

Lotus tenuis Wald. et Kit. and *Medicago sativa* L. (Fabaceae) :
an holistic approach.

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SUMMARY

A morphological and architectural study was made on 2 herbaceous species of Fabaceae, *Medicago sativa* L. (lucerne grass) and *Lotus tenuis* Wald. et Kit (narrow birds-foot trefoil) during the first year of growth (establishment). These species are perennial widespread pasture legumes. We compared and discussed the architectural unit (morphological and functional determination of whole shoots from germination to establishment) and the variability on different sowing dates. Both species have a primary crown with orthotropic basitonic vegetative branches carried foliage leaves with spiral arrangement. Adventitious vegetative shoots arising from the hypocotilar region and on the nodal base of second order branches were observed. The reproductive branches are lateral and acrotonic. The architectural unit had no modification with different sowing dates, but the growth dynamic was visible affected.

Additional Keys Words: architectural analysis, architecture, establishment, Fabaceae, forage legumes, *Lotus tenuis*, lucerne grass, *Medicago sativa*, narrow birds-foot trefoil.