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**MORPHO-ANATOMICAL STRUCTURE AND ITS
RELATION TO ADAPTIVE MECHANISMS IN
SOME EGYPTIAN PLANTS UNDER STRESS
CONDITIONS**

By

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B.Sc. Agric. Sc. (Plant production), Fac. of Agric., Ain Shams Univ. (2016)

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ABSTRACT

Aya Mahmoud Mehanny Ali: Morpho-Anatomical Structure and Its Relation to Adaptive Mechanisms in Some Egyptian Plants Under Stress Conditions, M. Sc. Thesis, Agric. Botany Dept., Fac. of Agric., Ain Shams Univ., 2022.

This work was achieved to study the morph-anatomical and physiological adaptations of two Mediterranean species under natural stress conditions in different seasons. *Chiliadenus candicans* and *Tamarix nilotica* are perennial plants that grow naturally in the Northwestern Mediterranean coast region. *C. candicans* grows in sand dunes while *T. nilotica* grows in salt marshes habitats. After studying the climate data and the result of soil analysis, it was evident that the plants growing in the study areas suffer from several environmental stresses, including drought and salinity, which are more intense in the summer season than in winter, in addition to the increase in both temperature and solar radiation in summer. The results of the study showed that both the studied plants require flexibility in their responses to abiotic stresses that they suffered. *T. nilotica* was distinguished by the presence of salt glands that it uses to expulsion excess salts outside its body as an adaptation mechanism against salinity. While *C. candicans* was distinguished by the seasonal dimorphism phenomenon and the presence of trichomes. *C. candicans* use these features to reduce the surface area of transpiration. Consequently, reduce water loss by transpiration as a stress adapting mechanism. Both the studied plants showed several combined morpho-anatomical and physiological adaptations that are very noticeable in the summer compared to the winter. The most important of these adaptations are the significant reduction of the leaf area. Also, the increases in the thickness of cuticle layer and the leaf thickness as a result of the increase in the thickness of the photosynthetic tissues. These changes were amid to reducing water loss by transpiration or maintaining the efficiency of photosynthesis process. On the other hand, the most noticeable

physiological changes were the increasing of some compounds concentration in summer more than in winter. This aims to osmotic adjustment to improve water retention efficiency or have antioxidant activity. These compounds include proline, total phenolic compounds, sugars and free amino acids. These traits improve the ability of plants to withstand the environmental stress conditions in the sand dunes and salt marshes habitats.

Key words: *Chiliadenus candicans*, *Tamarix nilotica*, Salinity, Drought, Solar Radiation, Plant Adaptations, Sand Dunes and Salt Marches.

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CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF TABLES	IV
LIST OF FIGURES	V
LIST OF ABBRIVIATIONS	XI
INTRODUCTION	1
REVIEW OF LITERATURE	4
1. The Northern Mediterranean coastal land.....	4
1.1. The climate of the region.....	4
1.2 Flora of the Western Mediterranean coast	5
2. The habitat types in the Western Mediterranean region.....	5
2.1. The sand dunes.....	6
2.2. The salt Marshes.....	6
3. Plant adaptation in Mediterranean regions.....	8
3.1. The morphological adaptation.....	8
3.2. Physiological and biochemical adaptation	12
3.2.1. Leaf relative water content (RWC)	12
3.2.2. Water potential.....	13
3.2.3. Photosynthetic characteristics.....	13
3.2.4. Metabolic responses.....	14
3.2.5. Osmotic adjustment.....	14
3.2.6. Salt excretion	17
4. The plants of the study.....	18
4.1. <i>Chiliadenus candicans</i> (Delile) Brullo.....	18

II

4.2. <i>Tamarix nilotica</i> (Ehrenb) Bunge.....	19
MATERIALS AND METHODS.....	22
1. Study area and plant materials.....	22
2. Climate data.....	22
3. Soil analysis.....	22
4. Morphological and anatomical examinations.....	23
5. Physiological and chemical characters.....	24
5.1. Determine of relative water content (RWC)	24
5.2. Determine of water content percentage	25
5.3. Determination of electrolyte leakage.....	25
5.4. Determination of photosynthetic pigments.....	25
5.5. Determination of proline.....	26
5.6. Determination of Total Phenols.....	27
5.7. Determination of Total Sugars.....	27
5.8. Determination of Free amino acids.....	28
6. Statistical analysis.....	28
RESULTS.....	29
1. Climate data.....	29
2. Soil properties.....	29
2.1. Soil properties of sand dune habitat.....	29
2.2. Soil properties of salt marsh habitat.....	29
3. <i>Chiliadenus candicans</i> (Delile) Brullo.....	33
3.1. Morphological characters.....	33

