

The Balkan Botanical Congress is an international meeting that has been held nearly every three years, since 1997. It brings together botanists from around the world who perform research on plants in the widest sense, as well as scientists who are engaged in the plant sciences and their applications. We were honored to host such an extraordinary scientific event this year in Serbia.

The 7th Balkan Botanical Congress – 7BBC 2018 took place in Novi Sad from September 10th to 14th 2018. The Congress was organized by the University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Sciences, Department of Biology and Ecology and the "Andreas Wolny" Botanical Society, along with the great help of 7 co-organizers and more than 30 supporters and sponsors. It truly was not possible to happen without exceptional help of our co-organizer - the Institute for Nature Conservation of Vojvodina Province who made this congress not only possible, but totally awesome.

7BBC 2018 placed a special emphasis on plants of the Balkan Peninsula and covered various research fields. The Congress was organized into ten sessions: Plant Anatomy and Physiology, Plant Taxonomy and Systematics, Plant Molecular Biology and Genetics, Floristics, Vegetation and Phytogeography, Conservation Botany and Plant Invasions, Phytochemistry and Plant Resources, Agronomy and Forestry, Botanical Collections and History, Ethnobotany and Cryptogam Biology. These topics were elaborated through five plenary lectures given by eminent scientists, as well as in the form of introductory lectures, oral and poster presentations. With an overall number of 387 abstracts presented on the very latest of botanical science, we shared knowledge, expertise and novel ideas. We welcomed nearly 400 scientists to Novi Sad, and we believe that we succeeded in our joint endeavor to make new networks and new connections among botanists. We hope that we contributed to advancements in the wide and beautiful field of botany, ranging from fundamental botanical research to applied botany.

It is our great pleasure to publish this Abstract Book in Botanica Serbica, in the same year that this international journal, a renamed continuation of the Bulletin of the Institute of Botany and Botanical Garden Belgrade, celebrates its 90 year jubilee. On behalf of the Scientific and Organizing committee of 7BBC 2018 we would like to express our gratitude to all contributors, colleagues and sponsors for taking part in the 7th Balkan Botanical Congress, as well as for their efforts and contributions to it's successful realization.

Goran Anačkov and Lana Zorić, Co-presidents of the Scientific Committee of the 7 BBC and guest editors of Botanica Serbica 42 (supplement 1). Organizess: University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Sciences, Department of Biology and Ecology, Novi Sad Botanical Society "Andreas Wolny", Novi Sad

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The 7th Balkan Botanical Congress consists of plenary lectures, introductory lectures of each session, as well as oral and poster presentations on the following topics:
Sessions 1. Plant Anatomy and Physiology
Sessions 2. Plant Taxonomy and Systematics
Sessions 3. Plant Molecular Biology and Genetics
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KEYWORDS: Ophiostoma novo-ulmt, hybridization, su hybrids, PCR-RFLP

Poster presentation 0 MOLECULAR CHARACTERIZATION OF CHRYPHONECTRIA HYPOVIRUS 1 FROM SLOVENIA

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The pathogenic fungus Cryphonectria parastitica Murrill Barr has been responsible for the decline of European chestnut. This aggressive ascomycete causes chestnut blight, a serious disease that destroys chestnut trees by causing bark cankers that progressively enlarge, girdle and kill branches and trunks of infected trees. This disease in Europe is successfully controlled with naturally-occurring Cryphonectria hypovirus I (CHVI), a double-stranded RNA (dsRNA) virus that re-I (CHVI), a double-stranded RNA (daRNA) virus that re-duces the virulence, sporulation and pigmentation of fungus and can therefore be used as a biocontrol agent of the chest-nut blight. CHVI was probably introduced together with its fungal host to Burope from Asia and then naturally spread throughout C. parasitica populations. In Slovenia, the disease

