**Abstract**
Crop wild relatives are essential components of natural and semi-natural habitats, as well as agricultural systems. Major threats to crop wild relatives are habitat alteration and loss, changes in agricultural practices, and genetic pollution. Europe is an important centre for crop wild relative diversity, with more than 21,000 taxa found across the region. Although it is acknowledged that populations of crop wild relatives throughout Europe are under threat from habitat alteration and loss, their conservation has received relatively little systematic attention. The European Community funded project, PGR Forum (European crop wild relative diversity assessment and conservation forum) is building an online information system to draw attention to these threatened taxa and provide access to crop wild relative data, and is developing guidelines for their conservation, with a particular focus on *in situ* techniques.

**Authors**
S.P. Kell, N. Maxted and B.V. Ford-Lloyd
School of Biosciences, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT, UK
Email: s.p.kell@bham.ac.uk