

# ILS4

Fourth International  
Legume Society  
Conference  
**2023**

19-22 September Granada Conference Center  
**Granada Spain**



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# **Aleksandar Mikić**

## **the legume (re)searcher**

**Petr Smýkal**  
Department of Botany, Palacky University  
Olomouc, Czechia





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**Aleksandar Mikić** \*January 9, 1974 in Pančevo – † September 5, 2021 in Novi Sad)

BSc (1998)

MSc (2008)

PhD (2014) in Genetics and Breeding, University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Agriculture, Serbia

Worked as Research Associate and legume breeder at the **Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops in Novi Sad (2000-2018)**



**Fields of interests:** conventional and molecular genetics, breeding, agronomy, agroecology, crop history – including also archaeobotany, linguistics, plant biology, history and much more .....

Co-authored more than 350 journal papers, over 10 book chapters and one book

Author of more than 30 legume cultivars, mainly of forage crops

# European legume research and production organizations 1980-90' and on



## AEP

European Association for Grain Legume Research  
*Association Européenne de recherche sur les Protéagineux*

12 Avenue George V – 75008 Paris – France

Tel: +33 1 40 69 49 09 • Fax: +33 1 47 23 58 72

Email: [aep@prolea.com](mailto:aep@prolea.com) • <http://www.grainlegumes.com>

*The AEP is an associative network of persons with interests in grain legume research (peas, faba beans, lupins, chickpeas, lentils, dry beans, etc.) to favour the exchange of information and multidisciplinary collaborations (Conferences, publications, workshops, joint projects). It aims both to strengthen the research works and to enhance the application of research into the integrated chain of grain legumes.*



## UNIP

French Interprofessional Organisation of Protein Crops  
*Union Nationale Interprofessionnelle des plantes riches en Protéines*

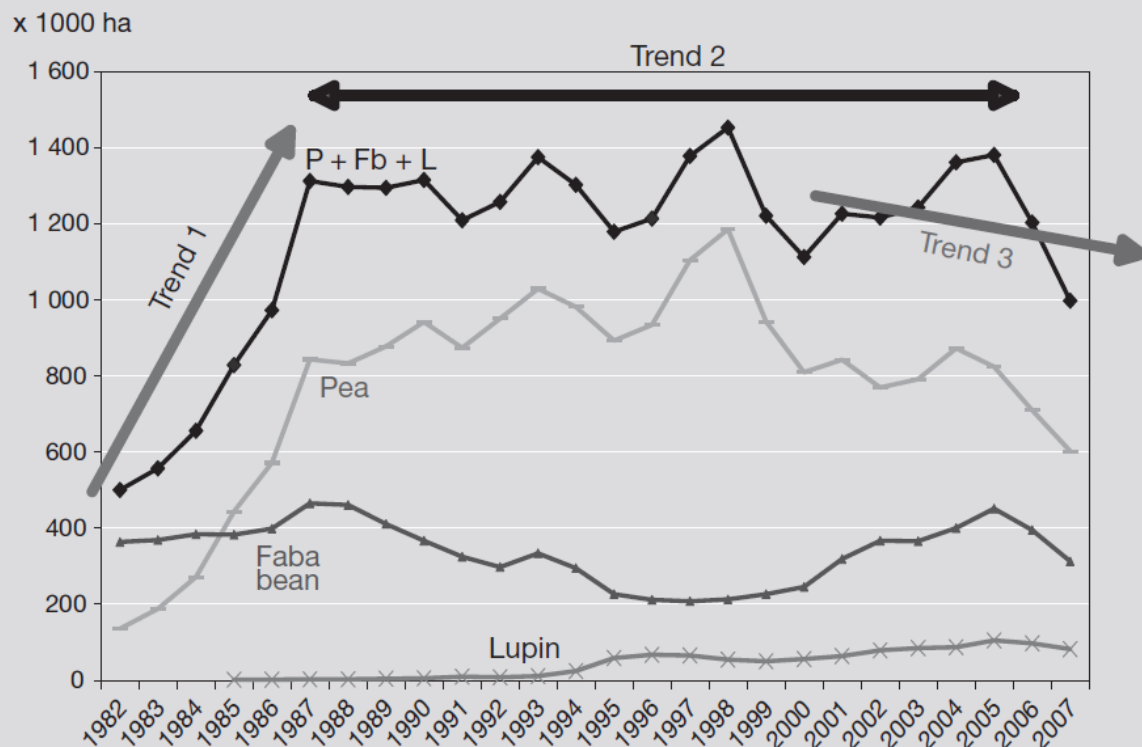
12 Avenue George V – 75008 Paris – France

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Email: [unip@prolea.com](mailto:unip@prolea.com) • <http://www.prolea.com/unip>

*The UNIP is the representative organisation of all the French professional branches of the economic integrated chain of grain legumes. It provides information about pulse production, utilisation, and the market and it coordinates research works related to grain legumes in France, especially peas, faba beans and lupins for animal feeding.*

## Europe balancing with legumes production – and agriculture policies at 80 - 90'



Trend 1: a phase with a very positive trend: incentives for protein sources: guaranteed price for farmer and subsidy for the first user; rapid increase in peas which is adapted to most regions.

Trend 2: a kind of ceiling: Maximal Guaranteed Quantity (since 1988); Specific aid (€56) kept in CAP reform; Aphanomyces root disease.

Trend 3: recent negative trend: Climate accidents in spring; competition with other crops benefiting from policy, market and industrial support.

### Insert 1.

### Grain legumes and EU agricultural policies

There were no dry peas and very limited areas of faba beans and lupins in the EU at the beginning of the 1980s. Following the American embargo on soya in 1973, areas of peas, faba beans and lupins in Europe increased impressively during the 1980s as a result of a pro-active EU policy for protein-rich sources and a standardising of the market: a minimum price guaranteed to farmers growing peas, faba beans or lupins, and a use subsidy for the first user (usually the compound feed manufacturers) within the framework of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Peas, which are adapted to most regions, were the most successful species representing 80% of production.

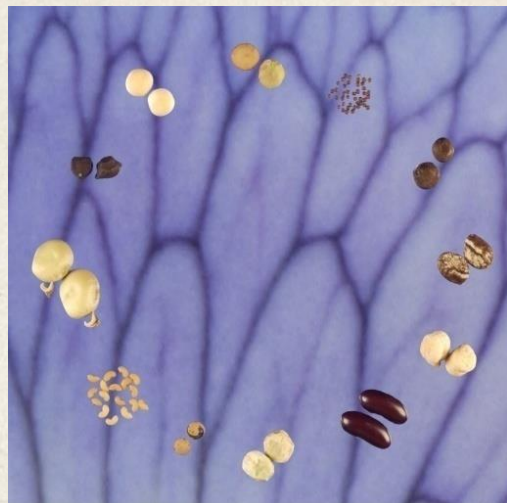
In 1998, a Maximum Guaranteed Quantity (MGQ) was fixed at 3.5 Mt for grain legumes, but this was essentially the CAP reform applied from 1 January 1993 (CAP reform 1992 called 'Mac Sharry') which changed things radically: the guaranteed prices were reduced to be nearer the market prices, especially for arable crops, and direct subsidies were applied with mandatory set-aside. Despite the aid, grain legumes related income decreased sharply for farmers in this period. The reform in 2000 (Agenda 2000) strengthened these trends without compensating fully the decrease in the guaranteed prices and kept a small differential for grain legumes which was not a great enough incentive compared with the minimum prices of cereals.

The new CAP reform of 2004 transferred aid per tonne into aid per hectare and grain legumes got a standard decoupled aid of €55.57/ha in the EU with Maximum Guaranteed areas of 1.6 million ha for the EU-25.

Figure 2. Trends in areas of grain legumes in the EU and major factors related to each of the major phases

(Eurocrop-GL-WG, 2008).

(Areas from UNIP, with EU-15 until 2003, EU-25 until 2006, EU-27 in 2007).



