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2 **Evaluating Two-Dimensional Electrophoresis Profiles of the**
3 **Protein Phaseolin as Markers of Genetic Differentiation and**
4 **Seed Protein Quality in Common Bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.)**

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14 **Abstract:**

15 High-resolution two-dimensional electrophoresis (2-DE) profiles of the protein
16 phaseolin, the major seed storage protein of common bean, display great number
17 of spots with differentially glycosylated and phosphorylated α - and β -type
18 polypeptides. This work aims to test whether these complex profiles can be useful
19 markers of genetic differentiation and seed protein quality in bean populations.
20 The 2-DE phaseolin profile and the amino acid composition were examined in
21 bean seeds from 18 domesticated and wild accessions belonging to the
22 Mesoamerican and Andean gene pools. We found that proteomic distances
23 based on 2-DE profiles were successful in identifying the accessions belonging
24 to each gene pool and outliers distantly related. In addition, accessions identified
25 as outliers from proteomic distances showed the highest levels of methionine
26 content, an essential amino acid deficient in bean seeds. These findings suggest
27 that 2-DE phaseolin profiles provide valuable information with potential of being
28 used in common bean genetic improvement

29

30 **Keywords:** Phaseolus vulgaris, phaseolin, seed storage proteins, proteomic
31 distance, amino acid composition, wild and cultivated beans

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34 **1. Introduction**

35 The common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) is the most important grain legume
36 worldwide for direct human consumption, mainly in South America and Africa
37 where it is a major dietary protein source.¹ In 2011, total world production of dry
38 and green beans was about 23.3 and 20.4 million metric tons, respectively,
39 harvested at 30.8 million hectares.² As a food, common bean seeds have
40 valuable nutritional and functional properties. Thus, dry bean seeds are an
41 important source of proteins, saccharides, and micronutrients, and they are rich
42 in dietary fiber and low in fat. Besides their nutritive value, a regular intake of
43 beans reduces common diseases such as coronary heart disease, type-II
44 diabetes, and cancer. Nevertheless, the nutritional value of common bean seeds
45 is affected by a number of factors, including low levels of sulfur-containing amino
46 acids (methionine and cysteine) and tryptophan, low protein digestibility, and the
47 presence of distinct antinutritional compounds.³⁻⁶ In particular, the fraction of the
48 essential amino acid methionine in bean seed protein is especially low as
49 compared to the reference amino acid FAO/WHO requirements recommended in
50 human nutrition.^{5,7}

51 Much of our knowledge about the genetic differentiation and structure of wild and
52 domesticated bean populations rests on the study of the variability of the seed
53 protein phaseolin. The 7S globulin phaseolin is encoded by a gene family
54 constituted by approximately 6–10 codominant genes per haploid genome,
55 organized in a single close cluster of related genes on chromosome 7.^{8,9}
56 Members of the phaseolin gene family can be subdivided into two distinct gene
57 subfamilies termed α and β encoding for α - and β -type polypeptides,
58 respectively.⁸ The one-dimensional sodium dodecyl sulfate-polyacrylamide gel

59 electrophoresis (1-DE) has been instrumental in the characterization of the
60 variability of the protein phaseolin in common bean populations.¹⁰⁻¹⁴ Thus,
61 phaseolin diversity data based on 1-DE banding patterns have shown that
62 domesticated common bean resulted from two already diverged major
63 ecogeographic gene pools of wild *P. vulgaris* populations distributed from
64 northern Mexico to Colombia (Mesoamerican gene pool) and from southern Peru
65 to northwestern Argentina (Andean gene pool). The occurrence of domestication
66 events in the two already diverged major gene pools of wild common bean
67 populations resulted in the Mesoamerican and Andean domesticated gene pools.
68 Additional evidence for these two gene pools was provided by morphological and
69 phytopathological data along with different types of molecular markers including
70 allozymes, lethality genes, and a diversity of nuclear, mitochondrial, and
71 chloroplast DNA polymorphisms.^{10,14-18} Following domestication, gene pool
72 divergence led to the appearance of four Mesoamerican (Durango, Jalisco,
73 Mesoamerica, and Guatemala) and three Andean (Nueva Granada, Peru, and
74 Chile) races.¹⁹

75 The study of the phaseolin also provides useful information about important
76 agronomic traits and biochemical characteristics of common bean cultivars. It has
77 been found that types of phaseolin identified by 1-DE are consistently associated
78 with seed weight across a broad range of genetic backgrounds and
79 environments, tolerance to low soil pH, growth habit, early maturity, and
80 resistance to parasites.^{11,20,21} Moreover, the phaseolin is the major seed storage
81 protein that may account for up to ca. 50% of the total seed proteome.¹³ It is
82 therefore largely responsible for the seed protein quality. In particular, the levels
83 of phaseolin were found to be positively correlated with the nutritional availability

84 of methionine in total bean seed protein.²² It has been suggested, therefore, that
85 an improvement of the seed protein quality of the present bean varieties might be
86 accomplished by using types of phaseolin with differences in the number of
87 methionine residues and molar ratio of methionine.²³

88 So far, more than 40 different types of phaseolin have been found in domesticated
89 and wild cultivars of beans by 1-DE.^{4,5} Nevertheless, 1-DE phaseolin profiles
90 typically have only two to six bands with molecular mass (Mr) ranging from 40 to
91 54 kDa.^{4,24} More informative reference maps of the protein phaseolin have been
92 obtained only recently using high resolution two-dimensional electrophoresis (2-
93 DE).^{25,26} Application of high-resolution 2-DE provides characteristic and
94 reproducible phaseolin profiles for each common bean population, each one
95 constituted by a large number of spots containing differentially glycosylated and
96 phosphorylated α - and β -type polypeptides (see Supporting Information Figures 1
97 and 2). This surge of information on the variation of the protein phaseolin enables
98 one to obtain quantitative estimates of its degree of diversity across common
99 bean populations based on measures of proteomic distance.²⁷

100 The aim of the present work is to test whether high-resolution 2-DE phaseolin
101 profiles can be useful as molecular markers of the degree of genetic divergence
102 and/or the quality of seed protein in common bean populations. For this purpose,
103 we performed a prospective study on the variation of 2-DE phaseolin profiles over
104 domesticated and wild common bean populations belonging to the
105 Mesoamerican and Andean gene pools. In addition, the quality of the total seed
106 protein in these bean populations was estimated from the content of methionine,
107 an essential amino acid deficient in bean seeds.

