Status of *V. v. sylvestris* in France

ECPRG *Vitis* Working group – 5 July 2016 – Split, Croatia
Historical overview

- 1970-80s: first prospecting in south-western France (Bordeaux)
- 1988: official protection in Champagne-Ardenne region
- 1993: official protection in Alsace region
- **1995: official protection on whole French territory**
- 1995-1998: PhD C. Cuisset (Montpellier)
- 1996-now: conservation *ex situ* in Vassal collection (Montpellier)
- **1999-2002: National inventory project** (Montpellier)
- **2002-2006: PhD M. Di Vecchi-Staraz** (Montpellier / Firenze)
- 2003-now: supplementary prospecting (Montpellier)
- 2009-2011: PhD S. Picq (Montpellier)
French *sylvestris* populations

• Explorations 1996–2016
• Total ≈ 250 stations*
• Total ≈ 850 individuals
  – 212 preserved *ex situ* in INRA Vassal-Montpellier collection

* 1 population = 1 or Σ botanical stations
Comments on current status

• Identity of grapevines in the wild
  – True pure *sylvestris* are rare
  – Majority of feral plants: rootstosks, hybrids, cépages
  – Presence of crossbreed x *sylvestris*

• Low level of pollen-mediated gene flow from cultivated to wild grapevines (Di Vecchi et al. 2009)

• Definition of a population? What to protect?

• Different types and levels of threat

• Very few actions of *in situ* protection today (ex. Grésigne, Bassée)

• Only one action of reintroduction, in Alsace: problematic (Arnold et al. 2005)
Current projects

• Publication of updated national survey

• Official collaboration for supplementary prospecting (2016 - )
  – ONF = National Forestry Agency
    → protection plan (only public forests)
  – ISEM = University/CNRS Montpellier

• ECPGR Vitis Working group: InWiGrape
  – Standards: indicators, descriptors, methods
  – Update the European Vitis Database