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Short Note: Crossability Between *Pinus uliginosa* and its Putative Parental Species *Pinus sylvestris* and *Pinus mugo*

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Abstract

Results of artificial fertilization of *P. uliginosa* with *P. sylvestris* and *P. mugo* are presented and discussed. *P. sylvestris* and *P. mugo* are thought to be the parental species of *P. uliginosa*. Two grafts of one *P. uliginosa* clone from Arboretum of the Institute of Dendrology in Kórnik, Poland were used as mother individuals. One individual of *P. sylvestris* and one individual of *P. mugo* were the pollen donors. Three mature cones were obtained as the result of artificial pollination of *P. uliginosa* with *P. mugo* pollen. Out of 107 seeds, 68 were filled what gives 63%. *P. uliginosa* conelets pollinated

with *P. sylvestris* pollen were all aborted. Based on obtained data, close phylogenetic relationship between *P. uliginosa* and *P. mugo* complex is suggested.

Key words: *P. uliginosa*, *P. sylvestris*, *P. mugo*, hybridization, pollination, crossability.

Introduction

Dwarf mountain pine complex (*Pinus mugo* Turra complex) is well known for its taxonomically perplexing pattern of phylogenetic relations and contradictory views on taxonomic rank of taxons belonging to this

complex. It consists of group of closely related taxons of *Sylvestres* subsection.

Peat-bog pine (*Pinus uliginosa* Neumann) is included to *Pinus mugo* complex. It is one out of four native pines in Poland. It is highly endangered species, due to decreasing population size and lack of natural regeneration. Additionally, sympatric occurrence with Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris* L.) and overlapping of flowering periods for *P. uliginosa* and *P. sylvestris* may lead to gene pool erosion, as a consequence of interspecific fertilization (BORATYŃSKI et al., 2003; DANIELEWICZ and ZIELIŃSKI, 2000; LEWANDOWSKI et al., 2002).

The taxonomic rank and phylogenetic position of *P. uliginosa* is still not definitively described. Although the majority of researchers agree with putative hybrid derivation of *P. uliginosa*, they point out different putative parental species. In taxonomic revision of *P. mugo* complex, CHRISTENSEN (1987) and BUSINSKÝ (1999) classified peat-bog pine as synonym for *Pinus rotundata* and described it as a hybrid between *P. mugo* and *P. uncinata*. Some other authors consider *P. uliginosa* as a result of an ancient hybridization between *P. sylvestris* and *P. mugo* (STASZKIEWICZ and TYSZKIEWICZ, 1969; KRZAKOWA et al., 1984; LEWANDOWSKI et al., 2000). Despite genetic differences separating dwarf mountain pine and Scots pine, there are some studies indicating the possibility of artificial crossings (MARCET, 1967; MOULALIS et al., 1976; KORMUTAK and LANAKOWA 1988). Additionally, natural hybridization is reported in some mixed stands and hybrids are recognized as *Pinus x rhaetica* (CHRISTENSEN, 1987).

In this paper, we present the results of controlled pollination *P. uliginosa*, with *P. sylvestris* and *P. mugo*. We intended to verify the crossability between these species in the aspect of possible natural hybridization and hybrid origin of peat-bog pine.

Materials and Methods

Two 6 years old grafts of one *P. uliginosa* clone from Arboretum of the Institute of Dendrology in Kórnik, Poland were used as mother individuals. These grafts were gained from Batorów Great Peatland, Sudety Mts., Poland. One individual of *P. sylvestris* and one individual of *P. mugo* were the pollen donors. Both paternal individuals came from the same Arboretum. Controlled crosses were carried out in May 2003. Two weeks before expected flowering time, female strobili were isolated with polyethylene bags to prevent unwilling crosses. Two days before pollination, pollen from Scots pine and Dwarf pine was collected. Pollen was applied into the bags by medicine dropper with a robber blower. Pollination was repeated in subsequent three days.

Five female strobili of one *P. uliginosa* graft were pollinated with *P. sylvestris* pollen and four female strobili of another *P. uliginosa* graft were pollinated with pollen of *P. mugo*. Male strobili on peat-bog pine grafts were absent, so self-fertilization was excluded.

Results and Discussion

The result of artificial pollination of *P. uliginosa* with *P. mugo* pollen were three mature cones. One conelet out

of four was aborted due the mechanic damage. Out of 107 obtained seeds, 68 were filled what gives 63%. Peat-bog conelets pollinated with Scots pine pollen were all aborted next spring in 2004.

