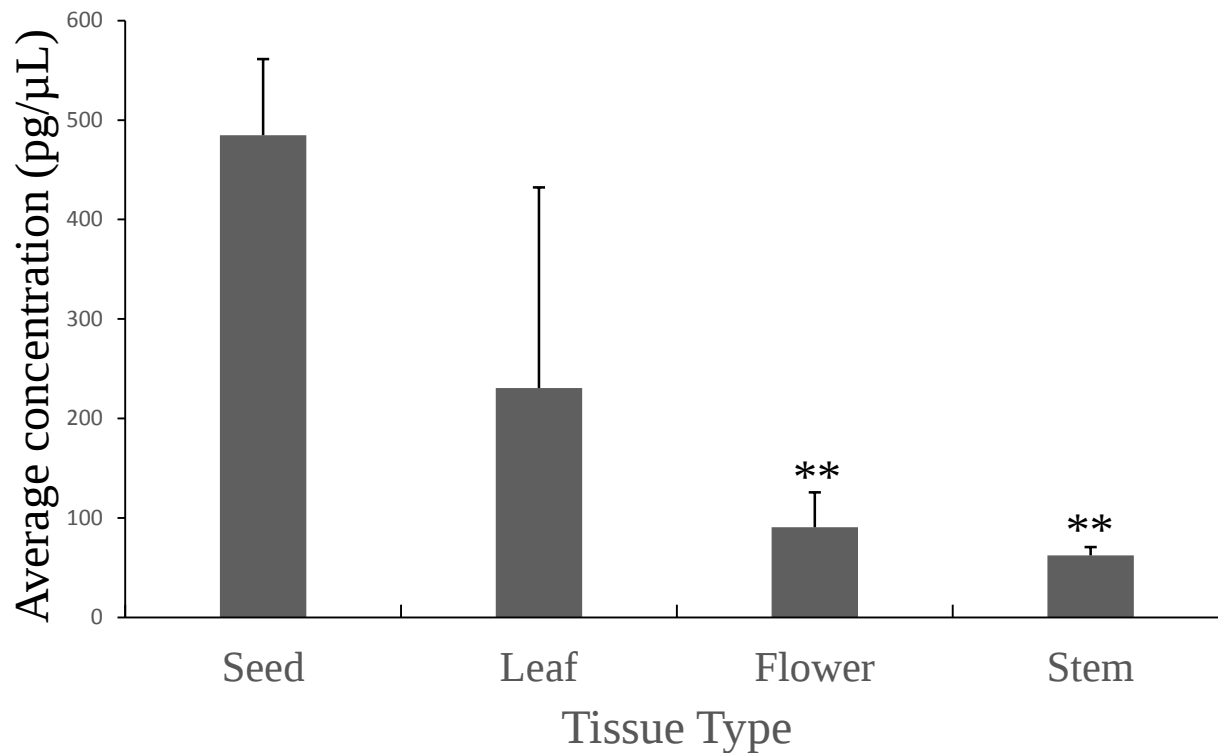
⁵Houston et al. 2017

Organelle DNA Quantitation

- Synthetic DNA standards:
 - Two complementary, PAGE-purified synthetic oligonucleotides
 - Cscp001 region of *C. sativa*
 - Diluted to generate standards 1000 – 0.02 pg/μL
- Quantitation via real-time PCR
- Validation studies:
 - Sensitivity
 - Specificity
 - Precision and accuracy