# GLIP

Grain Legumes Integrated Project  
FOOD-CT-2004-506223

GLIP project was a large multinational project (61 partners) striving **to develop new strategies to enhance the use of grain legumes crops in food and animal feed**. Grain legumes such as peas, chickpeas, beans and lupins have a significant role to play in European agriculture because of their value as an important source of vegetable protein for human and animal alike and their beneficial impact on the environment. However, the inclusion of legumes in the European cropping systems is still rather low in regard to their beneficial functions towards sustainable and multifunctional agroecosystems.



**Grain Legumes Technology Transfer Platform (GL-TTP)** was a not-for-profit organisation that bridges the gap between research and industry to increase the production and quality of grain legumes worldwide. GL-TTP was initiated in 2005 by the **EU FP6 Grain Legumes Integrated Project (GLIP)** to ensure the exploitation of the project outputs by the grain legume industry. Having a foot in both the research and industry worlds, GL-TTP is in an ideal position to identify the specific needs and constraints of grain legume breeders and channel the latest research results and technologies through an accelerated pipeline to the grain legume industry.



## GL-TTP and AEP: *Together we stand, divided we fall!*

GL-TTP General Assembly, Master Congress Centre, Novi Sad, Serbia, 28 November 2008

**Grain Legumes Technology Transfer Platform (GL-TTP)** was initiated in 2005 by the **EU Grain Legumes Integrated Project (GLIP)** to ensure the exploitation of the project outputs by the grain legume industry. GL-TTP has been created to facilitate collaborative efforts for carrying out scientific surveys and making value of technology for the purposes of applied legume crop breeding. It aimed to facilitate and expedite the genetic improvement of grain legume varieties to suit the needs expressed by the grain legume producers and end-users. However upon GLIP termination in 2008 it was difficult to maintain it viable.

*Grain Legumes. January 2009, No. 51*  
*Mikic', Aleksandar*





## Novi Sad, 2008

GL-TTP Executive Committee members:

Petr Smýkal (Agritec Plant Research Ltd., Šumperk, Czech Republic), President;

Noel Ellis (John Innes Centre, Norwich, UK), Past President;

Anne-Marie Bochar (Limagrain, Riom, France), Treasurer;

Tom Warkentin (University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada), First Vice-President;

Aleksandar Mikić (Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia), Second Vice-President.

**It has been proposed  
to either fuse together  
or establish novel  
broader society**

**D**espite the rough times grain legume research and production have had, especially in Europe, the Grain Legumes Technology Transfer Platform (GL-TTP) successfully overcame numerous difficulties and kept on working on the fulfillment of its primary goal: to enhance the exploitation of the revolutionary results provided by the FP6 Grain Legumes Integrated Project (GLIP) in breeding and other applied research.

As a satellite meeting of the International Conference on Breeding Field and Vegetable Crops, BREEDING08, the Second GL-TTP Workshop was held on 27 and 28 November 2008 at the Master Congress Centre in Novi Sad, Serbia. Under the title of *Integrating Legume Science and Crop Breeding*, it gathered together more than 50 scientists dealing with genetics, genomics and breeding of all economically important legume species from 24 countries.

## Legumes: the bright side of the world

*Echoes of the Second GL-TTP Workshop*

In total, 59 contributions were presented as either talks or posters, comprised within six main topics, namely

- 1) *Achievements and Challenges in Legume Breeding,*
- 2) *Legume Breeding and Biodiversity,*
- 3) *Status and Requirements of Legume Breeding,*
- 4) *Fundamentals of Legume Breeding,*
- 5) *Aims and Methods of Legume Breeding and*
- 6) *Legume Breeding, Symbiosis and Stress.*

This Special Report brings forth the seminal contributions of the event, witnessing that GL-TTP shares the same strategic aim with AEP: to integrate diverse legume research communities, such as those of soybean, other grain legumes, forage legumes and tree legumes, that often were unaware of each other's results, into an efficient and sustainable network to the mutual and lasting benefit of each of its members.



# Antalya 2010 (last ) 7th AEP conference and the birthplace of the Legume Society

*His view of a Society as a promising new chapter in the legume research and transfer to industry, linking together the research on all legumes worldwide, from grain and forage legumes, pharmaceutical and ornamental ones and from the Old World to the Americas, benefitting the whole mankind and its needs*

## 5th International Food Legumes Research Conference (IFLRC V) & 7th European Conference on Grain Legumes (AEP VII)



Legumes for Global Health

Legume Crops and Products for Food, Feed and Environmental Benefits

April 26-30, 2010 - Antalya,



# **Dire Straits and Pink Floyd – his favourites**

## **„ Legumes for nothing, chickpea for free... „**

ISSUE No. 51

January 2009

***Vavilovia formosa,***  
**an intriguing *Pisum* relative**

**Resistance to rust in pea**

**GL-TTP and AEP:**  
***Together we stand, divided we fall!***



GL  
TTP



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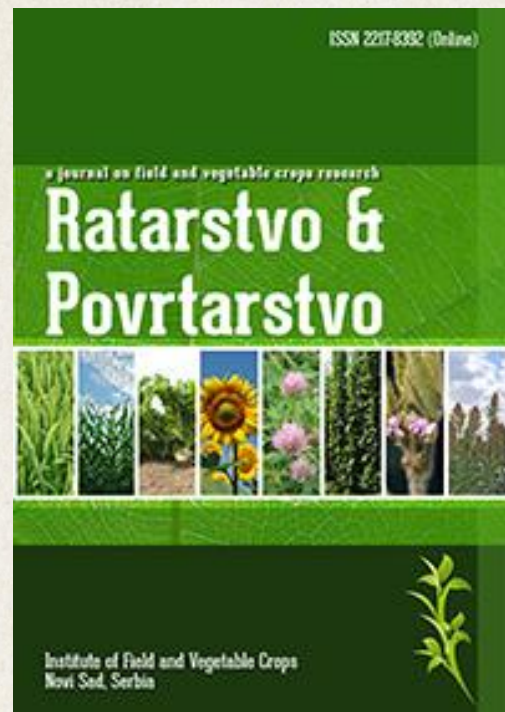
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## Editorial work

*Grain Legumes*  
(1993 – 2011)  
4 issues/year

*Legume Perspectives*  
(since 2013 – on)  
2- 4 issues/year



## GRAIN LEGUMES



The magazine of the European Association for Grain Legume Research  
Le magazine de l'Association Européenne de recherche sur les Protéagineux

ISSUE No. 57

July 2011

**Biotechnology and  
gene mapping in lentil**

**Tannin-free lentils**

**Lentil diseases:  
a threat worldwide**

**No-till lentil**

**Lentil in North America,  
Africa, Asia and Australia**

***Lens sana in corpore sano***  
**The amazing lentil**



## LEGUME PERSPECTIVES



**Sgt. Legume Science Joint Club Band**  
**Merging knowledge on diverse legume research topics**

The journal of the International Legume Society

Issue 8 • July 2015



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# Passion for legumes – Legume Society

www.rsseme.com/journal.html



Views / Stavovi

Ratar. Povrt. / Field Veg. Crop Res. 48 (2011) 253-258

## The Legume Manifesto: (Net)workers on *Fabaceae*, Unite!

Aleksandar Mikić • Diego Rubiales • Petr Smýkal • Frederick L. Stoddard

European Association for Grain Legume Research (AEP)

Carte blanche  
to...



