

Adaptive variability of basil (*Ocimum basilicum* L.) varieties

I. O. Kucher

Uman National University of Horticulture, 1 Instytutska St., Uman, Cherkasy region, 20305, Ukraine,
e-mail: inna.kucher95@gmail.com

Purpose of the research was to estimate the state of varietal resources and adaptive-and-productive potential of basil plants. **Methods.** Field, laboratory, statistical and calculation-analytical. The field work included marking out of the experimental plot and field work. The laboratory method was used to analyze plants, assess the quality of the crop, and study physical, chemical and microbiological properties of the soil. Statistical and analytical calculation methods were used to calculate the results. **Results.** The varieties of 'Temnyi Opal', 'MFI-2', 'Siaivo' and 'Badioryi' where the regression coefficient was in the range of 0.57–0.78 can be included to the group of highly plastic varieties by the "commodity yield" feature according to the results of research. The highest rate of breeding value by the "plant weight" trait was observed in the variety of 'Temnyi Opal', $Sc = 347.22$. The group of highly plastic varieties on the basis of "plant weight" trait included the varieties 'Mister Barns', 'MFI-2', 'Rutan', 'Siaivo' and 'Badioryi', where the regression coefficient was in the range of 0.91–0.99. The varieties 'Temnyi Opal', 'Yerevanskyi', 'Ametyst' and 'Lymonnyi Aromat' were classified as intensive. The regression coefficient of these varieties was in the range of 1.03–1.16. The analysis of the combination of high productivity, quantitative characteristics of the crop structure with the level of ecological plasticity and stability indicates different ways of these indicators formation in separate varieties. It was revealed that a high level of plasticity and yield stability did not guarantee a similar result on some quantitative features of its structure. **Conclusions.** The degree of adaptability of basil varieties can also be assessed by the value of the parameters of features variation. The obtained results will allow more objectively assessing the adaptive-and-productive potential of varieties and qualitatively selecting initial forms for further breeding for adaptability.

Keywords: adaptive ability; stability; plasticity; morphometric parameters; yielding capacity.

Introduction

The rate of consumption of spicy-aromatic vegetables per year per person in Ukraine should be 1.7 kg [1]. According to other data, in the average annual norm of vegetable consumption of 161 kg per capita, the share of spicy-aromatic vegetables should be about 2.4 kg, including about 1.0 kg in the off-season period [2]. Other authors also support the consumption rate of 1.7 kg per year, including 0.4 kg from greenhouses [3]. At the advice of the medical doctor, a person should consume 2 kg of spicy-aromatic vegetables per year, of which 1.5 kg should be grown in open ground, and 0.5 kg in greenhouses [4].

In view of the prospects of using and the efficiency of cultivation, basil (*Ocimum basilicum* L.) deserves special attention, although

now its plantings are very few [5]. Cultivation of the genus *Ocimum* L. is growing all over the world due to its pharmaceutical and nutraceutical value, as well as easy adaptation to different soil and climatic conditions [6].

An important feature of basil is their unpretentiousness to agro-climatic growing conditions. However, basil in Ukraine occupy insignificant areas. Usually they are grown by amateurs and certain processing enterprises [7]. In recent years, there has been a positive trend towards an increase in the species and varietal composition of basil to fill the market with their own high-quality plant raw materials and products [8]. Extension of the existing assortment of basil is constrained by insufficient knowledge of varietal diversity, the biology of new and less common varieties, and the lack of the required amount of seed and planting material [9].

Therefore, the analysis of the prospects for basil species growing, the study of their varietal diversity is relevant and important both

Inna Kucher
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2864-5252>

for the Right-Bank Forest-Steppe of Ukraine, since this soil-climatic zone is one of the most promising for growing aromatic plants, and for Ukraine as a whole.

The aim of the research was a comprehensive assessment of the state of varietal resources and the potential of basils in the conditions of the Right-Bank Forest-Steppe of Ukraine.

