



***Teucrium moleromesae* (Lamiaceae): a new species of genus *Teucrium* sect. *Montanum* from the arid mountains of south-eastern Spain**

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Abstract

Teucrium moleromesae, a new species belonging to the section *Montanum*, is described and illustrated. The new species is compared with two taxonomically related species, *T. terciae* and *T. pumilum*. *T. moleromesae* occurs in open arid mountain in the north of Almería and Granada provinces (south-eastern Spain). In addition, a distribution map, iconography, and a description of the habitat and conservation status of the new species are presented.

Key words: Iberian Peninsula, sect. *Montanum*, taxonomy, *Teucrium*

Introduction

The genus *Teucrium* Linnaeus (1753: 562) includes more than 250 currently recognised species (Govaerts *et al.* 2010), with a subcosmopolitan distribution and main centre of diversity in the Mediterranean region (King 1988, Hedge 1992, Navarro & El Oualidi 2000a; Harley *et al.* 2004, Navarro 2010). *Teucrium* has an unusual distribution in the *Lamiaceae* family, 93% of species being present in the northern hemisphere (Hedge & Miller, 1977) and only 7% in the southern hemisphere (Australia, New Zealand, Cape Region and Argentina).

The genus is characterized broadly by the corolla morphology. It is usually 1- or 2-lipped, 5-lobed (with the anterior lobe much larger than the others), concave, occasionally unequal 5-lobes in the upper half; lobes slightly spreading, 4 posterior ± similar, (anterior lobe larger than the others). The most recent proposal for an infrageneric classification of *Teucrium* was published by Kästner (1989), while Navarro (2010) provided the most recent treatment of the genus for Spain, encompassing about 67 species.

Teucrium section *Montanum* Lázaro Ibiza (1896: 774) was described for the Iberian Peninsula, where it is characterized by subshrub and rocky half shrub species with simple hairs, entire or subentire, bicolored sessile leaves, pedicellate flowers, subactinomorphic calyx and 1-lipped corolla with a long tube and well developed lobes and two nectar guide-lines of hairs on the lower lips (Navarro & El Oualidi 2000b). The infrageneric taxonomic relationships between the 1-lipped taxa with subactinomorphic calyx, as occurs in sections *Montanum*, *Chamaedrys* (Miller 1754: 19) Kästner (1989: 71) and *Pumilum* Lázaro Ibiza (1896: 774), was shown by Kästner (1989), El Oualidi *et al.* (1999), Navarro & El Oualidi (2000b), and Navarro *et al.* (2004). Sect. *Montanum* occurs in southern and eastern Europe, the western Mediterranean area and in the mountains of the south Arabian Peninsula. Specially, the Iberian Peninsula represents a recent area of diversification for section *Montanum* (El Oualidi *et al.* 2002).

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