**Distribution patterns and Priorities for conservation of Crop wild relatives (CWRs) In Iran : A case study on Eudicots**

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**Abstract**

Due to limited resources, priorities seem to be necessary in the plans of conservation management the distribution patterns appear as key data for conservation plans including identifying hot spots and shaping the protected areas along with important plant areas. Mapping the crop wild relatives’ has been used as an influential method for prioritization. CWRs compose a significant percentage of Iranian flora. Intersection of diverse phytogeographical units harbors diverse diverse valuable taxa in Iran including CWRs, thus making them important cases for assessing the conservation and distribution patterns. The target taxa have been identified based on phylogenetic as well taxonomic methodologies. The localities were marked using ArcView version 3.2 (ESRI 2000) on geo-referenced maps (1/106) of Iran. The distribution patterns of the taxa were mapped per 1° × 1° universal transverse Mercator grid cells. The most densely populated families with the highest number of genera and species including Apiaceae 28 / 40, Lamiaceae (21/47), Rosaceae (20/47), Brassicaceae (15/25), and Chenopodiaceae (13/44). A total of 7423 accessions belonging to 549 species of wild relatives of crop plants in Eudicots of representing 266 genera and 80 families were reported from different phyto-geographical regions of Iran. The present study examined herbarium specimen records from HSBU, W and WU as well basic Flora of Iran to provide distribution points in scale of country. Moreover, these taxa represents the highest richness in the Alborz and central Zagros mountains of Iran. The most threatening taxa (CR, EN, and VU) centered mostly in the central Alborz, Zagros and Kopet Dagh mountainous regions

Key Words : CWR, Iran, Priority, Conservation, Distribution