III

3.2. The anatomical characters.....	36
3.2.1. The structure of the young stem in winter season.....	36
3.2.2. The structure of the young stem in summer season.....	39
3.2.3. The structure of the old stem.....	43
3.2.4. The structure of the leaves in winter season	46
3.2.5. The structure of the leaves in summer season.....	48
3.3. Physiological and chemical characters.....	55
4. <i>Tamarix nilotica</i> (Ehrenb) Bunge.....	59
4.1. Morphological characters.....	59
4.2. Anatomical characters.....	61
4.2.1. The structure of young stem in winter season	61
4.2.2. The structure of young stem in summer season.....	63
4.2.3. The structure of the old stem	66
4.2.4. The structure of leaves in winter season	67
4.2.5. The structure of leaves in summer season	69
4.3. Physiological and chemical characters.....	73
DISCUSSION	77
SUMMARY	90
REFERENCES	95
ARABIC SUMMARY	

LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
1	The climate data of the study area in winter and summer seasons during 2018 and 2019.	31
2	Physical properties of the soil supporting to the study plants in winter and summer seasons.	32
3	Chemical properties of the soil supporting to the study plants in winter and summer seasons.	32
4	Quantitative morphological characteristics of seasonal dimorphism phenomenon of <i>Chiliadenus candicans</i> .	36
5	Anatomical characteristics of stem of <i>Chiliadenus candicans</i> in both growth seasons.	53
6	Anatomical characteristics of leaf of <i>Chiliadenus candicans</i> in both growth seasons.	54
7	Biochemical and physiological parameters of <i>Chiliadenus candicans</i> .	58
8	Anatomical characteristics of stem of <i>Tamarix nilotica</i> in different seasons.	71
9	Morpho-anatomical characteristics of the leaf of <i>Tamarix nilotica</i> in different seasons.	72
10	Physiological and chemical parameters of <i>Tamarix nilotica</i> .	76

LIST OF FIGURES

No.		Page
1	<i>Chiliadenus candicans</i> in its habitat. A: General view, B: <i>C. candicans</i> in summer season, C: <i>C. candicans</i> in winter season.	34
2	A close-up photograph of <i>C. candicans</i> , A a shoot in winter; B&C wintery leaves, D a shoot in summer, E&F summery leaves.	35
3	General view of young stem of <i>C. candicans</i> in winter. ep, epidermis; co, cortex; fb, fibers; ph, phloem; pi, pith; x, xylem.	37
4	Transection reveals the epidermal cells and outer cortical layers of <i>C. candicans</i> in winter. ngt, nonglandular trichome; gt, glandular trichome; ep, epidermis; ct, collenchymatous tissue.	38
5	Transection reveals the stomata and thin cuticle of <i>C. candicans</i> in wintery leaf. cu, cuticle; ep, epidermis; ; pt, photosynthetic tissue; st, stomata.	38
6	A druse in wintery stem of <i>C. candicans</i> .	39
7	An enlarged view reveals the wintery stem of <i>C. candicans</i> . co, cortex; en, endodermis; ep, epidermis; fb, fibers; ph, phloem; pi, pith; x, xylem.	39
8	Transection in stem of <i>C. candicans</i> in summer. co, cortex; ep, epidermis; fb, fibers; ph, phloem; pi, pith; x, xylem.	41
9	An enlarged view reveals the summery stem of <i>C. candicans</i> . co, cortex; ep, epidermis; gt, glandular trichome; ngt, nonglandular trichome; pt, photosynthetic tissue; en, endodermis	41

