

1 **ILB 938, a valuable faba bean (*Vicia faba* L.) accession**

2 H. Khazaei^{1*}, W. Link², K. Street³ and F. L. Stoddard⁴

3 ¹ *Department of Plant Sciences, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada*

4 ² *Department of Crop Sciences, Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen, Germany*

5 ³ *International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Rabat, Morocco*

6 ⁴ *Department of Agricultural Sciences, Viikki Plant Science Centre, and Helsinki Sustainability*
7 *Science Centre, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland*

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9 *Corresponding author. E-mail: hamid.khazaei@gmail.com or hamid.khazaei@usask.ca

10 **Abstract**

11 Here we review the potential of ILB 938 (IG 12132– doi:10.18730/60FD2), a unique faba bean
12 accession originating from the Andean region of Colombia and Ecuador, maintained at ICARDA
13 - International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, with resistance to multiple
14 biotic and abiotic stresses and carrying some useful morphological markers. It has been used as a
15 donor of leaf-related drought adaptation traits and chocolate spot (*Botrytis fabae*) resistance
16 genes in faba bean breeding programs worldwide. From generated populations of recombinant
17 inbred lines, QTLs (quantitative traits loci) associated with these useful traits have been mapped.
18 Other markers, such as a lack of stipule-spot pigmentation and clinging pod wall, show the
19 presence of unusual changes in biochemical pathways that may have economic value in the
20 future.

21

22 **Keywords:** germplasm, faba bean, biotic stress, abiotic stress, mapping population

23 Introduction

24 Faba bean (*Vicia faba* L.) seeds are a generous source of plant protein, with a global average
25 protein concentration of 29% on a dry-weight basis (Feedipedia, 2018). It is one of the main
26 sources of affordable protein for human consumption in developing countries (consumed as dry
27 or canned), and for livestock feed in many developed countries. The fresh pods and seeds are
28 widely used as a vegetable crop for fresh seed production. Like other legumes, it symbiotically
29 fixes atmospheric nitrogen, thus improving the soil fertility. As a non-host of many cereal
30 pathogens, faba bean is ideal as a break between grain crops in the rotation (Köpke and
31 Nemecek, 2010). It has a mixed breeding system and is cross-pollinated at frequencies of 4-84%,
32 with the value determined by the interaction between the plant genotype, its environment, and
33 the population of pollinators (Bond and Poulsen, 1983). Its interaction with many species of bee
34 (Stoddard and Bond, 1987) makes it suitable for growing in ecological focus areas (Bues *et al.*,
35 2013). It is widely adapted to cool-temperate agriculture, being grown from Mediterranean
36 climates in southern Australia and Mediterranean basin countries to sub-boreal climates in
37 Finland and Canada. Nevertheless, faba bean cultivation is limited due to its susceptibility to
38 several biotic and abiotic constraints globally (*see Stoddard et al., 2006; Torres et al., 2006;*
39 *Khan et al., 2010*). Hence, genetically diverse sources of resistance genes or genes for specific
40 adaptations such as to abiotic stress factors are required in pre-breeding programs worldwide.
41 Some of these germplasm sources, called ‘donors’ may become prominent.

42 Faba bean is represented in germplasm collections by only the cultivated form. Both
43 botanical and molecular data suggest that the wild ancestors of faba bean either have vanished
44 or have not yet been discovered (Maxted, 1993; Duc *et al.*, 2010; Kosterin, 2014; Caracuta *et*
45 *al.*, 2016), which highlights the importance of the accessible diversity within the cultivated

46 form. The place of origin of faba bean is still unknown. A Near or Middle East centre of origin
47 has been proposed (Cubero, 1974), and the earliest identified remains of faba bean date from
48 10200 BP in a cave in Israel (Caracuta *et al.*, 2015). Radiation followed in four directions from
49 the proposed centre: Europe, along the North Africa coast to Spain, along the Nile Valley to
50 Ethiopia, and from Mesopotamia to India and China (Lawes *et al.*, 1983). Spanish and European
51 material was taken to South America in the 16th century (Bond, 1976). There are 43,695 faba
52 bean accessions conserved within 37 global genebanks (*ex situ*, FAO, 2010) as well as on-farm
53 conservation (*in situ*, Suso *et al.*, 2005). ICARDA (International Center for Agricultural
54 Research in the Dry Areas) hosts the largest collection of over 9,500 accessions (21% of global
55 collection, FAO, 2010). ICARDA maintains its faba bean germplasm in two classes, ILB
56 (International Legume Bean) accessions from different countries, and BPL (Bean Pure Line)
57 accessions that are derived through selfing from accessions drawn from the ILB collection
58 (Saxena and Varma, 1985).

