



ACCUMULATION OF NUTRIENTS IN THE RAW OF *CRAMBE* L. SPECIES

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Investigation of accumulation of different compounds in above-ground part of these plants an important aspect for evaluation of perspective of use. The aim of this study was to compare the peculiarities of the biochemical composition of *Crambe* species dynamically. Plant material collected from the experimental collection of M.M. Gryshko National Botanical Garden of the NAS of Ukraine. It was studied above-ground parts of *C. cordifolia* Steven, *C. koktebelica* (Junge) N. Busch, *C. maritima* L., *C. steveniana* Rupr. At the spring vegetation, budding stage, flowering, and fruitage. Following biochemical parameters was studied: dry matter by drying to consist weight at the 105 °C; content of sugars by Bertrand's method using of glucose scale; ascorbic acids with 2,6-dichlorophenolindophenol, tannins with indigo carmine discoloration, organic acids by sodium hydroxide titration with phenolphthalein; carotene with gasoline galosh spectrophotometrically; ash in muffle over. The dry matter during vegetation was from 9.76 (*C. cordifolia*, budding) to 22.54 (*C. maritima* at the fruitage) %, total content of sugars from 6.54 (*C. maritima* at the fruitage) to 33.18 (*C. cordifolia* at the budding) %, ascorbic acid from 139.85 (*C. maritima* at the spring vegetation) to 987.02 (*C. maritima* at the budding) mg%, β -carotene from 0.39 (*C. maritima* at the budding) to 1.82 (*C. cordifolia* at the fruitage) mg%, tannins from 1.28 (*C. cordifolia* at the fruitage) to 7.47 (*C. steveniana* at the budding) %, content of organic acids from 3.12 (*C. steveniana* at the fruitage) to 6.28 (*C. koktebelica* at the spring vegetation) %, ash from 6.11 (*C. maritima* at the spring vegetation) to 14.61 (*C. cordifolia* at the flowering) %. Correlation analysis showed that between the content of tannins and organic acids existed positive moderate correlation ($r = 0.52$). Between other parameters found the weak, very weak positive or negative correlation. Thus, comparing biochemical analyze identified that raw of four species of *Crambe* is a valuable source of nutrients during vegetation. The high content of sugars, ascorbic acid, and carotene can recommend these plants as forage crops. Also, raw of these plants can be recommended for farther pharmacological investigations.

Keywords: *Crambe*, biochemical composition, raw

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Introduction

Plants from Brassicaceae Burnett have a long story of an important role in human life as food, forage, medicinal plants, etc. They are source of biologically active compounds that determine their pharmacological properties (Raiola et al., 2018; Shankar et al., 2019). Chemical investigation of Brassicaceae characterized by presence of phytonutrients such as tocopherols, vitamin E, carotenoids, polyphenol compounds, amino acids, glucosinolates, etc. (Avato and Argentieri, 2015). Oil plants from this family revealed antioxidant activity by DPPH method in methanol extracts as well as in water extracts (Rakhmetov et al., 2018).

Genus *Crambe* L. has a wide area of distribution in the world (Prina, 2009). Species of *Crambe* genus are very promising species due to their biological and biochemical properties (Kalista, 2017). They belong to the Brassicaceae and in the flora of Ukraine there are 8 species (Iljinska et al., 2007). The most known and useful plants from Brassicaceae are the source of oil, content of which can be varied from 17 to 40% and upper (Vergun et al., 2017a). *Crambe abissinica* the most known species last time due to content of oil and other nutrients such as protein, amino acids, phenolic compounds, etc. (Lovatto et al., 2017). Also, the utilization of oil produced by *C. abissinica* is favored over high erucic acid rapeseed oil due to its higher natural content of C22:1 (Zorn et al., 2019). According to Stankevych (2017), plants of this species are high-yield cultures, which may compete with other oil cultures of Brassicaceae by a complex of parameters.

Under-ground parts of *Crambe cordifolia* are the rich source of polyphenol compounds with antioxidant activity as showed the study of different extracts. Also, they exhibited antimicrobial activity (Rashid et al., 2018).

The aim of the research is the determination of selected biochemical compounds in the raw of the above-ground part of plants of *Crambe* species, taking into account that there is limited information about accumulation some nutrients.