VI

10	An enlarged view reveals a part of the summery stem of <i>C. candicans</i> , arrows reveal druses.	42
11	The structure of the summery vascular bundles and pith. fb, fibers; ph, phloem; pi, pith; x, xylem.	42
12	An enlarged view in <i>C. candicans</i> of summery stem, note the arrows pointed to druses in pith	43
13	General view of the old stem of <i>C. candicans</i> shows its structure. co, cortex; ep, epidermis; fb, fibers; ph, phloem; pi, pith; x, xylem.	44
14	An enlarged view of the old stem of <i>C. candicans</i> shows its structure. co, cortex; en, endodermis; ep, epidermis; fb, fibers; ph, phloem; pi, pith; x, xylem.	44
15	Transection in an old stem of <i>C. candicans</i> shows its structure.	45
16	Transection in an old stems of <i>C. candicans</i> shows the secondary growth. fb, fibers; ph, phloem; sx, secondary xylem; vc, vascular cambium.	45
17	General view of wintery leaf of <i>C. candicans</i> . le, lower epidermis; p, palisade tissue; sp, spongy tissue; ue, upper epidermis.	46
18	The structure of the midrib of wintery leaf of <i>C. candicans</i> . fb, fibers; le, lower epidermis; p, palisade tissue; ph, phloem; ue, upper epidermis; x, xylem.	47
19	The structure of wintery leaf lamina of <i>C. candicans</i> . le, lower epidermis; p, palisade tissue; sp, spongy tissue; ue, upper epidermis; vb, vascular bundle.	47
20-21	Enlarged views reveal the upper and lower epidermises and stomata of wintery leaf of <i>C. candicans</i> . le, lower epidermis; st, stoma; ue, upper epidermis.	48

VII

22	An enlarged view reveals the structure of the midvein bundle of wintery leaf <i>C. candicans</i> . fb, fibers; ph, phloem; x, xylem.	48
23	General view of summery leaf of <i>C. candicans</i> .	50
24	The structure of the summery leaf lamina of <i>C. candicans</i> . t, trichome; pt, palisade tissue; sp, spongy tissue; ue, upper epidermis.	50
25	An enlarged view reveals the adaxial surface of summery leaf of <i>C. candicans</i> . note the thick-walled cells in the mesophyll.	51
26	An enlarged view reveals the abaxial surface of summery leaf of <i>C. candicans</i> . cu, cuticle; ; d, druses; gt, glandular trichome; le, lower epidermis.	51
27	An enlarged view reveals upper and lower epidermises and the palisade tissue on both leaf surfaces of summer leaf of <i>C. candicans</i> .	52
28	An enlarged view reveals the structure of the midvein bundle in summery leaf, note the sclerenchymatous cells surround the bundle. ph, phloem; sc, sclerenchymatous cells; x, xylem.	52
29	Effect of growth season on leaf relative water content of <i>Chiliadenus candicans</i> .	55
30	Effect of growth season on water content percentage of <i>Chiliadenus candicans</i> .	55
31	Effect of growth season on electrolyte leakage percentage of <i>Chiliadenus candicans</i> .	56
32	Effect of growth season on the concentration of photosynthetic pigments of <i>Chiliadenus candicans</i> .	56

VIII

33	Effect of growth season on proline concentration of <i>Chiliadenus candicans</i> .	57
34	Effect of growth season on total phenols concentration of <i>Chiliadenus candicans</i> .	57
35	Effect of growth season on total sugars concentration of <i>Chiliadenus candicans</i> .	57
36	Effect of growth season on free amino acids concentration of <i>Chiliadenus candicans</i> .	58
37	<i>Tamarix nilotica</i> in its habitat.	59
38	An enlarged photograph of <i>T. nilotica</i> , A, B a shoot in winter, C, D a shoot in summer, note the salt crystals in the shoot of summer, arrows refer to leaves	60
39	General view of wintry shoot of <i>T. nilotica</i> .	62
40	Transection in a young stem and leaf in <i>T. nilotica</i> of winter season.	62
41	An enlarged view reveals the wintry stem of <i>T. nilotica</i> . co, cortex; ep, epidermis; ph, phloem; pi, pith; pt, photosynthetic tissue; sg, salt gland; x, xylem.	63
42	General view of summery shoot of <i>T. nilotica</i> .	64
43	Transverse section reveals the summery stem of <i>T. nilotica</i> . co, cortex; ep, epidermis; p, palisade tissue; ph, phloem; pi, pith; x, xylem.	65
44	An enlarged view reveals the summery stem structure of <i>T. nilotica</i> , note the papillose cells and the thick cuticle. cu, cuticle; ep, epidermis; fb, fibers; p, palisade tissue; ph, phloem; x, xylem.	65