

# Collection of *Prunus mira* (wild peach) in the Himalayan region of India

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*Prunus mira* is a wild relative of peach, growing extensively in cold/dry regions of north western  
Himalaya in India and southern Tibet, at elevations of 2000-4000 m over the sea level.

A tree at about 1000 years old was recently found in the Tibet region and at present it is widely used  
in China as a rootstock for peach growing. The hypothesis that *P. mira* could be a natural hybrid  
between peach and almond because it is crossable with both species has not been confirmed.

This self-fertile species it is considered to be cold and dry tolerant, as well as resistant to powdery  
mildew and to root knot nematodes. The interest of this species it is to introduce these traits in  
peach, almond and rootstock breeding programs.

In September 2012, within the framework of a national project aimed at enlarging the peach variabil-  
ity in Spanish collections, a team from CITA went to Baspa Valley, in Kinnaur Region, in the state of  
Himachal Pradesh in India to prospect this species

As a result, 130 seeds from 13 different accessions of *P. mira* were collected, representing the wild  
variability of this species in this valley. Fruits, leaves and seeds were collected to make pictures and  
stones were removed from the fruits. Passport data, including GPS location, were recorded following  
the descriptors recommended by Bioversity International. Some ethnobotanical data could also be  
recorded thanks to collaboration of local people from the small villages of the valley.

The seeds will be germinated and the material will be used for genetic studies and pomological and  
molecular characterization.

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