Chapter 3
Discovery of Wild *Triticum* Species

As mentioned above, as early as in 1833, Link found a wild plant similar to *T. monococcum* in the Balkans and Asia Minor. He named it as *Crithodium aegilopoides* Link. In 1854, Balansa found the same wild wheat in Mt. Sipylus, Syria, Iraq, and Iran in Asia Minor. They were merged into *Triticum* and changed to *T. aegilopoides* (Link) Bal. E. Boissier (1853) named the specimen collected from Boeotia Plain as *T. boeoticum* Boiss. In fact, they were the same species. *T. aegilopoides* (Link) Bal. was also the same name as *T. aegilopoides* Forssk. that was earlier published by Forsskål P. According to plant nomenclature rules, *T. aegilopoides* (Link) Bal. should be abandoned and *T. boeoticum* Boiss. should be the valid name of the wild wheat. In 1855, Kotschy discovered the wild barley *Hordeum spontaneum* in Mount Hermon, Palestine. Kärnicke found that partial spikes in the specimen belonged to another wild wheat species that was named as *T. dicoccoides* Körn in 1873. It also attracted the attention of agronomists because it was similar to the cultivated species *T. dicoccon* Schrank. Aaronsohn made a special investigation in 1904. At first, he did not find the wild wheat near Mt. Hermon. However, in 1906, he rediscovered the plant at 1900 m above sea level in Hermon and the Jordan Valley. In 1910, Cook discovered that this species was sporadically distributed in rock crevices on the slopes of Mount Anti-Lebanon in the limestone savanna eco-environment. Later, it was also discovered in Syria, Armenia, the Transcaucasus, and Western Iran. Compared to *T. dicoccoides,* the distribution of *T. boeoticum* was wider, including the Balkans, Asia Minor, Crimea, the Transcaucasus, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, and most parts of Iran, where the eco-geographic types vary somewhat. Reuter divided it into two species according to spikelets with one or two long awns. He designated the species with two long awns as *T. thaoudar* Reuter. However, Schiemann (1932) considered that it could only belong to a taxon class of subspecies.

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