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EVALUATION OF MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERS AND ESSENTIAL OIL CONTENT IN SALVIA MULTICAULIS VAHL. ECOTYPES OF HAMEDAN PROVINCE, IRAN

Foroozan Salehi¹, Hossein Aroiee¹, Hassan Ali Naghdi Badi^{2,*}, Hosein Nemati¹, Majid Tolyat²

¹Department of Horticulture, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Iran ²Medicinal Plants Research Centre, Institute of Medicinal Plants, ACECR, Karaj, Iran E-mail: Naghdibadi@yahoo.com, E-mail: Foroozan.salehi@gmail.com

Salvia multicaulis Vahl. is one of the important unique medicinal plants belong to the Lamiaceae family which is extensively distributed in various districts of Hamedan province, Iran. This research was conducted to investigate diversity of some morpho-physiological properties and essential oil content among 11 ecotypes from this species in Hamedan province. The studied parameters were evaluated at the full flowering stage. Result showed that the most content of essential oil is related to Lashkardar and Gharb ecotypes (2%). The cluster analysis divided these ecotypes into two groups. The result of showed that the positive significant correlations between essential oil content with plant height and inflorescence branches dry matter. The analysis of the variability indicators in *S. multicaulis* ecotypes, originating from the Hamedan of Iran, showed a large variation in morphological traits and essential oil content. This information could be used in future study programs.