

Morphological, karyological and biogeographical study of the Algerian endemic species *Salvia jaminiana* de Noé (Lamiaceae), with taxonomic and evolutionary interpretations

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Description

Like all the nineteen species of *Salvia* present in Algeria, especially the endemics, *S. jaminiana* de Noé is taxonomically and biogeographically understudied. The present paper aims mainly, after a detailed morphological and cytogenetic characterization, to clarify the botanical classification and delimit the area of distribution of this rare species. The evolutionary aspects of its main morphological, cytogenetic and biogeographical characteristics are also addressed. The results show clearly that *S. jaminiana* is a threatened species restricted to the vicinity of Biskra (Eastern North Saharan Algeria), adapted to arid environment with a suffruticose habit, narrowly 2-pinnatifid leaves, densely hairy inflorescences and white flowers. Based on morphology and palynology, it belongs in Section *Plethiosphace* Benth. Its closest relatives are *S. verbenaca* L., *S. lanigera* Poir., *S. pseudojaminiana* L. Chevall., *S. merjamie* Forssk ...