

1 Article

2 Evaluation of chemical composition, antioxidant and 3 anti *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Salmonella enterica* 4 activity of the essential oil of *Mentha pulegium* and 5 *Mentha suaveolens* collected in Morocco

6 Abdelaziz Ed-Dra¹, Fouzia Rhazi Filali¹, Vittorio Lo Presti², Badr Zekkori³, Luca Nalbone², Najla
7 Trabelsi⁴, Amar Bentayeb³, Alessandro Giuffrida², Filippo Giarratana^{2*}

8 ¹ Team of Microbiology and Health, Laboratory of Chemistry-Biology Applied to the Environment, Moulay
9 Ismail University Faculty of Sciences, BP. 11201 Zitoune Meknes, Morocco

10 ² Department of Veterinary Science, University of Messina, Polo Universitario dell'Annunziata, 98168
11 Messina, Italy

12 ³ Department of Chemistry, Team of Physical-Chemistry of Condensed Matter, Moulay Ismail University,
13 Faculty of Sciences, BP. 11201 Zitoune Meknes, Morocco

14 ⁴ Center of Biotechnology of Borj Cedria, LR15CBBC05 Olive Biotechnology, University of Tunis El Manar,
15 2050, Tunis, Tunisia

16 * Correspondence: fgiarratana@unime.it; Tel.: +39 0906766889

17 Received: date; Accepted: date; Published: date

19 Abstract:

20 The essential oils (EOs) obtained from aromatic plants are rich in natural compounds with
21 interesting biological effects. The aim of this study was to evaluate the chemical composition of
22 EOs of *Mentha pulegium* (MP-EO) and *Mentha suaveolens* (MS-EO) collected from Morocco, and their
23 antioxidant properties and antibacterial activity against *Salmonella enterica* and *Listeria*
24 *monocytogenes*. The EOs were extracted by hydro-distillation, while the chemical compositions were
25 determined by GC-MS. The antioxidant activity was evaluated by DPPH and FRAP assay.
26 Antibacterial activity was tested with disc diffusion assay; determination of minimum inhibitory
27 concentration, minimum bactericidal concentration and the evaluation of sub-lethally injured cell
28 were also performed. The results of chemical composition showed the presence of compounds not
29 still reported in EOs obtained from these plants. MS-EO was characterized by the best antioxidant
30 and antibacterial activity *vs S. enterica* and *L. monocytogenes* respect to MP-EO. The EOs tested in
31 this study were rich in compounds with interesting activities and they could be applied in the
32 medical fields, as well as in food industries as natural preservatives against tested food borne
33 pathogens.

34 **Keywords:** Essential oil; *Mentha pulegium*; *Mentha suaveolens*; *Listeria monocytogenes*; *Salmonella*
35 *enterica*; antioxidant; sub-lethally injured bacteria.

37 1. Introduction

38 Several plants and herbs have been used by human for medical purpose as well as for foods
39 preservation since ancient times [1-5]. Over the years, antibiotics in the treatment of human
40 infections and chemical additives in the conservation of foods have taken over the lead.

41 The over use of antibiotics in human medicine and veterinary practice has determine the
42 diffusion of multidrug resistant (MDR) bacteria [6-9]. This MDR has been reported in several
43 pathogen, commensal and environmental bacteria [10-19]. The infection deriving from these MDR
44 bacteria represent a risk for public health [16,20]. For all these reasons the World Health

45 Organization (WHO) required the reduction of the use of antibiotics and alternative to resolve the
46 therapeutic failure in the treatment of MDR bacteria [20].

47 In this contest several studies were recently performed in order to improve the knowledge on
48 antibacterial activity of different natural compounds and of essential oils (EOs) [21,22]. Over the
49 years several authors have demonstrated that EOs possess not only antibacterial activity, but also
50 antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and anti-carcinogenic properties as well as effectiveness against
51 nematode parasites, mold and virus [23-30]. For all these properties their application has been
52 hypothesized, not only to the treatment of human disease but also in in food as alternative to
53 chemical preservatives for prolongation of shelf-life and safety purpose [31-33]. Several studies have
54 demonstrated in fact their effectiveness against the two most important food borne pathogen disease
55 such as *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Salmonella* spp. [34,35]. The bacterial infections due to the
56 consumption of contaminated food by these two pathogens were, in fact, considered as major cause
57 for morbidity and mortality worldwide. *L. monocytogenes* was classified among the most virulent
58 bacteria with a high level of mortality and its frequently isolation in undercooked food and
59 ready-to-eat food, represent a serious risk for the consumers [36-40]. *Salmonella*, instead, is
60 considered the major foodborne pathogens worldwide and determined millions of cases of diseases
61 each year [41]. Meat and meat products are considered as the major mean of transferring these
62 bacteria to humans [17,42,43].

63 Morocco for its geographical position, between two seas and a wide desert, crossed by four
64 mountain chains is considered a favourable area for the growth of a wide range of aromatic and
65 medicinal plants (more than 4200 different plants) [44,45]. Among aromatic plants *Mentha pulegium*
66 and *Mentha suaveolens* and their EOs possess interesting activities, such as antibacterial, antiviral,
67 antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and insecticidal [46-53].

68 The aim of this study was to improve the knowledge on the EOs obtained from *Mentha pulegium*
69 and *Mentha suaveolens* collected from Morocco, evaluating their composition, antioxidant and
70 antibacterial activity against *Salmonella enterica* and *Listeria monocytogenes*.

71 2. Results and Discussion

72 2.1. Chemical composition of EOs: GC-MS analysis

73 The chemical profile of the two tested EO was presented in Table 1. The major compounds of *M.*
74 *pulegium* essential oil (MP-EO) were Limonene (35.747%), Piperitone (29.527%) and β -Thujene
75 (8.29%); while for *M. suaveolens* essential oil (MS-EO) Cinerone (16.273%), Caryophyllene (10.85%)
76 and Terpene-4-ol (7.278%) were the major compounds observed.

77
78 **Table 1.** Chemical composition of *Mentha pulegium* and *Mentha suaveolens* essential oil

N°	Component	RI	Formula	% Area	
				<i>M. pulegium</i>	<i>M. suaveolens</i>
1	2-Hexenal	842	C ₆ H ₁₀ O	0.045	-
2	Tricyclene	928	C ₁₀ H ₁₆	0.056	-
3	α -Thujene	934	C ₁₀ H ₁₆	0.117	0.071
4	α -Pinene	941	C ₁₀ H ₁₆	0.383	1.334
5	β -Thujene	967	C ₁₀ H ₁₆	8.29	-
6	β -Pinene	982	C ₁₀ H ₁₆	0.283	3.938
7	3-Octanone	987	C ₈ H ₁₆ O	0.805	-
8	β -Myrcene	991	C ₁₀ H ₁₆	0.26	-
9	3-Carene	1012	C ₁₀ H ₁₆	-	0.691
10	α -Terpinene	1018	C ₁₀ H ₁₆	0.232	2.285
11	O-Cymene	1024	C ₁₀ H ₁₄	-	0.365