Materials and methodology

Biological material

It was investigated species of the genus of *Crambe*: *C. cordifolia* Steven, *C. koktebelica* (Junge) N. Busch, *C. maritima* L., *C. steveniana* Rupr. An experiment carried out during 2018–2019 at the laboratory of Cultural Flora Department of M.M. Gryshko National Botanical Garden of the NAS of Ukraine. Plants samples took at the start of spring growth, budding stage, flowering stage, and fruitage. All investigated plants are perennial.

Biochemical analyses

Dry matter determination

Plant samples were dried in drying oven at the 105 °C till constant weight in aluminum boxes. Results are given in percentages (Hrytsajenko et al., 2003).

Total content of sugars determination

The total content of sugars was investigated by Bertrand's method in water extracts. 4 g of fresh mass mixed and homogenized with distilled water (approximately 50 ml) in the 100 ml test-tubes and heated in the water bath at 70 °C during 15–20 min. After cooling in the obtained mixtures added 1 ml of phosphate-oxalate mixture. After this was added 1.5 ml of lead acetate. The obtained mixture brings to the mark (100 ml) with water. After filtration from obtained solution took 50 ml and mixed with 8 ml of 20% HCl (at the 70 °C in water bath for 5 min) and after cooling was neutralized by 12% NaOH and brought to the mark by distilled water (100 ml). 3 ml of obtained solution mixed with 6 ml of Fehling's solution reagent (6 min boiling in the water bath). Obtained mixture analyzed for total content of sugars. Results are given by percentages (Hrytsajenko et al., 2003).

Total content of ascorbic acid

Determination of ascorbic acid content conducted by method offered by K. Murri. 2 g of fresh mass mixed with 50 ml of 2% oxalic acid. Obtained mixture put into the dark for 20 min. Content of ascorbic acid of obtained extracts determined by a 2,6-dichlorophenol-indophenol method that based on the reduction properties of ascorbic acid. Obtained results expressed in the mg% DW (Hrytsajenko et al., 2003).

Total content of carotene

The concentration of total carotene determined according to Pleshkov (1985) using extraction with rubber solvent (petrol). 1 g of absolutely dried raw mixed with 20 ml of Kalosha petrol for 2 hours. After this obtained filtrate measured spectrophotometrically at the wavelength 440 nm at the Unico spectrophotometer. Obtained results expressed in mg% DW.

Total content of tannins

The content of tannins was determined with indigo carmine as indicator (Ermakov et al., 1972). 5 g of fresh mass mixed with distilled water (approximately 50 ml) in 100 ml taste-tubes. Obtained mixture heated in the water bath at 70 °C for 2 hours. After cooling, adding water to the 100 ml and following filtration 10 ml of filtrate used for determination of total content of tannins. This procedure used 700 ml distilled water and 25 ml of 1% solvent of indigo carmine. Obtained results expressed in %.

Total content of organic acids

The total content of organic acids determined with phenolphthalein and results calculated with malic acid coefficient (Krishchenko, 1983). 10 ml of filtrate (the same procedure described for determination of total content of tannins) titrated with 1 N solvent of NaOH in presence of phenolphthalein. Obtained results expressed in percentages.

Total content of ash

The total content of ash determined by combustion in oven at the 300–700 °C for 3 days with step increasing of temperature (Hrytsajenko, 2003).

Statistical analysis

Experimental data were analyzed using Excel 2016. Correlation analysis was performed using Pearson's criterion. Mean values of three replicates and standard deviations given in Figures 1–7.

Results and discussion

Plants of the *Crambe* genus in M.M. Gryshko Botanical Garden have grown and have investigated in collection of forage plants last some decades. Previous studies concerning their antioxidant activity and accumulation of nutrients in the underground parts of plants (Vergun et al., 2018).

We determined that the content of dry matter during vegetation was from 9.76 to 22.54% depending on species and stage of growth (Figure 1). The dry weight of different microgreens Brassicaceae according to Xiao et al. (2016) was 4.9–10.3% depending on species. Other species from this family *Camellina sativa* L., their cultivars and varieties had dry matter content in range 18.13–23.38% in stage of flowering (Vergun et al., 2017b).

