MAPROW Species Data Fact Sheet

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Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Resources of the World

Edited by Dr Uwe Schippmann

Origanum compactum Benth. 11981 Labiatae

Nomenclatural reference 1100 GRIN Database (Germplasm Resources Information Network). USDA-ARS. Retrieved from www.ars-grin.gov

Summary

Distribution	Origanum compactum is a western Mediterranean element which has a restricted distribution in southern Spain and northern Morocco.
Legislation	The species is not protected by CITES.
Threat Category	Not assessed globally by IUCN. Assessed as Vulnerable in Spain. Not included in the 1998 national red list of Morocco.
Threat	Ocercollection. Drought. High risk of indiscriminant collection, since plants are often not identified to species level in trade.
Abundance	No published information on abundance.
Habitat	Found in forests, in mattoral (= macchia) and in a garigue-type vegetation called "ermes rocailleux".
Regeneration	No published information on vegetative regeneration.
Reproduction	Bee pollinated.
Lifeform	Perennial semi-shrub reaching a maximum height of 70cm.
Plant Parts	The flowers and leaves of the plant are used.
Use	The dried leaves and the essential oil of Origanum compactum is used for a variety of purposes as a herbal remedy and in flavouring.
Trade Scale	In Morocco the species has been identified as a target plant in the development strategy for the medicinal and aromatic plants sector. Export figures from Morocco have decreased in recent years.

Synonyms

Name	Ref	
Origanum creticum Schousb. ex Ball	1126	World Checklist of Selected Plant Families, RBG Kew. apps.kew.org/wcsp/home.do
Origanum glandulosum Salzm. ex Benth.	1126	

Name Used in Pharmacopoeias and other References

Name as used in Source	Reference	
Origanum compactum	5525	Penso, G. & Proserpio, G. (1997): Index plantarum medicinalium totius mundi eorumque synonymorum. 2nd edition. OEMF, Milano.
Origanum compactum	8350	Farnsworth, N.R., Graham, J. & Quinn-Beattie, M.L. (2.6.2009): NAPRALERT data-base export. Data obtained through the courtesy of Professor Norman R. Farnsworth, University of Illinois at Chicago.
Origanum compactum Benth.	1101	Hänsel, R. & al. (1992-1998): Hagers Handbuch der pharmazeutischen Praxis. 5. Auflage.5 volumes [4179, 4180, 4181, 6097, 6098]

Common Names

Common Name	Val	Typ	Lang	Country	Region	Ref	
Origan du Maroc		ver	fre			2113	Boulos, L. (1983): Medicinal plants of Nort
Zaatar		ver	ara			8989	Fennane, M., Ibn Tattou, M., Ouyahya, A.
Zaater		ver	ara			1101	Hänsel, R. & al. (1992-1998): Hagers Han
Za'ater		ver	ara			2113	Boulos, L. (1983): Medicinal plants of Nort

Distribution Range

Distribution Range	Ref	
"S de Espana (Cádiz), N de Africa (NW de Marruecos)"	8963	Valdés, B., Talavera, S. & Ferndéz-Galiano, E. (ed.) (1987): Flora vascular de Andalucía Occidental. Vol. 2. Ketres, Barcelona.
"S Espagne, N Afrique (NW du Maroc)"	8990	Valdés, B., Rejdali, M., Achhal el Kadmiri, A., Jury, J.L. & Montserrat, J.M. (ed.) (2002): Catalogue des plantes vasculaires du Nord du Maroc, incluant des cles d'identification. Checklist of vascular plants of N Morocco with identification keys. 2 volumes. CSIC, Madrid.

"southwest Spain, northern Africa"	8983	Spada, P. & Perrino, P. (1997): Conservation of oregano species in national and international collections. An assessment. In: Paludosi, S. (ed.): Oregano. Proceedings of the IPGRI International Workshop on Oregano, 8-12 May 1996, Valenzano, Bari, Italy. pp. 14-23. - IPGRI & IPK, Rome & Gatersleben (Promoting the conservation and use of underutilized and neglected crops 14). Retrieved from http://www.bioversityinternational.org/fileadmin/bioversity/publications/pdfs/199.pdf, viewed: 27.03.2013.
"SW. Spain, NW. Morocco"	1126	World Checklist of Selected Plant Families, RBG Kew. apps.kew.org/wcsp/home.do
Africa: Morocco [n.], Europe: Spain [s.]	1100	GRIN Database (Germplasm Resources Information Network). USDA-ARS. Retrieved from www.ars-grin.gov

