rachilla hairs. Is it because long rachilla hairs are associated with high yield or closely linked with rough awns? A significant number of hooded landraces can be found in Tibet, indicating that hooded barley is more adapted to high altitudes. Contrary to the above-mentioned evolution pathway, other workers (e.g., Takeo Konishi) have concluded that H. agriocrithon derives from natural hybridization between H. spontaneum and six-row cultivated barley. In short, this book provides valuable information on barley genetic resources in Tibet.

**Thin-Mei Choo**  
Eastern Cereal and Oilseed Research Centre  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0C Canada  
(Chootm@em.agr.ca)

**Plant Genetic Resources of Legumes in the Mediterranean.**  

The Mediterranean region is the center of diversity for many legume species and the site of domestication of nearly all forms cultivated for food and forage. Human activities pose an increasingly serious threat to the genetic diversity of many species found in the Mediterranean region that are important to world agriculture and food security. Faced with this threat, the main purpose of the book is to review the current status of legume diversity in the Mediterranean region and to formulate strategies and methodologies that might reverse the loss of genetic variation and improve utilization. The authors provide an excellent discussion of the relative merits of ex situ and in situ conservation and use of Mediterranean legume germplasm. Chapter 14 concerns ex situ conservation of the grain legumes and mentions the importance of reproductive biology in the maintenance of seed while minimizing loss of genetic diversity in the process. The discussion of domestication and centers of diversity in the chapter duplicates material presented very well in the crop specific chapters of Section 2. The priorities for future collection are consistent with those held by users and potential users of the germplasm. Chapter 15 is in similar format and deals with the present and future needs for ex situ conservation of the forage legumes. While the chapter provides an excellent discussion of the situation, there seems to be an overemphasis on numbers of accessesions rather than on the diversity represented. Chapter 16, which describes in situ conservation, is a major contribution of the book. The growing need for in situ conservation of germplasm either in protected reserves or on-farm is discussed at length. Mention is made of ongoing in situ projects in Turkey and Morocco and the critical need for cataloguing and documenting the species present in the reserves. Inexperience in implementation of the procedure on the part of national programs of the countries where in-situ sites are proposed for development is an apparent problem that must be addressed.

The fourth Section comprises two chapters on utilization of legume diversity in crop improvement programs. Chapter 17 deals with the grain legumes: chickpea, faba bean, grasspea, lentil, lupins, and pea and the use of genetic diversity to improve the crops for food and feed. The need for extensive germplasm evaluation of this group of crops for resistance or tolerance to disease, insects, parasitic plants (especially broomrape), and abiotic stresses is highlighted. Higher biomass production is a priority for lentil germplasm screening. Chapter 18 concerns the utilization of germplasm diversity for enhancing forage and pasture legumes.

The fifth and final section is a look into the future for conservation and utilization of legume diversity and the associated rhizobia species. Recommendations for ex situ and in situ conservation and use of Mediterranean legume germplasm are highlighted. Major areas of the region where germplasm is under represented in current collections are pointed out for future exploration.

The book has 32 contributors who are authorities in the field including the editors, Drs. Nigel Maxted and Sarita Jane Bennett. It contains authoritative information on the genetic diversity of legumes in the Mediterranean region, the status of current conservation efforts, the need for collection and maintenance of diversity from under represented areas, and the potential for utilization of legume germplasm for improvement of cultivated forms for food and feed. A major part of the book promotes the concept of in situ conservation of genetic resources either in native habitats or on-farm. This developing concept has great potential for conservation of the wide diversity of forage and food legumes in the region. However, it is not entirely clear how in situ sites are developed, maintained, catalogued and financed, and made accessible to potential users. The book is ideal as a ready reference for collectors of legume germplasm and where target species are likely to be found. References cited at the end of each chapter...