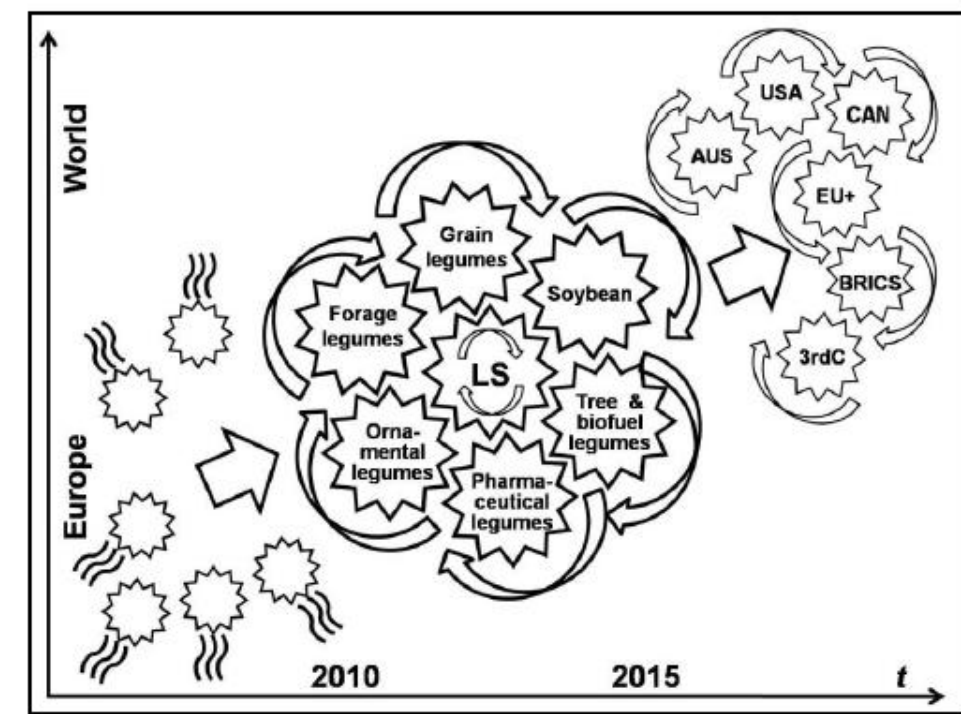
...Aleksandar  
Mikić

## "Legumes for nothing..."

...C hickpeas for free". This was a funny modification of the famous hit of Dire Straits, made by Tom Warkentin, Petr Smýkal and myself made during the Second Grain Legumes Technology Transfer Platform (GL-TTP) Workshop, held in November 2008 in Novi Sad. Of course, that was only a joke. Merging the Fifth International Food Legume Research Conference and Sixth European Conference on Grain Legumes, in Antalya, Turkey, from 26th to 30th April 2010, proved to be a rather successful event for the whole global legume research and industry communities, demonstrating that no legume is less important than any other crop.

All the sessions of the conference, whether in the form of oral or poster presentations, were full of novel knowledge on the various topics. I will take liberty to select two topics that could be considered perhaps more far sighting than the others. One of them is the session devoted to communicating the benefits of grain legumes for the whole society, from researchers and farmers to industry and decision makers. The other was the last General Assembly of the European Association for Grain Legumes (AEP), reflecting the last meeting of its leaders in June 2008, when had been decided that AEP should be transformed into a new society comprising all legumes, as shown at the figure below.

So, we may say that an new chapter in the legume research and its transfer to industry is beginning, promising and beneficial for the whole mankind and its needs.





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## BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

First Legume Society Conference  
2013: A Legume Odyssey

9-11 May 2013, Novi Sad, Serbia



FIRST LEGUME SOCIETY CONFERENCE  
9-11 May 2013 , Novi Sad , Serbia



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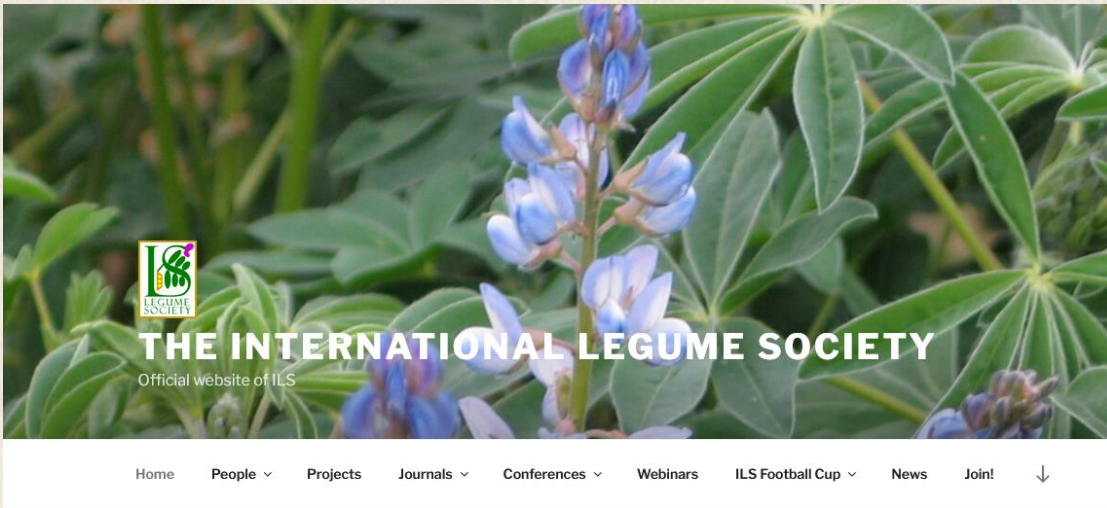


Third International  
Legume Society  
Conference ILS 3  
20-24 May 2019  
Poznań, Poland

<https://ils3.syskonf.pl/>



MICHAL KALET



- **Paolo Annicchiarico**, President, CREA, Lodi, Italy – [paolo.annicchiarico@crea.gov.it](mailto:paolo.annicchiarico@crea.gov.it)
- **Diego Rubiales**, Treasurer and Past President, CSIC, Cordoba, Spain – [diego.rubiales@ias.csic.es](mailto:diego.rubiales@ias.csic.es)
- **Kevin McPhee**, Past President, Montana State University, Bozeman, USA – [kevin.mcphee@montana.edu](mailto:kevin.mcphee@montana.edu)
- **Maria Carlota Vaz Patto**, Vice President, ITQB, Oeiras, Portugal – [cpatto@itqb.uul.pt](mailto:cpatto@itqb.uul.pt)
- **Tom Warkentin**, Vice President, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada – [tom.warkentin@usask.ca](mailto:tom.warkentin@usask.ca)



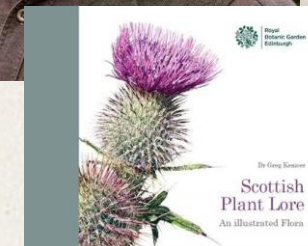
The new Legume Society executive committee at the Legume Society General Assembly, from left to right: Diego Rubiales (Secretary), Paolo Annicchiarico (New President), Maria Carlota Vaz Patto (Vice-President), Kevin McPhee (Past President), and Tom Warkentin (Vice-President)

# Skills to identify the interesting topics .... *O' Vavilovians* 😊

## RESEARCH

### *Vavilovia formosa*, an intriguing *Pisum* relative

by Gregory KENICER\*, Petr SMÝKAL\*\*, Margarita VISHNYAKOVA\*\*\* and Aleksandar MIKIĆ\*\*\*\*



Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society, 2013, 172, 524–531. With 7 figures

## REVIEW ARTICLE

### The bicentenary of the research on 'beautiful' vavilovia (*Vavilovia formosa*), a legume crop wild relative with taxonomic and agronomic potential

ALEKSANDAR MIKIĆ<sup>1\*</sup>, PETR SMÝKAL<sup>2</sup>, GREGORY KENICER<sup>3</sup>, MARGARITA VISHNYAKOVA<sup>4</sup>, NUNE SARUKHANYAN<sup>5</sup>, JANNA A. AKOPIAN<sup>6</sup>, ARMEN VANYAN<sup>7</sup>, IVAN GABRIELIAN<sup>8</sup>, IVA SMÝKALOVÁ<sup>9</sup>, EKATERINA SHERBAKOVA<sup>6</sup>, LANA ZORIĆ<sup>8</sup>, JOVANKA ATLAGIĆ<sup>1</sup>, TIJANA ZEREMSKI-ŠKORIĆ<sup>1</sup>, BRANKO ČUPINA<sup>9</sup>, ĐORĐE KRSTIĆ<sup>1</sup>, SVETLANA ANTANASOVIĆ<sup>9</sup>, VUK ĐORĐEVIĆ<sup>1</sup>, VOJISLAV MIHAILOVIĆ<sup>10</sup>, ALEXANDR IVANOV<sup>10</sup>, SERGIO OCHATT<sup>11</sup> and MIKE AMBROSE<sup>12</sup>

