

Identification of species and collection establishment of Barberries (*Berberis spp.*)

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Heredity reservoirs of plants is considered as one of the most valuable national resources of a country. In recent decades, identification and protection of native plants, especially those plants which are used for range renovation has become a necessity.

Seeded species of barberry are the most valuable native plants in IRAN. These plants have several uses. In range renovation, they are being considered as valuable plants. Moreover, for a long time, root, stem and fruit of this plant are considered traditionally as one of the important resources in food and medicine.

In this research we have attempted to accomplish a collection of barberry plants in mashhad. For this purpose; firstly, shrubs with typical characteristics in barberry gardens in southern Khorasan were identified and sampled. Secondly, native seeded barberry plants in natural habitats in this province and other provinces of IRAN were identified and sampled. Thirdly ornamental species of barberry in three botanical gardens in IRAN were visited and sampled, and then their phenotypical characteristics were studied in the laboratory.

After primary identification and sampling from branches with different ages, fresh samples were transferred to the laboratory and morphological characteristics such as branch, leaf, thorn, inflorescence were studied. The physico-chemical characteristics of fruits in some of the samples were measured as well.

With respect to the results of this study, three groups of barberry plants were