INSTITUTUM AGRONOMICUM "DR. PETRU GROZA" CLUJ-NAPOCA/ROMANIA/
NOTULAE BOTANICAE HORTI AGROBOTANICI CLUJ., 1981, XI.

RETIRED CONTRIBUTORS of the Agrobotanical Garden

VELICAN, Vasile /1904, December 9th., Hărman, distr. Braşov/, agronomy ingineer, retired professor (plant cultivation), academician.

Studies, academic degrees: primary school in native village (1911-1918), secondary school in Braşov (1918-1924), university courses at the Agronomy Institute Cluj (1924-1928). He was the student of the great Romanian botanist I.PRODAN, of the plant breeder N.SAULESCU, prof. C.CHIRITESCU-ARVA, prof. G.IONESCU-SISESTI. His diploma thesis was written on agriculture economy (guidance: A.FARKAS and C.MARTINOVICI), Doctoral Dissertation ("Absorbtion capacity as a method in testing and breeding of wheat") inaugurated in 1935 under the guidance of N.SAULESCU. The highest academic degrees (doctor docent and the associate membership of the Romanian A cademy of Science) were conferred on him in 1963. Prof. VELICAN is founding member of the Academy of Agriculture and Forestry in Romania /1970/ and was the first president of the Section II (Plant production) of the same Academy. From 1974 he is one of the secretaries of the Romanian Academy of Science.

Working places: prof. VELICAN began his academic career as librarian and general secretary of the Agronomy Institute Cluj (1929),was designed as demonstrator in plant breeding (1930), assistant lecturer (1936), head of the Plant Breeding and Experimental Station Cîmpia Turzii (1936-1945), head of the Plant Breeding and Experimental Station Cluj (1945-1960), professor and head of the Department of Plant Production at the Agronomy Institut Cluj (1948-1974).

During this period of more than 50 years he was head of crop plant production in the Ministry of Agriculture (1939), head of the state examining body of the agronomy engineers (1951-1974), member of the Scientific Advisory Commity of the Ministry of Education (till 1969) and leading professor of candidates for doctoral degree. He contributed to the nomination of university professors and awarding of doctor docent degrees. Beside this long lasting influence on crop plant sciences

in Romania, on the university level prof. V.VELICAN contributed with high competence to the instruction and training of about 34 generations of agronomy engineers. His prodigious activity was oficially ucknowledged by 14 orders and medals conferred on him between 1938--1972.

He was member of the editorial staff of many periodical publications such as Agricultura nouă, Probleme agricole, Studii şi cercetări agricole Cluj, Lucrări ştiinţifice ale Inst. Agr. Cluj, Index Seminum - Notulae Botanicae Horti Agrobotanici Cluj etc. He is an active and effective propagator of new scientific ideas, by writing articles in papers (Făclia, Agricultura socialistă, Familia, Tribuna) delivering lectures with postgraduate courses, radio or television. He represented the Romanian agricultural science in Czechoslovakia (1930--1931, 1973), Hungary (1934), Yugoslavia and Bulgaria (1939), Germany (1941), URSS (1956), GDR (1967) and France (1968).

Scientific works: the original scientific papers published by prof. VELICAN have dealt mostly with problems related with the breeding of new cultivars, e.g. the use of absorbtion test in wheat breeding, morphological and anatomical properties of the wheat stem, the stooping properties of barley plant, technical aspects of plant production.

As a practical plant breeder his name is connected with the creation of many new cultivars: Triticum aestivum (winter wheat) cv. 'Cluj 650', 'Cluj 722'; Hordeum vulgare cv. 'Cluj 123', 'Cluj 230'; Zea mays cv. 'Arieşan', 'Galben timpuriu'; Solanum tuberosum cv. 'Ardealul', 'Napoca'.

Prof. VELICAN early recognised the high practical value of the traditionally cultivated local varieties and populations of crop plants. In papers published in 1934 "Experiments with mais varieties in Transylvania 1929-1932" and "The results of cultivation experiments with winter barley varieties in Transylvania" he described, estimated and suggested the preservation of a lot of Transylvanian local varieties of mais, wheat and barley.

His interest in germplasm resource conservation and exchange determined him to aid and encourage the reorganization of the Agrobotanical Garden of the Agronomy Institute Cluj-Napoca started by prof. A. NYÁRÁDY in the period after the World War II. The first Seed lists of this Garden were signed by prof. VELICAN too. These seed lists marked the starting point of the organized germplasm collection, research and exchange in the Agronomy Institute Cluj. The competence and authority

of prof. VELICAN assured, for decades, the continuity and the safety of the preservation of basic collections including local varieties and representative cultivar groups of different crop plants, influencing highly beneficially the development of the activities regarding germplasm collections and exchange.

Selective bibliography

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Undergraduate student report

OBSERVATIONS REGARDING MERICARP AND SEEDLING VARIABILITY BY DAUCUS CAROTA L. SSP. CAROTA

Observations regarding mericarp and seedling variability by Daucus carota L. ssp. carota. Not. Bot. Hort. Agrobot. Cluj, XI, Related with possible evolutionary connections between the different populations of wild and cultivated carrot (Daucus carota L. ssp. carota et ssp. sativa /Hoffm./ Arc.), mericarp and seedling variability by two different groups of wild carrot populations collected in Transylvania (Eastern Europe) and Germany (Central Europe) have been studied. A marked variability was observed in coloration of the hypocotyl region of the seedlings. Seed characters were not sufficient for the detection of a variability pattern. A marked variation pattern was observed in juvenile stage: populations from Germany or that from carrot growing regions of Transylvania developed more vigurous roots. This indicate the existence of a possible evolutionary pressure acting on the wild populations through gene flow from the cultivated taxa.

Index words: Daucus carota ssp. carota; mericarp, seedling, variability, evolution.

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The descent and development of modern carrot cultivars started in Europe in the 12th century, when purple and yellow-rooted carrot material was brought from Afghanistan to Spain, and continued mainly in the Netherlands when the first modern populations with orange, yellow and