12	<i>p</i> -Cymene	1025	C ₁₀ H ₁₄	0.183	1.505
13	Limonene	1029	C ₁₀ H ₁₆	35.747	5.282
14	1,8-Cineole	1035	C ₁₀ H ₁₈ O	0.117	6.944
15	γ -Terpinene	1058	C ₁₀ H ₁₆	-	2.366
16	<i>cis</i> -Sabinene Hydrate	1066	C ₁₀ H ₁₈	0.071	3.618
17	<i>p</i> -Menthadien-7-ol	1071	C ₁₀ H ₁₆ O	0.45	-
18	Terpinolene	1088	C ₁₀ H ₁₆	0.112	-
19	Chrysanthenone	1124	C ₁₀ H ₁₄ O	-	2.934
20	D-Menthone	1153	C ₁₀ H ₁₈ O	0.152	-
21	Terpinen-4-ol	1178	C ₁₀ H ₁₈ O	1.133	7.278
22	<i>p</i> -Cymen-8-ol	1186	C ₁₀ H ₁₄ O	-	0.845
23	α -Terpineol	1193	C ₁₀ H ₁₈ O	0.369	1.843
24	Cinerone	1229	C ₁₀ H ₁₄ O	-	16.273
25	Piperitone	1248	C ₁₀ H ₁₆ O	29.527	-
26	β -Caryophyllene	1426	C ₁₅ H ₂₄	0.34	10.85
27	α -Caryophyllene	1465	C ₁₅ H ₂₄	0.56	-
28	β -Selinene	1488	C ₁₅ H ₂₄	-	1.489
29	BicycloGermacrene	1494	C ₁₅ H ₂₄	-	1.432
30	α -Muurolene	1499	C ₁₅ H ₂₄	-	0.56
31	γ -Cadinene	1515	C ₁₅ H ₂₄	-	0.798
32	Calamenene	1523	C ₁₅ H ₂₂	-	1.336
33	β -Cadinene	1531	C ₁₅ H ₂₄	-	0.558
Total identified (%)				79.232	74.595
Monoterpene hydrocarbons				45.734	21.455
Sesquiterpene hydrocarbons				0.9	17.023
Oxygenated monoterpenes				31.748	36.117
Other				0.85	-

79

80

81

82

83

84

85

86

87

88

89

90

91

92

93

The chemical composition of MP-EO was completely different from those reported in other EOs obtained from *M. pulegium* collected in different area of Morocco. Pulegone was, in fact, identified as major compound from plants collected in the capital Rabat [46] and in the province of Ouezzane [54], Taourirt [55], Oued Laou [56] and Northern region [57]. Pulegone was the main compounds also in EOs obtained from plants collected in Algeria [49,58], Egypt [59], Bulgaria [60] and north-western Himalayas (India) [61]; while Menthone was reported in Portugal [62]. The only composition similar to those described in this study was reported in Iran with Piperitone as major compounds [63].

Also the chemical composition of MS-EO was not in accordance to those reported in different area of Morocco or in other countries; Piperitenone oxide was, in fact, the major compound of the EOs derived from plants collected from the capital Rabat [46], or from Berkane [50] and Al Hoceima region of Morocco [64], from Italy [48,65] and Romania [51] or in association with Piperitenone from Corsica [66] and from Eastern of Iberian Peninsula [67]. In Egypt, instead, Carvone was the major compounds observed in tested EO [47].

94

2.2. Antioxidants activity results

95

96

The antioxidant activity evaluated using DPPH scavenging activity and the reducing power of Iron (III) to Iron (II), showed that MS-EO has the higher activity

97 (IC₅₀=0.78±0.05mg/mL; EC₅₀=1.53±0.07mg/mL); while MP-EO presented the lower
 98 (IC₅₀=5.11±0.14 mg/mL; EC₅₀=6.78±0.18mg/mL) (Table 2). This difference may depend on the
 99 chemical composition of each essential oil, which allows the free radicals scavenging. The
 100 richness of *M. suaveolens* essential oil with β-Caryophyllene improves its antioxidant activity.
 101 These findings have been confirmed by worldwide studies; an *in vitro* study carried out by
 102 Dahham and his group using FRAP and DPPH scavenging assays showed that Caryophyllene
 103 has a strong antioxidant effect [68]. Also, a study performed by Basha and Sankaranarayanan
 104 on diabetic rats showed that Caryophyllene attenuates hyperglycemia mediated oxidative and
 105 inflammatory stress [69]. Moreover, the *in vivo* assay performed by Calleja and his colleagues
 106 showed that Caryophyllene has an important antioxidant activity by protecting the rat liver
 107 from carbon tetrachloride-induced fibrosis by inhibiting hepatic stellate cell activation [70].

108

Table 2: The antioxidant activity of the tested Essential Oils

	Ascorbic acid	<i>M. suaveolens</i>	<i>M. pulegium</i>
IC ₅₀ (mg/mL)*	0.031±0.001 ^a	0.78±0.05 ^b	5.11±0.14 ^c
EC ₅₀ (mg/mL)*	0.095±0.002 ^a	1.53±0.07 ^b	6.78±0.18 ^d

109

The same letter was assigned to the values of the same line that does not have a
 110 significant difference ($P < 0.05$).

110

111 2.3. Antibacterial activity

112

2.3.1. Disc diffusion method

113

114

115

The results of antibacterial activity of the two essential oils against the 8 strains of *S. enterica* and
 114 *L. monocytogenes*, done using the disc diffusion, were presented in Table 3.

116

Table 3: Inhibition diameters (mm) of the tested Essential Oils against *S. enterica* and *L. monocytogenes* strains

Strains	ID	<i>M. pulegium</i>	<i>M. suaveolens</i>	Cefotaxime
<i>S. enterica</i>	S. 1	13±0.2	13±0.3	14±0.1
	S. 2	12±0.2	12±0.2	13±0.1
	S. 3	13±0.4	14±0.3	29±0.2
	S. 4	11±0.1	12±0.1	31±0.2
	S. 5	12±0.2	14±0.2	29±0.2
	S. 6	12±0.3	14±0.4	28±0.3
	S. 7	13±0.2	12±0.3	28±0.2
	S. 8	14±0.3	15±0.4	27±0.2
	Mean value	12.5±0.9	13.3±1.2	24.9±7.1
<i>L. monocytogenes</i>	L. 1	18±0.3	21±0.1	27±0.1
	L. 2	19±0.2	20±0.1	25±0.1
	L. 3	14±0.1	17±0.1	26±0.1
	L. 4	17±0.2	21±0.2	28±0.2
	L. 5	18±0.2	23±0.3	31±0.2
	L. 6	13±0.1	16±0.2	34±0.3
	L. 7	15±0.1	16±0.1	29±0.1
	L. 8	14±0.1	15±0.1	27±0.1
	Mean value	16.7±2.7	18.7±3.0	29.4±2.9

117

118 In this preliminary evaluation, the two tested oils showed an interesting antibacterial activity.
 119 MS-EO was more effectiveness than MP-EO, with a more evident activity *vs Listeria monocytogenes*. In
 120 particularly, the inhibition diameter of MP-EO *vs S. enterica* strains has a mean value of 12.5 ± 0.9 mm
 121 (ranged from 11 ± 0.1 to 14 ± 0.3); while *vs L. monocytogenes* strains the mean value was 16.7 ± 2.7 mm
 122 with value ranged from 13 ± 0.1 to 19 ± 0.2 . The more effectiveness MS-EO reported, instead, an
 123 inhibition diameter *vs S. enterica* strains with a mean value of 13.3 ± 1.2 mm with value ranged from
 124 12 ± 0.2 - 15 ± 0.4 ; while *vs L. monocytogenes* strains the mean value was 18.7 ± 3.0 mm (ranged from
 125 15 ± 0.1 to 23 ± 0.3).

