

***CORYLUS AVELLANA* L.**

**POLLEN AND CATKINS CHARACTERIZATION ON GENOTYPES
FROM SELECTED LOCALITIES OF WEST SLOVAKIA**

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Table of content

Table of content	3
Introduction	5
1 Current condition of the field at home and abroad	7
1.1 General characteristics of <i>Corylus avellana</i> L.....	7
1.1.1 Taxonomy and distribution of <i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	7
1.1.2 World production of <i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	9
1.1.3 Conditions of <i>Corylus avellana</i> L. growth.....	10
1.1.4 Phenological phases and development of <i>Corylus avellana</i> L. flowers.....	11
1.1.5 Characteristic of <i>Corylus avellana</i> L. male flowers.....	13
1.2 Pollen development	14
1.3 Pollen morphological characterization	16
2 Goals of monograph	19
3 Materials and methods	20
3.1 Localities and samples characterization	20
3.2 Biological objects and sampling	21
3.3 Image documentation.....	22
3.4 Characterization and morphological analysis of catkins and pollen grains.....	24
3.4.1 Characterization of <i>Corylus avellana</i> L. male flowers	24
3.4.2 Morphology of <i>Corylus avellana</i> L. pollen grains.....	25
3.5 The software used in the processing of experimental activities	29
4 Results and discussion of monograph	30
4.1 Morphometric analysis of <i>Corylus avellana</i> L. pollen grains	30
4.1.1 Polar axis.....	30
4.1.2 Equatorial axis.....	33
4.1.3 Aperture diameter.....	35
4.1.4 Pollen grain shape	38
4.2 Pollen grains area measured by Image analysis software.....	38
4.3 Morphometric and weight analysis of <i>Corylus avellana</i> L. catkins	41
4.4 Number of flowers per catkin and pollen production	47
4.5 Principal component analysis of pollen and catkins.....	50
4.5.1 Principal component analysis for pollen and catkins traits	50
4.5.2 Principal component analysis for pollen traits	51
Conclusions	53

Proposes and recommendation for practice57
References 58
Annexes 65

Introduction

Hazelnut (*Corylus avellana* L.) has unusual ability to adapt to extreme conditions and is widely spread throughout Slovakia. Under the influence of various environmental factors shape and size of habitus, leaves, fruits, and catkins change. That is the reason why hazelnut became the subject of research in many countries. The important stage in the study of hazelnut plants was the use for cultivation purposes. The traits from cultivated genotypes are transported also on wild genotypes. Genetic diversity of hazelnuts confirmed survival adaptability.

The application research and experimental development in conservation of environment and agriculture are interconnected by different approaches. The biological objectives are native organisms, and they are constantly in inseparable unity with the environment, but environment conditions are unstable. Organisms adapt to new living conditions through the activation the synthesis of nucleic acids and proteins. This factor influences on variability evaluation of genetic resources.

In our study we tried to find the most distinguishing sample by combined empiric knowledge with innovative methods for morphological characterization. We worked with pollen grains and catkins (male inflorescences). We proposed to combine the results of different experimental works for identifying the suitable genotypes for further using.

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