



**TGP/12 Section 3/1 Draft 1**

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**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS**

GENEVA

**DRAFT**

Associated Document  
to the  
General Introduction to the Examination  
of Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability and the  
Development of Harmonized Descriptions of New Varieties of Plants (document TG/1/3)

**DOCUMENT TGP/12**

**“SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS”**

**Section 3: Examination of Combined Characteristics Using Image Analysis**

*Document prepared by the Office of the Union*

*to be considered by the Enlarged Editorial Committee at its meeting  
to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on January 9, 2007*

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 The General Introduction (document TG/1/3, Chapter 4, Section 4) states that:

### “4.6.3 Combined Characteristics

4.6.3.1 A combined characteristic is a simple combination of a small number of characteristics. Provided the combination is biologically meaningful, characteristics that are assessed separately may subsequently be combined, for example the ratio of length to width, to produce such a combined characteristic. Combined characteristics must be examined for distinctness, uniformity and stability to the same extent as other characteristics. In some cases, these combined characteristics are examined by means of techniques, such as Image Analysis. In these cases, the methods for appropriate examination of DUS are specified in document TGP/12, “Special Characteristics.””

1.2 Thus, the General Introduction clarifies that the use of image analysis is as one possible method for examining characteristics which fulfil the basic requirements for use in DUS testing (see document TG/1/3, Chapter 4.2), which includes the need for the uniformity and stability of such characteristics to be examined. With regard to combined characteristics, the General Introduction also explains that such characteristics should be biologically meaningful.

1.3 Characteristics which may be examined by image analysis should also be able to be examined by visual observation and/or manual measurement, as appropriate. Explanations for observing such characteristics, including where appropriate explanations in Test Guidelines, should ensure that the characteristic is explained in terms which would enable the characteristic to be understood and examined by all DUS experts.

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