

Agricultural Journals

Czech Journal of GENETICS AND PLANT BREEDING

home page about us contact

US

- Table of Contents
- IN PRESS
- **CJGPB 2014**
- **CJGPB 2013**
- **CJGPB 2012**
- **CJGPB 2011**
- **CJGPB 2010**
- **CJGPB 2009**
- **CJGPB 2008**
- **CJGPB 2007**
- **CJGPB 2006**
- **CJGPB 2005**
- **CJGPB 2004**
- **CJGPB 2003**
- CJGPB 2002
- CJGPB
- 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.

Pea (*Pisum sativum* L.) in biology prior and after Mendel's discovery

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Pea (Pisum sativum L.) has been extensively used in early hybridization studies and it was the model organism of choice for Mendel 's discovery of the laws of inheritance, making pea part of the foundation of modern genetics. Pea has also been used as model for experimental morphology and physiology. However, subsequent progress in pea genomics has lagged behind many other plant species, largely as a consequence of its genome size and low economic significance. The availability of the genome sequences of five legume species (Medicago truncatula, Lotus japonicus, Glycine max, Cajanus cajan and *Cicer aerietinum*) offers opportunities for genome wide comparison. The combination of a candidate gene and

synteny approach has allowed the identification of genes underlying agronomically important traits such as virus resistances and plant architecture. Useful genomic resources already exist and include several types of molecular marker sets as well as both transcriptome and proteome datasets. The advent of greater computational power and access to diverse germplasm collections enable the use of association mapping to identify genetic variation related to desirable agronomic traits. Current genomic knowledge and technologies can facilitate the allele mining for novel traits and their incorporation from wild Pisum sp. into elite domestic backgrounds. Fast neutron and targeting-induced local lesions in genomes (TILLING) pea mutant populations are available for reverse genetics approaches, BAC libraries for positional gene cloning as well as transgenic and in vitro regeneration for proof of function through gene silencing or over-expression. Finally, recently formed International Pea Genome Sequencing Consortium, holds promise to provide the pea genome sequence by 2015, a year of 150 anniversary of

Keywords:

heredity; hybridization; legume; Mendel; pea

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