Features of modern winter wheat varieties in terms of winter hardiness components under conditions of Ukrainian Forest-Steppe

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Introduction

In recent years, there has been a significant change in climatic conditions affecting the cultivation and yield of winter wheat. Therefore, the creation of varieties with high adaptive potential is one of the main tasks of modern breeding. A significant component of the overall adaptive potential of winter wheat is winter hardiness, which is determined by a set of characters enabling plants to overwinter.

To a large extent, winter hardiness is determined by gene systems that control vernalization requirement duration, photoperiod reaction, and frost resistance. The research is aimed at determining the features of modern winter wheat varieties developed at the V. M. Remeslo Myronivska Institute of Wheat of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine in terms of winter hardiness components and adaptive potential in the environment of the Central part of the Ukrainian Forest-Steppe. Winter bread wheat varieties Estafeta myronivska, Hrutaia myronivska, MIP Assol, and Balada myronivska were studied. They also were crossed on incomplete diallele scheme with three near-isogenic lines derived from Erythrospernum 604 with different alleles of Vrd genes 1) Vrd1Vrd1vrd2vrd2, 2) vrd1vrd1Vrd2Vrd2, and 3) vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2. It was established that vernalization requirement duration in the varieties Estafeta myronivska and Balada myronivska was short whereas in the varieties Hrutaia myronivska and MIP Assol it was medium. All the varieties studied have medium photoperiod sensitivity. The results of the hybridological analysis indicate the absence of the Vrd1 and Vrd2 genes in the varieties. Frost tolerance of these varieties is at the same level and higher than in the highly tolerant to the low temperatures variety Myronivska 808. Thus, the results indicate the possibility of recombining different levels of expression of these traits in genotypes by breeding efforts. This has great practical importance in farming, because in recent years the areas of crops harvested late (corn, sunflower, etc.) in the production conditions has significantly increased. It causes a shift in sowing dates of winter wheat to a later period. In this case, varieties Estafeta myronivska and Balada myronivska are able to undergo sufficient hardening, to satisfy the vernalization requirement, and to form a high level of winter hardiness. Their relatively medium photoperiod sensitivity allows vegetation to be restored a little earlier in the spring and winter reserves of moisture to be used more effectively.

Keywords: Triticum aestivum; frost tolerance; vernalization requirement; photoperiod sensitivity; hybridological analysis.
genes are represented by recessive alleles. However, the presence of only one dominant allele of Vrn-A1 gene provides complete insensitivity of plants to vernalization. Dominant alleles of the Vrn-B1 and Vrn-D1 loci only partially reduce the vernalization requirement (Pugsley, 1971; Pugsley, 1972). Genes determining plant growth habit are localized on different chromosomes: Vrn-A1 (previous designation Vrn1) on 5A, Vrn-B1 (Vrn2) on 5B, Vrn-D1 (Vrn3) and Vrn-D4 (Vrn4) on chromosome 5D. The Vrn-B3 gene (earlier Vm5) is located in the short arm of chromosome 7B (Worland, 1996; Yan et al., 2006; Yoshida et al., 2010). The efficacy of Vm and Ppd gene alleles marking for early diagnosis of plant response to vernalization and photoperiod has been reported (Cockram et al., 2009; Yang et al., 2009). The study of the duration of the stages of development of winter bread wheat in isogenic and substituted lines with different alleles of Vrn1 genes suggests that growing season duration depends mainly on the duration of period “filling-the first node” (Pankova & Kosner, 2004; Emsteva et al., 2013). Stelmakh et al. (2005) reported the identification of three vernalization requirement duration genes of winter wheat, designated by authors as Vrd1, Vrd2, and Vrd3. The Vrd1 gene is located on chromosome 4A, Vrd2 is on chromosome 5D. It was found that presence of dominant gene Vrd1 reduces the vernalization requirement duration to 20–35 days, depending on the photoperiod sensitivity of the variety, and Vrd2 does to 40–45 days (Balashova et al., 2006). Genotypes with recessive alleles of two Vrd genes (vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2) require at least 50–60 days of vernalization for transition from the vegetative to generative stage of development. A third gene (Vrd3) is also thought to be present, which determines the duration of vernalization up to 40 days and is located on one of the chromosomes 1A, 6A, or 4B (Fayt et al., 2007). Other scientists suggest that vernalization requirement duration is determined by changes in a locus of the Vrn-A1 gene (Yan et al., 2015) or Vrn-B1 (Guedira et al., 2013). It has also been suggested that the trait vernalization requirement duration in winter wheat may be controlled by the TaVRN-A1 gene at the protein level (Li et al., 2013). The study of the effects of genes controlling the vernalization duration (Vrd) on agronomic traits in isogenic lines of winter wheat shows that the dominant alleles of the genes Vrd1 and Vrd2 cause reduction in plant height as well as the shortening of the period to heading as compared to carriers of only recessive alleles of the gene vrd1vrd2 (Fayt, 2007).

