

1776 Cotton germplasm collection and an updated taxonomy of *Gossypium* L

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One of the largest and richest cotton germplasm collections has been created in Uzbekistan following 50 years of world wide efforts collecting wild, primitive, and cultural-tropical forms and species of cotton, *Gossypium* spp., as well as exchanging germplasm with other countries and organizations. Our germplasm unit maintains nearly 6,500 cotton germplasm accessions, including 40 wild species, elite AD allotetraploid cultivars and hybrids, along with wild, primitive, and extant representatives of the A to G genome groups. On the basis of investigations of the gene pools from our collection, we describe the evolution of the *Gossypium* genus and update the Mauer taxonomy system for *Gossypium*. We separated *Gossypium* into 58 species, 4 sub-genus groupings as described by Fryxell (1992), 10 sections, and 13 sub-sections. We included all new species found in the end of the twentieth century in updated taxonomy, some of which were unknown to Mauer. The taxonomy will be updated with the results of molecular analyses and detail study of cotton species lacking in our collection