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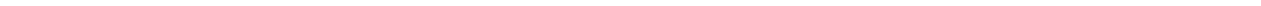
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An Investigation of Saxaoul (*Haloxylon spp*) for Improvement and Development of Saxaoul Lands

Safarnejad¹, A. and M.T. Kashki²

Abstract

Desert constitutes the biggest bioclimatic area in the world. Saxaoul (*Haloxylon spp*) is one of the most important stabilizers of sand dunes used in for biological combating of desertification. For improving and development of Saxaoul lands, this research was carried out in Bajestan Desert Plants Research Station (Khorasan) during 1998-2001.

The results indicated that, there is a significance difference between genotypes for height and cover characteristics. Higher heights were observed in genotypes number 3, 18 and 4 respectively. The most cover was observed in genotypes number 30, 1 and 3. The biggest trunk perimeter belonaed to genotypes number 23, 30, 18 and 21. The most branch height was characteristic of genotypes number 30, 22, 18 and 4 as compared with other genotypes. Branch number in genotype 30, 18, 17 and 21 was more than in other genotypes. In general,, genotypes number 18 (Sistan) and 30 (Semnan) were the most prominent for most characters. However, additional study is necessary for other characters before introducing any genotype for release.

Key words : Saxaoul, *Haloxylon*, Desert , Desertification, Breeding

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