Frost tolerance is the ability of plants to withstand negative temperatures during wintering (Sutton et al., 2009). Genes associated with freezing tolerance of winter wheat (Fr1 and Fr2) are localized on chromosomes 5A and 5D, respectively (Satka, 2001). It is assumed that the presence of the Vrn-D1 and Fr-D1 genes in the wheat genotype not only determines the level of freezing tolerance, but also plant resistance to snow mold (Francia et al., 2007; Enath et al., 2017).

Given the above, to characterize modern genotypes of winter wheat on genetic systems that determine the processes of vernalization, photoperiod sensitivity, frost resistance and their impact on growth, development and general adaptive potential is relevant (Bakuma, 2016; Fayt et al., 2017; Jones et al., 2017). It was found that under various agroclimatic conditions there are different combinations of vernalization requirement and photoperiod sensitivity in winter wheat genotypes, which leads to increased adaptive potential, in particular, frost resistance (Whittal et al., 2018; Kawakita et al., 2020; Royo et al., 2020).

The aim of the research was to identify the features of modern varieties of winter wheat developed at the V. M. Remeslo Myronivka Institute of Wheat of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine (MIW) by vernalization requirement, photoperiod reaction and frost resistance as components of winter hardness and adaptive potential in the Central part of Ukrainian Forest-Steppe.

Materials and methods

The research was conducted in 2016–2019 at the MIW. We used new Myronivka winter wheat varieties (Estafeta myronivska, Hratsia myronivska, MIP Assol and Balada myronivska) which are included in the State Register of Plant Varieties Suitable for Dissemination in Ukraine since 2018. When analyzing the pedigrees of these varieties, it was established that the varieties Estafeta myronivska and Hratsia myronivska were created on the basis of crossing local varieties and lines with each other while in creating the varieties Balada myronivska and MIP Assol, collection samples of different ecological origin from Hungary and Russia were used (Table 1).

Table 1
Genotypic characteristics of the studied winter wheat varieties

| Variety, biological variety | Genealogy |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Estafeta myronivska (var. luteascens) | Myronivska 64 | Myronivska yuvelinka (Lutescens 106/ Bezostaya 4) / KU 66-101-79 | Myronivska 370 | Lutescens 50713 | Myronivska 27 |
| | | Lutescens 6915 (Pyriby / Myronivska yuvelinka) / Lutescens 65888 | MIP | MIP Assol |
| Hratsia myronivska (var. luteascens) | Myronivska 62 | Myronivska yuvelinka (Lutescens 206 / Bezostaya 4) / MIP Assol |
| | | Lutescens 1007 | [Erythrospermum 5226 {WRH k-43822 / Lutescens 2274 (Lutescens 106 / Bezostaya 4) / Lutescens 6075} / Gunia / Doroskaya intensivnaya] |
| MIP Assol | Myronivska 65 | Myronivska 806 | Myronivska 27 |
| | | | Lutescens 6915 (Pyriby / Myronivska yuvelinka) / Lutescens 6538 | Lutescens 52948 | Lutescens 2060 | Lutescens 2075 |
| | | | Lutescens 6915 (Pyriby / Myronivska yuvelinka) / Lutescens 6538 | Lutescens 6538 |
| | | | Myronivska 61 | [Illichivka (Bezostaya 4 / Myronivska 808) / Hadm. 6508-74] |
| | | | Myronivska 20051 | Myronivska 61 |
| | | | [Illichivka (Bezostaya 4 / Myronivska 806) / Hadm. 6508-74] / NS 954 / Kavkaz / Rezo / Lutescens 8133 | [Sietze Cerros 66 / Myronivska yuvelinka (Bezostaya 4 / Myronivska 806)]
| Balada myronivska (var. erithrospermum) | Myronivska 806 | Myronivska 27 |
| | | | Lutescens 6538 (Hadam. 608-74) | Lutescens 52948 |
| | | | Lutescens 6538 |
| | | | Myronivska 61 | [Illichivka (Bezostaya 4 / Myronivska 808) / Hadm. 6508-74] / NS 954 / Kavkaz / Rezo / Lutescens 8133 |

