

Contribution to the flora of old cemeteries in Central Tunisia

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Cemeteries are repositories of natural and cultural diversity (Barrett & Barrett 2001). Ecological studies on cemeteries are mainly published only from Europe, only few publications are dealing with North America or Australia. Little is known about the flora of grave yards in Northern Africa, except the tombs of marabouts and sacred groves in their vicinity.

Therefore I publish some accidental observations from Monastir, Kairouan and Mahdia made on excursions between 1993 and 1998. The old cemeteries of Monastir, Mahdia and Kairouan are quite different to European cemeteries: ornamental plants are lacking totally, there is mostly no maintenance to be observed. The flora comprises widely distributed ruderals as well as species of steppe and semidesert. The pressure of pasturing is much less than in the surroundings of the towns, even if some cemeteries are sometimes grazed by sheep.



Fig. 1: Old cemetery of Monastir (1998).



Fig. 2: *Echiochilon fruticosum*, *Plantago albicans* and *Lobularia maritima* (old cemetery of Monastir 1998).



Fig. 3: *Dipcadi serotina* and *Echinops spinosissimus* (old cemetery of Monastir 1998).

The following species are recorded during excursions between 1993 and 1998 (dominant and subdominant species are given in bold figures):

Anacyclus clavatus (Monastir)
Anagallis monelli (Monastir)
Arisarum vulgare (Monastir)
Asphodelus fistulosus (Monastir)
Atriplex halimus (Mahdia)
Beta vulgaris subsp. maritima (Mahdia)
Bromus madritensis (Monastir)
Calendula arvensis (Mahdia)
Carduus cf. getulus (Kairouan)
Carthamus lanatus (Kairouan)
Centaurea sphaerocephala (Monastir)
Cynodon dactylon (Monastir)
Delphinium peregrinum (Monastir)
Diplotaxis muralis (Monastir)
Echiochilon fruticosum (Monastir)
Echinops spinosissimus (Monastir)
Echium div. spec. (Kairouan, Mahdia)
Emex spinosa (Mahdia, Monastir)
Euphorbia spec. (Mahdia, Monastir)
Galium aparine (Mahdia)



Fig. 4: *Malva sylvestris* (old cemetery of Monastir 1998).

Glaucium flavum (Mahdia, Monastir)

Glebionis coronaria [= *Chrysanthemum coronarium*] (Mahdia)

Helianthemum lippii (Monastir)

Hordeum cf. *leporinum* (Kairouan, Mahdia, Monastir)

Hyoscyamus albus (Mahdia)

Lagurus ovatus (Mahdia, Monastir)

Lamarckia aurea (Monastir)

Lavatera cretica (Mahdia)

Limonium lobatum (Monastir)

Linaria spec. (Monastir)

Linaria triphylla (Monastir)

Lobularia maritima (Mahdia, Monastir)

Lotus creticus (Mahdia, Monastir)

Lycium europaeum (Monastir)

Malva parviflora (Monastir)

Malva sylvestris (Monastir)

Medicago truncatula (Monastir)

Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum (Kairouan)

Mesembryanthemum crystallinum (Mahdia)

Nicotiana glauca (Mahdia, Monastir)

Nigella sativa (Monastir)

Nonea vesicaria (Mahdia, Monastir)



Fig. 4: *Nonea vesicaria* (old cemetery of Monastir 1998).



Fig. 5: Rumex tingitanus and Lobularia maritima (old cemetery of Monastir 1998).



Fig. 6: Old cemetery of Mahdia (1994).

Onopordum cf. espiniae (Mahdia)
Peganum harmala (Kairouan, Mahdia, Monastir)
Plantago albicans (Monastir)
Polycarpon tetraphyllum (Monastir)
Reichardia tingitana (Monastir)
Reseda alba (Monastir)
Ricinus communis (Monastir)
Rostraria cristata [= Koeleria phleoides] (Monastir)
Rumex tingitanus (Monastir)
Salsola kali (Mahdia)
Salvia officinalis (Monastir)
Salvia verbenaca (Monastir)
Silybum marianum (Mahdia)
Urginea maritima (Mahdia)
Urtica pilulifera (Mahdia)
Urtica urens (Monastir)

References

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