126 2.3.2. Evaluation of MIC and MBC

127 The determination of minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) and minimum bactericidal
 128 concentration (MBC), reported in Table 4 confirmed MS-EO has the more effectiveness (4 dilution
 129 more) respect to MP-EO, and *vs L. monocytogenes* strains. MP-EO presented, in fact, value for MIC
 130 and MBC of 2% respect to 0.5% of MS-EO *vs S. enterica*; while *vs L. monocytogenes* these values were
 131 1% and 0.25% for MP-EO and MS-EO respectively. MIC and MBC were correspondent for both the
 132 tested EOs and *vs* all the tested strains.
 133

134 **Table 4:** MIC and MBC in percentage (%) of the tested essential oils against *S. enterica* and *L. monocytogenes*

Strains	ID	<i>M. pulegium</i>		<i>M. suaveolens</i>	
		MIC	MBC	MIC	MBC
<i>S. enterica</i>	S. 1	2	2	0.5	0.5
	S. 2	2	2	0.5	0.5
	S. 3	2	2	0.5	0.5
	S. 4	2	2	0.5	0.5
	S. 5	2	2	0.5	0.5
	S. 6	2	2	0.5	0.5
	S. 7	2	2	0.5	0.5
	S. 8	2	2	0.5	0.5
<i>L. monocytogenes</i>	L. 1	1	1	0.25	0.25
	L. 2	1	1	0.25	0.25
	L. 3	1	1	0.25	0.25
	L. 4	1	1	0.25	0.25
	L. 5	1	1	0.25	0.25
	L. 6	1	1	0.25	0.25
	L. 7	1	1	0.25	0.25
	L. 8	1	1	0.25	0.25

135
 136 Regarding the great activity against *L. monocytogenes* compared to *S. enterica*, it is known that
 137 Gram + bacteria are generally more sensitive to EOs than Gram - bacteria. The greater resistance in
 138 Gram negative bacteria is due to the complexity of its membrane, which limits the diffusion of
 139 hydrophobic compounds through lipopolysaccharide coverage [71]. Thus, less quantity of EOs are
 140 necessary to diffuse through the external membrane and the lipid bilayer and to reach the bacterial
 141 membrane [72].

142 2.4. Determination of the percentage of injured cells

143 The determination of injured cells percentage showed that the two tested EOs create damage in
 144 the cells with different degrees (Table 5). Also, with this test, MS-EO confirmed its capacity to

145 induce more damage in the tested bacteria respect to MP-EO. MS-EO showed, in fact, the highest
 146 results against *S. enterica* (5.00%±0.08) and *L. monocytogenes* (5.23%±0.07). Moreover, the percentage
 147 of injured cell of *L. monocytogenes* was higher than that of *S. enterica* for all the tested essential oils
 148 (Table 5).

149 **Table 5:** Percentage of sublethally injured cell of *S. enterica* and *L. monocytogenes* after their
 150 exposition to different essential oils during 24 hours

Bacteria	Blank	<i>M. pulegium</i>	<i>M. suaveolens</i>
<i>S. enterica</i>	3.72±0.04 ^a	4.03±0.12 ^b	5.00±0.08 ^c
<i>L. monocytogenes</i>	2.53±0.05 ^a	3.77±0.19 ^b	5.23±0.07 ^c

151 The same letter was assigned to the values of the same line that does not have a
 152 significant difference ($P < 0.05$).

153 Different mechanisms have been proposed to explain the mechanisms of action of the essential
 154 oils on bacteria [73-75]. The EOs create damages in the cell by increasing the cell membrane
 155 permeability, changing cell morphology and decreasing ATP synthesis, because the membrane
 156 potential is the driving force of ATP synthesis [74]. Several studies by microscopic visualization
 157 have showed that essential oils can affected the membrane integrity and destroyed the
 158 phospholipid bilayer [75,76].

159 The uses of EOs with a concentration lower than MIC is not able to inhibit the bacterial growth
 160 but can create damages in the bacterial cell [77]. These damages allow the weakness of bacterial
 161 membrane, which became sensitive to osmotic pressure exerted by different compounds. These
 162 findings were for a major interest to control the survival of pathogenic bacteria in food products and
 163 to reduce the used quantity of EOs.

164 3. Materials and Methods

165 3.1. Plant collection and essential oil extraction

166 The plant of *Mentha pulegium* (Linneo, 1753) and *Mentha suaveolens* (Ehrh, 1972) were manually
 167 collected from their natural habitat in Ifrane and El Hajeb (Morocco). Plants identification was based
 168 upon the morphology of their leaves and stems. In laboratory, they were air dried at room
 169 temperature in absence of light for 15 to 20 days.

170 EOs extraction was done by hydro-distillation. Two-hundred grams for each dried plant was
 171 immersed in 1 L of distilled water in a round glass flask of 2 L and boiled for 3 hours using
 172 Clevenger-type apparatus (IsoLab Laborgäte GmbH, Wetheim, Germany). The water traces which
 173 can be presented in EOs were eliminated using anhydrous sodium sulfate (Sigma-Aldrich, Buchs,
 174 Switzerland) and the resulting products were stored in sealed glass vials at 4°C until used.

175 3.2. Essential oil analysis

176 The analyses were carried out by GC-MS, an Agilent 6890N Gas Chromatograph equipped
 177 with a HP-5MS capillary column (50 m x 0.200 mm i.d., film thickness 0.33 µm). The GC oven
 178 temperature was programmed to increase from 60 to 250°C at a rate of 4°C/min and finally held for
 179 15 min. The transfer line temperature was 250°C. Helium was used as the carrier gas at a flow rate of
 180 1.1 mL/min with a split ratio equal to 1/100. The quadrupole mass spectrometer was scanned over
 181 the 35-465 m/z with an ionizing voltage of 70eV and an ionization current of 150mA. The percentage
 182 composition of oils was computed from GC peak areas without correction factors. Qualitative
 183 analysis was based on a comparison of mass spectra with corresponding data in the computer mass
 184 spectra libraries (NIST MS SEARCH 2.0).

185 3.3. Antioxidant activity

186 The antioxidant activity was tested using DPPH radical scavenging method and the reducing
 187 capacity of Fe (III) to Fe (II). The IC₅₀ equivalent to the concentration of EOs providing 50% of
 188 inhibition of DPPH was performed according to the method of Ed-Dra et al. [53]. EC₅₀ equivalent to
 189 the concentration of EOs providing an absorbance of 0.5 for reducing power of Fe (III) to Fe (II) was,
 190 instead, determined using the method described by Elsharkawy et al. [78].

191 3.4. Antibacterial activity

192 The tested EOs were liposoluble compounds, so in order to facilitate their diffusion in the
 193 culture medium, they were mixed with Tween 80 (Biolife, Milan, Italy) at the final concentration of
 194 5%. The antibacterial activity was performed against eight different strains of *Salmonella enterica* and
 195 *Listeria monocytogenes* (Table 6) by using disc diffusion test and broth dilution assay. The evaluation
 196 of the percentage of sub-lethally injured cells to EOs was also performed. All working cultures used
 197 were prepared by inoculating a loopful from the frozen stock (-80°C) in the different media.

198 **Table 6.** Description of strains tested.

Strains	ID strains	Information	Serotype	Origin
<i>L. monocytogenes</i>	L1	ListME222	-	Wild type-ice cream
	L2	ATCC 13932	4b	Human
	L3	ListME212	-	Wild type-meat product
	L4	ATCC 7644	1/2c	Human
	L5	ATCC 19111	1/2	Poultry
	L6	ListME1	-	Wild type-smoked salmon
	L7	ListME9	-	Wild type-fresh salmon
	L8	ListME13	-	Wild type-smoked salmon
<i>S. enterica</i>	S1	MG869132*	Typhimurium	Wild type-meat product
	S2	KX355308*	Typhimurium	Wild type-meat product
	S3	KX355300*	Kentucky	Wild type-meat product
	S4	KX355309*	Corvallis	Wild type-meat product
	S5	KX355310*	Kentucky	Wild type-meat product
	S6	KX355311*	Saintpul	Wild type-meat product
	S7	MG869130*	Kentucky	Wild type-meat product
	S8	KX355302*	Kentucky	Wild type-meat product

199 ¹ ATCC: American Type Culture Collection; *Accession number

200 3.4.1. Disc diffusion method

201 The disc diffusion method was used to test the *in vitro* antibacterial activity of the tested EOs
 202 against 8 strains of *S. enterica* and *L. monocytogenes*, considering the reported high difference of
 203 response of different strains of the same bacteria to EOs [79]. According to the method described by
 204 Mazzarino et al. [80], a 0.5 McFarland (10⁸ CFU/mL) bacterial suspension was prepared in
 205 physiological water (0.9% NaCl) and inoculated by swabbing on plates containing Mueller-Hinton
 206 Agar (Biolife, Milan, Italy). Ten 10 µL of each EO was dropped on 6 mm diameter sterile paper discs
 207 (Biolife, Milan, Italy), and a disc with 10 µL of Tween 80 was used as a negative control and
 208 Cefotaxime (30 µg) was used as a reference test. All the plates were incubated at 37°C for 24 hours
 209 and the inhibition diameter was measured in millimetres (disk included).

