

CHEMICAL AND MOLECULAR CHARACTERIZATION OF ANATOLIAN SAGE (*Salvia fruticosa* Mill.) POPULATIONS DISTRIBUTED NATURALLY IN SOUTHWESTERN AEGEAN

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Abstract. This study was carried out to determine the chemical, and molecular characterizations of *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. (Anatolian sage) populations distributed naturally in Mugla province. Plant materials were collected in June 2017 and 2018 from 30 different locations, in comprising districts of Mugla including Mentese (4), Ula (6), Koycegiz (1), Marmaris (11), Ortaca (2), Fethiye (2), Dalaman (2), and Milas (2). Thirty plants were collected from each population. The study showed the following rates: essential oil in the leaf, 0.34–3.76%; essential oil in the haulm, 0.01–0.23%; and total essential oil, 0.22–2.80%. Genetic variation among the populations was determined by RAPD (Random Amplified Polymorphic DNA) molecular markers. In total, 150 bands were obtained from gel electrophoresis, and the populations were separated into two main clusters by evaluating these bands. Chemical and genetic profiles of *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. populations were determined to be compatible with each other in hierarchical clustering analysis and the created dendrograms. The different essential oil rates and components determined in the of them confirmed the genetic variation in each population.

Keywords: hydrodistillation, essential oils, RAPD-PCR, hierarchical cluster analysis, dendrogram

Introduction

The Lamiaceae family is cosmopolitan, and many species of this family have economic and medicinal importance. It is more widespread in the Mediterranean region, and in Turkey's flora, it is represented by 46 genera and 725 species (Guner et al., 2001; Elmas, 2019a). Among these, the genus *Salvia* is known in Turkish as “island tea,” and it has been known for its pharmacological importance since ancient times (Altındal, 2019). The dried leaves of *Salvia fruticosa* Mill., which are economically important, are used as herbal tea or for the production of essential oil. The leaves are prepared as infusions or decoctions and consumed as tea. Water distillation from the leaves yields a colorless or light-yellow oil called *Oleum Salviae trilobae*, which is rich in 1,8-cineole components (Elmas, 2019a).

Salvia fruticosa Mill., which has been used for many years utilized collection from flora, has an important place in both domestic and foreign trade. In Turkey, the average sage production was 299 tonnes in the 2014–2018 period. Mugla province is important for sage cultivation and export; in Mugla, the amount of average sage production was recorded as 18.4 tonnes in 2014–2018 (TUIK, 2019).

Controlled use of economic interests and plant resources is essential for the protection of biodiversity, but many factors, such as irregular construction, intense grazing and

unintentional harvests—where many plant species are distributed naturally—can reduce the populations of these species and jeopardize their continuity. It has been reported that *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. is classified as vulnerable (Elmas, 2019a). Therefore, there is an immediate need to assess the diversity of natural populations that are economically and medically valuable due to such potential threats (Bacu et al., 2005). Molecular markers, especially polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based genetic markers, are suitable tools for identifying genetic diversity among populations. Of these, the RAPD marker is one of the simplest and most common methods used to determine the genetic similarity and diversity of populations. In addition, it has many advantages such as not needing the sequence data, ability to work with small quantity of DNA, short testing timeframe and quick results, as well as low cost (Wang et al., 2011).

The study, it was aimed to determine the structure of populations using chemical and molecular markers in *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. populations, which are naturally distributed in the Mugla province, Turkey, to determine the gene pools of populations and differences between them. This study can be taken as a reference to provide genetic data to the gene banks to be established in the future and reach populations with superior genotypes and phenotypes in breeding programs. This, in turn, will contribute to the development of suitable varieties for breeding and the desired product needs of enterprises.

Materials and Methods

In the study, *Salvia fruticosa* Mill., which is naturally distributed in the Turkey's province of Mugla was used as a plant material to investigate some of its chemical and molecular properties. The samples were collected at the end of the flowering period in June 2017 and 2018, plant materials were collected from 30 different locations in districts of Mugla including Mentese (4), Ula (6), Koycegiz (1), Marmaris (11), Ortaca (2), Fethiye (2), Dalaman (2), and Milas (2). Thirty plant materials were collected from each population. The coordinates, location, altitude of the places where *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. was collected are given in *Table 1*. These coordinates were already determined by a previous study (Elmas et al., 2019b).

Chemical Studies

In the study, essential oil rates (%) components and their rates (%) were determined as chemical properties.

