

VALORIZATION OF THE FIG TREE IN THE KESSRA REGION: EFFECT OF WATER STRESS ON PLANT DEVELOPMENT

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Through the example of the figs sector in the mountainous communities of Kesra in northern Tunisia, we try to show how this insufficiently developed product deserves to be better known and more studied, not only within its scientific and cultural value, but also like invaluable resource for economic development. With this in mind, water stress was tested on 22 varieties of fig trees in the Kessra region. The pot experiment was carried out under field conditions at the Faculty of Sciences of Tunis (FST) in summer 2021. The duration of the drought experiment was 50 days. Four control plants and four stressed plants were considered. During the experiment, physiological parameters such as relative water content (RWC), leaf temperature, chlorophyll content (SPAD values) were recorded in three times: at the beginning, at half time 1 (Mid-I, 15 days from the start of the test, T15) and at half-time 2 (Mid-II, 30 days from the start of the test, T30) and morphological parameters such as the number of leaves, plant height and stem diameter were measured. Subsequently, statistical analyzes were carried out and showed that 7 varieties proved their tolerance to water stress and a varietal catalog of the Kessra region was prepared which could be very useful for sustainable agriculture.

Key words: Fig, Kesra, Tunisia, Water stress.

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