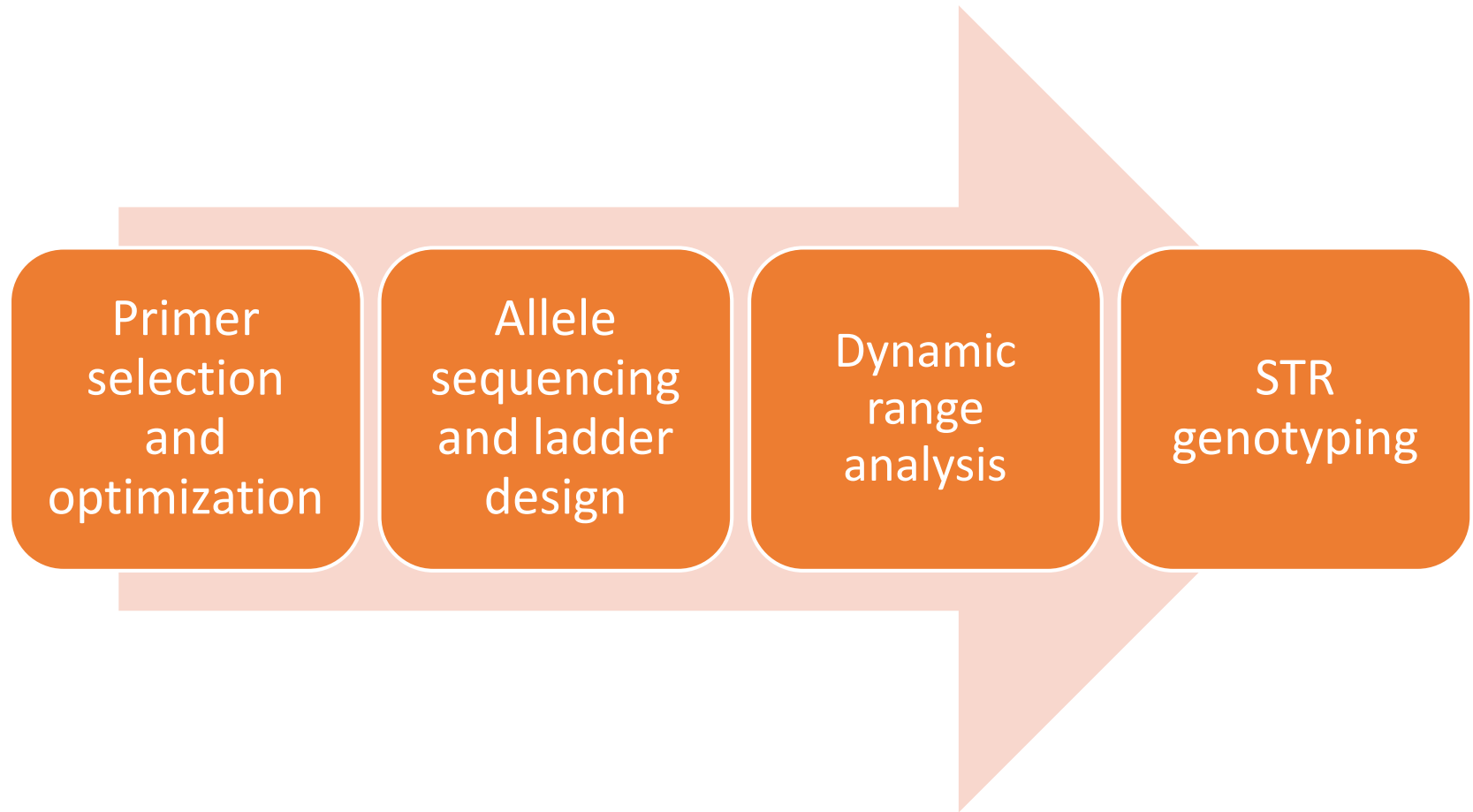
Relative cpDNA Quantitation



Error bars represent standard deviations.

