

N P

Nardus stricta

*,
 , 5600
 *E-mail: iliev_ved@abv.bg

**Influence of variable mineral fertilization
 with N and P over the bioproductive Indicators
 of a natural grassland of the type *Nardus stricta***

Minko Iliev*, Boryana Churkova, Tsvetoslav Mihovsky

Research Institute of Mountain Stockbreeding and Agriculture, 5600 Troyan, Bulgaria

SUMMARY

2011-2013 .
 1400
 N P.
Nardus stricta.
 : 1. (-
 1); 2. N₆ P₆
 (2); 3. 1-
 N₆, a 2- 3- - 6;
 4. 1-
 6, a 2- 3- - N₆;
 5. 1-
 2- N₆, 3- - 6;
 6. 1- 2- 6, 3- -
 N₆; 7. 1- N₆, 2-
 - 6, 3- - N₆;
 8. 1-
 6, 2- - N₆,
 3- - 6
 -
 N₆ P₆,
 N₆
 P₆,
 -
 N₆ P₆,

During the period of 2011-2013 in the area of the Central Balkan Mountain at the altitude of 1400 m was set a field experiment with the annual alternation of N and P and NP mineral fertilization. Dry matter yield and botanical composition was studied of the natural grassland of the type *Nardus Stricta*. The following variants of fertilization were tested: 1. Non-treated (Control 1); 2. Annual fertilization with N₆P₆ (Control 2); 3. 1st year of fertilization with N₆, and 2nd and 3rd year with P₆; 4. 1st year of fertilization with N₆, and 2nd and 3rd year with N₆; 5. 1st and 2nd year of fertilization with N₆, and 3rd year with P₆; 6. 1st and 2nd year of fertilization with P₆, and 3rd year with N₆; 7. 1st year of fertilization with N₆, 2nd year – with P₆, 3rd year with N₆; 8. 1st year of fertilization with P₆, 2nd year with N₆, 3rd year with P₆
 A positive impact on dry matter yield was found as a result of the annual fertilization with N₆ P₆, as well as the independent introduction of N₆ and P₆ by alternation.
 The highest effect showed the annual application of N₆P₆, as a result the

124,33%.
 1- 2- P₆, 3-
 N₆ e 85,37%
 4 (P₆/I;/N₆/II; N₆/III); 3
 (N₆/I;P₆/II;P₆/III) 8 (P₆/I;N₆ II;/P₆/III),
 47,61%; 27.61 25,63%
 (K1).
 N₆ P₆
 N₆ P₆.
 – *Nardus stricta* L.
 : *Nardus stricta*,
 (Maru ca et al., 2014).
 (Totev, 1984; 1985).
 (Totev, 1972; 1977; Lingorski and Churkova, 2005) (D'Ottavio et al., 2003; Kasperczyk et al,

- dry matter yield exceeded the non-treated control by 124.33%. The fertilization included in the experiment by introducing in the 1st and 2nd years of P₆, and in the 3rd year of N₆ resulted in an excess of dry mass yield relative to the control by 85,37 % on average over the survey period.

The effect of variable mineral fertilization was also positive in the following variants: 4 (P₆/I; N₆/II; N₆/III); 3 (N₆/I; P₆/II; P₆/III) and 8 (P₆/I; N₆/II; P₆/III), as the yield increase for the three-year period was averagely within the range 47.61%; 27.61 and 25.63% in comparison with the control (K1).

The variable fertilization with alternation of N₆ and P₆ did not exceed the yield of the fertilizer combination with N₆ P₆.

The tested types of fertilizers, their doses and methods of application lead to an increase of grasses, legumes and motley grasses components at the expense of the dominant species – *Nardus stricta* L.

Key words: *Nardus Stricta*, fertilization, yield, botanical composition

INTRODUCTION

Nardus grasslands are important factor for the development of animal breeding in the mountaine and high mountain regions in Bulgaria and abroad. The improvement of that kind of grassland requires specific measures, as one of the most important is the fertilization (Maru ca et al., 2014). In the annual application of one and the same fertilizers (mineral or organic) there are undesirable changes in the botanical composition of grasslands, which is particularly pronounced in the haymaking regime of use (Totev, 1984; 1985). The reason is that the fertilizers applied do not fully meet the requirements of the grasses, which leads to a deterioration of the quality of the forage obtained (hay, silage, straw, etc.).

In this regard, it is found by ours (Totev, 1972; 1977; Lingorski and Churkova, 2005) and foreign researchers (D'Ottavio et al., 2003; Kasperczyk et al,

2005; Alibegovic-Grbic et al., 2008; Vintu et al., 2008; Bou et al., 2009; Tenz et al., 2010; Tarcu et al., 2012; Constantinescu et al., 2013; Dragomir et al., 2014; Vintu et al., 2015),

2005; Alibegovic-Grbic et al., et al., 2008; Tang et al., 2009; Tark et al., 2010; Tarcu et al., 2012; Constantinescu et al., 2013; Dragomir et al., 2014; Vintu et al., 2015) that the rotation of different fertilizer combinations have a beneficial effect on the quantitative and qualitative indicators of the forage that is obtained from this type of grass. The lack of such research on the natural grasslands in the foothills and mountain areas of the Central Balkan Mountains is a prerequisite for their implementation.

The aim of present study is to determine the impact of the annual rotation of independent application and a combination of nitrogen and phosphorus on the yield and botanical composition of natural grazing grassland of *Nardus stricta* type in the region of the Central Balkan Mountain.

Nardus stricta

2011-2013
 (*Nardus stricta*)
 1400 m
 5 m²
 9°
 (Rankers).
 : 1. (1); 2. N₆ P₆ (2); 3. N₆, a 2- 3- - 6; 4. 1- 6, a 2- 3- - N₆; 5. 1- 2- N₆, 3- - 6; 6. 1- 2- 6, 3- - N₆; 7. 1- N₆, 2- - 6, 3- - N₆; 8. 1- 2- - N₆, 3- - 6.
 () ()

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experiment was carried out during the period of 2011-2013 on natural grassland of *Nardus* type (*Nardus stricta*) at an altitude of 1400 m in the Chuchul locality. The experience was set up on the block method in 4 replications with a plot size of 5 m² at the south side of a slope of 9° near a broadleaf forest massif. The soil is umbrisol (humus-silicate), (Rankers). The following mineral fertilization norms and combinations were studied: 1. Non-treated (Control 1); 2. Annual fertilization with N₆P₆ (Control 2); 3. 1st year of fertilization with N₆, and 2nd and 3rd year with P₆; 4. 1st year of fertilization with P₆, and 2nd and 3rd year with N₆; 5. 1st and 2nd year of fertilization with N₆, and 3rd year with P₆; 6. 1st and 2nd year of fertilization with P₆, and 3rd year with N₆; 7. 1st year of fertilization with N₆, 2nd year – with P₆, 3rd year with N₆; 8. 1st year of fertilization with P₆, 2nd year – with N₆, 3rd year with P₆.

The imported fertilizers are nitrogen (ammonium nitrate) and phosphorus (triple super phosphate).

28,67%.

8 5) (. 3 7) (.

6 kg da⁻¹
-
(+16,68%),

(1).

38,97% 283,22%.

(5 7)

(2013)

(274,6 mm 18,7) (61,2 mm
19,4)

control non-treated variant is 28.67%.

The relative dry matter yield in grassland with the application of alternation of phosphorus (var. 3 and 7) and nitrogen (variant 8 and 5) gave in productivity to the non-treated control. Lower yields are probably due to specific climate conditions as the absorption of mineral fertilizers is disturbed by prolonged drought and the unusual high temperatures that continued from late spring to the end of summer. Only the nitrogen fertilizer, applied at a dose of 6 kg of da⁻¹ active substance achieved a higher productivity than the control (+16.68%), but in all variants negative evidence of differences was observed.

The effect of variable fertilization is highest in the third year of its application (Table 1). The increase in dry matter yield in fertilized variants in comparison with the non-treated control ranges from 38.97% to 283.22%. In this year could be seen the after-action of phosphorus fertilization. Variation with the application of independent phosphorus fertilization in two of the three experimental years also exceed the non-treated control with very well-proven differences and those with independent nitrogen fertilization (variant 5 and 7) have relatively lower yield.

In the third year of the experimental period (2013), climate factors were particularly favourable for the growth of natural grasslands in the mountain region. Mineral macro fertilizers introduced at the beginning of June can be assumed to be well-absorbed. The amount of precipitation and average monthly temperatures in June (274.6 mm and 18.7 °C) and July (61.2 mm and 19.4 °C) have had a favorable effect on yield. The combination of alternating types and quantities of macro fertilizers, with the optimum moisture for the region and temperature is a prerequisite for obtaining high productivity from the grasslands.

1.

kg da⁻¹*Nardus stricta* (. . 1400 m)

(2011-2013)

N P

Table 1. Dry matter yield in kg da⁻¹ from natural grassland of *Nardus Stricta* type (at the altitude of 1400 m) by years and average for the period (2011-2013) in alternating mineral fertilization with N and P

/ Variants	2011			2012			2013			Average for a 3-year period		
	kg.da ⁻¹	% compared to 1	% compared to 2	kg.da ⁻¹	% compared to 1	% compared to 2	kg.da ⁻¹	% compared to 1	% compared to 2	kg.da ⁻¹	% compared to 1	% compared to 2
1. /Non-treated (1)	137,05	100,00 -	65,35	105,46	100,00-	92,95	139,00	100,00-	26,09	127,17	100,00 -	44,58
2. N ₆ P ₆ /I; N ₆ P ₆ /II; N ₆ P ₆ /III (K2)	209,70	153,02 -	100,00 -	113,45	107,58-	100,00-	532,67	383,22+++	100,00 -	285,27	224,33 +++	100,00 -
3. N ₆ /I; P ₆ /II; P ₆ /III	108,40	79,10 -	51,69 -	93,53	88,69-	82,44-	284,88	204,96+++	53,48	162,27	127,61 -	56,88 00
4. P ₆ /I; N ₆ /II; N ₆ /III	159,91	116,68 -	76,25 -	110,87	105,14-	97,73-	292,34	210,32+++	54,88	187,71	147,61 -	65,80 0
5. N ₆ /I; N ₆ /II; P ₆ /III	91,24	66,58 -	43,51 -	70,58	66,93-	62,22-	193,16	138,97+	36,26	118,33	93,05 -	41,48 000
6. P ₆ /I; P ₆ /II; N ₆ /III	174,54	127,36 -	83,23 -	135,69	128,67-	119,61-	396,97	285,60+++	74,52	235,73	185,37 ++	82,63 -
7. N ₆ /I; P ₆ /II; N ₆ /III	74,93	54,67 -	35,73 -	64,07	60,76-	56,47-	213,17	153,37++	40,02	117,39	92,31 -	41,15 000
8. P ₆ /I; N ₆ /II; P ₆ /III	78,41	57,21 -	37,39 -	57,58	54,60-	50,76-	343,30	246,98+++	64,45	159,76	125,63 -	56,00 00
<i>GD</i> _{5%}	111,82	81.59	38.91	56,11	53.21	46.90	43,18	30,96	8,60	78,70	61,97	27,61
<i>GD</i> _{1%}	151,54	110.57	52.73	76,04	72.10	63.56	58,75	42,12	11,80	107,08	84,31	37,57
<i>GD</i> _{0.1%}	201,93	147.34	70.26	101,83	96.56	85.11	79,31	56,85	16,06	144,54	113,81	50,71

*I. II. III. IV

; N₆P₆ –*I. II. III. IV year of the experimental period; N₆P₆ – type of the mineral fertilizer and fertilizer rate in the active substance

$N_6 P_6$
 283,22%.
 $(N_6 - 6)$
 $(P_6 - 8)$
 185,6%
 146,98%

$N_6 P_6$
 $(. 2)$ 285,27 kg da⁻¹
 124,33 %
 (GD<0,1; GD<1,0).
 Vuntu et al. (2015)

$(. 2 - 2)$
 $N_6 P_6$

$N_6/I; P_6/II; P_6/III (. 3)$ $P_6/I;$
 $N_6/II; P_6/III (. 8)$.
 27,61
 25,63 %

1,
 3 4.

$(. 1)$
 (42,5%)
 (48,1%),
 (8,9%).

P_6 . 5 6,
 25,43% 21,63 %.

- All levels of fertilization recorded
 - extremely high productivity with good and
 very good evidence of differences, but
 fertilization with N6P6 reached an excess
 of 283.22%. When the nitrogen ($N_6 - var. 6$)
 and phosphorus fertilizer ($P_6 - var. 8$)
 are applied independently, they showed a
 high productivity of grassland,
 respectively with 185.6% and 146.98%
 above that of the control.