Materials and methods

The research was conducted in 2019–2021 on the experimental field of Uman National University of Horticulture. The relief of the experimental field was flat with a slope in the southern direction. The soil of the experimental plot is chernozem podzolic hard loam with a well-developed humus horizon (about 3%). The following varieties of basil were studied: 'Badioryi', 'Temnyi Opal', 'Yerevanskyi', 'Ametyst', 'Mister Barns', 'Lymonnyi Aromat', 'MFI-2', 'Rutan', 'Siaivo'. 'Badioryi' variety served as a control, as at the time of the research it was the most tested and for the longest time was in the State Register of Plant Varieties Suitable for Distribution in Ukraine. Varieties 'Badioryi', 'Siaivo' and 'Rutan' are included in the Register of Plant Varieties of Ukraine. The originator of 'Badioryi' variety is «Nasko» agricultural company; «Maiak» Experimental Station of the Institute of Vegetable and Melon Growing is the originator of 'Rutan' and 'Siaivo' varieties. Given biometric parameters of basil plants were studied: plant height, leaf area, number of leaves, number of first order tillers. A randomized field experiment was conducted. The experiment was performed in four repetitions. The experimental plot measured 10 m², with 67 basil plants on it. The cassette method of growing seedlings was used with a cell size of 6 × 6 cm. Seedlings were planted with a spacing of 50 × 30 cm. Morphological parameters were measured in 40 marked plants, 10 plants in repetition.

Statistical processing of results. Mathematical processing was carried out by the method of dispersion analysis. The coefficient of linear regression of the yield of a variety shows its response to changing growing conditions. The higher was the value of the coefficient (*bi*), the better was the response of the variety. In the case of *bi* < 1, the variety reacted poorly to changing environmental conditions. When *bi* = 1, there was a complete correspondence between the change in the yield of the variety in accordance with the change in growing conditions [10].

The total homeostaticity of varieties (H_{om}) was calculated according to the method of V. V. Khangildin [11, 12].

The variation of the yield trait (H_{om}) was determined by the formula:

$$H_{om} = \frac{\bar{X}^2}{\sigma}, \quad (1)$$

Where

\bar{X} – arithmetic mean value of the feature;

σ – generalized standard deviation.

Breeding value of the variety:

$$(S_c) = \bar{X} \times \frac{\bar{X}_{lim}}{\bar{X}_{opt}} \quad (2)$$

\bar{X} – arithmetic mean value of the feature;

\bar{X}_{lim} – arithmetic mean limited;

\bar{X}_{opt} – arithmetic mean is optimal.

Multiplication coefficient (*MC*). In order to avoid a linear artifact of the regression coefficient, V. A. Dragavtsev introduced a new parameter in 1981 – the multiplication coefficient, which allows comparing the variability of a trait [13]. The higher the numerical value of this coefficient, the more the sign changes:

$$MC = \frac{X_i + bi \times yi}{x_i} \quad (3)$$

Where:

x_i – average value of the studied trait in the *i* variety;

bi – coefficient of linear regression of the *i*-variety;

yi – average value for all averages for all varieties yj for each *j* point of the experiment.

Index of ecological plasticity (according to the method of A. O. Gryaznov):

$$IEP = \frac{\left(\frac{yB_1}{CYO_1} \frac{yB_2}{CYO_2} + \dots + \frac{yB_n}{CYO_n} \right)}{n} \quad (4)$$

yB_1, yB_2, yB_n are the value of the trait in the variety in different years of testing;

CYO_1, CYO_2, CYO_n are the average value of variety trait for each of the variants of the experiment [14].

To determine the adaptive capacity, the variety coefficient of adaptability (*CA*) was used.

The annual coefficient of adaptability (*CA*) was calculated using the formula [15]:

$$CA = (X_{ij}) \times 100 : X : 100, \quad (5)$$

where:

X_{ij} – characteristic of a certain variety in the year of testing; *X* – average varietal value of the trait in a particular year.

