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### COMPOSITION OF THE FLORAL NECTAR IN THE LITHOSPERMEAE TRIBE - CLADE C (BORAGINACEAE) AND THEIR POLLINATOR GUILDS

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#### ABSTRACT

It is recognized that phylogenetically-distinct nectariferous species visited by the same pollinator guild may display a convergent chemistry of their floral nectar revealing a pollinator-driven selection of nectar. Cases of convergence in nectar chemistry within a restricted phylogenetic context are of particular interest. At this regard, the available scattered data about the nectar chemistry of species of Clade C of the Lithospermeae tribe (Boraginaceae), reveal an heterogeneous sugar and amino acid profile. This clade comprises 95 species distributed along Europe, temperate and tropical Asia, Africa, Northern and Southern America. They are characterized by a wide range of flower visitors from short-tongued and large-tongued Apoidea to hummingbirds in the New World. The aim of this study is to assess if and how the nectar chemistry varies as a function of specific pollinator guilds. Wide field nectar sampling and pollinators observations will be coupled with chemical analysis of floral nectar including both primary (sugars and amino acids) and secondary compounds (non protein amino acids and biogenic amines).