

***SIDERITIS RAESERI* Boiss. & Heldr. (ÇAJI I MALIT) DISTRIBUTION IN ALBANIA, CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE**

Alban Ibraliu¹, Belul Gixhari², Najada Kadiasi¹, Arlinda Agastra¹, Rea Tako¹, Jonida Hysko¹

¹ Department of Plant Sciences and Technologies, Agricultural University of Tirana, Tirana, Albania

² Albanian Genebank, Agricultural University of Tirana, Tirana, Albania

Sideritis raeseri Boiss.et Heldr., (Çaji i Malit) is included in the Red Book of Albania as an endangered species growing wild in Albania. The aim of this research was to investigate the natural distribution areas of *Sideritis raeseri* and to identify the possible cultivation areas assessing the relationships between environmental conditions and the physiological and morphometric characteristics of *Sideritis raeseri* populations. By identifying the most important natural growing areas of *Sideritis raeseri* populations, this study will contribute in the increasing of the representativeness of Çaji i Malit germplasm in genebank database and the possible quantity of incomes for the local people as the local employments are connected to an increment of *Sideritis* populations in the most natural growing areas of this species. Determining the map impact of cultivation of Çaji i Malit natural populations is an important undertaking, especially in sustainability of the families and individuals situated on the natural growing areas of *Sideritis* populations. Finally, the study has contributed in the development of Çaji i Malit database covering the geographic natural distribution of *Sideritis raeseri* and sparsely cultivation areas near of Natural Parks in Albania.

Key words: *Sideriti raeseri*, Albania, database