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## Comparison of Essential Oil Composition, Phenolic Compound and Biological Activities of *Salvia microphylla* and *Teucrium polium* (Lamiaceae)

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Received: 26 August 2021 Accepted: 19 October 2021

### ABSTRACT

*Salvia microphylla* and *Teucrium polium* are medicinal and aromatic plants with ethnobotanical uses. The present study was conducted to investigate the chemical composition of *Salvia microphylla* and *Teucrium polium* essential oils, the secondary metabolites, and the biological activities of their infusion and methanolic (MeOH) extracts. Essential oils were extracted by hydrodistillation from shoots *Salvia microphylla* and *Teucrium polium*. Phenolic content, antioxidant and antimicrobial activities were determined. Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) results showed the presence of significant qualitative and quantitative variations for the composition of the both essential oils (EO). *Salvia microphylla* EO were most complex and present 70 compounds with the major components were  $\beta$ -caryophyllene (13.32%), 1,8 cineole (11.25%), Cis p-Menthane-3-one (10.74%), and  $\beta$ -Selinene (9.71%). Where in the *Teucrium polium* EO, 45 compounds were identified with the important components are  $\beta$ -cadinene (10%),  $\beta$ -citronellol (8.5%), Carvacrol (7.63%), and Eugenol (7.15%). Obtained results showed that both plant are very rich in secondary metabolites. Extracts isolated from *Salvia microphylla* presented the highest contents in the phenolic compound than extracted from *Teucrium polium*. The antioxidant activity data demonstrated that all extracts showed strong antioxidant and radical scavenging activities. Essential oil and methanol extracts presented a potential for antimicrobial activities against all tested microorganisms. The obtained results highlight the potential use of *Salvia microphylla* and *Teucrium polium* as possible natural antioxidant substances and sources of bioactive molecules.

### KEYWORDS

*Salvia microphylla*; *Teucrium polium*; phenolic compounds; antioxidant; antimicrobial activity; essential oil

## 1 Introduction

The *Lamiaceae* family is a very diverse family with 6,900–7,200 species divided into 236 genera [1]. Some species of this family are of economic importance due to their content in essential oil, in polyphenolic compounds, and their use in traditional medicine it which is often linked to the presence of



diterpenoids [2–4]. This family is widespread in tropical and subtropical regions, but mainly in the Mediterranean region [5–6]. Among the *Lamiaceae* family, we find *Salvia* and *Teucrium* genus that comprises several species.

The genus *Salvia* (sage) is one of the most important genera of the *Lamiaceae* family comprising nearly 1000 species identified throughout the world [6,7]. They are also good widespread in temperate and subtropical zones [8,9].

Many species of *Salvia* are used as herbal tea, as condiments, in cosmetics, in the food and pharmaceutical industries. Several species of *Salvia* are known for their biological and pharmacological properties including their anti-bacterial, anti-virals, anti-oxidants, anti-malarials, anti-inflammatories, anti-diabetics, cardiovascular and anti-cancer effects. Some of these properties have been attributed to their essential oils [10,11]. These species are rich in flavonoids and phenolic compounds such as caffeic, rosmarinic, chlorogenic, ellagic, and gallic acids [12,13].

*Salvia microphylla* is commonly used in the treatment of folk illnesses: to treat an upset stomach, just take a glass of salvia infusion that is consumed before breakfast and again throughout the day as needed. The tea must be made with *Salvia microphylla* and *Agastache* spp. (*Lamiaceae*) and drunk for 9 days while a paste made from *Agastache* and *Salvia microphylla* must be applied each day to the child's body while invoking the spirits of the plants [14]. The chemical constituents of aerial parts of *Salvia microphylla* include triterpenoids erythrodiol-3-acetate, lupeol, and oleanolic acid. Oleanolic acid exhibits anti-microbial, anti-ulcer, and anti-inflammatory activities [15].

The generic name of germander means in Latin “teucrion” in Greek “τευκρion” of teucros, Trojan prince who would have discovered the medicinal properties of the plant [16]. The genus *Teucrium* is one of the most important genera of the *Lamiaceae* family. This genus is divided into 340 species and varieties around [17].

The genus *Teucrium* has been widely used in traditional pharmacopeia for over 2000 years [18] in many regions of the world. The pharmacological properties of some species of this genus have been demonstrated in scientific studies. The diseases for which these species used are very diverse. *Teucrium polium* is utilized as a depurative and remedy for liver disease, hypertension, in the treatment of gastroduodenal ulcers and hyperlipidemia [19,20]. *Teucrium polium* L. has long been recognized in folk medicine for the pathophysiological treatment of many conditions [21], such as inflammation and rheumatism. Its extract has shown hypotensive, anti-spasmodic, anti-bacterial, diaphoretic anti-pyretic, invigorating, analgesic effects [22] and anti-oxidant effects [20,23].