Although the experiment is based on a rather limited material, the results have provided an interesting information which may facilitate the discussion on the hybrid origin and taxonomic position of *P. uliginosa*. Morphological and anatomical studies indicate distinctness of *P. uliginosa* from the closely related species – Scots pine and they also show some similarities to dwarf mountain pine. Moreover, *P. uliginosa* individuals with intermediate or mixed phenotype with regard to Scots pine and dwarf mountain pine were reported (PRUS-GŁOWACKI and SZWEYKOWSKI, 1980; STASZKIEWICZ, 1993). Intermediate position of *P. uliginosa* between *P. sylvestris* and *P. mugo* was also noted in biochemical studies, what can suggest hybrid derivation (PRUS-GŁOWACKI and SZWEYKOWSKI, 1983; LEWANDOWSKI et al., 2000; LEWANDOWSKI et al., 2002). Hybrid individuals frequently maintain ability to backcross with one or both parental species. Results of crossings between peat-bog pine with close related dwarf mountain pine reported in this paper, were very successful. Gene flow between *P. uliginosa* and *P. mugo* is supposed to take place also in natural stands, although there is no reliable method to confirm this. PCR-RFLP analyses of cpDNA *trnV-rbcL* region enable distinguishing *P. sylvestris* from *P. mugo* complex, but it becomes ineffective in case of distinguishing *P. uliginosa* from *P. mugo* (WACHOWIAK et al., 2004). Contrary, lack of crossability between *P. uliginosa* and *P. sylvestris* observed in this survey indicates the existence of reproductive barriers. However, WACHOWIAK et al. (2005) has recently reported about 1% of hybrid individuals among *P. uliginosa* seeds from natural stand at WĘGLINIEC, surrounded by extensive stands of *P. sylvestris*.

Despite the reproductive barriers between *P. sylvestris* and *P. mugo* found in this study, the unequivocal excluding of *P. sylvestris* contribution in *P. uliginosa* arising is not possible. The plausible explanation is that at the stage of incomplete lineages sorting, gene flow between *P. sylvestris* and *P. mugo* took place. It takes place also in the present time, what supports some level of crossability reported in natural stands. Extensive gene flow is thought to be observed in *Quercus* genus nowadays and despite its intensity, *Quercus* species are able to keep their morphological, anatomical and ecological identity (MUIR et al., 2000). As a result of large-scale changes in European floras induced by glacial history of continent, exchanging gene pools between *P. sylvestris* and *P. mugo* could have been broken down. Time and space isolation during glaciations promoted the divergence. Hybridization between *Pinus sylvestris* and *Pinus mugo* and following introgression into *Pinus mugo*, could have led to *Pinus uliginosa* arising. Consequently, peat-bog pine should be regarded as an ancient, stabilized introgressant. Biochemical, morphological and anatomical resemblances of *P. uliginosa* to *P. mugo* would be an evidence for longer and closer relationships of *P. uliginosa* with *P. mugo* complex than with *P. sylvestris* (SIEDLEWSKA and PRUS-GŁOWACKI, 1995).

Closer relationships of *P. uliginosa* with dwarf mountain pine mirrors also reported crossability. Peat-bog pine share some traits with Scots pine due to introgression but could lost crossability due to isolation.

Based on these data and earlier studies, close phylogenetic relationship between *P. uliginosa* and *P. mugo* complex is suggested. This experiment is based on limited material and includes only one way of pollination. Therefore, in context of hypothesized *P. uliginosa* hybrid derivation, the obtained results unable to infer definitely about putative parental species. Reliable experiments should be founded on a more detailed material, representing more comprehensively examined populations of different species and conducted for several years to exclude influence of biotic and abiotic factors.

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DNA From Ancient Cedar Wood From King Midas' Tomb, Turkey, and Al-Aksa Mosque, Israel

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Abstract

Ancient Taurus cedar (*Cedrus libani* A. Rich) wood samples from the Tumulus of King Midas at the Gordion archaeological site (about 2700 years old), near Ankara, Turkey, and from the Al-Aksa Mosque (about 1500 to 1900 years old), Jerusalem, Israel, were characterized by studying the sequences of ribosomal DNA (rDNA) internal transcribed spacers (ITS1 and ITS2). After