

INTRAVID DIVERSITY *CORNUS MAS* L. IN THE PIEDMONT CRIMEA AND PERSPECTIVE OF ENTERING PLANTS IN CULTURE

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In the course of the studies, four populations of *Cornus mas* L. were grown, which grow in different regions of the Crimean foothill zone. Morphological and biological features, seasonal rhythm of growth, development, flowering and fruiting of plants in various habitats were analyzed during the research. Morphometric analysis of leaf characteristics revealed a change in the size and shape of the leaf blade in plants, not only from different areas of research, but also growing within a single population. The range of variation in the length of leaf blade in plants was quite wide and varied from $56,2 \pm 2,6$ mm to $97,8 \pm 0,7$ mm, the leaf width varied from $23,9 \pm 1,5$ mm to $49,8 \pm 0,9$ mm. The morphological analysis revealed the presence of the following forms of leaf blade in the

studied populations: shape – A) round-oval (population I-III); form – B) ovoid (population I and II); form – C) lanceolate (population I – IV).

According to the results of phenological observations, a phenospectrum of the seasonal rhythm of plant development was compiled with fixation of all stages of phenological development (the phase of the formation of vegetative and generative organs). The results of phenological studies in *C. mas* populations showed that the vegetative period of plants in two years of observations averaged 220–240 days. Cornflower bloom occurs in the middle of February and lasts until the end of March. Formation of *C. mas* fruit was recorded from the first decade of March and lasted until the third decade of July, after which their maturation took place. And in different populations the fruits ripened non-simultaneously. The total duration of the fruit formation period averaged 120–130 days. In the studied populations of *C. mas*, three groups of plants were distinguished by the maturation of the fruits: early (second decade of August), medium (early September) and late (third decade of September).

In the course of the morphological analysis of the fruits of *C. mas* plants, the morphometric parameters such as the weight of the fetus, the shape, the size, the percentage of the bone and the content of the pulp were varied. The maximum value of fetal mass was noted in plants of population □V (form-C) and amounted to $4,7\pm 0,6$ g at a length of $29,3\pm 0,5$ mm, minimal - in representatives of population II (form-C) – $1,08\pm 0,03$ g at a length of $14,8\pm 0,2$ mm. On the basis of the morphological study carried out in the populations of *C. mas*, three forms of fruits were identified: oval, barrel-shaped, pear-shaped. The revealed feature is most important in the industrial processing of dogwood and this form – C can be recommended for further introduction into the culture when creating industrial plantations of the species in the Crimea.

Keywords: *Cornus mas* L., population, morphometric parameters, phenology.

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