

B-82 Development and application of isozyme technique for the identification of tea clones

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The study was carried out using 26 clones of *Camellia sinensis* and a clone of *Camellia sasanqua*. These clones were subjected to isozyme analysis using starch gel electrophoresis. Procedures were established for the extraction and electrophoretic separation. Active buds were found to be the most appropriate tissue for the enzyme extraction.

9 enzyme systems have been resolved and of these only glucose phosphate isomerase showed polymorphism. Based on the polymorphism observed, selected clones were classified into 6 groups. The results indicate that the genetic base of the commercially cultivated tea clones have been narrowed down and as a remedial measure to improve the genetic composition of local tea clones, foreign tea germplasm could be introduced.