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## Research Details:

Research Title : <u>Taxonomic Revision of the Genus Plectranthus L. (Lamiaceae) in Saudi Arabia.</u>

مراجعة تصنيفية لجنس الشار (العائلة الشفوية) في المملكة العربية السعودية

Description

: The genus Plectranthus L. is a member of the family Lamiaceae (Labiatae). The genus Plectranthus is include about 300 species, widespread in Africa (specially in South of the Sahara), South of Arabian Peninsula, India to Australia. About seven species are growing in the western and southwestern regions of Saudi Arabia, which are distributed through the high mountains Plectranthus species resemble morphologically, that the confusion on their identification can be drown moreover identification of some species are doubtful. The aim of the present work is to do morphological; comparative anatomical and chemotaxonomical studies of Plectranthus species growing in Saudi Arabia. The study includes the morphological description of the Plectranthus species and studying the anatomical structures of stems, leaves and petioles, in addition to doing chemotaxonomical investigation of flavonoides compounds in the leaves of Plectranthus arabicus, P. asirensis, P. barbatus, P. cylindraceus, P. lanuginosus, P. pseudomarrubioides and P. tenuiflorus. The results of the morphological features of the studied species show the presence of important characters, which can be used for dividing Plectranthus species into two groups: The first group can be distinguish by nonbranching terminal inflorescence which consists of P. arabicus, and P. asirensis. Plectranthus asirensis characterized by the ovate and serrate leaves, violet calyx with an acuminate rounded tip of lower lip teeth and bluish violet corolla, whereas P. arabicus has Obtirullate and dentate leaves, greenish calyx with an acuminate acute tip of lower lip teeth and bluish corolla. The second group includes: P. barbatus, P. cylindraceus, P. lanuginosus, P. pseudomarrubioides and P. tenuiflorus. Which are characterized with the terminal and auxiliary branching inflorescence. This group divided into two sub-groups based on the position of the inflorescence: the first sub-group consists of P. pseudomarrubioides which can be distinguish by the occurrence of both terminal and auxiliary inflorescence; whereas the second subgroup includes P. barbatus, P. cylindraceus, P. lanuginosus and P. tenuiflorus which their inflorescence are terminal. Plectranthus cylindraceus characterized by the dense verticals of flowers on the inflorescence axis, but the others have lax verticals. Presence of the hairs inside calyx tube distinguish P. tenuiflorus, whereas, lanceolate leaves and purplish calyx and corolla separate P. barbatus from P. lanuginosus which is leaves are ovate, calyx