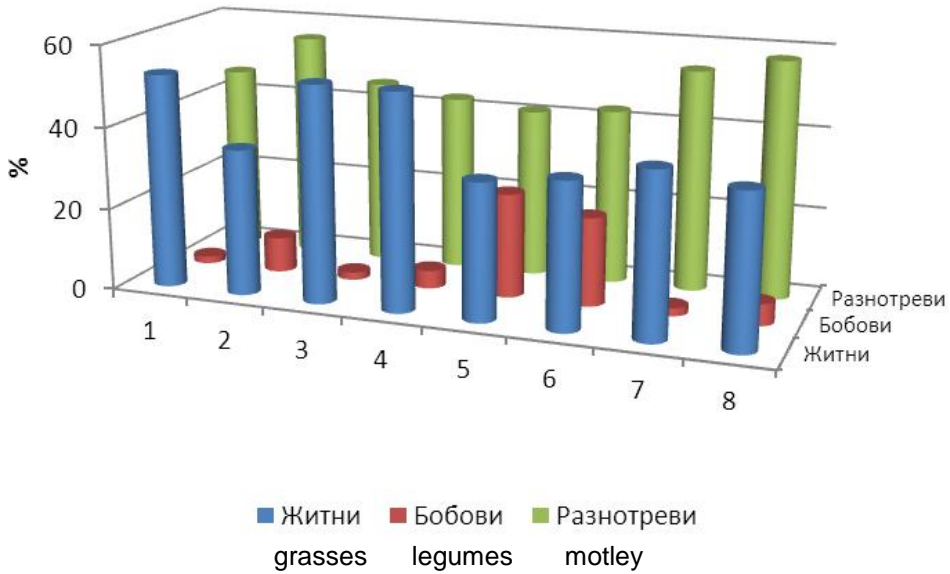
- Average for the period of study, the
 highest reliable effect on the biological
 productivity of grassland is observed in
 fertilizing with the combination $N_6 P_6$. The
 average yields of this variant (var. 2) are
 285.27 kg da⁻¹ dry matter, expressed as a
 percentage of 124.33% above control
 values (GD <0.1, GD <1.0). These results
 correspond to the research by Vuntu et
 al. (2015) on a Nardus pasture located in
 the northeastern Carpathian region. All
 variants of alternate fertilization have
 relatively lower yields than the second
 control (var. 2 – K2) with the annual
 combined fertilization with $N_6 P_6$. Almost
 identical are the average yields of the
 grassland with the application of $N_6/I;$
 $P_6/II; P_6/III$ (var.3) and $P_6/I; N_6/II; P_6/III$
 (var.8). Here, the excess for dry matter
 yield is respectively 27.61 and 25.63% in
 comparison with the non-treated variant.

Changes in botanical composition
 of the grassland by groups are shown in
 Figure 1, and by species for the
 respective years of the experimental
 period in Tables 2, 3 and 4.

On the average during the survey
 period, the applied mineral fertilization
 with N and P (Figure 1) of Nardus pasture
 increased the percentage share mostly of
 grasses (42.5%) and motley grasses
 (48.1%), and to a lesser extent the
 legumes (8.9%). An exception is
 observed only in the variants with specific
 alternating fertilization with N_6 and P_6 in
 var. 5 and 6, where the relative share of
 legumes is in the range of 25.43% to
 21.63%.

Besides the changes in the share

(,) of the groups (grasses, legumes and motley), there are also some caused by the different species in the grassland.



. 1.

Nardus stricta

2011-2013 .

Fig. 1 Botanical composition of natural grassland of *Nardus stricta* type, by weight percentage in groups, average for the period 2011-2013

(2)
 -
 (. 1) – 39,4%,
 15,6%.
 P₆ –
 23,3%
 P₆ (. 6).
 N₆ (. 5)
 13,2%.
 N₆ P₆ (. 2)

Under the influence of fertilization in the first year (Table 2), the share of *Nardus* was the highest in the non-treated control (var. 1) – 39.4% and the lowest in the independent fertilization with P₆ – 15.6%. From the rest of the grass species in the grassland, the share of common bent is increased, reaching 23.3% with the application with P₆ (var. 6). In the other fertilization variants were found the presence of sheep fescue and alpine timothy. The species of legume group were represented by low hop clover, red and mountain clover, wild vetch. The independent single fertilization with N₆ (var. 5) increases the participation of sweet clover up to 13.2%. Under the influence of annual combined fertilization with N₆ P₆ (var. 2), mountain and red clover in the grassland reach 12.1 and

12,1 6,1%
 ()
 25,1%
 P₆ (. 4) 49,9%
 . 8
 P₆.

- 6.1%. During the year, the participation of the third biological group (motley grasses) varies with the different fertilization levels and ranges from 25.1% in the independent fertilization with P₆ (var. 4) to 49.9% for var. 8 with an application of independent fertilization with P₆ every other year.

2. *Nardus stricta* 2011 . **Nardus N P**
Table 2. Domination of *Nardus stricta* species in natural grassland in weight percentage for 2011 under the influence of alternate fertilization with N and P

/ Variants	/ Species							
	1. Non-treated (1)	2. N ₆ P ₆ -N ₆ P ₆ -N ₆ P ₆ (K2)	3. N ₆ -P ₆ -P ₆	4. P ₆ -N ₆ -N ₆	5. N ₆ -N ₆ -P ₆	6. P ₆ -P ₆ -N ₆	7. N ₆ -P ₆ -N ₆	8. P ₆ -N ₆ -P ₆
/ Grasses								
<i>Nardus stricta</i>	39,4	27,3	18,2	33,3	18,4	10,0	20,8	15,6
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>		9,1	25,0	16,7		23,3		
<i>Phleum alpinum</i>	15,2			8,3	5,3			6,3
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	12,1	6,1		8,3	5,3	3,3	4,2	3,1
<i>Festuca rubra</i>						3,3		
<i>Agrostis alba</i>			15,9					9,4
<i>Chrysopogon gryllus</i>							8,3	
/ Legumes								
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	3,0	2,3			13,2			6,3
<i>Trifolium montanum</i>		12,1		8,3		10,0		9,4
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>					13,2	13,3		
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>		6,1						
<i>Vicia sativa</i>							4,2	
/ Motley grasses								
/ Motley grasses	30,3	39,3	38,6	25,1	44,6	36,8	62,5	49,9

3.
 8,3%
 P₆ (. 7)
 (. 1).
 : ,

The variation of the species composition under the influence of alternate fertilization in the second year is presented in Table 3. The share of the dominant species of *Nardus* decreases in the different fertilization variants and ranges from 8.3% in the single fertilization with P₆ (var. 7) versus 20.6% in the non-treated control (var. 1). The share of other grasses, such as: common bent, alpine timothy, white bentgrass,

sheep fescue, which have a higher fodder value than *Nardus* (Totev 1972; Yakimova 1974), is increasing. A high share of participation of cock's foot (27.3%) was found in single fertilization with P_6 (var. 3). During that year the representatives of the group of legumes are few. The main part (4.8%) of them is red clover in the variant with annual combined fertilization with $N_6 P_6$ (var. 2). The applied mineral fertilizers through alternation and in combination, visibly increase the share of motley grasses from 36% for the non-treated variant (var. 1 K) to 45.8% for the single application of P_6 (var.7).

3. *Nardus stricta* 2012 . **Nardus N P**
Table 3. Domination of *Nardus stricta* species in natural grassland in weight percentage for 2012 under the influence of alternate fertilization with N and P

/ Species	/ Variants							
	1. Non-treated (1)	2. $N_6 P_6 - N_6 P_6 - N_6 P_6$ (K2)	3. $N_6 - P_6 - P_6$	4. $P_6 - N_6 - N_6$	5. $N_6 - N_6 - P_6$	6. $P_6 - P_6 - N_6$	7. $N_6 - P_6 - N_6$	8. $P_6 - N_6 - P_6$
/ Grasses								
<i>Nardus stricta</i>	20,6	23,8	18,2		10,0	12,5	8,3	12,0
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	15,5			40,0	10,0	20,8	16,7	12,0
<i>Phleum alpinum</i>		4,8			5,0		8,3	
<i>Festuca ovina</i>	25,8	9,5	9,1	10,0	35,0	4,2	12,5	8,0
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>			27,3					16,0
<i>Festuca rubra</i>			4,5					
<i>Agrostis alba</i>		14,3				16,7	12,5	
<i>Chrysopogon gryllus</i>								12,0
<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>			4,5					4,0
/ Legumes								
<i>Trifolium montanum</i>	2,1				5,0			
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>				2,0				
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>		4,8		3,0				
/ Motley grasses								
/ Motley grasses	36,0	42,8	36,4	45,0	35,0	45,8	41,7	36,0

4) 3- (In the 3rd experimental year (Table 4) the share of *Nardus* is reduced to single plants. Its place is occupied by

other grass species, such as common bent, cock's foot, red fescue, which confirms the study of Totev (1984). In the case of single fertilization with N₆ (var. 4, 6 and 7) the following grass species are dominant: common bent, perennial ryegrass, timothy-grass, cock's foot, *Cynosurus cristatus* L., red fescue, alpine timothy.

other grass species, such as common bent, cock's foot, red fescue, which confirms the study of Totev (1984). In the case of single fertilization with N₆ (var. 4, 6 and 7) the following grass species are dominant: common bent, perennial ryegrass, timothy-grass, cock's foot, *Cynosurus cristatus* L., red fescue, alpine timothy.

4. *Nardus stricta* 2013 . **Nardus N P**
Table 4. Domination of *Nardus stricta* species in natural grassland in weight percentage for 2013 under the influence of alternate fertilization with N and P

/ Variants	/ Species							
	1. Non-treated (1)	2. N ₆ P ₆ -N ₆ P ₆ -N ₆ P ₆ (K2)	3. N ₆ -P ₆ -P ₆	4. P ₆ -N ₆ -N ₆	5. N ₆ -N ₆ -P ₆	6. P ₆ -P ₆ -N ₆	7. N ₆ -P ₆ -N ₆	8. P ₆ -N ₆ -P ₆
\ Grasses								
<i>Nardus stricta</i>								
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	25,1	10,7	24,3	41,5	11,2	7,6	21,9	11,4
<i>Phleum alpinum</i>	0,8					2,5	1,6	
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	0,8		0,8			1,3	6,3	
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	2,1	1,6	4,0				4,7	1,3
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>			6,1				3,1	
/ Legumes								
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>		1,0	2,0					
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>		1,9						
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>			1,2		44,9	41,6	1,6	
<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>			0,8			1,3	3,1	
/ Motley grasses								
/ Motley grasses	71,1	84,8	60,8	58,5	43,9	45,7	57,7	87,3

(Tenz, 2009; Bou et.al, 2009; Constantinescu, 2013; Maru ca, 2014; Vintu, 2015).

44,9% (. 5).

A similar effect of mineral fertilization on botanical composition in *Nardus* pastures has also been observed in a number of foreign researchers (Tenz, 2009; Bou et.al, 2009; Constantinescu, 2013; Maru ca, 2014; Vintu, 2015). A considerable share of red clover in phosphorous fertilization (var. 5) is found in legumes. It reaches 44.9% of the useful leguminous plants. The share participation of that species is also high in the variant with single nitrogen

2012 .. (. 6),

- (6).

1984; Naydenova and Mitev, 2015).

(Totev,

43,9% (. 5) 87,3% (. 8).

fertilization (var. 6) applied during the year, as in the previous year 2012, according to the fertilization scheme, the slower dissolving phosphorous fertilizer (P₆) was applied. This proves that the alternation of nitrogen and phosphorous fertilizers at the above-mentioned norms directly affects the grassland, as it increases the relative share of legumes and hence the crude protein content. Red clover and bird's-foot trefoil are dominant legume species under the influence of the fertilizing, as they are the most quality and adapted legume components of haymaking and pasture grasslands in the region of the Central Northern Bulgaria (Totev, 1984; Naydenova and Mitev, 2015). The mineral fertilization that is applied in the third year significantly increases the share of motley grasses. Their share ranges from 43.9% (var. 5) to 87.3% (var. 8).

CONCLUSIONS

- The mineral fertilizers included in the experiment increased reliably the yields of grassland of pasture type of *Nardus stricta* in the region of the Central Balkan Mountain. The highest productivity was shown by grasslands fertilized by N₆P₆/I; N₆P₆/II; N₆P₆/III and P₆/I; P₆/II; N₆/III, as the excess was 124.33% and 85.37%.

- Under the soil and climate conditions of the experiment, the annual combined fertilization with nitrogen and phosphorus contributed to the full absorption of nutrients, resulting in the highest yields.

Nardus stricta

N₆P₆/I; N₆P₆/II; N₆P₆/III
N₆/III,
124,33% 85,37%.

P₆/I; P₆/II;

- The combination of alternating types and quantities of macro fertilizers, with the optimum moisture for the region and temperature led to high productivity of grasslands.

