



A Comparative study of morphological , physiological and chemical properties of leafs and steam samples of (*E.gomphocephala*) (Tuart)plant growing at coastal (Derna city) and Mountain (Al-Bayda city) regions

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ABSTRACT

A comparative of morphological , physiological and chemical study was carried out on (*E.gomphocephala*) Plant growing at two different regions of coastal (Derna city) and Mountain (Al-Bayda city) locations. Leaf and steam samples of each plant were selected in this study. Some of morphological , physiological and chemical properties (leaf area, fresh weight, dry weight, leaf color , plant length stem diameter , chlorophyll a,b and starch) beside some of chemical constituents (minerals and metals) were estimated .The studies which designed on the estimate the effect climate changes on the selected properties in this study , where the same plant is grow in different regions) One at the coastal area and the other one at the mountain regions of Al –Bayda city). The results showed different values of the most selected properties , the study concluded that , these changes in the properties are mainly attributed to the effect the different climate in the two regions. Therefore the study highly recommending to study other plants which growing in two different area (as semi desert and coastal or mountain locations) especially of Al –Gabal Al –Akhdar region which have a huge number of these plants.

Received 20 Dec., 2023; Revised 28 Dec., 2023; Accepted 31 Dec., 2023 © The author(s) 2023.

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I. Introduction:

Plants have been playing a fundamental part within the advancement of human culture. As a source of pharmaceutical. Therapeutic plants have continuously been at the bleeding edge for all intents and purposes all societies of civilizations. Therapeutic plants are respected as wealthy assets of conventional solutions and from these plants numerous of the advanced drugs are recreated. For thousands of a long-time restorative plant have been utilized to treat well-being disarranges, to include flavor and moderate nourishment and to avoid illnesses plagues. The auxiliary metabolites delivered by the plants are as a rule dependable for the natural characteristics of plant species utilized all through the world (Daret, *al.*, 2017). European settler's benefited from Tuart, using them for cattle grazing, fuel and timber (Cunningham, 1998; Fox & Curry, 1980; Kay, 1985). Tuart was one of the first major timber exported from Western Australia (circa 1800) to England. Favored for its interlocking grain and tight texture it is one of Australia's strongest and heaviest timbers with a density around 1020 kg m⁻³ (Boland *et al.*, 2006; Fox & Curry, 1980). Tuart uses included wagon wheels, tool handles, railway carriage decking and propeller shafts (Hunter, 2000). Tuart remains important for plantations, being easily cultivated from seed and coppice with full establishment within 30 years (Keighery, 2002). Plantation Tuart has been used for fuel, flooring, framing, manufactured boards and posts. Tuart being used for sand stabilization, wheat belt windbreaks and afforestation in semi-arid lands, because it is tolerant to calcareous, saline and waterlogged soils. In addition, Tuart flowers are known to yield good quality nectar, producing light-colored honey with pleasing flavor and fine grain (Gardner, 1987). This study aims to comparative some of morphological , physiological and Chemical studies of leaf and steam samples of plant to observe the effect of the different climate on the selected properties.

Experimental Part:

The area of study:

The study area (Figure 1) is located at Al-Gabal Al-Akhdar Mountain in the eastern region of Libya (Derna and Al-bayda) regions. It lies between latitudes $22^{\circ}38'0''$ N and $32^{\circ}46'0''$ E. (El-Barasi & Saaed, 2013). The Derna area has moderate climatic conditions dominant year-around. As the area is located on the Mediterranean Sea from north and northeast on one side and high topography on the other, while it is open to the semidesert topography from its southern direction. Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar is a limestone plateau 700 to 870 m above sea level with an undulating surface which tips gently to the south stretches between the longitudes $20^{\circ}, 35'$ E to $23^{\circ}, 15'$ E and latitudes $30^{\circ}, 58'$ N to $32^{\circ}, 56'$ N. The basic configuration of Al-Gabal is a step-like arrangement of alternating benches and escarpments rising to 850 m above sea level. There are two main escarpments, further apart in the west but drawing gradually closer together eastward, both roughly parallel to the coast. A large portion of the two benches, especially the second, is dissected by wadis, giving the Jabal a predominantly hill to mountainous appearance (Motawil, 1995).



