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Cover illustration: Opium poppy produces pharmaceutically important morphinan alkaloids. Genetic transformation of Tasmanian cultivars opens opportunities to enhance alkaloid yields and modify the chemistry (see Chitty *et al.*, pp. 1045–1058).

Chickpea has a different adaptation profile than other crops of West Asian origin. These authors present a viewpoint that suggests that a series of evolutionary bottlenecks is responsible for this phenomenon, including the scarcity of the wild progenitor, domestication effects, the early shift from winter to summer cropping, and the replacement of locally-evolving landraces by elite cultivars produced by modern plant breeding.