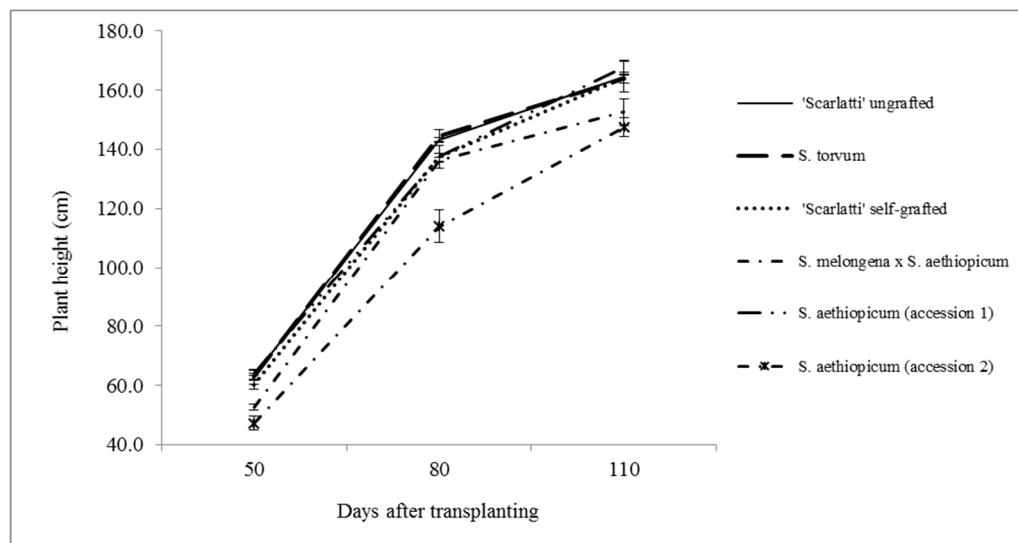
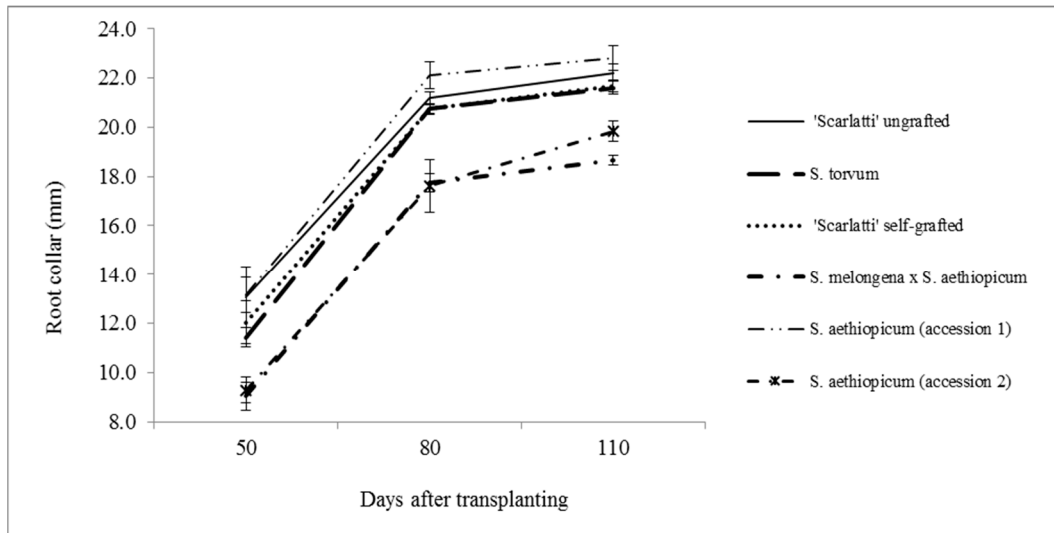


**Figure S1.** Monthly meteorological data from May to August of 2014 and 2015 from the meteorological station of the experimental farm of the Department of Agricultural, Alimentary and Forest Sciences, University of Palermo, Italy.



**Figure S2.** Plant height evolution of 'Scarlatti' eggplant plant ungrafted, self-grafted and grafted onto *S. torvum*, *S. aethiopicum* gr. *gilo* (accession 1), *S. aethiopicum* gr. *gilo* (accession 2) and *S. melongena* × *S. aethiopicum* gr. *gilo* rootstocks. Bars indicate the standard error of the mean. ANOVA analysis for plant height at 50, 80, and 110 DAT showed the following significance: \*\*\* (statistically significant differences at *p*-value below 0.001), \*\*\* and \* (statistically significant differences at *p*-value below 0.05), respectively.



**Figure S3.** Root collar evolution of 'Scarlatti' eggplant plant ungrafted, self-grafted and grafted onto *S. torvum*, *S. aethiopicum* gr. *gilo* (accession 1), *S. aethiopicum* gr. *gilo* (accession 2) and *S. melongena* × *S. aethiopicum* gr. *gilo* rootstocks. Bars indicate the standard error of the mean. ANOVA analysis for root collar at 50, 80, and 110 DAT showed the following significance: \*\*\* (statistically significant differences at p-value below 0.001), \*\*\* and \*\*\*, respectively.

**Table S1.** Rootstock effects on apparent fruit quality in 'Scarlatti' F<sub>1</sub> scion.

Treatments	Fruit length (cm)		Fruit width (cm)		Fruit length/width ratio		Fruit curvature (1 - 9 scale)		Fruit cross-section (1 - 9 scale)		Fruit calyx length (1 - 9 scale)		Fruit calyx prickles (0 - 9 scale)		Seeds index (0 - 5 scale)	
Rootstock																
Scarlatti' ungrafted	18.1	b	4.7	a	3.9	a	1.0	a	7.1	a	2.8	ab	0.3	a	1.1	a
<i>S. torvum</i>	18.5	ab	4.7	a	3.9	a	1.0	a	7.0	a	2.6	b	0.3	a	1.1	a
Scarlatti' self-grafted	18.2	b	4.7	a	3.9	a	1.0	a	7.0	a	2.8	ab	0.3	a	1.1	a
Hybrid <i>S. melongena</i> x <i>S. aethiopicum</i>	18.8	a	4.7	a	4.0	a	1.0	a	7.1	a	3.0	a	0.0	a	1.1	a
<i>S. aethiopicum</i> (accession 1)	18.4	ab	4.6	a	4.0	a	1.1	a	7.2	a	2.5	bc	0.0	a	1.1	a
<i>S. aethiopicum</i> (accession 2)	17.3	c	4.6	a	3.8	a	1.1	a	7.2	a	2.2	c	0.0	a	1.2	a
Significance																
Rootstock	***		NS		NS		NS		NS		***		NS		NS	

Values within a column and a year followed by the same letter are not significantly different at  $p \leq 0.05$  - (Tukey HSD Test). The significance is designated by asterisks as follows: \*, statistically significant differences at  $p$ -value below 0.05; \*\*, statistically significant differences at  $p$ -value below 0.01; \*\*\*, statistically significant differences at  $p$ -value below 0.001; NS = not significant.