Figure(1).The studied area.

Sampling:

Different samples of (leafs and Steams) were collected from two different regions Al-Gabal Al- Khder and Derna regions during spring (2022) of (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) plant, the locations were selected are Costal and mountain locations for the selected plants, (Figures 2 and 3).

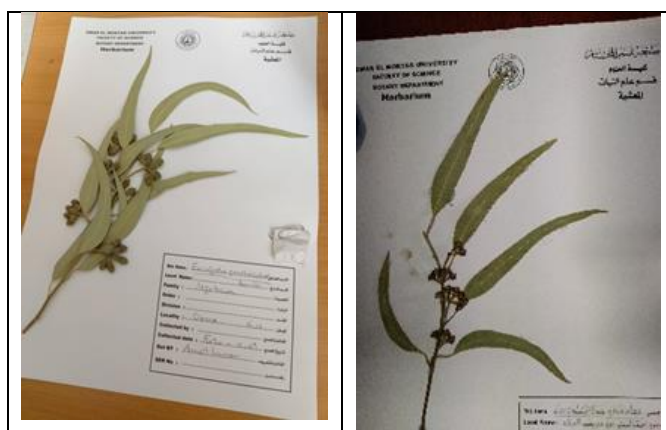


Figure (2):(mountain) Figure (3):(Costal)

Plants Taxonomy:

The collected samples were identified in Seliphium herbarium, Botany Department, Faculty of Science, Omar AlMukhtar University.

Samples preparation:

The leafs and stems of the studied plants were separated and washed several times with distilling water. The samples then dried in a dark and dry place within two weeks. Then the samples were grinded by mortar and stored in polyethylene bottles until analysis.

Meteorological data:

Station	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY.	JUN.	JUL.	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DES.
Al-bayda	128.0	91.0	63.0	28.0	7.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	12.0	59.0	63.0	113.0
Derna	66.0	38.0	20.0	11.0	4.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	39.0	25.0	48.0

Monthly total amount of rain in millimeters (1980-2010)

Station	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY.	JUN.	JUL.	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DES.
Al-bayda	78	74	71	61	56	55	66	70	70	72	73	76
Derna	71	69	65	65	70	72	72	72	72	69	66	67

The average relative humidity (1980-2010)

Station	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MaAY.	JUN.	JUL.	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DES.
Al-bayda	9.4	9.9	11.5	14.9	18.6	22.0	22.7	22.9	21.3	18.4	14.5	11.1
Derna	14.3	14.2	15.6	17.9	20.7	23.8	25.9	26.7	25.5	23.1	19.4	15.9

average temperature (1980-2010)

Station	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY.	JUN.	JUL.	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DES.
Al-bayda	11.3	11.4	11.1	10.7	8.3	7.0	6.5	6.4	6.3	7.9	9.9	11.6
Derna	12.7	13.0	12.6	12.0	10.4	11.4	14.3	13.9	11.2	10.0	11.4	12.9

average wind speed in knots (1980-2010)

Station	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY.	JUN.	JUL.	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DES.
Al-bayda	2.5	3.1	4.3	6.8	7.4	7.5	5.6	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.4	3.3
Derna	5.2	5.7	5.7	6.3	6.0	6.2	6.6	6.2	5.9	6.1	6.2	6.0

Average amount of evaporation in millimeters (1980-2010)

Physiological studies:

The physiological studies were carried out by comparing between the morphological characteristics of plants collected from Derna and Al-Bayda regions include:

1. Fresh and dry weight for leaf.
2. Colour of leaf
3. Colour of stems
4. plant length
5. Leaf area.
6. Diameter of stems.

Estimation of Leaf area:

The leaf to be measured was placed on a graph paper, traced its outline using Pen/Pencil and calculating the surface area and expressed in square centimeters. (multiply the number of full squares by 1 cm² and partial squares by 0.5 cm² and add them together).

