



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

First Legume Society Conference
2013: A Legume Odyssey

9-11 May 2013, Novi Sad, Serbia

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Book of Abstracts

Editors:
Aleksandar Mikić
Diego Rubiales
Vuk Đorđević

International Legume Society
Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia
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Technical Editors:
Sanja Mikić and Aleksandar Mikić

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Getting the message out: grow, use, feed and eat legumes

Paleolinguistics and crop history of ancient Eurasian grain legumes

Aleksandar Mikić

Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia

The goal of a preliminary paleolinguistic research was to identify the roots in diverse Eurasian proto-languages directly related to grain legumes and producing the words denoting the same in modern Eurasian languages. Six Proto-Indo-European roots were attested, namely *arnk(ʰ)-* ('a leguminous plant'), **bhabb-* ('field bean'), **erəǵʰ[h]-* ('a kernel of leguminous plant', 'pea'), *ǵhArs-* ('a leguminous plant'), **kek-* ('pea') and **lent-* ('lentil'). So far, no Proto-Uralic or Proto-Kartvelian roots have been identified, except for the hypothetical Proto-Uralic **kaśa* ('pea'). On the other hand, there are two Proto-Altaic roots, **bükerV* ('pea') and **zjābsa* ('lentil'). The Proto-Caucasian roots **qör'ā*, denoting pea, and **bōwl(ā)*, denoting bean and lentil, and the Proto-Basque root **it̪ha-r* ('pea', 'bean', 'vetch') may originate from a common Proto-Sino-Caucasian **bVwlV*, denoting bean, within the hypothetic Dené-Caucasian language superfamily. The Modern Maltese preserved the memory of two Proto-Semitic roots, **'adaś-* ('lentil') and **pūl-* ('field bean'), while the third originally Proto-Afroasiatic root related to grain legumes is **mang-*, denoting both millet and lentil. The origin of the Old Chinese word **shok*, originally denoting grain and seed and later beginning to denote soybean, is in the Proto-Sino-Caucasian root **štHwekE̊* (~ *-k-*), meaning 'chaff'. The presented evidence demonstrates that the most ancient Eurasian grain legume crops were well-known and widely grown by the ancestors of all modern European nations. The attested lexicological continuum confirms the existence of the millennia-long bonds among the peoples of Eurasia to the mutual benefit. This research will hopefully encourage future interdisciplinary and concerted actions between plant scientist dealing with crop evolution and biodiversity, archaeobotanists and paleolinguists.

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In the rich world of global agriculture, diverse legumes can play key roles to develop environment-friendly production, supplying humans and animals with the products of high nutritional value.

The Legume Society was initiated in 2011 with two primary missions. One of them was to treasure the rich legume research tradition of the European Association for Grain Legume Research (AEP), with emphasis on carrying out its the triennial legume-devoted conferences. Another one is to fulfill a long-term strategy of linking together the research on all legumes worldwide, from grain and forage legumes pharmaceutical and ornamental ones and from the Old World to the Americas.

We do anticipate that the First Legume Society Conference will be a unique and genuine contribution to our common goals: to promote the legume research and all its benefits into all spheres of the society, linking science with stakeholders and decision-makers, and to demonstrate how an efficient, useful and firm network of the legume researchers of the world is possible and sustainable.

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