** p-value < 0.01 when compared to seed tissue.

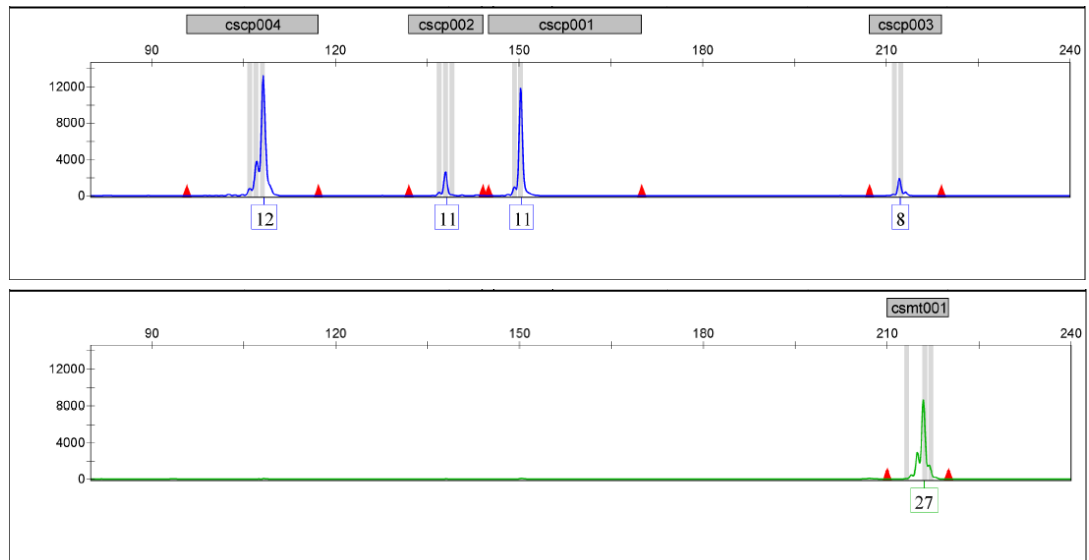
Organelle STR Typing



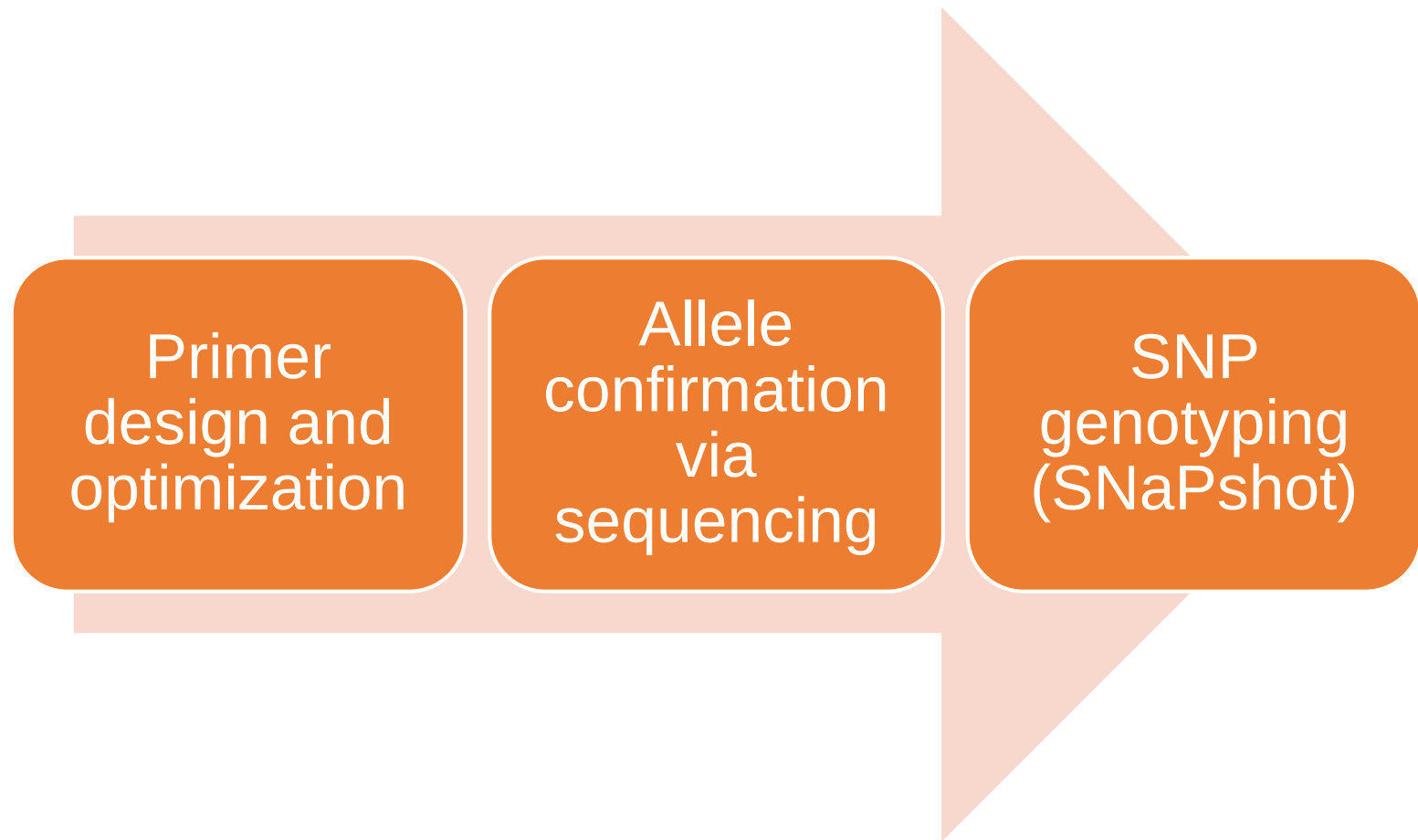
**** Modified from a previous study Gilmore et al. 2007**

