

GENETIC RESOURCES OF SILVER FIR

Population and Genetic Resources of Silver Fir in Belarus [Populyatsionno-Geneticheskie Resursy Pikhty Beloj v Belarusi. Популяционно-Генетические Ресурсы Пихты Белой в Беларуси]. G.G. Goncharenko & B.P. Savickij. National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, Gomel', Byelorussia. 121 pages, ISBN 985-6632-16-1. [*In Russian*].

The book is a monograph dealing with the genetic structure of silver fir and the other Palaeartic fir species, with the main focus on a silver fir remnants in the virgin forest on the Byelorussian part of the National Park Bialowieza on the Polish border based on isozyme gene markers. This remnant occurrence includes at present 20 adult trees in the Byelorussian part and xx individuals on the Polish part of the National Park Bialowieza. It would be more useful if the authors would compare the genetic structure of both occurrences and try to place them within the pattern of the silver fir occurrence in the north/east Poland and/or further to Carpathians.

As usual, the authors describe in detail the technical and methodological principles of isozyme analysis in general as well as specifically for the applied enzyme systems, along with the presentation of the fundamental concepts of population genetics and the estimated parameters of the population structure.

More interesting than the presentation of the genetic structures of silver fir in the Eastern part of its distribution

range (which could have been reduced to a paper in a scientific journal) is the analysis of the differentiation and evolutionary relationships among Palaeartic *Abies* species, including *A. alba*, *A. nordmanniana*, *A. sibirica*, *A. semenovii*, *A. sachalinensis*, and *A. nephrolepis*. The analysis has shown a deep phylogenetic divergence between European and Siberian and/or Far-East fir species, as well as a specific taxonomic position of the isolated Tyan-Shan species *A. semenovii*.

As with the previous books of Dr. G. Goncharenko, the question why they are written in Russian applies to the reviewed book as well. Most potential readers do neither understand the language nor can read Cyrillic script, so that even the information in tables and figures without English headings is hardly accessible for them. The publication in the form of a set of papers would thus be very useful.

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