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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 prioritisation. CWRs compose a significant percentage of Iranian flora. Intersection of diverse phytogeographical units harbors 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 $1^{\circ} \times 1^{\circ}$ universal transverse Mercator grid cells. The most densely populated families with the highest number of geographical regions of Iran. The present study examined herbarium specimen records from HSBU, W and WU.

Keywords: Conservation, cWR, Distribution, Iran, Priority