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A note from D. D. Dolan (Lotus Newsletter 4:6, 1973) suggests that a plant physiology study be made on PI 325376, Lotus caucasicus. This was of special interest to me because I collected that accession during my plant collecting trip in Russia in 1967. I remember very well the area where it was collected. While Dr. Dolan is correct in that the accession is from Stavropol, USSR, this means that it is from the Stavropol Region and the collection was made nearer the town of Kislovodsk, rather than the town of Stavropol. This site was at an elevation of about 2,400 feet and the plants from which the collection was made were found on top of a hard, dry knoll, on the edge of a road. Growing conditions were far from ideal.

I made another collection of L. caucasicus about 200-300 feet from this area. It is PI 325377, which was collected on a steep north slope. The Lotus plants were intermingled with a growth of tall grasses and legumes--Astragalus, Dactylis, Brochypodeum, Onobrychis, Calamagrostis, etc. Except for competition with the taller species, growing conditions were quite good. However, the Lotus was doing quite well even in competition with the taller species. The slope was so steep that cattle and sheep were unable to graze there, which made it an ideal collecting site--the plants were undisturbed. In fact, I had trouble clinging to the steep hillside in order to make the collections. The Lotus plants from which I collected were quite tall, being about 3/4 M in height. The height, I am sure was induced by surrounding competition from taller plants. Also, the plants had 5-7 pods per pedicel.

My reason for stating all this is that if anyone is interested in doing work with PI 325376, as suggested by Dr. Dolan, I would recommend that he also use PI 325377 for comparison.