108 From the results, we will try to determine whether proteomic distances based on
109 2-DE phaseolin profiles can efficiently identify populations belonging to each
110 major gene pool, as well as the possible link between proteomic distances and
111 seed protein quality. It might open the way of using the information contained in
112 2-DE phaseolin profiles for the genetic improvement of common bean
113 populations.

114 **2. Material and Methods**

115 **Plant Material.** Dry mature seeds from 8 wild types and 10 cultivars of common
116 bean (*P. vulgaris* L.) from Mesoamerican and Andean gene pools were screened
117 for variability of phaseolin using 2-DE. The cultivars belong to the Mesoamerica,
118 Nueva Granada, Peru, and Chile races. A complete list of the accessions used in
119 this studied together with their passport information, which includes accession
120 identifier, common name, phaseolin type assessed by 1-DE, race type, status
121 (wild, landrace, or cultivar), origin (country and locality), seed weight, and seed
122 color is given in Table 1. The seeds were provided by the United States
123 Department of Agriculture (USDA). Ten bean seeds from each accession were
124 lyophilized after previous grinding of the total seed tissue to a powder with liquid
125 nitrogen using a precooled mortar and pestle. The samples were stored at -80
126 °C until protein extraction.

127 **Seed Protein Extraction.** Total seed protein was extracted by the phenol
128 method, which has been proved to give highly satisfactory results for the
129 separation of common bean seed proteins by 2-DE in comparison with other
130 commonly used extraction methods.²⁹ The phenol method was performed from
131 100 mg of sample suspended in extraction buffer (500 mM Tris-HCl, 500 mM
132 EDTA, 700 mM sacarose, 100 mM KCl pH = 8.0, 2% DTT, and 1 mM PMSF).

133 Phenol saturated with Tris-HCl (pH 6.6–7.9) was added, and the phenolic phase
134 was recovered after centrifuging (4500 rpm at 4 °C). Proteins were precipitated
135 (0.1 M ammonium acetate in MeOH), and protein pellets were washed (0.1 M
136 ammonium acetate, 10 mM DTT, 80% acetone, and 10 mM DTT) and
137 resuspended in lysis buffer (7 M urea; 2 M thiourea; 4% CHAPS; 10 mM DTT,
138 and 2% Pharmalyte pH 3–10, GE Healthcare, Uppsala, Sweden). Protein
139 quantification was assessed for each extraction using the commercial CB-X
140 protein assay kit (G-Biosciences, St. Louis, MO) following the instructions of the
141 manufacturer for using a microplate reader.

142 **2-DE Phaseolin Patterns.** Optimized 2-DE protocol for highresolution phaseolin
143 patterns was used as previously described.^{25,26} 2-DE was carried out from 50
144 µg of total seed protein extract dissolved in lysis and rehydration (7 M urea, 2 M
145 thiourea, 4% CHAPS, 0,002% Bromophenol Blue) buffers. Protein extracts were
146 loaded on 24 cmlong ReadyStrip IPG Strips with a pH linear gradient of 4.7–5.9
147 (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc., Hercules, CA), together with 0.6% dithiothreitol
148 (DTT) and 1% IPG buffer (Bio-Rad Laboratories).

149 First dimensional isoelectric focusing (IEF) was carried out until reaching 60 kVh
150 after an initial rehydration step for 12 h at 50 V in a PROTEAN IEF cell (Bio-Rad
151 Laboratories). Focused strips were incubated in the equilibration solution (50 mM
152 Tris pH = 8.8, 6 M urea, 30% glycerol, and 2% SDS) with 1% DTT for 15 min at
153 room temperature and then with 2.5% iodoacetamide under the same conditions.
154 For the second dimension (SDS-PAGE), equilibrated strips were placed on 10%
155 (w/v) gels, and they were run vertically in an Ettan DALTsix system (GE,
156 Healthcare, Uppsala, Sweden) using Tris-glycine-SDS (50 mM Tris, 384 mM
157 glycine and 0.2% SDS) as electrode buffer. SDS-PAGE was carried out at a

158 constant current of 16 mA per gel over 15 h. After the run, gels were stained with
159 Sypro Ruby stain (Lonza, Rockland, ME) following the manufacturer's
160 indications.

161 The 2-DE gel images were acquired with a Gel Doc XR+ system (Bio-Rad
162 Laboratories). Image analysis of digitalized gels was performed through PDQuest
163 Advanced software v. 8.0.1 (Bio-Rad Laboratories). 2-DE gels were matched
164 across wild and cultivated common bean accessions. Only qualitative (presence
165 or absence) differences among spot patterns, detectable under a sensitivity of
166 1.1, were analyzed.

167 **Seed Amino Acid Composition.** Protein hydrolysis was carried out on 100 mg
168 of bean flour (average moisture content 4.32%) with 5 mL of HCl (6 N) in an
169 ampule glass sealed for 24 h at 110 °C. After hydrolysis, the solution was diluted
170 with 200 mL of distilled water and filtered through a 0.45 µm filter (Filter-Lab,
171 Barcelona, Spain). Tryptophan determination was not possible, because acidic
172 hydrolysis transformed it into ammonium. The derivatization conditions were as
173 follows: 10 µL of sample was buffered to pH 8.8 (AccQFluor borate buffer; Waters,
174 Milford, MA) to yield a total volume of 100 µL. Derivatization was initiated by the
175 addition of 20 µL of AccQ-Fluor (Waters) reagent (3 mg/mL in acetonitrile).

176 The amino acid analyses were performed by high-performance liquid
177 chromatography (HPLC). Chromatographic analysis conditions were as follows:
178 separations were carried out in a Waters AccQ-Tag column (3.9 mm × 150 mm
179 with a 4 µm of particle size); the pumps were fixed to maintain a flow rate of 1.0
180 mL/min; and the column heater was fixed to maintain a temperature of 37 °C. The
181 gradient profile and composition of the mobile phase were adapted from
182 methodology developed by Vandelen and Cohen³⁰ and Waters AccQTag

183 Instruction Manual. Separation and detection were carried out using Alliance
184 model 2695 HPLC Module (Waters) and model 2475 scanning fluorescence
185 detector (Waters). Empower 2 Advanced software (Waters) was used to control
186 system operation and results management. Detection was accomplished by
187 fluorescence with excitation at 250 nm and emission at 395 nm. Amino acids were
188 identified by retention time and quantification using an external calibration, where
189 amino acid standard solution (AA-S-18, Sigma-Aldrich, Saint Louis, MO) was
190 prepared to obtain a calibration curve of five points. Two biological replicate
191 samples were carried out per accession.

