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STUDIES ON LIBYAN GRASSES VII. ADDITIONAL NOTE ON SCHISMUS ARABICUS AND S. BARBATUS

SHAMIM A. FARUQI

Department of Botany, Al-Faateh University, Tripoli, Libya

In a previous publication (Faruqi & Quraish, 1979) it was proposed that in Libya natural hybridization between Schismus arabicus and S. barbatus takes place in the Jabal Nafusa area. Although many populations were scored, but a true S. arabicus was not found either in the Jabal Nafusa or its vicinity. One such collection was found by the author lately between Garian and Mizda, which confirms that S. arabicus although quite rare, does exist in this locality. This finding provides further support to the postulation that the populations in this area represent the hybrids involving S. arabicus and S. barbatus. Furthermore, the hybrids and the backcross progeny have replaced the original S. arabicus population which eventually is likely to get extinct from this area. Although the backcross involves only S. barbatus, still the progeny occupies the niche of S. arabicus. It seems that most probably only those plants survive which receive the cold tolerant genes of S. arabicus.

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Reference

Faruqi, S.A. and H.B. Quraish. 1979. Sudies on Libyan grasses. V. Population variability and distribution of Schismus arabicus and S. barbatus in Libya. Pak. J. Bot., 11: 167-172.