# Czech Journal of GENETICS AND PLANT BREEDING



## Table of Contents



Home

Editorial Board

For Authors

- Authors Declaration
- Instruction to Authors
- Guide for Authors
- Copyright Statement
- Submission

For Reviewers

- Guide for Reviewers
- Reviewers Login

Subscription

# Czech J. Genet. Plant Breed.

# ...ková M.: Repatriation of lost old grass varieties to the germplasm collection of the Czech Republic

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In former Czechoslovakia, grass breeding was located in the three distinct regions of Southern Bohemia and Northern Moravia during the 1920 ' s; and later in Slovakia in the 1940 ' s. This resulted in the development of 45 cultivars of 17 grass species which originated from local ecotypes and were named after the place of their breeding (*e.g.* Táborský, Větrovský, Rožnovský, and Levočský). Most of these historical cultivars were not preserved in any national germplasm collection, and the number of missing accessions amounted to 27 of the 34 deleted varieties. Using the findings about unpreserved materials of Czechoslovak origin in the European Central Crop Databases, as well as the EURISCO web catalogue, it was possible to repatriate 7 historical cultivars (*Arrhenatherum elatius* Větrovský, *Festuca pratensis* Větrovská, *Festuca rubra* Rožnovská, *Lolium perenne* Táborský, *Phleum pratense* Větrovský, *Poa nemoralis* Rožnovská, and *Poa pratensis* Levočská) from the gene banks of the neighbouring European countries. The accessions were regenerated, and their seed has been stored *ex situ* in the Gene Bank of the Crop Research Institute in Prague.

**Keywords:**
cultivars; germplasm collection; grasses; repatriation

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