Plant Cell Tiss Organ Cult (2016) 127:637–648  
DOI 10.1007/s11240-016-1133-z

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### Developing biotechnology tools for 'beautiful' vavilovia (*Vavilovia formosa*), a legume crop wild relative with taxonomic and agronomic potential

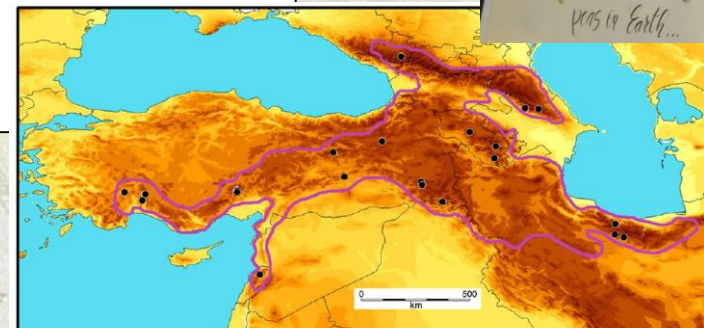
Sergio Ochatt<sup>1</sup> · Catherine Conreux<sup>1</sup> · Iva Smýkalová<sup>2</sup> · Petr Smýkal<sup>3</sup> · Aleksandar Mikić<sup>4</sup>

Planta (2014) 240:1139–1146  
DOI 10.1007/s00425-014-2136-9

## SHORT COMMUNICATION

### Beauty will save the world, but will the world save beauty? The case of the highly endangered *Vavilovia formosa* (Stev.) Fed.

Aleksandar Mikić · Petr Smýkal · Gregory Kenicer · Margarita Vishnyakova · Nune Sarukhanyan · Janna A. Akopian · Armen Vanyan · Ivan Gabrielyan · Iva Smýkalová · Ekaterina Sherbakova · Lana Zorić · Jovanka Atlagić · Tijana Zeremski-Škorić · Branko Čupina · Đorđe Krstić · Igor Jajić · Svetlana Antanasović · Vuk Đorđević · Vojislav Mihailović · Alexandr Ivanov · Sergio Ochatt · Cengiz Tokar · Bojan Zlatković · Mike Ambrose



**Figure 1.** Distribution map of *Vavilovia formosa*: black dots are georeferenced from herbarium specimens in Edinburgh and Kew; bounding line shows estimated distribution based on additional specimens without accurate georeferences; *V. formosa* is only found at relatively high altitudes, so bounding line does not imply continuous distribution.

# Aleksandar as scientist: Interest in intercropping



## CHAPTER SIX

## Models, Developments, and Perspectives of Mutual Legume Intercropping

Aleksandar Mikić<sup>\*,1</sup>, Branko Ćupina<sup>§</sup>, Diego Rubiales<sup>¶</sup>,  
Vojislav Mihailović<sup>\*</sup>, Lina Šarūnaitė<sup>||</sup>, Joëlle Fustec<sup>#</sup>,  
Svetlana Antanasović<sup>§</sup>, Đorđe Krstić<sup>§</sup>, Laurent Bedoussac<sup>\*\*</sup>,  
Lana Zorić<sup>§§</sup>, Vuk Đorđević<sup>\*</sup>, Vesna Perić<sup>¶¶</sup> and Mirjana Srebrić<sup>¶¶</sup>





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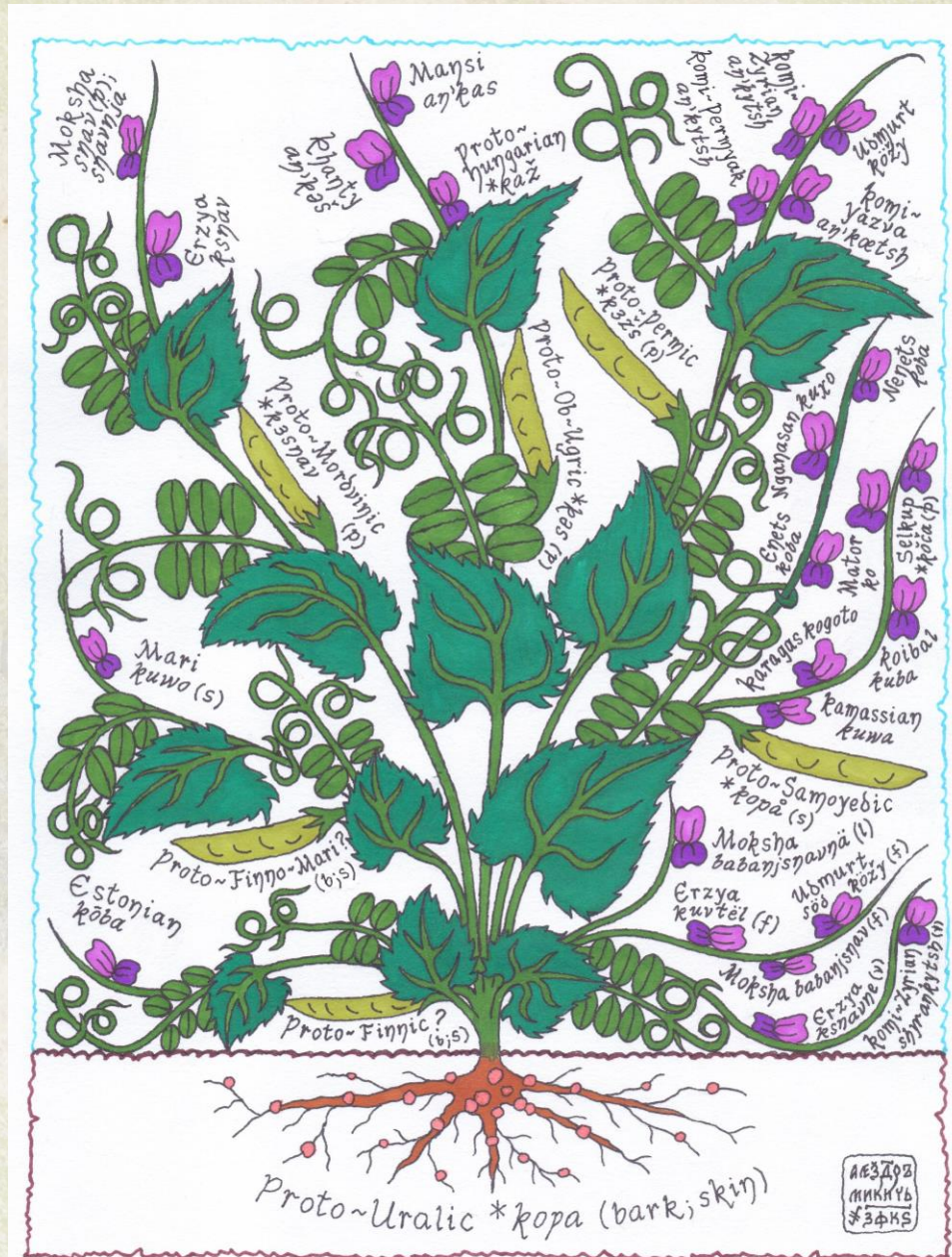
**Aleksandar's masterpiece - *INTERCONNECTING* - people**



at VIR St.Petersburg 2009



at Novi Sad 2010



# Origin of the Words Denoting Some of the Most Ancient Old World Pulse Crops and Their Diversity in Modern European Languages

