Chemical Composition and \textit{in vitro} Antimicrobial Activity of the Essential Oils of Two \textit{Helichrysum} Species from Tanzania

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The chemical composition of the essential oils obtained from the aerial parts of \textit{Helichrysum cymosum} and \textit{H. fulgidum}, from Tanzania, were analyzed by GC and GC/MS. A total of sixty-five compounds, representing 92.4\% and 88.2\% of the two oils, respectively, were identified. \textit{trans}-Caryophyllene, caryophyllene oxide, \textit{\beta}-\textit{pinene}, \textit{p}-\textit{cymene}, spathulenol and \textit{\beta}-bourbonene were found to be the main components. Furthermore, the oils were tested against six gram (\textsuperscript{a}) bacteria and three pathogenic fungi. It was found that the oil of \textit{H. fulgidum} exhibited significant antimicrobial activity, while the oil of \textit{H. cymosum} was not active at all.

Key words: \textit{Helichrysum cymosum} and \textit{fulgidum}, Volatiles, Antimicrobial Activity