210 3.4.2. Determination of MIC and MBC with broth dilution method

211 In a sterile microtubes containing 100 μ L of Brain Heart Infusion (BHI) (Biolife, Milan, Italy)
 212 with the added of the 5% of Tween 80 for *S. enterica* and Tryptone Soya Yeast Extract Broth (TSYEB)
 213 (Biolife, Milan, Italy) plus 5% of Tween 80 for *L. monocytogenes*, a decreasing concentration of EOs
 214 from 4% to 0.0625% was prepared. Four μ L of 10^8 CFU/g bacterium suspensions were then added to
 215 each tube. All the suspensions were mixed and incubated at 37°C for 24h. The tubes presenting the
 216 low concentration and without growth of bacteria were considered as the minimum inhibitory
 217 concentration (MIC). Whereas, the minimum bactericidal concentration (MBC) was determined by
 218 sub-culturing the samples from the microtubes in which a visible growth of bacteria was present, on
 219 Tryptone Soya Agar (TSA) (Biolife, Milan, Italy) for *S. enterica* and on Tryptone Soya Yeast Extract
 220 Agar (TSYEA) (Biolife, Milan, Italy) for *L. monocytogenes*, then the plates were incubated at 37°C for 24
 221 h. The lower concentration that does not present any growth on media was considered as the
 222 minimum bactericidal concentration (MBC).

223 3.4.3. Determination of the percentage of sub-lethally injured cells to the EOs

224 The number of injured cells was according to the method described by Silva-Angulo et al. [77]
 225 with few modifications. The single strains of *S. enterica* and *L. monocytogenes* were inoculated in BHI
 226 and TSYEB respectively with a concentration of EOs equal to the half of MIC and incubated at 37°C
 227 for 24h. Series of decimal dilution were done in sterile peptone water (1g peptone, 8.5g NaCl, 1L of
 228 water) (Biolife, Milan, Italy) and 100 μ L of each dilution were pour-plated on TSA and TSA with 5%
 229 of NaCl (TSA-S) plates for *S. enterica* and on TSYEA and on TSYEA with 5% of NaCl (TSYEA-S)
 230 plates for *L. monocytogenes*. The non-selective media (TSA and TSYEA) support the growth of
 231 un-injured and EO-injured cells, whereas the selective media (TSA-S and TSYEA-S) support only the
 232 growth of un-injured bacteria.

233 All the plates (selective and non-selective media) were incubated at 37°C for 24 - 48 hours.
 234 Then, the number of colony forming unit was counted in each plate, and the percentage of
 235 sub-lethally injured cells was estimated using the following equations:

$$\text{For } Listeria\ monocytogenes: \quad [1-(\text{CFU on TSYEA-S}/\text{CFU on TSYEA})] \times 100 \quad (1)$$

$$\text{For } Salmonella\ enterica: \quad [1-(\text{CFU on TSA-S}/\text{CFU on TSA})] \times 100 \quad (2)$$

236 3.5. Statistical analysis

237 All tests were performed in triplicate. The obtained data were presented as means \pm standard
 238 deviation. The significance of difference between test and control groups was statistically analysed
 239 using Student test with a probability level of $p < 0.05$. Excel Microsoft was used as software for data
 240 processing.

241 4. Conclusions

242 The results of this study showed the presence of compounds not still reported in EOs obtained
 243 from these plants. This difference in their composition can be related to different period of plant life
 244 as well as growth condition of the plants [81-83]. It is reported, in fact, that plants grown in arid
 245 regions, in mountains or in soil deficient in certain mineral produce metabolites to withstand stress
 246 condition [82-84].

247 Regarding the antibacterial activity, we have confirmed by the calculation of the percentage of
 248 sub-lethally injured cells, that the synergistic effect between the EOs and salt can improve their
 249 antibacterial activity *vs S. enterica* and especially *vs L. monocytogenes*. This data could be used in
 250 further studies in order to control the survival of bacteria by using the mixtures of EOs with other
 251 substances that are able to create an osmotic pressure on bacterial cells wall.

252 The EOs in generally and those reported in this study can be used in the therapeutic treatments
 253 of these pathogens in human and in veterinary practice, instead of antibiotics, as required by World
 254 Health Organization in order to reduce the diffusion of multidrug resistant bacteria.

255 Another important application is in food industries as natural additives. EOs, in fact, are just
256 used in foods traditionally associated with these plants to improve the safety and extend their shelf
257 life, reducing the use of chemical preservatives [77,85,86]. Combination of these EOs and the
258 association of osmotic substance, like the salt, can be used in food to improve the effectiveness and
259 contemporary to reduce their minimum effective dose thus minimizing the loss in sensory quality
260 caused by higher concentration when added alone [85]. The combined use of EOs at lower
261 concentrations can, in fact, allow the achieving of a balance between sensory acceptability, health
262 benefit and bactericidal efficacy.

263 **Funding:** This research received no external funding.