192 **Data Analysis.** The degree of similarity between 2-DE phaseolin profiles of
193 common bean populations was estimated as the percentage of spots shared
194 through the F (also described in the literature as S) coefficient³¹ given by $F =$
195 $2n_{xy}/(n_x + n_y)$ where n_{xy} is the number of phaseolin spots shared by populations x
196 and y ; and where n_x and n_y are the total numbers of phaseolin spots identified in
197 populations x and y , respectively. Dissimilarity or proteomic distance (D) between
198 pairwise populations was then estimated as:

$$199 \quad D = 1 - F$$

200 A hierarchical cluster analysis using the unweighted pair-group method with
201 arithmetic averaging (UPGMA) was applied to the matrix of both pairwise
202 proteomic distances and pairwise differences in methionine content. Nonmetric
203 multidimensional scaling (MDS) algorithm was used to construct a two-
204 dimensional plot on the basis of the pairwise proteomic distance matrix. The
205 significance of the relationship between proteomic distance and difference in
206 methionine content across pairs of accessions was assessed using Mantel's
207 matrix comparison test, which does not require that matrix elements be

208 independent.³² UPGMA, MDS, and the Mantel test were performed using
209 NTSYSpc v. 2.1 software (Applied Biostatistics, Inc., Setauket, NY).

210 Standard statistical analyses were performed using the statistical software
211 package IBM SPSS Statistics 20 (SPSS, Chicago, IL). Bootstrapping was used
212 to calculate 95% and 99% confidence intervals (CIs) for the means of proteomic
213 distance. For each set of N estimates of D, bootstrap samples of size N were
214 obtained following a Monte Carlo algorithm putting mass 1/N at each one of the
215 observed D estimates. From distribution of 10 000 bootstrap mean replications of
216 D, the bootstrap CIs (95% and 99%) were obtained by the bias corrected
217 percentile method.³³ A similar procedure was performed to obtain CIs for the
218 means of methionine content across accessions. Random numbers were
219 obtained using the standard multiplicative linear congruential generator
220 implemented by Schrage,³⁴ which uses the multiplier 16 807 and prime modulus
221 231-1 to give long sequences that have appearance of randomness. Bootstrap
222 CIs were obtained with the software DIANA (C. Zapata, unpublished).

223 **3. Results and discussion**

224 **2-DE Phaseolin Patterns.** 2-DE phaseolin patterns in 18 wild and cultivated
225 accessions of common bean are shown in Figure 1. It can be seen that 2-DE
226 phaseolin profiles were markedly diverse across accessions. Thus, the number
227 of spots on 2-DE gels across the 18 phaseolin patterns ranged from 10 (Jalisco)
228 to 28 (Huevo de Huanchaco) and averaged (\pm SE, standard error) 20.4 ± 1.1 .
229 Phaseolin patterns were found to be remarkably less complex in Mesoamerican
230 gene pool (M) accessions than in Andean gene pool (A) ones: the mean number
231 of spots for M and A accessions was 16.8 ± 1.4 and 23.4 ± 1.0 , respectively
232 (Mann–Whitney U test, $p < 0.01$). It is noteworthy that most of these variations

233 were due to the presence/absence of spots in the first dimension (pI). Recent
234 evidence has shown that differences in the pI of 2-DE phaseolin spots are largely
235 due to differentially phosphorylated α - and β -type polypeptides.²⁶ The same study
236 revealed that mobilization of the phaseolin in germinating seeds seems to occur
237 through the degradation of highly phosphorylated isoforms. It suggests, therefore,
238 that regulatory mechanisms responsible for the synthesis and subsequent
239 degradation of phaseolin through phosphorylations might undergo variations over
240 common bean populations.

241 **Proteomic Distance.** A quantitative estimation of the differences between 2-DE
242 phaseolin profiles was obtained from the matrix of pairwise proteomic distances
243 (D). The D-values (in percentage) between all possible pairwise comparisons of
244 cultivated and wild common bean population are given in Figure 2. We found that
245 proteomic distances were largely heterogeneous: values of D ranged from 0
246 (three M \times M comparisons) to 100% (six M \times A comparisons) and averaged 59.9
247 $\pm 2.4\%$. The mean proteomic distance (with 95% and 99% bootstrap CIs) within
248 and between gene pools at different levels of comparison is shown in Table 2.
249 Most of the heterogeneity in proteomic distance can be attributed to between
250 gene pool differences. In fact, proteomic distance between gene pools was
251 statistically significant higher than those proteomic distances within gene pools
252 ($p < 0.01$). Within gene pools, proteomic distances were rather homogeneous
253 over different levels of comparison with a single exception. The Mesoamerican
254 cultivated (MC) populations exhibited indeed the lowest mean proteomic distance
255 score (i.e., 11.0 ± 4.9), which was statistically significantly different from the
256 remaining mean proteomic distances ($p < 0.01$), including Andean cultivated (AC)
257 populations. Lower diversity for phaseolin types in the domesticated

258 Mesoamerican gene pool than in the Andean one has also been reported on the
259 basis of 1-DE analyses.²⁰ This evidence would support the interpretation that a
260 single domestication event occurred in Mexico, whereas multiple domestication
261 events occurred in the Andes,²⁰ but the domestication history of the common
262 bean is still a controversial topic.³⁵

263 On the basis of the matrix of pairwise proteomic distances, clustering analysis
264 (UPGMA) and projection of the distances in two-dimensional space (MDS) were
265 used to evaluate the efficiency of 2-DE phaseolin patterns in grouping the
266 populations according to the classification by major gene pools. The UPGMA
267 dendrogram generated from the matrix of pairwise D-values is shown in Figure
268 3. First, it must be highlighted that proteomic distances were able to reliably
269 reproduce the known separation of the populations into the Mesoamerican and
270 Andean gene pools. The only exception to the double-cluster pattern of
271 Mesoamerican and Andean bean accessions was a well-separated branch
272 containing the wild accession Jalisco. In addition, UPGMA dendrogram was also
273 able to unravel heterogeneity within the two gene pools. In particular, the
274 accession of Ayacucho formed a clearly separated subcluster within Andean
275 cluster. The projection of the proteomic distances between pairs of the 18
276 common bean accessions in two-dimensional space is shown in Figure 4. The
277 stress function value was 0.074, which indicates a good goodness-of-fit of the
278 projected distances in the configuration space to the monotone function of the
279 original distances. The two-dimensional map obtained by MDS reflected
280 essentially the same scenario obtained by the dendrogram. Thus, dimension I
281 showed noticeable differences between two tight clusters of Mesoamerican and
282 Andean gene pools, whereas dimension II separated clearly the bean accessions