Distribution

Continent	Region	ICC	Status	Free Text	Ref
1 Europe	12 Southwestern Europe	ES	native		1108
		ES	native	SW	1126
		ES	native		1147
		ES	native	"S de Espana (Cadiz) [...] Campiña Baja gaditana, Alegiciras"	8963
		ES	native		8982
		ES	native	"S Espagne"	8990
2 Africa	20 Northern Africa	MA	native	NW	1126
		MA	native		1147
		MA	native		8982
		MA	native	Maroc atlantique moyen et nord, Rif	8989
		MA	native	"NW du Maroc [...]. Toutes les régions exceptées: Guercif, Beni-Snassen"	8990

Abundance

Ecology

TypeEc	ICC	Ecology	Ref	
habit	MA	"Forèts, matorrals, ermes rocailleux, rochers; plaines et basses montagnes"	8989	Fennane, M., Ibn Tattou, M., Ou
repro		hermaphrodite flowers; pollinated by bees	1123	Plants for a Future. www.pfaf.or

Life Form

Duration	Lifeform	Woodiness	Height	Remark	Ref	
			up to 70cm		8963	Valdés, B., Talavera, S. & Fer
	Zwergstrauch		up to 35cm		1101	Hänsel, R. & al. (1992-1998):
perennial			up to 30cm		1123	Plants for a Future. www.pfaf.o

Population Status / Threat Causes

TypePop	ICC	PopulationStatus	Remark	Ref	
	ES	"Spain (southwest), V"	V=Vulnerabl	8984	Leadley, E. (1997): Conservati
	MA	"Level of threat: very high; Factors involved: Over harvesting, unsustainable harvesting, drought" [p. 48]		8991	Imane Thami Alami (2010): Int
cause		"The term 'oregano', 'origan' or 'origanum' has more a commercial meaning than a botanical one. Many crop species that do not belong to the genus Origanum are known on the international market as 'oregano'. In fact some of these species do not even belong to the Labiatae family. Conversely, in trading, some true species of Origanum are called by different commercial names."		8985	Bejilali, B. (1997): Origanum: w
cause	MA	"Four species are grown naturally in Morocco: O. compactum, O. elongatum (endemic), O. grosii and O. virens. The two formers are the most exploited. This was indeed confirmed during our surveying trip, where it was very difficult to find growing plants in their known habitat. Surveys in the most of the visited region showed the scarcity of these species, mainly due to their overharvest. When we reached some areas, by climbing high mountains, which were normally inaccessible to human activities, we could find few plants of these two species, which [...] presumably, escaped harvesting."		8979	Chaouki Al Faïz (ed.) (2007): B

Threat Categories

Glob	ICC	Region	Categ	Crit	Remark	Ref	
	ES	south west	V			1109	UNEP-WCMC Threatened Spe
	ES		VU		B2ab;D1+2	8484	Moreno, J.C. (coord.) (2009): L

Purpose of Use (standardised)

Purpose	ICC	Ref	
Used medicinally	ES	8350	Farnsworth, N.R., Graham, J. & Quinn-Beattie, M.L. (2.6.2009): NAPRALERT data-base export. D
Used medicinally	MA	8350	Farnsworth, N.R., Graham, J. & Quinn-Beattie, M.L. (2.6.2009): NAPRALERT data-base export. D

Purpose of Use (free text)

ICC	Purpose	Ref	
MA	"dried leaves are used for drugs and flavoring"	8985	Bejilali, B. (1997): Origanum: w
MA	"Dry plant fumigant, antiseptic, disinfectant; fumigation used for colds, bronchitis, cephalagia. Infusion of powdered plant excellent remedy for diarrhoea, stomach and intestinal troubles, digestive (Rabat drug market). Infusion of leaves and inflorescences tonic, antidiarrhoeic, slightly aphrodisiac."	2113	Boulos, L. (1983): Medicinal pl

Plant Parts Used

PlantPart (standardized entry)	Plant Part (free text)	Remark	Ref	
flower		"Getrocknete Blätter und Blüten"	1101	Hänsel, R. & al. (1992-1998):
leaf		"Getrocknete Blätter und Blüten"	1101	Hänsel, R. & al. (1992-1998):

Scale and Trend of Trade

ICC	Utilization	Remark	Ref	
MA	O. compactum is mentioned in the USAID funded National Development Strategy for the Aromatic and Medicinal Plants Sector which aims to enable the sector to shift from supplying raw materials to a genuinely industrial sector.		8978	Anon. (2008): National develop