The species *Teucrium polium* (*Lamiaceae*) has been the subject of several studies over the years [24]. These investigations revealed the presence of different classes of compounds such as fatty acid esters, diterpenes, monoterpenes, sesquiterpenes, polyphenols, and flavonoids (cirsimaritin, cirsilol, cirsilinoleol, 5-hydroxy-6,7,3',4'-tetramethoxyflavone, salvigenin, apigenin-5-galloylglucoside, apigenin-7-glucoside, vicenin, and luteolin-7-glucoside) [25].

In this study, total phenolic, flavonoids, and condensed tannin contents of infusion and methanolic extracts obtained from the shoots of *Salvia microphylla* and *Teucrium polium* originated from North Tunisia were evaluated. In addition, the antioxidant and antimicrobial activities of such extracts were studied. Moreover, the chemical composition of the essential oils of *Salvia microphylla* and *Teucrium polium* were also determined. This is the first study carried out in Tunisia on *Salvia microphylla*. The ultimate objective of this work was to find new potential sources of natural antioxidants and antimicrobial agents for the food industry.

## 2 Materials and Methods

### 2.1 Plant Material

*Salvia microphylla* (20 plants) and *Teucrium polium* (30 plants) shoots were collected during summer (in flowering stage), Mars 2013, in Jendouba, Northern Tunisia, and *T. polium* was identified according to the “Flore de la Tunisie” [26]. Concerning *Salvia microphylla*, the plant was identified out by R. El Mokni, botanist at the University of Science of Bizerte. Voucher specimens were preserved in our laboratory for further reference. Shoots were dried for two weeks.

### 2.2 Phytochemical Study

The phytochemical examination is necessary to identify the major families of compounds existing in *Salvia microphylla* and *Teucrium polium*. The presence of these secondary metabolites was characterized using the technique previously described by Karumi et al. [27].

The alkaloids have been identified by Burchard reagent. 6 mL of each tested solution was evaporated to dryness. The addition of 2 drops of reagent Burchard on alcoholic solution caused a reddish-brown precipitate and indicates a positive reaction.

For the detection of flavonoids, 2 mL of plant extracts are treated with a few drops of HCl 37% (V/V), and 0.5 g of magnesium turnings Mg. The positive test is marked by the appearance of pink or red color which characterizes flavonoids.

The reaction of ferric chloride (FeCl<sub>3</sub>) was used to characterize the tannins. To 2 mL of extracts were added 2 or 3 drops of the solution of FeCl<sub>3</sub> 1% (V/W). A positive test is indicated by the appearance of a blue-black color (gallic tannins) or blue-green (catechins tannins).

### 2.3 Preparation of Plant Extracts

#### 2.3.1 Infusion Extract

The infusion, water extraction, is the most common mode and classic manual of herbal remedies. This extract was prepared as follows: 10 g of each shoots plants were added to 100 mL of boiling water. The mixture is let for rest for fifteen minutes in a closed container, glass or porcelain, stirring occasionally. Then, the liquid was filtered through filter paper then freeze-dried, and lyophilized.

#### 2.3.2 Methanolic Extract

50 mL methanol was added to 5 g of *Salvia microphylla* and *Teucrium polium* shoots (80%). After 30 min of stirring, the extracts were stored at 4°C in the dark for 24 h before being filtered through ash-free filter paper (Whatman No. 4). As a result, the methanol were evaporated and the extracts were kept at 4°C for tests.

#### 2.3.3 Essential Oil (EO)

The EO was extracted by hydrodistilling for 3 h 100 g of *Salvia microphylla* and *Teucrium polium* air-dried. The dry weight of the plant material was then used to determine the oil yields from the shoots. Obtained oils were kept in dark at 4°C for one month.

### 2.4 Identification of Essential Oil

Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) was used to identify the chemical composition of essential oils [4].

Oil components were identified by comparing their retention indices relative to (C<sub>8</sub>–C<sub>22</sub>) n-alkanes to those reported in the literature or to those of real compounds in the authors' laboratory. Their recorded mass spectra were compared to those stored in the Wiley/NBS mass spectral library of the GC-MS data

system as well as other published mass spectra [28]. Peak area normalization was used to get the percentage composition without the use of correction variables.

## 2.5 Determination of the Amounts of Phenolic Compounds

### 2.5.1 Total Phenolic Content

The Folin-Ciocalteu reagent was used to measure total phenolic, as described by Dewanto et al. [29]. The total phenolic content of every extract was estimated as milligrams of gallic acid equivalents per gram of dry weight (mg GAE/g DW). From a calibration curve with gallic acid ( $y = 0.0074x + 0.0737$ ).

### 2.5.2 Estimation of Total Flavonoid Contents

According to Dewanto et al. [29], total flavonoids were determined using a colorimetric method. The total flavonoid content was estimated as mg CE (catechin equivalents)/g DW. The catechin calibration curve range ( $y = 0.0033x + 0.0184$ ).

