

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

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Natural Product Research

Received 21 Jul 2025, Accepted 08 Nov 2025, Published online: 17 Nov 2025

<https://doi.org/10.1080/14786419.2025.2588795>

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.