

(*Pisum sativum* L.)

*

, 5800 ,

Influence of Technology on the Cultivation of Spring Forage Pea (*Pisum sativum* L.) on the Yield of Forage and Crude Protein

Todor Kertikov*, Daniela Kertikova

Institute of forage crops, 5800 Pleven, Bulgaria

**E-mail: t.kertikov@abv.bg*

Original scientific paper

Received: 16.04.2019

Accepted: 25.04.2019

Published: 17.06.2019

SUMMARY

2011-2013 .
(*Pisum sativum* L.)
" " .
: 1 -
2 -
() ; 3 -
(" ")
.
" " 15,33% 20,15%
14,13% 16,06%

The field experiment was conducted in the period 2011-2013 with spring forage pea (*Pisum sativum* L.) cv. "Kerpo". The aim is to establish the influence of technology on the cultivation of spring forage pea on the yield of forage and crude protein. Variants of cultivation: 1 control – by standard technology including fertilization and treatment with herbicides and insecticides; 2 – without the use of preparations of inorganic origin (biological); 3 – treatment only with bio insecticide ("Ecofil P") of organic origin. It was found that the applied different technologies have a significant impact on the change of some quantitative indicators of productivity.

The yields of dry forage mass in the biological way of cultivation of pea and treatment with "Ecofil P" are from 15.33% to 20.15% and crude protein from 14.13% to 16.06% lower compared to the

(*Pisum sativum* L.)

The aim of the study is to investigate the impact of the technologies applied in the cultivation of spring forage pea (*Pisum sativum* L.) on the production of forage and crude protein.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

2011-2013 .
(Kertikova and Kertikov, 2013).
10 m².
(Kertikov et al., 2003),
2 –
3 –
3,5 l/da.
BCS
(kg.da⁻¹)
(da).
(%, +/-)

The experiment was conducted during the period 2011-2013 in the second experimental field in Institute of Forage Crops with pea cv. Kerpo. The variety has a high grain yield and earliness (Kertikova and Kertikov, 2013). The study was conducted on the soil subtype slightly leached chernozem, without irrigation. It used the split plot method with four repetitions of the variants and a size of 10 m² of harvest plot. Variants of the field experience: Variant 1 control – a conventional technology (Kertikov et al. 2003), including fertilization and treatment with herbicides and insecticides; Variant 2 – without the use of preparations of inorganic origin (biological); Variant 3 – treatment only with bio insecticide ("Ecofil P") of organic origin. Treatment with bio preparation "Ecofil P" is performed in phenophase full flowering at a dose of 3.5 l/da.

Harvesting crops is done with a small-scale mowing machine – BCS in phenophase full bottom pods of pea. The yields of fresh and dry matter (kg.da⁻¹) of spring pea and available weed biomass were established.

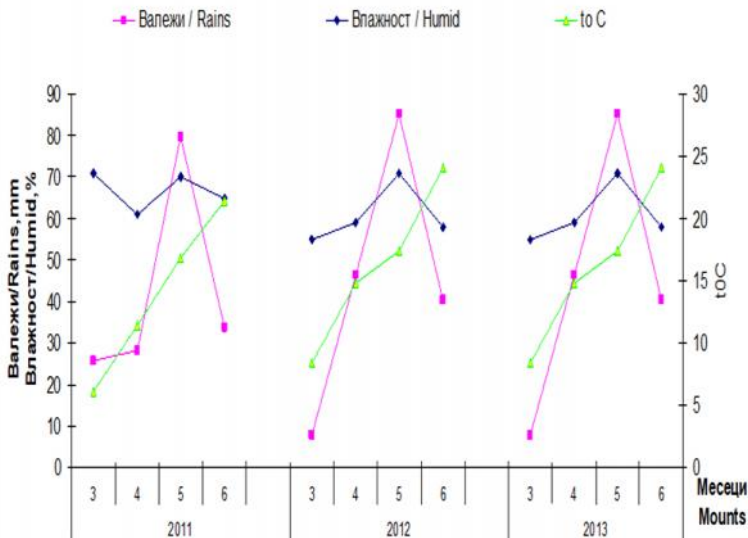
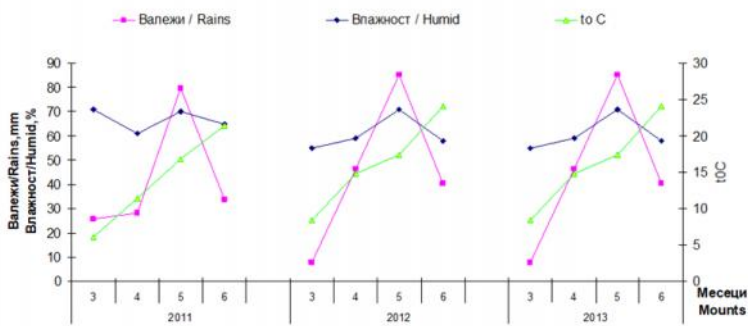
By standard methods, chemical analysis of forage biomass from spring pea and weeds was performed. The content of dry matter, crude protein, crude fiber, calcium and phosphorus was reported. The yields of crude protein (kg.da⁻¹) of the forage biomass of pea, weed biomass, and unit area (da) are reflected. The deviations (% , +/-) of the control variant were calculated. All experimental data were statistically processed using the software STATGRAPHYCS plus for Windows Version 2.1.

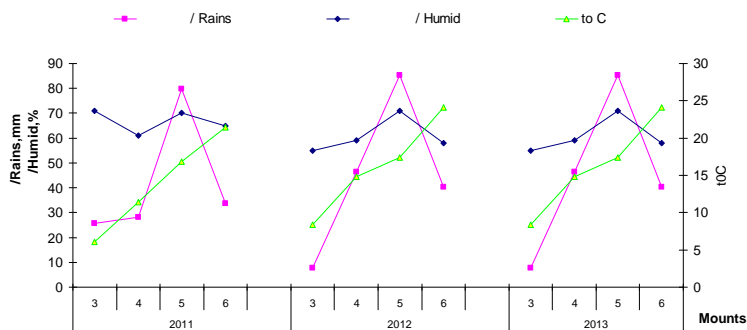
STATGRAPHYCS plus for Windows Version 2.1.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The agro-meteorological data (Figure 1) for the development of spring forage pea indicate that in the first year there was no real possibility of betting on the field experiment until the end of March. Available temperatures in the third ten days are equal to 9.8°C, with relatively low soil moisture.

Full germination in all three variants was recorded at the beginning of the second 10 days of April.





1. , 2011-2013 .
Fig. 1. Klimatogram for the vegetation period, 2011-2013

The spring vegetation period is characterized by frequent rainfall and optimal temperatures for culture development. In the second year, the seasonal changes in the agro-meteorological environment are typical for March. At the end of the first ten days, the air temperature is negative (-1.2°C). Precipitation during the month is extremely low (7.6 mm/m²), but due to the heavy snowfall during the winter, the soil was well humid. Pea sowing was done as soon as possible. During the spring growing season, conditions were favourable for the conduct of vegetation processes. Characteristic for March 2013 is that good soil humidification coupled with favourable air temperature and sowing capacity was created only at the beginning of the third ten days of March when the field experiment was made. The development of spring forage pea in April conducted at temperatures around and above the climatic norms for the month. In the next months agro-meteorological conditions were normal for the good development of culture.

The spring vegetation period is characterized by frequent rainfall and optimal temperatures for culture development. In the second year, the seasonal changes in the agro-meteorological environment are typical for March. At the end of the first ten days, the air temperature is negative (-1.2°C). Precipitation during the month is extremely low (7.6 mm/m²), but due to the heavy snowfall during the winter, the soil was well humid. Pea sowing was done as soon as possible. During the spring growing season, conditions were favourable for the conduct of vegetation processes. Characteristic for March 2013 is that good soil humidification coupled with favourable air temperature and sowing capacity was created only at the beginning of the third ten days of March when the field experiment was made. The development of spring forage pea in April conducted at temperatures around and above the climatic norms for the month. In the next months agro-meteorological conditions were normal for the good development of culture.

(1).
10,55%

1826,68 kg.da⁻¹

16,95%

(„ ”)

– 19,20% 20,31%,

From the results obtained for the average fresh mass yields of pea it was found that in standard technology it reached 1826.68 kg.da⁻¹ (Table 1). The same is higher by 10.55% of that obtained in crops grown without the use of preparations of inorganic origin and by 16.95% compared to that obtained from treatment with bio insecticide ("Ecofil P").

The differences in the reported percentage of dry matter in the fresh mass of pea, depending on the cultivation technology, are in a very narrow range – from 19.20% to 20.31%, i.e. within the margin of error.

1.
2011-2013 ., kg.da⁻¹

Table 1. Yields of fresh and dry forage mass from spring pea, average for the period 2011-2013, kg.da⁻¹

Treatments	/ Indicators						
	Fresh forage mass			Dry forage mass			
	Pea	Weeds	Total	Pea	Weeds	Total	Deviation %,+/-
1							
Variant 1 – control	1826.68 ^a	-	1826.68 ^a	371.63 ^a	-	371.63 ^a	-
/ Variant 2	1128.38 ^c	505.75 ^a	1634.13 ^b	223.81 ^c	90.85 ^a	314.66 ^b	- 15.33
/ Variant 3	1196.77 ^b	320.25 ^b	1517.02 ^c	235.36 ^b	61.38 ^b	296.74 ^c	- 20.15
LSD _{99,5%} (kg.da ⁻¹)	9.872	12.020	14.591	5.202	1.452	6.849	

320,75 kg.da⁻¹,

505,75 kg.da⁻¹.

(371,63 kg.da⁻¹),

+ () 15,33%

In crops of the second and third variants in the final yields a fresh mass is measured and a higher quantity of weed biomass. In the crop treated with the bio insecticide, the weight of fresh weed vegetation reaches 320.75 kg.da⁻¹, while in crops grown without the use of preparations of inorganic origin the weight of weeds grows to 505.75 kg.da⁻¹.

The yield of absolutely dry matter is also highest in the conventional way of pea growing (371.63 kg.da⁻¹), while in the other two technological approaches, the yields (pea mass + weed mass) are 15.33% to 20.15% lower.

20,15% - , -

,

” ”

2). - 17,78% 18,06% (

,

3,0% -

,

) (14,08-14,87%), (1,451-1,789%) (0,340-0,395%)

,

5,0%

- It appears that standard spring pea cultivation technology is more effective in forage production compared to its biological methods or treatment with bio-insecticide "Ecofil P".

- The purpose of the produced forage mass is to feed it from farm animals. In this regard, the quality of the forage obtained is of particular importance. The chemical analysis of pea forage biomass shows that the crude protein content between the different variants is very close – from 17.78% to 18.06% (Table 2).

- In this case, the three different crop cultivation techniques applied did not significantly affect the percentage of crude protein in spring pea biomass. In weeds, the crude protein content is more than 3.0% lower than in pea forage.

- Here too, the different crop cultivation methods applied do not affect the content of crude protein.

- The percentage of crude fiber (14.08-14.87%), calcium (1.451-1.789%) and phosphorus (0.340-0.395%) in biomass are also close to the individual variants (crops) of pea.

- Similar is the trend in the results of weed biomass. An exception is the crude fiber content. They do not differ in content depending on the different technological factors of cultivation, but are on average more than 5.0% above the biomass content of pea.

2.

%

(2011-2013)

Table 2. Chemical analysis of forage biomass from spring pea in % of the dry substance (average for 2011-2013)

Treatments	Dry substance	Crude protein	Crude fiber	Calcium	Phosphorus
/ Biomass from forage pea					
1 –					
Variant 1 – control	91.17	18.06	14.71	1.789	0.395
2 / Variant 2	91.48	17.78	14.08	1.458	0.340
3 / Variant 3	91.51	17.98	14.87	1.451	0.340
/ Biomass from weeds					
1 –					
Variant 1 – control	-	-	-	-	-
/ Variant 2	92.78	14.53	19.39	1.147	0.374
/ Variant 3	92.50	14.30	19.58	1.882	0.393

(67,16 kg.da⁻¹),42,29 kg.da⁻¹(39,79 kg.da⁻¹
3).

The crude protein yields of pea are comparatively higher in standard technology (67.16 kg.da⁻¹), while in the other two process technologies the yields are from 39.79 kg.da⁻¹ to 42.29 kg.da⁻¹ (Table 3).

3.

2011-2013 , kg.da⁻¹**Table 3. Crude protein yield, average for the period 2011-2013, kg.da⁻¹**

/ Treatments	/ Crude protein			
	/ Pea	Weeds /	/ Total	/ Deviation %,+/-
1 –				
Variant 1 – control	67.12 ^a	-	67.12 ^a	-
/ Variant 2	39.79 ^b	13.20 ^a	52.99 ^b	- 14.13
/ Variant 3	42.29 ^b	8.77 ^b	51.06 ^c	- 16.06
LSD _{99,5%} (kg.da ⁻¹)	2.849	1.458	1.899	

kg.da⁻¹13,20 kg.da⁻¹.

