HISTO-ANATOMICAL STUDIES REGARDING THE STRUCTURE OF *THYMUS* SP. SEEDLING GROWN IN LABORATORY CONDITIONS

Irina BOZ[1,2]*, Gabriela – Alina ȘTEFAN[1]

[1] „Ștefan cel Mare" University of Suceava, Faculty of Medicine and Biological Sciences, Suceava, Romania

[2] NIRDBS – Institute of Biological Research, Iași

* irina.boz@usv.ro

Thyme is an aromatic plant used both in medicinal purposes, as well as as a spice almost everywhere in the world. The genus *Thymus* is very frequent in the Mediterranean region, where it does not exceed the height of 50 cm, being well adapted to heat and drought. A common feature of plants of this genus and many other aromatic plants is the presence of secretory hairs of different shapes, hairs containing volatile oils. This is probably one of the reasons why man has always been attracted of these plants, analyzing the volatile oils for various uses.

For histo-anatomical investigations, plants belonging to 6 species of *Thymus*, species that grow in our country, were obtained in laboratory conditions: *Th. vulgaris, Th. serpyllum, Th. comptus, Th. praecox, Th. zygioides and Th. balcanus.* The purpose of this study was is to describe comparatively the vegetative organs of the 6 species studied, both by classical and modern methods of investigation.

The root generaly presents a diarch-type structure, the transition from the primary to the secondary structure being early; this explains the fact that after 30 days from the germination of the seeds, the root already has typically secondary conducting tissues, resulting from the activity of the cambium. The conducting fascicles are separated by relatively wide medullary rays. The hypocotyl has an intermediate structure between the root and the stem. The epicotyl presents a cauline structure with the 3 distinct anatomical areas. At the level of the leaf, the presence of secretory hairs with uni-, bi- and octocellular glands is observed.

Keywords: *Thymus*, structure, secretory hairs