Aleksandar Mikić\*


Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia

**Abstract**

This preliminary research was aimed at finding the roots in various Eurasian proto-languages directly related to pulses and giving the words denoting the same in modern European languages. Six Proto-Indo-European roots were indentified, namely *arnk*(')- ('a leguminous plant'), *\*bhabh*- ('field bean'), *\*erəg<sup>w</sup>[h]*- ('a kernel of leguminous plant', 'pea'), *ghArs*- ('a leguminous plant'), *\*kek*- ('pea') and *\*lent*- ('lentil'). No Proto-Uralic root was attested save hypothetically *\*kača* ('pea'), while there were two Proto-Altaic roots, *\*bökrV* ('pea') and *\*ziäbsa* ('lentil'). The Proto-Caucasianx root *\*qir'ā* denoted pea, while another one, *\*hōwl(ā)* ('bean', 'lentil') and the Proto-Basque root *\*ilha-r* ('pea', 'bean', 'vetch') could have a common Proto-Sino-Caucasian ancestor, *\*hVwlV* ('bean') within the hypothetic Dené-Caucasian language superfamily. The Modern Maltese preserved the memory of two Proto-Semitic roots, *\*adaš*- ('lentil') and *\*pūl*- ('field bean'). The presented results prove that the most ancient Eurasian pulse crops were well-known and extensively cultivated by the ancestors of all modern European nations. The attested lexicological continuum witnesses the existence of a millennia-long links between the peoples of Eurasia to their mutual benefit. This research is meant to encourage interdisciplinary concerted actions between plant scientists dealing with crop evolution and biodiversity, archaeobotanists and language historians.

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Dimensions Badge



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31

0.15


Total citations

Recent citation

Field Citation Ratio

Relative Citation Ratio

Altmetric



18

Blogs (1)

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Reddit (1)

F1000 (1)

Mendeley (43)

**Table 1.** Words denoting lentil, pea and field bean in the modern Indo-European languages of Europe.

Branch	Language	Lentil	Pea	Field bean
Albanian		<i>thjerrëz</i>	<i>bizele</i>	<i>bathë</i>
Armenian		<i>osp</i>	<i>olor</i>	<i>lobi</i>
Baltic	Latvian	<i>lēca</i>	<i>zirņi</i>	<i>pupas</i>
	Lithuanian	<i>lęšis</i>	<i>žirnis</i>	<i>pupa</i>
Celtic	Breton	<i>pizenn rous</i>	<i>piz</i>	<i>fav</i>
	Cornish		<i>pýsen</i>	<i>fav</i>
	Irish	<i>lintile</i>	<i>pis</i>	<i>pónaire</i>
	Manx	<i>pishyr lughag</i>	<i>pishyr</i>	<i>poanrey</i>
	Scottish Gaelic	<i>leantail</i>	<i>peasair</i>	<i>pònair</i>
	Welsh	<i>corbysen</i>	<i>pysen</i>	<i>ffa</i>
Germanic	Danish	<i>linse</i>	<i>ært</i>	<i>bønne</i>
	Dutch	<i>linze</i>	<i>erwt</i>	<i>boon</i>
	English	<i>lentil</i>	<i>pea</i>	<i>bean</i>
	Faroese		<i>ertur</i>	<i>bøna</i>
	Flemish	<i>lins</i>	<i>erwt</i>	
	Frisian		<i>eart</i>	<i>beanne</i>
	German	<i>Linse</i>	<i>Erbse</i>	<i>Bohne</i>
	Icelandic	<i>linsa</i>	<i>erta</i>	<i>baun</i>
	Norwegian	<i>linse</i>	<i>ert</i>	<i>bønne</i>
	Swedish	<i>lins</i>	<i>ärt</i>	<i>böna</i>
	Yiddish		<i>arbes</i>	<i>bob</i>
Hellenic	Greek	<i>fakí</i>	<i>bizéli</i>	<i>koukiá</i>




Aleksandar Mikich

(Mikic, Alexander)

★ Excellent reviewer (1)

Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops

 Web of Science ResearcherID: AAG-7286-2019

Published names

Mikic, Aleksandar Mikic, A. Mikic, Aleksandar M. Mikic, A Mikic, Alexander


Published Organizations

Inst Feld & Vegetable Crops, Inst Field & Vegetable Crops, Inst Field & Vegetable Crops IFVCNS

Subject Categories

Agriculture; Plant Sciences; Linguistics; Genetics & Heredity; Food Science & Technology

Other Identifiers

 <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9105-2855>

Documents

Peer Review

106 Documents

☒ Include publications not indexed in Core Collection (32)

All Publications Date: newest first

1 of 3

The rise and fall of *Vicia calcarata* Desf

Hammer, Karl ; Laghetti, Gaetano ; (...); Mikic, Aleksandar

Published Jan 2021 | Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution

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Sum of Times Cited

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Sum of Times Cited b Patents

Aleksandar's scientific record

but there is far more !

Genet Resour Crop Evol (2021) 68:381–395  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10722-020-01004-4>

NOTES ON NEGLECTED & UNDERUTILIZED CROPS

The rise and fall of *Vicia calcarata* Desf.

Karl Hammer • Gaetano Laghetti • Rita Accogli • Velimir Radić • Branko Milošević • Aleksandar Mikić



scientific criticism  
Ratar. Povrt. 2018, 55(3): 139-140  
doi:10.5937/ratpov55-18837

## Impactofactorian Rhapsody - Reflections on publishing to come to the point and to earn a point

Aleksandar Mikić

Novi Sad, Serbia

### Pas de deux

The aforementioned lucidly coined term *impactomania*, translated as *the madness for impact factors*, has a complex structure and compound *impact* upon an individual dealing with science and being within a system of evaluation: due to an obligate kind of *impactoscopy*, a researcher is underwent something akin to an *impactotomy*, with uncertain, long-term and often irreversible consequences. These two processes may be easily the chief tools for amortising the overwhelming explosion of the number of publishers, papers and authors, leading to a disablement of being aware of, if not all, then, at least, majority of pivotal published works on a certain issue. The needle is becoming tinier

*Hark, who knows what?  
Nobody anything knows;  
Fragile is the knowledge.*

Dr. Karaklaić

- *Overture*
- *Adagio*
- *Pas de deux*
- *Andante*
- *Alegro*
- *Coda*





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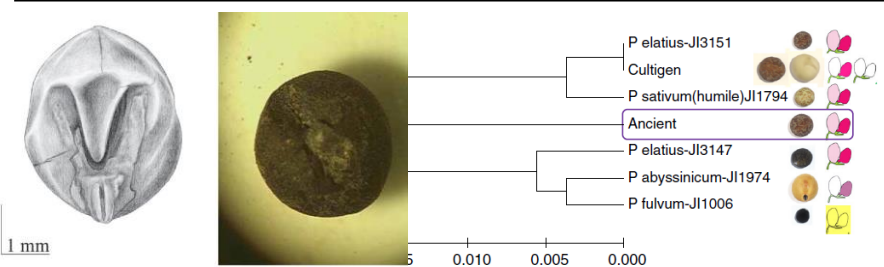
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# Aleksandar and Archaeology



Genet Resour Crop Evol (2014) 61:1533–1544

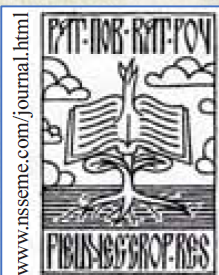


Genet Resour Crop Evol (2014) 61:1533–1544  
DOI 10.1007/s10722-014-0128-z

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

A comparative study of ancient DNA isolated from charred pea (*Pisum sativum* L.) seeds from an Early Iron Age settlement in southeast Serbia: inference for pea domestication

Petr Smýkal • Živko Jovanović • Nemanja Stanisavljević •  
Bojan Zlatković • Branko Čupina • Vuk Đorđević •  
Aleksandar Mikić • Aleksandar Medović



Archaeobotany / Arheobotanika

Ratar. Povrt. / Field Veg. Crop Res. 48 (2011) 219-226  
original research article / originalni naučni rad

*Pisum & Ervilia Tetovac* - Made in Early Iron Age Leskovac. Part One.  
Two Charred Pulse Crop Storages of the Fortified Hill Fort Settlement Hissar in Leskovac, South Serbia

Aleksandar Medović • Aleksandar Mikić • Branko Čupina • Živko Jovanović •  
Svetlana Radović • Aleksandra Nikolić • Nemanja Stanisavljević

and biology

# Aleksandar's papers combining all approaches

Genet Resour Crop Evol (2019) 66:523–544  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10722-018-0717-3>

NOTES ON NEGLECTED AND UNDERUTILIZED CROPS

Resources and opportunities for re-establishing *Lathyrus cicera* L. as a multipurpose cultivated plant

Karl Hammer • Gaetano Laghetti • Paolo Direnzo • Alfredo Castelli  
Aleksandar Mikić

Genet Resour Crop Evol (2019) 66:523–544

Table 1 Popular names denoting *Lathyrus cicera* L.

