



Report on the First meeting of the ECPGR Activity EUBRASWILD - Capturing Brassica Wild Relatives Diversity in the South Eastern Europe

Activity	
Full title	Capturing Brassica Wild Relatives Diversity in the South Eastern Europe
Acronym (or short title)	EUBRASWILD
Duration of Activity (in months)	24
Start date – End date	1 October 2020 – 1 August 2023

Location: Zoom Meeting

Date and time: 30 November 2020, 10:00-14:00h

Present:

Sokrat Jani (Albania)
 Smiljana Goreta Ban (Croatia)
 Nina Išić (Croatia)
 Nikola Major (Croatia)
 Anestis Karkanis (Greece)
 Georgia Ntatsi (Greece)
 Ferdinando Branca (Italy)
 Maria Concetta Di Bella (Italy)
 Ana Maranović Jeromela (Serbia)
 Nevena Nagl (Serbia)
 Dragana Rajković (Serbia)
 Vladimir Meglič (Slovenia)
 Lovro Sinkovič (Slovenia)
 Lorenzo Maggioni (ECPGR)

Unable to attend:

Bernard Prekalj (Croatia)
 Nataša Mirecki (Montenegro)
 Barbara Pipan (Slovenia)

This kick-off meeting of the ECPGR activity EUBRASWILD was organized with the aim to introduce all the participants, discuss the Activity as a whole and to exchange information. The following subjects were discussed during the meeting:

- Status of the *Brassica* accessions in the national genebanks
- Possible accessions to be shared and used as a ‘standard’ for each species
- Exchange of information on the methods for survey and collection of *Brassica* CWRs
- Discussing protocols for collection, regeneration and characterization of targeted species
- Planning of next activities

Activity coordinator **Smiljana Goreta Ban** opened the Zoom meeting with an introductory welcome to all participants. After a brief introduction, the *Brassica* Working Group (BWG) Chair **Ferdinando Branca** shared information on the history and current status of the BWG. **Lorenzo Maggioni** (ECPGR Secretary) shared information and updates on ECPGR.

Smiljana Goreta Ban then introduced the participants of the meeting to the EUBRASWILD Activity with a presentation showing Activity details, duration, participants, aims, justifications and expected impacts. Then the participants took turn in sharing information on the status of *Brassica* collections in their countries (Albania, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Serbia and Slovenia).

Georgia Ntatsi shared short information on the Greek collection and collecting possibilities for the coming period. Ferdinando Branca shared a presentation about the BWG members’ collections of *Brassica* crop wild relatives (CWRs) and their expeditions and regeneration of collected material. **Sokrat Jani** prepared a presentation on exploration and acquisition of wild *Brassica* relatives in Albania, shared short information about the expeditions and related challenges faced. **Dragana Rajković** from Serbia prepared a presentation regarding the status of the Serbia’s *Brassica* collection, which consists of several *Brassica oleracea* and rapeseed (*Brassica rapa*) accessions and presented plans for the future. **Vladimir Meglič** shared a presentation about Slovenia’s *Brassica* collection and projects related to the mentioned species. Smiljana Goreta Ban shared a presentation on Croatia’s *Brassica* collection and proposals for the near future. All participants agreed on carrying out expeditions to collect *Brassica* species and to share the accessions that will be collected.

A discussion on which *Brassica* descriptors to use to describe and characterize *Brassica* CWRs and other wild *Brassica* species was opened by Smiljana Goreta Ban, suggesting to use the IBPGR (International Board for Plant Genetic Resources) Descriptors for *Brassica* and *Raphanus*.

Other discussions:

- *Brassica* CWRs taxonomy;
- How to define hotspots of *Brassica* diversity;
- Maps showing *Brassica* CWRs hotspots of diversity;
- Lack of comprehensive papers on the distribution of *B. incana* on the Adriatic and Ionian coasts (to be published at the end of the activity);
- Qualitative/quantitative nature of the chosen *Brassica* descriptors;
- Regeneration of *Brassica* CWRs from cuttings or seeds;

In conclusion, participants agreed that they will meet once more in early 2021 to define *Brassica* descriptors to be used on collecting expeditions, as well as during

characterization and regeneration of the chosen accessions. The first draft on the possible descriptors will be prepared by Smiljana Goreta Ban. In the same meeting, also the methods of reproduction of *Brassica* by seeds and cuttings will be presented by Ferdinando Branca.

Report prepared by:

Nina Išić and Smiljana Goreta Ban