Note: *WRH—wheat-rye hybrid.

To determine photoperiod sensitivity of the winter wheat varieties two variants of the experiment were laid: in the first the plants were grown under natural daylight; in the second they were under artificially shortened daylight (12 hours). Before sowing, the germinated seeds were artificially vernalized for 60 days (at 0…1 °C). Using a special marker, germinated seeds of each variety were planted 20 pcs in each of two vegetative pots per variant of the experiment. Then the pots were placed in an open area. To shorten day length, the plants in the pots were covered with black boxes (Fig. 1a). The date of heading occurrence for individual plants was marked with labels (Fig. 1b). According to photoperiod sensitivity, wheat varieties were divided into three groups: high-, medium- and low-sensitivity. In our experiment, the first group included varieties that responded to the daylight reduction with significant heading delay of 10–13 days, the second group with delay of 6–9 days, and the third group with less than 6 days.

To determine vernalization requirement duration, 100 seeds of each variety were watered and placed for germination in a thermostat at the temperature of +19…+20 °C for one day. To go through vernalization, the seedlings were placed in the LVN-200G chamber at the temperature of 0…+1 °C for different periods (50, 40, and 30 days). The vernalized seedlings were planted in spring at a time when the level of long-term air temperature avoids additional vernalization of experimental samples in the field (for the research period it was on April 14–18). Previously, the field was divided into strips of width 1 m and tracks between strips of 50 cm. The seedlings were planted on two rows for each variant of the experiment, about 50 seeds per row. The plants were counted in early August using the envelope method. The duration of the vernalization period was considered to be sufficient if the most plants of the variety reached heading.
The varieties and testers were crossed according to the incomplete diallel scheme with twirl method of female plant pollination. The F1 seeds obtained were sown in autumn for reproduction of genetic material. F2 seeds were vernalized for 40 and 30 days. To establish differences in Vrd genes, the plants of each hybrid population were divided into two phenotypic classes according to the ratio of the number of plants with high frost resistance. The whole period of autumn and early winter was divided into stages of hardening took place. Plant care consisted of regular watering. The top was covered with soil for 3 cm. In each box, there were also planted two rows of the standard variety Myronivska 808 with high frost resistance. The conditions of hardening in different years, the freezing was carried out at 2°C every hour (down to –18 and –20 °C) and with freezing exposure being 24 hours. After gradual thawing, the sowing boxes were placed in a room with temperature of +18...+24 °C and winter wheat plants were prepared for regrowth. The plants’ leaves were trimmed down to 0.5 cm long. The counting of preliminary viable and frost-killed plants was carried out in 10–12 days (Fig. 1d), and the final counting was in 15–16 days.

The data were analyzed using Statistica 12.0 (StatSoft Inc., USA) program. Differences between the values of the experimental variants were determined using the ANOVA with consideration of Bonferroni correction, where the differences were considered significant at P < 0.05. Hybridological analysis was performed in F2 populations by the comparison of the fact segregation of the plant phenotypes’ number with theoretically expected using chi-square ($\chi^2$) criterion (Table 5).