8,77

26,66%

31,45%

-

”

”.

,

The crude protein obtained from the weed biomass in the crops of the second and third variants is from 8.77 kg.da⁻¹ to 13.20 kg.da⁻¹. As a total yield, in the conventional way of pea growing, the crude protein is from 26.66% to 31.45% higher than in the biological way and in the treatment with "Ecofil P". It is clear that the use of different technologies in forage crops for spring pea leads to substantial changes in some quantitative and qualitative performance indicators.

CONCLUSIONS

- The different cultivation technologies applied to spring forage pea have a significant impact on the change in some quantitative indicators of productivity. The yields of dry forage mass in the biological way of cultivation of pea and treatment with "Ecofil P" are from 15.33% to 20.15% and crude protein from 14.13% to 16.06% lower compared to the conventional technology.

15,33%

20,15%

14,13%

16,06%

The technologies used did not make a significant change on the quality of the forage.

/ REFERENCES

1. **Gramatikov, B. and V. Koteva**, 2006. Action Humatniya Micro Fertilizer "Humustim" on the Productivity of Some Field Crops, *Filed Crops Studies*, 3 (3), 413-419 (Bg).
2. **Hone cutt, W.**, 1998. Crop Rotation Impacts on Potato Protein, *Plant Foods Hum. Nutr.*, 52(4), 279-281.
3. **Jacobs, J. and G. Ward**, 2008. Dry Matter Yields and Nutritive Value of Silage from Cereal and Pea Combinations. In: Proceedings of the 14th Australian Agronomy Conference. September 2008, Australian Society of Agronomy, Edited by M.J. Unkovich. www.agronomy.org.au
4. **Kertikov, T., I. Popov, D. Naneva, Ts. Dimitrova, M. Stoikova and N. Georgieva**, 2003. Technology for the Production of Spring Forage Pea. *Agriculture plus*, Sofia, 1, 2-16 (Bg).
5. **Kertikov, T.**, 2010. Study on Agronomic Aspects of Feed Pea and Vetch. Habilitation work, Pleven, Bulgaria.
6. **Kertikova, D. and . Kertikov**, 2013. Comparative Characteristics of Spring Forage Pea Varieties. *Journal of Mountain Agriculture on the Balkans*, 16 (2), 492-504.
7. **Kertikov, . and D. Kertikova**, 2017. Study on Grain Yield of Spring Field Pea Variety "Kerpo" Depending on the Technology of Cultivation. *Journal of Mountain Agriculture on the Balkans*, 20 (5), 98-106.
8. **Kertikov, ., . Atanasov, . Ilieva and D. Kertikova**, 2018. Biochemical Characteristics of Spring Forage Pea (*Pisum sativum* L.) cv. "Kerpo" Depending on the Technology of Cultivation. In: Proceedings of University of Ruse, 57 (1), 38-43 (Bg).
9. **Kuleva, O. N. and V. Kuznetsov**, 2004. Recent Achievements and Prospects for Studying the Mechanism of Action of Phytohormones and their Participation in the Signal Systems of the Whole Plant. *Vestnik RFFI*, 2, 12-36 (Ru).
10. **Mustafa, A. and P. Seguin**, 2004. Chemical Composition and In Vitro Digestibility of Whole-Crop Pea and Pea-Cereal Mixture Silages Grown in South-western Quebec. *J. Agronomy & Crop Science*, 190, 416-421.
11. **Nickel, G.**, 1982. Plant Growth Regulators Agricultural Uses. *Springer - Verlag*, Berlin, Heidelberg New York.

12. **Ryabtseva, Y.**, 2009. Some Theoretical and Experimental Data on Specific Organs of Fixation of Nitrogen-Root Tubers Formed as a Result of Symbiosis of Pea Seed (*Pisum sativum* L.) and Tuberos Bacteria (*Rhizobium*). *Agraren vestnik*, Ural, 6 (60), 41-44 (Ru).
13. **Sarker, A., R. Neupane, F. Sakr, A. Ashkar, Lutfir and W. Erskine**, 2002. More Grain from Less Rain. ICARDA's Strategy to Improve Lentil for Resource-Poor Farmers in Dry Areas. ICARDA, Caravan, 17.
14. **Skubisz, G.**, 2002. Method for the Determination of the Mechanical Properties of Pea Stems. *Int. Agro physics*, 16, 73-77.
15. **Y u, K. and M. Bounejmateb**, 2003. Barley Legumes Rotations for Semi-Arid Areas of Lebanon. *European Journal of Agronomy*, 19 (4), 599-610.

(*Vicia pannonica* Grantz)

1, 2, 1*
1, 5800
2, 5200

Breeding Efficiency of Individual Selection in Wild Growing Populations of Hungarian Vetch (*Vicia pannonica* Grantz)

Valentin Kosev¹, Galina Naydenova², Natalia Georgieva^{1*}

¹Institute of Forage Crops, 5800 Pleven, Bulgaria

²Experimental Station on Soybean, 5200 Pavlikeni, Bulgaria

* -mail: imnatalia@abv.bg

Original scientific paper

Received: 27.03.2019

Accepted: 15.05.2019

Published: 17.06.2019

SUMMARY

(2, 12 13)
striata (*Vicia pannonica* ssp.
striata) *pannonica* (*Vicia pannonica* ssp.
pannonica)

13/16 (13)
(1.18 kg/m²)
Pisareska
Panonska (0.80 kg/m²).

1000

Three Bulgarian vetch populations (2, 12 and 13) of subspecies *striata* (*Vicia pannonica* subsp. *striata*) and *pannonica* (*Vicia pannonica* subsp. *pannonica*) were studied regarding main quantitative traits. Through analysis of variance, significant differences were found between the tested lines and populations regarding green and dry mass yields. Line 13/16 (from population 13) had the highest green mass yield (1.18 kg/m²) and statistically significant exceeded the control Pisareska Panonska (0.80 kg/m²). In terms of dry mass yield, insignificant differences between the vetch lines and populations were established. According to the rank and linear correlation coefficients, in the dry mass formation, an essential meaning had the trait of 1000 seeds mass, in both

$r=0.63$),
($r_s=0.67$; $r=0.71$).
pannonica

striata ($r_s=0.80$;
pannonica

($r=0.54$)
striata –
($r=0.53$).

subspecies *striata* ($r_s=0.80$; $r=0.63$) and subspecies *pannonica* ($r_s=0.67$; $r=0.71$). In the lines of subspecies *pannonica*, an increase of dry mass yield can be achieved by increasing the seed productivity ($r = 0.54$) and harvest index ($r = 0.45$), and in subspecies *striata* – by increasing the number of branches ($r=0.53$).

Key words: vetch, breeding, productivity, correlations

INTRODUCTION

Vicia
-
(Yolcu et al.,
2012).
Crantz.)

(Tahtacioglu
et al., 1996; Nizam et al., 2011).

(Nizam et al.,
2011; Sayar et al., 2013).

(Yolcu et al., 2012).

(Mikic et al., 2011; Debelyj et al.,
2015).

(Kostov and Pavlov, 2001).

(Anohina and Mazuka, 2006).

Representatives of genus *Vicia* are one of the most commonly encountered annual forage crops. Vetches are usually used in organic animal feeding (Yolcu et al., 2012). Hungarian vetch (*Vicia pannonica* Crantz.) is one of the most promising annual vetch species (Tahtacioglu et al., 1996; Nizam et al., 2011). It is adapted to the environment of large areas of the world (Nizam et al., 2011; Sayar et al., 2013). It distinguishes with a rapid growth rate in the spring, forms a relatively high yield of fresh biomass and provides high-quality hay (Yolcu et al., 2012). Hungarian vetch is suitable for growing in pure stands and in mixtures with cereal components (Mikic et al., 2011; Debelyj et al., 2015). In agroecosystems, it can be used as a cover crop, for green manures, and for increasing soil fertility (Kostov and Pavlov, 2001).

Modern breeding programs are directed to the development of cultivars characterized by adaptability regarding the main elements of productivity, yield and quality of plant production. There is a realistic possibility of selecting genotypes with high productive potential and relatively good tolerance to the unfavorable environmental factors as these traits are controlled by different genetic systems (Anohina and Mazuka, 2006).

Breeding success depends largely

(Vitko, 2014; Maksimenya, 2016).

- on the richness and diversity of the starting material, which has to possess valuable and useful in terms of breeding characteristics. It is necessary to know the nature of the dependence of these traits in order to increase the effect of the desired ones and reduce the performance of inappropriate traits. The establishment of correlation dependencies allows to predict the expected results of the use of certain starting forms and helps in the selection of suitable parental components (Vitko, 2014; Maksimenya, 2016).

The aim of the present study was to

- determine the degree of intra-population variability in wild growing Bulgarian populations of vetch regarding main traits determining crop productivity.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

2011-2013 .
 ().
 2011-2012 .
 2 *striata* (*Vicia pannonica*
 subsp. *striata*), 12 13 –
pannonica (*Vicia pannonica*
 subsp. *pannonica*).
 , 21 ,
 ,
 e 9
 . 100
 1 m².
 20
 :
 (g),
 (cm),
 (),
 () ,

- Experimental station soya (Pavlikeni) during the period 2011-2013. Three Bulgarian populations of vetch were subjects of study during the period 2011-2012. Population 2 belongs to subspecies *striata* (*Vicia pannonica* subsp. *striata*), and populations 12 and 13 – to subspecies *pannonica* (*Vicia pannonica* subsp. *pannonica*). The breeding material, including 21 genotypes, was selected on yield and quality of the forage in a 2-year comparative experiment, followed by a 2-year controlled experiment with 9 genotypes. 100 plants of each population were observed in a breeding nursery with an individual layout of plants of 1 m² area. On the basis of a visual assessment of the growth and development, 20 plants of a population were marked, and they were subjected to biometric analysis on the following seven traits: plant mass at seed maturity (g), plant height at harvesting (cm), stem branches (number), pods per plant (number), height of 1st pod (cm), seed productivity per plant (g) and 1000

(cm),
(g) 1000 (g).
12) 13, 5
2012-2013
Pisareska Panonska,
- 4.
200 /m²,
12.5 cm
1 m².
(
(r_s)
: d –
Y; n –
:

seeds mass (g).
The mean values of the observed traits,
their errors and variance were
determined.

Genotypes with the highest
complex ranked assessment (13 – 4 of
population 2, 4 of population 13, and 5 of
population 12) were included as lines in a
preliminary test conducted during the
2012-2013 period. Both the starting
populations and cultivar Pisareska
Panonska, which was used as a standard,
were included in the testing. It was used
block design method, with four
replications. The sowing was in rows, with
a sowing rate of 200 seeds/m², with 12.5
cm space between the rows and an area
of the harvesting plot of 1 m². Fresh and
dry biomass yields were reported at the
occurrence of pasture maturity
(appearance of first flowers).

Through Spearman's rank correlation
coefficient (r_s) was estimated the
dependence between the dry forage mass
yield of the lines in the preliminary test
and the values of the traits according to
which the elite genotypes were selected.
The coefficient value was calculated by
the formula where: d – difference in the
rank numbers of X and Y; n – volume of
the sample:

$$r_s = 1 - \frac{6 \sum d^2}{n(n^2 - 1)}$$

Ward (1963) – A hierarchical cluster analysis was
performed according to the method of
Ward(1963) – for grouping genotypes
based on similarity as a measure of
differences (the genetic distance) among
them. The Euclidean distance (as a
measure for divergence) was calculated
after previously data standardization.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of variance of the green and dry mass yields presented in Tables 1 and 2 showed the presence of significant differences between the genotypes of the three populations at a high level of significance. The traits of plant mass (433.5) and pods number per plant (379.4) had better manifestations in genotypes of population 2 compared to populations 13 and 12 (Table 3).

1. Table 1. Analysis of variance regarding green mass yield

Source of variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between groups	2.972492	16	0.185781	4.529455	0.000158	1.982764
Within groups	1.27150	31	0.041016			
Total	4.243992	47				

2. Table 2. Analysis of variance regarding dry mass yield

Source of variation	SS	df	MS	F	P-value	F crit
Between groups	0.168292	16	0.010518	3.807689	0.000699	1.982764
Within groups	0.085633	31	0.002762			
Total	0.253925	47				

3. Table 3. The mean (X) and standard deviation (SD) of the values for some quantitative traits in 60 selected elite genotypes

/Traits	Population 2		Population 12		Population 13	
	X	(SD)	X	(SD)	X	(SD)
/plant mass	433.5	169.7	186.5	40.6	217.2	28.8
/branches	47.4	13.6	48.2	9.3	48.6	11.3
/plant height	96.8	11.0	88.0	11.5	104.9	7.5
/1 st pod height	28.0	5.9	35.9	11.3	47.2	14.4
/pods number	379.4	139.9	371.7	130.9	204.4	85.1

According to the results obtained for the number of branches per plant, the studied populations practically did not differ from one another. The trait varied within very narrow limits (from 47.4 (No.2) to 48.6 (No.13)). Genotypes of population 13 were distinguished by longer stems (104.9) and a higher situated 1st pod (47.2). On average, for the experimental

period, the lowest values regarding the studied traits were observed in the genotypes of population 12. An exception was established only for the number of pods per plant with a value close to that of 2.