- The influence of alternating mineral fertilization combined and by alternation causes strong changes in the botanical composition of grass. The share of perennial grass species and motley grasses has increased. The dominant grass species of *Nardus Stricta*L. was

<p><i>Nardus stricta</i> L.</p> <p>: <i>Agrostis capillaris</i>, <i>Festuca rubra</i>, <i>Agrostis alba</i>.</p> <p><i>Festuca ovina</i> <i>Phleum alpinum</i>.</p> <p>1- P₆ (.5) P₆ 1- 2- N₆ (.6)</p> <p>21,63%</p> <p>: <i>Trifolium pretense</i> L., <i>Trifolium campestre</i> L. <i>Trifolium montanum</i> L.</p>	<p>- displaced by more useful grass species, which are characteristic for lower and more humid places at foot of the mountain range, such as: <i>Agrostis capillaris</i>, <i>Festuca rubra</i>, <i>Agrostis alba</i> The presence of <i>Festuca ovina</i> and <i>Phleum alpinum</i> is increasing. Under the influence of alternate fertilization in some of the variants the participation of the legume component in the grassland is increased. This relationship is most pronounced in the third year. Under the independent single fertilization in the 1st and 2nd year with N₆ and the third year with P₆ (var. 5) and independently with P₆ in the 1st and 2nd year and the third with N₆ (var. 6) the share of legume species increased from 25.43% to 21.63% on average over the survey period. The dominant representatives of legume species over the years have been: <i>Trifolium pretense</i> L., <i>Trifolium campestre</i> L. and <i>Trifolium montanum</i> L.</p>
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

/ REFERENCES

1. **Alibegovic-Grbic, S., M. Bezdrob, S. Murtic, A. Hopkins, T. Gustafsson, J. Bertilsson, G. Dalin, N. Nilsson-Linde and E. Spörndly**, 2008. Botanical composition of mat-grass (*Nardus stricta*) grassland communities. In: Proceedings of the 22nd General Meeting of the European Grassland Federation, Uppsala, Sweden, 9-12 June, pp. 183-185.
2. **Bou, M., M. Domenech, R. Fanlo, R. Reiné, O. Barrantes, A. Broca and C. Ferrer**, 2009. SEEP, Madrid, Spain, La multifuncionalidad de los pastos: Forage quality of two types of uperforests grasslands from Ordino (principality of Andorra): comparative methodologies. XLVIII Reunión científica de la Sociedad Española para el Estudio de los Pastos, Huesca, Spain, 15-18 junio, pp. 261-265.
3. **Constantinescu, S., T. Maru ca, N. Dragomir, V. Mocanu and A. Blaj**, 2013. Effect of long-term fertilization and amendment on sub-alpine grasslands in the Bucegi Mountains. *Animal Science and Biotechnologies*, 46 (1), 159-162.
4. **D'Ottavio, P., U. Ziliotto, M. Scotton, A. Kirilov, N. Todorov and I. Katerov**, 2003. Effect of management on the botanic composition of alpine grasslands. In: Proceedings of the 12th Symposium of the European Grassland Federation, Plevna, Bulgaria, 26-28 May, pp. 71-73.
5. **Dragomir, N., T. Maru ca, V. Mocanu, A. Blaj, F. Tarjoc and S. Constantinescu**, 2014. Nutritive value of the fodder from the *Nardus stricta* improved grasslands. *Animal Science and Biotechnologies*, 47 (1), 135-138.
6. **Kasperczyk, M., W. Szewczyk, R. Lillak, R. Viiralt, A. Linke and V. Geherman**, 2005. Towards the optimum dosage of mineral fertilizers in a mountain pasture: how to balance yield against fodder quality. In: Proceedings of the 13th

International Occasional Symposium of the European Grassland Federation, Tartu, Estonia, 29-31 August, pp. 660-662.

7. **Lidanski, T.**, 1988. Statistical methods in biology and agriculture, Zemizdat, Sofia, pp. 150-187 (Bg).

8. **Lingorski, Vl. and B. Churkova**, 2005. Influence of the alternating fertilization on some bioproductive indicators of forage of grass mixtures. *Journal of Mountain Agriculture on the Balkans*, 8(2), 170-179.

9. **Maru ca, T., N. Dragomir, V. Mocanu, A. Blaj, F. Tarjoc, C. Dragomir and S. Constantinescu**, 2014. Effect of some improvement works on the floristic composition of the vegetal cover in *Nardus stricta* grasslands. *Animal Science and Biotechnologies*, 47(1), 144-150.

10. **Naydenova, G. and D. Mitev**, 2015. Study on selection populations of bird's foot trifoil and red clover in mixtures. *Plant Science*, LII (5), 30-36 (Bg).

11. **Tarc u, D., S. Cucu-Man, M. Stavarache, C. Samuil and V. Vintu**, 2012. Mineral versus organic fertilization. Effect on the quality of forages produced on a grassland of *Nardus stricta* L. *la i, Seria Agronomie*, 55(1), 49-54.

12. **Tenz, R., R. Elmer, O. Huguenin-Elie and A. Lüscher**, 2010. Effects of fertilisation on a mat-grass grassland. *Agroscope FAL Reckenholz, Zürich, Switzerland, Recherche Agronomique Suisse*, 5, pp. 176-183.

13. **Totev, T.**, 1970. Effect of Nitrogen and Phosphorus fertilization on the yields, botanical and chemical composition of the *Nardus stricta* pastures in the region of Central Balkan mountain. In: Jubilee Collection of Complex Experimental Station in Troyan, Zemizdat, Sofia, pp. 303-313 (Bg).

14. **Totev, T.**, 1972. Fertilizing with mineral fertilizers in high mountain *Nardus* pastures in Beklemeto area. *Plant Science*, IX (1), 81-87 (Bg).

15. **Totev, T.**, 1977. The effect of fertilization over *Nardus* grassland in the Central Balkan Mountain region. *Plant Science*, XIV (1), 155-163 (Bg).

16. **Totev, T.**, 1984. Study on the improvement and use of natural meadows and pastures in the foothills, mountain and high mountain regions of the Central Balkan Mountain. Dissertation, Plovdiv (Bg).

17. **Totev, T.**, 1985. The mineral fertilization of the foothill and mountain meadows and high mountain pastures – a main means for their effective use. In: Science Conference. Lovech (Bg).

18. **Vintu, V., C. Samuil, C. Sarbu, G. Saghin, T. Iacob, A. Hopkins, T. Gustafsson, J. Bertilsson, G. Dalin, N. Nilsson-Linde and E. Spörndly**, 2008. The influence of grassland management on biodiversity in the mountainous region of NE Romania.

19. **Vintu, V., C. Samuil, G. Saghin, M. Stavarache, A. van den Pol-van Dasselaar, H. F. M. Aarts, A. de Vliegheer, A. Elgersma, D. Reheul, J. A. Reijneveld, J. Verloop and A. Hopkins**, 2015. High productivity on *Nardus stricta* L. grasslands from the Carpathian Mountains of Romania. In: Proceedings of the 18th Symposium of the European Grassland Federation, Wageningen, The Netherlands, 15-17 June, pp 340-342.

20. **Yakimova, Ya.**, 1974. Reports of Session Fertilization of Natural meadows and Pastures. In: 22nd International Congress of Forage Productions, Moscow, Issue B, pp. 526-529; 682-688 (Ru).

Triticum xtoschevii H.P.St.

, 9521

*Email: hpstoyanov@abv.bg

Analysis on the spike productivity and the effect of the environment in the species *Triticum xtoschevii* H.P.St.

Hristo Stoyanov

Dobrudzha Agricultural Institute, 9521 General Toshevo, Bulgaria

SUMMARY

Triticum xtoschevii

1000

1000

Triticum xtoschevii

- In order to determine the main productivity components and the effect of the environment on them, an accession of the species *Triticum xtoschevii* was investigated during three contrasting periods. A very high environmental effect was determined for the indices number of grains per spike and 1000 kernel weight. High was also the effect on the indices number of spikelets per spike and spike length, which can be related to the high variations of the meteorological parameters. The species respectively showed that the environment did not have effect on the index weight of grains per spike. This emphasized the serious compensatory mechanisms existent in this accession. The analysis of covariances revealed that the variation of the index weight of grains per spike was strongly influenced by the number of grain per spike, 1000 kernel weight and the length of spike with awns. These data demonstrated that under worsened conditions for formation of grains and their subsequent nutrition, the photosynthetic apparatus of the spike had a significant effect as a compensatory mechanism. Such characteristics define the species *Triticum xtoschevii* as extremely valuable and suitable for

*x*toschevii, ,
: *Triticum*

introduction as a cultural plant.
Key words: *Triticum x*toschevii,
environment, productivity

INTRODUCTION

(Chahal and Gossal, 2000; Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016a).

One of the indices with highest importance for contemporary agriculture is the yield which the cultural plants realize (Chahal and Gossal, 2000; Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016a).

(Chahal and Gossal, 2000).

The understanding of its essence is crucial since the improvement of its components enhances its absolute value (Chahal and Gossal, 2000). Each species of cultural plants has specific structure and components of yield.

This is the reason why there is no unified breeding approach for increasing the yield. Since each component has its own physiological peculiarity, its improvement requires detailed study.

(Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016a; Mihova et al., 2017).

Therefore it is highly significant in contemporary breeding practice to investigate yield in minute details to meet the demands of the dynamic product policy of agricultural production (Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016a; Mihova et al., 2017).

2013).

(Stoyanov,

Wide hybridization is one of the most important tools of conventional breeding which allows both improving the cultural plants and developing new plant species and forms (Stoyanov, 2013). A large number of amphidiploids have been developed in cereals as a result from distant hybridization; they possess properties which are highly valuable – high production potential, resistance to biotic and abiotic stress, high quality indices (Spetsov et al., 2008; Spetsov et al., 2009; Stoyanov et al., 2010; Ksiazczyk et al., 2011; Mico et al., 2013; Stoyanov, 2012; Stoyanov, 2013; Stoyanov, 2015c; Stoyanov, 2015d).

(Spetsov et al., 2008; Spetsov et al., 2009; Stoyanov et al., 2010; Ksiazczyk et al., 2011; Mico et al., 2013; Stoyanov, 2012; Stoyanov, 2013; Stoyanov, 2015c; Stoyanov, 2015d).

Although some indices of these forms

(Atienza et al., 2000; Ballesteros et al., 2005; Martin et al., 1996; Stoyanov and Baychev, 2015; Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016b).

(Stoyanov, 2013).

Triticum xtoschevii

Triticum turanicum *Triticum timopheevii*.

Spetsov and Savov (1992),

Stoyanov (2014).

(Stoyanov, 2015c).

2-3

(Stoyanov, 2015b; 2015c; 2015d).

have been investigated, detailed reports on their components of yield are comparatively rare. The only exceptions are triticale and tritordeum due to their comparatively high distribution as cultural plants (Atienza et al., 2000; Ballesteros et al., 2005; Martin et al., 1996; Stoyanov and Baychev, 2015; Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016b). A large number of the investigations on other amphiploid forms are focused mainly on the indices related to protein content, resistance to different types of pathogens, crossability to other cultural species (Stoyanov, 2013). Therefore a large number of amphidiploids remain insufficiently investigated as potentially suitable forms for introduction as cultural plants.

The species *Triticum xtoschevii* is an amphidiploid with origin from the cross between the species *Triticum turanicum* and *Triticum timopheevii*. This amphidiploid was first reported by Spetsov and Savov (1992), and was taxonomically described and classified as a separate species by Stoyanov (2014). The species is hexaploid as a result from reduction of the initial chromosome number. The spikes do not have morphological resemblance to neither of the two parental components and to a large degree approximate the morphology of triticale. The plants from this species are very high and are therefore prone to lodging under unfavorable meteorological conditions. They are not attacked by diseases; resistance has been determined to the pathogens of powdery mildew, brown rust, and Septoria leaf blight (Stoyanov, 2015c). The spikes are with good number of grains, with 2-3 well-developed grains per spikelet, similar to the grain of triticale.

Such amphidiploid forms, although characterized with high yield potential, have variable structure of yield that can be observed within the amphidiploid itself. This is related to a certain degree of instability and active processes of recombination. Investigations on the amphidiploid forms (Stoyanov, 2015b; 2015c; 2015d). have shown the occurrence of such processes. The

2012)
Triticum toschevii

(Stoyanov,

species *Triticum toschevii*, however, possesses very high stability. Previous investigation on it provide evidence for this; in these investigations its productivity is analyzed against the productivity of common winter wheat (Stoyanov, 2015c).

(Stoyanov, 2015c).

Such data impose the necessity to study the species in greater detail with regard to its yield structure. In this respect, it is especially important to investigate thoroughly those components of yield, which influence the formation of others. This allows the proper evaluation of the effect of the environment on the structure of yield and the development of an efficient breeding strategy aimed at improving the amphidiploid.

Triticum xtoschevii,

The aim of this investigation was to analyze accessions from species *Triticum xtoschevii* for their spike morphology parameters in different years, to determine the effect of the factor year on each parameter and to evaluate the formation of the spike productivity.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

An accession from the wheat species *Triticum xtoschevii* with origin from the collection of Dobrudzha Agricultural Institute – General Toshevo was used. Fifteen seeds were sown in each row, with 30 cm between the rows and 5 cm between the seeds in the row. Planting was done in economic years 2012/2013, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015, on 11.11.2012, 06.11.2013 and 12.11.2014, respectively, in the fields near Stozher village, Dobrich district.

Harvesting was carried out at stage full maturity during economic years 2012/2013, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015, on 20.07.2013, 16.07.2014 and 16.07.2015, respectively. Twenty completely ripe spikes without visible damage from diseases and pests were selected randomly.

Morphological evaluation of the spikes from each accession was carried out according to 6 qualitative traits: length

Triticum xtoschevii,

15

30 cm

5 cm.

2012/2013, 2013/2014
 2014/2015 11.11.2012,
 06.11.2013 12.11.2014,

2012/2013 2013/2014 2014/2015
 20.07.2013, 16.07.2014
 16.07.2015.

20

6 :

1000.
 Microsoft Excel 2003,
 – IBM SPSS Statistics 19.

To summarize the data and perform variation analysis, the software Microsoft Excel 2003 was applied, while for the ANOVA and the covariation analysis IBM SPSS Statistics 19 was used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

(1).
 ,
 -
 2012/2013.
 ,
 -
 ,
 .
 2013/2014. 2013 .
 (10°C)
 01.04-30.06,
 ,
 ,
 (Topliiski, 2006).
 .
 01.10-31.03.