### 2.5.3 Total Condensed Tannins Assay

Total condensed tannins was determined according to the method of Sun et al. [30]. Results were expressed as mg TAE (Tannic acid equivalents)/g dry weight. Tannic acid calibration curve range ( $y = x / 0.5184$ ).

## 2.6 Antioxidant Activity

3 classic tests were used, in this work, to evaluate the antioxidant activity of *Salvia microphylla* and *Teucrium polium* extracts: iron-chelating power, the reducing power of iron, and test of radical scavenging 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH).

### 2.6.1 DPPH Assay

The electron donation ability of the obtained extracts was measured by bleaching of the purple-colored solution of 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl radical (DPPH) according to the method of Hatano et al. [31]. A 1 mL aliquot of the extract at different concentrations (0, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 mg/mL) was added to 2000  $\mu$ L of DPPH• working solution. The absorbance reading was taken after 30 min of incubation in the dark at 517 nm. Percentage inhibition (PI %) of free radical DPPH was calculated as follow:

$PI (\%) = ((A_{\text{blank}} - A_{\text{sample}}) / A_{\text{blank}}) \times 100$ , where  $A_{\text{blank}}$  is the absorbance of the control reaction and  $A_{\text{sample}}$  is an absorbance in the presence of infusion extract. Extract concentration providing 50% inhibition ( $IC_{50}$ ) was calculated from the regression equation prepared from the extracts concentration and their percentual inhibition. Samples were analyzed in triplicate.

### 2.6.2 Tests for Reduction Capability

T Oyaizu's method was used to determine reducing power [32]. Sodium phosphate buffer (500  $\mu$ L, 200 mM, pH 6.6) mixed with potassium ferricyanide (1%) 2.5 mL were added to a number of extracts (200  $\mu$ L) concentrations (0, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 mg/mL) and thoroughly mixed. After incubation (20 min, at 50°C) trichloroacetic acid 10%, w/v was then added in an amount of 2.5 mL and the whole underwent a 10 min centrifugation at 650 rpm. 500  $\mu$ L of the top layer were then added of 100  $\mu$ L of 0.1% ferric chloride and of 500  $\mu$ L deionized water and the whole thoroughly mixed. Determination of the absorbance was carried out at 700 nm: the higher is the level of reducing power the higher is the absorbance measured. The extract concentration providing 0.5 of absorbance ( $IC_{50}$ ) was calculated from The 700 nm absorbance vs. extract concentration graph was used to determine at what concentration of extract an absorbance of 0.5 ( $IC_{50}$ ) was obtained.

### 2.6.3 Tests for the Determination of Iron Chelation Ability

The Decker and Welch methodology was used [33] to determine the ability of chelation of ferrous ions. Different extract concentrations (0, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 mg/mL) of extract were added in 0.1 mL amount to  $\text{FeCl}_2 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (0.05 mL; 2 mM). The mixture was then vigorously stirred for 5 min, ferrozine (0.1 mL; 5 mM) pre-mixed with distilled water (2.75 mL) was then added and mixed thoroughly. The mixtures were left resting for 10 min at ambient temperature. The absorbance was then determined at 562 nm.

### 2.7 Antimicrobial Activity

Given that, the yields of both tested essential oils are weak, their antimicrobial effect was evaluated only against 3 pathogenic referenced bacteria (*Escherichia coli* ATCC 8739, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* ATCC 27853, and *Listeria monocytogenes* ATCC). While for methanolic extracts, 9 micro-organisms as described by Bannour et al. [34] were used for evaluating their antibacterial and antifungal powers.

The antimicrobial possess of evaluated extracts were determined using 2 methods: disc diffusion assay (determination of the diameters of inhibition zones) and the broth dilution method (determination of the minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) and minimum bactericidal concentrations (MBC) as described by Bannour et al. [34].

Gentamicin (10 mg/disk) and amphotricin B (20 mg/disk) were used as a positive reference for bacteria and fungi, respectively.

### 2.8 Statistical Analysis

SAS v. 9.1.3 was used to analyze the data (SAS, 1990). Any significant variations between solvents and samples were compared using analysis of variance (ANOVA) and Duncan's multiple range approach. Means and standard deviations were used to express the data.  $P < 0.05$  was used to determine whether differences were significant. All of the analyses were done in duplicate, and the results were averaged over three replicates.

## 3 Results

### 3.1 Phytochemical Tests

The phytochemical tests were carried out with the objective of highlighting the presence or absence of secondary metabolites in the shoots of the studied plants and this manifests itself by characterization reactions, which consist of precipitation or coloring phenomena by appropriate reagents for each metabolite. The characteristic tests of different chemical groups summarized in Table 1 demonstrated that the extracts obtained from *S. microphylla* and *T. polium* contain flavonoids, tannins, and phenolic derivatives.