283 Ayacucho and Jalisco as two outliers strongly deviating from the two main
284 clusters.

285 Previous investigations support the highest proteomic distance found for
286 Ayacucho and Jalisco populations.^{14,18,35-38}

287 First, it is important to note that Ayacucho is a nuña, a type of cultivar currently
288 restricted to certain parts of the highlands of Peru and Bolivia that exhibits the
289 particular property of popping when exposed to heat. It is considered that nuña
290 beans may represent ancient preceramic landraces descendents of the earliest
291 Andean bean domesticates.^{14,36} Second, Jalisco is a possible ancestral wild
292 accession of *P. vulgaris*. Recent evidence using a variety of nuclear and
293 chloroplast DNA markers suggests that the wild forms of *P. vulgaris* originated in
294 Mesoamerica and the Andean gene pool originated through different migration
295 events from central Mexico.^{18,35,37} It also seems that Mesoamerican beans were
296 domesticated in the region of Jalisco.³⁸ Accordingly, analysis of genetic diversity
297 with microsatellite markers in a large number of wild and domesticated common
298 bean accessions from Mesoamerican and Andean gene pools has shown that
299 the race Jalisco constituted a single separated group together with the race
300 Durango.¹⁴ Taken together, our investigations show that proteomic distances
301 obtained from 2-DE phaseolin patterns are a reliable marker of genetic
302 differentiation among cultivated and wild bean populations.

303 **Proteomic Distance and Seed Protein Quality.** Essential and nonessential
304 amino acid composition for the 18 cultivated and wild common bean seeds from
305 the Mesoamerican and Andean gene pools is shown in Supporting Information
306 Tables 1 and 2. Figure 5 shows that the values of the seed methionine content
307 varied markedly across the complete set of accessions: mean values ranged from

308 4.2 (Contender) to 7.4 mg/g (Jalisco) of protein sample. Despite these
309 oscillations, all accessions contain methionine-cysteine poor proteins as
310 compared to the reference amino acid FAO/ WHO requirements recommended
311 in human nutrition (see Supporting Information Figure 3).⁷ On the other hand, no
312 statistically significant differences in methionine content were detected between
313 Mesoamerican and Andean gene pools by the Mann–Whitney U test ($p = 0.79$).
314 However, we found a weak relationship between the degree of proteomic
315 distance and the difference in methionine content in total seed protein over pairs
316 of populations (see Supporting Information Figure 4).

317 Specifically, a positive correlation was detected between both variables using
318 both the Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient to assess the strength
319 of association and the Mantel test to assess its probability ($r = 0.176$, $p < 0.05$, n
320 $= 153$). This weak correlation can be understood taking into account that the
321 phaseolin represents about 35–50% of the total seed protein.⁶ It seems,
322 therefore, that it is difficult to predict methionine content in total seed protein from
323 individual proteomic distance scores based on 2-DE phaseolin profiles. Cluster
324 analysis offers a different perspective to the study of the diversity in the
325 methionine content across bean accessions because their degree of
326 similarity/dissimilarity can be analyzed jointly. Cluster analysis using UPGMA
327 from differences in methionine content between pairs of accessions is shown in
328 Figure 6. Interestingly, the accessions Jalisco and Ayacucho appear to be clear
329 outliers distantly related to the rest of the accessions in agreement with analyses
330 based on proteomic distances. In addition, the levels of methionine were
331 significantly higher in seeds of Jalisco and Ayacucho than in the remaining

332 accessions used in this study ($p < 0.01$; Table 3), about 70% higher than in the
333 Contender accession (Figure 5).

334 These observations suggest, therefore, that proteomic distances based on 2-DE
335 phaseolin profiles are an informative biomarker to identify outliers with distinct
336 methionine content. Accordingly, phaseolin-based proteomic distances can
337 establish a link between *P. vulgaris* genetic differentiation and methionine content
338 in total seed protein, which has important implications for the genetic
339 improvement of bean seeds with higher nutritional quality.^{5,23,39}

340 The study of natural variation in the protein phaseolin from 2-DE-based patterns
341 can provide additional valuable information to improve bean cultivars. Previous
342 studies suggest that the existing natural variation in phaseolin types could be
343 used for improving the digestibility of common bean. Thus, it is known that the
344 nutritional value of common bean is affected by a high resistance of phaseolin to
345 proteolysis by the digestive enzymes.^{4,5,40-43} However, the degree of hydrolysis
346 in vitro of phaseolin seems to be influenced more by the structural characteristics
347 of the phaseolin type determined using 1-DE than by its amino acid
348 composition.^{4,5} A number of structural variations can alter the phaseolin
349 susceptibility to proteolysis including differences in the proportion of α - and β -type
350 polypeptides in the whole molecule and post-translational modifications such as
351 glycosylations.^{4,5,42,43} At this regard, 2-DE phaseolin profiles have the advantage
352 that they provide more detailed information about the structural differences
353 among phaseolin types than is available via 1-DE banding patterns. In particular,
354 2-DE profiles allow us to identify differentially glycosylated and phosphorylated α -
355 and β -type phaseolin polypeptides (Supporting Information Figure 2).^{25,26} It would
356 be interesting to study as the natural variation in the levels of glycosylation and

357 phosphorylation of α - and β -type polypeptides affects the susceptibility of
358 phaseolin to in vitro and in vivo proteolysis. On the other hand, it is also probable
359 that proteomic distances based on 2-DE phaseolin patterns can provide relevant
360 information about other bean traits. It is well established that phaseolin diversity
361 is associated with several important agronomic traits (seed weight, tolerance to
362 low soil pH, resistance to parasites, etc.).^{11,20,21} These associations are likely a
363 byproduct of linkage disequilibrium between alleles at phaseolin coding genes
364 and alleles at quantitative trait loci (QTLs) of agronomic relevance. Linkage
365 disequilibria among functionally unrelated loci could have arisen at any given
366 moment of the history of common bean populations by evolutionary mechanisms
367 such as genetic drift, founder effects, and stratification (or admixture) of
368 populations, and maintained by the self-pollinated nature of *P. vulgaris*.¹¹

369

370 **4. Conclusions**

371 Overall, our results show that proteomic distances based on high-resolution 2-
372 DE phaseolin profiles are a reliable marker of genetic differentiation of common
373 bean populations. Our study also indicates that phaseolin-based proteomic
374 distances can establish a link between *P. vulgaris* genetic differentiation and seed
375 protein quality as evaluated by the content of the essential amino acid
376 methionine. This link might conceivably include other bean traits of agronomic
377 relevance. Therefore, 2-DE phaseolin patterns might be potentially exploited to
378 speed the process of selection of common bean germplasm in follow-up breeding
379 programs to the improvement of bean cultivars.

