Tropentag, September 17-19, 2018, Ghent

"Global food security and food safety:
The role of universities"

Distribution Patterns and Priorities for Conservation of Iranian Crop Wild Relatives: A Case Study on Monocots

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Abstract

The climatic dissimilarities, huge potential for diversification, vegetation history caused by the complex tectonic events as well as soil heterogeneity shaped diverse geo-botanical units that makes Iran an important area of endemism and a global centre of diversity for plants. So, Iran contains approximately 7500–7800 plant taxa among which about 2200 taxa are considered to be endemics. Besides, the country is one of the most important origin centres of cultivated plants in the World. In Iran, little attention has been paid to centres of diversity and CWR hot spots in the selection of priority zones for conservation, therefore, it seems necessary to assess mentioned valuable taxa. A databank for analysis was taken from HSBU, and W, WU as well some basic flora (e.g. Flora Iranica and Flora of Iran) as well as some other numerous scientific literatures. Assessment of conservation status was based on the IUCN Red List at regional scale. The localities were marked using ArcView (ver. 3.2) using geo-referenced maps (1/106) with distribution points over 1° $\times 1°$ $universal transverse mercator (UTM) grid cells. Our study was the primary step on the ecological assessmen$

Keywords: Conservation, CWR, distribution patterns, Iran

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