**Table 1:** Results of the reactions characteristic of different chemical groups looked in *Teucrium polium* and *Salvia microphylla*

Secondary metabolites	<i>T. polium</i>	<i>S. microphylla</i>
Alkaloids	–	–
Flavonoids	+	+
Tannins	+	+
Phenolic derivatives	+	+

### 3.2 Essential Oil Composition

The chemical composition of essential oils obtained from 2 species of the *Lamiaceae* genus (*T. polium* and *S. microphylla*) were determined by GC-MS analysis. Table 2 represents the identified compounds, their percentages as well as the retention indices. Although the existence of some commune compounds between

the 2 studied plants; significant qualitative and quantitative variations were observed for the composition of the both essential oils. In fact, *S. microphylla* EO was most complex and presents 70 compounds with the major components are  $\beta$ -caryophyllene (13.32%), 1,8 cineole (11.25%), Cis p-Menthane 3 one (10.74%), and  $\beta$ -Selinol (9.71%). Where in the *T. polium* EO, 45 compounds were identified with the important components are  $\beta$ -cadinene (10%),  $\beta$ -citronellol (8.5%), Carvacrol (7.63%), and Eugenol (7.15%).

**Table 2:** Chemical composition of essential oils of *Teucrium polium* and *Salvia microphylla*

RI <sup>a</sup>	Compounds <sup>b</sup>	<i>T. polium</i>	<i>S. microphylla</i>
915	3-carene	0.09 ± 0.01	0.04 ± 0.03
921	$\alpha$ -thujen	-	0.12 ± 0.07
922	$\alpha$ -phellandren	0.66 ± 0.00	-
929	$\alpha$ -pinene	1.32 ± 0.03	2.30 ± 0.01
930	1-Phenyl isobutane	1.83 ± 0.02	-
947	Camphene	0.07 ± 0.01	2.63 ± 0.05
976	Sabinene	0.07 ± 0.01	-
987	$\beta$ -pinene	1.02 ± 0.00	1.23 ± 0.01
1027	Amyl vinyl carbinol	0.07 ± 0.01	-
1036	$\beta$ -myrcene	0.43 ± 0.01	0.06 ± 0.01
1058	$\alpha$ -terpinen	0.26 ± 0.01	0.17 ± 0.02
1073	O-cymene	4.77 ± 1.03	0.40 ± 0.01
1074	Trans linalool oxide	-	0.05 ± 0.00
1085	Limonene	0.61 ± 0.00	0.02 ± 0.00
1088	<b>1,8 cineole</b>	0.17 ± 0.01	<b>11.25 ± 1.07</b>
1102	$\delta$ -terpinene	0.28 ± 0.02	0.04 ± 0.01
1157	2-carene	0.09 ± 0.01	2.92 ± 0.04
1162	Cis ocimene	-	0.10 ± 0.02
1169	$\beta$ -linalool	3.26 ± 0.09	0.08 ± 0.01
1182	$\alpha$ -thujone	0.78 ± 0.03	2.32 ± 0.05
1188	$\beta$ -terpineol	0.37 ± 0.02	0.83 ± 0.04
1203	$\alpha$ -campholenal	0.45 ± 0.02	0.31 ± 0.02
1217	Cis piperitol	0.49 ± 0.01	0.04 ± 0.01
1232	Cis verbenol	0.15 ± 0.01	0.15 ± 0.08
1295	<b>Cis p-Menthane 3 one</b>	1.09 ± 0.03	<b>10.74 ± 1.05</b>
1307	3-Thujen 2 one	0.55 ± 0.02	0.06 ± 0.01
1336	Germacrene B	2.41 ± 0.23	0.07 ± 0.01
1351	Myrtenol	3.06 ± 0.02	0.12 ± 0.04
1376	Verbenone	0.54 ± 0.11	0.11 ± 0.03
1380	<b><math>\beta</math>-citronellol</b>	<b>8.55 ± 0.34</b>	0.21 ± 0.05
1393	Trans Geraniol	3.43 ± 0.14	0.03 ± 0.00

(Continued)