- The reaction of the investigated amphidiploid with regard to the spike morphology was strictly dependent on the environmental conditions (Table 1). Since the three growing periods were rather contrasting, various expressions of the values of the investigated traits were expected. The period 2012/2013 was outlined as the most unfavorable for the development of the amphidiploid. After planting, the temperatures and rainfalls were with values favorable for germination, and the emergence of the plants was comparatively fast and uniform. The subsequent development was also good and most plants managed to develop well until the first frosts.

- Similar tendency was observed also during 2013/2014. In the spring of 2013, due to the good winter moisture reserves in soil and the moderate temperatures (average daily temperatures over 10°C), the plants developed well and reached high values of tillering. The next period 01.04-30.06, when the reproductive organs of the plants were formed and when anthesis and pollination and grain filling occurred, was characterized with normal temperatures typical for the growing region (Topliiski, 2006).

- Therefore the plants developed normally at low levels of abiotic stress. The second investigated period followed a similar tendency with regard to the vegetative development of the plants during 01.10-31.03.

- The main difference was that in January and February the temperatures were higher and this was the reason for the premature development of the plants,

), (120mm)

which entered their generative stage comparatively earlier (at the end of April). In May of the same period, the observed high precipitation norms (120mm) favored the strong vegetative growth of the plants. Nevertheless, the cooler and humid weather impeded the good pollination since the opened type of anthesis is typical for the amphidiploids. Therefore, the high humidity and the lower temperatures were the reason for the low fertility. The subsequent rainfalls in June had additional negative effect on the nutrition of grain. Since the plants developed earlier and formed abundant shoot mass, the high precipitation norms were a prerequisite for higher degree of lodging. This worsened the photosynthetic activity and made the nutrition of grains very difficult.

1.

Table 1. Meteorological data during the investigated period

Months	Average monthly temperature, °C			Total monthly precipitation, mm		
	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015
/Oct	16,1	12,1	11,4	73,5	79	76
/Noe	9,2	9,5	5,8	41	29	54
/Dec	0,9	1,8	3,0	142	10	105
/Jan	1,2	2,6	2,1	47	153	40
/Feb	3,6	4,7	1,7	34,5	19	101
/Mar	6,2	8,7	5,6	31	56	71
/Apr	13,4	11,5	11,1	39,5	39	46
/May	19,7	15,6	18,5	20,5	120	27
/Jun	20,9	19,2	20,1	60	234	61
/Average	10,1	9,5	8,8	-	-	-
01.10-31.03	6,2	6,6	4,9	-	-	-
01.04-30.06	18	15,4	16,6	-	-	-
/Total	-	-	-	489	739	581
01.10-31.03	-	-	-	369	346	447
01.04-30.06	-	-	-	120	393	134

2014/2015
2015
(1)

The investigated period 2014/2015 can be described as intermediate for growing of an amphidiploid. This was so because of the slower development of the plants at the initial stages of the vegetation due to the comparatively lower temperatures. In the spring of 2015, again due to the higher temperatures in December, January and February (Table 1), the plants entered the vegetative stage

earlier. They were, however, less developed in comparison to the pre-winter period and the development of the vegetative mass was within the normal range for the amphidiploid. This favored the generative stage, since it occurred comparatively later in comparison to the previous economic year. The time to heading and anthesis was characterized with favorable conditions of the environment, high temperatures and moderate rainfalls. This was favorable for anthesis and pollination and therefore high fertility was observed. June was with moderate but intensive amounts of rainfalls. They caused lodging of a part of the plants and lead to the occurrence of some variation in the nutrition of grain.

(2)

(18,77%), (11,16%), (15,62%), (14,76%), (7,57%).

(Fufa et al., 2005; Kashif and Kaliq, 2004; Mahmood and Shahid, 1993; Stoyanov and Baychev, 2017a).

2012/2013.

earlier. They were, however, less developed in comparison to the pre-winter period and the development of the vegetative mass was within the normal range for the amphidiploid. This favored the generative stage, since it occurred comparatively later in comparison to the previous economic year. The time to heading and anthesis was characterized with favorable conditions of the environment, high temperatures and moderate rainfalls. This was favorable for anthesis and pollination and therefore high fertility was observed. June was with moderate but intensive amounts of rainfalls. They caused lodging of a part of the plants and lead to the occurrence of some variation in the nutrition of grain.

The data from the variation analysis (Table 2) clearly proved the contrasting character of the different growing periods. The formed productivity of spike was of different type in each period. Comparatively low was the variation of the indices NSS (15.62%), LS (18.77%), LSA (11.16%), AI (14.76%), NSLS (7.57%). Since these are typical vegetative growth indices, their formation is related to the period from emergence to heading. In broad sense, during all three investigated periods some differences were observed in this stage of the plants. Therefore the degree of variation was different for these indices but as a tendency it remained at a comparatively low level. Such a response is typical for other cereals as well (Fufa et al., 2005; Kashif and Kaliq, 2004; Mahmood and Shahid, 1993; Stoyanov and Baychev, 2017a). It is worth mentioning that the variation of these indices was high during the period favorable for the development of the amphidiploid – 2012/2013. This was due to the fact that the stronger tillering implied morphological differentiation of the spikes from the main tiller and those from the auxiliary tillers. The auxiliary tillers, being greater in number in comparison to the other growing periods,

- formed smaller spikes.

2.

Table 2. Variation analysis of the investigated structural elements of productivity

Parameter	Year	AV	VC %	Parameter	Year	AV	VC %
NSS	2012/2013	20,00	17,70	AI	2012/2013	2,05	12,02
	2013/2014	23,50	11,34		2013/2014	1,71	10,44
	2014/2015	25,53	5,90		2014/2015	1,63	7,98
	Total	23,01	15,62		Total	1,79	14,76
LS	2012/2013	96,30	21,69	NSLS	2012/2013	0,210	7,58
	2013/2014	122,35	11,65		2013/2014	0,193	7,00
	2014/2015	128,80	9,09		2014/2015	0,199	4,37
	Total	115,82	18,77		Total	0,200	7,57
LSA	2012/2013	192,85	11,69	WDLS	2012/2013	0,027	21,83
	2013/2014	207,65	11,95		2013/2014	0,022	36,48
	2014/2015	209,00	7,25		2014/2015	0,024	22,26
	Total	203,17	11,16		Total	0,024	28,20
WS	2012/2013	2,70	39,82	AWS	2012/2013	0,130	26,01
	2013/2014	2,73	41,40		2013/2014	0,115	38,87
	2014/2015	3,04	23,47		2014/2015	0,119	22,01
	Total	2,82	35,84		Total	0,121	29,98
WGS	2012/2013	1,96	41,78	1000	2012/2013	48,95	13,24
	2013/2014	1,64	61,53	M1000	2013/2014	41,48	34,88
	2014/2015	2,10	29,93		2014/2015	38,41	19,38
	Total	1,90	45,52		Total	42,95	25,55
NGS	2012/2013	38,90	33,72	SEYI	2012/2013	4,81	31,73
	2013/2014	36,75	35,99		2013/2014	5,11	38,80
	2014/2015	54,47	20,13		2014/2015	4,94	19,68
	Total	43,37	34,21		Total	4,95	31,72

/NSS – /number of spikelets per spike, /LS – /length of spike, /LSA – /length of spike with awns, /WS – /weight of grains per spike, /NGS – /number of grains per spike, /AI – /awnness index, /NSLS – /number of spikelets to the length of spike, /WDLS – /weight distribution along the length of spike, /AWS – /average weight of spikelet, 1000/M1000 – 1000 /weight of 1000 grains, /SEYI – /specific index eliminating the year influence, /AV – /average value, /VC – /variation coefficient.

(Stoyanov, 2017). This was a result from the sequence of the development of the tillers, and also from compensatory mechanisms observed in similar plant forms (Stoyanov, 2017). Among the vegetative parameters, the index LSA demonstrated

2016).
 2013/2014
 (35,84%), (45,52%), (34,21%),
 (28,20%), (29,98%), 1000
 (25,55%).
 (Fisher and
 HilleRisLambers, 1978; Guinta et al.,
 1999; Dencic et al., 2000; Motzo et al.,
 2001; Garcia del Moral et al., 2003;
 Acreche et al., 2006).
 1,
).
 2).

a more specific behavior. Since the length of spikes with awns is measured without taking into account the angle formed with the axis of the spike, in some cases the lower LSA values were due to the bigger angle the awns form with the central axis. Such position is related to higher fertility because the plump grains deform the spikelet (Stoyanov, 2016). Therefore, during the unfavorable period 2013/2014 the high variation both in the number of grains and in the nutrition of grain was the reason for the greater variation of LSA in comparison to the favourable period.

Extremely high variation was observed in the indices WS (35.84%), WGS (45.52%), NGS (34.21%), WDSL (28.20%), AWS (29.98%), M1000 (25.55%). This was due to their predominantly generative nature since they are related to the reproductive specificity of the plant.

Such high variation of these indices has been reported in similar plant species, as well – common winter wheat, barley, triticale, and other amphidiploid forms (Fisher and HilleRisLambers, 1978; Guinta et al., 1999; Dencic et al., 2000; Motzo et al., 2001; Garcia del Moral et al., 2003; Acreche et al., 2006).

The formative period of these indices is not very long, similar to the vegetative indices, but is marked by the high dynamics of the meteorological weather. During the three periods of investigation, the meteorological indices differed significantly in the very stages of grain formation and grain filling (Table 1, months May and June). Therefore the indices, although forming a stable tendency toward high values, differed significantly with regard to these high values. In contrast to the previously considered group of indices, here the variation was highest during the period unfavorable for formation of the amphidiploid (Table 2). This was due

2017). - (Stoyanov, 2017). The highest variation was observed in the indices WS and WGS. This is conditioned by their complex nature because they combine the effects of the environment on the overall physiological process of pollination, fertilization, formation and filling of grain (Stoyanov and Baychev, 2017b). Such complexity of a given trait is related to the expression of a large amount of genes (Ramya et al., 2010).

(Stoyanov and Baychev, 2017b). - Therefore, the variation of such complex traits should be considerably higher (Stoyanov, 2016). Since WGS is the main trait characterizing the productivity of the spike with regard to weight, the increased values of the variation coefficients during the separate periods were indicative for the wide-range reaction of the amphidiploid and the presence of certain compensatory mechanisms.

(Ramya et al., 2010). - The index M1000 was characterized by a highly specific response with regard to its variation and therefore has to be analyzed in detail. Similarly to the other weight parameters, the highest variation was observed during the period unfavorable for the development of the amphidiploid - 2013/2014. In spite of that, however, the lowest variation (13.24%) was registered during 2012/2013 – a period, favorable for the development of the plants, while in the other weight parameters the variation was lowest during 2014/2015 (Table 2). It should be pointed out that the differentiation of the spikes resulting from the high tillering during the favorable period was the reason for the different number of spikelets in some spikes, and thence – for the differences in WS, WGS, NGS, WDLS and AWS. This showed that the development of the individual spikelets was exceptionally important for

–
 ,
 (Stoyanov,
 2015e).
 1000
 2015
 (2),
 ,
 (3),
 ,
 – 2012/2013
 ,
 ,
 ,
 ,
 ,
 (3).
 ,
 (Stoyanov,
 2016).
 ,
 ,
 1000
 ,
 1000

the formation of the total productivity of spike – each additional spikelet contributed to WGS. The nutrition of grain, however, was not directly influenced by the number of spikelets, with the exception of some specific genotypes (Stoyanov, 2015e). Therefore M1000 followed a separate tendency according to the meteorological weather. Although in 2015 WGS had higher values (Table 2), the partial lodging preconditioned higher variation due to the expected differences in the nutrition of grain.

The ANOVA (Table 3) definitely confirmed the results from the variation analysis and proved the hypotheses following from the specificity in the variation of the investigated components of spike productivity. The effect of the growing period on the vegetative indices NSS, LS, LSA, AI and NSLS was significant. There is a clear difference between the period favorable for growing (2012/2013) and the other two periods. This allowed assuming with a high degree of significance that the high number of productive tillers resulting from the favorable environmental conditions influenced the expression of the spike productivity. The fact that there were no significant differences in the indices WS, WGS, WDLS and AWS (Table 3) is worth mentioning. Such data, in spite of their high degree of variation, are indicative for the considerable compensatory mechanisms observed in the investigated amphidiploid (Stoyanov, 2016). In spite of the significant differences in the vegetative development of the spikes, their productivity remained at comparatively the same level. This means that the number of grains and M1000 complement each other functionally and thus ensure optimal spike productivity. It is worth mentioning also that M1000 had different behavior with regard to the three investigated periods according to the other weight indices (Table 2 and 3). During the

2 3).

1000

ú

unfavorable and the intermediate period, there was no significant difference between the mean values, but the favorable period was clearly distinct from the other two. This makes M1000 a special index, which is simultaneously of vegetative and generative nature; i.e. the size of grain is conditioned by a typical vegetative mechanism initiated by a generative one. Such data are related to high complexity of the spike productivity and overall interdependence of its separate components.

3.