Trade

Type	ICC	Utilization	Ref	
com	MA	"Getrocknete Blätter und Blüten"	1101	Hänsel, R. & al. (1992-1998):
com	MA	dried leaves	8985	Bejilali, B. (1997): Origanum: w
com	MA	essential oil	8978	Anon. (2008): National develop
cul	MA	cultivation trials since 2006	8979	Chaouki Al Faïz (ed.) (2007): E
exp	MA	"Many crop species that do not belong to the genus Origanum are known on the international market as 'oregano'. [...] In Morocco, there are five species belonging to the genus Origanum. [...] Among the five species, two are widely exploited for marketing and industrial purposes[...]. The estimated Moroccan yearly production [is] 1500 t of oregano"	8985	Bejilali, B. (1997): Origanum: w
exp	MA	"Oregano": 2005/6: 77t, 2006/7: 27t, 2007/8: 15t = in regression [p. 47]	8991	Imane Thami Alami (2010): Int
exp	MA	Plants commonly used in Morocco for essentials oils and aromatic flavouring production: Rosmarinus officinalis, Artemisia herba-alba, Cedrus atlantica, Myrtus communis, Origanum compactum, Origanum elongatum, Thymus satureioides, Laurus nobilis, Evernia prunastri, Evernia furfuracea, Ormenis mixta, Mentha pulegium	8978	Anon. (2008): National develop

Legislation

Regulation

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1108 Feig, F. (compiler): Access database containing data on species level from Flora Europaea vol. 1, ed.2 and vols. 2-5, ed.1. Nees-Institut, Bonn. Unpublished

1109 UNEP-WCMC Threatened Species Database. Download of 1997 regional threat assessments sent 15.6.2011 by H. Gillett. Cambridge, UK (cf. Walter & Gillett, 1997 IUCN Red List of threatened plants)

1123 Plants for a Future. www.pfaf.org

1126 World Checklist of Selected Plant Families, RBG Kew. apps.kew.org/wcsp/home.do

1147 Euro+Med PlantBase. - http://ww2.bgbm.org/EuroPlusMed/query.asp

2113 Boulos, L. (1983): Medicinal plants of North Africa. Reference Publications, Algonac (Medicinal Plants of the World 3).

5525 Penso, G. & Proserpio, G. (1997): Index plantarum medicinalium totius mundi eorumque synonymorum. 2nd edition. OEMF, Milano.

8350 Farnsworth, N.R., Graham, J. & Quinn-Beattie, M.L. (2.6.2009): NAPRALERT data-base export. Data obtained through the courtesy of Professor Norman R. Farnsworth, University of Illinois at Chicago.

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8979 Chaouki Al Faïz (ed.) (2007): Biological diversity, cultural and economic value of medicinal, herbal and aromatic plants in Morocco. Annual report 2005-2006. USDA, s.loc. Retrieved from http://www.pam-morocco.org/pdf/annual%20report%202007.pdf, viewed: 27

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8985 Bejilali, B. (1997): Origanum: what does this mean? The case of Morocco. In: Paludosi, S. (ed.): Oregano. Proceedings of the IPGRI International Workshop on Oregano, 8-12 May 1996, Valenzano, Bari, Italy. pp. 138. - IPGRI & IPK, Rome & Gatersleben (Promot

8989 Fennane, M., Ibn Tattou, M., Ouyahya, A. & El Qualidi, J. (2007): Flore pratique du Maroc. Vo. 2. Institut Scientifique, Rabat.

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8991 Imane Thami Alami (2010): International status of selected Moroccan MAPs with market accessibility. Plants of Morocco's south and oasis. In: UNDP (ed.): Mainstreaming biodiversity into value chains for Mediterranean medicinal and aromatic plants. GEF Prop

Abbreviations and Standards

ICC = ISO Country Codes Ref = literature reference

Altitude: Low / High = minimum and maximum limits of altitude range [m]

Legislation: Source Taxon = name of taxon as contained in legislation

Utilization: TypeUtil

TypeUtil	*TypeUtilLong*
com	commodity
cul	cultivation
exp	export
har	harvest
imp	import
price	price
pur	purpose
rem	remark
sus	sustainability
tra	trade
trend	trend and scale of trade

Distribution Status: Standard

Status	*Explanation*
ina	introduced (naturalized)
ali	casual alien
pex	(presumably) extinct
don	doubtfully native
ica	introduced (casual or naturalized)
sou	source doubtful
cul	cultivated
ext	extinct
unc	status unclear
ocd	occurrence doubtful
adv	introduced, not established
int	introd., established
nat	native
chk	check entry

Common names: Type

TypeShort	*Type*
?	<unknown>
ayn	ayurvedic name
hom	homoeopathic name
pha	pharmaceutical name
scn	standardized common name
tra	trade name
ver	vernacular name

Ecology: TypeEcol

TypeEcol	*Explanation*
alti	altitude
feed	feed
grow	growth rate
habit	habitat
morph	morphology
regen	regeneration
repro	reproduction
soil	soil