The data for the magnitude of the standard deviation showed that in almost all indicators the high values were associated with a greater scatter of the trait. Traits of number of branches, plant height, and 1st pod height demonstrated relatively intra-population stability and homogeneity.

According to the results obtained by the complex ranked analysis (Table 4) of the selected elites of the starting populations, the lines from population 2 were characterized by a higher plant mass and 1000 seeds mass. They also formed longer stems and the pods number was above the average for the study.

4. Table 4. Elites with the highest complex ranked assessment

Elites	Plant mass	Branches	Plant height	1 st pod height	Pods number	Productivity	1000 seeds mass
2/17	455	39	97	33	622	49	41.5
2/38	670	32	103	35	565	51	35
2/63	399	68	81	23	400	28	36.5
2/84	570	52	112	32	510	36	48.5
12/27	200	37	90	32	330	30	28
12/37	190	39	94	23	473	34	22.5
12/54	250	52	105	31	569	51	31.5
12/56	225	57	75	31	504	38.8	26
12/77	200	48	95	32	492	43	25
13/16	230	43	105	46	302	39	26.5
13/69	250	53	110	47	244	17.3	21
13/85	250	63	100	48	247	32	24
13/89	220	59	87	33	294	33	30

2/38 2/84. Of this population, lines 2/38 and 2/84 were of interest. The plants of population 13 were distinguished by higher values

12
12/54.
12
Pisareska Panonska (0.80
kg/m²),
(5).
2
2/38 (0.31
kg/m²).
13, 13/16
(1.18 kg/m²)
13/16, 12/54,
LP2 12/27

in terms of 1st pod height, plant height and number of branches. From population 12, the breeding-improvement work could continue with line 12/54. Traits of number of branches, plant height, pods number and productivity were in a favourable combination in this line.

The average values of green mass yields of the lines of population 12 were higher compared to the control cultivar Pisareska Panonska (0.80 kg/m²), but this advantage was statistically insignificant (Table 5). None of the lines of population 2 exceeded the control, and line 2/38 was the lowest productive one (0.31 kg/m²). From population 13, line 13/16 occupied the first position (1.18 kg/m²) and statistically significant exceeded the control. Between the lines and populations, there were no significant differences in terms of dry mass yields, although some lines such as 13/16, 12/54, LP2 and 12/27 formed a larger amount of dry mass.

5. Yield of the lines originating in the selected elites (kg/m²)

	Green mass/	Dry mass/
1 ST Pisareska Panonska	0.80bc	0.25bc
2/17	0.54 ab	0.16 abc
2/38	0.31 a	0.09 a
2/63	0.56 ab	0.15 ab
2/84	0.57 ab	0.15 ab
LP2	1.01 cd	0.28 bc
12/27	1.09 cd	0.28 bc
12/37	1.03 cd	0.24 bc
12/54	1.11 cd	0.29 bc
12/56	0.99 cd	0.22 abc
12/77	0.81 bc	0.21 abc
LP12	1.05 cd	0.26 bc
13/16	1.18 d	0.31 c
13/69	0.60 ab	0.17 abc
13/85	1.00 cd	0.25 bc
13/89	0.98 cd	0.24 bc
LP13	0.93 cd	0.25 bc

Means followed by the same letter(s) did not differ significantly at 5 % level

6. The dependencies between dry mass yields in vetch lines at pasture maturity and the studied traits were presented in Table 6. According to the rank correlation coefficient, in the dry mass formation, an essential meaning had the mass of 1000 seeds, in both subspecies *striata* ($r_s=0.80$) and subspecies *pannonica* ($r_s=0.67$). In lines of subspecies *striata* with positive, albeit weaker impact, were pods number per plant ($r_s=0.40$) and harvest index ($r_s=0.20$). In subspecies *pannonica*, unlike *striata*, most of the traits correlated positively with the dry mass yield (except for the number of branches, $r_s=-0.23$).

The dependencies between dry mass yields in vetch lines at pasture maturity and the studied traits were presented in Table 6. According to the rank correlation coefficient, in the dry mass formation, an essential meaning had the mass of 1000 seeds, in both subspecies *striata* ($r_s=0.80$) and subspecies *pannonica* ($r_s=0.67$).

In lines of subspecies *striata* with positive, albeit weaker impact, were pods number per plant ($r_s=0.40$) and harvest index ($r_s=0.20$). In subspecies *pannonica*, unlike *striata*, most of the traits correlated positively with the dry mass yield (except for the number of branches, $r_s=-0.23$).

6.

Table 6. Phenotypic correlations between dry mass yield and main quantitative traits in the studied lines of vetch at pasture maturity

/Traits	ssp. <i>striata</i>		ssp. <i>pannonica</i>		ssp. <i>striata</i>	ssp. <i>pannonica</i>
	r_s	R^2	r_s	R^2	r	r
/plant mass	-0.40	0.16	0.05	0.00	-0.77	-0.03
/branches	0.20	0.04	-0.23	0.05	0.53	-0.36
/plant height	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.02	-0.16	0.08
/1 st pod height	-0.20	0.04	0.08	0.01	-0.40	-0.05
/pods number	0.40	0.16	0.04	0.00	-0.13	0.08
/seed productivity	-0.20	0.04	0.28	0.08	-0.47	0.54
/harvest index	0.20	0.04	0.28	0.08	0.24	0.45
1000 /1000 seeds mass	0.80	0.64	0.67	0.44	0.63	0.71

r_s -

; R^2 -

; r -

r_s - Spearman's rank correlation coefficient; R^2 - coefficient of determination; r - coefficient of linear correlation

($r=0.71$; $r=0.63$).
pannonica

($r=0.54$)

When comparing the data with respect to the linear correlation coefficients of the analyzed traits, it was found that in the dry mass yield formation, the pods number again had a greater impact ($r=0.71$; $r=0.63$).

In the lines of subspecies *pannonica*, an increase of the dry mass yield can be achieved by increasing seed productivity ($r = 0.54$) and harvest index ($r=0.45$), and

striata (r=0.45),
 (r=0.53).
 Debelyj et al. (2011)

(Shtetinin, 2008; Zelenov, 2011)

striata *pannonica*.

1

in subspecies *striata* – by increasing the number of branches (r=0.53).

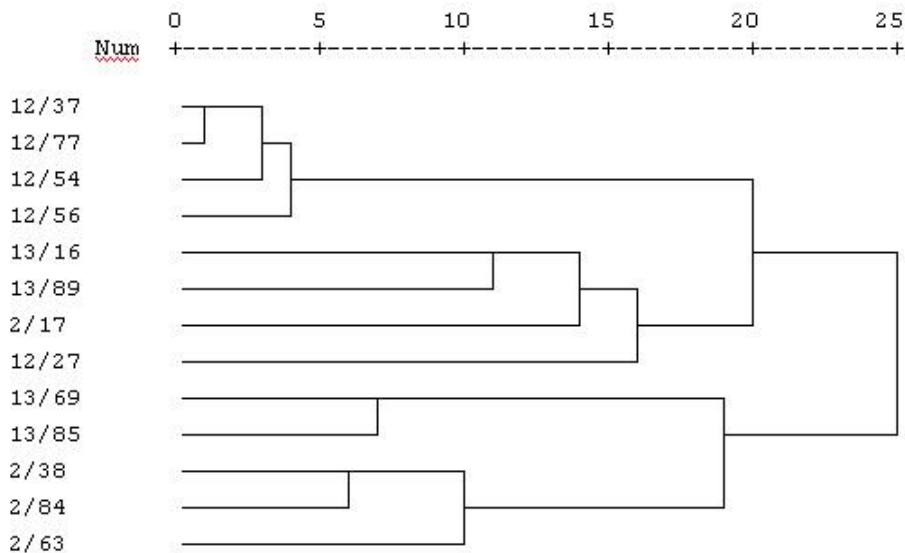
Debely et al. (2011) reported that at the present time, in the breeding of wintering vetch forms, more attention was paid to the assessment of the productivity elements determining the yield under changing environmental conditions.

According to the authors, the plant height reflected, in the greatest degree, the potential vegetative productivity as this trait is characterized by a high coefficient of inheritance. The same authors have found a high positive correlation of the plant height with the plant fresh biomass, the number of leaflets of the complex leaf and their width.

Other authors (Shtetinin, 2008; Zelenov, 2011) expressed the view that when developing new varieties, more attention should be paid to the dependencies between the quantitative signs at the genotypic level and especially for the relations between the group of traits defining a given parameter with a certain value of the correlation coefficients.

Genetic similarity and distance of the lines were established by hierarchical cluster analysis. From the mean values of the studied traits was conducted hierarchical cluster analysis for grouping the lines of subspecies *striata* and *pannonica*. As a measure for divergence was used the Euclidean distance.

The result of the analysis was presented in Figure 1 as a dendrogram. The data use of phenotypic manifestations of the vetch genotypes regarding main quantitative traits is particularly favorable due to the fact that it is being conducted selection of genotype by phenotype in the breeding process.



. 1.
Fig. 1. Dendrogram of the selected lines of vetch

2/63, 2/84 2/38
 ,
 1000
 13/85 13/69,
 ,
 1000
 13/69
 -
 13/85,
 ,
 ,
 ,
 12/27, 2/17, 13/89 13/16.
 -
 ,

- Lines were clustered into two main groups. The first group included lines located at the bottom of the figure.
 .
 - Lines 2/63, 2/84 and 2/38 formed the first subgroup and exhibited similarity in terms of plant mass, pods number per plant and 1000 seeds mass. The second subgroup of the same cluster was composed of lines 13/85 and 13/69, which were genetically similar in plant mass, 1st pod height, pods number and 1000 seeds mass. Line 13/69 was located at a higher level than the first division compared to 13/85, indicating that there are differences between these lines due to the different phenotypic manifestation of seed productivity, number of branches and plant height.

The second cluster group was also divided into two main subgroups. The first subgroup consisted of lines 12/27, 2/17, 13/89 and 13/16. The relative genetic similarity between them was due to lower values of plant mass, pods number per plant, seed productivity and a medium

1000
12/54, 12/77 12/37.

- level of the trait 1000 seeds mass. In the second subgroup, lines 12/56, 12/54, 12/77 and 12/37 were included.
- Their division was at a very low level, which shows a very large similarity, due to the number of branches, pods number and 1st pod height.

CONCLUSIONS

striata (*Vicia pannonica* ssp. *striata*) *annonica* (*Vicia pannonica* ssp. *annonica*),
13/16
- (1.18 kg/m²)
Pisareska Panonska
(0.80 kg/m²).

The analysis of variance showed significant differences between the studied vetch lines and populations belonging to subspecies *striata* (*Vicia pannonica* ssp. *striata*) *annonica* (*Vicia pannonica* ssp. *annonica*) in terms of green and dry mass yields.

Line 13/16 was characterized by the highest green mass yield (1.18 kg/m²) and statistically significant exceeded the control Pisareska Panonska (0.80 kg/m²). Regarding dry mass yield, insignificant differences between the vetch lines and populations were established.

1000
striata ($r_S=0.80$; $r=0.63$),
annonica ($r_S=0.67$;
 $r=0.71$).
annonica
($r=0.54$)
($r=0.45$),
striata –
($r=0.53$).

According to the rank and linear correlation coefficients, in the dry mass formation, an essential meaning had the trait of 1000 seeds mass, in both subspecies *striata* ($r_S=0.80$; $r=0.63$) and subspecies *annonica* ($r_S=0.67$; $r=0.71$). In the lines of subspecies *annonica*, an increase of dry mass yield can be achieved by increasing the seed productivity ($r = 0.54$) and harvest index ($r = 0.45$), and in subspecies *striata* – by increasing the number of branches ($r=0.53$).

/ REFERENCES

1. **Anohina, V. S. and E. S. Mazuka**, 2006. Characteristic of Inter-Cultivar Bean Hybrids in Relation to the Adaptive Potential of the Starting Varieties. *Journal BGU*, 2 (2), 44-48.
2. **Debelyj, G. A., A. G. Goncharov and A. V. Mednov**, 2011. Estimation of Adaptability and Stability in Spring Vetch Genotypes on Height of Plants in Monospecies and Mixed Sowing. *Agricultural Biology*, 2, 90-92.
3. **Debelyj, G. A., L. V. Kalinina, A. V. Mednov and A. V. Goncharov**, 2015. New Generation of Varieties of Leguminous Crops Released by the Moscow Research Institute of Agriculture. *Scientific and Production Journal "Grain-Leguminous Crops and Cereals"*, 1 (13) 1-14.