Table 3. ANOVA of the investigated structural elements of productivity

Parameter	SS	F	Sig.	Parameter	SS	F	Sig.		
NSS	/ BG	278,648	17,900	0,000	/ BG	1,863	24,316	0,000	
	/ WG	404,733		AI	/ WG	1,992			
	/ Total	683,382			/ Total	3,856			
LS	/ BG	10923,577	20,181	0,000	/ BG	0,0031	8,666	0,001	
	/ WG	14073,150		NSLS	/ WG	0,0093			
	/ Total	24996,727			/ Total	0,0124			
LSA	/ BG	3025,627	3,201	0,049	/ BG	0,0003	2,941	0,062	
	/ WG	24573,100		WDLS	/ WG	0,0023			
	/ Total	27598,727			/ Total	0,0025			
WS	/ BG	1,190	0,581	0,563	/ BG	0,0024	0,920	0,405	
	/ WG	53,250		AWS	/ WG	0,0692			
	/ Total	54,440			/ Total	0,0716			
WGS	/ BG	2,028	1,403	0,255	1000	/ BG	1073,910	5,031	0,010
	/ WG	37,589		M1000	/ WG	5549,881			
	/ Total	39,617			/ Total	6623,791			
NGS	/ BG	3067,444	9,635	0,000	/ BG	0,968	0,191	0,827	
	/ WG	8277,283		SEYI	/ WG	132,089			
	/ Total	11344,727			/ Total	133,057			
/NSS –	/number of spikelets per spike,			/LS –	/length of spike,				
/LSA –	/length of spike with awns,			/WS –	/weight of spike,				
/WGS –	/weight of grains per spike,			/NGS –	/weight of grains per spike,				
/AI –	/awnness index,			/NSLS –	/number of spikelets to the length of spike,				
/AWS –	/average weight of spikelet,			1000/M1000 –	1000				
/SEYI –	/specific index eliminating the year influence,			/SS –	/sum of squares,				
/BG –	/between groups,			/WG –	/within groups, Sig. –				
/significance									

(3)

(Stoyanov, 2015c)

1000

1000,

4

- The index SEYI undoubtedly
- confirmed the assumption regarding the
- high degree of stability of the spike
- productivity during the individual periods
- of investigation. Since the index is formed
- on the basis of typical vegetative and
- typical generative parameters, it should
- be taken into account that the absence of
- significant differences between the values
- over years (Table 3) emphasizes the
- complex nature of the amphidiploid
- accession. In a previous investigation on
- the same accession (Stoyanov, 2015c), a
- parallel was made between the
- amphidiploid and common winter wheat.
- The analysis determined that the two
- species, although forming their spike
- productivity from identical components,
- have completely different behavior. The
- amphidiploid accession relied primarily on
- the number of grains per spike, while in
- common winter 1000 kernel weight was
- of high importance. In this respect, since
- both species have SIEY which is stable
- over years, it can be assumed that this
- index represents a unique biological ratio,
- which gives an accurate understanding
- about the stability of the spike
- productivity.

- The data from the ANOVA and the
- variation coefficients were not sufficient to
- comprehensively characterize the spike
- productivity. Although WGS is in almost
- functional dependence on NGS and
- M1000 with regard to weight, the serious
- correlations between all components of
- spike productivity imply some influence of
- the other indices as well.

- The co-variation analysis carried out
- allowed following the effect also of LS,
- LSA and NSS on the values of WGS. The
- determining of such effects would be
- valid if the total effect of the co-variation
- indices neutralizes the influence of the
- factor year.

- The data from Table 4 undoubtedly
- confirmed the presence of an additional
- index related to the formation of the spike

productivity. The non-significance of the co-variances of NSS and LS according to WGS was indicative for the absence of a direct effect on the formation of spike productivity with regard to the generative stage, i.e. NSS and LS are the basis for the formation of WGS, but their values are not related in practice to the actual expression of productivity.

On the other hand, LSA demonstrated a significant effect on the expression of WGS, although its values were lower than that of the total variance.

4.

Table 4. Analysis on the covariances of the direct components of spike productivity on the index WGS

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	38.999	7	5.571	343.165	0.000
Intercept	1.121	1	1.121	69.063	0.000
	0.046	1	0.046	2.835	0.098
	0.001	1	0.001	0.068	0.795
	0.147	1	0.147	9.061	0.004
	5.807	1	5.807	357.666	0.000
1000	5.906	1	5.906	363.787	0.000
Year	0.102	2	0.051	3.153	0.051
Error	0.844	52	0.016		
Total	256.481	60			
Corrected Total	39.843	59			

/NSS – /number of spikelets per spike, /LS – /length of spike,
 /LSA – /length of spike with awns, /NGS – /weight of 1000 grains, Sig. –
 /number of grains per spike, 1000/M1000 – 1000 /significance

Table 5 clearly shows that the effects of the three components, NGS, M1000 and LSA, neutralize the effect of the year with regard to the index WGS. Such data are an indication that the awns have a key significance for the formation of the spike productivity.

It has been determined in other cereal crops that the photosynthetic role of the awns and glumes is essential for the formation of grain (Teich, 1982).

(Teich, 1982).

(Nankova,
).

Keeping the awns, even if the leaf mass is reduced, is of high importance since they provide a certain amount of assimilates necessary for grain nutrition (Nankova, unpublished data). Thus the awns become a serious compensatory mechanism which affects directly the size of spike productivity.

Simultaneously with the correlation between NGS and M1000, the role of the photosynthesis from the non-grain part of the spike should be referred to the traits which are of very high breeding value. Thus, the spike productivity of the different amphidiploids can be optimized and they may be efficiently introduced as cultural plants.

5.

Table 5. Analysis of the covariances of the direct components of spike productivity on the index WGS

Source	Type III Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Corrected Model	38.893	5	7.779	442.020	0.000
Intercept	2.311	1	2.311	131.324	0.000
	6.897	1	6.897	391.895	0.000
1000	6.139	1	6.139	348.865	0.000
	0.188	1	0.188	10.681	0.002
Year	0.094	2	0.047	2.663	0.079
Error	0.950	54	0.018		
Total	256.481	60			
Corrected Total	39.843	59			

/NSS – /number of spikelets per spike, /LS – /length of spike,
 /LSA – /length of spike with awns, /NGS – /weight of 1000 grains, Sig. –
 /number of grains per spike, 1000/M1000 – 1000 /significance

CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions can be drawn based on the presented results:

1. It was found out that the indices which have vegetative nature – NSS, LS, LSA, AI and NSLS, varied comparatively less as a tendency, although there were differences between the investigated periods.
2. A very high variation was determined in the indices WS, WGS,

		NGS, DWLS and MWS, which was due to their extreme dependence on the environmental conditions and the complexity of their expression.
3.		3. The effect of the growing period on the values of the vegetative indices was significant and can be explained by the greater number of productive tillers during the period favorable for development of the amphidiploid and by the compensatory mechanisms between the components of spike productivity.
4.		4. Significant differences were not observed in the indices WS, WGS, DWLS and MWS and therefore there was no effect of the growing period on spike productivity.
5.		5. There was no effect of the environment on the specific biological ratio SIEY in this species, which emphasized the significant compensatory mechanisms of the accession.
6.		6. The analysis of the co-variances underlined that the number of grains per spike, 1000 kernel weight and the length of spike with awns had serious influence on the variation of the index weight of grain per spike.
7.	1000	7. These data showed that under adverse conditions for formation of grains and their subsequent nutrition, the photosynthetic apparatus of the spike had a high effect as a compensatory mechanism.
8.	<i>Triticum xtoschevii</i>	8. Such characteristics make the species <i>Triticum xtoschevii</i> highly valuable and suitable for introduction as a cultural plant.

/ REFERENCES

1. **Acreche, M.M. and G.A. Slafer**, 2006. Grain weight response to increases in number of grains in wheat in a Mediterranean area. *Field Crops Research*, 98, 52-59.
2. **Atienza, S.G., A.C. Martin and A. Martin**, 2000. Introgression of wheat chromosome 2D or 5D into tritordeum leads to free-threshing habit. *Genome*, 50, 994-1000.
3. **Ballesteros, J., M.C. Ramirez, S.G. Atienza and A. Martin**, 2005. Registration of HT621, a High Carotenoid Content Tritordeum Germplasm Line. *Crop Science*, 45, 2662-2663.

4. **Chahal, G.S. and S.S. Gosal**, 2000. Principles and procedures of plant breeding: Biotechnological and conventional approaches. CRC Press, New York.
5. **Dencic, S., R. Kastori, B. Kobiljski and B. Duggan**, 2000. Evaluation of grain yield and its components in wheat cultivars and landraces under near optimal and drought conditions. *Euphytica*, 113: 43-52.
6. **Fischer, R.A. and D. HilleRisLambers**, 1978. Effect of environment and cultivar on source limitation to grain weight in wheat. *Australian Journal of Agricultural Research*, 29(3), 443-458
7. **Fufa, H., S.P. Baenziger, B.S. Beecher, R.A. Graybosch, K.M. Eskridge and L.A. Nelson**, 2005. Genetic improvement trends in agronomic performances and end-use quality characteristics among hard red winter wheat cultivars in Nebraska. *Euphytica*, 144,187-198
8. **Garcia del Moral, L.F., Y. Rharrabti, D. Villegas and C. Royo**, 2003. Evaluation of Grain Yield and Its Components in Durum Wheat under Mediterranean Conditions. *Agron. J.*, 95, 266-274
9. **Giunta, F., R. Motzo and M. Deidda**, 1999. Grain yield analysis of a triticale (*xTriticosecale* Wittmack) collection grown in a Mediterranean environment. *Field Crops Research*, 63, 199-210.
10. **Kashif, M. and I. Khaliq**, 2004. Heritability, Correlation and Path Coefficient Analysis for Some Metric Traits in Wheat. *International Journal of Agriculture and Biology*, 6-1, 138-142
11. **Ksiazczyk, T., B. Apilinarska, Kulak-Ksiazczyk, H. Wisniewska, S. Stojalowski and M. Lapinski**, 2011. Identification of the chromosome complement and the spontaneous 1R/1V translocations in allotetraploid *Secale cereale* x *Dasypyrum villosum* hybrids through cytogenetic approaches. *J Appl Genet*, 52, 305-311.
12. **Martin, A., C. Martinez-Araque, D. Rubiales and J. Ballesteros**, 1996. Tritordeum: Triticale's new brother cereal. In: H. Guedes-Pinto et al. (eds.), *Triticale: Today and Tomorrow*. Kluwer Academic Publishers, pp57-72.
13. **Mahmood, A. and M. Shahid**, 1993. Inheritance and inter-relationship studies of some quantitative characteristics in wheat. *Pakistan Journal of Agricultural Research*, 14-2/3, 121-125
14. **Mico P., M. Megyeri, M. Molinar-Lang and G. Kovacs**, 2013. Characterization of *Triticum timopheevii* Zhuk. Gene Bank accessions for the development of synthetic amphidiploid wheat lines. *Acta Agronomica Hungarica*, 61(2), 113-121.
15. **Mihova, G., V. Baychev, P. Chamurliyski and H. Stoyanov**, 2017. Yield Formation in Winter Cereals under Contrasting Conditions of the Environment. In: Congress Book of 2nd International Balkan Agriculture Congress, At Namik Kemal University, Faculty of Agriculture, Tekirda , Turkey. pp 351-358.
16. **Motzo, R., F. Giunta and M. Deidda**, 2001. Factors affecting the genotype x environment interaction in spring triticale grown in a Mediterranean environment. *Euphytica*, 121, 317-324.
17. **Rahman, M.S. and J.H. Wilson**, 1977. Determination of spikelet number in wheat. I. Effect of varying photoperiod on ear development. *Australian Journal of Agricultural Research*, 28(2), 265-274
18. **Ramya, P., A. Chaubal, K. Kulkarni, L. Gupta, N. Kadoo, H. S. Dhaliwal, P. Chhuneja, M. Lagu and V. Gupta**, 2010. QTL mapping of 1000-kernel weight, kernel length, and kernel width in bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.). *J Appl Genet*, 51(4), 421-429

