

## **Restoration of degraded ecosystems in the association of Cocciferetum using Mediterranean conifers.**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The ecosystems of Ostryo-carpinion occupy wide area in Greece and they are characterized by heavy degradation due to long time human activities. The restoration of these ecosystems can be carried out either by natural methods or by artificial interventions. This paper examines the results of plantations of Mediterranean conifers (*Pinus halepensis*, *P. pinea*, *Cedrus libanii* and *Cupressus arizonica*) in the hilly area of Vasilica, North Greece. Plantations were carried out in randomized blocks using two years old paper-pot seedlings. Data were taken from these permanent plots established for each species located in three different positions. A number of 90 seedlings per species ( 30 seedlings in each plot) was measured five years after the plantations. Field data analysis showed that *Pinus halepensis* exhibited the highest survival rates and medium to high growth rate. The very extreme low temperatures appeared during the winter of the year 2001-2002 slightly affected species survival. The above results show that these Mediterranean conifers can be used with success in restoration projects of degraded areas in the association of Cocciferetum in Greece.