4. **Kostov, K. and D. Pavlov**, 2001. Forage Production. Academic press, AU, Plovdiv (Bg).
5. **Maksimienya, E. V.**, 2016. Correlations between Economically Valuable Signs of Vegetable Pea. *Bulletin of the Belarusian Agricultural Academy*, 32-35.
6. **Mikic, A., V. Mihailovic, B. Cupina, V. Đorđević, D. Milic, G. Duc, F. L. Stoddard, I. Lejeune-Henaut, P. Marget and E. Hanocq**, 2011. Achievements in Breeding Autumn-Sown annual Legumes for Temperate Regions with Emphasis on the Continental Balkans. *Euphytica*, 180 (1), 57-67.
7. **Nizam, ., M. G. Cubuk and E. Moralar**, 2011. Genotype × Environment Interaction and Stability Analysis of Some Hungarian vetch (*Vicia pannonica* Crantz.) genotypes. *African Journal of Agricultural Research*, 6 (28), 6119-6125.
8. **Sayar, M. S., A. E. Anlarsal and M. Basbag**, 2013. Genotype-Environment Interactions and Stability Analysis for Dry Matter Yield and Seed Yield in Hungarian Vetch (*Vicia pannonica* Crantz). *Turkish Journal of Field Crops*, 18 (2), 238-246.
9. **Shtetin, V.U.**, 2008. Selection Value of Non-Traditional Morphotypes of Peas. PhD Dissertation, Bryansk.
10. **Tahtacioglu, L., M. Avci, A. Mermer, H. Seker and C. Aygun**. 1996. Adaptation of Some Winter Vetch Varieties under Ecological Conditions of Erzurum. In: Proceedings of the 3rd Turkey Grassland and Forage Crops Congress, 17-19 June, 1996, Erzurum, Turkey, pp. 661-667.
11. **Vitko, G. I.**, 2014. Phenotypic Correlations between Structural Elements of Yield and Other Traits in Peas. *Bulletin of the Belarusian Agricultural Academy*, 82-89.
12. **Ward, J. H.**, 1963. Hierarchical Grouping to Optimize an Objective Function. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 58, 236-244.
13. **Yolcu, H., A. Gunes, M. K. Gullap and R. Cakmakci**, 2012. Effects of Plant Growth-Promoting Rhizobacteria on Some Morphologic Characteristics, Yield and Quality Contents of Hungarian Vetch. *Turkish Journal of Field Crops*, 17 (2), 208-214.
14. **Zelenov, . .**, 2011. The Potential of the Heterophilic Forms of Peas and the Way of its Realization. *Agricultural Russia*, 3, 13-16.

***Apion seniculus* Kirby (Coleoptera: Curculionidae)**

5800 , . 89,
,

Stability and Adaptivity of Alfalfa Cultivars Concerning *Apion seniculus* Kirby (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) Tolerance and Some Biochemical Traits

Ivelina Nikolova

*Institute of Forage Crops, 89 General Vladimir Vazov Str., 5800 Pleven, Bulgaria
E-mail: imnikolova@abv.bg*

Original scientific paper

Received: 01.04.2019

Accepted: 16.05.2019

Published: 17.06.2019

SUMMARY

2007-2009 .
:
:
4, . A
10, 6,
Apion seniculus
.
,
(
Apion
seniculus,
,
,
)
sativa L.).
(*Medicago*
-

During the period 2007-2009 was conducted a field trial with eighth alfalfa cultivars: Europe (France), and a seven Bulgarian: Prista 2, Prista 3, Prista 4, Obnova 10, Plevan 6, Dara and Multifoliate. The adaptability and stability of the tested cultivars were determined in relation to damage indicators from *Apion seniculus* and some biochemical traits. It was found a highly significant influence of the genotype, environment and the interaction between them on the studied traits (plants with damaged stems by *Apion seniculus*, degree of damaged stems, content of crude protein, crude fiber, soluble sugars, and saponins) in alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.).
The cultivar Multifoliate could be revolved as close to the excellent type (bi 1.0),

(bi 1.0),

A. seniculus

2

Apion seniculus,

Apion seniculus

(Nikolova

and Georgieva, 2010; Nikolova and Lecheva, 2010).

(amprag et al., 1996).

propitious for growing in any environment and for breeding purposes. It was determined as stable with good responsiveness to changing environmental conditions, providing high tolerance to *A. seniculus* and high content of crude protein and soluble sugars.

- Europe had an unstable reaction in regard to damaged stem trait, but the variety showed greater adaptability in an unfavourable environment and a low rate of damage.

- Europe was classified as a cultivar with high stability and better adaptability for crude protein, crude fiber and soluble sugar content.

- Prista 2 could be defined as stable and with good environmental responsiveness to the studied traits.

Key words: alfalfa, cultivars, stability, *Apion seniculus*, biochemical traits

INTRODUCTION

A serious difficulty in alfalfa grown is the protection from insect pests. Stem weevil, *Apion seniculus* is one of the commonly occurring beetle insects in the alfalfa field (Nikolova and Georgieva, 2010; Nikolova and Lecheva, 2010).

The main damage is caused by larvae which develop and feed inside the stem by gnawing a narrow tunnel along the stem length. The tunnels are located at the bottom of the stem, where it refracts and dries. As a result of the damage, there is an undesirable change in the forage quantity and quality. The variety as a powerful tool affects the density and physiological behavior of the insects. Tolerant varieties suppress their reproduction, and susceptible ones favor insect development (amprag et al., 1996).

Cultivars to be considered at

<p>Ya basanlar, 2010).</p> <p>(Kiliç and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inconsistent and unpredictable climatic - conditions should be evaluated in - multilocation trials and proved by stability tests (Kiliç and Ya basanlar, 2010).
<p>(Alwala, 2010; Moghaddam et al., 2013).</p> <p>x</p>	<p>The identification and characterization of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - stable sources of resistance to a major - insect pest in cultivare germplasm in - different environments are also important. <p>The features of stable genotype are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - complex due to genotypexenvironment - interactions (Alwala, 2010; Moghaddam et al., 2013). Therefore, the main purpose of - breeding programs is aimed to create - cultivars with stable and sustainable - yields under various environmental - conditions.
<p>(Moghadam et al., 2012; Tsegaye et al., 2012).</p> <p>x</p>	<p>In this way, different responses of geno-</p> <p>types to changing environmental conditions</p> <p>are used to estimate the mean yield and</p> <p>to identify high yield and stable genotypes,</p> <p>which are tolerant to economically important</p> <p>pests (Moghadam et al., 2012; Tsegaye et</p> <p>al., 2012). It can be considered that the</p> <p>genotypexenvironment interactions are due</p> <p>to predictable and unpredictable effects</p> <p>(Allard and Bradshaw, 1964).</p>
<p>(Allard and Bradshaw, 1964).</p> <p>-</p> <p>(Abo-Hegazy, 2013).</p> <p>-</p> <p>(De Souza Goncalves et al., 2003; Rasul et al., 2005; Sharma et al., 2010; Moghaddam et al., 2011).</p>	<p>The former effects are due to the macro-</p> <p>environment and the latter ones are</p> <p>attributable to temperature and micro-</p> <p>environment (Abo-Hegazy, 2013). In</p> <p>addition, the adaptability of a cultivar</p> <p>results from its stability under different</p> <p>conditions (Sharma et al., 2010; Moghaddam et al., 2011).</p>
<p>(bi)</p> <p>, (S2di)</p> <p>(PCA), GGE biplot</p> <p>. (Yan and Holland, 2010; Ukalski and Klisz., 2016; Georgieva and Kosev, 2018).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Several statistical methods have - been developed for stability analysis. - Between these methods, the most widely - used are (bi) the regression coefficient, - (S2di) deviation from regression, analysis - of adaptability, principal component - analysis (PCA), GGE biplot analysis and - others (Yan and Holland, 2010; Ukalski - and Klisz., 2016; Georgieva and Kosev, - 2018). <p>Methods are often used for describ-</p>

(Villegas-Fernández et al., 2009; Rubiales et al., 2014; Sánchez-Martín et al., 2014; Georgieva and Kosev, 2016; 2017).

Apion seniculus

2007-2009 .
(Coleoptera: Curculionidae).

8 : 2,
(), 3, 4, 10,
6,

Apion seniculus
Kjeldahl,
Weende
Jurzysta (1979)
– Ermakov et al. (1987).

(G), (E)
- (G × E).
: -
- Eberhart Russell
(1966),
(bi)

ing the effects of genotype × environment interactions along with identifying and recommending stable genotypes in breeding programs (Villegas-Fernández et al., 2009; Rubiales et al., 2014; Sánchez-Martín et al., 2014; Georgieva and Kosev, 2016; 2017).

The object of this study was to evaluate genotype × environment interactions of eight alfalfa cultivars in regard of resistance to *Apion seniculus* and some biochemical traits and to establish their stability as a material for future breeding programs.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The study was conducted during the 2007-2009 period in the Experimental field of IFC, Pleven, Bulgaria at a natural population density of *Apion seniculus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae). The trial was laid out by the block method without irrigation with 8 alfalfa varieties: Europe (France), and a seven Bulgarian: Prista 2, Prista 3, Prista 4, Obnova 10, Pleven 6, Dara and Multifoliata.

In the flowering stage of the first regrowth, the plant stems are evaluated for the degree of *openness seniculus* damage by a longitudinal incision of the stems and reporting the presence of gnawed tunnels. A chemical analysis was carried out and were determined: a content of crude protein – Kjeldahl method, crude fiber – Weende method, saponins – Jurzysta (1979) and water-soluble sugars – Ermakov et al. (1987).

The obtained data were processed by two-factor analysis of variance for each trait for determination of effects of genotypes (G), (E) environments and genotype-environment interaction (G × E). The estimation of the ecological stability of the tested cultivars was done through the application of the following methods: Regression analysis – according to Eberhart and Russell (1966), in which the regression coefficient (bi) and the

1.

2007-2009

Table 1. Analysis of variance for stability for studied traits in alfalfa cultivars for the period 2007-2009

/ Mean sum of squares for the traits studied							
Source of Variation	df	Damaged plants	Rang of damaged stems	Crude protein	Crude fiber	Soluble sugars	Saponins
Environments (E)	2	53 893 288***	12 898 238***	139 821 762***	261 410 113***	821 147***	20 882*
Genotypes (G)	7	587 297***	1 391 421***	4 133 336***	7 147 455***	0.1981**	0.0545*
GxE interactions	14	1 471 059***	295 538***	945 991***	2 421 898***	0.2364**	0.0475*
Env/Gen	16	8 023 838***	1 870 875***	18 305 463***	34 795 425***	104 712***	0.3026 ^{ns}
Env/Europe	2	880.39***	133.41***	1492.23***	6405.91***	118 444***	0.4624 ^{ns}
Env/Prista 2	2	945.97***	205.51***	1361.41***	4308.07***	90 421***	0.0484 ^{ns}
Env/Prista 3	2	391.57***	226.83***	2533.71***	2664.13***	121 819***	0.3412 ^{ns}
Env/Prista 4	2	639.48***	194.53***	1924.68***	2644.39***	121 756***	0.3364 ^{ns}
Env/Obnova 10	2	1024.33***	49.21***	1773.49***	3595.27***	86 164***	0.3612 ^{ns}
Env/Pleven 6	2	1154.41***	94.09***	2096.92***	1842.21***	97 804***	0.3892 ^{ns}
Env/Dara	2	997.33***	397.75***	1359.01***	4159.36***	11.61***	0.0192 ^{ns}
Env/Multifoliolate	2	385.59***	195.37***	2102.92***	2217.0***	85 189***	0.4624 ^{ns}
Total	23						

Legend/ : Environments (E) / ; Genotypes (G) / ; Env/Europe / / ; GxE interactions / ; Env/Prista 2 / / 2; Env/Prista 3 / / 3; Env/Prista 4 / / 4; Env/Obnova 10 / / 10; Env/Pleven 6 / / 6; Env/Dara / / ; Env/Multifoliolate / / Significant at P=0.05 (*), **P=0.01, ***P=0.001; ns – not significant / at P=0.05 (*), **P=0.01, ***P=0.001; ns –

, , - , - (bi=1.00), - (S2di)). 1,0 - - - () - - 1.0 - - (- (Wachira et al., 2002).

To determine cultivar stability, it would be considered stable for any given parameter for damage if it appeared to be stable as regards having low mean damage trait, a regression coefficient one over the environment's (bi=1.00), a lower deviation from regression (S2di).

Regression coefficient above 1.0 describes genotypes with higher sensitivity to environmental change (below average stability) and greater specificity of adapt to environments related to lower damages. A regression coefficient below 1.0 provides a measurement for greater resistance to environmental change (above average stability), and thus increases the specificity of adaptability to environments related to high damages (Wachira et al., 2002).