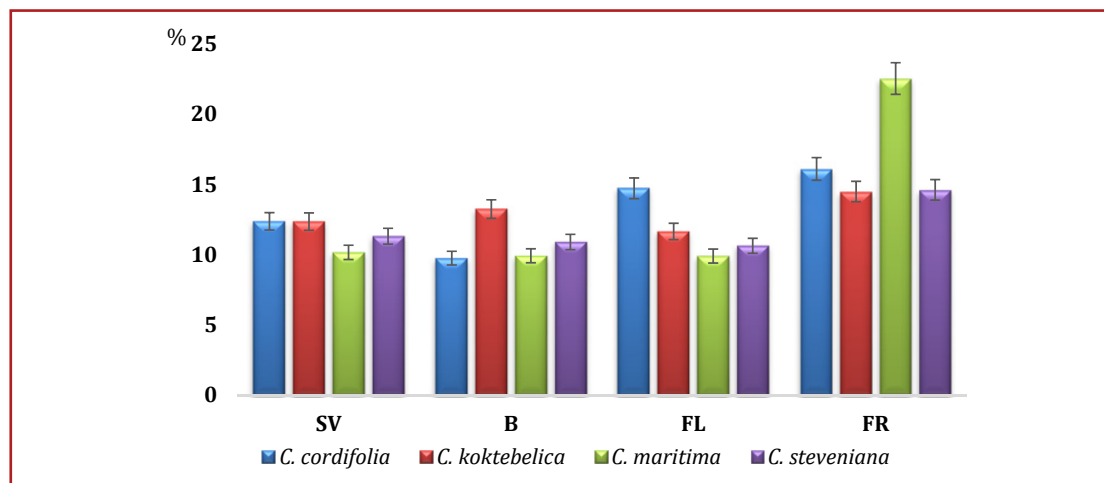


Figure 1 Total content of dry matter in the above-ground part of plants of *Crambe* spp. SV – spring vegetation; B – budding stage; FL – flowering stage; FR – fruitage

The total content of sugars in the *Crambe* species determined from 6.54 to 33.18% (Figure 2). It should be noticed that *C. cordifolia* demonstrated the most content of sugars in the stage of budding. Also, high content of sugars found in *C. steveniana* in the period of flowering. Minimal value of this parameter fixed in the fruitage for *C. maritima*. Plants of *Camellina sativa* had content of sugars in range of 4.76–8.12% in stage of flowering (Vergun et al., 2017b). As reported Rosa et al. (2001), total content of sugars in broccoli cultivars was 114.5–229.2 mg/g.

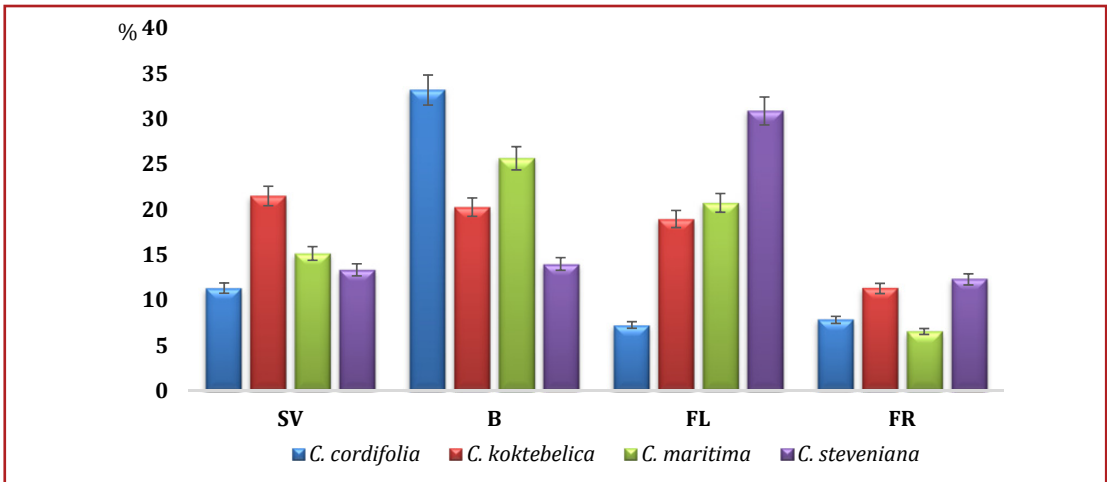


Figure 2 Total content of sugars in the above-ground part of plants of *Crambe* spp. SV – spring vegetation; B – budding stage; FL – flowering stage; FR – fruitage

Ascorbic acid plays an important role as co-factor for some enzymes and acts in numerous processes. It demonstrated strong antioxidant activity that makes this compound wide distributed in the cosmetic industry (Golonka et al., 2017). As reported Lokato et al. (2013), ascorbic acid participates in some physiological processes such as immune stimulation, synthesis of collagen, hormones, iron absorption, etc. The content of ascorbic acid varied from 139.85 to 987.02 mg% DW depending on species (Figure 3). Plants of *Camellina sativa* had value of this parameter in range of 207.23–410.23 mg% DW (Vergun al., 2017b). Other cruciferous species as *Armoracia rusticana* had ascorbic acid content in leaves up to 350 mg% FW (Rivelli et al., 2017).

