

Modern Achievements in Population, Evolutionary, and Ecological Genetics : International Symposium, Vladivostok – Vostok Marine Biological Station, September 2–6, 2013 : Program & Abstracts. – Vladivostok, 2013. – 76 p. – Engl. ISBN 978-5-7442-1512-5

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Editors: Yuri Ph. Kartavtsev, Alexey P. Kryukov

Современные достижения в популяционной, эволюционной и экологической генетике : Международный симпозиум, Владивосток – Морская биологическая станция «Восток», 2–6 сентября 2013 : Программа и тезисы докладов. – Владивосток, 2013. – 76 с. – Англ.

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**ALLOZYME DIVERSITY AND GENETIC DIVERGENCE OF THREE
OXYTROPIS SPECIES FROM THE KAMCHATKA PENINSULA****Kholina A.B., Nakonechnaya O.V.***Institute of Biology and Soil Science of Far Eastern Branch of Russian Academy of
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The Kamchatka Peninsula is a unique part of the Northwest Pacific area, a region with intense volcanism. The colonization of the volcanic substrates is undertaken primarily by pioneer plant species. Among them the representatives of the *Oxytropis* genus have a great importance. Due to their root system they are active anchors of the moving substrates; oxytropes occupy the areas without soil cover, and a result of their activity is the formation of favorable soil conditions for the establishment of other plants. Studies on the genetic variability of pioneer plants are interesting and actual with respect to biodiversity conservation. We evaluated allozyme polymorphism of three *Oxytropis* species (section *Arctobia*, *O. kamtschatica* Hult., *O. exserta* Jurtz., *O. revoluta* Ledeb.) from the Kamchatka Peninsula. *O. exserta* and *O. kamtschatica* are both an endemic species, the range of *O. revoluta* includes the coast of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands. Twenty genetic loci controlling 13 enzyme systems were analyzed in 6 populations. The maximum values of genetic variation parameters were found in *O. exserta* ($P = 42.9\%$, $H_e = 0.156$) indicating a moderate level of polymorphism; the minimum values are in *O. revoluta* populations, almost 2 times lower than that of *O. exserta*. Cluster analysis based on genetic distances did not reveal clear groups among the studied populations appropriated traditional subsections. The divergence time of the studied *Oxytropis* species is about 280 thousand years, i.e. belongs to the middle Pleistocene. The level of genetic diversity and differentiation pattern of three *Oxytropis* species is probably explained by the ecological features, the impact of genetic drift and the species history in Pleistocene.