Damaged plants: The highest evaluation of stability according to the

2 4 , 3 (2).
 4
 (1).
Apion seniculus
 0.24 (bi 1.68 (2).

criteria of both analysis methods in regard to that trait have shown Prista 4 and Dara, followed by Prista 2 and Prista 3 (Table 2). Prista 4 and Dara are distinguished by a relatively low degree of damaged plants and exhibited greater specificity of adaptability to low and high damaging environments, respectively (Figure 1a).

The studied parameter reflected a certain extent the preference of the insect pest for the studied varieties in different environments. The main trait characterizing the degree of attack by the weevil was the degree of damaged stems. The reason for that was the difference in stem number for the different varieties.

: **Degree of damaged stems:** Linear regression for the average damaged stem of a single variety on the average damaged stem of all varieties in each environment resulted in regression coefficients (bi values) ranging from 0.24 to 1.68.

That large variation in regression coefficients indicates different responses of cultivars to environmental changes.

2.
Apion seniculus

Table 2. Estimates of the adaptability and stability parameters for *Apion seniculus* damage components and for some biochemical traits in alfalfa varieties

Cultivar	Eberhart and Russell			Tai		Theil	Plaisted and Peterson	Wricke
	bi	s2di		ai	i	T		Wi2
/ Damage plant								
Dara/	1.22	0.46	ns	1.22	1.59	7.92	30.43	21.82
Europe/	0.72	353.08	***	0.72	606.34	-10.25	135.26	388.76
Multifoliolate/	0.72	22.25	***	0.72	38.83	-10.19	40.55	57.23
Obnova 10/	1.21	24.45	***	1.21	42.99	7.72	37.02	44.93
Pleven 6/	1.25	70.22	***	1.25	121.54	9.08	52.29	97.83
Prista 2/	2	1.16	22.40	***	1.16	39.26	5.99	34.15
Prista 3/	3	0.76	-0.01	ns	0.76	0.80	-8.75	31.61
Prista 4/	4	0.96	12.89	***	0.96	23.47	-1.52	28.32
/ Damaged stems								
Dara/	1.68	8.37	***	1.560	6.596	10.04	15.3	21.82
Europe/	0.24	72.52	***	0.821	28.266	-32.14	10.29	388.76
Multifoliolate/	1.17	4.72	***	1.066	13.996	1.18	7.06	57.23
Obnova 10/	0.58	2.51	***	0.538	2.858	-8.29	11.62	44.93
Pleven 6/	0.82	1.17	**	0.761	0.697	-4.28	6.46	97.83
Prista 2/	2	1.20	5.98	***	1.116	5.330	2.09	5.90
Prista 3/	3	1.26	7.44	***	1.138	20.507	2.48	8.60
Prista 4/	4	1.06	28.30	***	1.000	37.979	0.00	10.92
/ Crude protein								
Dara/	0.89	-2.46	ns	0.882	0.969	-7.00	20.27	15.77
Europe/	0.92	22.74	**	0.912	42.132	-5.17	2.50	34.28
Multifoliolate/	1.04	158.17	***	1.033	270.467	1.97	60.88	162.90
Obnova 10/	0.96	114.83	***	0.954	207.304	-2.69	50.68	119.90
Pleven 6/	1.08	1.22	ns	1.094	5.248	5.57	19.26	12.07
Prista 2/	2	0.89	-0.84	ns	0.881	4.650	-7.02	20.91
Prista 3/	3	1.19	-2.75	ns	1.204	2.108	12.04	29.58
Prista 4/	4	1.04	20.15	*	1.039	42.476	2.32	23.02
/ Crude fiber								
Dara/	1.12	15.58	***	1.125	28.708	10.09	54.52	50.68
Europe/	1.37	185.43	***	1.369	319.449	29.85	178.14	483.57
Multifoliolate/	0.81	39.79	***	0.812	70.078	-15.18	73.66	117.75
Obnova 10/	1.04	52.57	***	1.037	92.238	3.00	5.63	56.72
Pleven 6/	0.75	0.64	ns	0.750	3.204	-20.19	79.37	138.00
Prista 2/	2	1.14	30.46	***	1.142	54.480	11.47	61.65
Prista 3/	3	0.87	127.87	***	0.869	221.379	-10.55	87.53
Prista 4/	4	0.90	16.83	***	0.895	30.904	-8.49	52.05
/ Soluble sugars								
Dara/	1.04	0.20	***	1,050	0,356	0,223	-0,230	0.22
Europe/	1.05	0.29	***	1,054	0,515	0,243	-0,202	0.31
Multifoliolate/	0.91	0.20	***	0,896	0,298	-0,467	-0,223	0.27
Obnova 10/	0.90	0.02	ns	0,913	0,043	-0,389	-0,272	0.10
Pleven 6/	0.98	0.01	ns	0,975	0,026	-0,113	-0,288	0.02
Prista 2/	2	0.93	0.04	*	0,934	0,088	-0,297	-0,271
Prista 3/	3	1.10	0.01	ns	1,090	0,024	0,401	-0,275
Prista 4/	4	1.09	0.00	ns	1,089	0,023	0,400	-0,275
/ Saponins								
Dara/	0.02	-2.50	ns	-0.454	-0.153	-0.547	-0.296	20.72
Europe/	0.12	-2.50	ns	1.631	-0.028	0.237	-0.320	16.69
Multifoliolate/	0.12	-2.50	ns	1.631	-0.028	0.237	-0.320	16.74
Obnova 10/	7.39	-2.46	ns	1.338	-0.008	0.127	-0.324	883.94
Pleven 6/	0.10	-2.50	ns	1.421	-0.012	0.159	-0.323	17.41
Prista 2/	2	0.04	-2.50	ns	-0.094	-0.089	-0.412	-0.309
Prista 3/	3	0.10	-2.50	ns	12.712	-0.004	0.102	-0.324
Prista 4/	4	0.10	-2.50	ns	1.256	-0.003	0.096	-0.324

0.01(**), 0.001(***) probability levels; ns –

Significant at 0.01(**). 0.001(***) probability levels. ns – not significant

Eberhart Russell (bi=1.17), Tai (ai=1.066)
Theil (T=1,18). 4 (bi=1.06)

Apion seniculus () (1b).

4
(bi =0.06).

6
1 (bi=0.82),

Russell and Tai,
(bi 1),
3 (bi=1.19) (2).

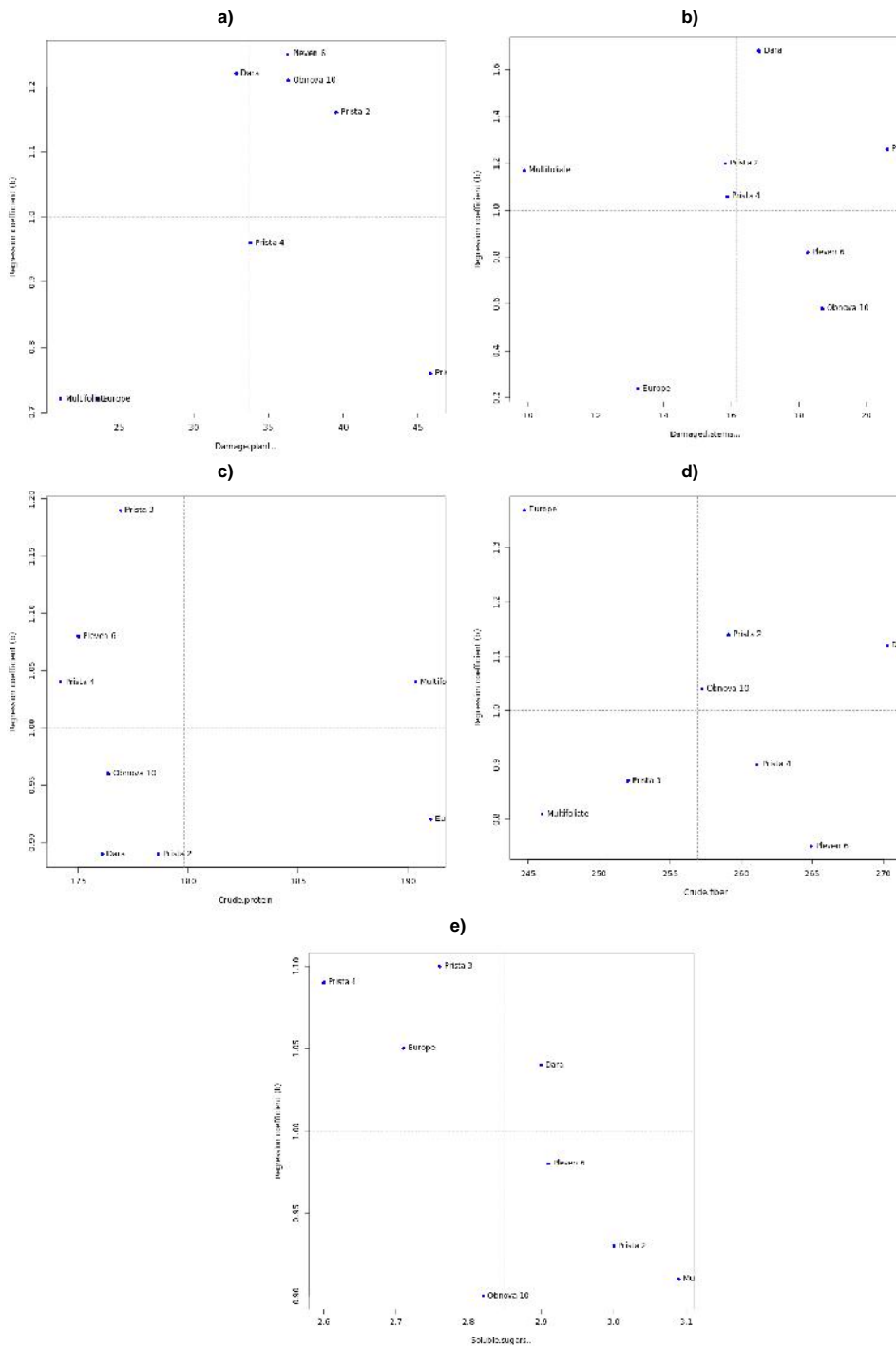
(1c).

The values of parameters of stability of damaged stem by the weevil according to regression analysis of Eberhart and Russell (bi=1.17), Tai (ai=1.066) and Theil (T=1,18) defined as the most valuable Multifoliate cultivar. Prista 4 (bi = 1.06) was marked out as valuable and stable on this trait too on the above-mentioned regression analyzes.

Multifoliate was the least preferred of *Apion seniculus* (low rate of damaged stems) (Figure 1 b). The variety was highly tolerant to weevil damage and showed better adaptability in any environment. Europe had an unstable reaction, suggesting its high sensitivity to changing environmental conditions, but the variety showed greater adaptability in an unfavourable environment and a low rate of damaged stems.

Prista 4 manifest itself as a stable variety with good responsiveness to environmental conditions (bi=0.06). In Pleven 6 the regression coefficient approached 1, but the variety was distinguished by a high percentage of damaged stems and poor adaptability in an unfavorable environment. Therefore, that genotype was not recommended for selection purposes.

Crude protein: Applying the methodologies developed by Eberhart and Russell, and Tai demonstrated that almost all genotypes had a high stability response (bi 1) excluding Prista 3 (bi=1.19) (Table 2). Among them, Multifoliate and Europe were distinguished by a considerably higher crude protein content than the average value, as well as better adaptability in any / unfavourable environments (Figure 1c). That implied that varieties were stable and widely adapted and valuable for the selection. Other varieties of that trait had a value lower than the average one and exhibited a sensitive reaction to changing environmental conditions.



. 1.

(bi)

Fig. 1. Stability and adaptability of alfalfa cultivars according to regression coefficient (b) and studied traits

Eberhart and Russell , Theil, Plaisted
 Peterson Wricke,
 1.04 1.14)
 2 (2).
 (1 c d).
 4
 1.0,
 ()
 (1 d).
 :
 0.90 1.10 (2),
 2
 (1). 6
 -

Crude fiber: The varieties had a different stability reaction to the contents of crude fiber, and the high level is an undesirable varietal mark. According to the regression analysis of Eberhart and Russell, Theil, Plaisted and Peterson, and Wricke as stable cultivars with a regression coefficient slightly exceeding 1 (bi varied from 1.04 to 1.14) were defined Obnova 10, Dara and Prista 2 (Table 2).

Varieties showed higher sensitivity to environmental change and greater specificity of adaptability to environments related to high fiber content. Their fiber components considerably exceeded the average value while the protein content was below the average for the varieties (Figure 1 c and d). Multifoliate and Prista 4 had a regression coefficient below 1.0, which provided greater resistance to environmental change and thus increased the specific adaptability to environments related to low fiber content (Figure 1d). Multifoliate and Europe were characterized by the lowest values for that indicator.