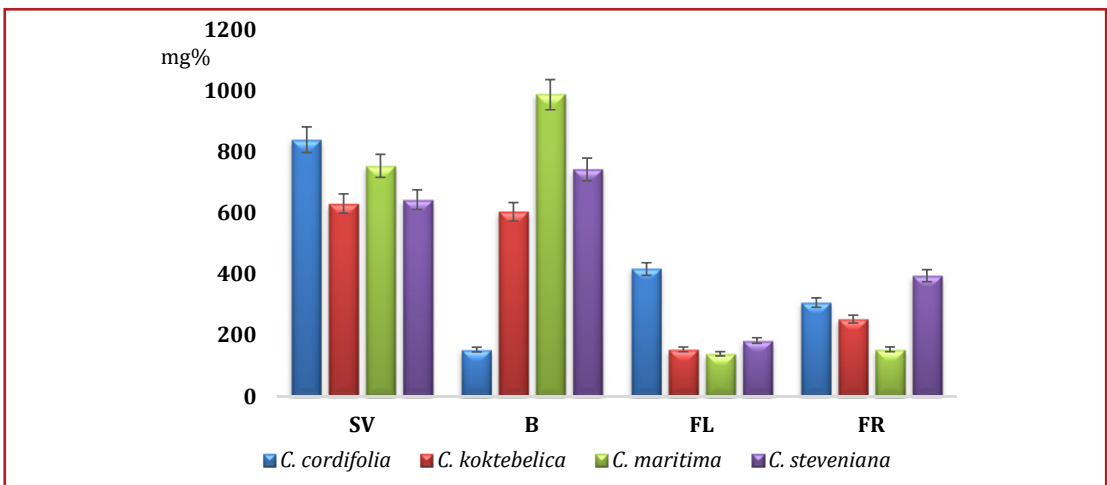


Figure 3 Total content of ascorbic acid in the above-ground part of plants of *Crambe* spp. SV – spring vegetation; B – budding stage; FL – flowering stage; FR – fruitage

The study of the accumulation of β -carotene focused on its pharmacological properties such as anti-carcinogenic and anti-mutagenic. β -carotene an important provitamin A, which demonstrates the protective action in human organisms, for example, as powerful antioxidants (Bogacz-Radomska and Harasym, 2018). Content of β -carotene in raw of *Crambe* species determined from 0.387 to 2.408 mg% (Figure 4).

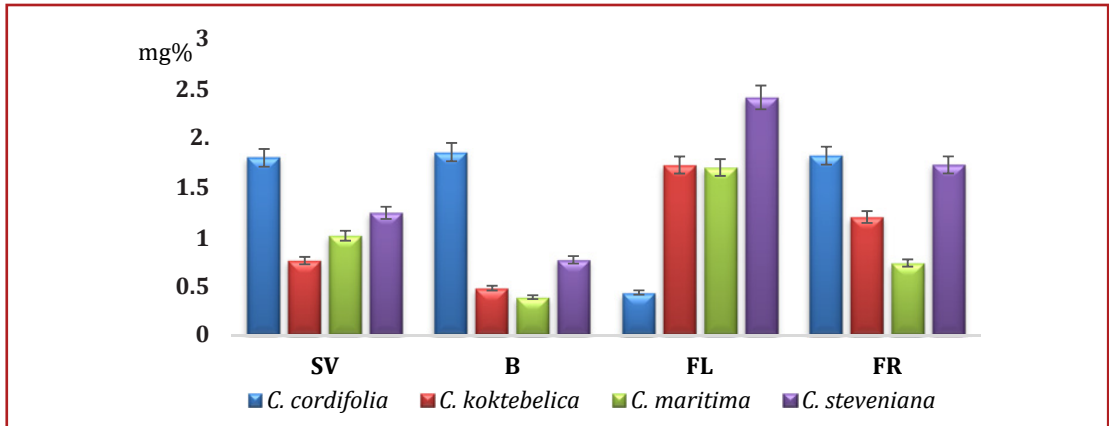


Figure 4 The content of β -carotene in the above-ground part of plants of *Crambe* spp. SV – spring vegetation; B – budding stage; FL – flowering stage; FR – fruitage