Estimation of Leaf fresh weight (plant):

Weight of fresh leaf was taken from each plant directly from leaf and recorded as fresh weight following in the table (g/plant).

Estimation of Leaf dry weight (plant):

Weight of dry leaf each plant was dried using oven at 40°C for 72h. and recorded as dry weight. (g/plant).

Estimation of plant length:

There are several methods used to measure the height of trees based on the calculation of triangles as well as the tangents of the angles. There are also devices used to estimate the height directly. The heights were measured using the Abney level device, which is considered one of the best machines used for this purpose.

Measure the diameter of trees:

Tree diameters were measured with a tape measure of diameter at chest height d_b/h (diameter at chest height) (Badr El-Din., 2006).

Measurement The crown coverage:

The crown coverage of castor trees in both studied locations was estimated using a meter tape (Shaltut , 2002)

Estimate the Chlorophyll a and Chlorophyll b :

Leaf samples (0.2g) harvested from control and treated plantlets were homogenized in acetone 80% (v/v). Extract was centrifuged at 5,000rpm for 15min and absorbance was recorded at 646 and 663nm for chlorophyll (a and b) and at 470nm for carotenoids. Pigment content was calculated ($mg\ g^{-1}FW$) according to the following formulae as reported by (Lichtenthaler & Wellburn, 1983).

$$\text{Chlorophyll a} = 12.25A_{663} - 2.79A_{646}$$

$$\text{Chlorophyll b} = 21.21A_{646} - 5.1A_{663}$$

$$\text{Carotenoids} = (1000A_{470} - 1.8Chla - 85.02Chlb) / 198$$

Estimation of starch of leaf plant study:

Estimation of starch was carried out following method. Where (0.1g) from dried sample was re-suspended in 2.5ml of distilled water and subsequently 3.5ml of 52% (v/v), then perchloric acid (PCA) was added to the residue after stirring the mixture, the content was centrifuged for 15min at 4,000rpm. The supernatant was decanted, collected and the whole procedure was repeated twice. Supernatant of each step was then hydrolyzed, poured and the total volume was made up to 15ml with distilled water. After filtration, 1.0ml of the aliquot of this filtrate was analyzed for starch content following the same procedure as that of total soluble sugars. Quantity of starch was calculated in terms of glucose equivalent. The quantity of starch was expressed in mg glucose/g dry weight.

Chemical studies:

In this study the studied samples were expressed as the following numbers (1 – 4) as following :

Sample No	Sample Plant	organ	location
1	<i>Eucalyptus gomphocephala</i>	leafs	Derna
2	<i>Eucalyptus gomphocephala</i>	stems	Derna
3	<i>Eucalyptus gomphocephala</i>	leafs	Albayda
4	<i>Eucalyptus gomphocephala</i>	stems	Albayda

Determination of metals and minerals of plant and soil samples:

The metals of (Cu, Fe and Ni) were determined with an Atomic absorption (Perkin Elmer 800) according to the method described by (Lorenz *et al.*, 1980). Soluble sodium and potassium contents measured by a Flame Photometer (JENWAY Flame Photometer) according to the method described by standard method at central lab of Faculty of Science, Omar El-Mukhtar University. Total phosphorus was determined spectrophotometrically using the procedure of (Watanabe & Olsen, 1965). Where 0.5g of each sample was digested with 5ml of nitric acid until near dryness, then 10ml of distilled water was added, the mixture then heated to reduce the volume, then the samples were filtrated, the volume completed to 100ml by distilled water, after the contents of sodium and potassium were determined of plant leafs and stems.

Estimate the E.C ,p H and TDS in the soil samples.

One gram of soil sample was mixed with 100ml of distilled water for 10 minutes, then the mixture was filtered, the pH values were measured by using a pH meter (Type JENWAY), TDS and EC, were measured by (TDS & EC equipment) at central lab of chemical analysis (Type JENWAY).

II. Results and Discussion

Physiological study results:

The results of the physiological parameters were given as following:

The comparison between the morphological characteristics of the studied plants was shown in the Tables of (1). Table (1): Morphological and Physiological Characterizations of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* plant in this study.

