



## Categories of Carob Tree (*Ceratonia siliqua* L.) from Morocco

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### ABSTRACT

The carob tree (*Ceratonia siliqua* L., *Fabaceae*) is a forest spontaneous and cultivated species, and grows in the Mediterranean countries and climates. It occupies a socio-economic rank increasingly growing, both for the local population and national economies. Depending on tree characteristics and its components, authors often use geographical and/or local names especially in countries that market the carob pods. In Morocco, four intra-specific categories of carob tree were defined primarily in terms of reproductive traits and grafting, namely, “Lanta,” productive “Dkar,” unproductive “Dkar,” and “Sterile.” This work summarizes the state of knowledge on these categories and compares them with categories from other Mediterranean countries and climates, based on various descriptions and characteristics.

### KEYWORDS

*Ceratonia siliqua* L.; carob tree; Morocco; characterization; categorization

## Introduction

The carob tree (*Ceratonia siliqua* L.) belongs to the family of *Leguminosae* (*Fabaceae*) (Fennane et al., 2007). It was described by Abi AL Khaïr Al Ichbili in the 12th century as a tree of Sulaiman or “Kharrouba” (El Khattabi, 1990). In Morocco, it is referred to with terms of Arab or Berber origin, namely, “slaghwa,” “tasliroua,” “sloiouig,” “tislîwha,” “kharrub,” and “tikidit” (Bellakhdar, 1997; INRA, 1965). In the region of Toudma (SW of Morocco), male and female trees are named by the respective words: “tikida” and “ikidw” (Gharnit, 2003).

Although its origin is controversial, it has been considered as originating from a xerotropical Indo-Malesian flora and placing the origin of its genus on the Arabian peninsula (Batlle and Tous, 1997). The species progeny currently present in the Western Mediterranean would have an origin like a germplasm introduced by the Arabs in the Iberian Peninsula during the medieval domination (Cairati, 2013). The spontaneous forms of carob are

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