



MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF THYMUS ALGERIENSIS Boiss. & Reut. (LAMIACEAE) FROM A SEMI ARID AREA FROM ALGERIA.

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Abstract :

Thymus is a large genus of Lamiaceae comprising about 215 to 350 species and particularly widely distributed in North Africa. The systematics of species remains difficult because of the interspecific hybridization and morphological similarities among species. *T. algeriensis* is proliphic in the mediterranean, mostly in North Africa and is endemic of semi-arid and arid areas of Algeria, Tunisia, Lybia and Morocco. The wide range of its geographical distribution lead to several morphological and ecophysiological differentiation.

The purpose of the present work is to study the morphological variation among populations of *T. algeriensis* by the description of the macro and micromorphological variation in leaf samples collected in semi-arid area. Leaf epidermis, stomata as well as trichomes type are described.

Keywords :

Thymus algeriensis ; morphological diversity ; leaf ; SEM ; epidermis ; stomata ; trichomes.