was first recorded in 1950 and has been reported to date in all Investigated chestnut populations. C. parasitica at those chestnut populations has a high diversity of vegetative compatibility (vc) types that can limit the spread of CHV1. It is known that CHV1 easily spreads between C. parasitica strains of the same ve type, but between strains of different ve types it spreads less frequently. Despite a high diversity of vc types, CHV1 is widespread in Slovenian C. parasitica spoulations. In order to gain a better insight into the genetic diversity of CHV1, and the spread in the spread of CHV1 included thypoviral daRNA extraction, complementary DNA synthesis, PCR amplification and partial sequencing of CHV1 included thypoviral daRNA extraction, complementary DNA synthesis, PCR amplification and partial sequencing of CHV1 genome. The obtained nucleotide sequences were assembled and the number of micleotide differences and genetic distance between them were determined. Phylogenetic analysis grouped CHV1 sequences from Slovenia to the Italian subtype of CHV1, the only subtype found so far in Slovenia. Among sequenced CHV1 isolates a large number of different haplo-types were detected which indicates a high genetic diversity first recorded in 1950 and has been reporte sequenced CHV1 isolates a large number of different haplo-types were detected which indicates a high genetic diversity of CHV1 in Slovenia, High genetic diversity is not a conse-quence of recombination events, but is probably the result of numerous point mutations.

KEYWORDS: biological control, chestnut blight, genetic diversity,

ROOT PHENOTYING OF NS SUNFLOWER

Aleksandra Dimitrijević^{1*}, Anna Galinski², Dragana ović^a, Sandra Cvejić^a, Anna Galinski^a, Drag ović^a, Sandra Cvejić^a, Siniša B. Jocić^a, Sreten Kerstin A. Nagel^a & Fabio Fiorani^a

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Sunflower breeding, in the past decades, had lead to significant improvements in sunflower yield, pest resistance, and altered oil composition; however breeding is oriented towards analysis and improvement of above-ground parts, while root development has been significantly neglected. Future breeding efforts that would be aimed at modifying root traits can result in improved crops regarding stress-tolerance and ultimately increased yields by optimizing the capacity of the plant for soil employed or the plant for soil empl for soil exploration (water and nutrient acquisition). Development of novel phenotyping platforms for non-invasive root analysis facilitates characterization of root architecture and analysis lacilitates characterization of roof architecture and investigation of developmental dynamics and root growth. Up to our knowledge, this is the first report of sunflower root phenotyping platforms. In this preliminary study, one cultivated and one wild sunflower gen-otype were examined by use of the automated phenotyping platform, GROWSCREEN-Rhizo. Imaging of the rhizotron grown plants had been performed twice per week and the following traits were quantified using the Image processing software GrowScreen-Root: total root length, primary and lateral root length, rooting depth, root system which, and area covered by the root system. At the end of the experiment, fresh and dry shoot weight were measured. After harvest, sunflower roots were used for determining total root length and root diameter by utilizing the Winkhizo system. During plant development and Imaging of the roots, it had been observed that cultivated sunflower developed faster comparing to the wild lealitive. Preliminary analysis of total root length after washing and the one obtained by imaging showed that approx. 1/3 of the whole root system is visible at the transparent surface of the rhizotrons.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: This study was supported COST Ac-tion PA 1306: The quest for tolerant warieties - Phenotyping at plus and cellular level (STSM): by Provincial Secretariat for Higher Ed cation and Science of Volyodina, project 114-451-2126/2016-09; Millestry of Education, Science and Technological Development of Republic of Serbia, project TR91025.

KEYWORDS: H. annuus L., root architecture, rhi:

COMBINED APPROACH FOR IDENTIFICA TION OF PHENOTYPIC AND -OMICS MARK-ERS THAT COULD BE INCLUDED IN SUNFLOWER BREEDING PROGRAMS

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Diversity in plant genetic resources provides an opportunity for plant breeders to develop new and improved cultivars with altered quality traits, resistant to diseases and unfavourable environment. Novel approaches in genotyping and phenotyping enabled more efficient data collection for identification of quantitative characters and to explain the genetic basis of ing enabled more efficient data collection for identification of quantitative characters and to explain the genetic basis of agriculturally important traits. The filp side of these new approaches is the risk of drowning in the massive amounts of data. That is why it is essential to develop proper approaches for data management and integrated analysis of differently collected data. Within the framework of ongoing projects, we have started to perform comparative phenotypic, metabolic and molecular analyses of 7 annual and 21 perennial wild sunflower (Helianthus spp.) species, as well as 19 genotypes of cultivated sunflower. The material consists of annual and perennial wild sunflower, me majerate consists a namea and perennial wild sunflower species (http://www.nssemc.com/about/inc/oilcrops/wild.php), interspecific hybrids, varieties, lines and hybrids, chosen from the IFVCNS collection, which is one of the largest sunflower germplasm collections. Data are

collected for 48 morphological and respective metabolic pa-rameters. This is further complemented by molecular analyses for identification of molecular markers and QTILs correlated to parameters studied. The aim of this combined approach is to identify desirable truits and genotypes that could be further included in sunflower breeding programs for development of highly productive, stress resistant hybrids. A long-term goal is nignty productive, series reastant ripronts. A tong-term goal is creation of ideotypes specific for certain agro-cological con-ditions. Special attention is paid to the integration of pheno-typic and -omics data in order to identify traits and markers of real practical value for the breeders, avoid massive collec-tion of redundant data and render the process more efficient.