59 **Accession ILB 938**

60 ILB 938 is the result of mass selection from ILB 438 based on seed size. ILB 438 was brought to
61 ICARDA from the Andean region of Ecuador and Columbia (Robertson, 1984). ICARDA's
62 registered BPL derivatives of ILB 438 and ILB 938 are BPL 710 and BPL 1179, respectively.
63 ILB 938/2 is an inbred line developed at Göttingen for use in genetics and breeding studies. The
64 corresponding "IG" number for ILB 938 in the ICARDA genebank is "IG 12132" (accession doi:
65 10.18730/60FD2, see <https://www.genesys-pgr.org/10.18730/60FD2>). ILB 438 is registered as
66 IG 11632 in the ICARDA genebank (accession doi: 10.18730/601TB).

67 **Morphological markers**

68 In the wild-type faba bean, the extra-floral nectary on the stipule is coloured black. The presence
69 of stipule spot pigmentation was proposed as an early morphological marker indicating wild-type
70 ‘coloured’ flowers (tannin-containing faba bean), where there is a black spot on each wing petal
71 and dark vein markings on the standard petal (Picard, 1976). The absence of the pigmentation
72 was considered as the corresponding early morphological indicator for the white-flower, zero-
73 tannin trait (Link *et al.*, 2008). ILB 938, however, carries a rare allele (*ssp1*) that decouples
74 pigmentation in flowers from that in stipules, so it has colourless stipules and coloured flowers
75 (Supplementary Figure S1, Khazaei *et al.*, 2014a). An Australian line, AF11212, has the same
76 phenotype and is derived from BPL 710 (Dr. Jeff Paull, The University of Adelaide, Australia;
77 personal communication). Crossing ILB 938/2 with AF11212 (including reciprocal crosses)
78 showed in the F1 and F2 generations uniformly the combination of colourless stipule spots and
79 spotted flowers, confirming that the same gene exists in both accessions (Miller, 2016).

80 The seed size of ILB 938 is classified as *equina* (horse bean, field bean, flattened seed;
81 0.6 g / seed) which is expected since it was the medium to large-seeded Mediterranean-adapted
82 faba bean forms that were introduced to Central and South America by immigrants from Spain
83 (Muratova, 1931; Cubero, 1974). The seed coat of ILB 938 is green in colour, which is recessive
84 to the common beige or buff colour (Khazaei *et al.*, 2014b).

85 A further noticeable morphological character of ILB 938 is the clinging pod wall, where
86 fibres from the inner epidermis of the pod cling to the surface of the seed (Supplementary Figure
87 S2). We have not seen this trait otherwise reported in faba bean germplasm, and while it is of
88 little importance agronomically or economically, it may indicate a difference in cell wall
89 development that has other impacts elsewhere in the plant or in the value chain.

90 Finally, the funiculus is yellow in ILB 938, in contrast to the common green displayed by
91 other accessions.

92 **Biotic stresses**

93 The resistance of ILB 938 to chocolate spot (CS, caused by *Botrytis fabae* Speg.) has been
94 demonstrated in Egypt (Mohamed *et al.*, 1981 [re-coded NEB 938]; Khalil and Nassib, 1984;
95 Robertson, 1984), Syria (Hanounik, 1982), the United Kingdom (Jellis *et al.*, 1982), Canada
96 (Robertson, 1984), France (Tivoli *et al.*, 1988), and Ethiopia (Beyene *et al.*, 2016). Further, we
97 have noticed its resistance to CS in field conditions of both southern Finland and western
98 Canada.

99 The resistance of the original source of ILB 938 was confirmed in the Nile Delta after
100 crosses with the local cultivar Giza 3 (ICARDA Caravan, 1998; Zeid *et al.*, 2009). From there it
101 was transferred to locally adapted material that was released as Giza 461 in Egypt (Bond *et al.*,
102 1994; Dwivedi *et al.*, 2006; El-Komy *et al.*, 2015).

103 The related bean pure lines BPL 710 and BPL 1179 to ILB 438 and ILB 938, respectively
104 also showed high resistance to CS across environments (Hanounik and Maliha, 1986; Hanounik
105 and Robertson, 1988; Villegas-Fernández *et al.*, 2012). The Australian cultivar Icarus was
106 derived from BPL 710 and released as a cultivar resistant to CS and rust (Dwivedi *et al.*, 2006).

107 ILB 938 is, furthermore, considered as a consistent source of resistance to rust (*Uromyces*
108 *viciae-fabae* (Pers.) J. Schrot.) (Rashid and Bernier, 1991; Khalil *et al.*, 1985; Rashid and
109 Bernier, 1986). Both BPL 710 (Australian accession No. AC1269) and BPL 1179 (AC1272) are

110 registered as rust-resistant accessions in Australia (Ijaz *et al.*, 2018) as well as in ICARDA
111 (1987).

