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**INVESTIGATION OF HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION OF  
 DIFFERENT SPECIES OF *THYMUS* GENUS IN IRAN  
 (KURDISTAN PROVINCE)**

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This study was conducted to evaluate the ecological characteristics and identification of plant species in 6 habitat ranges of Kurdistan for 4 years from 2007 to 2010. Digital data of Kurdistan province were used and topographic position (slope, aspect and altitude), isoclimate, isothermal, isoevaporation and Hypsometry maps drawing and habitats were studied and evaluation of canopy cover, density, phenological stages and regeneration of thyme (*Thymus*) were performed. Results showed that the habitats of Kurdistan, including at least 8 species of thyme includes; *Th. kotschyanus*, *Th. fallax*, *Th. fedtschenkoi*, *Th. pubescens*, *Th. daenensis*, *Th. lancifolius*, *Th. transcaucasicus*, *Th. eriocalyx* are growing, and thyme habitats are outspread in almost all areas of Kurdistan. That habitats with at least 1 thyme species are over than 293000 hectares and most areas located in the north half of the province. *Th. pubescense* in Bijar, *Th. kotschyanus*, *Th. fedtschenkoi* and *Th. fallax* in Divandareh and Sazez are dominant species. The most habitats of thyme are located in 1600-2000 m. altitude, 400-500 mm annual rainfall, 10-12C°. average temperature, mediterranean climates and north & northwest slope directions. Result of soil tests showed that soil acidity (PH), were alkaline(7.07-8.2) and soil electrical conductivity(EC) were (0.31– 0.87ds/m), soil textures except the Bijar (clay loam) were sandy and sandy loam in other habitats. The phenological stages of thyme species related to altitude and temperature were different, in Naserabad and Saheb with lower altitude than other habitats, the beginning of growth occurred in the early March and ended in the early July, while in other habitats the beginning of growth occurred in middle or late March and plants have a longer growing period.

**References**

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