The absolute average coefficient of adaptability (*CAA*) was calculated for the variety by the formula:

$$CAA = (X_i C) \times 100 : X_b : 100 \quad (6)$$

where:

$X_i C$ – average value of the variety trait over the years of testing; X_b – long-term average varietal value of the trait.

Stress resistance and compensatory ability of varieties were determined according to A. A. Rossielle and S. Hemblin [16]:

$$SR = Y_{min} - Y_{max} \quad (7)$$

$$CA = \frac{Y_{min} - Y_{max}}{2} \quad (8)$$

where:

Y_{min}, Y_{max} – the minimum and maximum value of the variety trait.

The coefficient of variation is a relative value that serves to characterize the dispersion (variability) of a trait. It is the ratio of the standard deviation SD to the arithmetic mean, expressed as a percentage:

$$CV = \frac{SD}{\bar{X}} \quad (9)$$

The coefficient of variation is used when it is necessary to compare the variability of the features of an object, expressed in different units of measurement [17]. It has meaning exclusively for quantities measured in ratio scales:

$CV < 10\%$ – weak variation;

$CV 11-25\%$ – average;

$CV > 25\%$ – significant.

Statistical processing of the obtained results was performed with the calculation of the arithmetic mean (\bar{x}) of the standard deviation (SD), calculated using Microsoft Excel 2016.

Results and discussion

Such morphological features of basils as plant height, leaf area and bush density not on-

ly have a direct impact on crop productivity, but are also used in breeding to create varieties suitable for mechanized harvesting (the higher and denser the bush, the greater its suitability for high-quality mechanized harvesting). For some crops, including basils, a compact (compressed) type of bush branching is preferable, which facilitates inter-row cultivation [18]. Low-growing plants can be used in breeding to create ornamental varieties and varieties intended for growing in confined spaces. Medium-sized and low-growing basil varieties also have greater resistance to lodging, which can be used in breeding for this trait [19].

The dynamics of growth and development of basils (plant height, leaf area, number of leaves and number of first order tillers) at different stages is characterized by the data presented in Table 1. According to the results of the studies, plant height was the least variable sign. All the studied varieties were characterized by low variability of the trait; their indicator was at the level of 3–9%. In general, the intervarietal variation for this trait was 19%, indicating medium variability.

On the basis of the leaf area, the varieties ‘Ametyst’, ‘Yerevanskyi’ and ‘Temnyi Opal’ turned out to be slightly changing, which had an indicator in the range of 6–10%. Varieties ‘Badioryi’, ‘Mister Barns’, ‘Lymonnyi Aromat’, ‘MFI-2’, ‘Rutan’ and ‘Siaivo’ were moderately changing, where the coefficient of variation was in the range of 11–24%.

In terms of the leaf number, differences were noted between the varieties ‘Badioryi’, ‘Temnyi Opal’, ‘Ametyst’ and ‘Siaivo’, which were within 21–24%, what indicates the average variability of the trait. Varieties ‘Yerevanskyi’, ‘Mister Barns’, ‘Lymonnyi Aromat’, ‘MFI-2’ and ‘Rutan’ were characterized by strong variability

Table 1

Morphometric indicators of basil varieties and the degree of their variability (mean for 2019–2021)

Variety	Plant height, cm		Leaf area, cm ²		Number of leaves, pcs.		Number of first order tillers, pcs.	
	$\bar{x} \pm Sd$	CV, %	$\bar{x} \pm Sd$	CV, %	$\bar{x} \pm Sd$	CV, %	$\bar{x} \pm Sd$	CV, %
‘Badioryi’*	58.2±1.7	3	17.78±2.0	12	277.83±58.3	21	9.99±1.63	16
‘Temnyi Opal’	59.4±1.6	3	26.69±2.3	9	301.81±73.2	24	10.66±0.95	9
‘Yerevanskyi’	46.6±2.5	6	22.69±2.1	10	231.19±69.4	30	9.33±0.94	10
‘Ametyst’	35.8±2.9	8	20.40±1.2	6	186.55±45.2	24	6.71±1.00	15
‘Mister Barns’	37.5±2.3	6	14.47±2.2	16	201.21±55.8	27	6.66±0.94	14
‘Lymonnyi Aromat’	36.3±3.2	9	14.10±2.7	19	200.87±56.2	28	6.66±0.94	14
‘MFI-2’	39.0±1.8	5	16.87±3.9	24	220.86±63.7	29	7.33±0.94	13
‘Rutan’	44.5±3.6	8	25.06±2.7	11	247.85±64.6	26	8.00±1.63	20
‘Siaivo’	53.0±2.3	4	22.43±2.95	13	258.84±62.8	24	8.66±0.94	11
Xmed.	45.6		20.1		236.7		8.2	
SD	8.80		4.27		36.03		1.43	
CV, %	19		21		15		17	