Organelle STR Typing

Locus	Primer Reference	Region of DNA
STR based		
Cscp001	⁶ Gilmore et al. 2007	<i>trnL</i> – <i>trnF</i>
Cscp002	⁶ Gilmore et al. 2007	<i>rbcL</i> – orf106
Cscp003	⁷ Weising et al. 1999	ccmp2 (5' to <i>trnS</i>)
Cscp004	⁷ Weising et al. 1999	ccmp6 (orf77 – orf82)
Csmt001	⁶ Gilmore et al. 2007	<i>nad</i> 4 exon 3 to exon 4



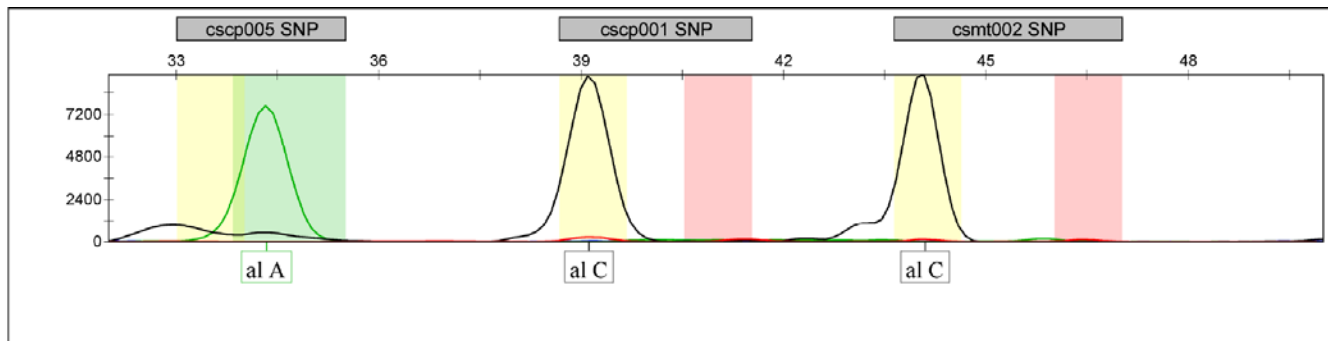
Organelle SNP Typing



**** Modified from a previous study Gilmore et al. 2007**

Organelle SNP Typing

Locus	Primers	Primer Reference	Region of DNA
SNP based			
Cscp001	F: 5' – tccctctatcccaaaaagg – 3' R: 5' – attgcacattgggattcctt – 3' SBE F: 5' – tttttttttttacaaccggacctgaatgacc – 3'	This study	<i>trnL</i> – <i>trnF</i>
Cscp005	F: 5' – tccactgccttgatccactt – 3' R: 5' – ccctctagacttagctgctct – 3' SBE R: 5' – cttttatcttgctctaaaattgaaat – 3'	This study	<i>trnH</i> – <i>trnK</i>
Csmt002	F: 5' – tgtgcgaagagtgcgttatg – 3' R: 5' – acttcactcgctaggggatg – 3' SBE F: 5' – ttttttttttttttttatgacctgtggccgcctg – 3'	This study	<i>nad 5</i> exon 4 to exon 5



