

V-LEAF MARKING IN A Trifolium ambiguum Bieb. GERMPLASM  
 COLLECTION

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Abstract:

SZABÓ T.A., CHIOREAN D., 1987, V-leaf marking in a Trifolium ambiguum Bieb. germplasm collection. Not.bot.hort.agrobot., Cluj., XVII., 77 - 84. Frequency values have been registered in the neomorph multiple allele series of V-leaf marking in a germplasm collection of Caucasian (Kura) clover - Trifolium ambiguum Bieb. This collection, obtained from the Northwest Reg. Plant Intr. Stn., Geneva N.Y., USA, comprises 60 accessions from USSR, Australia, Iran and Turkey. Allele frequencies have been registered by phenotype analysis of leaflet samples collected with modified double meter method (PUJA et al. 1978). Neomorph alleles have been noted following BREWBAKER. The  $V^H$  type neomorph was the most common (48 % in average for the whole collection), followed by  $V^O$  (35,8 %)  $V^H$  (7,7 %),  $V^B$  and  $V^B$  (4,5 and 0,2 %). Some of the accessions differed markedly in V-leaf mark frequencies:  $V^O$  was completely lacking in two accessions (0 %) (Table 1) but was common in other two (75 %). Clinal variation, along altitudinal gradient, was also detectable. The majority of accessions were oligomorph, with just 2-3 V-leaf mark phenotypes per accession.

Key words: Trifolium ambiguum, Caucasian (Kura) clover, V-leaf marking, allele frequency, germplasm.

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The V-leaf marking in true clovers is determined by a series of neomorph alleles. Such neomorphs commonly display their allelic product in diploid heterozygots (3,17,20). In polyploids, such as

Trifolium repens L. and T. ambiguum Bieb. this clear simultaneous qualitative effect of neomorphs is furtherly complicated by oligo- or poliallelic situations, seasonal phenotypic plasticity, leaf form diversity etc. (25).

The V-leaf marking is characteristic only for a group of true clovers, but to this group belong the most important cultivated species (T. pratense, T. repens, T. subterraneum, T. medium, and the recently domesticated T. ambiguum, too). Presumably the allelic series is not equally rich in all these species, but no comparative study has been found in the available literature so far. In white clover more than 10 neomorphs have been described and interpopulational differences detected (2,3,5,7).

The biological significance of V-leaf marking is still not clear. It was regarded as caused by "ghost genes" without evolutionary significance. There was some evidence for differential grazing of different phenotypes by rumen fistulated sheep: animals showed strong bias for particular marks, selecting plants with these marks with preference to others. Due to this apostatic selection - the grazing animal uses the leaf mark as search image - the commonest phenotypes are preferred (5). Grazing birds may also contribute to the maintenance of leaf mark polymorphism (11). V-leaf mark allele frequencies seems to be correlated, to some degree, with unidentified ecological factors along altitudinal and/or latitudinal gradients, somewhat similarly as DADAY found for cyanogenic loci (8). A clover canopy with fully marked leaves is perhaps more attractive for clover pollinators than one with no leaf marks at all. D. CHIOREAN noticed in polycross populations, a better tolerance for extreme climatic conditions in the case of V0 phenotypes.

Leaf-marking differences may be useful in cultivar identification, but clover breeders tend to neglect this character (26). These alleles can be used also for the study of gene flow and the evolutionary dynamics of the genetic diversity (16,21).

Caucasian or Kura clover (T. ambiguum Bieb.) reached the western part of its areal perhaps in Transylvania (13, 14, 18,22). This species was cultivated first in USSR (1); it is regarded as a good meliferous, soil conservation and forage plant suited for adverse ecological conditions, drought, low temperatures, high altitude, grazing pressure etc. (9,10,23,28). Germplasm research and evaluation have been carried out

in USSR, USA, Australia, New Zealand, Czechoslovakia, Romania etc., mostly phenotypic diversity of agronomically important traits, chemical composition, phosphorus nutrition, germination, palatability, legume-grass mixtures, embryoculture and interspecific hybridation (especially with white clover), polyploidy, genotype evaluation, phenotypic diversity etc. (12,15,24,26; review in 4,9,10,23).

#### Material and method

The accessions of the studied T. ambiguum germplasm collection have been collected mostly by W.H. SKRDLA, 1967 (Ames, Iowa) and D.R. DEWEY et A.T. PLUMER, 1977 (Utah Univ.). A duplicate series of this collection was kindly forwarded to us in 1985 by Northeast Regional Plant Introduction Station, Geneva, NY.

The original collection sites of the accessions have been localized and the collection data identified using the volumes of USDA Plant Inventories (12,29). Samples have been collected mostly from USSR with some accessions from Australia (cultivars), Iran, and Turkey. The USSR collection covers Yalta, Crimea, Krasnodar, Stavropol district, Caucasus Mountains etc. The altitudinal range of identified accessions vary between 200 m s.m. (Isablliluc, Stavropol distr.) and 2500 m s.m. (Teberda, Mt. Caucasus).