The study of the content of tannins in raw of investigated plants showed accumulation of them from 1.28 to 6.47% (Figure 5). Tannins are water-soluble polyphenols that are present in many plant food productions. From the one side food rich in tannins has low nutritional value, however, they also characterized by antimicrobial activity (Chung et al., 1998). Previous study concerning to Brassicaceae species showed that rapeseed meal contains 3% of tannins (Mitaru et al., 1982).

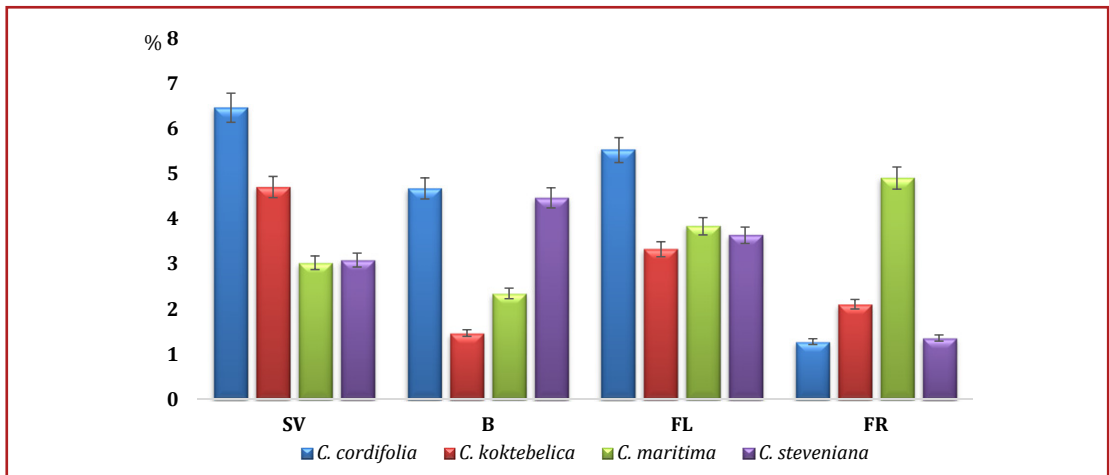


Figure 5 Total content of tannins in the above-ground part of plants of *Crambe* spp. SV – spring vegetation; B – budding stage; FL – flowering stage; FR – fruitage

Accumulation of organic acids in raw of *Crambe* species during vegetation represented in Figure 6. We found that sum of organic acids of investigated species was from 3.12 to 6.28% depending on period of growth and species. Maximal values of this parameter were found at the period of spring vegetation for all species and at the budding stage for *C. cordifolia*. A high content of organic acids evidently due to their role in photosynthetic intermediates (López-Bucio et al., 2000).