ACRNOWLEDGEMENTS: This study was supported by Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of Republic of Serbia, project TR31025, Provincial Secretizata for Higher Education and Science of Volyodina, project No. 114-451-2126/2016-03, Serbias-German bilateral cooperation project No. 451-403-0173220217-993 and COST Action CA 16212.

KEYWORDS: Helianthus sp., phenotyping, genotyping, breeding

DIVERISTY OF WHEAT GENOTYPES BASED ON MORPHOLOGICAL MARKERS

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Phenotypic, blochemical and molecular evaluations of wheat collections are of a great importance to increase the knowledge of genetic diversity as the basic prerequisite for crop improvement in different breeding programs. Large scale genotyping by molecular markers as well as phenotyping of agronomical important traits generated a lot of valuable information for wheat researchers during the last few decades. However, some morphological traits are almost forgotten and very rarely used in evaluating diversity of wheat germplasm. The aim of this study was to analyse the morphological diversity in a collection of 450 benefat accessions originating from all over the world. The genotypes were chosen from the wheat genetic collection of the Small Grains Department and sown at the experimental field of the Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, location of Rimski Sancevi (45°20 N, 19°31 °E). Hye morphological traits were analysed and used as market. table Crops, location of Rimaid Sandevi (45°20'N, 19°51'E). Five morphological traits were analysed and used as markers for distinctness of wheat genotypes: suricle colour (AC), coleoptile colour (CC), leaf colour (CC), colour at tillering time (CTT) and grain colour (GC). The Shannon diversity index (H) was estimated as a measure of morphological diversity. The results have shown that the most of the genotypes had white suricle colour (87%), white coleoptile colour (81%), dark green colour at tillering time (95%), green leaf colour (61%) and light red grain colour (43%). The average value for

KEYWORDS: variability, morphological characters, Shannon index. Triticum so.

ENVIRONMENTAL MODELING OF INTERACTION VARIANCE FOR GRAIN YIELD OF MIDDLE-LATE MAIZE HYBRIDS

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Corresponding author-logian microregassense. Conthe phenomenon of genotype by environment interaction (GEI) represents permanent interest for breeders and blometriclans along with practical and theoretical sapects. We
investigated GEI for grain yield of middle-late maize (Zea
mays L.) hybrids from the official variety trial network by the
Department of Protection and Recognition of Varieties of Republic Serbia that includes 25 experimental maize hybrids in
the year of 2004, and 15 in the year of 2005, neight sites
over two years, using factorial regression model that captures
additional environmental variables - maximum temperature
(mxt), minimum temperature (mnt), mean temperature (mxt), minimum temperature (mxt), final environmental index (BII). Environmental variables in
the best of the tested models explained 76% and 76.2% of
the GEI variation for two consecutive years, respectively. Factorial regression combined with stepwise procedure revealed
the 5-variable model that includes variables pr7 (explaining 29.1% of the variation), EI (19.1%), mnt9 (14.5%), mxt4
(13.3%), in 2005 as the most explanatory models in the
region of Volvodian for these two consecutive years. These
results provide a solid base for further research in GEI and
stability analysis, and are a useful tool in characterizing the
sub-regions of maize growing area and extending the existing
results to new sites.

KEYWORDS: genotype by environment interaction, maize, yield, environmental variables