380

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384

385 The authors declare no competing financial interest.

386

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514 **CAPTIONS TO FIGURE**

515 **Figure 1.** High-resolution 2-DE phaseolin profiles from seeds of 18 cultivated and
516 wild accessions of common bean corresponding to the Mesamerican and Andean
517 gene pools. Positions of the spots according to their isoelectric point (pI) and
518 molecular mass (Mr) are shown.

519 **Figure 2.** Pairwise proteomic distance (D), expressed as a percentage, based on
520 high-resolution 2-DE phaseolin patterns from seeds of 18 cultivated and wild
521 accessions of common bean.

522 **Figure 3.** Unweighted pair-group method with arithmetic averaging (UPGMA)
523 dendrogram from the matrix of pairwise proteomic distances (D) based on high-
524 resolution 2-DE phaseolin profiles from seeds of 18 cultivated and wild
525 accessions of common bean

526 **Figure 4.** Multidimensional scaling (MDS) projection of the proteomic distance
527 (D) between 18 cultivated and wild populations onto two-dimensional space
528 based on high-resolution 2-DE phaseolin patterns.

529 **Figure 5.** Mean methionine content (mg/g total seed protein) across 18 cultivated
530 and wild populations of common bean.

531 **Figure 6.** Unweighted pair-group method with arithmetic averaging (UPGMA)
532 dendrogram based on pairwise differences in seed methionine content (mg/g total
533 protein) from 18 cultivated and wild populations of common bean.

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535 **Table 1.** Information on the Different Cultivated and Wild Bean Accessions Used
 536 in This Study

accession identifier	common name	phaseolin ^b	gene pool ^c	race ^d	status	origin/country	origin/locality	seed/weight of 100 seeds (g)	seed/color
PI 201011 (G 12851)		S, Sb, Sd, M11	M		wild	Guatemala	Santa Rosa	6.0	cream, black, other
PI 268110 (G 1459)	Jamapa	S	M	M	landrace	Mexico	Veracruz	18.0	black
PI 313590 (G 2511)	Boyaca 22	B, S	M	M	cultivated	Colombia	Boyaca	16.0	brown, black
PI 417780 (G 12953)		M	M		wild	Mexico	Jalisco	10.5	brown
PI 549695 (G 4498)	Sanilac	S	M	M	cultivated	U.S.		14.0	white
PI 661723			M		wild	Costa Rica	Puntarenas		brown
PI 661840 (G 22837)		M4, Sb	M		wild	Mexico	Chihuahua	11.1	cream, brown
W6 35834 (G 5773)	Ica Pijao	B	M	M	cultivated	Colombia	Valle Del Cauca	24.0	black
G 12053	Nuña	A	A	P	cultivated	Perú	Ayacucho	36.6	purple
G 12588	Huevo de Huanchaco (nuña)	H	A	P	cultivated	Perú	Cajamarca	49.8	white, red
PI 390770 (G 7225)		T	A		wild	Perú	Apurimac	11.0	cream, black
PI 474218 (G 6412)	Contender	C	A	NG	cultivated	U.S.		44.0	cream, brown
PI 549633 (G 7476)	Tendergreen	T	A	NG	cultivated	U.S.		30.0	cream, brown
PI 557465 (G 4474)	Coscorron	S, B	A	C	landrace	Chile		52.0	white, other
PI 638874			A		wild	Argentina	Jujuy		brown, black
PI 640968			A		wild	Argentina	Salta		brown, black
PI 661817			A		wild	Bolivia	Chuquisaca		cream
W6 35784 (G 4494)	Calima	T	A	NG	cultivated	Colombia		54.8	red, cream

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539 **Table 2.** Proteomic Distance (D) within and between Common Bean Gene Pools
 540 Based on 2-DE Phaseolin Profiles aM, Mesoamerican gene pool populations; A,
 541 Andean gene pool populations; MC, Mesoamerican cultivated populations; MW,
 542 Mesoamerican wild populations; AC, Andean cultivated populations; AW, Andean
 543 wild populations. bNumber of accession pairs. cData (expressed in percentage)
 544 are means \pm standard error. dCI, confidence interval; CL, lower bound; CU, upper
 545 bound.

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comparison level ^a	n ^b	D ^c	95% bootstrap CI (CL, CU) ^d	99% bootstrap CI (CL, CU)
Within Gene Pools				
M \times M	28	37.8 \pm 5.6	27.1, 49.4	23.4, 52.7
A \times A	45	34.5 \pm 2.9	29.2, 40.0	27.8, 41.5
MC \times MC	6	11.0 \pm 4.9	3.7, 18.3	0.0, 22.0
MW \times MW	6	56.3 \pm 13.1	34.0, 77.2	25.8, 86.0
MC \times MW	16	40.8 \pm 6.9	28.4, 54.9	25.6, 59.5
AC \times AC	15	38.1 \pm 6.2	26.3, 50.0	23.1, 52.5
AW \times AW	6	30.2 \pm 1.4	27.5, 32.5	26.8, 33.0
AC \times AW	24	33.0 \pm 3.8	26.4, 40.6	24.8, 42.7
Between Gene Pools				
M \times A	80	81.8 \pm 1.1	79.6, 84.1	78.7, 84.7
MC \times AC	24	79.5 \pm 1.8	76.2, 83.2	74.7, 83.9
MC \times AW	16	75.2 \pm 3.1	69.3, 81.2	67.6, 83.1
MW \times AC	24	86.0 \pm 1.4	83.3, 88.8	82.6, 89.5
MW \times AW	16	85.6 \pm 2.4	81.3, 90.1	79.5, 91.7

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566 **Table 3.** Methionine Content (mg/g protein) in Total Seed Protein of Ayacucho
 567 and Jalisco and Other Accessions

accessions	<i>n</i> ^a	methionine content ^b	95% bootstrap CI (CL, CU) ^c	99% bootstrap CI (CL, CU)
Ayacucho	2	6.95 ± 0.15	6.94, 7.10	6.80, 7.10
Jalisco	2	7.44 ± 0.45	7.43, 7.88	6.99, 7.88
other accessions	32	5.22 ± 0.13	4.98, 5.47	4.91, 5.52

^aNumber of values. ^bData are means ± standard error. ^cCI, confidence interval; CL, lower bound; CU, upper bound.