Language/taxon	Name
Albanian	koçkull
Arabic	aljulban alhumusy
Armenian	tap'volorr karmiry
Asturian	almorta de monte
Calabrian	cicèrculu
Camerotan	maracuoccio
Catalan	guixó; guixó ver; guixonera; l

Genet Resour Crop Evol (2019) 66:523–544

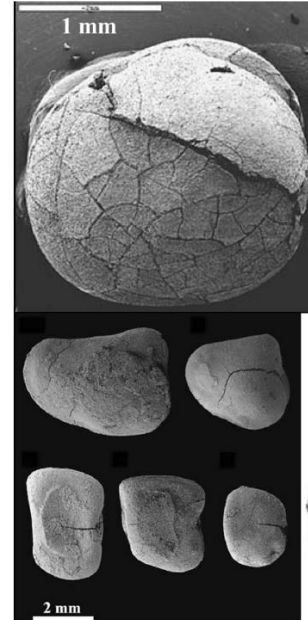


Fig. 2 Charred seeds of *Lathyrus cicera*: (top, left) the Neolithic proto-city settlement of Çatalhöyük, south Turkey, between 10th and 9th millennium BC (Fairbairn et al. 2007);

A crop or not a crop: that is the question




Fig. 4 Some records of the crop escapes from the upper flow of the river Pčinja, southeast Serbia: (left and middle) herbarium samples of a *Lathyrus cicera* landrace from Novo Selo and (right) accompanying *L. Starac* Mountain


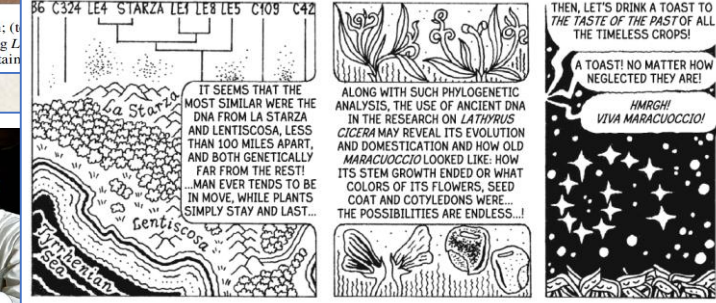


Fig. 8 A typical scenery of, as the posters announce, '...due serate tra scorci ed atmosfere del passato...' '...two evenings among the glimpses and the atmosphere of the past...' of Sagra della maracucciata, The Festival of Maracucciata, in Lentiscosa: (top, left) fine milling the *L. cicera* grains into flour; (top, middle and right) cooking maracucciata of the flour of *L. cicera*; other grain legumes and cereals; (bottom, left) the feast attendees arriving in the hamlet, already decorated with a displayed ingredients of its local cuisine; (bottom, right) patiently waiting in long queues is finally awarded: the plates of maracucciata ready to taste at one of countless stands



86 C324 LE4 STARZA LE1 LE8 LE5 C109 C42

IT SEEMS THAT THE MOST SIMILAR WERE THE DNA FROM LA STARZA AND LENTISCOSA, LESS THAN 100 MILES APART, AND BOTH GENETICALLY FAR FROM THE REST! MAN EVER TENDS TO BE IN MOVE, WHILE PLANTS SIMPLY STAY AND LAST...

ALONG WITH SUCH PHYLOGENETIC ANALYSIS, THE USE OF ANCIENT DNA IN THE RESEARCH ON *LATHYRUS CICERA* MAY REVEAL ITS EVOLUTION AND DOMESTICATION AND HOW OLD MARACUCCIO LOOKED LIKE: HOW ITS STEM GROWTH ENDED OR WHAT COLORS OF ITS FLOWERS, SEED COAT AND COTYLEDONS WERE... THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS...!

THEN, LET'S DRINK A TOAST TO THE TASTE OF THE PAST OF ALL THE TIMELESS CROPS!

A TOAST! NO MATTER HOW NEGLECTED THEY ARE!

HMRGH! VIVA MARACUCCIO!

Springer

## Football „ an amalgam of science and fun „☺



geneticists, omicists and breeders



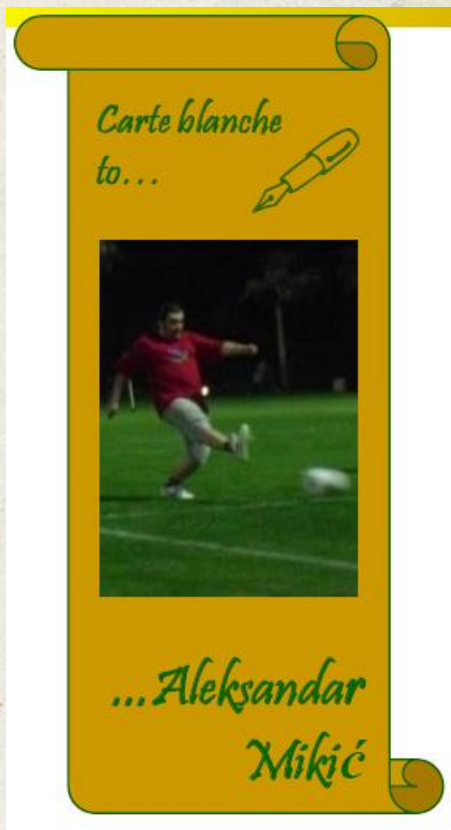
all those dealing with abiotic and biotic and any other kind of stresses



groecologists, agronomists, agroeconomists...



all those dealing with food and feed quality, nutrition and health benefits



## First International Legume Football Cup

by Bert VANDENBERG<sup>1</sup>, Bunyamin TAR'AN<sup>2</sup>, Tom WARKENTIN<sup>3</sup> and Aleksandar MIKIĆ<sup>4\*</sup>

On the margins of the merged 5th International Food Legume Research and 7th European Conference on Grain Legumes Conferences, the First International Legume Football Cup was held, with semi-finals on Monday, April 26th, and 3rd place and final match on Wednesday, April 28th (Fig. 1). Although the pairs for semi-finals were selected randomly, it was shown that a choice was good: FC Cicer was significantly better than FC Pisum, while FC Vicia lost in the match against FC Lens with an unusual segregation of 9:1.

There was no 1st and 3rd places winners, since both matches ended with draw. The final match between FC Lens and FC Cicer was full of passion and devotion to the game itself, with frequent and very inflammable moments. On the other hand, the match between FC Pisum and FC Vicia was loaded of tonnes of good jokes and laugh, with the great Erik Jensen as a more professional referee than Pierluigi Collina.