112 Some studies have suggested that ILB 938 may also carry resistance to crenate
113 broomrape, *Orobanche crenata* Forsk., an achlorophyllous, holoparasitic weed, poses a major
114 constraint to faba bean production in Mediterranean climates (Zeid *et al.*, 2006; 2009).

115 **Abiotic stresses**

116 Drought adaptation is an essential character for faba bean cultivation in arid and semiarid
117 regions. ILB 938 has demonstrated high water use efficiency (WUE) in several studies (e.g.,
118 Abdelmula *et al.*, 1999; Link *et al.*, 1999; Stoddard *et al.*, 2006; Khan *et al.*, 2007, 2010; Khazaei
119 *et al.*, 2013; Khazaei *et al.*, 2014b) mainly due to low stomatal conductance, thus minimizing
120 water loss and maintaining yield under drought conditions. Nevertheless, its reduced leaf
121 stomatal conductance was not associated with a highly ramified rooting system (Belachew *et al.*,
122 2018).

123 While ILB 938 has relatively low productivity, no yield penalty was observed when it
124 was exposed to drought conditions (Link *et al.*, 1999; Khan *et al.*, 2007; Khazaei *et al.*, 2014b).
125 It maintains a relatively high water status under water deficit conditions, demonstrating high
126 WUE with relatively low yield, because its stomata shut early, reducing potential photosynthesis
127 while limiting water loss.

128 The response of ILB 938/2 to ultraviolet light differs greatly from that of a contrasting
129 cultivar, Aurora/2 that was developed at low altitudes and high latitudes where incident UV is
130 much weaker than high in the Andes (Yan *et al.*, 2018).

131 **Mapping populations**

132 A population of recombinant inbred lines (RILs) was developed from the cross of *Mélotie*/2 ×
133 ILB 938/2 (along with its reciprocal) at the University of Helsinki (Khazaei *et al.*, 2014a). This
134 population has been mapped for traits related to drought adaptation (Khazaei *et al.*, 2014b),
135 vicine-convicine concentration (v-c, Khazaei *et al.*, 2015), and stipule spot pigmentation
136 (Khazaei *et al.*, 2014a). QTLs (quantitative traits loci) for seed size, seed coat colour, clinging
137 pod wall and yellow funiculus have also been located. ILB 938 and *Mélotie* differed at two loci
138 affecting stomatal activity at opposite ends of Chromosome II, with each parent contributing a
139 canopy-cooling allele (Khazaei *et al.*, 2014b). The progenies of this population facilitated the
140 development of a reliable molecular marker for v-c in this crop (Khazaei *et al.*, 2017). This
141 population is being phenotyped for salinity response in a collaboration with Egypt and
142 collaborative studies on other traits are in progress. Near-isogenic lines have been derived from
143 heterozygous F5 individuals at Göttingen (Tacke and Link, 2017).

144 Another RIL population, ILB 938/2 × *Disco*/2 (Khazaei *et al.*, 2014a), is suitable for CS
145 genetic studies. *Disco* (low in both tannin and v-c) has been shown to be very sensitive to CS
146 (Villegas-Fernández *et al.*, 2012; Khazaei, Personal observation). A RIL population from ILB
147 938/2 × *Aurora*/2 (Khazaei *et al.*, 2014a) will be useful for analyzing the basis of the difference
148 in ultraviolet response of these two lines.

149 A multi-parent population [(*Disco*/2 × ILB 938/2) × (IG 114476 × IG 132238)] has been
150 prepared for use in genomic studies (Khazaei *et al.*, 2018). This population is at F4 generation at
151 the time of writing this paper and kept at the University of Reading, UK.

152 **DNA fingerprinting**

153 ILB 938/2 was genotyped using 875 SNP (single nucleotide polymorphism) markers developed
154 by Webb *et al.* (2016). The results showed a high level of homozygosity (99.6%, Webb *et al.*,
155 2016). The genotyping calls on ILB 938/2 are presented in Supplementary Table S1.

156 **Conclusions**

157 The presence of unusual traits in this material is intriguing, because the crop has been grown in
158 South America for only about 500 of its 10 000 years of domestication. It may be attributable to
159 several causes, including widespread genetic variation introduced by the European settlers,
160 adaptation to extremely varied environments within short distances due to altitude, frequent gene
161 exchanges by pollinators and movement of peoples, and natural selection (Bond *et al.*, 1994), or
162 UV-induced mutation. Recently, several new accessions from Spain, Ecuador, Colombia and
163 Peru with high level of resistance to CS were identified (Maalouf *et al.*, 2016).

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