

Spatial pattern of Lebanon oak (*Quercus libani* Oliv.) in Baneh forests, Kurdistan province

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Abstract

Spatial pattern is an important parameter in ecology of forest communities. Lebanon oak (*Quercus libani* Oliv.) as a native species, covers 24% of northern Zagros forests. *Quercus libani* plays a significant role in ecological and social conditions of local people. Hence, the present study was conducted to investigate the spatial pattern of this oak species based on T-square sampling in Belake forests, northern Zagros. For this purpose, a 40-ha area was inventoried based on distance method. Systematic- random method with 25×25 m² plots was used for inventory. A total of 43 random points with 100m distance were determined. Eberhardt, Hines, Hopkins, C index and Index of dispersion were used for dispersion pattern and the results were tested at 5% level. Eberhardt's index, Hines, Hopkins and Index of dispersion showed disperse pattern, while C index indicated clump pattern. But only Eberhardt's index result was significant. Our results can be applied as a useful tool in developing the management programs, afforestation and reforestation programs in order to protect the endangered ecosystems.

Keywords: Distance methods, Eberhardt's index, Northern Zagros forests, T-square sampling.