19. **Rawson, H.M.**, 1969. Spikelet Number, Its Control And Relation To Yield Per Ear In Wheat. *International Journal of Biological Sciences*, 23, 1-15
20. **Spetsov, P. and M. Savov**, 1992. A review on amphidiploids in the Triticeae, obtained in Bulgaria during 1950-1990. *Wheat Information Service*, 75, 1-6.
21. **Spetsov, P., I. Belchev and D. Plamenov**, 2008. Breeding of synthetic wheats: Crossability and production of hybrids with participation of *Aegilops tauschii*. In: Proceedings of Technical university-Varna, , 71-76 (Bg).
22. **Spetsov, P., D. Plamenov and I. Belchev**, 2009. Breeding of synthetic wheats: analysis of amphidiploid plants obtained with *Aegilops tauschii* Coss. *Field crops studies*, V-2, 207-216 (Bg).
23. **Stoyanov, H.**, 2012. Characteristics of amphidiploids in the *Triticum-Aegilops-Haynaldia-Agropyron* group. *Scientific Papers. Series A. Agronomy*, LV, 249-255.
24. **Stoyanov, H.**, 2013. Status of remote hybrids in the Poaceae: problems and prospects. *Agricultural science and technology*, 5(1), 3-12.
25. **Stoyanov, H.**, 2014. New amphidiploid wheat species (nothosp. nov.) as a result of artificial hybridisation. *Scientific Papers. Series A. Agronomy*, LVII, 331-338.
26. **Stoyanov, H.**, 2015a. Effect of black (stem) rust (*Puccinia graminis* f.sp. *tritici*) to the spike characteristics in Polish wheat (*Triticum polonicum* L.). *Agricultural science and technology*, 7(1), 25-35.
27. **Stoyanov, H.**, 2015b. Spike morphology and variation in spike parameters in spesies *Triticum xsavovii*. *Scientific Papers. Series A. Agronomy*, LVIII, 315-324.
28. **Stoyanov, H.**, 2015c. Influence of environmental conditions on the species *Triticum xtoschevii* H.P.St. compared to common winter wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.). In: Proceeding of Union of Scientists - Ruse, 3, *Agrarian and Veterinary Medicine Sciences*, 7: 29-35.
29. **Stoyanov, H.**, 2015d. Influence of contrast growing conditions on the amphidiploid *Triticum timopheevii* Zhuk. X *Aegilops tauschii* Coss. In: Proceeding of Union of Scientists - Ruse, 3, *Agrarian and Veterinary Medicine Sciences*, 7, 36-42.
30. **Stoyanov, H.**, 2015e. Research on the diversity of the reproductive apparatus in genus *Triticum* as a source of increasing the productivity of common winter wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.). In: Proceedings of Institute of Agriculture - Karnobat (in press)
31. **Stoyanov, H.**, 2016. Effect of the environmental factors on the correlations in the species *Triticum xtoschevii* H.P.St. *Field Crops Studies* (in press)
32. **Stoyanov, H.**, 2017. Yield structure and component analysis of the species *Triticum xtoschevii* H.P.St. *Science and Research* (in press).
33. **Stoyanov, H., P. Spetsov and D. Plamenov**, 2010. Origin of common winter wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) and analysis of synthetic wheat forms as a source of genetic diversity. In: Proceedings of University of Ruse, 49(1.1), 55-60.
34. **Stoyanov, H. and V. Baychev**, 2015. Correlations between spike parameters of first generation direct and reciprocal crosses of triticale (*xTriticosecale* Wittm.). *Agricultural Sciences*, VII, 18, 25-34.
35. **Stoyanov, H. and V. Baychev**, 2016a. Achievements and trends in the breeding of triticale in Bulgaria. 9th International Triticale Symposium, Szeged, Hungary, May 23-27, 2016, Book of Abstracts, pp. 20.
36. **Stoyanov, H. and V. Baychev**, 2016b. Analysis on "Genotype x Environment" Interaction in Bulgarian Triticale (*xTriticosecale* Wittm.) Cultivars. *Scientific works of Institute of Agriculture - Karnobat* (in press)

37. **Stoyanov, H. and V. Baychev**, 2017a. Research on the variability in triticale (*xTriticosecale* Wittm.) crosses as a source of genetic diversity. In: Youth Scientific Conference "Kliment's Days", Sofia 2016, Annuaire de l'Université de Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculte de Biologie, 2017, 102(4), 105-126.
38. **Stoyanov, H. and V. Baychev**, 2017b. Response to the environmental conditions of the spike indices in second generation of triticale crosses (*xTriticosecale* Wittm.). In: Proceeding of International Conference "135 years Institute of Plant Genetic Resources - Sadovo", pp 300-317 (Bg).
39. **Teich, A.H.**, 1982. Interaction of awns and environment on grain yield in winter wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.). *Cereal Research Communications*, 10(1/2), 11-15.
40. **Topliiski, D.**, 2006. Climate of Bulgaria. "Amstels" Foundation, Sofia. pp. 360 (Bg).

, 9521
*Email: hpstoyanov@abv.bg

Triticale cultivars suitable for growing under high level of abiotic stress

Hristo Stoyanov*, Valentin Baychev, Tatyana Petrova, Gallina Mihova

Dobrudzha Agricultural Institute, 9521 General Toshevo, Bulgaria

SUMMARY

In order to determine the triticale varieties, which combine high productivity potential with tolerance to different types of abiotic stress, 11 Bulgarian cultivars – Kolorit, Atila, Akord, Respekt, Bumerang, Irnik, Dobrudzhanets, Lovchanets, Doni 52, Blagovest and Borislav, developed at Dobrudzha Agricultural Institute - General Toshevo were investigated. Yields of investigated cultivars and their stability are determined in field and strong contrasting environmental conditions during the period 2015-2017. The stress tolerance was determined also by receiving data of cultivars cold tolerance (as percent of survived plants after freezing in cameras with different temperatures) and drought tolerance (based on reaction of the parameters plant height, number of productive tillers, number of grains per spike, weight of grains per spike, thousand kernel weight in the conditions of rain-out shelter). Based on the experiments with best productivity for three year period are the cultivars Atila, Doni 52 and Borislav. Cultivars Respekt, Akord and Borislav were characterized with highest cold tolerance. Cultivars Atila,

52,

52

52

Boomerang, Dobrudzhanets were with high tolerance to drought. Very impressive is cultivar Doni 52, which combines both normal cold tolerance and drought tolerance with high productivity potential. Cultivars Akord and Doni 52 were most stable with regard to grain yield under highly contrasting conditions of the environment. Similar results were typical of cultivars Atila, Akord, Boomerang, Doni 52 and Borislav, which can be considered remarkable breeding achievements and unique combinations of productivity and tolerance to abiotic stress.

Key words: triticale, abiotic stress, cultivars

(Chahal and Gosal, 2000).

(Randhawa et al., 2015).
Boyer (1982) 70%

(Cramer et al., 2011;
Arseniuk, 2015).

(Ishag and Mohamed, 1996; Dhindsa et al., 2002; Goyali and Dhindsa, 2003; Lozano del Rio et al., 2009; Dimitrijevic et al., 2011).

INTRODUCTION

The dynamic breeding of field crops requires the contemporary cultivars to meet a number of criteria (Chahal and Gosal, 2000). On the one hand, this is the productivity potential of the cultural plant, on the other – the resistance and tolerance to biotic and abiotic stress (Randhawa et al., 2015). According to data of Boyer (1982), more than 70 % of the yield losses from the cultural plants are due to the effect of the abiotic stress. Abiotic stress means the effect of the environmental factors in connection with the soil and climatic conditions on the growth and development of the plants (Cramer et al., 2011; Arseniuk, 2015).

Especially high is the effect of such a stress on the cereal crops as evidenced by a great number of investigations and publications (Ishag and Mohamed, 1996; Dhindsa et al., 2002; Goyali and Dhindsa, 2003; Lozano del Rio et al., 2009; Dimitrijevic et al., 2011).

Triticale, being a typical cereal crop, is susceptible to abiotic stress. Different investigations on this crop undoubtedly define triticale as comparatively more tolerant to certain types of stress factors: drought, metal toxicity, nitrogen deficiency, as compared to the other

		cereals (Arseniuk, 2015).
	(Arseniuk, 2015).	On the other hand, however, triticale is a crop which possesses comparatively lower cold and winter resistance than wheat and rye (Liu et al., 2014).
al., 2014).	(Liu et al., 2014).	A specific problem in this crop is lodging due to the greater plant height and the peculiarities of the stem and root morphology.
Arseniuk (2015)		Arseniuk (2015) underlined the comparatively strong advantage of triticale over wheat for maintaining a high productivity potential when grown under variable conditions of the environment. Such characteristics, together with the comparatively high productivity of triticale, are a prerequisite for searching of genotypes which combine productivity and tolerance to stress.
		The contemporary breeding programs of triticale follow a tendency toward improvement of the tolerance to abiotic stress with the aim of enhancing the yield stability (Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016a).
Baychev, 2016a).	(Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016a).	The triticale cultivars developed at Dobrudzha Agricultural Institute possess both high productivity potential and comparatively high yield stability. Evidence for this has been provided in previous investigations on these cultivars under contrasting conditions of the environment. Baychev (2013) pointed out that the response of triticale to different types of stress during the investigated periods was strictly specific and genotype-dependent, maintaining comparatively high level of productivity. Stoyanov and Baychev (2016b) proved the specific effect of the factor environment x genotype on the formation of the yield from triticale under contrasting environmental conditions. Such data on the Bulgarian triticale cultivars emphasize their high tolerance to abiotic stress under field conditions. Additionally, Baychev and
	Baychev (2013)	
Stoyanov and Baychev (2016b)		

AMMI- Duncan
 Tsenov and Petrova (1984).
 808, 1, 301,
 San Pastore.
 1 20
 ().
 54 8 m.
 70 1 m, 0.2 m
 120-140 l/m².
 ().
 450 l/m².

of the environment and of the genotype on the yield were established through Duncan test. AMMI-analysis was carried out according to the index yield, analyzing the specific interaction environment x genotype.

The trial for cold tolerance was carried at the Laboratory complex of DAI – General Toshevo. The methodology of Tsenov and Petrova (1984) was applied. The cold tolerance of the test plants was compared to that of standard cultivars: Mironovskaya 808, Bezostaya 1, No 301, Russalka and San Pastore. Each evaluated line was tested under three freezing temperatures in four replications. The data from the temperature variant, under which the standard cultivars were differentiated best, were used for evaluation of the cold tolerance. On the basis of these data, the cultivars were ranked by using a score from 1 to 20 in an ascending order, the low score corresponding to low cold tolerance, and the high – to high cold tolerance. The means of the scores from the applied temperature variants were calculated for each genotype thus forming the average rank assessment (ARA).

The trial for drought tolerance was also carried out at the Laboratory complex of DAI - General Toshevo. The plants were grown under rain-out shelter – a standard greenhouse construction sized 54 8 m. The tested cultivars were sown in 1 m rows, with 0.2 m interspacing and 70 germinating seeds per row. Planting was done at the end of October. The plants were watered by a sprinkling installation with 120-140 l/m². The drought variant was not irrigated during the vegetative growth of the plants. The check variant was watered at the first possible moment in spring (beginning of March). After that it was regularly irrigated when necessary in order to avoid water stress. The total amount of water for the checks was about 450 l/m².

Phenological observations and biometric measurements were carried out during the vegetative growth. The

(), (),
 (), 1000
 (1000).
 m² (),

- following indices were read: plant height (PH), number of spikes per row, number of grains per spike (NGS), weight of grains per spike (WGS), 1000 kernel weight (1000). The number of spikes per row were transformed to number of productive tillers per m² (NPT) based on the density of plants. The reduction of the values under drought was calculated for each index as % from the check variant according to the formula (1):

$$R = ((X_c - X_s) / X_c) * 100 \quad (1)$$

X_c –

where
 X_c is a value of an index in the check variant and

X_s –

X_s is a value of an index in the drought variant

1 15
 ,
 ().

The obtained values of the five traits were ranked using a score from 1 to 15 in an ascending order, the low value corresponding to low drought tolerance, and the high values – to high drought tolerance. The means from the scores for the five traits were calculated for each genotype and average rank assessment was obtained (ARA).

On the basis of the two rank scores, a stress plot was constructed; its scores represented the combination of drought and cold tolerance in the individual genotypes.

To summarize the data and to perform variation analysis, the software Microsoft Excel 2003 was used, Microsoft Excel 2003 was used, IRRISTAT 4.0.2. was applied for AMMI-analysis, and IBM SPSS Statistics 19 - for ANOVA.

2003, AMMI- Microsoft Excel
 4.0.2., – IRRISTAT
 IBM SPSS Statistics 19. –

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

(1)
 2017
 2015

The meteorological data (Table 1) determined harvest years 2015 and 2017 as more favorable for growing of triticale. Nevertheless, certain factors allowed their differentiation with regard to the expression of some meteorological elements and to the yield realized by the cultivars in the respective years.

1.

Table 1. Meteorological characterization of the period of the experiments

Parameter	Period	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
AMT, °C	2014/2015	11,2	5,6	3,1	1,4	2,0	5,0	10,1	16,4	19,4	22,4
	2015/2016	10,9	9,3	3,4	-0,8	7,3	6,8	13,2	14,7	20,9	22,8
	2016/2017	10,6	6,5	-0,6	-4,1	2,0	7,3	8,7	15,0	20,2	21,8
	2014/2017	10,9	7,1	2,0	-1,2	3,8	6,4	10,7	15,4	20,2	22,3
	1960/2017*	11,6	6,7	1,9	-0,3	1,1	4,6	9,8	15,2	22,1	21,4
TMP, mm	2014/2015	57,9	33,2	87,0	33,2	79,5	67,7	8,5	12,9	31,3	27,2
	2015/2016	78,3	55,1	0,4	86,3	40,7	52,7	20,8	117,1	55,7	2,8
	2016/2017	72,2	43,3	12,5	48,4	27,4	48,9	38,4	29,0	87,7	66,3
	2014/2017	69,5	43,9	33,3	56,0	49,2	56,4	22,6	53,0	58,2	32,1
	1960/2017*	42,7	42,9	41,7	36,6	34,2	36,4	40,5	51,8	59,1	52,0

/AMT – /average monthly temperature; /TMP –

/total monthly precipitation

* /Long term trend

Duncan

(2)

(Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016b)

The Duncan test on the mean yield for all investigated genotypes over years (Table 2) revealed significant differences between the three periods. This characterized the growing years as rather contrasting. It is worth mentioning that a general tendency with regard to the reaction of the yield from each genotype during the three periods was not observed. This is related to the interaction between the factors environment and genotype and is a prerequisite for different stability of the yields from the separate investigated genotypes. Previous investigations of our team (Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016b) on the stability of the yield and its components under highly contrasting conditions of the environment of the same cultivars outlined the presence of the environment x genotype effect and emphasized the strong impact of the year of growing on the values of the realized yield. Respectively, the genotype as a factor had a comparatively limited but significant effect on the total variation, which was indicative for the similarities in the production potential of the investigated cultivars of the mentioned authors. The data of Stoyanov and Baychev (2016c) clearly emphasized the

Stoyanov and Baychev (2016c)

11 16

1000

(Dhindsa et al., 2002; Goyali and Dhindsa, 2003; Lozano del Rio et al., 2009).

fact that the productivity potential of 11 out of the 16 investigated cultivars of the mentioned authors was formed mainly by the index number of grains per spike, while the number of productive tillers and 1000 kernel weight were of secondary importance. The yield in this case, being a complex value, was to a large extent subject to the conditions of the environment and the interaction of the genotype with it. Similar data have been pointed out in numerous researches on different triticale cultivars (Dhindsa et al., 2002; Goyali and Dhindsa, 2003; Lozano del Rio et al., 2009).

