



## Phytosterols in *Salvia* Seeds: Content and Composition and Correlation with Environmental Parameters

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## Abstract

The purpose of this study was to determine the oil yield, content and composition of phytosterols in the seeds of six wild-grown *Salvia* species from Iran, including *S. ceratophylla* L. (3 populations), *S. nemorosa* L. (6 populations), *S. reuteriana* Boiss. (6 populations), *S. spinosa* L. (5 populations), *S. verticillata* L. (3 populations) and *S. virgata* Jacq. (3 populations). We also evaluated the effects of some environmental parameters on their chemical variations and characterized the investigated populations based on the sterol chemo-types. The results showed that seed oil yields ranged between 16.51 and 42.48%, with an average of 28.93%. The total sterol contents in *Salvia* seeds varied significantly and ranged from 145.13 to 386.75 mg 100g oil<sup>-1</sup>.  $\beta$ -Sitosterol, campesterol and stigmasterol were the main sterol constituents in all of the *Salvia* seed oils, with the average values of 60.13%, 27.32% and 12.55% of the total sterols, respectively. Among all the tested species, the highest level of total phytosterol and  $\beta$ -sitosterol contents was obtained for the seeds of *S. ceratophylla*. Moreover, the percentages of these compounds varied depending on climatic factors such as precipitation, humidity and temperature. The cluster analysis based on the

$\beta$ -sitosterol/ campesterol ratio contents of the seeds categorized different populations of *Salvia* species into three distinct campesterol,  $\beta$ -sitosterol and  $\beta$ -sitosterol-rich chemo-types.

## Keywords

Campesterol Environmental parameters Phytosterols *Salvia* L. Seed oil  $\beta$ -Sitosterol

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## Notes

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