

STUDY ON RELATION BETWEEN MORPHOLOMETRIC AND MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTIC AND MOLECULAR MARKERS OF DATE PALM

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Date palm is the most important cultivated plants in Moroccan oases. In order to improve it genetically in breeding program, the selection assisted by molecular markers would be the most efficient and economic strategy. The descriptive studies were based on the observations and measurements on 35 Moroccan cultivars and accessions including palm and date. The data analysis made by computer program has showed several discriminating criteria. Global analysis of morphological criteria and Random Amplified Polymorphic DNA (RAPD) markers showed some relation between them. This preliminary investigation that will be continued may allow to establish a genetic map which will enhance the strategies for breeding and selection of new and desired date palm cultivars.