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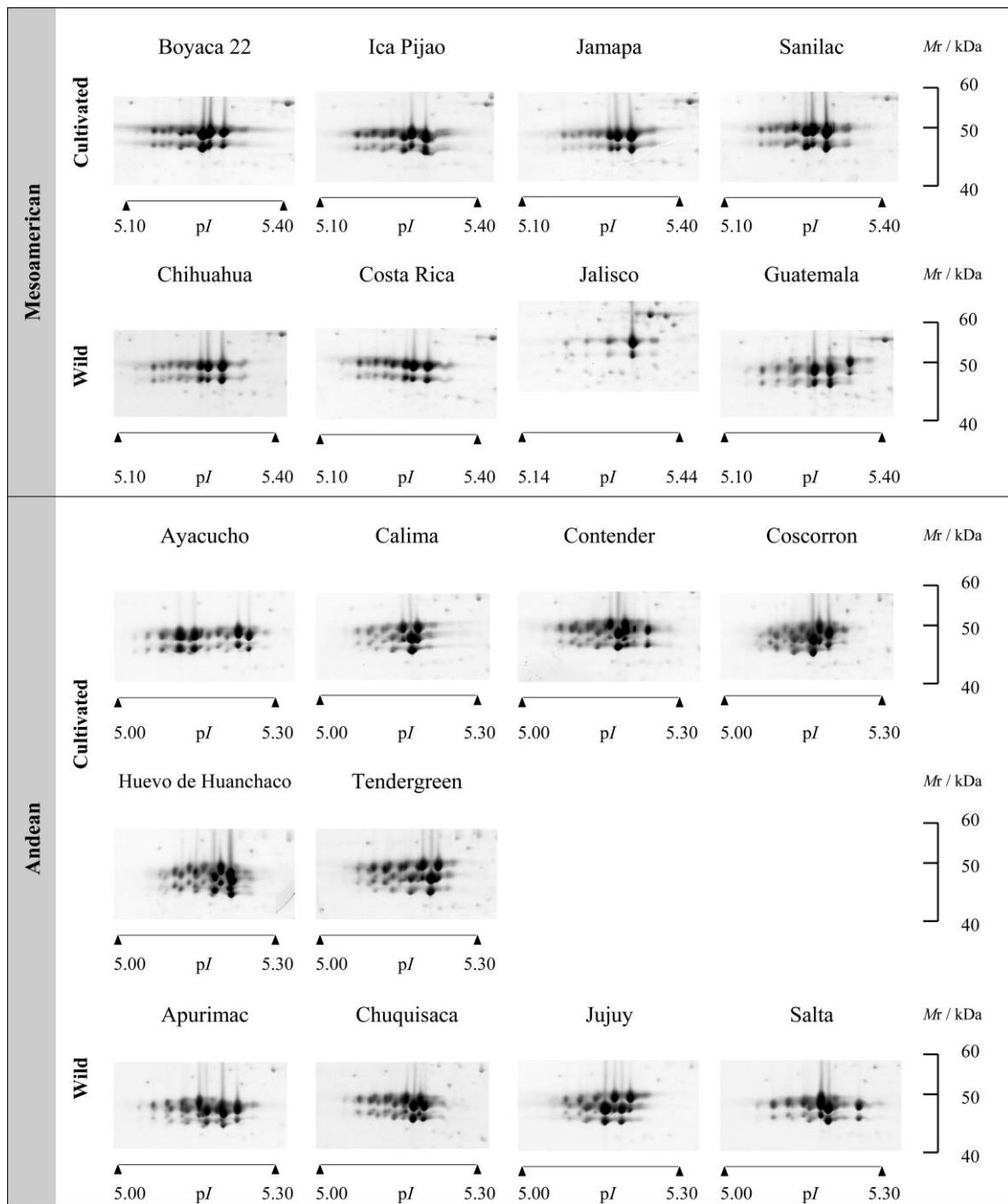
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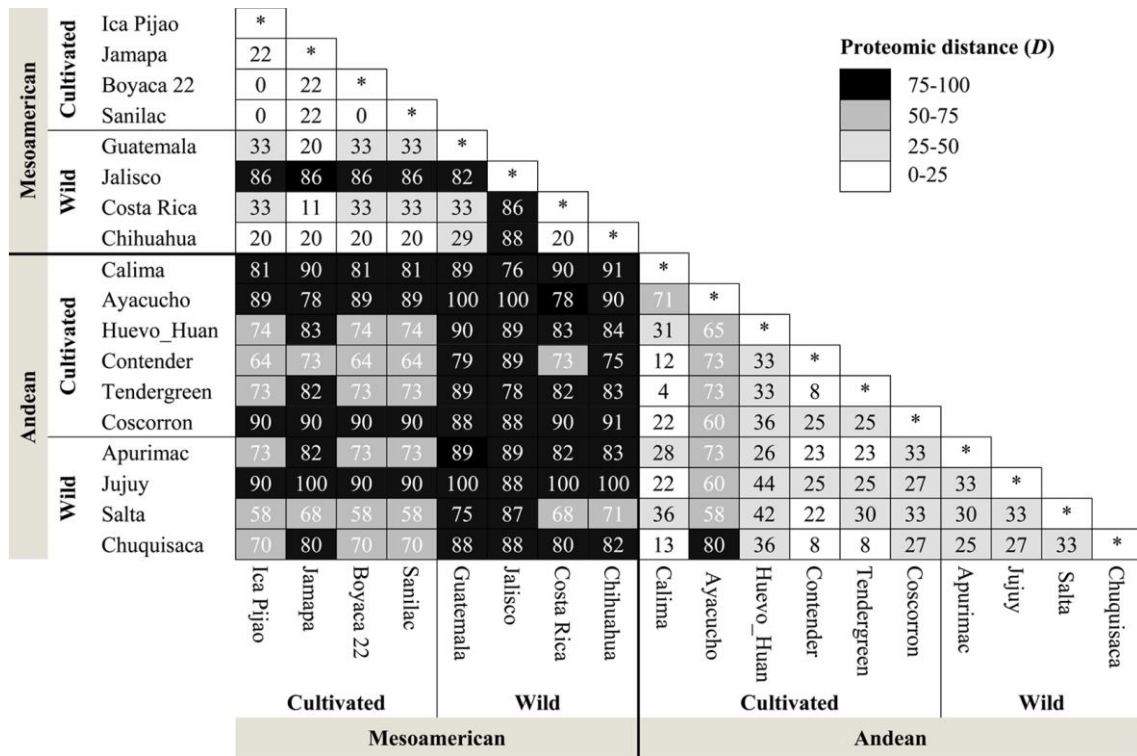
576 **Figure 1.**

