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INTRODUCTION

The publication of the new issue of JAPS, No. 20., Vol. 2. coincided with the warning from the World Health Organization that a new subvariant of the corona virus "Kraken", which is more transmissible than any before, is spreading around the world. Just when it seemed that the corona virus pandemic would finally subside, the XBB.1.5 virus appeared, and experts named it Kraken, after the legendary sea monster, a giant octopus that dragged ships to the bottom of the sea and killed the sailors. It is a subvariant of the omicron strain of the corona virus, which is already affecting America, and Kraken has quickly spread to Europe, but the first information indicates that it causes a mild clinical presentation, as well as the omicron variant. The scientists discovered that the spike proteins have 14 new mutations, which means that it more easily infects people, who already have immunity from corona, either through vaccination or previous illness. This makes them more susceptible to infection, but not to a serious clinical presentation with fatal consequences.

It seems that the world, in all segments of its functioning, has adapted to a new post-pandemic way of functioning. In the past three years, science was also not safe from the consequences of the pandemic. Particularly in the agricultural production sector, where all activities were aimed to adapt to the new conditions and challenges. Researchers certainly have not stopped their research activities, which is confirmed with the publication of current issue of JAPS, No. 20., Vol. 2.

The Editorial Board of JAPS, in the conditions of the covid-19 pandemic, had continuously published all journal issues in order to share with the scientific and professional community the new research results in the field of agricultural production and plant sciences. We are honored and pleased to share with you five peer-reviewed scientific papers in JAPS issue No. 20., Vol. 2 and to invite and encourage our colleagues from Republic of North Macedonia, the region and wider to publish their research results in future issues of JAPS.

Editorial Board,

December, 2022

Editor in chief,

Prof. Liljana Koleva Gudeva, PhD