Statistical Analysis – Autosomal

- Number of multi-locus genotypes and genotype sharing determined
- Determine reference population
 - Phylogenetic analysis (GDA) and parsimony analysis (*PAUP*4.0a*)
 - Case-to-case comparisons with F_{ST}
- Phylogenetic analysis between reference population, Brazil, Chile, and hemp
 - Neighbor Joining method (GDA) and parsimony analysis (*PAUP*4.0a*)
 - Bayesian clustering with *STRUCTURE* software
 - Principal component analysis with *R* package, *Adegenet*

Statistical Analysis – Organelle

- Due to less variability, subsampling of 134 samples
- Number of haplotypes and haplotype sharing
- Phylogenetic analysis between reference population, Brazil, Chile, and hemp
 - Neighbor Joining method (GDA)
 - Parsimony analysis (*PAUP*4.0a*)

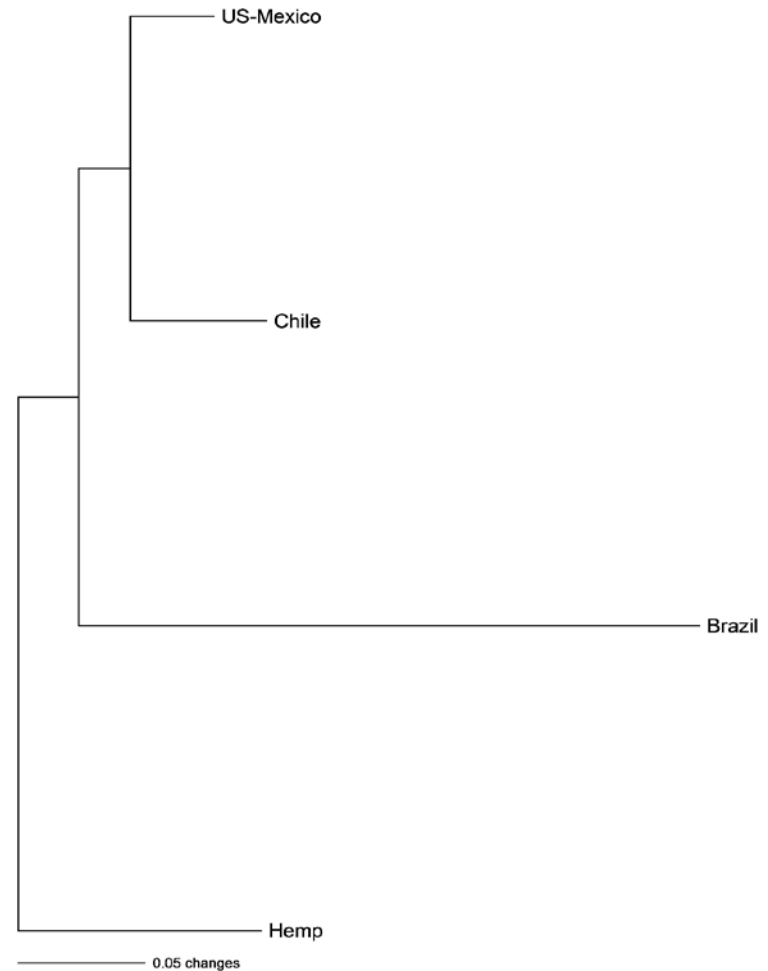
Autosomal – Genotypes

Source	Sample Number	Partial Profiles	Mixed Profiles	Full Profiles	Unique Genotypes	Duplicate Genotypes
US-Mexico	422	23	32	367	326	18 (41 samples)
Brazil	8	2	0	6	6	0
Chile	50	18	0	32	4	7 (28 samples)
Hemp	30	9	1	20	20	0
	510	52	33	425	356	25 (69 samples)

