

**Ecological studies on Thanoun (*Cistanche phelypaea* (L.)
Cout.(Orobanchaceae) in Al-Ahsa Oasis, Saudi Arabia**

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ABSTRACT

The angiospermic root parasite (*Cistanche phelypaea* (L.) Cout. (Orobanchaceae) is an obligate root parasite which totally depends on its host for water, minerals and organic nutrients. In Al-Ahsa Oasis, Saudi Arabia, it was found to occur on a number of natural and cultivated plant species. The natural hosts include: *Arthrocnemum macrostachyum*, *Anabasis articulata*, *Salsola baryosma*, *Seidlitzia rosmarinus*, *Suaeda aegyptiaca*, *Suaeda monoica*, *Suaeda vermiculata*, *Zygophyllum coccineum*, *Zygophyllum simplex*, *Zygophyllum qatarense*. The cultivated species were *Beta vulgaris*, *Beta vulgaris* subsp. *cicla*, and *Atriplex leucoclada*. However, *Spinacia oleracea*, a cultivated species, was found to be resistant.