Water-soluble sugars: Linear regression for the average on the average content of water-soluble sugars of a single variety on the average of all varieties in each environment resulted in regression coefficients ranging in a minimum diapason from 0.90 to 1.10 (Table 2). That indicated very similar responses of cultivars to environmental changes.

Multifoliate and Prista 2 are more responsive under unfavorable conditions of the year and are distinguished by the highest sugar content (Figure 1). Pleven 6 and Dara are characterized by better adaptability, respectively, in any and in a favorable environment, and Europe – with medium adaptability in a favourable environment. Because of the criteria of dispersion analysis, these cultivars were

,
 ,
 Eberhart and Russel
 ,
 (2).
 ,
 ,
 2
 ,
 PC1 PC2
 76.9% 23.1%
 ,
 ,
 1,
 .
 ,
 3 (- 1).
 ,
 2, - - 1.

- characterized as stable and their mutual combination can be recommended due to their different responsiveness to the changing conditions.

- According to the ecological stability analysis of Eberhart and Russel for saponin content, the studied varieties were assessed as unstable (Table 2). These cultivars were insensitive to environmental changes and had low adaptation for poor environments.

- In plant breeding, when the purpose is to select or recommend genotypes for planting, a detailed study of the interaction between genotypes and environments is of extreme importance.

- Figure 2 showed the effects of the environment on the proportion of damaged stems by the weevil. The principal components of PC1 and PC2 determined the 76.9 and 23.1% respectively of the total variation, caused by the interaction of cultivar and environment. The horizontal axis describes the damaged stems, and the vertical axis shows the values PC1. The higher the absolute value of PC1, the higher is the value of genotype x environment interaction. The cultivars were least stable in ENV 3 environment (the highest PC1 absolute value). The highest mean damage was observed in the genotypes in the environment 2, and the lowest – in the ENV 1 environment.

CONCLUSIONS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>✓ (<i>Apion seniculus</i>)</p> <p>✓ (<i>Medicago sativa</i> L.)</p> <p>✓ (bi 1.0),</p> <p>✓ <i>A. seniculus</i></p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓ 2</p> | <p>✓ It was found a highly significant influence of the genotype, environment and the interaction between them on the studied traits (plants with damaged stems by <i>Apion seniculus</i>, degree of damaged stems, content of crude protein, crude fiber, soluble sugars, and saponins) in alfalfa (<i>Medicago sativa</i> L).</p> <p>✓ The cultivar Multifoliolate could be revolved as close to the excellent type (bi 1.0), propitious for growing in any environment. It was determined as stable with good responsiveness to changing environmental conditions, providing high tolerance to <i>A. seniculus</i> and high content of crude protein and soluble sugars.</p> <p>✓ Europe had an unstable reaction in regard to damaged stem trait, but the variety showed greater adaptability in an unfavorable environment and a low rate of damage. Europe was classified as a cultivar with high stability and better adaptability for crude protein, crude fiber and soluble sugars content.</p> <p>✓ Prista 2 could be defined as stable and with good environmental responsiveness to the studied traits.</p> |
|---|---|

/ REFERENCES

1. **Alwala, S, T. Kwolek, M. McPherson, J. Pellow and D. Meyer**, 2010. A Comprehensive Comparison between Eberhart and Russel joint Regression and GGE Biplot Analyses to Identify Stable and High Yielding Maize Hybrids. *Field Crop. Res.*, 119, 225-230.
2. **Abo-Hegazy, S.R.E., T. Selim and A.A.M. Ashrie**, 2013. Genotype×Environment Interaction and Stability analysis for Yield and its Components in Lentil. *Journal of Plant Breeding*, 5, 85-90.
3. **Allard, R.W. and A.D. Bradshaw**, 1964. Implications of Genotype-Environmental Interactions in Applied Plant Breeding. *Crop Science*, 4, 503-508.
4. **amprag, D.T., T. Kereši and R. Sekuli** , 1996. Integralua Zaštita Soje od Šteto ina, "Design Studio Staniši ", *Ba ka Palanka*, 4-143.
5. **Cruz, C.D.**, 2009. Programa Genes: Biometria. Version 7.0, University of Federal Viçosa, Viçosa, Brazil.
6. **Eberhart, S.A. and W.A. Russell**, 1966. Stability Parameters for Comparing Varieties. *Crop Science*, 6, 36-40.

7. **Ermakov, A.V., V. Arasimovich, N. Yarosh, I. Perwanski, G. Lukovnikova and M. Ikonikova**, 1987. Methods for Biochemical Studies in Plants, Moscow, 322-324 (Ru).
8. **Georgieva, N. and V. Kosev**, 2016. Evaluation of Genotypic and Genetic Variances of Quantitative Traits in Pea (*Pisum sativum* L.). *Emirates Journal of Agricultural Science*, 28,11, 755-763.
9. **Georgieva, N. and V. Kosev**, 2017. Estimation of the Environment as Background for Selection on Adaptivity in White Lupine Breeding. *Journal of BioScience and Biotechnology*, 6 (2), 139-146.
10. **Georgieva, N. and V. Kosev**, 2018. Genotype-Environment Interaction and Stability in Forage Pea Cultivars (*Pisum sativum* L.). *Field Crop Studies*, XI, 1, 25-38.
11. **Jurzysta, M.**, 1979. Haemolytic Micromethod for Rapid Estimation of Toxic Alfalfa Saponines. *Acta Agrobotanica*, 32, 1, 5-11.
12. **Kiliç, H. and T. Ya basanlar**, 2010. Genotype x Environment Interaction and Phenotypic Stability Analysis for Grain Yield and several Quality Traits of Durum Wheat in the South-Eastern Anatolia Region. *Notulae Botanicae Horti Agrobotanici Cluj*, 38 (3), 253-258.
13. **Moghadam, A, G. Pietsch, M.R. Ardakani, A. Raza, J. Vollmann and J.K. Friedel**, 2011. Genetic Diversity and Distance Among Iranian and European Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) Genotypes. *Crop Breeding Journal*, 1, 13-28.
14. **Moghaddam, A., A. Raza, J. Vollmann, M.R. Ardakani, W. Wanek, G. Gollner and J.K. Friedel**, 2013. Carbon Isotope Discrimination and Water Use Efficiency Relationships of Alfalfa Genotypes under Irrigated and Rain-Fed Organic Farming. *European Journal of Agronomy*, 50, 82-89.
15. **Moghaddam, A., J. Vollmann, W. Wanek, M.R. Ardakani, A. Raza, G. Pietsch and J.K. Friedel**, 2012. Suitability of Drought Tolerance Indices for Selecting Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) Genotypes under Organic Farming in Austria. *Crop Breeding Journal*, 2, 79-89.
16. **Nikolova, I. and N. Georgieva**, 2010. Tolerance of Lucerne Varieties to Apion seniculus Kirby (Coleoptera: Curculionidae). In: Jubilee Scientific Conference with International Participation, 15 years Trakia University, Stara Zagora. *Agricultural science and technology*, 2 (1), 44-47.
17. **Nikolova, I. and I. Lecheva**, 2010. Study of Harmful Species from Coleoptera Order in Alfalfa Biocenosis for Forage (*Medicago sativa* L.). In: Jubilee Scientific Conference with International Participation "Traditions and Challenges of Agricultural Education, Science and Business, *Scientific Works*, LV (2), 23-30, AU-Plovdiv.
18. **Plaisted, R.L. and L.C. Peterson**, 1959. A Technique for Evaluating the Ability of Selection to Yield Consistently in Different Location and Seasons. *American Journal of Potato Research*, 36, 381-385.
19. **Rubiales, D., F. Flores, A.A. Emeran, M. Kharrat, M. Amri, M.M. Rojas-Molina and J.C. Sillero**, 2014. Identification and Multi-Environment Validation of Resistance Against Broomrapes (*Orobanche crenata* and *Orobanche foetida*) in Faba Bean (*Vicia faba*). *Field Crops Research*, 166, 58–65.
20. **Sharma, C.S., A.I. Morgounov, H.J. Braun, B. Akin, M. Keser, D. Bedoshvil, A. Bagci, C. Martius and M. Van Ginkel**, 2010. Identifying High Yielding Stable Winter Wheat Genotypes for Irrigated Environments in Central and West Asia. *Euphytica*, 171, 53-64.
21. **Sánchez-Martín, J., D. Rubiales, F. Flores, A.A. Emeran, M.J.Y. Shtaya, J.C. Sillero, M.B. Allagui and E. Prats**, 2014. Adaptation of Oat (*Avena sativa*) Cultivars to Autumn Sowings in Mediterranean Environments. *Field Crops Research*, 156, 111-122.

22. **Tai, G.C.C.**, 1979. Analysis of Genotype-Environment Interactions of Potato Yield. *Crop Science*, 419, 434.
23. **Theil, H.**, 1950. A Rank-Invariant Method of Linear and Polynomial Regression Analysis. *Indagationes Mathematicae*, 12, 85-91.
24. **Tsegaye, D., T. Wuletaw and B. Muluken**, 2012. GenotypexEnvironment Interactions and Grain Yield Stability of Haricot Bean Varieties in Northwest Ethiopia. *Scientific Research and Essays*, 7, 3487-3493.
25. **Ukalski, K. and M. Klisz**, 2016. Application of GGE Biplot Graphs in Multi-Environment Trials on Selection of Forest Trees. *Folia Forestalia Polonica, Series A – Forestry*, 58 (4), 228-239.
26. **Villegas-Fernandez, A.M., J.C. Sillero, A.A. Emeran, J. Winkler, B. Raffiot, J. Tay, F. Flores and D. Rubiales**, 2009. Identification and Multienvironment Validation of Resistance to *Botrytis fabae* in *Vicia faba*. *Field Crops Research*, 114, 84-90.
27. **Wachira, F., N.G. Wilson, J. Omolo and G. Mamati**, 2002. Genotype x Environment Interactions for Tea Yields. *Euphytica*, 127, 289-296.
28. **Wricke, G.**, 1965. Zur Berechnung der Ökovalenz bei Sommerweizen und Hafer. *Pflanzenzüchtung*, 52, 127-138.
29. **Yan, W. and J.B. Holland**, 2010. A Heritability-Adjusted GGE Biplot for Test Environment Evaluation. *Euphytica*. 171, 355-369.

(*Medicago sativa* L.)

(*Plagionotus floralis* Pall.)

1* , 2
1 2 ” , 7007 ,
” . “, 1080 ,

Research on Plastid Pigments of Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) Depending on Variety, Age of Plants and Damages of Alfalfa Longhorn Beetle (*Plagionotus floralis* Pall.)

Evgeniya Zhekova^{1*}, Gergana Kuncheva²

¹Institute of Agriculture and Seed Science “Obraztsov Chiflik”, 7007 Rousse, Bulgaria

²Institute of Soil Science, Agrotechnologies and Plant Protection

“N. Poushkarov”, 1080 Sofia, Bulgaria,

* -mail: e.d.zhekova@abv.bg

Original scientific paper

Received: 12.06.2019

Accepted: 24.06.2019

Published: 28.06.2019

SUMMARY

The content of plastid pigments is an indicator of the reaction of plants to environmental changes and their adaptation to environmental conditions. In the case of damage caused by insect pests, the plants develop some compensatory and adaptive mechanisms to reduce the negative impact. In the present study, an analysis of the dependence of the content of plastid pigments and the relationship between them of the variety, the age of the plants and the damage on the root system of the alfalfa longhorn beetle larvae was performed. It has been found that the content of pigments (chlorophyll **a**, chlorophyll **b**, carotenoids) in the alfalfa leaf has been influenced by the age of the

6", „ 3", „ 1") („

b,
Plagionotus floralis,
Medicago sativa

a, **b**
a b,
a

(Marenco et al., 1994),
 (Berova et al., 2007),
 (Velinova et al., 2008),

(Kerin et al.,
 1997)

a **b**
 (Congming et al., 2001).

plants, with the overall pigment content decreasing with the aging of the crops.

- The variety („Pleven 6", „Prista 3", „Mnogolistna 1") did not have a significant
- effect on the content of chlorophylls and
- carotenoids nor on the ratio between
- them. An increased content of plastid
- pigments in plants with an alfalfa
- damaged root system in relation to
- healthy plants has been reported, which
- may be due to the alfalfa compensation
- mechanism, in the case of attack by
- pests.

Key words: chlorophyll **a**,
 chlorophyll **b**, carotenoids, alfalfa
 longhorn beetle, *Plagionotus floralis*,
 alfalfa, *Medicago sativa*

INTRODUCTION

- The absorption and transformation
- of solar energy by green plants is
- accomplished by the chlorophyll **a**,
- chlorophyll **b** and carotenoids pigments.
- The main pigments involved in
- photosynthesis are chlorophyll **a** and **b**,
- and carotenoids are involved in both light
- absorption and chlorophyll protection from
- photooxidation.

