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Proceedings of the IUFRO Working Party 2.02.15 "Breeding and Genetic Resources of Five-Needle Pines" Conference held from September 19 to 23, 2006, Valiug, Romania

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An international IUFRO WP 2.02.15 conference was held from 19-23 September, 2006, at Valiug, namely at the Claris Hotel placed just in the heart of an outstanding multi-age natural beech forest from south-western Carpathians. The conference was attended by 46 delegates representing nine countries. A total of 21 oral and eight poster presentations were given. Reports were presented on variety of research topics, all of them connected to the five needle-pines.

After indoor presentations, a three day field trip was organized. During this trip, attendees were able to visit a part of the field trials in five needle pine species, including some of their F1 interspecific hybrids as components of the Romanian breeding program.

The following five-needle pines trials planted out in the Southern Carpathians were visited:

(i) *P. strobus* x *P. wallichiana* F1 hybrid trial 20 years old, planted out in the water dam area, in the Valiug Forest District;

(ii) *P. strobus* x *P. peuce* F1 hybrid trial 20 years old, planted out at Valisor in the Caransebes Forest District;

(iii) *P. strobus* x *P. wallichiana* and *P. strobus* x *P. peuce* F1 hybrid trials, 20 years old, planted out at Costeiu in the Cosava Forest District;

(iv) *P. peuce* clonal seed orchard, 18 years old, planted out at Costeiu in the Cosava Forest District; the clones have their origin in the Rila Mountains, Bulgaria;

(v) *Pinus cembra* provenance and half-sib trials, 10 years old, planted out at Bobai, in the "urian Mountain zone, Cugir Forest District;

(vi) *Pinus cembra* diallel trial, 10 years old, planted out at Muncel site in the Cindrel Mountain zone, Rasinari former Valea Sadului Forest District.

During trip it was proved that the *Pinus strobus* fast growing can be successfully combined with the *P. peuce* and *P. wallichiana* blister rust resistance. Also, it was proved the *P. cembra*, an extremely slow growing species, possesses a high genetic variation in height growth and branching traits; this variation is present at provenance, family and individual within family levels.

The conference was hosted by the Forest Research and Management Institute, along with IUFRO WP 2.02.15 Breeding and Genetic Resources of Five-Needle Pines .

This conference was strongly sponsored by the following forest institutions: Romsilva - National Forest Administration and its regional units Resita (Valiug and Caransebes Forest

Districts), Timisoara (Cosava and Lunca Timis Forest Districts), Alba (Cugir Forest District) and Sibiu (Saliste-Cibin and Rasinari Forest Districts). The organizers of this conference express their gratitude to all of these institutions for their sponsorship and for the excellent local arrangements with the very tasteful meals including local peerless original drinks that created a warm and enjoyable ambience.

It should be stressed that, unfortunately, not all indoor oral presentations were sent in full to be included in this proceedings. However, the present proceedings incorporate 11 in full oral presentation and 18 in short oral presentations or posters.

The whole proceedings has been published in this issue of Annals of Forest Research, edited by Forest Research and Management Institute. The editors team of this proceedings would like to acknowledge the leadership of the Forest Research and Management Institute for its financial support in publishing, in good conditions, all the papers and posters presented at the conference.

Note: The papers have been published as submitted by authors, in camera ready form; consequently, the responsibility for the technical content remains with the respective authors.

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Participants to the IUFRO Working Party 2.02.15 - Breeding and Genetic Resources of Five-Needle Pines - Valiug, Romania, 19-23 September 2006