<b>Table 2 (continued)</b>			
RI <sup>a</sup>	Compounds <sup>b</sup>	<i>T. polium</i>	<i>S. microphylla</i>
1399	Humulen	2.66 ± 0.10	0.06 ± 0.01
1415	α-Neoclovene	1.56 ± 0.13	0.54 ± 0.02
1420	<b>Carvacrol</b>	<b>7.63</b> ± 1.91	0.08 ± 0.01
1437	Cubebene	0.30 ± 0.06	-
1439	<b>Eugenol</b>	<b>7.15</b> ± 2.02	-
1443	Copaene	1.02 ± 0.08	0.30 ± 0.03
1445	α-panasinsen	-	0.43 ± 0.01
1446	<b>β-caryophyllene</b>	0.13 ± 0.01	<b>13.32</b> ± 1.32
1449	Azulene	-	0.36 ± 0.01
1454	δ-Guaiene	0.61 ± 0.03	3.88 ± 0.10
1457	α-caryophyllene	1.92 ± 0.07	0.74 ± 0.01
1460	(+) Aromadendrene	0.56 ± 0.03	-
1463	Valencen	-	1.37 ± 0.50
1465	δ-Muurolene	-	0.40 ± 0.01
1467	Germacrene D	4.68 ± 0.32	-
1473	δ-elemene	2.12 ± 0.06	2.81 ± 0.11
1480	(+) Ledene	-	1.32 ± 0.06
1483	δ-Gurjunene	0.50 ± 0.01	0.33 ± 0.01
1501	<b>β-cadinene</b>	<b>10.00</b> ± 1.03	1.62 ± 0.12
1508	Trans Nerolidol	3.18 ± 0.25	-
1528	(-) Spathulenol	7.62 ± 0.66	6.77 ± 0.92
1531	Guaiol	1.74 ± 0.20	0.20 ± 0.06
1545	δ-Eudesmol	2.06 ± 0.05	6.06 ± 0.81
1549	Caryophyllen oxide	-	0.14 ± 0.01
1553	Elemol	-	0.18 ± 0.01
1560	δ-cadinol	1.89 ± 0.11	0.24 ± 0.03
1572	β-Eudesmol	2.31 ± 0.20	0.90 ± 0.04
1576	Bulnesol	1.18 ± 0.34	0.37 ± 0.02
1584	Globulol	1.58 ± 0.03	0.79 ± 0.01
1598	α-Farnesene	0.31 ± 0.04	-
1612	(Z, E) Farnesol	0.25 ± 0.02	0.67 ± 0.12
1622	Phytol	0.01 ± 0.00	0.22 ± 0.01
1659	Cubenol	-	2.01 ± 0.12
1682	<b>β-Selinenol</b>	-	<b>9.71</b> ± 0.22
1690	β-caryophyllen oxide	-	0.41 ± 0.03

(Continued)

**Table 2 (continued)**

RI <sup>a</sup>	Compounds <sup>b</sup>	<i>T. polium</i>	<i>S. microphylla</i>
1703	Ledene oxide	-	0.71 ± 0.05
1715	(2,E) Farnesol	-	0.66 ± 0.02
1726	Aromadendrene oxide	-	0.49 ± 0.01
1752	Junipene	-	0.89 ± 0.02
1773	Longifolene	-	0.66 ± 0.03
1797	9,10 dehydro isolongifolene	-	1.27 ± 0.42
1808	Cis Z α-bisabolene epoxide	-	0.18 ± 0.02
1931	Gembrene	-	0.20 ± 0.05
1937	Isoaromadendrene epoxide	-	0.37 ± 0.01
1955	8-Cedren 13 ol	-	0.36 ± 0.03
2067	β-Retinol	-	0.33 ± 0.05
2122	Trans Z,α bisabolene epoxide	-	0.04 ± 0.01
2258	Testololactone	-	0.14 ± 0.01
2306	Ferruginol	-	0.02 ± 0.00

Notes: <sup>a</sup>: Retention indices; <sup>b</sup>: Compounds are listed in order of their elution from an HP-5MS column.

### 3.3 Phenolic Content

The principal aim of the current investigation was to highlight the differences in secondary metabolites contents between the methanolic and infusion extracts of 2 *Lamiaceae* species (Table 3). The obtained data shows the existence of significant variations of the total content of polyphenols in extracts obtained from the 2 species. In fact, the extracts from *S. microphylla* presented the highest contents in polyphenols than extracted from *T. polium*. In addition, the infusions were rich in polyphenols (39 mg GAE/g DW for *S. microhylla* and 11.2 mg GAE/g DW for *T. polium*) than the methanolic extracts (23.4 mg GAE/g DW for *S. microhylla* and 11.2 mg GAE/g DW for *T. polium*). The infusion extract of *T. polium* presented the highest content in flavonoids compounds (7.72 mg CE/g DW) those reported in the infusion extract of *S. microphylla* and methanolic extract of *T. polium* (2.2 CE/g DW) followed by the methanolic extract of *S. microphylla* (1.7 CE/g DW).

**Table 3:** Phenolic compounds of infusion and methanolic extracts of *Salvia microphylla* and *Teucrium polium*. Values given are means (represent standard deviation) of 3 independent experiments

Plants		Total phenolic content (mg GAE/g DW)	Flavonoids content (mg CE/g DW)	Tannins content (mg TAE/g DW)
<i>S. microphylla</i>	Infusion	39 ± 0.2 <sup>a</sup>	2.2 ± 0.09 <sup>b</sup>	3.4 ± 0.03 <sup>a</sup>
	ME	23.4 ± 0.09 <sup>b</sup>	1.7 ± 0.03 <sup>c</sup>	2.9 ± 0.1 <sup>b</sup>
<i>T. polium</i>	Infusion	11.2 ± 0.06 <sup>c</sup>	7.72 ± 0.11 <sup>a</sup>	0.41 ± 0.01 <sup>c</sup>
	ME	10.1 ± 0.04 <sup>c</sup>	2.25 ± 0.01 <sup>b</sup>	0.24 ± 0.01 <sup>d</sup>

Notes: ME: Methanolic extract; GAE: Gallic acid equivalents; DW: Dry weight; CE: (+)-catechin equivalent, TAE: Tannic acid equivalent. Means with different letters are different ( $P < 0.05$ ).