After separating the dried plant samples into leaves and haulms, the hydro-distillation method was used to determine the essential oil rates. These rates were found volumetrically with the Neo-Clevenger apparatus (Electro-Mag) in the drog leaves and haulms (Wichtl, 1971). The gas chromatography–mass spectrometry (GC-MS) method was used for determination of essential oil components. GC–MS analyses were realized a Shimadzu (Japan) GC-2010 Plus Shimadzu GCMS-QP2010 SE (Detector) spectrometer using a Restek Rx-5Sil MS column (30 m × 0.25 mm × 0.25 μm) (Catalog Number: Restek 1362). For GC–MS detection, an EI system, with ionization energy of 70 eV, was used. Helium was the carrier gas, at a flow rate of 1.0 ml/min. Injector and MS transfer line temperatures were set at 250 °C and 250 °C, respectively. Diluted samples (1/10 in acetone, v/v) of 1.0 μL were injected in the split (1:10 split) mode.

Table 1. The coordinates, locations and altitudes of where *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. populations were collected

Population Number	Coordinates	Locations	Altitude
1	37°09'02.2"N 28°25'16.5"E	Yenikoy, Mentese/Mugla	734
2	37°08'44.7"N 28°25'10.6"E	Yenikoy, Mentese/Mugla	772
3	37°05'38.0"N 28°22'11.1"E	Ula, Mugla	411
4	37°04'50.6"N 28°26'11.6"E	Ula, Mugla	613
5	37°04'49.4"N 28°26'10.6"E	Yesilova, Ula/Mugla	147
6	37°03'33.0"N 28°26'25.5"E	Yesilova, Ula/Mugla	68
7	37°03'31.0"N 28°26'21.8"E	Elmali, Ula/Mugla	77
8	37°02'52.0"N 28°17'17.1"E	Kuyucak, Mentese/Mugla	83
9	37°02'51.0"N 28°16'05.4"E	Kiransahili, Mentese/Mugla	162
10	37°00'39.4"N 28°20'21.0"E	Gokce, Ula/Mugla	75
11	37°00'44.5"N 28°19'28.1"E	Cetibeli, Marmaris/Mugla	112
12	36°59'25.4"N 28°17'25.4"E	Cetibeli, Marmaris/Mugla	295
13	36°58'41.6"N 28°16'54.5"E	Camlikoy, Marmaris/Mugla	65
14	36°58'59.1"N 28°15'37.1"E	Camlikoy, Marmaris/Mugla	5
15	36°58'43.6"N 28°14'54.9"E	Camlikoy, Marmaris/Mugla	105
16	36°58'16.2"N 28°16'09.3"E	Camlikoy, Marmaris/Mugla	23
17	36°55'55.6"N 28°14'12.8"E	Karaca, Marmaris/Mugla	248
18	36°56'34.1"N 28°13'25.3"E	Karaca, Marmaris/Mugla	95
19	36°53'51.6"N 28°16'04.2"E	Beldibi, Marmaris/Mugla	287
20	36°52'44.0"N 28°14'41.8"E	Marmaris, Mugla	259
21	36°52'22.301"N 28°14'38.323"E	Armutalan, Marmaris/Mugla	183
22	36°53'37.7"N 28°35'19.5"E	Sultaniye, Koycegiz/Mugla	26
23	36°43'59.4"N 28°40'51.4"E	Sarigerme, Ortaca/Mugla	99
24	36°43'35.2"N 28°51'39.8"E	Serefli, Dalaman/Mugla	238
25	36°47'36.9"N 28°39'42.7"E	Dalyan, Ortaca/Mugla	3
26	37°6'17.584 "N 27°54'36.224"E	Cakiralan, Milas/Mugla	290
27	37°2'37.912 "N 27°54'21.589"E	Turkevleri, Milas/Mugla	43
28	36°46'18.336 "N 28°55'47"E	Gocek, Fethiye/Mugla	182
29	36°48'35.831"N 28°56'11.49"E	Akarca, Dalaman/Mugla	256
30	36°45'39.452"N 28°58'23.139"E	Gocek, Fethiye/Mugla	199

Molecular Studies

DNA isolation

While starting the isolation, the tissues were dissected with the help of a homogenizer (Retsch MM400) using liquid nitrogen. Instead of Falcon tubes, 2 ml sample tubes were used and the prepared solution was added to the disrupted tissues and mixed in a homogenizer for 1 minute. In addition, the amount of NaCl in the homogenization buffer was used as 4M instead of 6M. In collecting DNA, centrifuge was used instead of glass pipette and the washing step was repeated 2 times. Genomic DNAs (gDNA) were extracted from the drog leaves of *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. for the DNA isolation, the extraction method described in Aljanabi et al.'s (1999) was modified and applied.