All in all: an excellent amalgam of science and fun: it will surely be continued! ■



Figure 1. First International Legume Football Cup, Antalya, Turkey, April 2010: FC Lens (red), FC Cicer (yellow), FC Pisum (green), FC Vicia (maroon)



ILS3 Football Cup 2019

## The Four Teams

### 1. Starch Shuttles F.C.



Lars Kamphuis  
Robert Kempster  
Davide Martins  
Toby Newman  
Federico Ribalta  
**Tom Warkentin (C)**

### 2. Oil Orbiters F.C.



Georg Carlsson  
Wojciech Glinkowski  
Igor Huňady  
Hana Macková  
Antonín Vaculík  
**Ping Wan (C)**

### 3. Protein Propellers F.C.



Alfonso Clemente  
Jose C. Jimenez-Lopez  
Milena Kulasek  
Gaëtan Louarn  
Peter Smith  
**Richard Thompson (C)**

### 4. Biofort Builders F.C.



Branko Cupina  
Noureddine El haddad  
**Pedro Fevereiro (C)**  
Kevin McPhee  
Rachid Mentag  
Jake Tracy





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# Aleksandar's passion for Asterix and Obelix

more that 130 officially published in different languages. He cherished the diversity of languages of our civilization. He wanted to contribute to the preservation of rare languages that are nearly extinct by means of translating Astérix comics into them. If there was no translation for a certain language, he asked his friends and acquaintances to translate a short 4-page episode it in their mother tongue or he translated himself. These include local dialects, slang, artificial and reconstructed proto-languages, .... beyond 200 !!!!



## Spearlike Bean Dreaming - The hundredth millennial of Vigna lanceolata, an Australian Aboriginal uncultivated legume crop

by Aleksandar MIKIĆ

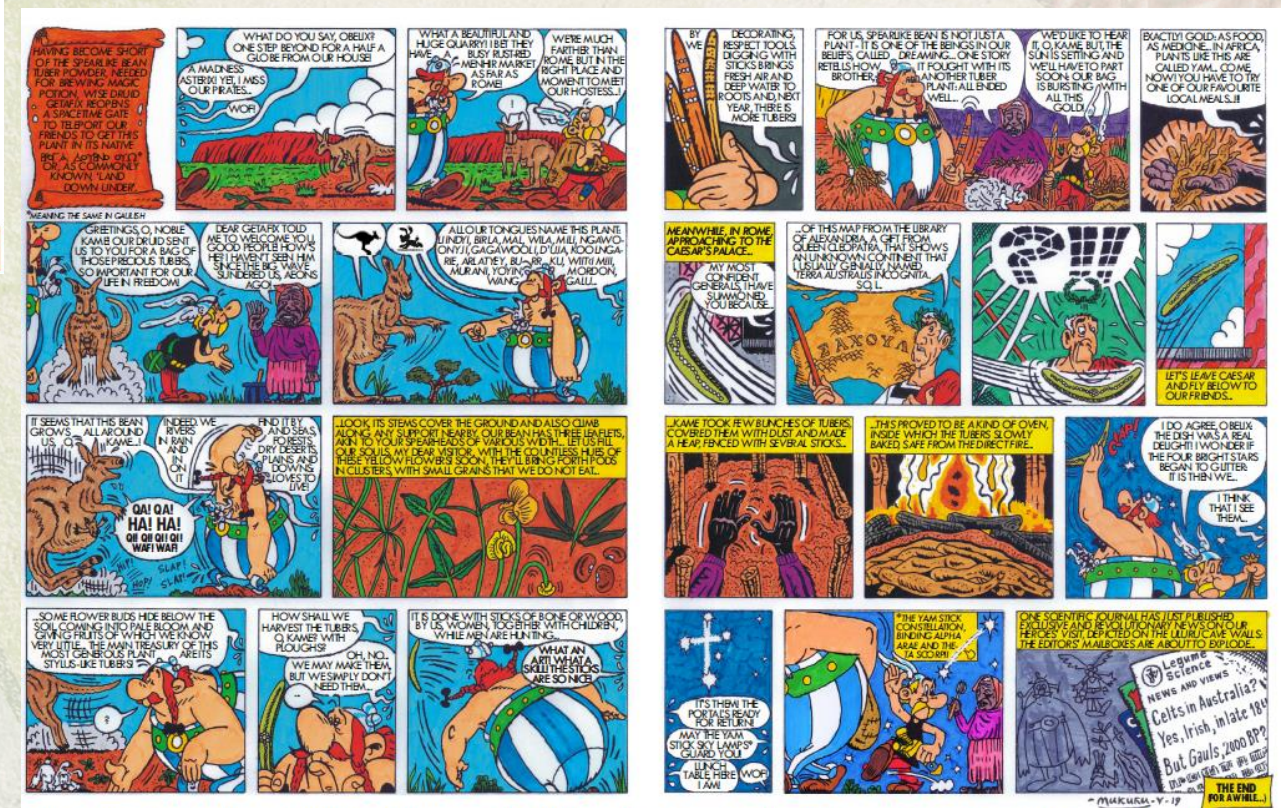


Figure 1. Some basic information about multidisciplinary aspects relating to Vigna lanceolata, set in a two-panel episode of the comic Asterix, for the special occasion of his 60th birthday and with a most sincere admiration for the creativity of R. Goscinny, A. Uderzo, J-Y Ferri and D. Conrad. Dedicated to the youngest among Gauls, Damienix.

## Legumes in the work of J. R. R. Tolkien

by Aleksandar MIKIĆ\* and Frederick L. STODDARD\*\*

John Ronald Reuel Tolkien (1892-1973), an English writer, poet and linguist, is best known for his creation of the extensive imaginary world called Arda, depicted in his works, such as *The Lord of the Rings*. Tolkien reveled in the use of languages and was fascinated by their diversity.

One of the explanations for the huge success of Tolkien's works may be the extremely subtle development and usage of many invented languages, of which the Elvish ones, such as Quenya and Sindarin, are the most renown. Quenya owes its roots to Finnish, and Sindarin to Welsh.

The only legume name found in Sindarin is *aeglos*, *Ἀἰγλός*, denoting a shrub very similar to gorse (*Ulex* spp.), but larger and with white flowers, and with an additional meaning of *icicle*, probably due to a unique and impressive whiteness of its blossom.

It may be noteworthy that there is a Quenya word that denotes a plant organ closely related to the members of the tribe *Fabaeae*, especially pea and vetches (*Vicia* spp.): it is *liantë*, *Ἰῑῑῑ*, and it denotes tendril, also having a descriptive nature, since it also denotes both spider and vine.

In the end, Tolkien left numerous drawings and paintings of both the real and his invented worlds: on one of them, given below, the poles with runner bean (*Phaseolus coccineus*) and faba bean (*Vicia faba*), both in full flower, may be seen, resembling perhaps (1) Frodo's view from Tom Bombadil's house, as described in the Chapter 7 of *The Fellowship of the Ring*.

'The sky spoke of rain to come; but the light was broadening quickly, and the red flowers on the beans began to glow against the wet green leaves'. ■



### How Elves addressed legumes

The word denoting pea (*Pisum sativum*) in the earliest form of Quenya, called Qenya, is *orivaine*, or, written in the Tolkien-invented Tengwar script, *ἰṽṽṽṽ*, and is derived from the words *orë*, 'seed, grain', and *vaine*, 'sheath, pod'. Another Qenya legume name is *kamilot*, *ḱṽṽṽṽ*, denoting red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), derived from *kanwa*, 'dark red', and *-lot*, 'flower'. This is similar to a descriptive nature of the origin of many plant names in the real world (2).

The remaining two Qenya legume names are *belilokte*, *ḶḶḶḶḶḶ*, denoting wisteria (*Wisteria* spp.), and *lindelokte*, *ḶḶḶḶḶḶ*, denoting laburnum (*Laburnum* spp.), both containing *loctë*, denoting blossom and literally meaning *purple cluster* and *singing cluster*. All of these words are not far from *Lotus* and *Melilotus*.

\*Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia (miki@ifvns.ns.ac.rs)  
\*\*University of Helsinki, Finland

Thanks to Helge Fauskanger for his help in the etymology of Quenya and Sindarin and Noel, Diego and Tom for their support.

In memory of Aleksandar B. Popović (1973-1999).

### Hobbits admired legumes too

In their more realistic, or, better to say, Latin or English form, plants, including legumes, are present in the Hobbit personal names, especially the female ones, so among Rosies, Lobelias, Belladonnas, Primulas and Daisies, one may encounter Melilot, too.

