

**POLLEN GRAIN IN *TAMARIX ARBOREA* VAR. *ARBOREA***

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The diffusion in the Italian territory, as wild and cultivated plant, of *T. arborea* (Sieb. ex Ehrenb.) Bge. var. *arborea* resulted wider than us could be waited for (Venturella *et al.*, 2007). *T. arborea* var. *arborea* is characterized by aestival inflorescences composed of racemes and vernal inflorescence simple. The racemes are not longer than 6 cm long and 5 mm broad (Baum, 1978). The species is not still well investigated from the anatomical (leaf, root and stem) and palynological point of view. Nair (1962) investigated the Indian species of tamarisks and reported for *T. arborea* the following concise description: prolate,  $27 \times 18 \mu\text{m}$ , type of pollen grains with irregular reticulum. In order to better characterize the pollen grain morphology of *T. arborea* var. *arborea* a number of racemes was collected in different localities of the Sicilian territory. The racemes were sifted out and then the pollen grains were fixed on slides with a drop of glycerine mixed with fucine and observed under optical microscope. The presence of pollenkitt was observed in all the analyzed samples of *T. arborea* var. *arborea* confirming that pollination in tamarisks species is entomophilous. Besides the pollen grains were dehydrated and metalized in graphite and then observed to SEM. The pollen grains of *T. arborea* var. *arborea* are prolate,  $22.5 \times 12 \mu\text{m}$ , tricolpate with sexine thinner in the colpus and reticulate exine. The new description here reported will contribute to yield more taxonomic evidence in the genus *Tamarix* L. and in the investigated species too.

Baum B.R., 1978. The genus *Tamarix*. Jerusalem, pp. 209.

Nair P.K.K., 1962. Pollen grains of Indian Plants II Gdnrs Bull. Lucknow 60: 6-9

Venturella G., Baum B.R., Mandracchia G., 2007. The genus *Tamarix* (*Tamaricaceae*) in Sicily: first contribution. Flora Mediterranea 2: 25-46.

INDICE