

TECHNOLOGY DESIGN FOR *SIDERITIS SCARDICA* AS A NEW CULTURE IN ROMANIA

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Abstract

*The current ascending international trends to enclose in production and food sector the aromatic and medicinal plants is similar in Romania too. Due to a steadily loss of biodiversity, many endemic species, especially in the areas of origin, are endangered, among them being the specie *Sideritis scardica*. In Romania, after 1996 it was the subject of acclimatization and breeding research. At the same time, in order to popularize and expand the specie in culture, the focus of the research was directed towards the elaboration of the specific growing technology in accordance with the pedo-climatic conditions of our country. This work summarizes the research undertaken at BRGV Buzau in the period 2019-2021 on the optimal culture technology at *Sideritis scardica* highlighting the fact that the best results were obtained at the establishment of the culture by seedling, obtained by the experimental variant represented by 80% peat and 20% dolomite (limestone). The optimal scheme for planting in the field was of 70 cm between rows and 50 cm between plants/row and the maximum biomass production was obtained in the 3rd year of cultivation, respectively 179 kg green mass/100sqm. Studies have shown that *Sideritis scardica* can be successfully cultivated in Romania with a real potential for valorization: medicinal, aromatic honey, ornamental and last but not least for the capitalization of arid hollows in mountainous areas.*

Key words: *genotype, breeding, acclimatization, Mursalski, seedling*