- (1) Hammond, W.G. and Scull, C. (1995) J.R.R. Tolkien: Artist and Illustrator. Harper Collins, London, UK.
- (2) Mikić-Vragolić, M. *et al.* (2007) A Periodical of Scientific Research on Field and Vegetable Crops 44, II, 91-96.
- (3) Tolkien, J.R.R. (1998) Parma Eldalamberon 12. (published posthumously)



J. R. R. Tolkien: New Lodge, Stonyhurst (1947)



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# Aleksandar as artist

IN LENTISCOSA, ONE OF THE HAMLETS OF THE COMMUNITY OF CAMEROTA IN CAMPANIA, SOUTHWEST ITALY, ONE FINE EVENING IN LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE 2019...

...EXPLAIN US HOW IT HAPPENED THAT WE ARE HERE, IN THIS REAL GASTRONOMIC HEAVEN, ENJOYING THESE SAVORY MEALS MADE OF *LATHYRUS CICERA*, OR, AS OUR KIND HOSTS CALL IT, *MARACUOCCHIO*?

WE REMEMBER HOW THE ORGANIZERS CONTACTED YOU BEFORE CHRISTMAS, ASKING FOR AN ATTRACTIVE AND SCIENTIFICALLY BASED STORY FOR THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL. TELL US WHAT THE RESEARCH ON THAT SO-CALLED ANCIENT DNA HAS TO DO WITH THIS RARE GRAIN LEGUME?

SO, MARTIN, PLEASE, CAN YOU...

WELL, DIANA AND JAVA.

...DNA REMAINS IN HUMAN AND ANIMAL BONES OR CHARRED PLANT SEEDS. ITS STRUCTURE BECOMES FRAGMENTED, SUFFERS FROM MUTATIONS OF ITS NUCLEOBASES AND IS PRONE TO CONTAMINATION WITH MODERN DNA. YET, IF SOME INFORMATIVE GENE REGIONS ARE PRESERVED, WE MAY GET NEW AND PRECIOUS INFORMATION ABOUT ITS OWNER. THE FIRST EXTRACTION OF ANCIENT DNA WAS DONE BY RUSS HIGUCHI'S TEAM AT BERKELEY, IN 1984\*. JUST FEW YEARS LATER...

...SVANTE PÄÄBO SUGGESTED ITS USE IN ANALYZING MUMMIFIED HUMAN SAMPLES\*, INITIATING A REVOLUTION IN ANTHROPOLOGY. TODAY, ANCIENT DNA IS WIDELY PRESENT IN HUMAN AND ANIMAL EVOLUTIONARY STUDIES...

...BUT FAR LESS IN PLANTS. HAVING READ A STUDY ON COMPARING ANCIENT AND MODERN DNA IN THE CHARRED AND FRESH SEEDS OF PEA AND BITTER VETCH\*\*\*, I THOUGHT THAT THE SAME COULD BE DONE WITH OUR *MARACUOCCHIO*.

OUR PROJECT COMPRISED ONE, BUT IMMENSELY PRICELESS, SAMPLE FROM THE FAMOUS NEOLITHIC SITE OF LA STARZA, SIX MILLENNIA OLD...

...THEN, SOME LANDRACES GROWN IN LENTISCOSA AND CAMEROTA...

...AND MANY ACCESSIONS ACROSS THE WORLD, CAREFULLY STORED AT THE GENE BANKS IN GATERSLEBEN AND BARI. THE FIRST RESULTS WERE EXCITING:

IT SEEMS THAT THE MOST SIMILAR WERE THE DNA FROM LA STARZA AND LENTISCOSA, LESS THAN 100 MILES APART, AND BOTH GENETICALLY FAR FROM THE REST! ...MAN EVER TENDS TO BE IN MOVE, WHILE PLANTS SIMPLY STAY AND LAST...

ALONG WITH SUCH PHYLOGENETIC ANALYSIS, THE USE OF ANCIENT DNA IN THE RESEARCH ON *LATHYRUS CICERA* MAY REVEAL ITS EVOLUTION AND DOMESTICATION AND HOW OLD *MARACUOCCHIO* LOOKED LIKE: HOW ITS STEM GROWTH ENDED OR WHAT COLORS OF ITS FLOWERS, SEED COAT AND COTYLEDONS WERE... THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS...

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VIVA *MARACUOCCHIO*!



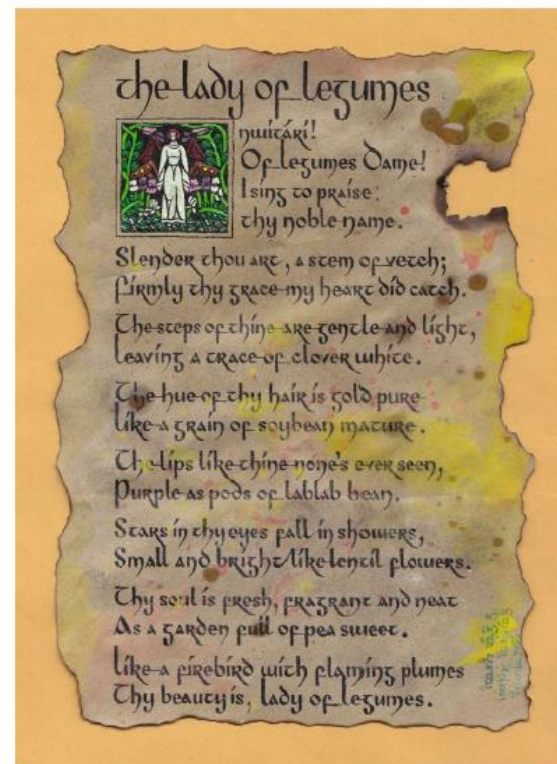
Aleksandar M. Mikić

# HAIKU POEMS ABOUT LEGUMES



## The Lady of Legumes

by anonymous legume (re)searcher, early 21<sup>st</sup> century



*Inuitári! Of Legumes Dame!  
I sing to praise thy noble name.*

*Slender thou art, a stem of vetch;  
Firmly thy grace my heart did catch.  
The steps of thine are gentle and light,  
Leaving a trace of clover white.*

*The hue of thy hair is gold pure  
Like a grain of soybean mature.*

*The lips like thine none's ever seen,  
Purple as pods of lablab bean.*

*Stars in thy eyes fall in showers,  
Small and bright like lentil flowers.*

*Thy soul is fresh, fragrant and neat  
As a garden full of pea sweet.*

*Like a firebird with flaming plumes  
Thy beauty is, Lady of Legumes.*

62

*Vicia faba*

Old Gaulish cuisine

Your forefather found at last

Christmas Eve aspic



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DOI: 10.1002/leg3.134

## EDITORIAL


Legume Science


Open Access


WILEY


# Aleksandar Mikić, the legume (re)searcher


Stars in thy eyes fall in showers,  
Small and bright like lentil flowers.  
Thy soul is fresh, fragrant and neat  
As a garden full of pea sweet.  
Like a firebird with flaming plumes  
Thy beauty is, Lady of Legumes.


Margarita Vishnyakova<sup>1</sup> 


Andrey Sinjushin<sup>2</sup> 


Branko Ćupina<sup>3</sup> 


Diego Rubiales<sup>4</sup> 

Noel Ellis<sup>5</sup> 

Carlota Vaz Patto<sup>6</sup> 

Aleksadar Medović<sup>7</sup> 

Lana Zorić<sup>8</sup> 

Petr Smýkal<sup>9</sup> 



**FIGURE 2** Aleksandar entering paradise



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**scientist, writer, historian and artist**  
**and nice person and friend among all !**





**After the amazing...**



**First ILSC:**

***A Legume Odyssey***

*9 – 11 May 2013, Novi Sad, Serbia*

**Second ILSC:**

***Legumes for a sustainable world***

*11 – 14 October 2016, Tróia, Portugal*



**Third ILSC:**

***Legumes for human and planet health***

*21 – 24 May 2019, Poznań, Poland*



***Legumes semper viva!***

## Contributors

**Sanja Mikic´**

**Lana Zoric´**

**Branko Čupina**

**Noel Ellis**

**Carlota vaz Patto**

*and many other legume friends ☺*

