

**INFLUENCE OF PHRYGANA COVER ON THE ECOLOGY OF CYPRESS
ESTABLISHMENT IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS OF CRETE**

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ABSTRACT

In areas of the south aspects of the White Mountains of western Crete, a large percent of the natural population of the cypress seedlings which invade phryganic ecosystems, has been established directly under the cover of the phrygana, though this cover is rather sparse and does not exceed the value of the 0.4. The extremely high soil surface temperatures of the summer months are reduced and the moisture of the surface layer of the soil during the spring months is increased under the phrygana cover, relatively to the positions outside of it. Finally, it is concluded that the phrygana species facilitate the natural establishment of cypress in the study area.