(CV = 26–30%). The most stable varieties ‘Temnyi Opal’, ‘Ametyst’ and ‘Siaivo’, with the coefficient of variation of 24% were among them.

According to the trait, the number of first order tillers ‘Temnyi Opal’ and ‘Yerevanskyi’ varieties, with the indicator of 9 and 10%, turned out to be slightly changing. Other varieties were characterized by medium variability and were at the level of 11–20%.

As a result of the analysis, the group of highly plastic varieties included: ‘Mister Barns’, ‘MFI-2’, ‘Rutan’, ‘Siaivo’ and ‘Badioryi’, where the regression coefficient was in the range of 0.91–0.99. Varieties ‘Temnyi Opal’, ‘Yerevanskyi’, ‘Ametyst’ and ‘Lymonnyi Aromat’ were classified as intensive, their regression coefficient was in the range of 1.03–1.16 (Table 2).

Table 2

Parameters of adaptability of basil varieties depending on plant weight (mean for 2019–2021)

Variety	Xmed.	bi	Hom	Sc	MC	IEP	SR	CA
‘Badioryi’*	303.4	0.95	1206.11	336.64	1.84	1.14	-146.59	320.14
‘Temnyi Opal’	312.9	1.04	1283.11	347.22	1.89	1.17	-159.20	332.44
‘Yerevanskyi’	243.8	1.06	778.83	270.52	2.17	0.90	-160.70	265.23
‘Ametyst’	207.2	1.03	562.47	229.89	2.34	0.76	-158.80	226.31
‘Mister Barns’	279.4	0.91	1023.11	310.05	1.87	1.05	-141.66	294.69
‘Lymonnyi Aromat’	226.5	1.16	672.12	251.30	2.38	0.82	-177.71	248.75
‘MFI-2’	298.0	0.93	1164.16	330.73	1.83	1.12	-145.61	312.65
‘Rutan’	263.4	0.99	909.40	292.32	2.01	0.98	-152.67	281.21
‘Siaivo’	282.7	0.93	1047.62	313.75	1.88	1.06	-149.65	294.69

*Xmed. – mean value on the basis of plants; bi – coefficient of linear regression of the variety; Hom – general homeostaticity of the variety; SC – breeding value of the variety; MC – multiplication coefficient; IEP – index of ecological plasticity; SR – stress resistance; CA – compensatory ability of varieties.

Medium-plastic varieties were not revealed during the research. Varieties ‘Temnyi Opal’ (Hom – 1283.11; Sc – 347.22), ‘MFI-2’ (Hom – 1164.16; Sc – 330.73), were characterized by high homeostaticity (Hom) and breeding value (Sc); variety ‘Badioryi’ also had a high homeostasis (Hom – 1206.11; Sc – 336.64). The highest value of breeding value was noted in variety ‘Temnyi Opal’ – 347.22, which was significantly higher than the control and other studied varieties. The coefficient of adaptive capacity over the years of research in basil cultivars varied slightly (Table 3).