**Results**

**Photoperiod sensitivity.** The maximum vernalization duration is sufficient for all genotypes and thus neutralizes the diversity for days from planting to heading, which is determined by the system of the Vrd genes. Insufficient vernalization, on the contrary, allows such diversity to be revealed, and the difference between vernalization duration at cultivation in the extended (natural) photoperiod, characterizes the degree of the response to vernalization by heading acceleration or delay. Similarly, the extended photoperiod at the III–V stages of organogenesis eliminates the diversity in photoperiodic sensitivity, while the shorter daylight helps to detect it (Stelmakh & Herasymenko, 2008). Given the above, the difference in days to heading between the variants of the experiment (natural and shortened photoperiod) determines the photoperiodic sensitivity of plants, which is manifested in the delay or acceleration of the period to heading. The greatest number of days to heading was observed in 2018, and the lowest was in 2016 (Table 2).

Variation was noted in days to heading between the variants of the experiment in varieties of Myronivka breeding in different years of the research. In the variety Estafeta myronivska the difference was 6.5–9.2 days, in Hratsia myronivska it was 6.8–10.1 days, in MIP Assol 4.7–9.8, in Balada myronivska 4.7–13.6.

Thus, it was found that all new varieties of winter bread wheat (Estafeta myronivska, Hratsia myronivska, MIP Assol, Balada myronivska) in terms of the photoperiodic sensitivity belong to the group with relative medium photoperiodic sensitivity.
Vernalization requirement duration and days to heading in new winter wheat varieties (x ± SE, n = 90)

Days to heading under the natural and shortened photoperiod in new varieties of winter wheat (x ± SE, n = 30)

Vernalization requirement duration and days to heading in winter wheat near-isogenic lines (x ± SE, n = 90)

Note: different letters indicate values which reliably differed one from another within one column of the table according to the results of comparison using the ANOVA with Bonferroni correction.

Table 2
Vernalization requirement duration and days to heading in new winter wheat varieties (x ± SE, n = 90)

| Variety               | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                       | natural photoperiod | shortened photoperiod | natural photoperiod | shortened photoperiod | natural photoperiod | shortened photoperiod |
| Vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2      | 51.0 ± 0.5*          | 58.4 ± 1.0*          | 55.0 ± 0.2*        | 61.5 ± 0.3*          | 59.2 ± 1.3*        | 68.7 ± 1.7*          |
| Hratsia myronivska    | 48.8 ± 0.4b           | 55.9 ± 1.1b          | 51.9 ± 0.2b        | 58.7 ± 0.6b          | 53.0 ± 1.3b        | 63.1 ± 1.9b          |
| MIP Assol             | 51.8 ± 0.4b           | 57.5 ± 0.4b          | 55.5 ± 0.3b        | 63.5 ± 0.4           | 73.2 ± 0.9         | 77.9 ± 1.5           |
| Balada myronivska     | 49.8 ± 0.4b           | 55.7 ± 0.6b          | 54.3 ± 0.3         | 59.0 ± 0.7           | 56.2 ± 1.2         | 69.8 ± 2.8           |

Note: * different letters indicate values which reliably differed one from another within one column of the table according to the results of comparison using the ANOVA with Bonferroni correction.

Table 3
Vernalization requirement duration and days to heading in new winter wheat varieties (x ± SE, n = 90)

| Genotype of near-isogenic line | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                               | vernalization requirement | days to heading | vernalization requirement | days to heading | vernalization requirement | days to heading | Vernalization requirement |
| Vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2              | 30    | 65.3 ± 1.8* | 30    | 57.4 ± 2.6b | 40    | 55.9 ± 0.9* | short duration |
| vrd1vrd1Vrd2vrd2              | 40    | 72.4 ± 4.1b | 30    | 75.4 ± 3.0b | 40    | 74.8 ± 2.0* | (31–40 days) |
| vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2              | 50    | 70.5 ± 2.5b | 50    | 72.3 ± 2.6b | 50    | 68.7 ± 5.2a | (41–50 days) |

Note: see Table 2.