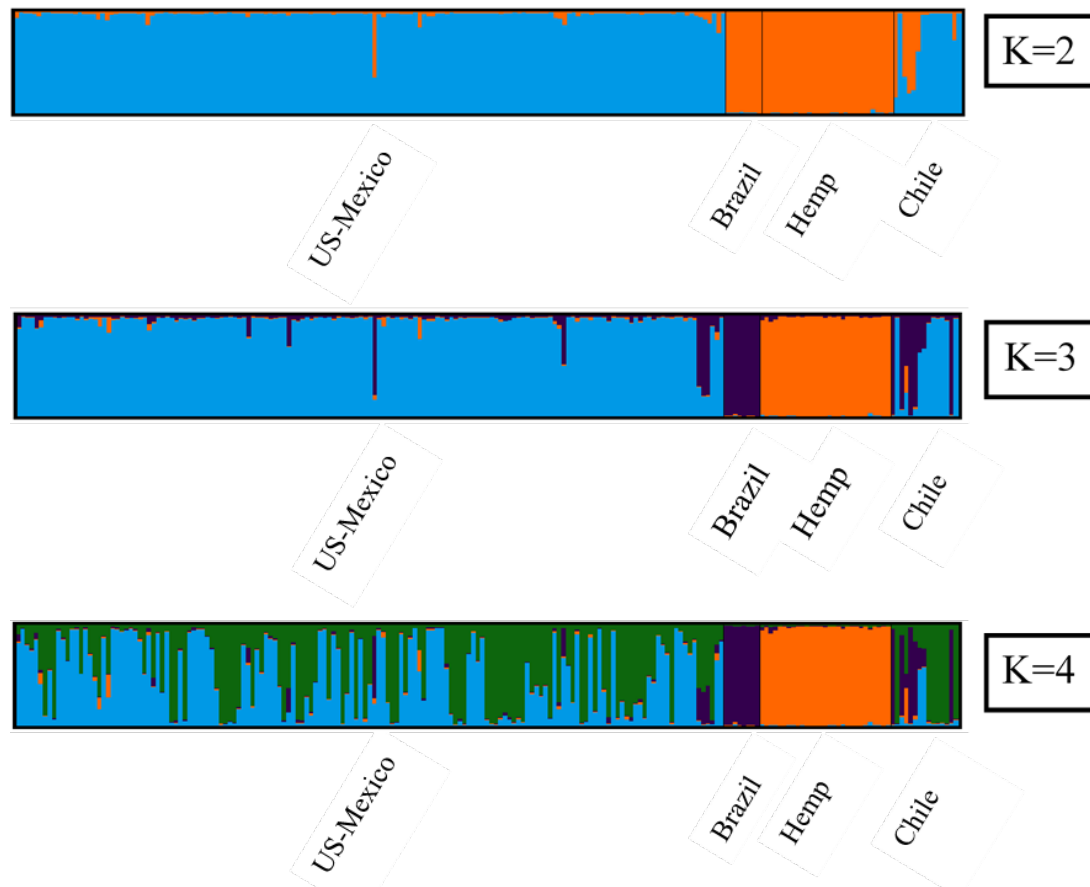
- Duplicates from same seizure or same plant
- Hypothesized that 9 out of 10 Chilean seizures clonally propagated

Autosomal – Phylogenetic Analysis

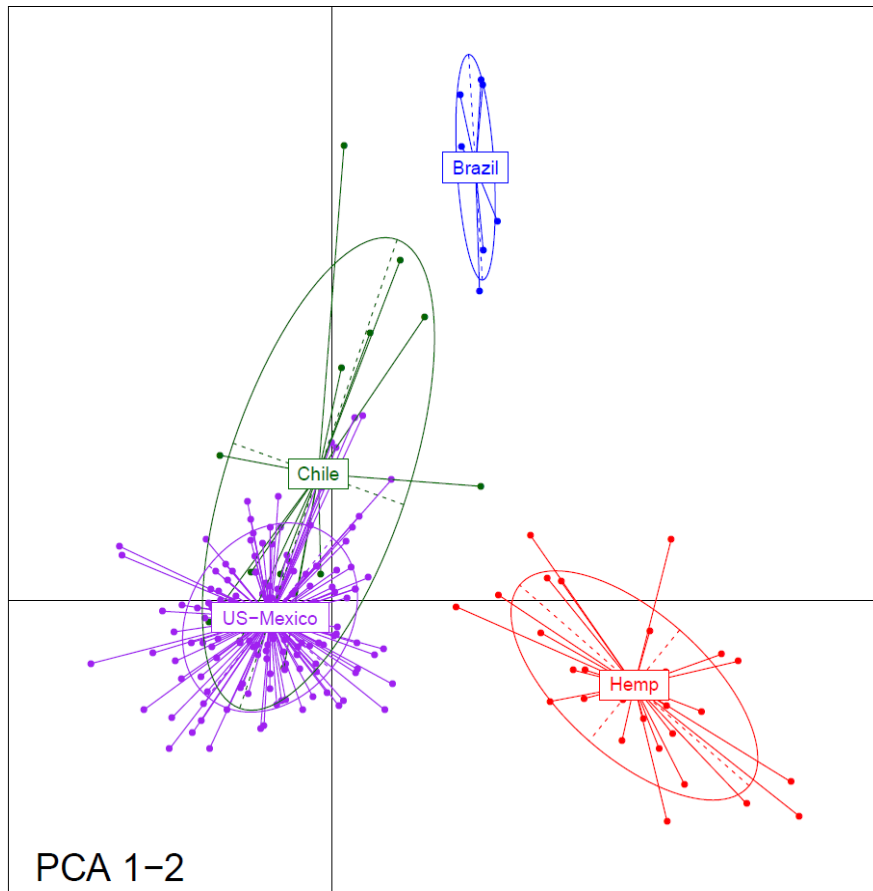
- 9 seizures ($N=157$ samples) formed a reference population for US-Mexico
 - $F_{ST} = 0$



