

Short summary of the informal AForGeN winter meeting in Avignon

28.2.2020, GenTree Final Conference

Christian Rellstab & Felix Gugerli

Present: Christian Rellstab (presenting), Felix Gugerli (presenting), Niels Müller, Andrea Piotti, Beppe Vendramin, Ivan Scotti, Hojek Kragher, Natasa Sibanc, Rok Damjanic, Phil Aravanopoulos, Dario Ojeda, Benjamin Dauphin, Lars Opgenoorth, Katrin Heer, Darius Kavaliauskas.

1) AForGeN meeting 2020

- 8.-10.6.2020, Zirbenland, Steiermark, Austria
- Organized by Berthold Heinze et al. (BFW Vienna)
- More details will follow soon

2) Silver for genome project phase 2 (SFGP2)

2a) SFGP 2.1: Re-sequencing and SNP genotyping

- Although planning is quite far, no concrete steps have been undertaken due to a) no specific research projects with *Abies alba* and b) the lack of a common genotyping purpose and requirements (cf. questionnaire by Christian Rellstab in early 2019).
- The group agreed that a re-sequencing of samples across the range and the characterization of genetic diversity would be of common interest, while designing a specific SNP chip/probes (based on this data) could be done specifically for single projects.
- Responsible: Christian Rellstab, Konstantin Krutovsky

2b) SFGP 2.2: Improvement of reference genome assembly

- WSL has performed two PacBio trial runs (Sequel 1, four libraries). Although HMW DNA extracts and libraries looked very good (OD ratios, fragment size and quality), results were poor, most likely due to PCR-inhibitory substances.
- New HMW DNA extractions are now ready, another sequencing trial is currently being performed.
- Lars Opgenoorth thinks about writing a proposal to "Waldklimafonds", including SFGP 2.1 and 2.2. Deadline: 10.03.2020.
- Responsible: Felix Gugerli et al.

3) Cost action

- Idea: Support travelling/networking with a common Cost action, support outreach activities to inform practitioners about the benefits of integrating genomic information in strategies for silviculture and gene conservation.
- Possible topic: Altitudinal gradients
- Next submission is April, which is too close for most of us.
- Decision: Reserve some time in the next AForGeN meeting to seriously elaborate on the topic.
- Responsible: Bruno Fady

4) Opinion paper

- Expected start of activity: spring 2020
- Responsible: Marjana Westergren

5) Open project

- Expected start of activity: spring 2020
- Responsible: Santiago González-Martínez

6) Varia

- Send new publications (once paginated) and information about new members to christian.rellstab@wsl.ch