Table 4
Vernalization requirement duration and days to heading in winter wheat near-isogenic lines (x ± SE, n = 90)

| Genotype of near-isogenic line | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                               | vernalization requirement | days to heading | vernalization requirement | days to heading | vernalization requirement | days to heading | Vernalization requirement |
| Vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2              | 30    | 65.3 ± 1.8* | 30    | 57.4 ± 2.6b | 40    | 59.4 ± 0.9* | short duration |
| vrd1vrd1Vrd2vrd2              | 40    | 72.4 ± 4.1b | 30    | 75.4 ± 3.0b | 40    | 74.8 ± 2.0* | (31–40 days) |
| vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2              | 50    | 70.5 ± 2.5b | 50    | 72.3 ± 2.6b | 50    | 68.7 ± 5.2a | (41–50 days) |

Note: see Table 2.

Table 5
The segregation ratio in F2 population for “heading occurrence: no heading occurrence” after vernalization duration 40 and 30 days

| Days of vernalization | Variety         | vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2 | Vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2 | vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                       | fact            | theoretical     | χ²              | fact            | theoretical     | χ²              | fact            | theoretical     | χ²              |
| 30                    | Estafeta myronivska | 136:132         | 3:1*            | 147:14         | 128:14         | 15:1            | 3:1             | 111:25         | 3:1             | 1:18            |
|                       | Hratsia myronivska  | 13:122          | 1:15            | 2:63           | 118:28         | 13:3            | 0:02            | 13:122         | 1:15            | 2:63            |
|                       | MIP Assol        | 0:143           | -               | -              | 161:27         | 13:3            | 2:38            | 22:07          | 3:13            | 0:24            |
|                       | Balada myronivska | 3:113           | 1:15            | 2:66           | 109:18         | 13:3            | 1:74            | 4:136          | 1:15            | 2:75            |
| 40                    | Estafeta myronivska | 113:32          | 3:1             | 0:66           | 146:16         | 15:1            | 3:63            | 85:8           | 15:1            | 0:88            |
|                       | Hratsia myronivska  | 140:36          | 3:1             | 1:94           | 198:35         | 13:3            | 2:13            | 130:11         | 15:1            | 0:58            |
|                       | MIP Assol        | 97:24           | 3:1             | 1:72           | 213:48         | 13:3            | 0:02            | 119:90         | 15:1            | 0:13            |
|                       | Balada myronivska | 105:25          | 3:1             | 2:31           | 108:6          | 15:1            | 0:19            | 137:23         | 13:3            | 2:01            |

Note: * does not correspond to the theoretical segregation ratio; χ² < 3.84 at the P = 0.05.

Vernalization requirement. In 2016, duration 50 days was considered sufficient vernalization period for the winter wheat varieties Hratsia myronivska and MIP Assol, as the highest percentage of heading plants was observed in this variant with 40 days vernalization (Table 3). For the varieties Estafeta myronivska and Balada myronivska, the highest percentage of heading plants was found in the variant with 40 days vernalization. In 2017, plants of the variety Estafeta myronivska had the highest percentage of heading in the variant with vernalization during 50 days (100%). However, after 40 days of vernalization duration, heading plants were observed at the level of 70.8%, which makes it possible to consider this particular period to be necessary for transition of plants to generative state. The same period is necessary for plants of wheat varieties Hratsia myronivska and MIP Assol. In the variety Balada myronivska, the highest percentage of heading plants was observed in both variants, therefore, for this variety, the vernalization requirement was 30 days. Vernalization requirement for the variety Hratsia myronivska in 2018 was 50 days, because for this vernalization duration heading plants were observed at the level of 70%. Whenever seedlings of this variety were vernalized during 40 and 30 days, the heading occurred only in 47.4% and 41.2% of plants, respectively. In the variety MIP Assol 91.7% of plants were heading at 50 days of vernalization and 65.0% at 40 days. After 30 days of vernalization duration there was a low percentage of heading plants, so we consider 40 days of vernalization to be sufficient for transition of plants of this variety to the generative state.

The varieties Balada myronivska and Estafeta myronivska required 40 days of vernalization too. They differ from the previous ones in that in the variant with 30 days vernalization most of the plants of these varieties remained at the tillering phase.