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582 **Figure 2.**

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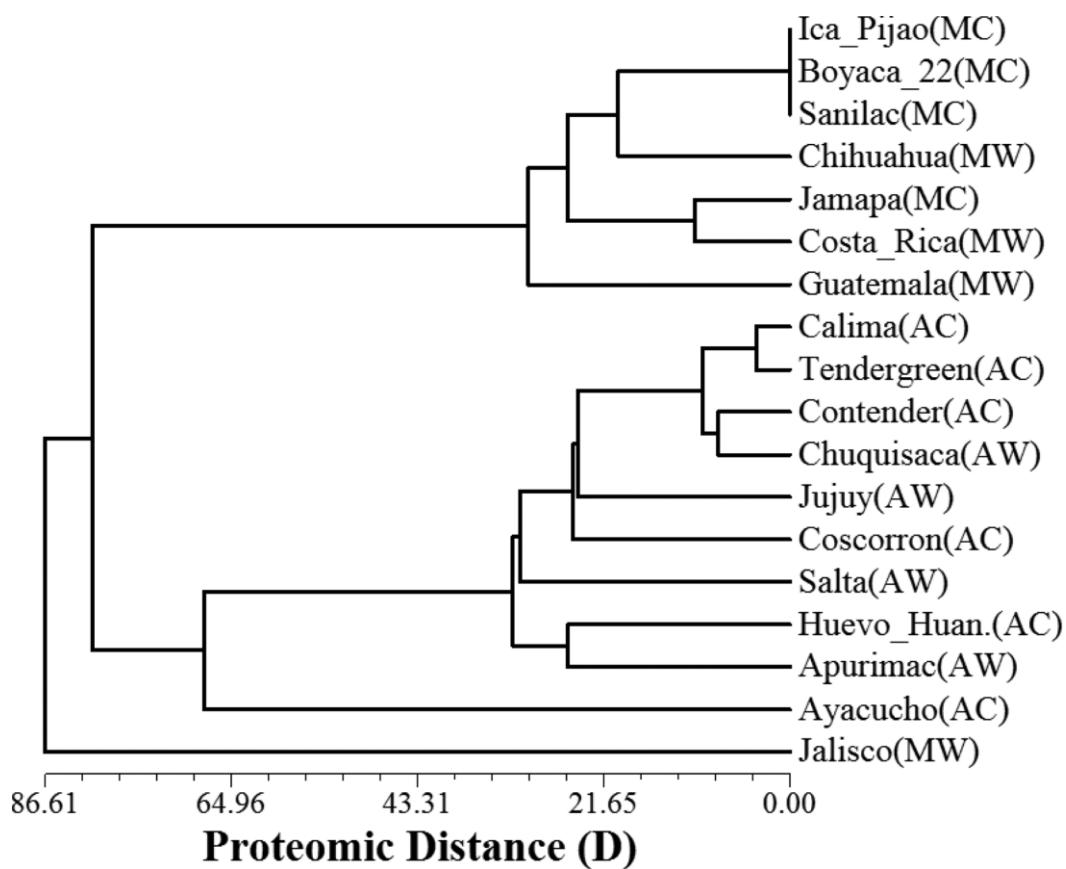
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595 **Figure 3.**