264 **Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

265

266 **References**

- 267 1. Caceres, A.; Cano, O.; Samayoa, B.; Aguilar, L. Plants used in Guatemala for the treatment of
268 gastrointestinal disorders. 1. Screening of 84 plants against enterobacteria. *J. Ethnopharmacol.* **1990**, *30*,
269 55–73.
- 270 2. Caceres, A.; Alvarez, A.V.; Ovando, A.E.; Samayoa, B.E. Plants used in Guatemala for the treatment of
271 respiratory diseases. 1. Screening of 68 plants against Gram-positive bacteria. *J. Ethnopharmacol.* **1991**, *31*,
272 193–208.
- 273 3. Jessica, E.T.; Gassara, F.; Kouassi, A.P.; Brar, S.K.; Belkacemi, K. Spice use in food: Properties and benefits.
274 *Crit. Rev. Food. Sci. Nutr.* **2017**, *57*(6), 1078–1088. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10408398.2013.858235>
- 275 4. Trabelsi, N.; Marotta, S.M.; Giarratana, F.; Taamali, A.; Zarrouk, M.; Ziino, G.; Giuffrida, A. Use of
276 Tunisian flavored olive oil as anisakicidal agent in industrial anchovy marinating process. *J. Sci. Food*
277 *Agric.* **2018**, *98*, 3446–3451. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jsfa.8857>
- 278 5. Trabelsi, N.; Nalbone, L.; Marotta, S.M.; Taamali, A.; Abaza, L.; Giarratana, F. Effectiveness of five flavored
279 Tunisian olive oils on Anisakis larvae type 1: application of cinnamon and rosemary oil in industrial
280 anchovy marinating process. *J. Sci. Food Agric.* **2019**. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jsfa.9736>
- 281 6. Van Boeckel, T.P.; Brower, C.; Gilbert, M.; Grenfell, B.T.; Levin, S.A.; Robinson, T. P.; Aude, T.;
282 Laxminarayan, R. Global trends in antimicrobial use in food animals. *Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. USA*, **2015**,
283 *112*(18), 5649–5654. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1503141112>
- 284 7. Woolhouse, M.; Ward, M.; Van Bunnik, B.; Farrar, J. Antimicrobial resistance in humans, livestock and the
285 wider environment. *Philos. Trans. R. Soc. London B: Biol. Sci.* **2015**, *370*(1670), 20140083–20140083.
286 <https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2014.0083>
- 287 8. Van Duijn, D.; Paterson, D. Multidrug Resistant Bacteria in the Community: Trends and Lessons Learned.
288 *Infect. Dis. Clin North Am.* **2016**, *30*(2), 377–390. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.idc.2016.02.004>
- 289 9. Ed-Dra, A.; Rhazi Filali, F.; Bouymajane, A.; Benhallam, F.; El Allaoui, A.; Chaiba, A.; Giarratana, F.
290 Antibiotic Susceptibility profile of *Staphylococcus aureus* isolated from sausages in Meknes, Morocco. *Vet.*
291 *World* **2018** *11*(10), 1459–1465. <https://doi.org/10.14202/vetworld.2018.1459-1465>
- 292 10. Cantón, R.; Novais, A.; Valverde, A.; Machado, E.; Peixe, L.; Baquero F.; Coque, T.M. Prevalence and
293 spread of extended-spectrum β -lactamase-producing Enterobacteriaceae in Europe. *Clin. Microbiol.*
294 *Infect.* **2008**, *14*, 144–153. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-0691.2007.01850.x>
- 295 11. Beninati, C.; Reich, F.; Muscolino, D.; Giarratana, F.; Panebianco, A.; Klein G.; Atanassova, V.
296 ESBL-producing bacteria and MRSA isolated from poultry and turkey products imported from Italy.
297 *Czech J. Food Sci.* **2015**, *33*, 97–102. <https://doi.org/10.17221/428/2014-CJFS>
- 298 12. Maroui, I.; Barguigua, A.; Aboukacem, A.; Ouarrak, K.; Sbiti, M.; Louzi, H.; Timinouni M.; Belhaj, A. First
299 report of VIM-2 metallo- β -lactamases producing *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* isolates in Morocco. *J. Infect.*
300 *Chemother.* **2016**, *22*, 127–132. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jiac.2015.11.008>
- 301 13. Ed-Dra, A.; Rhazi Filali, F.; Karraouan, B.; El Allaoui, A.; Aboukacem A.; Bouchrif, B. Prevalence,
302 molecular and antimicrobial resistance of *Salmonella* isolated from sausages in Meknes, Morocco. *Microb.*
303 *Pathog.* **2017**, *105*, 340–345. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.micpath.2017.02.042>
- 304 14. Nayme, K.; Barguigua, A.; Bouchrif, B.; Karraouan, B.; El Otmani, F.; Elmdaghri, N.; Zerouali K.;
305 Timinouni, M. Genotypic characterization of quinolone resistant *Escherichia coli* isolates from retail food
306 in Morocco. *J. Environ. Sci. Heal.* **2017**, *52*, 107–114. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03601234.2016.1239985>
- 307 15. Bouymajane, A.; Rhazi Filali, F.; Oulghazi, S.; Ed-Dra, A.; Benhallam, F.; El Allaoui, A.; Anissi, J.; Sendide,
308 K.; Ouhmidou, B.; Moumni, M. Occurrence, molecular and antimicrobial resistance of *Enterococcus* spp.
309 Isolated from raw cow's milk trade by street trading in Meknes city, Morocco. *GERMS* **2018**, *8*, 77–84.
310 <https://doi.org/10.18683/germs.2018.1134>
- 311 16. EFSA; ECDC. The European Union summary report on antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and indicator
312 bacteria from humans, animals and food in 2016. *EFSA J.* **2018**, *16*, 5182.
- 313 17. Ed-Dra, A.; Karraouan, B.; El Allaoui, A.; Khayatti, M.; El Ossmani, H.; Rhazi Filali, F.; Elmdaghri N.;
314 Bouchrif, B. Antimicrobial resistance and genetic diversity of *Salmonella* *Infantis* isolated from foods and
315 human samples in Morocco. *J. Glob. Antimicrob. Resist.* **2018**, *14*, 297–301.
316 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jgar.2018.05.019>
- 317 18. Ed-Dra, A.; Rhazi Filali, F.; Bouymajane, A.; Benhallam, F. ; El Allaoui, A.; Chaiba A.; Giarratana, F.
318 Antibiotic Susceptibility profile of *Staphylococcus aureus* isolated from sausages in Meknes, Morocco. *Vet.*
319 *World*. **2018**, *11*, 1459–1465. <https://doi.org/10.14202/vetworld.2018.1459-1465>