The heading dynamic of the varieties under study indicated that the average time to heading varied over the years from 55.9 to 77.9 days. The highest range of variation of this trait among the varieties was observed in 2018, and the lowest was in 2016. The shortest time to heading at the established duration of vernalization of 40 days in 2016 was noted in the varieties Estafeta myronivska and Balada myronivska (66.3 ± 0.26 and 65.1 ± 0.50 days). In 2017 and 2018 the shortest time to heading (59.8 and 59.0 days, respectively) was observed in the variety Hratsia myronivska.

In varieties with short vernalization requirement duration, this period was, on average, 31–40 days, with medium vernalization requirement duration 41–50 days, and with a long-term – 51–60 days. The results of the research show that the varieties MIP Assol and Hratsia myronivska require medium vernalization duration (41–50 days), whereas the varieties Estafeta myronivska and Balada myronivska require short vernalization duration (31–40 days). No varieties with long-term vernalization duration were revealed in our research.
Vernalization duration requirement under environmental conditions of the Ukrainian Forest-Steppe was determined also in winter wheat near-isogenic lines Erythrospermum 604 Vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2, Erythrospermum 604 vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2, and Erythrospermum 604 vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2. In 2016 (Table 4), the lines Erythrospermum 604 with dominant allele of Vrd1 or Vrd2 genes required 30 and 40 days of vernalization duration, because in 70.0 and 63.0% of plants heading occurred. The line vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2 required 50 days of vernalization duration, because in variants 40 and 30 days of vernalization most plants remained at the tillering stage. In 2017, the line Vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2, with dominant allele of the Vrd1 gene, at the vernalization of seeds during 50, 40, and 30 days demonstrated heading in 100% of plants. The same level was noted in the line vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2, which means vernalization duration 30 days was sufficient for it. Heading occurrence for the line vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2 after 40 days of vernalization duration was noted only in 47% plants, after 30 days no heading was noted. After 50 days of vernalization duration, heading occurrence was observed in all plants. In 2018, the lines Erythrospermum 604 with dominant alleles of Vrd1 or Vrd2 genes required 40 days of vernalization duration, and then heading occurred in 70.6 and 64.0% of plants, respectively.

For the near-isogenic line Erythrospermum 604 vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2 being a carrier of recessive allele of these genes, vernalization requirement duration was 50 days, because for shorter vernalization duration (30 and 40 days) no heading was noted. As indicated by heading dynamic for three years, heading time averaged 59.5 days in the line Vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2, 74.2 days in the line vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2 and 70.5 days in the line vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2. The variation in heading dynamic of the tester lines among the years is explained by differing weather conditions over the years of the research. Since, weather in April and May in 2017 was cooler as compared to these months in 2018, so more plants did not reach heading.

Hybridological analysis. The actual segregation ratio for “heading occurrence: no heading occurrence” in all cross combinations with recessive tester of gene Vrd corresponded to the theoretical 3:1 (Table 5). The segregation ratio in populations Vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2/Estafeta myronivska and vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2/Estafeta myronivska corresponded to 15:1. The segregation ratio in combinations Vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2/Hristsia myronivska, Vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2/MIP Assol and Vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2/Balada myronivska was 13:3, and in the population created with these varieties and tester line vrd1vrd2vrd2 it was 15:1. The segregation ratio in combinations Vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2/Balada myronivska and vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2 was 15:1 and 13:3, respectively.

After 30 days vernalization in the population the line Vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2/Estafeta myronivska the fact segregation ratio for “heading occurrence: no heading occurrence” was 136:132, which did not correspond to the theoretical ratio 3:1. In combinations Vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2/Estafeta myronivska and vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2/Estafeta myronivska this ratio was 15:1 and 3:1 respectively. In the combinations of the varieties Hristsia myronivska and Balada myronivska with the tester of recessive genes (vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2) the fact segregation corresponded to the theoretical ratio 1:15 as well as with tester of dominant gene Vrd2 to the ratio 13:3. In the combination vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2/MIP Assol even for 90 days segregation was not observed. The segregation ratio with the tester Vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2 was 15:3, and with the tester vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2 it was 3:13.