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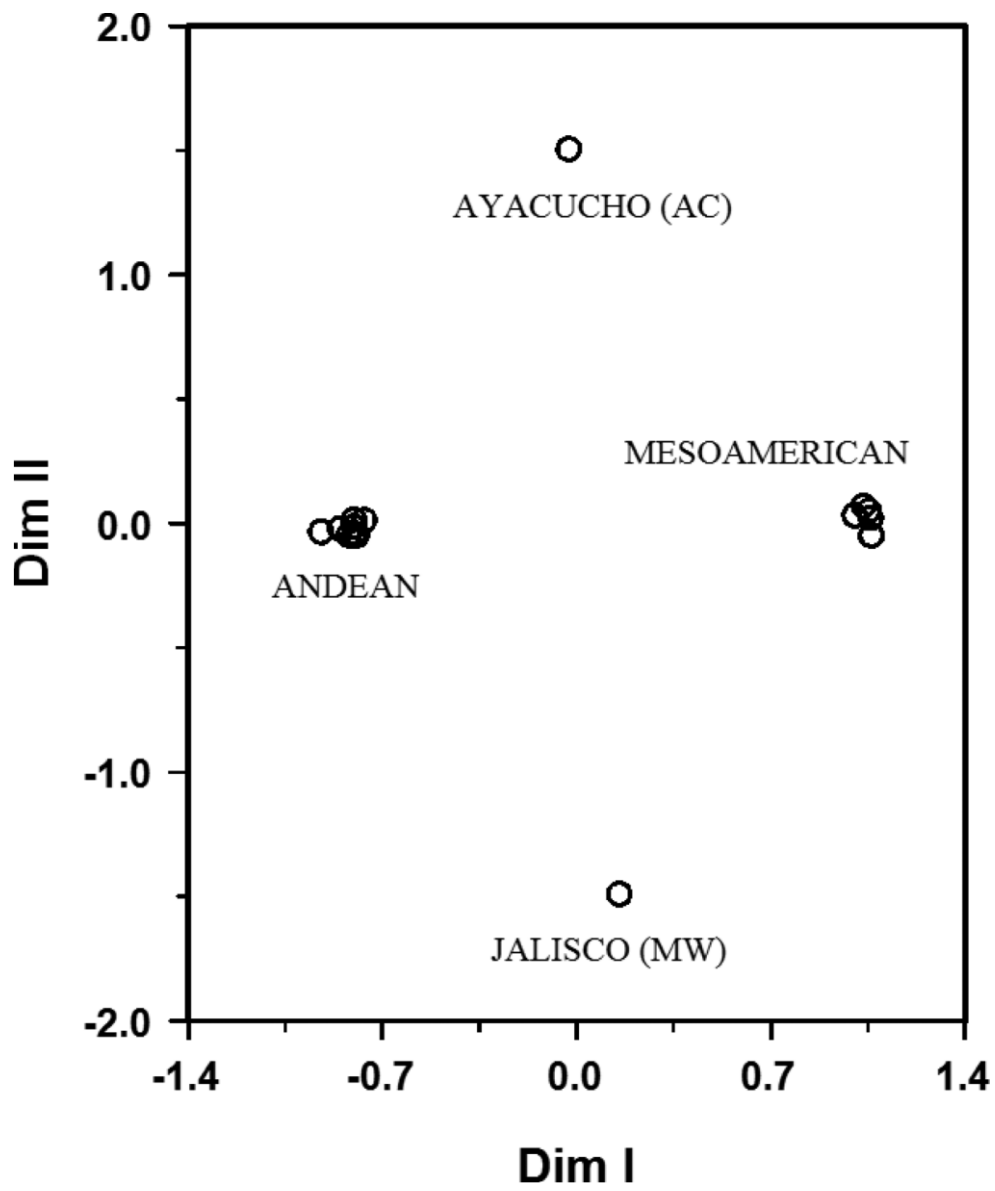
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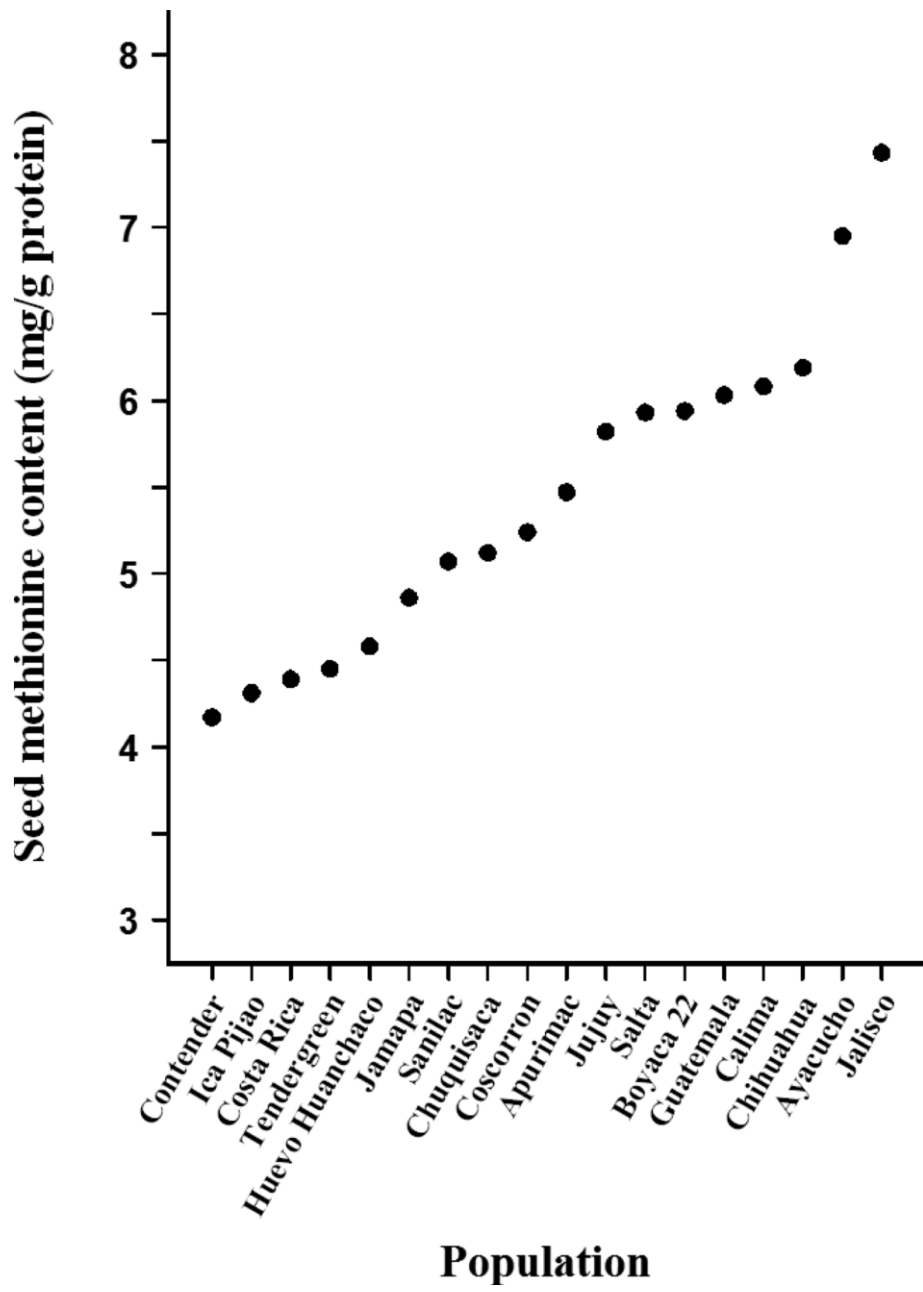
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606 **Figure 4.**

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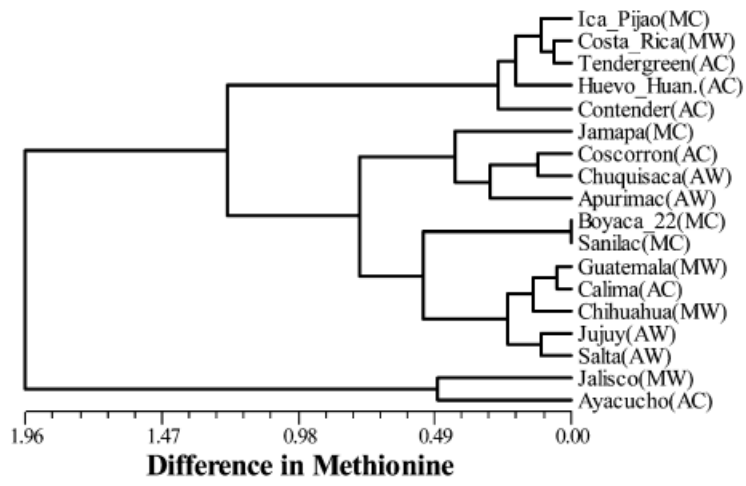


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611 **Figure 5.**

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615 **Figure 6.**

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