Determination of DNA quantity and quality

Concentration of gDNAs were detected as ng/μl by spectrophotometer (OPTIZEN NanoQ). The quality of gDNAs were observed on agarose gel (0.8%). Agarose gel electrophoresis (Invitrogen Ultrapure Agarose, Catalog number: 16500500) was carried out for 1 hour at 100 V, 80 mA. Following this, the DNA quality of the samples was monitored under ultraviolet (UV) light on a gel imaging device.

Molecular marker analyses

gDNAs from the leaves of *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. was used for molecular analysis. In RAPD analysis, 15 RAPD primers (Table 2) which is high polymorphic for *Salvia* were selected from reported studies. As a result of the literature search for molecular marker analysis, RAPD markers—which are the most polymorphic for *Salvia* species—were employed (Skoula et al., 1999; Javan et al., 2012).

Table 2. All primers used in the *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. molecular analysis, the number of bands formed by the band generating primers, and band sizes

Primers	Name of primers	5'-Base Sequence-3'	Numbers of bands	Bands size
1	OPA-03	AGT CAG CCA C	19	250-3000 bp
2	OPA-04	AAT CGG GCT G	19	450-3000 bp
3	OPA-05	AGG GGT CTT G	8	300-3000 bp
4	OPA-06	GGT CCC TGA C	0	-
5	OPA-07	GAA ACG GGT G	18	200-3000 bp
6	OPB-01	GTT TCG CTC C	0	-
7	OPB-02	TGA TCC CTG G	0	-
8	OPB-03	CAT CCC CCA G	0	-
9	OPB-04	GGA CTG GAG T	0	-
10	OPB-05	TGC GCC CTT C	15	600-3000 bp
11	OPD-02	GGA CCC AAC C	14	550-2500 bp
12	OPD-03	GTC GCC GTC A	12	300-3000 bp
13	OPD-05	TGA GCG GAC A	10	300-3000 bp
14	OPD-08	GTG TGC CCC A	16	250-3000 bp
15	OPD-11	AGC GCC ATT G	19	450-3000 bp
Total			150	

PCR reactions performed in total 25 μl PCR reaction 1x PCR buffer, 30 ng of genomic DNA, 1 unit Taq DNA polymerase, 2 mM MgCl₂, 0.2 mM each dATP, dCTP, dGTP, dTTP and 0.15 mM RAPD primer. Amplification was performed in Mycycler thermocycler (Biorad T100) as follows; 3 min at 94°C, 1 min at 94°C, 1 min at 50, 55, 60°C (depending on the annealing temperature), 1 min at 72°C for 40 cycles with 10 min final extension at 72°C. PCR reactions were analysed by 1.5% agarose gel.

Evaluation of Data

Ten out of the 15 primers shown in Table 2 yielded reproducible and reliable amplified DNA products. These amplified DNA fragments were evaluated for genetic diversity of *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. The amplified RAPD bands were scored as 1 or 0 depending on the presence or absence on gel to create the excel tables. Populations and primers were entered using the GenAlex 6.5 software (Peakall and Smouse, 2012). With the unweighted pair group method with arithmetic mean (UPGMA) method, a genetic proximity-distance dendrogram as standardized by Nei (1978) was created. Hierarchical

clustering analysis and dendrogram were generated by SPSS Statistics v 22 program; these showed the proximity and distance between the populations in terms of chemical components examined.

Results and Discussion

Chemical Results

As shown in *Table 3*, the average essential oil rate of leaves in the populations varied in the range of 0.34–3.76%, the average essential oil rate of the haulm was 0.01–0.23%, and the average total essential oil rate was 0.22–2.80%. The essential oil rates of the *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. species determined in the study are compatible with those determined by Karousou and Kokkini (1997), Mossi et al. (2011), and Karik (2015).

