

**CHICKPEA COLLECTION OF THE NATIONAL CENTRE
FOR PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES OF UKRAINE**

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Chickpea is important leguminous crop that is a source of value protein for food and forage. There is Ukrainian chickpea collection in National Centre for Plant Genetic Resources of Ukraine (NCPGRU) in the Plant Production Institute nd. a. V. Ya. Yuriev of NAAS (Kharkiv). The base chickpea collection includes of 1843 accessions. There are seven species of genus *Cicer* L. in this collection. The most of accessions are belong to *Cicer arietinum* L. – 98,6 % and six to wild species: *C. reticulatum* Ladis. ra *C. bijugum* K. H. Rech., *C. judaicum* Boiss., *C. pinnatifidum* Jaub. and Sp., *C. yamashitae* Kitamura, *C. chorassanicum* Bge. M. Pop. Species *C. reticulatum* Ladis. and *C. bijugum* K. H. Rech. are threatened with extinction in a wild environment. There are nine annual *Cicer* species. According to the results of the search in genebanks, applications for two annual species were formed: (*Cicer cuneatum* Hochst. ex Rich. and *Cicer echinospermum* P.H. Davis and one perennial – *Cicer incisum* (Willd.) K. Maly. These accessions were necessary to expand the species diversity of the basic chickpea collection of NCPGRU.

The intraspecific diversity accessions of *Cicer arietinum* L. from base collection of NCPGRU was conducted according to the I. V. Seferova`s systematic (1997). According to this systematic chickpea is divide for 22 variance. Everything of them are presents in the collection of NCPGRU. Besides four new variances were determined. There are variants: *var. viridis* with green seeds orbiculato-angular (intermediate) form, *var. atrum* with black seeds rounded (owl`s head shape), *var. pomaceu* with greenish-yellow seeds owl`s head shape, *var. piceus* with black seeds pea-like shape. The accessions of *var. arietinum* are predominant in collection (70 %). There are typical kabuli-type seeds. Other variants make up 5 % of collection.

All accessions pass a three-year study cycle for morphological, phenological and economic characteristics. As results of investigation the signs database are formed.

The important part of the collection are unique local varieties. These accessions were collected in the research expeditions and found by collectors from different regions of Ukraine and the World. Our collection contains 68 local varieties from 12 countries. The most of them are *var. arietinum*. Almost half of the local varieties (39 accessions, 57 %) are Ukrainian varieties. They are adapted for local conditions and high valuable. The sources of high yield, suitability for mechanized harvesting, ascochyta blight resistance, early-maturity, large seeds, high protein contains are distinguished from these accessions.

Conclusions, chickpea collection of NCPGRU is important part of wold chickpea gene pool. It contains varieties and lines of world and Ukrainian breeding and unique local varieties.