- The content of pigments in the
- leaves of plants changes under the
- influence of various factors – plant
- illumination, herbicide influence (Marenco
- et al., 1994), diseases (Berova et al.,
- 2007), droughts (Velinova et al., 2008),
- and such as changes in mineral nutrition,
- high and low temperatures, mineral
- toxicity, industrial pollution (Kerin et al.,
- 1997) and others.

- Furthermore, the ratio between
- chlorophyll **a** and chlorophyll **b** in the
- above-ground organs is widely used as an
- early indicator of plant aging (Congming
- et al., 2001). The ratio between
- chlorophylls and carotenoids is a sensitive
- indicator of oxidative damage, as
- chlorophylls are sensitive to oxidative and

et al., 1997; Ilieva and Vasileva, 2016).

5-10 cm

(Makarov, 1968; Kemenesy and Manninger, 1968; Nikolova and Kertikova, 2008).

illumination damaging, and carotenoids are antioxidants (Kerin et al., 1997; Ilieva and Vasileva, 2016).

The alfalfa longhorn beetle is one of the main pests of alfalfa. The larvae damage that develop in the roots of attacking alfalfa plants and gnawed almost all of their internal part from the root neck to 5-10 cm down and filling it with sawdust. Damages from larvae lead to rarefaction of the crops, reduce the quantity and quality of the fodder, and the yield of seeds, degrade the quality of the breeding material (Makarov, 1968; Kemenesy and Manninger, 1968; Nikolova and Kertikova, 2008).

The aim of the present study is to determine the dependence of the content of plastid pigments and ratios between them on the variety, the age of the plants and the damage of the alfalfa longhorn beetle larvae.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The experimental work was carried out during the period 2010-2015 in the experimental field of IASS "Obraztsov Chiflik" - Rousse. The chemical analyzes were made in the laboratory of biochemistry of IASS "Obraztsov Chiflik".

1.

Table 1. Scheme of field trials

/Year	/Age of alfalfa		
	1 /1 variant	2 /2 variant	3 /3 variant
2010	/sowing		
2011	2- /2 years old	/sowing	
2012	3- /3 years old	2- /2 years old	/sowing
2013	4- /4 years old	3- /3 years old	2- /2 years old
2014		4- /4 years old	3- /3 years old
2015			4- /4 years old

„ : „ 1” 6”, „ 3”

For the implementation of the task field trials with three alfalfa cultivars were carried out: „Pleven 6”, „Prista 3” and „Mnogolistna 1” aged one to four years.

In order to provide the necessary reliability for the effects of the alfalfa age

on the content of plastid pigments, the different variants are sown in three consecutive years: first variant – 2010, second variant – 2011 and third variant – 2012 (Table 1). Each variant includes sowing of the three varieties – „Pleven 6”, „Prista 3” and „Mnogolistna 1”, each of them in 4 replications (experimental plots) at a spacing of 12.5 cm. The individual plots and variants of the experiment are located perpendicularly (Shannin, 1977; Dimova and Marinkov, 1999). Every year in the autumn, from October to the first half of November, from the 4 replicates (experimental plots) of each variety during the study period, the plants of 0.25 m² were removed at a depth of 15-20 cm and the roots of all plants are dissected in laboratory conditions for the establishment of presence or absence of damage to larvae of alfalfa longhorn beetle. A leaf of healthy and damaged plants is provided in a biochemistry laboratory to determine the content of chlorophyll *a*, chlorophyll *b* and carotenoids. The content of plastid pigments is determined in acetone solution by the method of Mac Kinney (1941) and Arnon (1949). The extinction measurements were performed on a Speccol 11 spectrophotometer. Statistical data processing performed with the software package STATISTICA 13.1 (Mitkov, 2011).

on the content of plastid pigments, the different variants are sown in three consecutive years: first variant – 2010, second variant – 2011 and third variant – 2012 (Table 1).

Each variant includes sowing of the three varieties – „Pleven 6”, „Prista 3” and „Mnogolistna 1”, each of them in 4 replications (experimental plots) at a spacing of 12.5 cm. The individual plots and variants of the experiment are located perpendicularly (Shannin, 1977; Dimova and Marinkov, 1999).

Every year in the autumn, from October to the first half of November, from the 4 replicates (experimental plots) of each variety during the study period, the plants of 0.25 m² were removed at a depth of 15-20 cm and the roots of all plants are dissected in laboratory conditions for the establishment of presence or absence of damage to larvae of alfalfa longhorn beetle. A leaf of healthy and damaged plants is provided in a biochemistry laboratory to determine the content of chlorophyll *a*, chlorophyll *b* and carotenoids.

The content of plastid pigments is determined in acetone solution by the method of Mac Kinney (1941) and Arnon (1949). The extinction measurements were performed on a Speccol 11 spectrophotometer.

Statistical data processing performed with the software package STATISTICA 13.1 (Mitkov, 2011).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table 2 presents the results of the analyzes of the chlorophyll *a*, chlorophyll *b* and carotenoids content in three alfalfa varieties in one, two, three and four years old plants, both in healthy and those with root system damages from larvae of alfalfa longhorn beetle.

2 – „ 3”, 3 – „ 6”, 1”).

b1 – b2 – b3 – b4 –

1 – 2 –

For the statistical analysis, a three - factor experiment was carried out, the factor A being alfalfa variety, which is changed to three levels (a1 – „Pleven 6”, a2 – „Prista 3”, a3 – „Mnogolistna 1”). Factor B – plants age is changed to four levels: b1 – one-year, b2 – two years, b3 – three-years, b4 – four-years-old plants. Factor C has two levels – c1 – healthy plants, c2 – with lesions of larvae on the root system.

2.

Table 2. Content of plastid pigments in healthy and damaged by alfalfa longhorn beetle larva in three alfalfa plants during the four years of vegetation

Variety	Age	Healthy/ Damaged	Chlorophyll a, %	Chlorophyll b, %	Carotenoids, %	.a/ .b Chl.a/Chl.b	(a+b)/ Carotenoids
a1	c1	b1	0.167	0.063	0.061	2.65	3.77
		b2	0.167	0.064	0.043	2.61	5.37
		b3	0.161	0.060	0.044	2.68	5.02
		b4	0.141	0.049	0.051	2.88	3.73
	c2	b1	0.199	0.081	0.075	2.56	4.10
		b2	0.182	0.072	0.058	2.40	5.33
		b3	0.150	0.059	0.044	2.85	4.61
		b4	0.151	0.049	0.055	3.06	3.76
a2	c1	b1	0.174	0.068	0.059	2.39	4.18
		b2	0.173	0.072	0.046	2.41	4.83
		b3	0.174	0.061	0.051	2.46	5.00
		b4	0.156	0.051	0.055	3.10	3.67
	c2	b1	0.181	0.078	0.055	2.46	3.73
		b2	0.179	0.070	0.052	2.53	4.38
		b3	0.163	0.068	0.048	2.54	4.75
		b4	0.154	0.049	0.055	3.08	3.64
a3	c1	b1	0.165	0.069	0.056	2.32	4.71
		b2	0.181	0.075	0.053	2.56	4.79
		b3	0.160	0.065	0.045	2.40	4.81
		b4	0.158	0.051	0.057	3.14	3.69
	c2	b1	0.170	0.067	0.050	2.54	4.74
		b2	0.212	0.091	0.066	2.33	4.59
		b3	0.165	0.069	0.045	2.39	5.20
		b4	0.165	0.047	0.060	3.51	3.53

(3, 4, 5)

From the dispersion analysis carried out (Table 3, 4, 5), it can be seen that the greatest influence on the pigment content is the age of the plants. The influence of the variety is not evidenced by the analysis. Differences in the content

$p=0,0986$ (4), of chlorophyll **a** was demonstrated at $p=0.0998$ (Table 4) and chlorophyll **b** at $p=0.082$ (Table 4).

3. (%),

Table 3. Dispersion analysis of chlorophyll a content (%), depending on the variety, age and damage of alfalfa longhorn beetle larva of alfalfa plants

Effect	Univariate test of significance for chlorophyll a , %				
	SS	Degr. of freedom	MS	F	P
/Variety	0.0002	2	0.0001	0.88	0.4295
/Age	0.0029	3	0.0009	8.17	0.0013
/Healthy/ Damaged	0.0003	1	0.0003	3.02	0.0986
Error	0.0020	17	0.0001		

4. **b** (%),

Table 4. Dispersion analysis of chlorophyll b content (%), depending on the variety, age and damage of alfalfa longhorn beetle larva of alfalfa plants

Effect	Univariate test of significance for chlorophyll b , %				
	SS	Degr. f freedom	MS	F	P
/Variety	0.0000	2	0.00004	1.306	0.296
/Age	0.0021	3	0.00072	21.981	0.000
/Healthy/Damaged	0.0001	1	0.00011	3.425	0.081
Error	0.0005	17	0.00003		

5. (%),

Table 5. Dispersion analysis of carotenoids content (%), depending on the variety, age and damage of alfalfa longhorn beetle larva of alfalfa plants

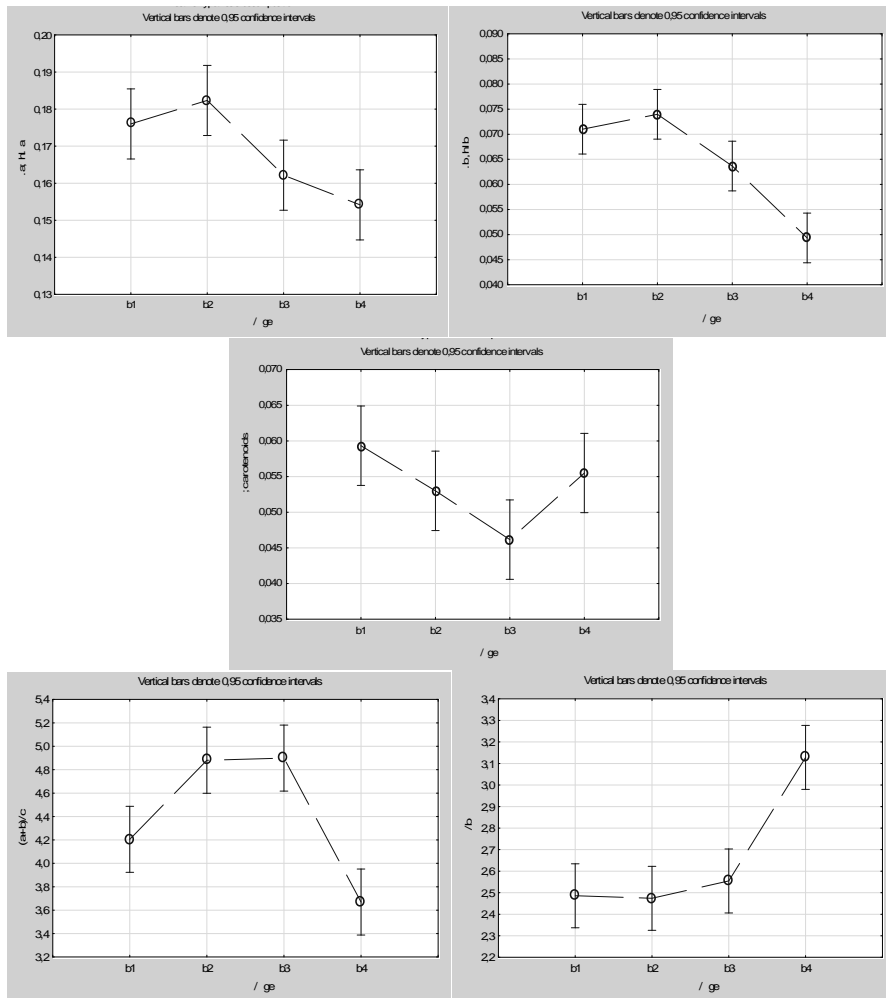
Effect	Univariate Tests of Significance for carotenoids, %				
	SS	Degr. f freedom	MS	F	P
/Variety	0.000009	2	0.000005	0.11	0.895
/Age	0.000552	3	0.000184	4.41	0.018
/Healthy/Damaged	0.000074	1	0.000074	1.76	0.201
Error	0.000709	17	0.000042		

1, - From the data presented in Figure
a - 1, we can see a decrease in the amount
b - of chlorophyll **a** and chlorophyll **b** by
- increasing the age of the plants. At the
- chlorophyll **a** ratio to chlorophyll **b**, an

b, **a**

increase in the four years old plants was reported.

The ratio between the content of chlorophylls and carotenoids rises to the third year of the study, while in the fourth year – drops. It is due to the reduced amount of chlorophylls and the higher content of carotenoids, which is an indicator of the aging of the plants.

