SOME HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF SYSTEMATICS OF ZEA MAYS L. SPECIES

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The intraspecific taxonomy of corn has been causing controversy and discussion among scientists for over 120 years, and to this day there is no consensus on its division into groups. The purpose of this historical review is to explain some aspects in the approaches to the taxonomy of corn in different historical periods of its study. An explanation is given for some distortions in the taxonomy of maize that arose in the absence of any other alternative classifications based on the taxonomy of Sturtevant and his followers at the beginning of the 20th century. The erroneousness of constructing a taxonomy based on individual mutations of the endosperm of maize is shown. Alternative variants of the taxonomy of corn are described, based on the division into races proposed by Anderson and Cutler and improved by Wellhausen et al. On the basis of the quantitative traits of the plant and ear, Mangelsdorf on the basis of genealogical relationships between races and their historical sequence of origin, Goodman and Byrd in terms of their economic importance ... On the basis of 30 literary sources, an analysis of the historical dynamics of the intraspecific taxonomy of maize and attempts to divide it into different groups and races in the 20th century has been carried out. As a result of the research carried out in literary sources, it was proposed to abandon the Sturtevant system, as erroneous and no longer relevant for further use in breeding and genetic studies of corn. The use in breeding of the full potential of genetic polymorphism of the species Zea mays L., based on taxonomy for wild relatives and exotic races, will significantly increase its efficiency in improving the economic traits of hybrid corn.

Keywords: corn, wild relatives, teosinte, tripsacum, exotic races, maize.

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