

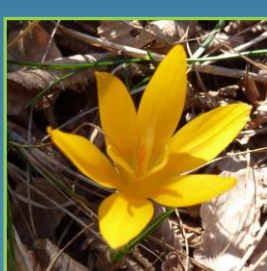
Wild species from Iridaceae family in the collection of IPGR-Sadovo

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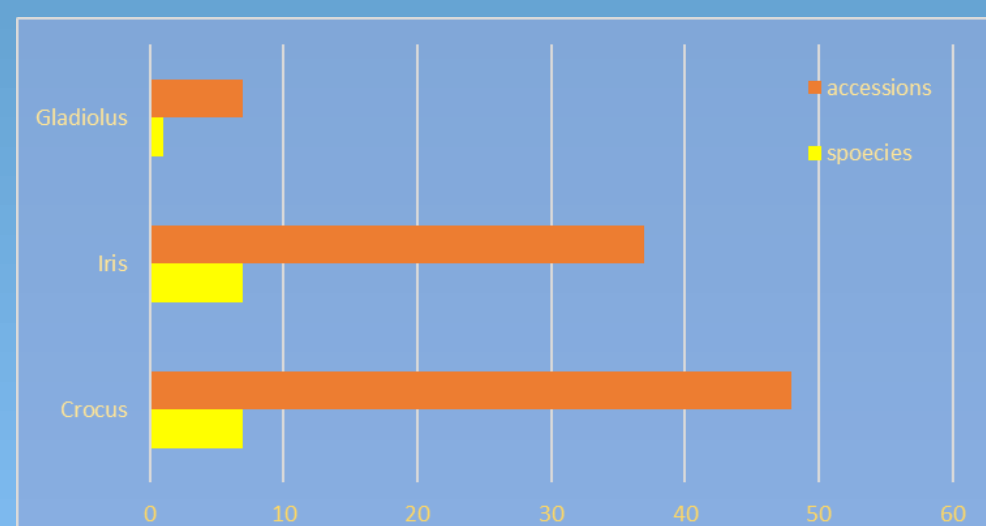
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Iridaceae is a family of perennial plants with almost worldwide distribution. In Bulgaria, 5 genera and approximately 36 species growing wild – *Iris*, *Crocus*, *Gladiolus*, *Sisyrinchium* and *Romulea*. Two species are Balkan endemics – *Crocus pallidus* and *C. veluchensis*. Six species are protected by the Biodiversity Act - *Crocus olivieri*, *C. tommasinianus*, *Gladiolus palustris*, *Iris aphylla*, *Romulea bulbocodium* and *R. linairesii* ssp. *graeca*. Two species are included in the Red book of Protected plants – *Iris aphylla* – critically endangered [CR] and *Crocus tommasinianus* – vulnerable [VU].



For a period of 3 years in the living collection of IPGR - Sadovo are maintained and successfully adapted 93 accessions from naturally occurring populations of species belonging to the following taxonomic groups: genus *Crocus*- 48 accessions from 7 species; genus *Iris* – 37 accessions from 7 species and genus *Gladiolus* – 7 accessions from 1 species, collected from nearly all floristic regions in Bulgaria



The living collection is valuable source of genetic material for scientific investigations as well as for reintroduction in nature of species with limited distribution and declining populations.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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