Concerning the tannins, the methanolic extract of *T. polium* has the lowest contents of these compounds (0.24 mg TAE/g DW). The highest tannin contents were registered in infusion extract from *S. microphylla* (3.4 mg TAE/g DW).

### 3.4 Antioxidant Activity

The obtained data showed clearly that the antioxidant activity of tested extracts varied significantly among the species and nature of extracts regardless of the used test (Table 4). The results of the scavenging DPPH radical method demonstrated that the activity was more important in both infusion extracts in particularly the *T. polium* ( $IC_{50} = 0.02$  mg/mL).

**Table 4:** Radical scavenging activity, metal chelating power and reducing power assay of essential oil, infusion and methanolic extract of *S. microphylla* and *T. polium* represented by  $IC_{50}$  (mg/mL). Values given are means (error bars represent standard deviations) of 3 independent experiments. Means with different letters are different ( $P < 0.05$ )

	Extracts	<i>S. microphylla</i>	<i>T. polium</i>
DPPH	EO	$1.12 \pm 0.03^b$	$1.29 \pm 0.06^b$
	Infusion	$0.16 \pm 0.02^c$	$0.02 \pm 0.01^c$
	ME	$0.83 \pm 0.06^a$	$0.56 \pm 0.04^a$
Iron chelating	EO	$1.62 \pm 0.02^a$	$1.38 \pm 0.03^a$
	Infusion	$0.07 \pm 0.01^c$	$0.65 \pm 0.05^b$
	ME	$0.65 \pm 0.03^b$	$0.95 \pm 0.02^b$
Reducing power	EO	$1.42 \pm 0.05^b$	$2.34 \pm 0.01^a$
	Infusion	$0.026 \pm 0.01^c$	$0.33 \pm 0.04^b$
	ME	$0.33 \pm 0.02^a$	$3.4 \pm 0.06^a$

The iron-chelating power was used to determine the ability of plant extracts to chelate metal ions. From Table 4, it can be concluded that the *T. polium* methanolic extract had the higher chelating power and so the highest  $IC_{50}$  (0.95 mg/mL). This activity was less important in the MeOH extract of *S. microphylla* and both infusion extracts.

The reducing power of iron was estimated by the effective concentration ( $EC_{50}$ ). The low reducing power of the extract corresponds to a high  $EC_{50}$  value. The results summarized in the Table 4 demonstrated that the infusion extract of *S. microphylla* has inferred the highest reducing power with  $EC_{50} = 0.026$  mg/L followed by infusion extract of *T. polium* and methanolic extract of *S. microphylla*.

### 3.5 Antimicrobial Activity

The antibacterial and antifungal activities of tested essential oil, methanolic, and infusions extracts were determined using 2 methods: the disc diffusion assay and the broth dilution methods. The results of the antibacterial activities of *T. polium* and *S. microphylla* are summarized in Tables 5 and 6, respectively. The obtained data indicated that the investigated methanolic extracts displayed antibacterial activities with the diameters of inhibition zones (IZ) varied between 11 to 16 mm but the infusions extracts of both species were not active against the tested strains. In fact, the methanolic extract of *S. microphylla* (IZ = 12 to 16 mm) showed high antimicrobial activity against the tested strains than *T. polium* ones (IZ = 11 to 15 mm). The important antibacterial power was observed against gram-positive bacteria (*E. coli* and *P. aeruginosa*).

**Table 5:** Antibacterial activity: IZ (mm), MIC and MBC ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ) of Methanolic extract of *S. microphylla* (MES) and *T. polium* (MET). Means with different letters are different ( $P < 0.05$ )