Characterizes	Derna	Elbayda
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A Comparative study of morphological , physiological and chemical properties of leaves and ..

Fresh weight (g)	1.6	0.86
Dry weight (g)	0.96	0.26
Colour leaf	Green dark	Green
Colour stems	brown 27.15m	brown
Leave area (cm) ²	28.33	30.92
Plant lengh (m)	27.15	22.96
Diameter stems(cm)	16.20	31.36

The results showed variations in the leaf area between the plant growing in the two studied regions in different climatic conditions, the results showed that the leaf area of the mountain plants is larger (30.92 cm²) than the coastal ones of (28.33 cm²). Through the morphological comparison of the two *Eucalyptus* plants grown in a coastal and mountainous areas, the weight of the fresh leaf of the coastal *Eucalyptus* plant was (1.6 g) and after drying at a temperature of 40°C the result was (0.96 g), on the other hand the weight of a fresh leaf of the mountain *Eucalyptus* plant was (0.86 g) and after drying, the result was (0.26 g). Hence, the obtained that the fresh and dry leaves were higher in coastal plants. Whereas the comparative morphological results in terms of plant height, coastal plants were higher than mountain plants, where the values were (27.15 and 22.2 cm), respectively.

The results also showed that the higher plants had the lowest thickness in the diameter of the stems where the diameter of the coastal plants was (16.20 cm) and the diameter of the mountain plants was the largest in terms of diameter (31.36 cm). The leaves were given green color for mountain *Eucalyptus* and dark green for coastal *Eucalyptus* leaves in proportion to the color of the stems, it was brown for both plants with more cracks in the coastal plant. It was reported that, Plant environment often exerts its greatest influence over herbage quality by altering leaf/stems ratios, but it also causes other morphological modifications and changes in chemical composition of plant parts and to influence the relative proportions of leaves and stems direct and indirect effects on plant physiology, morphology, growth and yield impact in many aspects, of which photosynthesis is the most severely affected process (Jing *et al.*, 2016).

Also some studies recorded that the wide range of environmental conditions includes the deeply incised valleys of the plateau margin and the several granitic monadnocks in addition to geographic and topographic variation, considerable edaphic variation exists. Much of the region is covered by ferruginous gravels with sandy clay subsoils at depth but unweathered granite outcrops, zones of kaolinitic clays and regions of bleached sandy soils these environmental conditions provide considerable scope for diversity in the floristic composition, adaptive characteristics displayed by the plants, patterns of groupings of plant species and the structural features of the plant communities (Byrne *et al.*, 2016).

The results showed variations in the leaf area between the leaf area of the plant growing in two regions in different climatic conditions, the results recorded that the leaf area of (433 cm²) of the coastal plant is larger than the mountainous ones (400) cm². By comparing the coastal plants, the weight of the fresh leaf of the mountain plant was (13.3 g) and after drying it became (4.64 g) and the weight of the fresh leaf of the coastal plant was (8.14 g) and after drying was (2.18 g). Whereas, the mountain plant was recorded highest value in the weight of the leaves, the mountainous plant was given the highest value, of (9.12 m), and for coastal plant was (6.65 m). Regarding the color of leaves the mountain plant was green and green reddish, and the coastal plant was green, even if the leaf of the mountain plant were green, while the leaf of the coastal plant were dark green. It was reported that the environmental stresses trigger a wide variety of plant responses, ranging from altered gene expression and cellular metabolism to changes in growth rate and plant productivity. Plant reaction exist to circumvent the potentially harmful effects caused by a wider range of both abiotic and biotic stresses, including light, drought, salinity, and high temperatures (Shao *et al.*, 2008). Also the climate change is causing noticeable effects on the lifecycle, distribution and phyto-chemical composition of the world's vegetation, including medicinal and aromatic plants. The changing temperatures and wind patterns associated with climate change are affecting precipitation and thereby plant architecture, flowering, fruiting, phyto-chemical composition and in situ competition with other species (Kumar *et al.*, 2017).