Samples have been sown on June 6, 1986 in the experimental field Sapca Verde (Cluj-Napoca) in rows of 2 m long, with 60 cm between the rows, using about 50 seeds/meter. Seedlings were heavily selected by summer drought.

During the first evaluation year germination and seedling vigour, seedling density, plant height, coverage, V-leaf marking, flowering time, disease, green mass production was noted.

The V-leaf marking was registered according to BREWBAKER; this notation fitted well with our field files. Frequency values have been sampled according to a modified version of the double-meter method (PUJA et al. 1978): 20 touch-points have been analyzed for each accession and sampling was repeated after a period. The percentage value of a given V-leaf mark type - considered as the frequency of the corresponding neomorph - has been calculated according to:

$$v^x = \frac{x}{n} \cdot 100$$



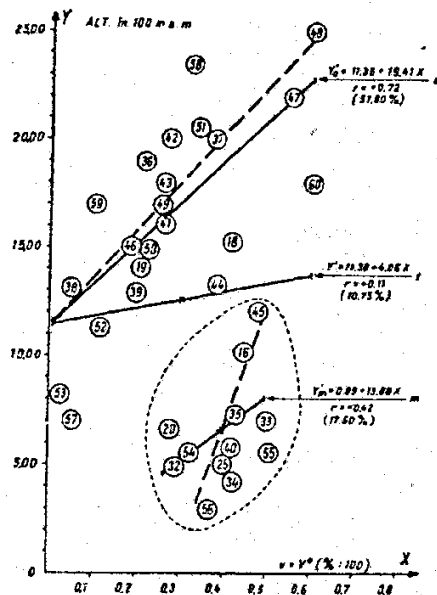


Fig. 1. The diagram of the distribution of  $v = V^{\circ}$  clover leaf mark allele in the *Trifolium ambiguum* Bieb. collection in correlation with the original collection altitude. Linear regression, correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) and the altitudinal determinism (% values in brackets) have been calculated separately for two, apparently distinct data sets (a, m) and the total (t). Dotted regression lines have been estimated by eye.

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#### Rezumat

SZABÓ T.A., CHIORBAN D., 1987, Marcajul foliar într-o colecție de germoplaemă de Trifolium ambiguum Bieb. Not. bot. hort. agrobot., XVII, 77-84.

A fost studiat marcajul foliar V la Trifolium ambiguum Bieb. într-o colecție obținută de la Northwest Reg. Plant Int. Station Geneva, USA și cultivată la Sapca Verde, Cluj-Napoca. Nomenclatura folosită pentru alele din seria neomorfa multiplă a fost cea adoptată pentru specia înrudită, T. repens L. Probele au fost recoltate prin metoda dublului metru. Fenotipul cel mai frecvent a fost cea determinată de alela V<sup>H</sup> (48%), urmată de fenotipuri fără marcaje foliare, determinate de v<sup>V</sup> (35,8%). Într-un grup distinct de proveniența (Fig. 1, a) s-a putut evidenția o corelație pozitivă relativ ridicată între frecvența alelelor v și altitudinea ( $r=+0,72$ ). Pentru întreaga colecție însă corelația a fost mult mai slabă ( $r=+0,11$ ) frecvența alelelor v fiind influențată evident de alți factori cum ar fi diferențiere evolutivă, nișe ecologice specifice, metode de colectare și manipularea detelor de germoplaemă metodologia folosită pentru luarea probelor etc.

PLANTES-HOTES POUR DES INSECTES SEMINIPHAGES IV. (Brassicaceae, Campanulaceae, Caryophyllaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Geraniaceae, Resedaceae et Scrophulariaceae)

T. PERJU, I. MOLDOVAN

#### Abstract:

PERJU T., MOLDOVAN I., 1987, Host-plants for seminiphagous insects.IV. (Brassicaceae, Campanulaceae, Caryophyllaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Geraniaceae, Resedaceae and Scrophulariaceae). Not. bot. hort. agrobot. Cluj, XVII, 85-91.

During the period 1970-1984 inflorescences with fruits and seeds have been collected, from 14 host-plants of several botanical families and the species of insects feeding on their flowers, fruits and seeds have been identified.

The species of seminiphagous have been for the first time obtained in our country by the method of pure cultures in laboratory conditions.

The following species of seminiphagous have been identified in the fruits and seeds of these cultivated or spontaneous species of host-plants: Gymnetron campanulae L., Sibinia pellucens Scop., Ceuthorrynchus assimilis Payk., Gymnetron anthyrrhini Payk., G. netum L., Systole euphorbiae Zer.

Among the identified seminiphagous species, Gymnetron campanulae L., Systole euphorbiae Zer., (Eurytomidae) are new in the fauna of our country.

Key words: seminiphagous species.

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