

Vascular plants from North Africa deposited in the BC herbarium

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The sub-collection of North African Plants, deposited in the Botanical Institute of Barcelona, is one of the most important collections that offer a great coverage of the Maghreb floristic area, including Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria. It is scientifically relevant because it covers an important floristic area, the Maghreb, which is considered a hotspot of biodiversity, because of its high taxonomic richness and strong plant endemism.

The core of the North African plants sub-collection started to be built over a century ago by the eminent botanist Pius Font Quer (1888-1964), who carried out important research work on the flora of Morocco, considerably unknown at the early XIX century. Another botanist who made important contributions to the North African sub-collection was Frere Sennen (Étienne Marcellin Granier-Blanc, 1861-1937) who published numerous new nomenclatural proposals for Moroccan taxa. This collection is closely related to the historical interest in Moroccan flora by the Botanical Institute staff, that periodically carry out collection campaigns in Morocco for research projects and it is continuously growing. The accessions increased actively through two important projects: the "Catalogue des Plantes Vasculaires du Nord du Maroc" (2002) and the "Biogeographic study of the flora of Andalusia and its relations with that of the North of Morocco" (2002-2005).

At present, all specimens are catalogued using Herbar application (with some Elysia functionalities), being both applications developed by the Spanish GBIF node. Google Earth was used to assign geographic coordinates to the specimens. Nowadays it includes 36,991 specimens and 1101 nomenclatural types, collected from XIX century to present, and 99.31 of specimens have geographic coordinates.

This communication provides a general quantitative and qualitative description of the North African plants sub-collection and also a general description of the process carried out to make it available to scientific community.