Micro-organisms	Inhibition zone diameters (mm)			MIC	MBC
	MES	MET	Antibiotics	$\mu\text{g/mL}$	$\mu\text{g/mL}$
<i>E. coli</i> ATCC 8739	16 <sup>a</sup>	14 <sup>b</sup>	24 <sup>1</sup>	8.3 <sup>a</sup>	16.6 <sup>b</sup>
<i>S. typhimurium</i> NCTC 6017	14 <sup>b</sup>	13 <sup>bc</sup>	23 <sup>1</sup>	8.3 <sup>a</sup>	16.6 <sup>b</sup>
<i>A. hydrophila</i> EI	14 <sup>b</sup>	13 <sup>bc</sup>	23 <sup>1</sup>	16.6 <sup>b</sup>	33.3 <sup>c</sup>
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> ATCC 27853	16 <sup>a</sup>	14 <sup>b</sup>	21 <sup>1</sup>	8.3 <sup>a</sup>	16.6 <sup>b</sup>
<i>S. aureus</i> ATCC 29213	14 <sup>b</sup>	14 <sup>b</sup>	20 <sup>1</sup>	8.3 <sup>a</sup>	16.6 <sup>b</sup>
<i>L. monocytogenes</i> ATCC 7644	13 <sup>bc</sup>	11 <sup>d</sup>	18 <sup>1</sup>	16.6	33.3 <sup>c</sup>
<i>B. Cereus</i> ATCC1247	15 <sup>ab</sup>	13 <sup>bc</sup>	21 <sup>1</sup>	16.6 <sup>b</sup>	33.3 <sup>c</sup>
<i>Asp. Flavus</i> ATCC 60045	14 <sup>b</sup>	15 <sup>ab</sup>	11 <sup>2</sup>	16.6 <sup>b</sup>	33.3 <sup>c</sup>
<i>Asp. Niger</i> ATCC 60045	12 <sup>c</sup>	13 <sup>bc</sup>	12 <sup>2</sup>	16.6 <sup>b</sup>	33.3 <sup>c</sup>
<i>C. albicans</i> ATCC 10231	12 <sup>c</sup>	13 <sup>bc</sup>	17 <sup>2</sup>	16.6 <sup>b</sup>	33.3 <sup>c</sup>

Note: <sup>1</sup>Gentamicin. <sup>2</sup>Amphotricin.

**Table 6:** Antibacterial activity: IZ (mm), MIC and MBC (mg/mL) of essential oil of *S. microphylla* (EOS) and *T. polium* (EOT). Means with different letters are different ( $P < 0.05$ )

Micro-organisms	Inhibition zone diameters (mm)			MIC	MBC
	EOS	EOT	Antibiotic (Gentamicin)	$\mu\text{g/mL}$	$\mu\text{g/mL}$
<i>E. coli</i> ATCC 8739	11 $\pm$ 0.03 <sup>a</sup>	11 $\pm$ 0.5 <sup>a</sup>	24	275 <sup>a</sup>	550 <sup>b</sup>
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> ATCC 27853	13 $\pm$ 0.05 <sup>c</sup>	10 $\pm$ 0.8 <sup>a</sup>	21	275 <sup>a</sup>	550 <sup>b</sup>
<i>L. monocytogenes</i> ATCC 7644	12 $\pm$ 0.02 <sup>b</sup>	14 $\pm$ 0.5 <sup>b</sup>	18	275 <sup>a</sup>	550 <sup>b</sup>

The screening of the antibacterial activity of essential oil of *S. microphylla* and *T. polium* was studied against 3 bacteria. The tested EOs exhibited a moderate effect against *E. coli*, *P. aeruginosa* and *L. monocytogenes* with zone diameters were 11, 13, and 12 mm, respectively. These data showed clearly that the effect of essential oil varied among the studied strains which can be due to the compositions of these extracts.

Based on these data, it can be concluded that the methanolic extract had an important antimicrobial activity than the EOs.

#### 4 Discussion

The composition of essential oils of *Lamiaceae* is characterized by great diversity between species. Each plant has its own footprints [35]. The variation in the chemical composition of essential oils depends on several factors including season, geographic origin, environmental factors, extraction methods, plant organ, phenological stage, and genetic differences [36].

The data of the chemical composition of the essential oil of *S. microphylla* shows that the major compounds are  $\beta$ -caryophyllene (13.32%), 1,8 cineole (11.25%), Cis p-Menthane 3 one (10.74%), and  $\beta$ -Selinol (9.71%).

Several works have studied the variation of the chemical composition of the essential oil of *S. microphylla*. Lima et al. [37] reported that (E)-caryophyllene (15.35%),  $\alpha$ -eudesmol (14.06%),  $\beta$ -eudesmol (8.74%) and  $\delta$ -eudesmol (7.64%) are the major compounds of the essential oil of *S. microphylla*. In addition, Aydogmuş et al. [15] showed the presence of 2 major compounds which are: eudesmol and 8- $\alpha$ -hydroxy- $\beta$ -eudesmol. The identified compounds of EO of *S. microphylla* were  $\alpha$ -pinene,  $\beta$ -pinene, camphene,  $\delta$ -3-carene, limonene, 1,8-cineole, camphor, borneol, bornyl acetate, (E)-karyophyllene,  $\alpha$ -copaene, globulol, spatulenol, eudesmol, and  $\beta$ -eudesmol [38].

