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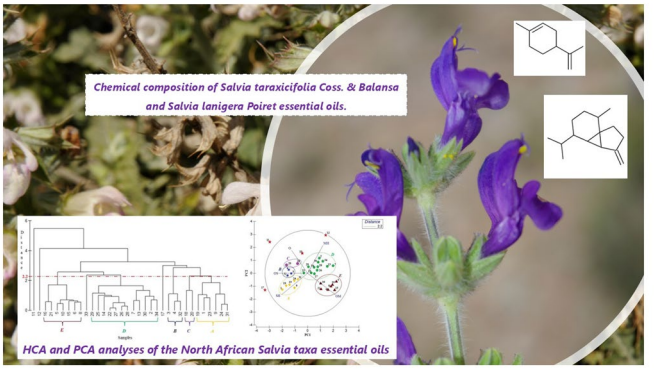
The chemical investigation of North African *Salvia taraxacifolia* Coss. & Balansa and *Salvia lanigera* Poir. essential oils

Natale Badalamenti[a,b], Vincenzo Ilardi[a], Larbi Derbak[c], Khellaf Rebbas[c], Hamdi Bendif[d] and Maurizio Bruno[a,b]

[a]Department of Biological, Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Technologies (STEBICEF), University of Palermo, Palermo, Italy; [b]NBFC, National Biodiversity Future Center, Palermo, Italy; [c]Department of Natural and Life Sciences, Faculty of Sciences, University of M'sila, M'sila, Algeria; [d]Department of Biology, College of Science, Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University (IMSIU), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

ABSTRACT

The *Salvia* genus, one of the largest in the Lamiaceae family, is present in North Africa with 27 different taxa. In this study, the chemical composition of *Salvia lanigera* and *Salvia taraxacifolia* essential oils (EOs) was studied. The latter species has never been investigated. The two EOs, extracted by hydro-distillation and analysed by GC-MS, were rich in terpenoids. Monoterpene hydrocarbons were the major chemical group of *S. lanigera* (88.0%) (**12**), while *S. taraxacifolia* EO (**18**), consisted of monoterpene hydrocarbons (35.7%), with limonene (24.9%) as the most abundant compound, while *β*-cubebene (22.7%) was identified as primary hydrocarbon sesquiterpene compound (38.7%). Furthermore, statistical analyses such as hierarchical cluster analysis (HCA) and principal component analysis (PCA), employed to highlight similarities or dissimilarities between *Salvia* taxa, showed clear divergences between chemical and botanical classification.



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CONTACT Natale Badalamenti natale.badalamenti@unipa.it
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