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Breeding table grapes in Brazil

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Abstract: Brazil has two distinct grape growing areas: the southern states of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina which produce almost all of the wine grapes; and Sao Paulo State, the major table grape growing area, followed by an incipient area in northeast region of Brazil (Sao Francisco River Valley).

The organized grape breeding program at Instituto Agronômico de Campinas (I.A.C.) was started in 1938 in Sao Paulo State, although crosses have been performed since 1897. In 1945, tropical American native *Vitis* species like *V. shuttleworthii*, *V. smalliana*, *V. gigas* and *V. caribaea* were introduced in the I.A.C. grape breeding program as vigor and disease resistance germplasm sources. Several French, Italian and American hybrids were used in the crosses as well.

As a result, a number of table grape cultivars have been released in the past 30 years and are used by grape growers as alternatives to Red Niagara, the main table grape cultivar in Brazil:

IAC 871-41 'Patricia': IAC 501-6 (IAC 8-5 x Pirovano 215) x IAC 544-14 (IAC 339-21 x IAC 287-2); IAC 8-5: Highland x Golden Queen; IAC 339-21: Muscat Hamburg x *V. cinerea*; IAC 287-2: Red Niagara x Jumbo. Patricia is a late variety, seeded, with large-size clusters, medium (5-7 g) black berries, neutral taste.

IAC 871-13 'A Dona': same parentage as Patricia, is a late, seedless variety with medium clusters and small red berries (requires gibberellic acid).

IAC 457-11 'Paulistinha': Niagara x Sultanina; it is an early, seedless variety, with medium clusters and small white berries (requires gibberellic acid).

The IAC cultivars can also be useful as germplasm sources:

IAC 1353-1 'Yole': Red Muscat x IAC 1038-3 (= IAC 853-33 x IAC 892-24), IAC 853-33: IAC 3912 (= *V. caribaea* x Muscat Hamburg) x IAC 526-4 (= *V. gigas* x Pearl of Csaba); IAC 892-24: IAC 704 (= IAC 394-14 x Rosaki rosado) x IAC 540-3 (= IAC 337-11 x IAC 287-2); IAC 394-14: SR (*V. shuttleworthii* x *V. rufoomentosa*) x White Muscat; IAC 337-11: Hogg Muscat x *V. cinerea*; IAC 287-2: Red Niagara x Jumbo.