Frost resistance. On average for 2017–2019, the percentage of viable plants of the variety Myronivska 808 after freezing at temperature minus 18 °С and minus 20 °С was 87% and 58%, respectively. Freezing tolerance at the level of the standard variety (according to Fisher’s test) at both freezing temperatures was observed in the varieties Hristsia Myronivska (79 ± 4.5, 50 ± 5.5) and Balada Myronivska (82 ± 4.4, 53 ± 5.6, Table 6). The variety Estafeta myronivska significantly exceeded the standard for the percentage of live plants after freezing at minus 18 °С (99 ± 1.2), and for the temperature minus 20 °С – percentage of live plants was at its level (59 ± 5.6). In the variety MIP Assol percentage of live plants at the freezing temperature minus 18 °C was at the level of the standard (91%), and at the minus 20 °C significantly exceeds the standard.

Discussion

It has been established that in the conditions of the south of Ukraine the Ppd-D1a allele significantly shortens the duration of time to heading, reduces plant height, reduces the spike and stem length, number of spikes and fertile spikelets per spike, spike density; increases grain number per spike and grain weight per main spike, grain weight of secondary stems, 1000 kernel weight (Bakurna et al., 2018). The genotype Ppd-A1b Ppd-B1b Ppd-D1a is prevalent in the varieties bred at Bila Tserkva Experimental and Breeding Station, the Ppd-D1a allele determines insensitivity to the photoperiod and promotes an earlier heading date. Only the variety Le-henda blitoverskova is a carrier of the recessive allele Ppd-D1b and has a later heading date (Filimonov et al., 2018). In the Ppd-1 gene system of the varieties bred at the Institute of Irrigated Agriculture of NAAS the dominant Ppd-D1a allele there were identified and recessive b alleles were identified in the Ppd-A1 and Ppd-B1 loci (Bakurna et al., 2019). According to the results of our research, we assume that the new varieties of winter bread wheat of breeding at the MIW do not have the dominant allele of the Ppd-D1 gene, because varieties insensitive to the photoperiod were not detected among them.

Table 6 The percentage of surviving plants of winter wheat varieties after freezing (%; x ± SE, n= 80), 2017–2019

| Variety | Temperature of freezing |
|---------|-------------------------|
|         | -18 °С                  | -20 °С                  |
| Myronivska 808, standard | 87.0 ± 3.8a | 58.0 ± 5.5b |
| Estafeta myronivska | 90.0 ± 1.2a | 59.0 ± 5.6a |
| Hristsia myronivska | 79.0 ± 4.5a | 50.0 ± 5.5b |
| MIP Assol | 91.0 ± 3.2a | 70.0 ± 5.2a |
| Balada myronivska | 82.0 ± 4.4a | 53.0 ± 5.6a |

Note: different letters indicate values which reliably differed one from another within one column of the table according to the results of comparison using the Fischer’s criterion.

Vernalization requirement in wheat can be considered as an adaptive mechanism that provides delay in transition to the reproductive stage of development during winter (Muterkio et al., 2015). Analysis of the assortment of winter wheat of Ukrainian breeding showed that among the genotypes created at the Plant Breeding and Genetics Institute – National Centre of Seed and Cultivar Investigation of NAAS the majority of wheat genotypes possessed dominant allele of the Vrd1 gene (54.5%) (Fayt, 2012). Among the varieties of the Plant Production Institute nd. a. V. Y. Yurev of NAAS, the majority of genotypes had the dominant allele Vrd3 (36.4%) or the three recessive genes (36.4%). At the same time, the possibility of modifying the vernalization duration requirement by Ppd genes is not excluded (Stelmakh et al., 2019; Zubrich & Avksentieva, 2019). It was noted that introduction into the modern enhanced in productivity wheat gene pool of genetic material relating to the rates of initial development typical for varieties of past generations would improve the adaptive properties of future breeding material (Stelmakh & Fayt, 2015).