- 320 19. Gregova, G.; Kmetova, M.; Kmet, V.; Venglovsky J.; Feher, A. Antibiotic resistance of *Escherichia coli*
321 isolated from a poultry slaughterhouse. *Ann. Agric. Environ. Med.* **2013**, *20*, 139–157.
- 322 20. World Health Organization, Global priority list of antibiotic resistant bacteria to guide research, discovery,
323 and development of new antibiotics. World Health Organization **2017**. [https://doi.org/](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(09)70222-1)
324 [10.1016/S1473-3099\(09\)70222-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(09)70222-1)
- 325 21. Abreu, A.C.; McBain, A.J.; Simões, M. Plants as sources of new antimicrobials and resistance-modifying
326 agents. *Nat. Prod. Rep.* **2012**, *29*, 1007–1021. <https://doi.org/10.1039/c2np20035j>
- 327 22. Amuka, O.; Okemo, P.; Machocho, A.; Mbugua, P.; Nyamache, A.K.; Njagi, N.M.; Kebira Nyamache, A.
328 Part 3: The Role of Phytomedicine in the Challenges of Emerging, Re-Emerging Diseases; and Pathogens
329 Resistance to Antibiotics. *Int. J. Herb. Med.* **2013**, *1*, 102–106.
- 330 23. Lu, X.G.; Bin Zhan, L.; Feng, B.A.; Qu, M.Y.; Yu, L.H.; Xie, J.H. Inhibition of growth and metastasis of
331 human gastric cancer implanted in nude mice by D-limonene. *World J. Gastroenterol.* **2004**, *10*, 2140–2144.
332 <https://doi.org/10.3748/wjg.v10.i14.2140>
- 333 24. Hirota, R.; Roger, N.N.; Nakamura, H.; Song, H.S.; Sawamura, M.; Suganuma, N. Anti-inflammatory
334 effects of limonene from yuzu (*Citrus junos tanaka*) essential oil on eosinophils. *J. Food Sci.* **2010**, *75*,
335 H87–H92. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1750-3841.2010.01541.x>
- 336 25. Viuda-Martos, M.; Ruiz-Navajas, Y.; Fernández-López, J.; Pérez-Álvarez, J. Antifungal activity of lemon
337 (*Citrus lemon* L.), mandarin (*Citrus reticulata* L.), grapefruit (*Citrus paradisi* L.) and orange (*Citrus sinensis* L.)
338 essential oils. *Food Control* **2008**, *19*, 1130–1138. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodcont.2007.12.003>
- 339 26. Giarratana, F.; Muscolino, D.; Beninati, C.; Giuffrida, A.; Panebianco, A. Activity of *Thymus vulgaris*
340 essential oil against *Anisakis* larvae. *Exp. Parasitol.* **2014**, *142*, 7–10.
341 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.exppara.2014.03.028>
- 342 27. Giarratana, F.; Muscolino, D.; Panebianco, F.; Patania, A.; Benianti, C.; Ziino, G.; Giuffrida, A. Activity of R
343 (+) limonene against *Anisakis* larvae. *Int. J. Food Saf.* **2015**, *4*, 209–211. <https://doi.org/10.4081/ijfs.2015.5499>
- 344 28. Giarratana, F.; Muscolino, D.; Ziino, G.; Giuffrida, A.; Marotta, S.M.; Lo Presti, V.; Chiofalo, V.;
345 Panebianco, A. Activity of *Tagetes minuta* Linnaeus (Asteraceae) essential oil against L3 *Anisakis* larvae
346 type 1. *Asian Pac. J. Trop. Med.* **2017**, *10*, 461–465. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apjtm.2017.05.005>
- 347 29. Giarratana, F.; Muscolino, D.; Ziino, G.; Lo Presti, V.; Rao, R.; Chiofalo, V.; Giuffrida, A.; Panebianco, A.
348 Activity of catmint (*Nepeta cataria*) essential oil against *Anisakis* larvae. *Trop. Biomed.* **2017**, *34*, 22–31.
- 349 30. Škrinjar, M.M.; Nemet, N.T. Antimicrobial effects of spices and herbs essential oils. *Acta Period. Technol.*
350 **2009**, *40*, 195–209. <https://doi.org/10.2298/APT0940195S>
- 351 31. Romeo, F.V.; De Luca, S.; Piscopo, A.; De Salvo E.; Poiana, M. Effect of some essential oils as natural food
352 preservatives on commercial grated carrots. *J. Essent. Oil Res.* **2010**, *22*, 283–287.
353 <https://doi.org/10.1080/10412905.2010.9700325>
- 354 32. Giarratana, F.; Muscolino, D.; Beninati, C.; Ziino, G.; Giuffrida, A.; Panebianco, A. Effects of thyme and
355 rosemary essential oils on the microbiology and shelf life of Italian Mortadella. *Fleischwirtschaft* **2013**, *93*,
356 183–187 (2013).
- 357 33. Gottardi D, Bukvicki D, Prasad S, Tyagi AK. Beneficial effects of spices in food preservation and safety.
358 *Front. Microbiol.* **2016**, *7*, 1394. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2016.01394>
- 359 34. Giarratana, F.; Muscolino, D.; Ragonese, C.; Beninati, C.; Sciarrone, D.; Ziino, G.; Mondello, L.; Giuffrida
360 A.; Panebianco, A. Antimicrobial activity of combined thyme and rosemary essential oils against *Listeria*
361 monocytogenes in Italian mortadella packaged in modified atmosphere. *J. Essent. Oil Res.* **2016**, *28*, 467–474.
362 <https://doi.org/10.1080/10412905.2016.1165744>
- 363 35. Snoussi, M.; Noumi, E.; Dehmani, A.; Flamini, G.; Aouni, M.; Al-sieni, M.; Al-sieni, A. Chemical
364 Composition and Antimicrobial Activities of *Elettaria Cardamomum* L. (Manton) Essential Oil: A High
365 Activity against a Wide Range of Food Borne and Medically Important Bacteria and Fungi. *J. Chem. Biol.*
366 *Phys. Sci.* **2016**, *6(1)*, 248–259.
- 367 36. Modzelewska-Kapituła, M., Maj-Sobotka, K. The microbial safety of ready-to-eat raw and cooked sausages
368 in Poland: *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Salmonella* spp. occurrence. *Food Control* **2013**, *36*, 212–216.
369 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodcont.2013.08.035>
- 370 37. Chen, M., Wu, Q., Zhang, J., Yan, Z., Wang, J. Prevalence and characterization of *Listeria monocytogenes*
371 isolated from retail-level ready-to-eat foods in South China. *Food Control* **2014**, *38*, 1–7.
372 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodcont.2013.09.061>

- 373 38. Muscolino, D.; Giarratana, F.; Beninati, C.; Tornambene, A.; Panebianco, A.; Ziino, G. Hygienic-sanitary
374 evaluation of sushi and sashimi sold in Messina and Catania, Italy. *It. J. Food Saf.* **2014**, *3*(2), 134-136.
375 <https://doi.org/10.4081/ijfs.2014.1701>
- 376 39. Usman, U.B., Kwaga, J.K.P., Kabir, J., Olonitola, O.S., Radu, S., Bande, F., 016. Molecular Characterization
377 and Phylogenetic Analysis of *Listeria monocytogenes* Isolated from Milk and Milk Products in Kaduna,
378 Nigeria. *Can. J. Infect. Dis. Med. Microbiol.* **2016**, 1–7. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2016/4313827>
- 379 40. Amajoud, N.; Leclercq, A.; Soriano, J.M.; Bracq-Dieye, H.; El Maadoudi, M.; Senhaji, N.S.; Kounoun, A.;
380 Moura, A.; Lecuit, M.; Abrini, J. Prevalence of *Listeria* spp. and characterization of *Listeria monocytogenes*
381 isolated from food products in Tetouan, Morocco. *Food Control* **2018**, *84*, 436–441.
382 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodcont.2017.08.023>
- 383 41. Scallan, E.; Hoekstra, R.M.; Angulo, F.J.; Tauxe, R. V.; Widdowson, M.A.; Roy, S.L.; Jones, J.L.; Griffin, P.M.
384 Foodborne illness acquired in the United States-Major pathogens. *Emerg. Infect. Dis.* **2011**, *17*, 7–15.
385 <https://doi.org/10.3201/eid1701.P11101>
- 386 42. Bouchrif, B.; Paglietti, B.; Murgia, M.; Piana, A.; Cohen, N.; Ennaji, M.M.; Rubino, S.; Timinouni, M.
387 Prevalence and antibiotic-resistance of *Salmonella* isolated from food in Morocco. *J. Infect. Dev. Ctries.*
388 **2009**, *3*, 35–40. <https://doi.org/10.3855/jidc.103>
- 389 43. Calayag, A.M.B.; Paclibare, P.A.P.; Santos, P.D.M.; Bautista, C.A.C.; Rivera, W.L. Molecular
390 characterization and antimicrobial resistance of *Salmonella enterica* from swine slaughtered in two
391 different types of Philippine abattoir. *Food Microbiol* **2017**, *65*, 51–56.
392 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fm.2017.01.016>
- 393 44. Ed-Dra, A.; Karraouan, B.; El Allaoui, A.; Khayatti, M.; El Ossmani, H.; Rhazi Filali, F.; ElMdaghri, N.;
394 Bouchrif, B. Antimicrobial resistance and genetic diversity of *Salmonella* Infantis isolated from foods and
395 human samples in Morocco. *J. Glob. Antimicrob. Resist.* **2018**, *14*, 297–301.
396 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jgar.2018.05.019>
- 397 45. Jamila, F.; Mostafa, E. Ethnobotanical survey of medicinal plants used by people in Oriental Morocco to
398 manage various ailments. *J. Ethnopharmacol.* **2014**, *154*, 76–87. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jep.2014.03.016>
- 399 46. Mrabti, H.N.; Jaradat, N.; Kachmar, M.R.; Ed-Dra, A.; Ouahbi, A.; Cherrah, Y.; El Abbes Faouzi, M.
400 Integrative herbal treatments of diabetes in Beni Mellal region of Morocco. *J. Integr. Med.* **2019**, *17*, 93–99.
401 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joim.2019.01.001>
- 402 47. Benayad, N.; Ebrahim, W.; Hakiki, A.; Mosaddak, M. Chemical Characterization and Insecticidal
403 evaluation of the Essential Oil of *Mentha suaveolens* L. and *Mentha pulegium* L. Growing in Morocco. *St.*
404 *CErc. St. CICIBIA* **2012**, *13*(1), 27-32.
- 405 48. El-Kashoury, E.S.A.; El-Askary, H.I.; Kandil, Z.A.; Salem, M.A.; Sleem, A.A. Chemical Composition and
406 Biological Activities of the Essential Oil of *Mentha suaveolens* Ehrh. *Zeitschrift Fur Naturforschung C* **2012**,
407 *67*(11–12), 571–579. <https://doi.org/10.1515/znc-2012-11-1207>
- 408 49. Civitelli, L.; Panella, S.; Marcocci, M.E.; De Petris, A.; Garzoli, S.; Pepi, F.; Vavala, E.; Ragno, R.; Nencioni,
409 L.; Palamara, A.T.; Angiolella, L. In vitro inhibition of herpes simplex virus type 1 replication by *Mentha*
410 *suaveolens* essential oil and its main component piperitenone oxide. *Phytomedicine* **2014**, *21*(6), 857–865.
411 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.phymed.2014.01.013>
- 412 50. Brahmi, F.; Adjaoud, A.; Marongiu, B.; Porcedda, S.; Piras, A.; Falconieri, D.; Yalaoui-Guellal, D.;
413 Mahmoud, F.E.; Madani, K.; Chibane M. Chemical composition and in vitro antimicrobial, insecticidal and
414 antioxidant activities of the essential oils of *Mentha pulegium* L. and *Mentha rotundifolia* (L.) Huds
415 growing in Algeria. *Indus Crops Prod.* **2016**, *88*, 96–105. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.indcrop.2016.03.002>
- 416 51. Hamdani, I.; Chikri, M.; Fethi, F.; Salhi, A.; Bouyanzer, A.; Zarrouk, A.; Hammouti B.; Costa, J.; Desjobert,
417 J.M. Essential oil mentha suaveolens L: Chemical composition, anticorrosive properties on mild steel in 0.5
418 M H₂SO₄ and chemometric approach. *J. Material Environ. Sci.* **2017**, *8*(2), 526–538.
- 419 52. Mogosan, C.; Vostinaru, O.; Oprean, R.; Heghes, C.; Filip, L.; Balica, G.; Moldovan R.I.; Schmidt, T.J. A
420 comparative analysis of the chemical composition, anti-inflammatory, and antinociceptive effects of the
421 essential oils from three species of *Mentha* cultivated in Romania. *Molecules*, **2017**, *22*(2), 262.
422 <https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules22020263>
- 423 53. Ed-Dra, A.; Rhazi Filali, F.; Bou-Idra, M.; Zekkori, B.; Bouymajane, A.; Moukrad, N.; Benhallam, F.;
424 Bentayeb, A. Application of *Mentha suaveolens* essential oil as an antimicrobial agent in fresh turkey
425 sausages. *J. Appl. Biol. Biotechnol.* **2018**, *6*, 7–12. <https://doi.org/10.7324/JABB.2018.60102>