2.

Table 2. Data on the productivity of the investigated triticale cultivars

/Year	2014/2015		2015/2016		2016/2017		/Average	
	Y	VC	Y	VC	Y	VC	Y	VC
/Genotype	kg/da	%	kg/da	%	kg/da	%	kg/da	%
Mean standard*	654	-	535	-	683	-	624 ^{bcd}	-
-7291/AD-7291	589	8,02	596	10,75	602	9,27	596 ^{bcd}	8,57
/Vihren	584	14,92	540	5,93	631	12,98	585 ^{bc}	12,90
/Rakita	725	12,69	529	6,97	735	10,76	663 ^{ef}	18,02
/Lasko	765	5,02	455	9,49	614	6,83	611 ^{bcd}	22,48
/Presto	771	7,92	436	14,51	681	6,18	630 ^{bcd}	24,86
/Kolorit	685	7,13	543	5,14	644	15,73	624 ^{bcd}	13,96
/Atila	763	3,49	632	13,96	757	4,12	717 ^f	11,29
/Akord	767	8,43	552	6,98	691	6,13	670 ^{ef}	15,43
/Respekt	704	9,51	320	23,63	679	4,39	567 ^{ab}	33,74
/Bumerang	779	12,54	424	25,03	776	7,14	659 ^{def}	29,10
/Irnik	793	12,93	521	14,45	603	7,74	639 ^{cde}	21,66
/Dobrudzhanets	643	24,90	469	11,57	770	6,97	627 ^{bcd}	25,32
/Lovchanets	626	15,73	378	18,50	564	5,12	522 ^a	24,42
52/Doni 52	803	15,72	611	6,80	745	6,99	720 ^f	15,60
/Blagovest	747	11,51	543	15,99	713	6,24	667 ^{ef}	17,28
/Borislav	839	10,39	605	7,73	711	6,51	718 ^f	16,02
/Average	724		509		682		638	
LSD 0,05	38,1		43,5		32,5		-	
LSD 0,01	50,1		57,1		42,8		-	
LSD 0,001	64,0		73,0		54,6		-	

* The mean standard is formed as a mean value from the yields of cultivars Vihren and Rakita
 Y – /yield; VC – /coefficient of variation; LSD – /least significant difference

94 kg/da

52

(11 16, 2)

2017

5 16 (2)

(Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016c).

(Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016a).

Duncan (2) 52,

The response of the cultivars, although variable during the three investigated periods, allowed outlining tendencies within a certain genotype. In this respect cultivars Atila, Doni 52 and Borislav significantly exceeded the mean standard of yield, respectively with 93, 96 and 94 kg/da at a very high level of significance in all three harvest years. This is evident both from the Duncan test and from the minimal significant differences for the three levels of . It is noteworthy that during the first harvest year a large part of the cultivars (11 out of 16, Table 2) significantly exceeded the mean standard. This is so because the conditions of the environment were very favorable for the development of the plants and they managed to realize their productivity potential. Although the yields were high in 2017, too, only 5 out of 16 cultivars (Table 2) exceeded the mean standard due to the specific growing conditions. Respectively, cultivars such as Kolorit, Dobrudzhanets and Lovchanets are characterized as extremely unresponsive to the year of growing and are often at the level of the mean standard or below it. Cultivars such as Respect, Boomerang and Irnik also did not outline a general tendency. Their response with regard to yield was rather specific and within the investigated period a certain model of their productivity could not be defined. Similar response has been observed in previous investigations (Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016c). Cultivars Accord and Blagovest demonstrated specific behavior. In a long-term aspect, different investigations have emphasized their stable yields over years (Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016a). Nevertheless, under contrasting conditions of the environment in certain years, the obtained data are rather contradictory. Their results from the Duncan test (Table 2) approximate the results for the yield of cultivar Doni 52, Atila and Borislav, but at a level of probability a little below 95%. This makes

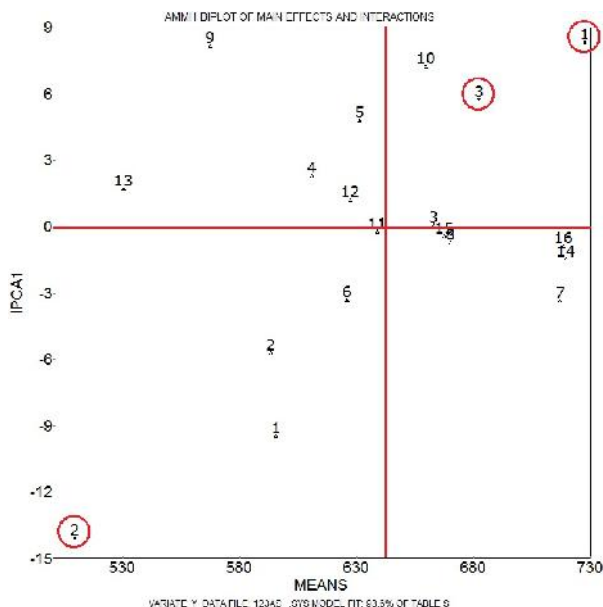
95%.

(1)

AMMI

- the two genotypes unique by their productivity and suitable for growing under conditions of the environment which are closer to the long-term tendency.

The results from the AMMI model (Figure 1) clearly confirmed the results of the yield and the significance of the differences between the three harvest years in the investigated triticale cultivars.



1. AMMI1

Fig. 1. AMMI1 biplot for combined productivity and stability of yield.

: 1. -7291; 2. ; 3. ; 4. ; 5. ; 6. ; 7. ; 8. ; 9. ; 10. ; 11. ; 12. ; 13. ; 14. 52; 15. ; 16. (); 1. 2014/2015; 2. 2015/2016; 3. 2016/2017
 Genotypes: 1. -7291; 2. Vihren; 3. Rakita; 4. Lasko; 5. Presto; 6. Kolorit; 7. Atila; 8. Akord; 9. Respekt; 10. Boomerang; 11. Irnik; 12. Dobrudzhanets; 13. Lovchanets; 14. Doni 52; 15. Blagovest; 16. Borislav.
 Years (in red circles): 1. 2014/2015; 2. 2015/2016; 3. 2016/2017

- The high-yielding and stable genotypes Atila, Akord, Doni 52, Blagovest and Borislav were clearly outlined. These cultivars were clearly differentiated by their yield and its stability from cultivars Kolorit, Dobrudzhanets, Lovchanets, Irnik, the world standards Lasko and Presto and the standards -7291 and Vihren, which demonstrated low productivity and stability during the period

(Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016b)

52

(Arseniuk, 2015).

(Stoyanov et al., 2015).

(Stoyanov et al., 2015).

Randhawa et al. (2015).

30%.

3.

20

of investigation. This emphasized the importance of the contrasting conditions of the environment for the differentiation of the genotypes according to their productivity. In a previous investigation on the same genotypes (Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016b), identical results were reported. This allows the conclusion that cultivars Atila, Doni 52 and Borislav possess the unique ability to realize high yields under highly variable conditions of the environment.

The realization of a high potential for yield under contrasting growing conditions implies high tolerance to a complex of abiotic factors (Arseniuk, 2015). From a breeding point of view, some of the most important stress factors are related to the effect of the low temperatures and the duration of the soil and air drought (Stoyanov et al., 2015).

Therefore the cold tolerance and the drought tolerance are key elements with regard to obtaining a high-yielding and stable genotype of winter hexaploid triticale (Stoyanov et al., 2015).

Similar breeding tendencies have been pointed out in the researches of Randhawa et al. (2015). The investigated triticale cultivars showed variable reaction both with regard to drought and cold tolerance. The data on the response to drought of some of the productivity components in triticale are given in Table 3.

The data presented as reduction of the values of a given index under drought according to the irrigated check variant give an idea about the specific response of each genotype to the action of the stress factor. Concerning plant height, the percent of the response was comparatively low – between 20 and 30 %. Nevertheless, such decrease of the plant height is related to an overall decrease of the vegetative mass of the plants and hence – to reduction of their photosynthetic apparatus (Pinheiro and

2011). (Pinheiro and Chaves, 2011).

3.

Chaves, 2011).

Therefore, the greater reduction of the plant height according to the check variant is related to a more limited productivity potential. According to this index, highest was the reaction to drought of cultivars Akord, Atila, Boomerang and Blagovest, and lowest – of cultivars Kolorit, Irnik, Dobrudzhanets and Borislav (Table 3). With regard to the national and world standards, only Rakita had a higher reaction.

Table 3. Reduction of the investigated traits in % resulting from drought in comparison to the irrigated check variant

Genotype	PH	NPT	NGS	WGS	1000 M1000	ARA
-7291/AD-7291	28,5*	22,7	46,6	42,7	-8,3	13,4
/Vihren	26,9	11,3	53,6	57,4	8,8	9,6
/Rakita	32,2	42,0	49,6	53,4	5,5	7,4
/Lasko	29,3	30,3	41,3	50,5	17,8	10,4
/Kolorit	29,9	32,6	54,6	61,0	14,5	5,0
/Atila	32,4	26,2	49,8	53,7	7,9	8,2
/Akord	35,1	46,1	57,2	56,9	13,7	3,4
/Respekt	30,5	38,0	48,8	56,9	19,0	6,2
/Boomerang	32,2	28,0	46,7	52,6	11,3	9,0
/Irnik	28,0	37,9	51,8	57,1	11,4	7,4
/Dobrudzhanets	28,0	12,6	47,4	52,5	9,8	11,8
/Lovchanets	30,4	25,8	52,2	62,2	23,6	5,4
52/Doni 52	31,0	29,4	51,6	49,3	-3,2	9,8
/Blagovest	31,7	31,0	44,1	55,7	21,3	7,2
/Borislav	29,3	46,4	42,3	59,0	29,5	5,8

/PH – /plant height; /NPT – /number of grains per spike; /WGS – /number of productive tillers; /NGS – /weight of grains per spike; 1000/M1000 – /thousand kernel weight; /ARA – /average rank assessment

* /In Bold are presented the most adequate reaction to drought.

and Penchev, 2014).

The number of productive tillers is a factor, which was also largely affected by drought (Petrova and Penchev, 2014). This was so because the reduced number of tillers is an effective mechanism for distribution of the limited resources for the duration of the limiting

52.

1000

(3).

52.

1000

(3,)

7291

(3,)

(Randhawa et al., 2015; 2015).

(4)

2015/2016

Among the investigated cultivars, Atila, Dobrudzhanets ana Doni 52 were with good response to drought according to WGS. This behavior was related to the results of the response of M1000 as an index directly influenced by the process of grain filling and maturation. Cultivars Atila, Boomerang, Dobrudzhanets and Doni 52 showed also a good reaction with regard to M1000 during the investigated period (Table 3). Low response to drought was demonstrated by cultivars Kolorit, Akord, Respect, Lovchanets, Blagovest and Borislav under the conditions of this experiment.

The data on the reaction of the individual indices as a whole allowed following the rather wide variation and the absence of a general tendency in the ranking of the cultivars by their complex tolerance to drought. The results from the ranking of the investigated genotypes (Table 3, ARA) also allowed following the complex response to the stress factor in a quantitative respect. Within this experiment, the most drought resistant cultivars were Atila, Boomerang, Dobrudzhanets, Doni 52, the national standards -7291 and Vihren, and the world standard Lasko. Respectively, cultivars Kolorit, Akord, Respekt, Irnik, Lovchanets, Blagovest and Borislav were with insufficient drought tolerance.