Photosynthetic pigment contents:

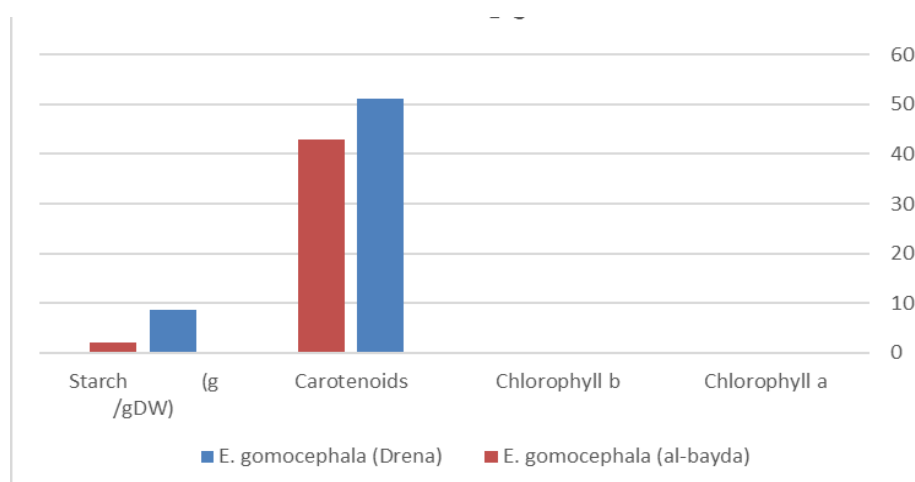
The contents of Chlorophyll a, Chlorophyll b, Carotenoids and Starch were recorded in Table (2) and Figure (4).

Table (2): Photosynthetic pigment and starch contents of the studied plants.

Parameters	Photosyntheticpigments(mg/ gFW)			Starch contents
	Chlorophyll a	Chlorophyll b	Carotenoids	Starch (g /gDW)
<i>E. gomocephala</i> (Drena)	0.120	0.071	51.090	8.64
<i>E. gomocephala</i> (al-bayda)	0.110	0.068	42.919	2.04
Average ±SD	0.15 ± 0.07	0.056 ± 0.027	38.71±18.60	5.29± 3.68

The changes in photosynthetic pigments in the leaf values of the studied plants in a coastal and mountainous region as a result of the difference in climatic and physiological conditions between the two regions. The contents of (Chlorophyll a, b and carotenoids mg⁻¹FW) in leaves of plant studied showed increasing of leaves of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* of coastal region (Derna). Therefore, the starch storage rate is higher. Chlorophyll is a vital photoreceptor in plants and is indicative of plant metabolism as well as growth. It differs from species to species and is significantly affected by environmental stresses. Any change in chlorophyll content can considerably affect the morphological and physiological status of plants (Mishra *et al.*, 2021). On the other hand, the lower values were recorded in the same plant in coastal areas. The Chlorophyll degradation because of stress may be a possible cause of the decline in carbon assimilation rate because of chlorophyll photo-bleaching. Due to the suppression of specific enzymes, responsible for the synthesis of photosynthetic pigments such as δ-aminolevulinic acid dehydratase and protochlorophyllide reductase, associated with chlorophyll biosynthesis (Mishra *et al.*, 2021).

Photosynthetic Pigments are the substances with very different chemical structure; they are present in the form of porphyrin pigments (chlorophyll a, b and c), carotenoids, anthocyanins and flavones. Total leaf pigment includes chlorophyll-a, chlorophyll-b and carotenoids that are necessary for photosynthesis process. The contents of foliar pigments varies depending on species. Variations in leaf pigments (chlorophylls and carotenoids) can be due to internal factors and environmental conditions. (Shaikh & Dongare, 2008) reported that chlorophyll and carotenoids contents varied with microclimatic conditions in *Adiantum* species. The ratio of chlorophyll-a and chlorophyll-b in terrestrial plants has been used as an indicator of response to light shade conditions (Vicas *et al.*, 2010). The small proportion of chlorophyll a/b is considered as a sensitive biomarker of pollution and environmental stress. Plants living under natural conditions are exposed to many adverse factors that interfere with the photosynthetic process, leading to declines in growth, development, and yield (Kalaji *et al.*, 2016).



