

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION AND BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES OF SOME *MARRUBIUM* SPECIES ESSENTIAL OIL: A REVIEW

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Abstract. Due to their efficiency and safety, synthetic products raise several questions as for their use; thus, medicinal plants regain interest as potential source of bioactive natural compounds. *Marrubium* species are recognized to possess many beneficial effects on the human body. They are widely used in folk medicine all over the world to treat a variety of ailments. This paper reviews information on the essential oil of *Marrubium* species (except *M. vulgare*) described until now regarding extraction, chemical composition and biological activities. *Marrubium* essential oils, although quantitatively poor, are rich in chemical composition. This composition consists especially of sesquiterpenoids and a little amount of monoterpenes. *Marrubium* essential oils exhibit antioxidant and antimicrobial activities. However, because of the lack of literature concerning essential oil of these species, further studies are necessary, particularly regarding their activities.

Keywords: *Marrubium* specie, essential oil, chemical composition, antioxidant activity, antimicrobial activity.

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