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An investigation on some ecological characteristics of *Ziziphus spina chirsti* (L.) in southern Iran

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Key words: *Ziziphus spina chirsti* (L.), distribution, southern Iran

Introduction *Ziziphus spina chirsti* is a plant indigenous to the subtropical parts of southern Iran. It is a deciduous shrub growing to the height of 5m. It flowers from July to August and seeds ripen from October to December. This plant has different uses in Iran, China, and Saudi Arabia. The leaves of this plant are locally called "Sedr" and are used for washing the hair and body in Iran. The objectives of this study were to determine phenological and ecological aspects of this species in Iran.

Material and methods In this research, the spatial distribution, phenology, and edaphic requirements of *Ziziphus spina chirsti* (L.) were investigated in the Shiraz area by periodical visits to different areas of its distributions. The EC, pH, and texture of soils around this species were measured.

Results The general view of *Ziziphus spina chirsti* (L.) and its ecological characteristics are shown in Figure 1 and Table 1.

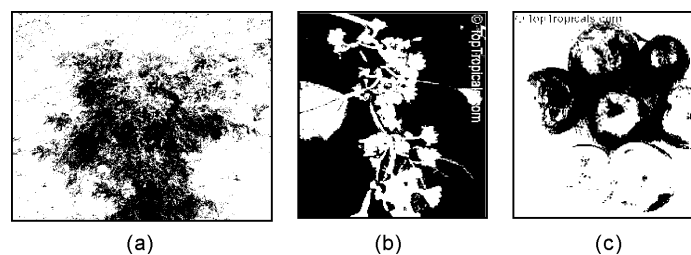


Figure 1 The general view of (a) canopy, (b) flowers, and (c) fruits for *Ziziphus spina chirsti* (L.)

Table 1 Some of the ecological characteristics of *Ziziphus spina chirsti* (L.) in south of Shiraz, Iran.

Distribution	Accompanied Species	Annual rain of study area	Methods of Propagation	Use	Botanical characteristics	Common names	Edaphic requirements
South of Shiraz :	<i>Tecomella</i>			agroforestry			
Larestan	<i>undulata</i>			aforestation	Family of		
Khonj	<i>Mirtous comonis</i>	100-200 mm	seed and stem	medicine	<i>Rhamnacea</i> .	Konar	Loamy texture
Lamerd	<i>Tamarix sp.</i>			fruit	Perennial,	Sedr	EC 2-3.5
				forage	hermaphrodite		pH 7-7.5
				water and soil conservation	flower		

Conclusion The economic and medical values of this species are important in south of Iran, so further research is needed for its propagation through seed adaptation in nurseries and areas of its occurrence.

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