Figure(4): Concentrations(ppm) of Chlorophyll a, b - Carotenoids and total starch of the studied plants.

It was concluded that the Chlorophyll a, chlorophyll b and carotenoids are main photosynthetic pigments and they play an important role in photosynthesis. The changes in the amount of pigments were evaluated as the changes in photosynthesis. Carotenoids are necessary for photoprotection of photosynthesis and they play an important role as a precursor in signaling during

the plant development under abiotic/biotic stress. Decrease in carotenoids lead to degradation of *B*-carotene and formation of Zeaxanthins, which are apparently involved in protection against photo-inhibition (Sharma & Hall, 1991). Nowadays, enhanced carotenoids contents in plants are of considerable attention for breeding as well as genetic engineering in different plants (Li & Vallabhanen , 2008).

Starch accumulations play a leading role in osmoprotection, osmotic adjustment, carbon storage, and radical scavenging (Parida *et al.*, 2002). (Ashraf & Harris, 2004) and (Parida & Das, 2005) suggested that carbohydrates such as sugars (glucose, fructose and sucrose) and starch accumulation under any low stress levels was to accommodate the ionic balance in the vacuoles.

Chemical Results:

Mineral and metal contents of the studied plants:

The mineral and metal contents of the studied plants were shown in Tables of (3 and 4) and Figures of (5 and 6): The concentrations of the elements of the studied plants were fluctuated as following: The high sodium content (44.93 ppm) was recorded in leaf of *Ricinus communis* (Derna) followed by the other samples of leaves of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Derna), leaf *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Albayda), stems *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Derna), stems of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Albayda,) and leaves of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Albayda).

On the other side the higher concentrations of potassium were recorded in leaves *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Derna), leaves of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Albayda), stems *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Derna), stems of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Albayda) which their contents were as following: (126, 47.71, 47.17 and 33.4 ppm), respectively.

The results of phosphorus contents showed high concentration of total phosphorus which recorded in leaves of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Derna), leaves of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Albayda), stems of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Albayda) and stems of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Derna), where their contents were as following: (6, 3.65, 2.86 and 2.86 ppm), respectively.

While the Nitrogen showed different levels, higher concentration of nitrogen was recorded in leaves of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Albayda), leaves of stems *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Albayda), stems of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Derna) and leaf of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Derna), their contents were (0.364, 0.236, and 0.187 ppm), respectively.

The higher concentrations of the Copper was present in leaves of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Albayda) (3.77 ppm) followed by stems of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Albayda), leaf *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Derna), stems *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Derna) (3.26, 3.1.88 and 1.86 ppm).

The Nickel was present in higher concentration of stems of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Albayda), followed by leaves of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Albayda), stems of *communis* (Albayda), leaf *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Derna), stems *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Derna) (11.13, 9.13, 2.57 and 1.86 ppm).

The iron was present in higher concentration was found, stems of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Derna) leaf *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Derna), leaves of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Albayda), stems of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Albayda), (0.215, 0.25 and 0.25 ppm), respectively.

On the other side the higher concentrations of calcium (58.66 ppm), stems of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Albayda), followed by leaves of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Albayda), leaves of *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Derna) stems of stems *Eucalyptus gomphocephala* (Derna) which their contents were as following: (52.94, 50, 27.23 and 13.65 ppm).

Table (3): The mineral and metal contents of studied plant samples. (ppm).

Element	K	Na	p	Fe	Cu	Ni	Ca
1	126	26.18	6	0.215	2.57	6.35	32.8
2	47.17	19.31	2.69	0.245	1.86	5.41	27.23
3	33.4	5.97	2.86	0.25	3.26	16.10	58.66
4	47.71	26.18	3.65	0.25	3.77	10.26	52.94

Also the contents of Nitrogen of the plant samples were shown in Table (5).

