

Chemical Composition and *in vitro* Antimicrobial Activity of the Essential Oils of Two *Helichrysum* Species from Tanzania

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The chemical composition of the essential oils obtained from the aerial parts of *Helichrysum cymosum* and *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. *trans*-Caryophyllene, caryophyllene oxide, β -pinene, *p*-cymene, spathulenol and β -bourbonene were found to be the main components. Furthermore, the oils were tested against six gram (\pm) bacteria and three pathogenic fungi. It was found that the oil of *H. fulgidum* exhibited significant antimicrobial activity, while the oil of *H. cymosum* was not active at all.

Key words: *Helichrysum cymosum* and *fulgidum*, Volatiles, Antimicrobial Activity