

Book Review: The Lexicon of Pulse Crops

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The Lexicon of Pulse Crops, focused on the world's economically most important grain legume crops, represents a unique publication of its kind, which successfully links two apparently distant groups of sciences - life and social sciences. Combining in particular the existing knowledge and information in agronomy, botany, taxonomy and history of cultivation of the regarded pulse crops in the world with linguistics, lexicology and etymology, the author Aleksandar Mikić skilfully and comprehensively, with the multidisciplinary approach brings together to the common plane and unique perspective the rich mankind linguistic heritage, presented by enormous abundance of vernacular names in different world's languages, dialects and speeches. Based on the attested and novel approaches, the publication brings a detailed insight to possible origins and evolution of popular and vernacular names of the corresponding botanical taxa denoting the regarded grain legumes, as well as the etymological impacts between different world's languages.

With the present publication, the author bravely opened the treasury gate of the rich mankind heritage, giving an insight to the existing scientific, linguistic and historical information related to grain legume crops, their valid scientific names, origins (i.e. diversity centers), history of cultivation from ancient to present times and rich linguistic heritage of assigned popular and vernacular names in different, living and extinct world languages, dialects and speeches.

The publication comprises a rich database of more than 9500 common names in more than 900 living and extinct languages, dialects and speeches of all ethno-linguistic world families, related to about 1500 species and their subtaxa of the 14 regarded main legume genera.

The book is arranged in 16 chapters, with 86 tables and 16 figures, long list of references and index of terms. The first chapter provides the agronomical and botanical point of view to the subject, with general information about the world's economically most important grain legumes and their wild uncultivated relatives, with summarized current data on most important production countries, cultivation area and yields, as well as information on the world's diversity centres of grain legumes and

history of cultivation. The following chapter provides the linguistic perspective by giving the overview to the diversity of world's languages, including both living and extinct languages, their systematization in family groups, and relations between them. The main section of the book is given in 14 chapters, each one covering one of the main grain legume genera: *Arachis*, *Cajanus*, *Cicer*, *Ervum*, *Faba*, *Glycine*, *Labiab*, *Lathyrus*, *Lens*, *Lupinus*, *Phaseolus*, *Pisum*, *Vicia*, and *Vigna*. At the beginning of each chapter, botanical classification data is provided in the form of extensive list of recognized scientific nomenclature (species and related subtaxa) with valid scientific names, synonyms and related most commonly used popular names in different languages. In continuation, the author provides an extensive lexicological overview of world's vernacular names of the most important cultivated legume crops, comprising both living and extinct, as well as natural and constructed languages, dialects and speeches belonging to all existing ethno-linguistic families. The abundant data on vernacular names is presented in tables, which are systematically arranged according to the alphabetical order of the listed languages.

Furthermore, based on the existing and original, innovative etymological approach, the author in each chapter elaborated the possible origins and evolution of pulse crops common names within certain language groups. Etymological explanations for each regarded grain legume crop are accompanied by an original, picturesque, and impressive colour illustration of the corresponding plant, which at the same time represents a symbolic dendrogram that based on similarities, demonstrates possible evolution of vernacular names and the links between different languages, dialects or speeches.

What may be of particular interest for the readers are the common names in Serbian dialects, ranging from Dalmatia to Gallipoli. There are also vernacular names for endemic edible legumes, like *Vigna lanceolata* in more than 80 dying Australian Aboriginal languages, as well as more than 400 common names for pea, including many in numerous Dutch and Italian dialects, which witnesses the significance one pulse crop has for a certain population. The publication represents a valuable source of information for both linguistic and agronomic researchers.