Conclusions

Our findings indicate that 'Sangiovese' and 'Garganega' were crucial in the evolution of the Italian ampelographic assortment and demonstrate that 'Sangiovese' has clear and dated relationships with Southern Italian varieties. Our data confirm and corroborate, on one side, some of the indications given by Di Vecchi Staraz et al. 2007 about the role played by these two cultivars, also using a mostly different set of SSR markers; on the other side, our work adds new members to the respective families of 'Sangiovese' and 'Garganega'. The detection of missing parents in the two family trees will contribute to clarify the respective temporal appearance of close related varieties. It is interesting to notice an additional synonym of 'Garganega'/Greco dorato' reported by Gallet (2000), who stated: "Selon Carpentieri ce plant serait identique au greco d'Arcetri (i.e. south of Florence), ou decanico, synonimes non recontrés en Sicile": this would fill the strange gap on the apparent absence of this variety in central Italy.