

Referee's Comments

Genome-wide association study (GWAS) identifies key candidate genes associated with leaf size in alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.). The authors have carried out GWAS studies in 220 alfalfa variants grown in China. The analysis inferred 304 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) and 6 candidate genes related to the leaf length and width (development).

This work may pave the way ultimately for alfalfa breeding in future with superior foliage.

(1). It is surprising to note that only 6 candidate genes are influencing the leaf length and width in *Medicago sativa* despite variations in leaf size and development.

(2). Lines 260-261: Among the population and environment specific associations with leaf development, which one predominate the other?

(3). T/T haplotype appears as the frequent superior allele over others. Is there any specific reason for this?