Table 3

Coefficient of adaptability of basil varieties based on plant weight (2019–2021)

Variety	Annual coefficient of adaptability			Absolute coefficient of adaptability (CAA)
	2019	2020	2021	
‘Temnyi Opal’	1.17	1.21	1.13	1.16
‘Yerevanskyi’	0.86	0.89	0.95	0.91
‘Ametyst’	0.72	0.70	0.84	0.77
‘Mister Barns’	1.07	1.07	1.01	1.04
‘Lymonnyi Aromat’	0.78	0.77	0.93	0.84
‘MFI-2’	1.15	1.15	1.06	1.11
‘Rutan’	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98
‘Siaivo’	1.11	1.05	1.02	1.05
‘Badioryi’*	1.16	1.18	1.08	1.13

So, on average, over the years of research, the most adaptive varieties were ‘MFI-2’ (CAA

= 1.11), ‘Badioryi’ (CAA = 1.13), ‘Temnyi Opal’ (CAA = 1.16).

Varieties ‘Yerevanskyi’, ‘Mister Barns’, ‘Rutan’ and ‘Siaivo’ were characterized as moderately adaptive and had an index in the range of 0.91–1.05. Varieties ‘Ametyst’ and ‘Lymonnyi Aromat’ proved to be low adaptive (CAA = 0.77–0.84).

As a result of statistical analysis, the group of highly plastic varieties included: ‘Temnyi Opal’, ‘MFI-2’, ‘Siaivo’ and ‘Badioryi’, where the regression coefficient was in the range of 0.57–0.78. Intensive varieties include: ‘Yerevanskyi’, ‘Ametyst’, ‘Mister Barns’, ‘Lymonnyi Aromat’ and ‘Rutan’, where the regression coefficient was in the range of 1.07–1.54. These varieties respond well to improved environmental conditions, so they are best used in intensive growing technologies that provide maximum early production. Medium-plastic varieties were not identified during the research (Table 4).

Varieties ‘Temnyi Opal’ (Hom – 96.23; Sc – 18.02), ‘MFI-2’ (Hom – 83.67; Sc – 16.80) were characterized by high homeostaticity (Hom) and breeding value (Sc). Variety ‘Badioryi’ also had a high homeostaticity (Hom – 89.55; Sc – 17.38). The highest value of breeding value was noted in ‘Temnyi opal’ variety – 18.02, which was significantly higher than the control and other studied varieties. On

Table 4

Parameters of adaptability of basil varieties depending on the variety in terms of their marketable yield (mean for 2019–2021)

Variety	Xmed.	bi	Hom	Sc	MC	IEP	SR	CA
'Badioryi'*	15.3	0.57	89.55	17.38	1.49	1.18	-2.27	15.43
'Temnyi Opal'	15.9	0.66	96.23	18.02	1.54	1.22	-2.55	16.08
'Yerevanskyi'	11.9	1.14	54.48	13.56	2.25	0.91	-4.25	12.43
'Ametyst'	9.7	1.38	36.07	11.03	2.85	0.74	-5.07	10.34
'Mister Barns'	12.9	1.07	63.94	14.69	2.08	0.99	-3.99	13.40
'Lymonnyi Aromat'	10.7	1.54	43.44	12.11	2.88	0.81	-5.62	11.41
'MFI-2'	14.8	0.66	83.67	16.80	1.59	1.14	-2.73	14.87
'Rutan'	12.4	1.19	58.51	14.05	2.26	0.95	-4.56	12.78
'Siaivo'	13.8	0.78	72.50	15.64	1.74	1.06	-2.96	14.08

average, over the years of research, the most adaptive varieties were 'MFI-2' (CAA = 1.13), 'Badioryi' (CAA = 1.17), 'Temnyi Opal' (CAA = 1.22). Varieties 'Yerevanskyi', 'Mister Barns', 'Rutan' and 'Siaivo' were characterized as medium adaptive and had an index in the range of 0.92–1.06. Varieties 'Ametyst' and 'Lymonnyi Aromat' proved to be low adaptive (CAA = 0.74–0.82) (Table 5).

mercial yield». An analysis of the combination of high productivity, quantitative characteristics of the crop structure with the level of ecological plasticity and stability indicates different ways of forming these indicators in individual varieties. It was revealed that a high level of plasticity and yield stability does not give a similar result in terms of individual quantitative characteristics of its structure.

