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## COLLECTING MISSIONS IN POLAND IN 1999 (SHORT COMMUNICATION)

### ABSTRACT

Three collecting missions were organised by National Centre for Plant Genetic Resources of the Plant Breeding and Acclimatisation Institute at Radzików in 1999. The aim was collecting of old varieties and local populations of crop plants, cultivated in gardens and fields, old varieties of fruit-trees and wild growing fodder, medicine and ornamental species. A total of 339 accessions of 41 genera of crop plants were collected during these expeditions. Although genetic erosion of crop plants is still being continued and old varieties occurring in the recent past yet are replaced by new ones, there can be still found old, valuable varieties and local populations in many region of Poland.

### DESCRIPTION OF EXPEDITIONS

In 1999 three regions of Poland were explored during collecting missions. The places of explorations were: the valley of lower Narew river (53°12' N, 22°46' E), Pomidzie (Kielce region, 50°53' N, 20°37' E) and Przedkarpacie (surroundings of Przemyśl, 49°48' N, 22°47' E).

All expeditions were organised by National Centre for Plant Genetic Resources of the Plant Breeding and Acclimatisation Institute at Radzików. The participants of these missions were dr. W. Podyma (NCPGR), D. Nowosielska (NCPGR), A. Kwiecień (Institute of Vegetables), G. Hodun (Research Institute of Pomology and Floriculture), T. Gałęcka (Warsaw Agricultural University) and Melania Masarykova (Research Institute of Plant Production Piestany, Slovak Republic).

The aim of these expeditions was collecting of old varieties and local populations of crop plants, cultivated in gardens and fields, old varieties of fruit-trees and wild growing fodder, medicine and ornamental species.

The additional purpose of these missions was evaluation of genetic erosion, observed in Poland during last few decades.

*Camelina sativa* seems to be the most interesting species that was collected during the exploration of the valley of lower Narew river. It was widely spread

in the past and now it is almost forgotten oil plant. Oil pressed from seeds of *Camelina sativa* characterises high quality of taste and nice smell and is used as a component of traditional dishes served by local farmers during Christmas. Nine seed samples of *Camelina sativa* were collected in Narew valley. Other valuable accessions were seed samples of old local population of “Ciełuszycki” cucumber, produced in village Ciełuszki, famous for seed production. There were also collected 15 seed samples of cereals in this region and it seems to be quite large amount nowadays.

The most numerous plant group collected in Ponidzie region were legumes (20 accessions) represented mainly by different forms of beans. The particular attention should be put to semi-dwarf population of *Phaseolus coccineus* and small legumes, among which local populations of serradella were found. In addition to that, Ponidzie appears as next region of *Camelina sativa* occurrence. There were collected four seed samples of this species. The specimens of spring garlic, produced on a large scale by local farmers, can be a source of another valuable materials.

Old varieties of fruit-trees collected during collecting missions to Przedkarpacie are the most numerous and interesting plant group. Eighty-four accessions of those plants were collected there. They include: apple-trees, cherry-trees, pear-trees and walnuts. Many of them have the Ukrainian pedigree. Different forms of beans were also collected there. In contrast to Kielecczyzna region, Polish varieties of *Phaseolus coccineus* called “Piękny Jaś” dominates here. Additionally, there were found accessions of sweet corn, pumpkin and cucumber. Old varieties of wheat, have cultivated by an old farmer in the same site for 32 year seems to be extremely interesting finding and of course their seeds were collected too.

A total of 339 accessions of 41 genera of crop plants were collected during the above expeditions (Table 1).

Concluding, the results of the expeditions confirm, that genetic erosion of crop plants is still being continued and old varieties, widely spread in the recent past are now replaced by modern varieties. Nevertheless, many region of Poland are still the places where old, valuable varieties and local populations can be found and there is constantly need to search and collect them for gene bank before they will have disappeared.

Crop plants collected during the expeditions in 1999

Table 1

Species	No of accessions	Species	No of accessions
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	1	<i>Malus</i> sp.	41
<i>Allium cepa</i>	13	<i>Medicago</i> sp.	6
<i>Allium fistulosum</i>	1	<i>Ononis spinosa</i>	1
<i>Allium porrum</i>	1	<i>Ornithopus sativus</i>	4
<i>Allium sativum</i>	18	<i>Panicum miliaceum</i>	4
<i>Avena sativa</i>	2	<i>Papaver somniferum</i>	6
<i>Avena strigosa</i>	5	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	1
<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	4	<i>Petroselinum sativum</i>	3
<i>Brassica</i> sp.	4	<i>Phaseolus coccineus</i>	21
<i>Camelina sativa</i>	13	<i>Phaseolus vulgaris</i>	45
<i>Capsicum annuum</i>	7	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	1
<i>Cerasus</i> sp.	6	<i>Pisum sativum</i>	4
<i>Cucumis sativus</i>	18	<i>Prunus avium</i>	5
<i>Cucurbita maxima</i>	6	<i>Prunus</i> sp.	3
<i>Cucurbita pepo</i>	8	<i>Pyrus</i> sp.	18
<i>Daucus carota</i>	3	<i>Ribes</i> sp.	6
<i>Glycine max</i>	1	<i>Secale cereale</i>	5
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	1	<i>Synapis alba</i>	1
<i>Juglans regia</i>	5	<i>Trifolium</i> sp.	2
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	1	<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	3
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>	5	<i>Vicia faba</i>	10
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	1	<i>Zea mays</i>	13
<i>Lycopersicon lycopersicum</i>	4	Others	8