Autosomal – Bayesian Clustering



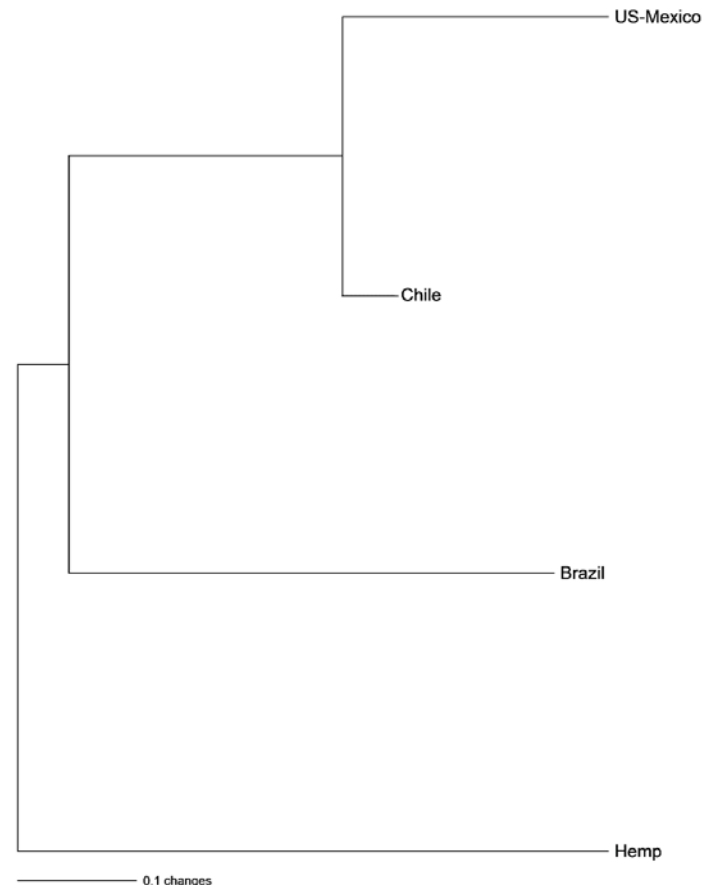
Autosomal – PCA



- Genetic relatedness between drug types
- Distinction from fiber type

Organelle – Statistical Analysis

- 127 out of 134 samples yielded full haplotypes
- Extensive haplotype sharing
- Five distinguishable haplotypes
- Haplotype sharing between US border seizures, Brazil, and Chile
- Distinct haplotype for hemp



Conclusions

1. Statistical analysis

- Reference population of 9 seizures ($N=157$)
- Both autosomal and organelle markers could discern population sub-structure
- Clear distinction between drug and hemp type samples

2. Novel real-time PCR method for quantifying cannabis cpDNA using synthetic standards developed and validated

3. Organelle typing: two analytical methods were modified and optimized

- Homopolymer STR pentaplex
- SNP triplex with SNaPshot™ (Thermo Fisher Scientific)

References

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Acknowledgements

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Questions

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