

THYMUS CAPITELLATUS HOFFMANNS. & LINK

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Abstract

Thymus species along with *Thymbra capitata* are usually known as thyme in Portugal. They are regularly used for ornamental purposes, in traditional medicine applications, as natural aromatizers, as well as culinary herbs. *Thymus capitellatus* is an endemic Portuguese thyme species that occurs at the estuaries and at the lower Tagus and Sado basins. According to the Habitats Directive this species is considered of community interest whose conservation requires the designation of special areas of conservation. The essential oils isolated from aerial parts of five *Thymus capitellatus* populations, collected at Campo de Tiro (CT) and Mata Experimental do Escaroupim (MEE), were obtained in yields that ranged from 1.3 to 3.3% (v/f.w.). 1,8-Cineole was the main component (CT 34-49%, MEE 40-41%) of the isolated essential oils. Of the three known Portuguese chemotypes for this species, 1,8-cineole, 1,8-cineole/borneol and 1,8-cineole/linalyl acetate/linalool, the first two could be identified in the studied populations.