In parallel with the drought tolerance, the tolerance to low temperatures is the other very important trait which the developed triticale cultivars should possess (Randhawa et al., 2015; Stoyanov et al., 2015). The data from the experiment, under conditions of two different levels of hardening (Table 4), revealed certain differences with regard to cold tolerance. Under the conditions of 2015/2016, the best differentiation of the standards and respectively a possibility to differentiate the individual triticale genotypes by their cold tolerance, was observed at temperature -12°C and at the

		second freezing. Cultivars Akord, Respekt, Dobrudzhanets, Doni 52 and Borislav were with the best readings for cold tolerance. Cultivar Mironovskaya 808 was at the level of Respekt, cultivar Borislav – between Mironovskaya 808 and Bezostaya 1, and cultivars Akord, Dobrudzhanets and Doni 52 were at the level of Bezostaya 1. With moderate cold tolerance at the level of No301 are Bumerang, Lovchanets and Blagovest.	
-12°C			
	52		
	808		
	808	1	
		1	
		52.	
	301		
4.			%

Table 4. Cold resistance of triticale cultivars, %, according to common winter wheat standards

/ Genotype	2015/2016 -12° **	2016/2017 -19,6°	ARA
-7291/AD-7291	44,6	71,3	9,2
/Vihren	29,6	72,8	9,4
/Rakita	21,4	63,8	5,2
/Lasko	37,6	65,8	8,4
/Kolorit	26,4	37,3	1,6
/Atila	20,6	65,5	6,8
/Akord	56,8	67,5	15,2
/Respekt	83,8	92,5	19,2
/Bumerang	39,6	71,3	13,2
/Irnik	26,4	63,0	6,4
/Dobrudzhanets	53,0	60,3	9
/Lovchanets	41,4	42,0	9
52/Doni 52	50,6	65,5	10,4
/Blagovest	41,0	55,5	8,2
/Borislav	70,0	65,8	15
808/Mironovska 808	78,4	92,3	-
1/Bezostaya 1	53,2	76,8	-
301/No 301	43,0	70,0	-
/Rusalka	34,3	64,0	-
San Pastore	12,6	47,8	-

**

** after second freezing

/ARA –

/average rank assessment

2016/2017	Under the conditions of 2016/2017,
-19,6°C.	- the standards differentiated best at
	- temperature -19.6° C. Cultivars Respekt
	- and Boomerang demonstrated the best
	cold tolerance, Respect being again at

808, 301. Baychev and Petrova (2009), Baychev and Petrova (2011), Petrova and Baychev (2007), 808, 301. (Liu et al., 2014), (Petrova et al., 1997). 4,) (3 4) 2

- the level of Mironovskaya 808, and Boomerang – between Bezostaya 1 and No 301. Akord also showed cold tolerance close to that of No 301. The investigations of Baychev and Petrova (2009, 2011) and Petrova and Baychev (2007) reveal that the cultivars had similar response. According to these authors, cultivar Respekt is at the level of Mironovskaya 808, Akord – at the level of Bezostaya 1, and Boomerang – at the level of No 301. This shows that the above cultivars followed a similar tendency under different levels of hardening during different years. Similar results have been reported for other triticale genotypes, (Liu et al., 2014) and also for common winter wheat varieties (Petrova et al., 1997).

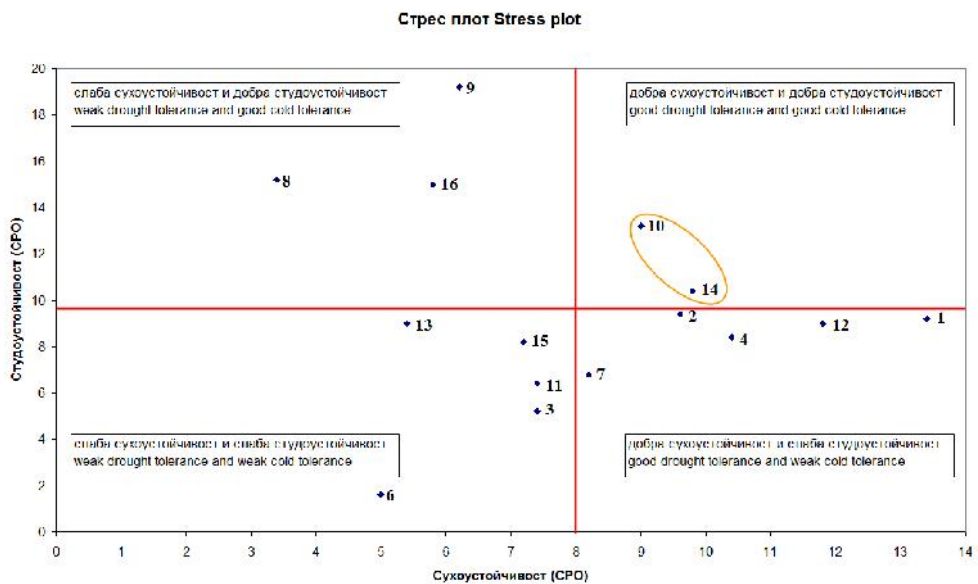
The data on the cold tolerance average rank assessment (Table 4, ARA) were based on the freezing temperatures, and a good level of differentiation of the standards was reached. The investigated genotypes demonstrated high and good cold tolerance under the conditions of the experiment, only Kolorit and Irnik realizing cold tolerance at the level of or lower than the standard Russalka.

This revealed a high efficiency of the breeding process with regard to improvement of the tolerance to low temperatures.

The obtained results on the drought tolerance and the cold tolerance (Table 3 and 4) allowed the assumption that under the conditions of the field and laboratory experiments carried out, certain genotypes demonstrated a degree of higher tolerance to cold and drought. The rather diverse data, however, did not allow a direct assessment for good combination of the two traits. Figure 2 presents a stress plot illustrating the simultaneous ranking of the two traits – drought resistance and cold tolerance. The variable combination of the levels of tolerance to the two types of stress was

52
52
(Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016b).
52

clear and distinct, and simultaneously groups were formed which demonstrated (or did not) certain resistance. Under the conditions of this experiment, the best combination of cold and drought resistance was observed in cultivars Doni 52 and Boomerang. It should be pointed out that the two genotypes are characterized as high-yielding as well, and Doni 52 possesses in addition very high yield stability (Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016b). This allows assessing cultivar Doni 52 as exceptionally responsive to the growing conditions and with high potential for practical realization.



. 2.

Fig. 2. Stress plot of combined ranks of cold and drought resistance

: 1. -7291; 2. ; 3. ; 4. ; 6. ; 7. ; 8. ; 9. ;
10. ; 11. ; 12. ; 13. ; 14. 52; 15. ; 16. .
Genotypes: 1. -7291; 2. Vihren; 3. Rakita; 4. Lasko; 6. Kolorit;
7. Atila; 8. Akord; 9. Respekt; 10. Boomerang; 11. Irnik; 12. Dobrudzhanets; 13. Lovchanets; 14. Doni 52;
15. Blagovest; 16. Borislav.

High-yielding cultivars such as Akord and Borislav possess very good cold tolerance as well, while cultivars Atila and Dobrudzhanets combine

productivity with high drought resistance. Cultivar Blagovest is also noteworthy, which, in spite of the negative results from the field and laboratory tests, possesses high productivity and stability.

The above results clearly show that the purposeful breeding and improvement work on the main factors leading to higher productivity is imminently related to higher stability and tolerance to stress.

The world breeding programs inevitably follow similar tendencies (Randhawa et al., 2015), which is an evidence that triticale is a crop of high potential for yield even under highly contrasting environments (Stoyanov and Baychev, 2016a). The contemporary Bulgarian cultivars successfully combine in this respect productivity, stability and tolerance to drought and cold, which definitely makes them a modern breeding achievement and an exceptional product with a place of their own in the agrarian practice.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the above results, the following conclusions can be made:

1. Cultivars Atila, Doni 52 and Borislav demonstrated highest productivity, averaged for the three periods of investigation under contrasting conditions of the environment, at a high level of significance of the differences in comparison to the mean standard and the world productivity standard Lasko.
2. Cultivars Akord, Doni 52, Blagovest and Borislav showed high stability of yield under the conditions of the trials carried out, in combination with high productivity.
3. Cultivars Atila, Boomerang, Dobrudzhanets and Doni 52 exhibited high levels of drought resistance according to the structural components of yield under the conditions of this experiment.

- | | | |
|----|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4. | - | 4. Extremely high cold tolerance |
| 5. | - | under different levels of hardening was demonstrated by cultivars Respekt, Akord and Borislav, and cultivars Doni 52 and Boomerang showed good cold tolerance. |
| 5. | - | 5. Under the conditions of the experiments and the tests carried out, cultivars Boomerang and Doni 52 demonstrated good combination of productivity, stability, cold and drought tolerance, which makes them an achievement of triticale breeding in Bulgaria. |

/ REFERENCES

1. **Arseniuk, E.**, 2015. Triticale abiotic stresses – an overview. In: Eudes, F. (ed.), *Triticale*, pp 68-81.
2. **Baychev, V.**, 2013. Triticale lines and varieties grown under contrasting meteorological conditions. *Scientific Works of Institute of Agriculture - Karnobat*, 2(1), 79-86 (Bg).
3. **Baychev V. and T. Petrova**, 2009. Tricale "Accord" – A New Cold Resistant Grain Variety. *Field Crops Studies*, 5(1), 71-77 (Bg).
4. **Baychev, V. and T. Petrova**, 2011. Triticale "Respect" – a new highly productive variety of unique cold resistance. *Field Crops Studies*, 7(1), 63-70.
5. **Blum, A., S. Ramaiah, E.T. Kanemasu and G.M. Paulsen**, 1990. Wheat recovery from drought stress at the tillering stage of development. *Field Crops Research*, 24(1-2), 67-85.
6. **Boyer, J.S.**, 1982. Plant productivity and environment. *Science*, 218(4571), 443-448.
7. **Chahal, G.S. and S.S. Gosal**, 2000. Principles and procedures of plant breeding: Biotechnological and conventional approaches. CRC Press, New York.
8. **Cramer, G. R., K. Urano, S. Delrot, M. Pezzotti and K. Shinozaki**, 2011. Effects of abiotic stress on plants: a systems biology perspective. *BMC Plant Biology*, 11, 163. <http://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2229-11-163>
9. **Dhindsa, G.S., A.S. Dosanjh, V.S. Sohn, J.S. Dhindsa and J.C. Goyali**, 2002. Genotype x Environment interaction for yield components in hexaploid triticale. In: Proceedings of the 5th International Triticale Symposium, Volume II, June 30 - July 5, 2002, Radzikow, Poland, pp 199-200.
10. **Dimitrijevic M., D. Knežević, S. Petrovic, V. Zecevic, J. Boškovic, M. Belic, B. Pejic and B. Banjac**, 2011. Stability of yield components in wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.). *Genetika*, 43(1), 29-39.
11. **Goyali, J.C. and G.S. Dhindsa**, 2003. Stability behaviour of some triticale (x*Triticosecale* Wittmack) genotypes for yield and yield components. *Triticale Topicos*, 19, 17-21.
12. **Ishag, H.M. and B.A. Mohamed**, 1996. Phasic development of spring wheat and stability of yield and its components in hot environments. *Field Crops Research*, 46: 169-176
13. **Liu, W., H.P. Maurer, G. Li, M.R. Tucker, M. Gowda, E.A. Weissmann, V. Hahn and T. Wuerschum**, 2014. Genetic architecture of winter hardiness and frost tolerance in Triticale. *PLoS ONE*, 9(6): e99848. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0099848

14. **Lozano-del Río, A.J., V.M. Zamora-Villa, L. Ibarra-Jiménez, S.A. Rodríguez-Herrera, E. de la Cruz-Lázaro and M. de la Rosa-Ibarra**, 2009. AMMI analysis of genotype-environment interaction and production potential of forage triticale (*X Triticosecale* Wittm.). *Universidad y Ciencia Tropico Humedo*, 25(31), 81-92.
15. **Petrova, T., I. Todorov, Z. Yougovich and E. Penchev**, 1997. Combining ability of Bulgarian and Serbian winter wheat varieties for frost resistance. In: *Proceedings Int. Symp. Cereal. Adapt. To Low Temp. Stress*. Martonvasar, Hungary, June 2-4, 1997, pp 127-130.
16. **Petrova, T. and V. Baychev**, 2007. Triticale lines, which possess high cold tolerance and productivity. In: *Book of International Conference Plant Genetic Stocks – The Basis of Agriculture of Today*, Plovdiv, pp. 127-129 (Bg).
17. **Petrova, T. and E. Penchev**, 2014. Effect of drought on the yield components of common winter wheat cultivars. *Turkish Journal of Agricultural and Natural Sciences*, Special Issue: 1.
18. **Pinheiro, C. and M.M. Chaves**, 2011. Photosynthesis and drought: can we make metabolic connections from available data?, *Journal of Experimental Botany*, 62(3), 869-882
19. **Randhawa, H.S., L. Bona and R.J. Graf**, 2015. Triticale breeding – Progress and Prospect. In: *Eudes, F. (ed.), Triticale*, pp. 14-32.
20. **Stoyanov, H., V. Baychev and T. Petrova**, 2015. Frost and drought tolerance – main task in triticale breeding. In: *Scientific Works of Institute of Agriculture Karnobat* (in press) (Bg).
21. **Stoyanov, H. and V. Baychev**, 2016a. Achievements and trends in the breeding of triticale in Bulgaria. 9th International Triticale Symposium, Szeged, Hungary, May 23-27, 2016, *Book of Abstracts*, pp. 20.
22. **Stoyanov, H. and V. Baychev**, 2016b. Analysis on “Genotype x Environment” Interaction in Bulgarian Triticale (*xTriticosecale* Wittm.) Cultivars. *Scientific works of Institute of Agriculture Karnobat*, (in press)
23. **Stoyanov, H. and V. Baychev**, 2016c. Assessment of Yield Components Stability and Plasticity in Bulgarian Triticale (*xTriticosecale* Wittm.) Cultivars. *Scientific works of Institute of Agriculture Karnobat*, (in press)
24. **Tanchev, D. and V. Baychev**, 2007. Self-tolerance of grain triticale, variety Rakita grown as a short-term continuous crop under the conditions of Strandja region. *Field Crops Studies*, 4(1), 81-85 (Bg).
25. **Tsenov, A. and D. Petrova**, 1984. Methods for Evaluation of Selection Materials from Winter Cereals and Grain-Legumes to Stress Impacts. *Plant Breeding Sciences*, XXI(6), 77-85.