SPATIAL PATTERN OF INDIVIDUAL GENETIC SIMILARITIES IN POPULATION OF *ASPLENIUM CETERACH* (*ASPLENIACEAE: PTERIDOPHYTA*)

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ABSTRACT

The genetic relatedness of individuals can give a population finer scale spatial pedigree structure. The relation of genetic similarity and spatial distance refers to the dispersal characters and reproductive relations existing among individuals. Our main purpose here was to obtain information on the genetic spatial pattern before a more profound spatial autocorrelation analysis of *Asplenium ceterach* individuals. Three physically isolated subpopulation patches of the tetraploid *A. ceterach* subs. *ceterach* were identified on the southern rocky faces of the St. György Hill in Hungary. The genetic properties were scored and cluster analysis, UPGMA, was carried out in three steps using progressively larger samples: 42, 85 and 320 individuals were chosen. Cluster analysis revealed a minimum of 70% genetic similarities among individuals indicating intensive gene flow between subpopulations, but there was also detectable correspondence between individual genetic similarities and spatial position.