

Register of Australian Herbage Plant Cultivars

B. Legumes

8. Lucerne

a. *Medicago sativa* L. (lucerne)

cv. Paravivo

Reg. No. B-8a-5

Registered March 1971

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Origin

Derived by selection for persistence by E.J. Crawford, Department of Agriculture, South Australia, from within a population of C.P.I.21610 subsequently released as the cultivar African.

A series of experimental plots established in 1959 totaling approximately 5600 seedlings were subjected to regular defoliation under irrigated conditions until 1964. In 1965, 25 surviving plants were removed from the trial. Seed, produced by intercrossing these plants using honeybees in a bee-proof cage in 1966, 1967, 1968, and 1969, was bulked to form the existing breeders' seed.

Submitted for registration by the Department of Agriculture of South Australia and recommended for registration by the South Australian Herbage Plant Liaison Committee. Registered March 1971.

Table 4. Plant population in plants per square link

Cultivar	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Paravivo	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.4
African	2.0	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.3	0.9
L.S.D.5%	-	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1

Morphological description (1, 2)

Paravivo is of similar upright growth to the cultivar African but is more densely tillered. It has slightly thicker stems and there is less variability in leaf shape between plants. It is indistinguishable from African in all other respects.

Agronomic characters

In all comparative trials, seedling vigour of Paravivo has been better than African. Subsequent herbage production has been significantly greater than that of African within the first six months following an autumn sowing at Parafield Research Centre. At this Centre the first three years' herbage production has been equal to African, whilst in subsequent years production has been greater than African.

The value of Paravivo is its ability to maintain better plant population than African as detailed in Table 4.

Incorporated in Paravivo are the three main attributes of African, viz. better seedling vigour, better winter production, and the ability to recover faster after cutting or grazing, when compared with the cultivar Hunter River.

Improved persistence is its greatest attribute over African.

References

1. Crawford, E.J. (1966). African short-rotation lucerne. *J. Dep. Agric.* **69**, 350-5.
2. Daday, H. (1963). African lucerne. CSIRO Aust. Div. Pl. Ind. Fld. Sta. Rec. No. 2(1), pp. 39-40.