

## **PROBLEMS OF IDENTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION OF HISTORICAL IRIS VARIETIES IN THE SCIENTIFIC COLLECTIONS**

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Irises - one of the most popular ornamental plants, widely distributed in the botanical gardens. History of bearded irises dates back several centuries. In the 18th century the first varieties were registered, and have preserved in some places up to date. These varieties are called “retro” or “historical” irises now. They are still have no an established definition.

American Society of Iris (American Iris Society - AIS) registered each year hundreds of varieties. Now there are about 80,000 varieties of bearded irises of different horticultural classes. The collections of the botanical gardens contain as modern as old varieties.

Milan Blazek was proposed classification of existing varieties of irises. According to this classification, all existing varieties and species are divided into several groups according to the year of introduction.

The necessity to preserve historic irises is very important because these irises are the valuable genetic resource. So historical irises could be used in breeding programs, in landscaping and in the educational programs also.

Identification and verification of the plant is the process of identifying plants, finding and verifying the correct names, according to botanical and / or horticultural nomenclature. Identification and verification of ornamental plants has its own specificity and is crucial for both the scientist and the general population. There are certain problems in certain varieties, which are considered by the example of a collection of irises Botanical Garden of Moscow State University, such as the similarity of appearance grades, lack of a single scheme of description, names of varieties of distortion, lack of complete lists of collections throughout its development. There are several ways to solve these problems - outsourced to specialists, the creation of separate specialized collections, create a database of irises retro varieties.

**Keywords:** iris, identification, verification, historical irises, collection.

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Поступила в редакцию 12.11.2014 г.