

Registration of JI 3564 'Karl's Longpod' a Heritage Pea variety into the John Innes Pisum Collection

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In July 2010 correspondence and seeds of a heritage vegetable pea from a Mr. Karl Andrews of Lowestoft in Suffolk was received with a note to say that the line had been handed down to him by his Uncle Albert who was a keen lifelong amateur vegetable allotment grower (1920's to the late 1980's). Advice passed on by Uncle Albert was that "They are best grown from the 3rd week of March onwards" and "to allow plenty of air to circulate to avoid mildew". Mr. Andrews still grows this line every year in his garden (Fig. 1a) and finds the peas to be "Very tender and sweet and produce a very good crop of big peas in most years".

Figure 1. a. Karl Andrew standing next to plants of his 'Longpod' peas. b. mature pods.



The variety is a long vined main crop picking variety best suited for growing up a support. Seed of this line were grown out against wire and data recorded on a full range of morphological traits, the primary plant characteristics of which are summarised in Table 1. No direct or close match was found between this line and any other within the JI Pisum collection so its origin could not be established. Uncle Albert was reputed to "Never have bought seed and was much more likely to have obtained it from another

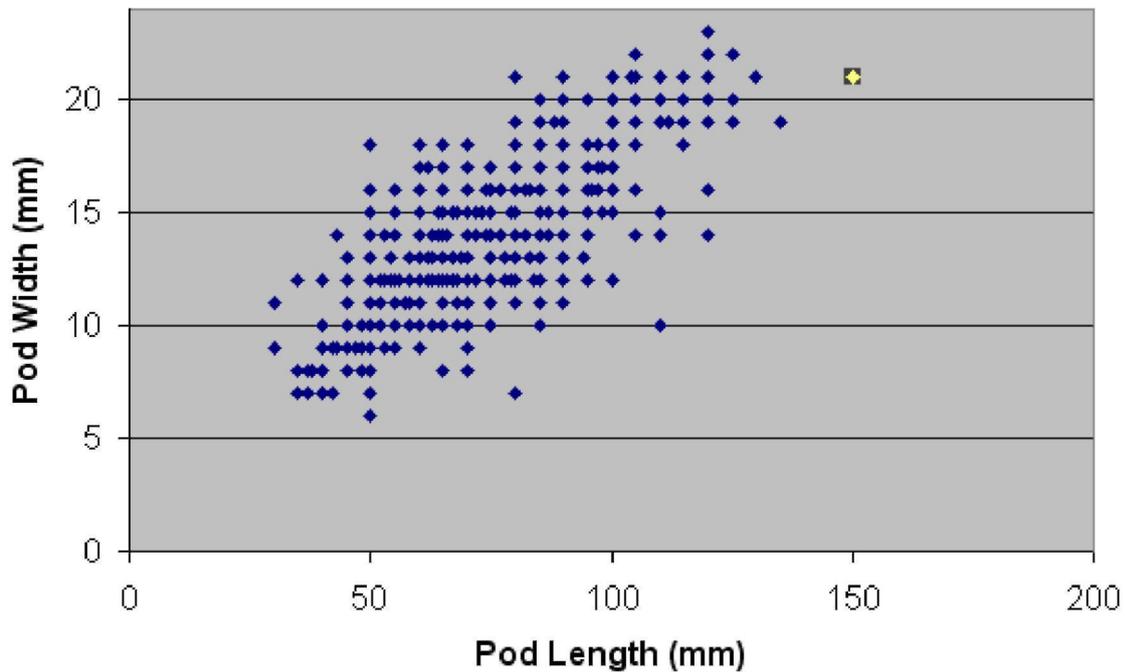
gardener." The exact nature of this line cannot be established without comparing to a much broader range of comparable material which is not currently possible.

Table 1. Plant characteristics of JI3564.

Internode length 150mm	Pod length 150mm (maximum)
Large leaflets and stipules	Pointed pod apex
Nodes to flowering 14	12 ovules per pod
Ht. to flowering 65cm	Wrinkled and green cotyledons
Final plant height. 200cm	Seed weight 360mg
White flower colour	Susceptible to powdery and downey mildew
1 flower per pedicel	

The most notable characteristic of the line is the consistent production of very long pods (Fig1. b). The longest pod (150mm) sets a new maxima for pod length in the JI collection of any wrinkled seeded line. The next longest are those of Hurst Greenshaft (JI 430) at 120mm which received a Royal Horticultural Society Award of Gardening Merit (AGM) in 1993 and is still marketed by numerous seed companies today. In a plot of pod length versus pod width this line clearly stands out as an outlier within normal podded types (Fig. 2).

Figure 2. Pod width versus pod length for 886 accessions of normal pod types (none inflated or mangetout). JI 3564 is



On the basis of its outlier status for pod length the line has been registered into the JI Pisum collection as JI 3564 as a heritage variety and given the name 'Karl's Longpod' and is available on request.