Table 5

Coefficient of adaptability of basil varieties based on marketable yield (2019–2021)

Variety	Annual coefficient of adaptability			Absolute coefficient of adaptability (CAA)
	2019	2020	2021	
'Badioryi'*	1.23	1.24	1.08	1.17
'Temnyi Opal'	1.26	1.28	1.13	1.22
'Yerevanskyi'	0.89	0.89	0.95	0.92
'Ametyst'	0.69	0.68	0.84	0.74
'Mister Barns'	0.98	0.99	1.01	0.99
'Lymonnyi Aromat'	0.75	0.75	0.93	0.82
'MFI-2'	1.19	1.17	1.06	1.13
'Rutan'	0.94	0.91	0.98	0.95
'Siaivo'	1.07	1.09	1.02	1.06

Conclusions

The study of productivity, variability of morphometric parameters, adaptive properties of basil varieties made it possible to identify the best of them for the conditions of the Right-Bank Forest-Steppe of Ukraine. According to the results of the research, the following varieties can be attributed to the group of highly plastic ones on the basis of «commercial yield» trait: 'Temnyi Opal', 'MFI-2', 'Siaivo' and 'Badioryi', for which the regression coefficient was in the range of 0.57–0.78. Varieties 'MFI-2' (CAA = 1.11), 'Badioryi' (CAA = 1.13), 'Temnyi Opal' (CAA = 1.16) turned out to be the most adaptive based on the trait «plant weight»; varieties 'Badioryi' (CAA = 1.17), 'Temnyi Opal' (CAA = 1.16), and 'MFI-2' (CAA = 1.13) – according to the trait «com-

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Уманський національний університет садівництва, вул. Інститутська, 1, м. Умань, 20301, Україна, e-mail: inna.kucher95@gmail.com

Мета. Оцінювання стану сортових ресурсів і адаптивно-продуктивного потенціалу рослин васильків справжніх (базиліку). **Методи.** Польові, лабораторні, статистичні і розрахунково-аналітичні. До польових належали розбивка дослідної ділянки та польові роботи. Лабораторний метод застосовували для аналізу рослин, оцінювання якості врожаю, дослідження фізичних, хімічних та мікробіологічних властивостей ґрунту. Статистичним та розрахунково-аналітичним методами обчислювали результати. **Результати.** За результатами досліджень до групи високопластичних сортів за ознакою «товарна врожайність» було віднесено сорти 'Темний опал', 'МФІ-2', 'Сяйво' та 'Бадьорий', де коефіцієнт регресії був у межах 0,57–0,78. Найвище значення селекційної цінності за ознакою «маса рослин» було відзначено у сорту 'Темний опал', $S_c = 347,22$. До групи високопластичних сортів за ознакою «маса рослин» було віднесено сорти 'Містер Барнс', 'МФІ-2', 'Рутан', 'Сяйво' та 'Бадьорий', для яких коефіцієнт

регресії був у межах 0,91–0,99. До інтенсивних віднесли сорти 'Темний опал', 'Єреванський', 'Аметист' та 'Лимонний аромат'. Показник коефіцієнту регресії для цих сортів знаходився у межах 1,03–1,16. Аналіз поєднання високої продуктивності, кількісних ознак структури врожаю з рівнем екологічної пластичності та стабільності свідчить про різні шляхи формування цих показників окремих сортів. Встановлено, що високий рівень пластичності та стабільності врожайності не гарантує аналогічного результату за окремими кількісними ознаками його структури. **Висновки.** За величиною параметрів варіювання ознак можна оцінювати ступінь адаптивності сортів васильків справжніх. Отримані результати дозволять об'єктивно оцінити адаптивно-продуктивний потенціал сортів та якісно провести добір вихідних форм для подальшої селекції на адаптивність.

Ключові слова: адаптивна здатність; стабільність; пластичність; морфометричні показники; урожайність.

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