

Wild Hops from Northern Parts of Caucasus

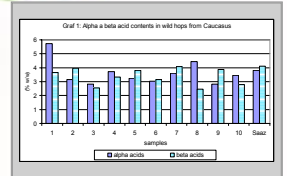
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We have new the project „The search of wild hop populations in North Osetia region, determination of their genetic value with the aim at their utilisation as donors of demanded properties in the breeding process of Czech hops and assesment of local conditions for hop cultivation“. In 2006 an expedition do Northern Caucasus was organized. Its aim was to collect wild hops in this area, which is said to be the original one for *Humulus lupulus* L. Nine localities were found in all. Analyses of hop resins were carried out in ten samples of wild hops. The highest alpha acid content, which was determined, reached the value of 5,7 % (Graf 1). On the contrary the lowest one was only 2,8 %. Beta acid contents moved from 2,5 % to 4,1 %. Cohumulone content was in the range of 19 % rel. to 34% rel.



KABARDIONO BALKAR REPUBLIK

Samples were taken in the region between the towns of Terek and Nalčik. Most of wild hops showed good growth. Rich hop plants were densely grown with medium hop cones. Only wild hops in the vicinity of Nalčik we able to compete with above-mentioned locality Craj.



ZMENSKAJA

The locality is typical by fertile black earth. Wild hops were very vigorous bearing many cones. Their bines were very thick (average 2,0-2,5 cm). Hop crowns are very large with only small buds. On the contrary annual woody bines creeping on the earth bear big buds. In this way the plants propagate and therefore its is impossible to find original hop crown in most of them. Many wild hops had already been harvested in this place as a lot of people brew beer at home in this region.



DUR DUR

Foothills of the Caucasus. Very stony soils (Dur = stone, Dur Dur = many stones). Wild hops are of medium growth; numerous cones are of medium size.

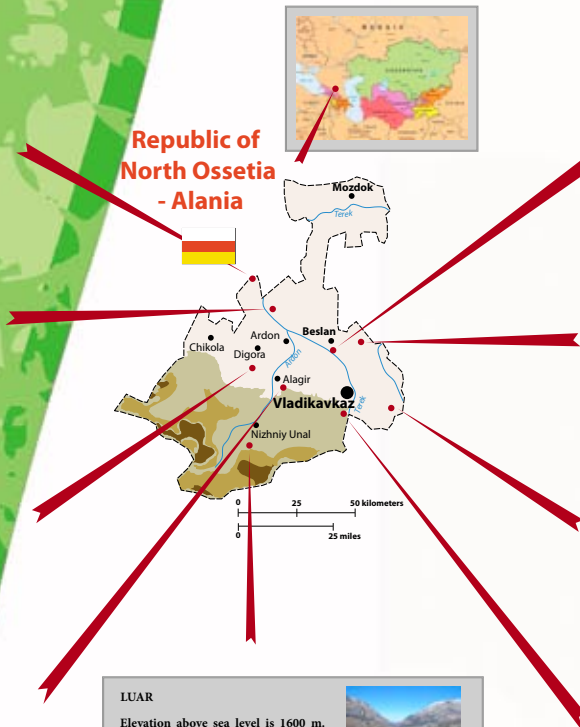


CRAJ

In the surroundings of the village of Craj we managed to find very interesting hops. The locality is typical by good soil and humid conditions, which has a favorable effect on the growth of hop plants. It is possible to say that the best wild hops were found at this site. Hop bines usually reach nearly 10 m of height and they bear a lot of hop cones, which are medium to large and their aroma is very pleasant.



Republic of North Ossetia - Alania



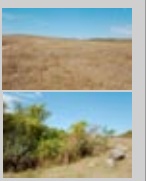
THE TEREK RIVER VALLEY

It is a site covered with grass where many hops grew on trees. Even if the locality is in the vicinity of the biggest river in the North Osetie, we found many sand dry soils as well. Despite these unfavorable conditions many wild hops showed good growing characteristics and they produced a lot of cones.



KOMSOMOLSKOJE

The site is only about 3 km from Čečensko. Two different localities with wild hops were found here. The first one was in a fertile valley (black soils). Wild hops grew at the edge of a forest. Their growth was less vigorous on average. They produced fewer cones as well. The other locality was a very dry plain near the village of Kardžik. Wild hops were typical in islands of trees and shrubs and surprisingly they showed very good growth characteristics. They bear average to high number of cones.



SUNZA

It is located to the east from Vladikavkaz about 3 km from the border with Inguško. It is at the foot of Caucasus and therefore many hops were found in dry conditions. Nevertheless, some plants were found in wet conditions as well because of glacier placed above this locality. Vigorous hop plants were very often in such conditions.



LUAR

Elevation above sea level is 1600 m. Mountain region, stony soils with only a slight layer of a heavy clay type. Weak plants bearing small to medium hop cones.



VLADIKAVKAZ

It is a locality near a water basin at the northern part of the city. Good soil conditions with a lot of humidity are typical for this site. Hops found there have a wide phenotype and genetic variability – red as well as green bines. Many of hops showed dense putting forth of cones. Size of cones was medium to large.



Acknowledgement

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