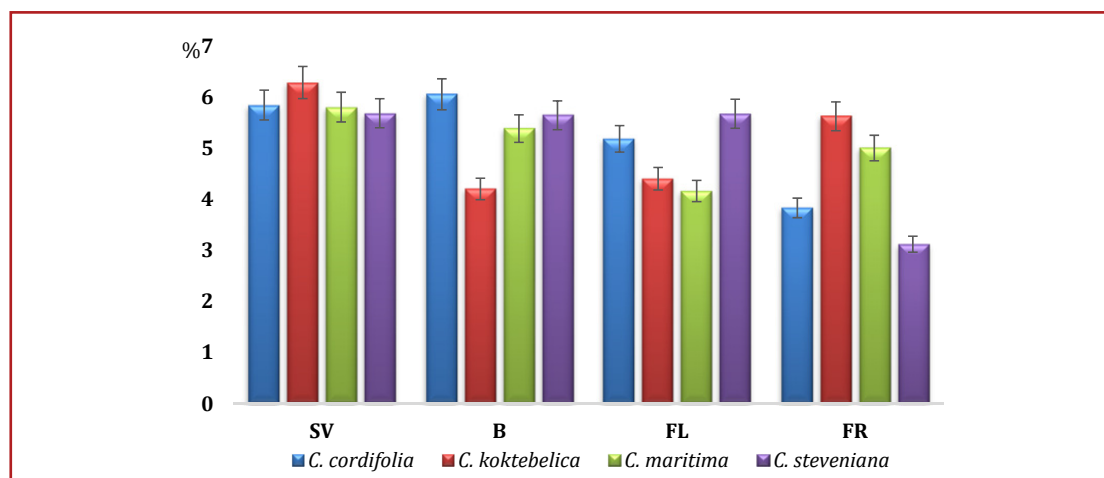


Figure 6 Total content of organic acids in the above-ground part of plants of *Crambe* spp. SV – spring vegetation; B – budding stage; FL – flowering stage; FR – fruitage

One of the important biochemical parameters to determine nutritional value of raw, especially food, is ash that concludes mainly mineral components (Godočiková et al., 2019). Also, according to Prochnow et al. (2009), content of ash important parameter for evaluation of quality of phytofuel. So, with increase of ash concentration heating value is decreases.

The concentration of ash in Brassicaceae plants can vary. For example, the total content of ash in stems of *Lepidium sativum* was 17.1% as reported Sandekar et al. (2018).

In our study content of ash for different species of *Crambe* was from 6.11 to 14.61% (Figure 7). It should be noted that raw *C. cordifolia* demonstrated maximal ash content at every period among other species. As reported Tutus et al. (2010), ash content of *C. orientalis* and *C. tataria* was 7.83 and 9.31%, respectively.

Correlation analysis showed that between tannins and organic acids, ascorbic acid and organic acids, sugars and organic acids found a moderate correlation that was 0.52, 0.46 and 0.40, respectively. Weak relation found between carotenoids and sugars and tannins and ash (0.28 for both). All other parameters showed very weak or absent correlation.

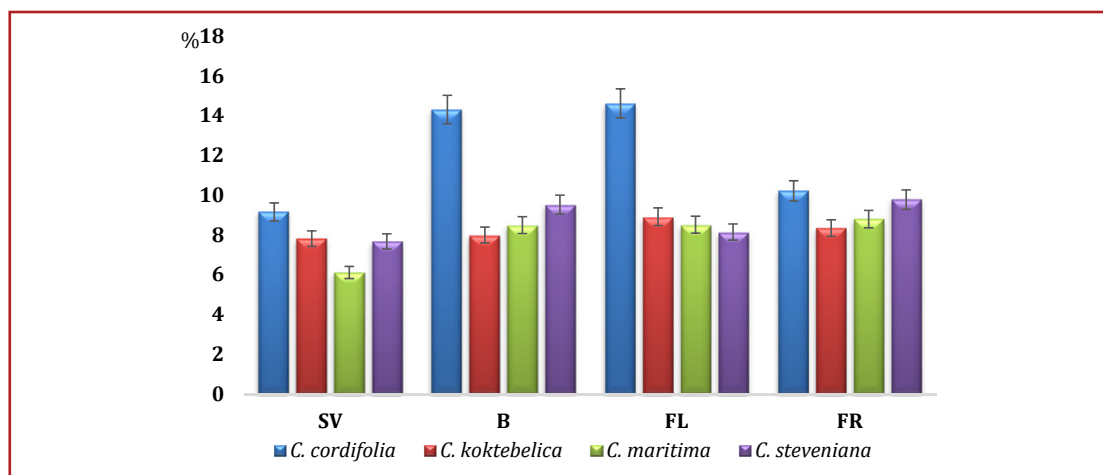


Figure 7 Total content of ash in the above-ground part of plants of *Crambe* spp.
SV – spring vegetation; B – budding stage; FL – flowering stage; FR – fruitage

Conclusions

Investigation of the biochemical composition of four species of genus *Crambe* showed that investigated plants are valuable sources of nutrients. Accumulation of selected biochemical compounds in above-ground parts of these plants depends on stage of growth. Maximal values of dry matter and ascorbic acid found for *C. maritima*, total content of sugars and organic acids for *C. koktebelica*, carotene for *C. steveniana*, ash for *C. cordifolia*. Due to high content of ascorbic acid, carotene, sugars and other biochemical parameters of raw, *Crambe* species can be recommended as forage plants. Also, it required further pharmacological investigations of these plants as food and medicinal plants.

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