

Floristic Study of *Buxus hyrcana* Stands in the Western Forests of Haraz District, Amol

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Abstract

Floristic composition of boxwood (*Buxus hyrcana* Pojark) stands in the forests of Western Haraz, distributed at the altitudinal range of 250 to 1,200 m asl, was investigated by field-walk method. Results showed that the flora of this area includes 50 families, 69 genera, and 78 plant species. Rosaceae, Orchidaceae, Dryopteridaceae, Lamiaceae and Aspleniaceae are the greatest families in this area. Chorological studies showed that the largest proportion of the flora is related to Euro-Siberian region (56.4%). Cryptophytes (32 species), Phanerophytes (26 sp.) and Hemicryptophytes (16 sp.), which are comprising 44%, 33.3% and 20.5% of the flora, were the most important structure groups of the biological spectrum. Abundance of Cryptophytes with Phanerophytes and Hemicryptophytes in these forests implies that there is a temperate climate with cold winter, frequently rainfall and relatively cool summer, which are suitable for growing temperate forest. Frequent occurrence of *Prunus Laurocerasus* trees with *Daneae racemosa* as a woody understory species especially in the upper parts of the studied area accompany by absence of Therophytes and relatively well distribution of ferns species, especially *Asplenium scolopendrium*, also implies high, favorable, moisture conditions without any disturbances in Box tree stands of these forests.

Keywords: *Buxus hyrcana*, Chorology, Flora, Life form, Western forests of Haraz district.

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