

HBBG - STATUS OF THE NATIONAL *BRASSICA* COLLECTION IN CROATIA

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INTRODUCTION

On the territory of Republic of Croatia, as a part of Mediterranean pool, we can find Brassicas growing wild:

Brassica nigra,
Brassica oleracea,
Brassica campestris,
Brassica napus;

even some endemic species of the same genus:

Brassica botterii Vis. syn. *Brassica incana* Ten. subvar. *botterii* (Vis.)

Hayek on the Palagruža isle;

Brassica mollis Vis. from Korčula Isle; *Brassica cazzae* Ginzberger & Teyber.

Thanks to conditions hybrids, modern cultivars and primitive varieties of cabbage, savoy cabbage, brussels sprout, broccoli, cauliflower, kohlrabi, chinese cabbage and collard are grown successfully.

THE NATIONAL BRASSICA COLLECTION

In the last few decades there were some attempts of collecting and evaluating of Brassicas (Tavčar, Pavlek, Mikolčević), but systematical work started in 1987 by initiation of Yougoslav Plant Gene Ban (Lešić).

The collection consists of:

- (1) 15 accessions of collards,
- (2) 11 accessions of intermediate between collard-cabbage and savoy,
- (3) 2 accessions of cabbages and
- (4) 1 accessions of broccoli.

This samples were collected from surroundings of Dubrovnik (Brgat, Konavli) (1), Župa Dubrovačka (4), Zadar (2), Nedeljanec (3), Mostar region (Bosnia and Hercegovina) and isles of Hvar (V. Grablje); Kkorčula (Pupnat, Žrnovo, Blato), Brač (Bol), Vis (Komiža) and Mljet (Polača).

In regard to biennial and open pollinated character of the genus, and in lack of money and space for regeneration of all the populations in the

institutions which collected and evaluated them, it was decided to regenerate the accessions in situ.

However, a war happened and the region where the accessions come from had been struck by destroying, so the accessions could not be collected from there as well as from the nearby neighborhood (isles).

What we have now, are samples that were collected at the end of '80, kept in inadequate storage conditions. Most of them lost germination quality. Parts of the collection have been characterized and/or evaluated according to IPGRI (IBPGR) descriptor lists, slightly modified.

Computerized Brassica database is not operational yet.

A big part of that region was liberated during the last year, so the return of the banned population began in this year.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

It is high time to start with collecting of the home population again because of its considerable stress resistance. These populations are grown only for self consumption, mostly in old men's households. On the market orientated farms predominate introduced varieties and hybrids well known European seed companies.

As the Croatian Bank of Plant Genes is on the start of its activities we have organization and financial problems and this is the reason why it is impossible to organize an expedition in order to collect accessions. Therefore we ask our friends and colleges to send us seeds of old varieties and autochthonous populations and we decided to concentrate our activity on landraces of cabbages, cauliflower, broccoli and specially collards.

Accessions of cabbages, broccoli and collards are valued by the vegetable Center Zagreb, while colleges from the Institute for Adriatic Crops in Split describe the populations of autochthonic winter cauliflowers.

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