

DISTRIBUTION AND POTENTIAL AREAS FOR COLLECTION OF *Persea americana* Mill. GERMPLASM IN MEXICO

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Due to the fast disappearance of avocado germplasm is urgent to carry out and to coordinate actions towards saving what still remains. Nevertheless, these actions should be planned. The first step is to obtain information of the possible areas for collection. The objective was to obtain maps of real and potential distribution of avocado germplasm in Mexico. An inventory in the main herbariums of Mexico was carried out and some others consulted online. The information was gathered in a database and analysed with a geographic information system (GIS) that considers the mapping biodiversity of germplasm FloraMap 1.1. Data of 827 samples from 24 *Persea* species were obtained, 451 belonged to avocado and 343 specimens had information on latitude and longitude, which were included in the analysis. The generated map showed that this species is confined in central and southern Mexico. The dendrogram obtained from the GIS analysis presented a division of three main clusters. The first one was found distributed near the coasts of the Gulf of Mexico and inland area of the Yucatan peninsula, belonging to the West Indian race. The second showed the highest amplitude distribution probability, belonging to the Mexican and Guatemalan races. The third corresponded to the Mexican race, apparently of the most primitive, which is confined to places such as Northeast of Puebla with the borders of Veracruz, slopes of the Pico de Orizaba and highlands of Zongolica in Veracruz.