- 426 54. Pfluchtová, M.; Gervasi, T.; Benameur, Q.; Pellizzeri, V.; Grušová, D.; Campone, L.; Sedlák, V.; Cicero, N.
427 Antimicrobial activity of two mentha species essential oil and its dependence on different origin and
428 chemical diversity. *Nat. Prod. Commun.* **2018**, *13*, 1051–1054.
- 429 55. Bouyahya, A.; Et-Touys, A.; Bakri, Y.; Talbaui, A.; Fellah, H.; Abrini, J.; Dakka, N. Chemical composition of
430 *Mentha pulegium* and *Rosmarinus officinalis* essential oils and their antileishmanial, antibacterial and
431 antioxidant activities. *Microbial Pathogenesis* **2017**, *111*, 41–49. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.micpath.2017.08.015>
- 432 56. Ait-Ouazzou, A.; Lorán, S.; Arakrak, A.; Laglaoui, A.; Rota, C.; Herrera, A.; Pagán, R.; Conchello, P.
433 Evaluation of the chemical composition and antimicrobial activity of *Mentha pulegium*, *Juniperus*
434 *phoenicea*, and *Cyperus longus* essential oils from Morocco. *Food Res. Int.* **2012**, *45*(1), 313–319.
435 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodres.2011.09.004>
- 436 57. Chraïbi, M.; Farah, A.; Lebrazi, S.; El Amine, O.; Iraqui Houssaini, M.; Fikri-Benbrahim, K.
437 Antimycobacterial natural products from Moroccan medicinal plants: Chemical composition,
438 bacteriostatic and bactericidal profile of *Thymus satureioides* and *Mentha pulegium* essential oils. *Asian Pac J*
439 *Trop Biomed* **2016**, *6*(10), 836–840. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apjtb.2016.08.002>
- 440 58. Cherrat, L.; Espina, L.; Bakkali, M.; Pagán, R.; Laglaoui, A. Chemical composition, antioxidant and
441 antimicrobial properties of *Mentha pulegium*, *Lavandula stoechas* and *Satureja calamintha* Scheele
442 essential oils and an evaluation of their bactericidal effect in combined processes. *Innov Food Sci Emerg*
443 *Technol* **2014**, *22*, 221–229. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ifset.2013.12.016>
- 444 59. Abdelli, M.; Moghrani, H.; Aboun, A.; Maachi, R. Algerian *Mentha pulegium* L. leaves essential oil:
445 Chemical composition, antimicrobial, insecticidal and antioxidant activities. *Indus. Crops Prod.* **2016**, *94*,
446 197–205. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.indcrop.2016.08.042>
- 447 60. El-Ghorab, A. H. The chemical composition of the mentha pulegium l. essential oil from egypt and its
448 antioxidant activity. *J. Essent Oil Bear Pl.* **2006**, *9*(2), 183–195.
449 <https://doi.org/10.1080/0972060X.2006.10643491>
- 450 61. Stoyanova, A.; Georgiev, E.; Kula, J.; Majda, T. Chemical composition of the essential oil of mentha
451 pulegium l. from Bulgaria. *J. Essential Oil Res.* **2005**, *17*(5), 475–476.
452 <https://doi.org/10.1080/10412905.2005.9698968>
- 453 62. Agnihotri, V.K.; Agarwal, S.G.; Dhar, P.L.; Thappa, R.K.; Baleshwar, B.K.; Kapahi Saxena, R. K.; Qazi, G.N.
454 Essential oil composition of *Mentha pulegium* L. growing wild in the north-western Himalayas India.
455 *Flavour Fragr J* **2005**, *20*(6), 607–610. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ffj.1497>
- 456 63. Matos, O.C.D. European pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium*) from Portugal: chemical composition of essential
457 oil and antioxidant and antimicrobial properties of extracts and essential oil. *Indus. Crops Prod.* **2012**, *36*(1),
458 81–87. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.indcrop.2011.08.011>
- 459 64. Mahboubi, M.; Haghi, G. Antimicrobial activity and chemical composition of *Mentha pulegium* L.
460 essential oil. *J Ethnopharmacol.* **2008**, *119*(2), 325–327. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jep.2008.07.023>
- 461 65. Salhi, A.; Bouyanzer, A.; Chetouani, A.; El Ouariachi, E.; Zarrouk, A.; Hammouti, B.; Desjobert, J.M.;
462 Costa, J. Chemical composition, antioxidant and anticorrosion activities of *Mentha suaveolens*. *J. Mat.*
463 *Environ. Sci.* **2017**, *8*(5), 1718–1728
- 464 66. Garzoli, S.; Pirolli, A.; Vavala, E.; Di Sotto, A.; Sartorelli, G.; Božović, M.; Angiolella, L.; Mazzanti, G.; Pepi,
465 F.; Ragno, R. Multidisciplinary approach to determine the optimal time and period for extracting the
466 essential oil from mentha suaveolens ehrh. *Molecules* **2015**, *20*(6), 9640–9655.
467 <https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules20069640>
- 468 67. Sutour, S.; Bradesi, P.; Casanova, J.; Tomi, F. Composition and chemical variability of *Mentha suaveolens*
469 ssp. *suaveolens* and *M. suaveolens* ssp. *insularis* from Corsica. *Chemistry and Biodiversity* **2010**, *7*(4),
470 1002–1008. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cbdv.200900365>
- 471 68. Llorens-Molina, J.A.; Rivera Seclén, C.F.; Vacas Gonzalez, S.; Boira Tortajada, H. *Mentha suaveolens* Ehrh.
472 Chemotypes in Eastern Iberian Peninsula: Essential Oil Variation and Relation with Ecological Factors.
473 *Chemistry and Biodiversity* **2017**, *14*(12), e1700320. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cbdv.201700320>
- 474 69. Dahham, S. S.; Tabana, Y. M.; Iqbal, M. A.; Ahamed, M. B. K.; Ezzat, M. O.; Majid, A. S. A.; Majid, A. M. S.
475 A. The anticancer, antioxidant and antimicrobial properties of the sesquiterpene β -caryophyllene from the
476 essential oil of *Aquilaria crassna*. *Molecules* **2015**, *20*(7), 11808–11829.
477 <https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules200711808>

