

Leaf anatomy of *Pistacia atlantica* Desf.

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Abstract: The genus *Pistacia*, known for its great plasticity, includes several Mediterranean xerophytes. It is known by the development of palisade tissue, a thick cuticle and deep root. The anatomical sections of the leaves show the specificities thus presenting a high variability between males and females of plants growing in Rechaiga, Tiaret, Algeria.

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The genus *Pistacia* is subdivided into four sections namely: *Lenticella* Zoh., *Eu-Lentiscus* Zoh., *Butmela* Zoh. and *Eu-Terebinthus*; based on morphology. Some are used as ornamentals and some are valued as fruit trees. The genus *Pistacia* is represented in Algeria by four species, namely *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Pistacia terebinthus*, *Pistacia atlantica* and *Pistacia vera*. The true pistachio (*Pistacia vera*) and the pistachio of the atlas or bétoum (*Pistacia atlantica*) are characterized, from the ecological point of view, by a high tolerance to climatic variations, they can grow under very low amount of rainfall and put up with all soils.

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