Table (5) : The Nitrogen contents of studied samples (ppm).

Samples Plant	Nitrogen
1	0.187
2	0.236
3	0.356
4	0.542

SampleNo	SampleType
1	E. gomphocephala leaves (Derna)
2	E.gomphocephala stems (Derna)
3	E. gomphocephala stems (Albayda)
4	E. gomphocephala leaves (Albayda)

The minerals and metal contents of the soil samples of the studied were shown in Tables (4) and Figures (5&6):

Table (4) contents the major minerals of soils of samples locations (ppm).

Minerals	Ca	K	Na	P	Ni	Fe	Cu	N
Locations Derna	1.57	8	19.9	5.34	0.20	20.93	1.27	0.67
Albayda	0.57	9.85	2.11	4.95	0.55	47.19	0.157	0.120

By comparing the mineral contents of the soil between the two studied areas, we noticed a discrepancy in the percentage of minerals, as the soil sample of the city of Derna recorded a high content of the following minerals, namely calcium, sodium, phosphorous, copper and their contents were respectively (1.57, 19.1, 5.34 and 1.27). On the other hand, the soil sample of the city of Al-Bayda recorded the highest content of potassium, nickel, iron, and nitrogen, and their contents were, (9.85, 0.55, 47.19 and 0.120). respectively

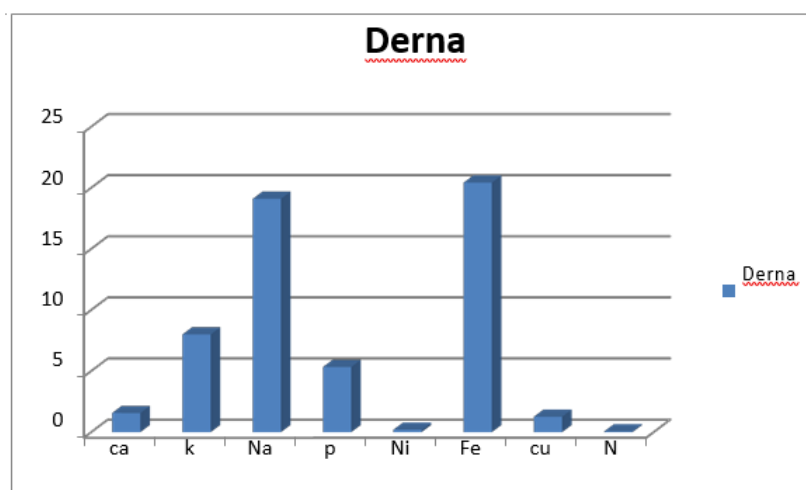


Figure (5): Concentrations (ppm) the contents of the major minerals of the studied soil samples.

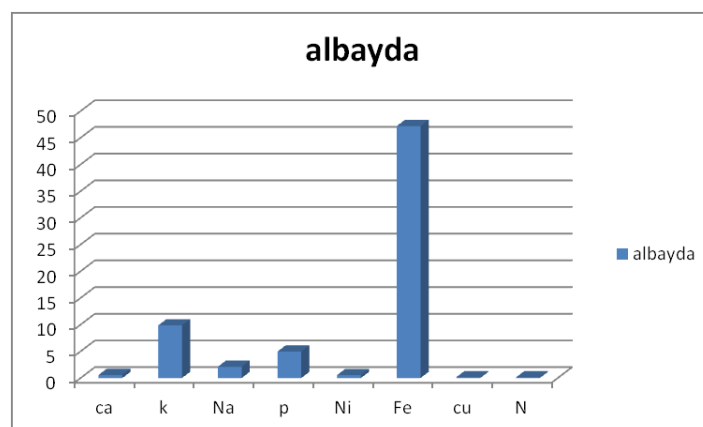


Figure (6): Concentrations (ppm) the contents of the major minerals of the studied soil samples.

III. Conclusion

According to the results obtained in this study, there are variations in the morphological and physiological properties which were selected in this study, also the contents of metals and minerals showed different values comparing between the same plant growing in the different locations (Coastal and Mountain ones).

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