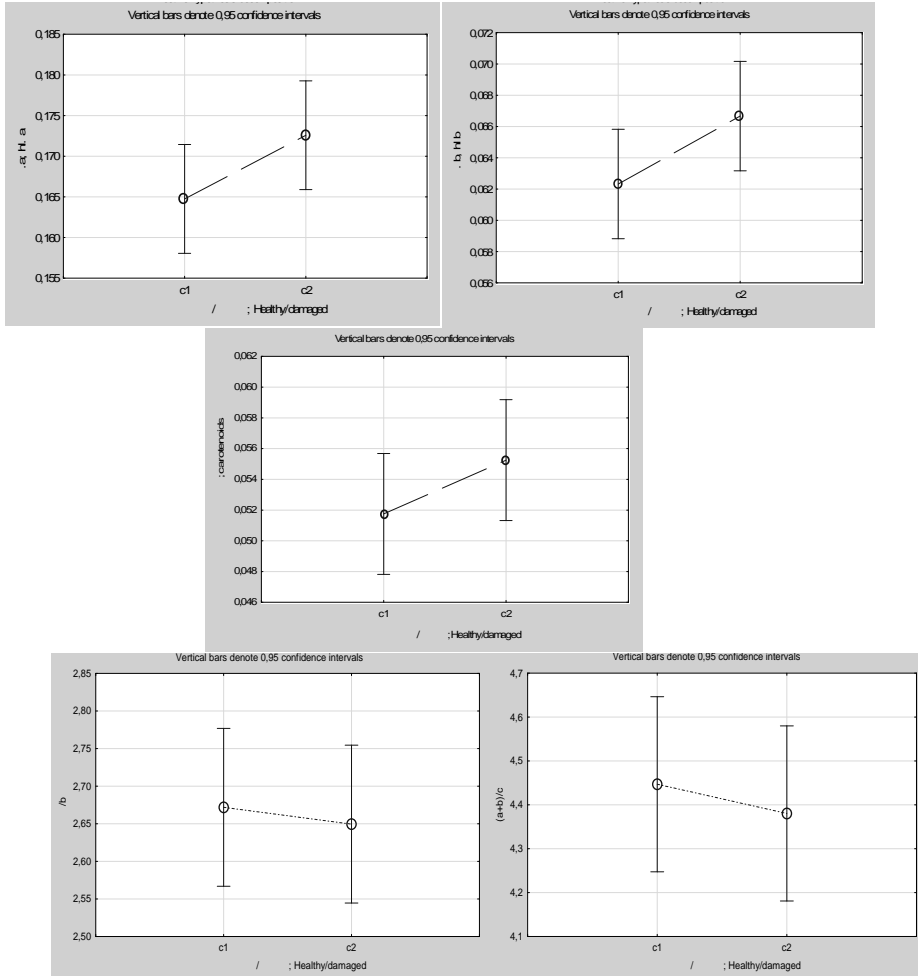


1. (chl.a + chl.b) / carotenoids (%), chl.a / chl.b (%), chl.a / chl.c (%), chl.b / chl.c (%), carotenoids (%), b (%), a (%), b1-b4

Fig. 1. The content of chlorophyll a (%), chlorophyll b (%) and carotenoids (%), as well as the ratio of chlorophyll a / chlorophyll b, (chl.a + chl.b)/carotenoids in relation of the age of plants (b1-b4).

2,

- The results presented in Figure 2
- show an increase in the amount of
- pigments in damaged by alfalfa longhorn
- beetle larvae plants. However, the
- proportions of pigments are lower in the
- attacked than in healthy plants.



. 2.

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{chl.a} \quad \text{chl.b} \quad \text{carotenoids} \\
 & \left(\frac{\text{chl.a} + \text{chl.b}}{\text{carotenoids}} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

Fig. 2. The content of chlorophyll a (%), chlorophyll b (%) and carotenoids(%), as well as the ratio of chlorophyll a /chlorophyll b, (chl.a + chl.b)/carotenoids in healthy (c₁) and damaged by alfalfa longhorn beetle larva (c₂) plants

6

- From the data in Table 6 it can be
- seen that the coefficients of variation of
- the pigment content in damaged plants
- are higher than those in healthy ones,

6 2

b

which means higher variance of the results. From Table 6 and Figure 2, there is observed an increase in chlorophyll **a**, chlorophyll **b** and carotenoid levels. This is probably due to a plant compensation mechanism aimed at accelerating the photosynthesis process and directing assimilates to the damaged root system. Such compensatory mechanisms are described in the studies of some authors (Rubia et al., 1996; Fikru et al., 1999; Anikin et al., 2017).

(Rubia et al., 1996; Fikru et al., 1999; Anikin et al., 2017).

6.

(1)

(2)

Table 6. Descriptive statistics of the pigment content of healthy alfalfa plants (c₁) and damaged by alfalfa longhorn beetle larva plants(c₂)

Variety	Healthy/Damaged	N	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	SD	CV	
. /Chl. a	c ₁	12	0.165	0.166	0.141	0.181	0.011	6.435	
. /Chl. b		12	0.062	0.063	0.049	0.075	0.008	13.531	
Carotenoids /		12	0.052	0.052	0.043	0.061	0.006	11.830	
. / . b Chl. a / Chl. b		12	2.672	2.632	2.391	3.098	0.250	9.341	
. (+ b) /		c ₂	12	4.447	4.393	3.667	5.370	0.652	14.667
Chl.(a+b) / Carotenoids			12	0.173	0.168	0.150	0.212	0.019	11.031
. /Chl. a	12		0.067	0.069	0.047	0.091	0.014	20.441	
. /Chl. b	12		0.055	0.055	0.044	0.075	0.009	15.987	
Carotenoids /	12		2.650	2.533	2.321	3.511	0.381	14.381	
. / . b Chl. a /Chl. b	12	4.380	4.650	3.533	5.200	0.573	13.075		
. (+ b) / Chl.(a+b) / Carotenoids									

7

4,67%,
b – 6,32%, a
7,09%,
100%.

Table 7 shows differences in pigment content between damaged and healthy plants. From the data presented in it, it is noticeable that the plants infested with alfalfa longhorn beetle larvae, had higher chlorophyll **a** content on average of 4.67%, chlorophyll **b** by 6.32% and carotenoids – 7.09 %, in comparison with the amount of pigments in healthy plants being assumed to be 100%. Pigment ratios show a slight

0,98% 0,93%.

7,

6" 1",

3".

7. b,

decrease of 0.98% and 0.93%.

Individual varieties responded in a different way, from the data shown in Table 7, we can assume a stronger reaction of the „Pleven 6” and „Mnogolistna 1” varieties, where there is a higher increase of plastid pigments compared to „Prista 3”.

The pigment quantity of the one year and two years old plants are higher, while in older plants, these changes are smaller.

% (2- 1)

Table 7. Content of chlorophyll a, chlorophyll b, carotenoids and their ratios in alfalfa plants damaged by alfalfa longhorn beetle larvae in % relative to healthy (c2-c1)

Variety	Age	(2- 1) Chlorophyll a (2- 1),%	(2- 1) Chlorophyll b (2- 1),%	(2- 1) Carotenoids (2- 1), %	.a/ .b (2- 1) Chl.a/chl.b (2- 1), %	.(a+b)/ (2- 1) Chl.(a+b)/carotenoids, %
Pleven 6	b1	+19.16%	+28.57	+22.95	-7.32	-0.99
	b2	+8.98%	+12.68	+34.88	-3.28	-18.45
	b3	-6.83	-1.67	+0.00	-5.25	-5.43
	b4	+7.09	+0.00	+7.84	+7.09	-2.39
Prista 3	b1	+4.02	+14.71	-6.78	-9.31	+14.81
	b2	+3.47	-2.78	+13.04	+6.42	-10.09
	b3	-6.32	+11.48	-5.88	-15.97	+4.44
	b4	-1.28	-3.92	+0.00	+2.75	-1.93
Mnogolistna 1	b1	+3.03	-2.90	-10.71	6.11	13.44
	b2	+17.13	+21.33	+24.53	-3.47	-4.95
	b3	+3.13	+6.15	0.00	-2.85	+4.00
	b4	+4.43	-7.84	+5.26	+13.32	-3.64
Average		+4.67	+6.32	+7.09	-0.98	-0.93

CONCLUSIONS

1. () , b,

2. („ 6”, „ 3”, „ 1”)

1. The content of pigments (chlorophyll a, chlorophyll b, carotenoids) in the alfalfa foliage is affected by the age of the plants. The total pigment content decreases as the crop age increases.
2. In the experiments carried out there is no significant differences either on the content of chlorophylls and carotenoids or the ratios between them of the tested varieties („Pleven 6”, „Prista 3”,

3. „Mnogolistna 1”).
3. An increased content of chlorophyll **a**, chlorophyll **b**, carotenoids was reported in plants with damaged root system by the alfalfa longhorn beetle larvae, in comparison to healthy. Also, the results for damaged plants vary more strongly probably due to different degree of damage. The increased pigment contents are a result of the alfalfa compensation mechanism, in the case of attack by pests.

/ REFERENCES

1. **Anikin V., M. Nikelshparg, E. Nikelshparg and I. Konyukhov**, 2017. Photosynthetic Activity of the Dodder *Cuscuta campestris* (Convolvulaceae) in Case of Plant Inhabitation by the Gallformed Weevil *Smicronyx smreczynskii* (Coleoptera, Curculionidae). *Izv. Sarat. un-ta. Nov. ser. Himiya. Biologiya. Ekologiya*. 7(1), 42-46.
2. **Arnon, D.**, 1949. Copper Enzymes in Isolated Chloroplasts. Polyphenoloxidase in *Beta vulgaris*. *Plant Physiol.*, 24, 1-15.
3. **Berova, M., N. Stoeva, Z. Zlatev, Tz. Stoilova and P. Chavdarov**, 2007. Physiological Changes in Bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) Leaves, Infected by the Most Important Bean Diseases, *Journal of Central European Agriculture*, 8 (1), 57-62.
4. **Congming, L., L. Qingtao, Z. Jinhua and T. Kunang**, 2001. Characterization of Photosynthetic Pigment Composition, Photosystem II Photochemistry and Thermal Energy Dissipation during Leaf Senescence of Wheat Plants Grown in Field, *Journal of Experimental Botany*, 52 (362), 1805-1810.
5. **Dimova, D. and E. Marinkov**, 2005. Experimental Work and Biometrics. Academic Publishing House of HIA, Plovdiv (Bg).
6. **Fikru, J., L. Higley, X. Ni and S. Quisenberry**, 1999. Physiological and Growth Tolerance in Wheat to Russian Wheat Aphid (Homoptera: Aphididae) Injury. *Environ. Entomol.*, 28 (5), 787-794.
7. **Ilieva, A. and V. Vasileva**, 2016. Plastid Pigments Content and Nitrogen Dry Mass Yield in Some Grass Mixtures. *Journal of Mountain Agriculture on the Balkans*, 19 (1), 61-77.
8. **Kemenesy, E. and G. Manninger**, 1968. Die Luzerne anbau und pflanzenschutz, Budapest, pp. 163-164.
9. **Kerin, V., T. Tsonev, M. Moetska-Berova, A. Vassilev and Z. Zlatev**, 1997. Contemporary Methods for Analysis in Plant Physiology. Academic Publishing House of HIA, Plovdiv (Bg).
10. **Kerin, V., M. Moetska-Berova, N. Stoeva, A. Vassilev and Z. Zlatev**, 2000. Plant Physiology Manual, Academic Publishing House of AU, Plovdiv (Bg).
11. **Kertikov, T., A. Ilieva, D. Kertikova**, 2016. Biochemical Evaluation of Alfalfa Forage Mass Grown Under Conventional and Biological Conditions. In: 55th Science Conference of Ruse University., Bulgaria, pp. 133-139.
12. **Makarov, M.**, 1968. Alfalfa Longhorn Beetle. *Rastitelna zashtita*, 2, 13-18 (Bg).
13. **Marenco, R. and N. Lopes**, 1994. Leaf Chlorophyll Concentration and Nitrogen Content in Soybean Plants Treated with Herbicides. *R. Bras. Fisiol. Veg.*, 6 (1), 7-13.

14. **McKinney, G.**, 1941. Absorption of Light by Chlorophyll Solutions. *J. Biol. Chem.*, 140, 315-322.
15. **Mitkov, A.**, 2011. Experimental Theory. Dunavpress, Ruse (Bg).
16. **Nikolova, I. and D. Kertikova**, 2008. Comparative Assessment of Alfalfa Samples by Degree of Attack by Some Soil Pests. *Journal of Mountain Agriculture on the Balkans*, 11 (1), 48-59.
17. **Rubia, E., K. Heong, M. Zalucki, B. Gonzales and G. Norton**, 1996. Mechanisms of Compensation of Rice Plants to Yellow Stem Borer *Scirpophaga incertulas* (Walker) Injury <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/309705184>
18. **Shannin, J.**, 1977. Methodology of Field Experiment. Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia (Bg).
19. **Velinova, K. and T. Naydenova**, 2008. Contents of Pigments, Total Protein and Free Proline in the Assimilating Apparatus of Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris* L.) and Austrian Black Pine (*Pinus nigra* Arn.) in Different Soil Moisture. *Forest Science*, 1, 3-15.