EVALUATION OF THE BALKAN PHASEOLUS COCCINEUS L. GENETIC RESOURCES

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In the last decade several thousand accessions were collected in different parts of Burope and are stored in national gene banks, at present the Phaseous Database as part of the EURI-SCO Web catalogue contains over 46000 records. Main objective of the study (ECPGR SMARTLEG project) was proper phenotypic and genetic evaluation of European Phaseolus accessions with emphasis to Phaseolus coccineus germplasm providing new data to EURISCO and AEGIS. During the project, we provided three different types of datasets including morpho-agronamic traits of plants, morphometric accessions from eight European geographic origins; Slovenia, Romania, Bonnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Italy, Slovakia, Macedonia and Austria. Before sowing, the morphometric characteristics and genetic profiles of P. coccineus accessions from eight European geographic origins; Slovenia, Romania, and the state of Participant of Participants of Participants and Society and Mildrent seed characteristics. The morphological evaluations were performed upon adjusted descriptors for Phaseolus (ECPCR, PhasCharfrom Austria) under field conditions in Slovenia, Romania, Serbia, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. A set of 12 aiready proven and reliably cross-species amplified nSSR markers among Ph. wilgaris and Percegovina. A set of 12 aiready proven and reliably cross-species amplified nSSR markers among Ph. wilgaris tructure of P. coccineus genotypes. Morpho-agronomical evaluation shows differentiation between P. coccineus genomem was said allelic patierns reflects 3 % of the molecular variability of P. coccineus secos. Analysis of molecular variability on the basis of allelic patierns reflects 3 % of the molecular variability on the P. coccineus genoments promound the proposed proposed components with the cordinal successions (Pp.0.01). Regarding to genetic structure of P. coccineus genomem was sof allelic patierns reflects 3 % of the molecular variability of P. coccineus general distance between genotypes in each cluster water geographically distinct coll

graphic origin of P coccineus accessions from different collections within the Balkan.

KEYWORDS: morpho-agronomic traits, morphometric characterisation, genetic structure, ECPGR-SMARTLEG project, EURISCO

Protor presentation 14 07 WILD FRUIT CROPS: PRESERVATIONS AND UTILIZATION

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Due to specific phyto-geographic relations, specific climatic, orographic and edaphic conditions forest phytocoenoses in Volvodina (North Serbia) are very diverse. Significant and completely unused parts of this biodiversity are autochthonous wild fruit species. Due to the unique variability of the species, the Balkan peninsula can be considered as the secondary center of genetic diversity of several species and genera, such as: Malus x domestica, M. sylvestris, Pyrus communist, Pyruss centsfera, Penalable, Pfruitosca, Penella, Morus spp. Corylus columa, Castanea sativa, Fragaria vesca, Olea europea, Corrus mas, Sambucus sigra, Sorbus spp. Rosa acuropea, Corrus mas, Sambucus sigra, Sorbus spp. Rosa acuropea, Corrus mas, Sambucus sigra, Sorbus spp. Rosa apportantification of the most common and widespread species, can be considered as a sources of natural autocidants with promoting effect on human health. Bight divergent gentypes of elderberry were selected from natural populations of Central Serbia and Volvodina with high anticotidant capacity and high content of vitamin C. Within genus Morus rhree species were analyzed and underwent selection. Selections of Morus signs and Morus rubra were distinguished by high content of vitamin C. Guntan and total phenols. Cornelian cherry (Cormus mas, L) holds great biological and economic potential, and it is rich source of material for further breeding. Within natural populations in whole Serbia high diversity considering fruit weight was observed. Pive genotypes with large fruits and high soluble solids content were selected and sconunt of that selection of superior genotypes is currently in proverses.

KEYWORDS: biodiversity, variability, selection, Balkan peninsula

EXPLORING AND GATHERING THE SERBIAN AND CZECH CROP WILD RELATIVES FOR INCREASING CROP DIVERSITY IN AGRICULTURE

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Conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture is a very important task from the strategic and economic points of view almost in the whole world. Collecting expeditions and gathering of crop wild relatives, such as meadow (field and vegetable crops), aromatic, medicinal plants and some threatened species, are important parts of plant genetic resources activities which enrich gene bank storage composition. Common collecting missions have been organized annually in both countries since 2011. Seven of them took place in Serbia and seven in the Czech Republic. In total, 228 localities have been visited and 1202 seed samples of crop wild relatives have been visited and 1202 seed samples of crop wild relatives have been visited and 1202 seed samples for cop wild relatives have been visited and 1202 seed samples of crop wild relatives have been visited. In the Czech Republic. In total, 228 localities and 543 seed samples, while in Serbia it was 121 localities and 543 seed samples. The numbers present large source of biodiversity, which can be utilized in breeding and within in situ conservation activities. All the samples are stored in both national gene banks, These collecting missions provided new information concerning the distribution of crop wild relatives and traditional farming practices still present in some regions, especially in Serbia. Our preliminary results indicated that the wild seed lots are an important source of valuable genetic variability for utilization in breeding programs. In the paper detailed survey of collected material and its utilization is presented.

KEYWORDS: genetic resources, collecting missions, Serbia, Czech Republic, gene banks, conservation, evaluation

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