- 478 70. Basha, R.H.; Sankaranarayanan, C. β -Caryophyllene, a natural sesquiterpene lactone attenuates
479 hyperglycemia mediated oxidative and inflammatory stress in experimental diabetic rats.
480 *Chemico-Biological Interactions* **2016**, *245*, 50–58. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cbi.2015.12.019>
- 481 71. Calleja, M.A.; Vieites, J.M.; Montero-Meterdez, T.; Torres, M.I.; Faus, M.J.; Gil, A.; Suárez, A. The
482 antioxidant effect of β -caryophyllene protects rat liver from carbon tetrachloride-induced fibrosis by
483 inhibiting hepatic stellate cell activation. *British J Nutrition* **2013**, *109*(3), 394–401.
484 <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007114512001298>
- 485 72. Vaara, M. Agents that increase the permeability of the outer membrane. *Microbiol Reviews* **1992**, *56*(3),
486 395–411. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jac/dkq040>
- 487 73. De Oliveira, T.L.C.; Soares, R. de A.; Piccoli, R.H. A Weibull model to describe antimicrobial kinetics of
488 oregano and lemongrass essential oils against *Salmonella* Enteritidis in ground beef during refrigerated
489 storage. *Meat Science* **2013**, *93*(3), 645–651. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.meatsci.2012.11.004>
- 490 74. Bajpai, V.K.; Baek, K.H.; Kang, S.C. Control of *Salmonella* in foods by using essential oils: A review. *Food*
491 *Res. Int.* **2012**, *45*, 722–734. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodres.2011.04.052>
- 492 75. Calo, J.R.; Crandall, P.G.; O'Bryan, C.A.; Ricke, S.C. Essential oils as antimicrobials in food systems - A
493 review. *Food Control* **2015**, *54*, 111–119. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodcont.2014.12.040>
- 494 76. Cui, H.; Zhang, C.; Li, C.; Lin, L. Antimicrobial mechanism of clove oil on *Listeria monocytogenes*. *Food*
495 *Control* **2018**, *94*, 140–146. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodcont.2018.07.007>
- 496 77. Lv, F.; Liang, H.; Yuan, Q.; Li, C. In vitro antimicrobial effects and mechanism of action of selected plant
497 essential oil combinations against four food-related microorganisms. *Food Res. Int.* **2011**, *44*, 3057–3064.
498 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodres.2011.07.030>
- 499 78. Silva-Angulo, A.B.; Zanini, S.F.; Rosenthal, A.; Rodrigo, D.; Klein, G.; Martinez, A. Comparative study of
500 the effects of citral on the growth and injury of *Listeria innocua* and *Listeria monocytogenes* cells. *PLoS*
501 *One* **2015**, *10*, 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0114026>
- 502 79. Elsharkawy, E.R.; Ed-Dra, A.; Abdallah, M.; Ali, A.M.H. Antioxidant, antimicrobial and antifeedant
503 activity of phenolic compounds accumulated in *Hyoscyamus muticus* L. *African J. Biotechnol.* **2018**, *17*,
504 311–321. <https://doi.org/10.5897/AJB2017.16316>
- 505 80. Marotta, S.M.; Giarratana, F.; Parco, A.; Neri, D.; Ziino, G.; Giuffrida, A.; Panebianco, A. Evaluation of the
506 antibacterial activity of bergamot essential oils on different *Listeria monocytogenes* strains. *It. J. Food Saf.*
507 **2016**, *5*(4), 6176. <https://doi.org/10.4081/ijfs.2016.6176>
- 508 81. Mazzarrino, G.; Paparella, A.; Chaves-López, C.; Faberi, A.; Sergi, M.; Sigismondi, C.; Compagnone, D.;
509 Serio, A. *Salmonella enterica* and *Listeria monocytogenes* inactivation dynamics after treatment with
510 selected essential oils. *Food Control* **2015**, *50*, 794–803. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodcont.2014.10.029>
- 511 82. Aghraz, A.; Benameur, Q.; Gervasi, T.; Ait dra, L.; Ben-Mahdi, M.H.; Larhsini, M.; Markouk M.; Cicero, N.
512 Antibacterial activity of *Cladanthus arabicus* and *Bubonium imbricatum* essential oils alone and in
513 combination with conventional antibiotics against Enterobacteriaceae isolates. *Lett. Appl. Microbiol.* **2018**,
514 *67*, 175–182. <https://doi.org/10.1111/lam.13007>
- 515 83. Aghraz, A.; Benameur, Q.; Salvo, A.; Larhsini, M.; Markouk, M.; Gervasi T.; Cicero, N. Polyphenols
516 content, heavy metals analysis and in vitro antibacterial activity of extracts from *Cladanthus arabicus* and
517 *Bubonium imbricatum* of Moroccan origin. *Nat. Prod. Res.* **2018**,
518 <https://doi.org/10.1080/14786419.2019.1573424>.
- 519 84. Galieni, A.; Di Mattia, C.; De Gregorio, M.; Specca, S.; Mastrocola, D.; Pisante, M.; Stagnari, F. Effects of
520 nutrient deficiency and abiotic environmental stresses on yield, phenolic compounds and antiradical
521 activity in lettuce (*Lactuca sativa* L.). *Sci. Hortic.*, *187* 93–101 (2015).
522 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scienta.2015.02.036>
- 523 85. Bohnert, H.J.; Nelson, D.E.; Jensen, R.G. Adaptations to Environmental Stresses. *Plant Cell.* **1995**, *7*,
524 1099–1111.
- 525 86. Giarratana, F.; Muscolino, D.; Beninati, C.; Ziino, G.; Giuffrida, A.; Panebianco, A. Activity of R(+)
526 limonene on the maximum growth rate of fish spoilage organisms and related effects on shelf-life
527 prolongation of fresh gilthead sea bream fillets. *Int. J. Food Microbiol.* **2016**, *237*, 109–113.
528 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijfoodmicro.2016.08.023>
- 529 87. Muscolino, D.; Giarratana, F.; Beninati, C.; Ziino, G.; Giuffrida, A.; Panebianco, A. Effects of Allyl
530 Isothiocyanate on the Shelf-life of Gilthead Sea Bream (*Sparus aurata*) Fillets. *Czech J. Food Sci.* **2016**, *34*,
531 160–165. <https://doi.org/10.17221/374/2015-CJFS>

532

533 **Sample Availability:** Samples of the compounds are available from the authors.

534