The present study showed that the major compounds of the essential oil of *T. polium* are  $\beta$ -cadinene (10%),  $\beta$ -citronellol (8.5%), Carvacrol (7.63%), and Eugenol (7.15). On the other hand, the literature has shown a variation between the chemical compositions according to the geographical origin [39] of the species. For example, myrcene (15.3%), germacrene D (9.0%),  $\alpha$ -pinene (6.6%), and  $\alpha$ -cadinol (5.1%) were the main components of the essential oil of Tunisian *T. polium* (39). The main compounds of *T. polium* from Northwest Algeria were germacrene D (25.81%), bicyclogermacrene (13%),  $\beta$ -pinene (11.69%), and carvacrol (8.93%) [40]. The major compound of the essential oil of Jordanian *T. polium* being 8-cedren-13-ol (24.8%) [41]. The composition of the essential oil of *T. polium* is characterized by the chemotype of the plant [42] depending on the part of the used plant, its stage of growth as well as the nature of the soil and growing conditions [39]. According to Boulila et al. [39], the chemical composition of essential oils of the species *T. polium* ssp. *Polium* in Tunisia, gives contents of major compounds which are 1,8 Cineol (17.66%),  $\alpha$ -Pinene (8.05%), and Cis Verbenol (7.49%).

Our results on the chemical composition of *T. polium* essential oil differ from those obtained for the same species in other countries. In France, the species contains high levels of  $\alpha$ -pinene,  $\beta$ -pinene, germacrene D,  $\beta$ -caryophyllene, sabinene, and myrcene [43].

In Greece, it is rich in t-cadinol, -cadinol,  $\beta$ -caryophyllene, karyophyllene oxide, and undecane [44]. The essential oil, extracted from samples of *T. polium* from Turkey and Serbia, is dominated by  $\beta$ -pinene [45]. Myrcene is the main petroleum compound of *T. polium* in Tunisia [39].

In addition to the genotypic and environmental effects (geographical origin), the regional variation (between countries) would also result from the variation in the composition of essential oils.

The phenolic content varies qualitatively and quantitatively from one plant to another. This can be attributed to several factors, including climatic and environmental factors: geographic area, drought, soil, attacks, and diseases... etc., the genetic makeup, the time of harvest, and the stage of development of the plant [46]. The extraction and the quantification methods may also influence the estimate of the content of total phenols. It has been proven that their contents and those of flavonoids are high when the plant's living environment is not adequate, in which case the plant promotes the synthesis of secondary metabolites in order to adapt and survive [47].

The antioxidant activity of the tested essential oils is probably linked to the major compounds which are mainly monoterpenes and sesquiterpenes for the essential oils of *Salvia* and *Teucrium*. These compounds exhibit important antioxidant properties. In general, essential oils rich in oxygenated compounds exhibit a more marked anti-radical activity than those containing hydrocarbon terpenes [48].

From the obtained results in these tests, it is evident that the interaction of an antioxidant with DPPH depends on its chemical structure. Some compounds react very quickly with DPPH. Athamena et al. [49] also found that this activity differs depending on the used test. This may explain this variation in the obtained results. It is important to note the fact that in the FRAP test all reduced substances (not just phenolic compounds) react in the reaction medium [50].

The results of the antimicrobial activity of essential oils of *Salvia* and *Teucrium* are similar, in most cases to the results described in the literature for the antimicrobial activities of other species of the genus *Salvia*

[6,51]. For example, Sage had bactericidal effects on *Candida albicans*, *Streptococci*, *Pneumococcus*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Proteus* [52].

The diameters of inhibition zones observed for the essential oil as well as the various *Salvia* tested extracts ranged from 11 to 16 mm. Generally, this activity is attributed to the presence of 8-cineole and trans-caryophyllene [53,54].

Data on the antimicrobial activity of *T. polium* show that the extracts are more active compared to the essential oil. It should be noted, however, that these zones of inhibition are lower than those of the reference used antibiotics.

The activity of the essential oils of plants of this genus is linked to their composition, in particular compounds such as d-limonene,  $\delta$ -cadinene, and  $\beta$ -caryophyllene [54].

In reality, even if the antimicrobial activity of essential oil is often attributed essentially to its major compounds, it is known that the synergistic or antagonistic effect of the compounds in the mixture must be considered [55]. In addition, components of essential oils in lower amounts may also contribute to antimicrobial activity, possibly involving some type of synergy with other active compounds [40]. Many aromatic plants as well as the essential oils themselves have a strong antimicrobial power. They are even sometimes used as preservatives. This power is exerted against pathogenic bacteria, which alter membrane structures and functionality.

## 5 Conclusions

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first work reporting the phytochemical investigation of essential oil, methanolic and infusion extracts of *S. microphylla* growing in Tunisia. The antioxidant and antimicrobial activities also were evaluated. Infusion extract showed to not be antibacterial power at the tested concentrations, while the antioxidant properties were extremely important compared to that of the EOs. Concerning *T. polium*, the results show the richness of all the extracts by secondary metabolites which are endowed by important biological activities.

From a general point of view, our findings confirm the importance of bioactive plant molecules, and therefore it will be important to maintain the productivity and stability of cultivated plants.

**Acknowledgement:** One of the authors thanks Mr. R. El Mokni for his help to identify the plant material.

**Funding Statement:** The authors acknowledge funding supported by Campus France as part of the Scientific Stay at High Level received by AK and supported by CRITTBois and LERMAB of University of Lorraine, Epinal, France.

**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest to report regarding the present study.

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