Table 3. Average values of essential oil rates of *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. in 2017 and 2018

Populations	The Rates of Essential Oil in The Leaf (%)	The Rates of Essential Oil in The Haulm (%)	The Total Rates of Essential Oil (%)
1.P	0.56	0.03	0.28
2.P	0.34	0.03	0.22
3.P	2.75	0.19	1.98
4.P	2.67	0.18	1.24
5.P	2.92	0.16	1.95
6.P	3.76	0.20	1.99
7.P	2.29	0.10	1.24
8.P	2.99	0.05	1.42
9.P	2.55	0.01	1.45
10.P	2.48	0.04	1.30
11.P	2.20	0.05	1.27
12.P	1.93	0.02	1.06
13.P	2.97	0.03	1.62
14.P	2.26	0.08	1.30
15.P	3.09	0.09	1.91
16.P	1.97	0.07	1.46
17.P	2.49	0.09	1.36
18.P	2.96	0.13	1.70
19.P	3.39	0.20	2.80
20.P	2.21	0.13	1.37
21.P	2.18	0.09	1.31
22.P	3.38	0.13	1.88
23.P	2.93	0.15	1.48
24.P	2.62	0.06	1.64
25.P	3.14	0.17	1.81
26.P	2.93	0.08	1.43
27.P	2.89	0.23	1.79
28.P	2.81	0.22	1.70
29.P	2.72	0.13	1.39
30.P	2.77	0.19	1.24
Average	2.57	0.11	1.49
S.D.	0.7	0.06	0.48

The components of essential oils in *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. populations collected from flora in 2017 and 2018 were determined using the GC-MS method, and their average components and distribution according to the populations are given in *Table 4*. The rates

of 1,8-cineole, camphor, camphene, α -pinene—some of the major essential oil components of *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. —determined by GC-MS analysis showed wide variation among the populations, and the results are compatible with those of Bayram (2001), Uysal (2015), and Karik (2015), who previously studied this species.

Table 4. Average of principal chemical components of *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. populations collected in 2017 and 2018 and distribution by population (%)

Populations	α -Humulene	α -Pinene	α -Thujone	1,8-Cineole	β -Pinene	Camphe	Camphor	Trans β -Caryophyllene	Caryophyllene oxide	Cymol	β -Myrcene	Thujene- α
1.P	3.98	30.46	0.0	38.72	3.56	1.17	1.09	0.88	1.96	0.0	1.51	0.37
2.P	3.72	19.93	0.08	24.62	17.82	0.88	2.24	0.78	1.29	1.07	1.78	0.38
3.P	1.43	5.26	0.50	59.90	3.62	0.54	1.15	2.57	15.00	0.24	6.79	0.26
4.P	1.26	4.88	1.76	59.38	3.55	1.21	2.63	3.56	0.55	0.58	2.43	0.15
5.P	0.62	4.78	2.88	50.65	6.86	1.82	6.26	2.68	0.45	0.58	2.67	0.45
6.P	0.67	4.32	3.47	58.40	6.91	1.02	3.73	3.63	0.40	0.44	3.07	0.32
7.P	1.17	5.46	1.54	53.58	6.02	2.45	5.17	2.49	0.56	0.64	3.77	0.22
8.P	2.00	3.81	1.69	45.16	4.75	2.03	8.52	2.90	0.64	0.55	2.46	0.12
9.P	0.87	4.99	3.55	55.75	5.99	1.25	2.77	2.66	0.38	0.59	3.41	0.20
10.P	1.26	6.85	1.22	53.21	7.83	2.77	3.85	7.95	0.43	0.29	1.90	0.30
11.P	1.04	6.01	1.12	53.75	7.19	2.85	5.27	4.05	0.48	0.57	2.57	0.16
12.P	1.00	5.39	1.03	58.14	2.99	0.58	1.03	4.20	0.52	0.69	4.02	0.23
13.P	0.60	5.33	0.92	56.13	7.56	2.57	4.52	2.33	0.46	0.41	4.60	0.28
14.P	1.32	5.54	0.47	59.83	8.80	0.51	1.54	2.36	0.55	0.45	3.11	0.30
15.P	0.68	5.95	1.04	50.61	4.68	4.50	9.03	2.92	0.37	0.41	2.68	0.12
16.P	1.01	5.37	0.59	49.39	3.51	3.99	9.68	2.75	0.38	0.59	5.10	0.15
17.P	1.42	5.59	0.66	54.58	7.46	1.94	3.76	4.03	0.50	0.11	3.66	0.11
18.P	1.28	5.22	0.79	58.99	7.60	1.58	2.75	1.68	0.34	0.40	2.90	0.29
19.P	0.72	4.32	1.14	61.01	3.61	1.05	2.24	3.63	0.45	0.28	2.54	0.10
20.P	1.05	5.11	0.83	60.15	6.18	1.26	2.91	4.54	0.51	0.27	3.26	0.22
21.P	1.41	5.24	0.63	59.27	3.38	1.15	1.63	4.31	0.48	0.49	6.72	0.30
22.P	0.54	4.82	3.91	56.31	6.38	1.51	2.71	2.35	0.56	0.54	3.79	0.45
23.P	0.81	4.41	4.02	57.38	5.98	1.18	2.17	2.93	0.39	0.56	4.69	0.32
24.P	0.6	4.68	2.55	54.97	5.29	2.24	7.4	1.80	0.50	0.31	3.7	0.12
25.P	0.7	4.37	3.61	57.82	6.58	0.88	2.4	4.01	0.36	0.44	6.2	0.33
26.P	1.0	5.44	0.64	62.47	6.77	1.08	2.3	2.59	0.42	0.57	7.4	0.15
27.P	1.0	5.03	2.52	57.31	6.23	1.74	4.8	3.61	0.52	0.59	5.6	0.16
28.P	1.2	4.47	2.44	60.52	6.78	1.39	2.9	2.10	0.28	0.52	5.7	0.33
29.P	1.5	4.03	1.82	59.76	6.06	1.30	8.1	3.41	0.41	0.57	5.0	0.15
30.P	0.9	5.06	2.92	58.89	6.47	1.67	4.0	1.68	0.23	0.73	4.9	0.32
Av.	1.23	6.40	1.68	54.89	6.21	1.67	3.95	3.05	1.01	0.48	3.93	0.25
S.D.	0.79	5.33	1.21	7.64	2.70	0.94	2.47	1.34	2.66	0.20	1.59	0.10

