

Clarifying taxonomy of South African basils (Plectranthinae, Ocimeae, Lamiaceae)

The most recent molecular phylogeny of Ocimeae (Lamiaceae) suggests that the species-rich genus *Plectranthus* may be polyphyletic. This throws into question the taxonomic position of South African basils (Plectranthinae, Ocimeae, Lamiaceae). There is, however, limited sequence data available for South African members of Plectranthinae. This study aims to address this knowledge gap by collecting sequence data and herbarium records for 51 South African Plectranthinae species. Sequence data will be collected from five DNA markers including the three standard plant barcode markers (rbcL, matK, ITS2) and two faster evolving markers (rps16-trnQ and rpl32-trnL spacers). An accurate classification of southern African Plectranthinae will contribute data towards the basic understanding of biodiversity in our country, which is essential for effective decision-making including aspects of conservation and sustainable use of endemic taxa. The latter is important given the use of *Plectranthus* in the horticultural and traditional medicine sectors in South Africa.