The segregation in F2 population for heading occurrence resulting from hybridological analysis (Fayt, 2006b, 2012) was not observed if the genotype of the variety and the tester coincided. When crossing a variety that is assumed to have dominant gene Vrd1, Vrd2 or Vrd3 with a recessive tester after 40 days of vernalization, the segregation ratio is 3:1. If in the genotype of the variety there are two dominant genes of vernalization requirement at the same time, the segregation ratio is 15:1. The segregation ratios of 3:1 and 15:1 indicate a difference in genes in the variety and tester studied. It was determined that the vernalization requirement duration of Vrd gene testers in the Right-bank Forest-Steppe of Ukraine was 30–50 days. So, to reveal differences among genotypes in this agroclimatic zone 30 and 40 days are sufficient terms of vernalization.

In our case, after 30 days vernalization in the population vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2/Estafeta myronivska the fact segregation ratio for “heading occurrence: no heading occurrence” was 136:132, which did not correspond to the theoretical ratio 3:1, which could have been caused by weather conditions, at the same time it indicates the difference between the variety studied and the tester. In the combination vrd1vrd1vrd2vrd2/MIP Assol on the date of the last accounting 20 plants remained at tubing stage, and a significant number (123 plants) remained at the tillering stage. The obtained results of plant accounting in this combination indicate the significant influence of weather conditions on plant development, because at 40 days of vernalization many of the plants reached heading, and the average time
to heading was 80 days. Taking this into account, we can assume that the plants of this hybrid combination could reach heading after 93–94 days with corresponding theoretical segregation ratio of 1:3.

Theoretical segregation at 40 days of vernalization in the combinations with testers Vrl1Vrl2Vrl3 and Vrl1Vrl2Vrl3 in the ratio “heading occurrence: no heading occurrence” 13:3 in the varieties Hratsia myronivska, MIP Assol and Balada myronivska is probably caused by different photoperiod sensitivity. The influence of weather conditions on the segregation pattern in hybrid populations has also been noted in earlier publications (Fayt, 2000b). Comparing the results of hybridological analysis obtained (Table 5) with the theoretically expected segregation ratio, we assume that in the varieties Estafeta myronivska, Hratsia myronivska, MIP Assol and Balada myronivska the vernalization requirement duration is controlled by a gene (genes) other than Vrd1 and Vrd2.

Despite climate change, development of winter wheat varieties with increased frost tolerance is still one of the main tasks of scientific institutions not only in Ukraine but also abroad (Raiouchkin, 2012; Lytvynenko, 2016; Bulavka et al., 2018; Cherenkiv et al., 2018; Grabovets, 2019). It is established that the level of frost tolerance in winter wheat varieties bred by institutions in the Forest-Steppe of Ukraine varies from 74.5% to 90.8% (Gelyk et al., 2017). In our research we have found that newly developed winter wheat varieties at MIW with increased productive and adaptive potential in the Forest-Steppe of Ukraine are characterized by medium photoperiod sensitivity as well as medium and short vernalization requirement duration. Moreover, frost tolerance of these varieties is at the level and above the variety Myronivska 808, which is highly tolerant to low temperatures.

Conclusion

It was determined that winter wheat varieties Estafeta myronivska, Hratsia myronivska, MIP Assol and Balada myronivska developed at MIW in recent years with increased productive and adaptive potential in the conditions of the Central part of the Ukrainian Forest-Steppe are characterized with medium photoperiod sensitivity, and medium or short vernalization requirement duration. We didn’t establish the presence of Vrd1 and Vrd2 genes in these varieties. At the same time, the genetically determined frost tolerance of the varieties studied is at the level and above the variety Myronivska 808, which is highly tolerant to low temperatures. Our results indicate the possibility to recombine in the genotype different levels of manifestation of these traits by selection and to develop varieties with their optimal combination for certain ecological conditions. This is of great practical importance in farming, as the increase in the share of sown areas of crops harvested late (corn, sunflower, etc.) in the Central part of the Forest-Steppe of Ukraine in recent years has caused a shift in winter wheat sowing dates to later. Under such conditions, the varieties mentioned above can undergo sufficient hardening, meet their vernalization requirement and form a high level of winter hardiness. The relatively medium level of photoperiod sensitivity allows the vegetation to be restored to a state of optimal level of photoperiod sensitivity as well as medium and short vernalization requirement duration. Moreover, frost tolerance of these varieties is at the level and above the variety Myronivska 808, which is highly tolerant to low temperatures.

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