Title of Research Project #1: Is Stewartia ovata a homoploid hybrid species?

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Research Project Description: Plants form hybrid species by having genes from both parental species, and generally hybrid species tend to have more than 2 sets of chromosomes. However, occasionally we do see some potential hybrids with the same number of sets of chromosome as their hybridizing parental species and they are called homoploid species. In our lab we discovered that one Stewartia species, a tea plant relative, might be one homoploid species. We will use DNA data to test our hypothesis.