Table 5 shows the relationships between populations in terms of essential oil components. For the clustering analysis, it was determined that the populations were separated into two main clusters and subclusters within them.

Table 5. Hierarchical clustering analysis showing the relationships between genotypes in terms of chemical properties of *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. (Squared Euclidean Distance)

Populations:	1.P	2.P	3.P	4.P	5.P	6.P	7.P	8.P	9.P	10.P	11.P	12.P	13.P	14.P	15.P	16.P	17.P	18.P	19.P	20.P	21.P	22.P	23.P	24.P	25.P	26.P	27.P	28.P	29.P	30.P	
1.P	0.0																														
2.P	516.2	0.0																													
3.P	1291.9	1885.4	0.0																												
4.P	1108.4	1660.2	235.9	0.0																											
5.P	876.0	1075.9	365.9	104.5	0.0																										
6.P	1130.2	1543.1	262.0	17.7	69.2	0.0																									
7.P	896.3	1220.0	288.2	51.2	15.2	35.3	0.0																								
8.P	824.6	905.9	504.7	242.0	47.9	211.8	91.0	0.0																							
9.P	990.8	1371.0	269.4	26.3	40.6	11.4	17.4	159.6	0.0																						
10.P	858.8	1155.9	343.5	84.8	53.5	64.1	42.2	132.7	57.4	0.0																					
11.P	882.1	1190.0	305.3	57.4	22.3	38.0	7.6	98.5	29.0	19.3	0.0																				
12.P	1036.6	1582.5	224.2	10.6	114.1	34.6	57.1	238.3	35.2	81.8	62.8	0.0																			
13.P	991.4	1341.7	262.6	42.5	49.4	24.3	15.1	155.0	25.3	51.7	14.9	45.4	0.0																		
14.P	1111.5	1542.2	250.7	33.7	121.5	23.9	66.1	288.7	40.1	90.4	63.1	42.6	33.0	0.0																	
15.P	838.9	1120.6	398.0	133.4	28.6	116.9	33.8	43.1	91.3	73.7	34.5	143.1	67.9	175.8	0.0																
16.P	854.6	1119.7	412.3	167.9	45.5	153.6	51.6	36.4	119.7	108.9	62.1	166.9	91.6	220.1	10.1	0.0															
17.P	918.3	1236.6	274.7	44.4	34.8	27.8	10.2	126.4	20.9	23.2	5.8	43.2	9.0	39.8	61.0	86.1	0.0														
18.P	1081.8	1513.9	251.7	22.4	92.3	15.9	42.1	238.1	27.4	79.3	42.2	34.1	16.9	5.7	129.3	169.0	27.0	0.0													
19.P	1206.1	1791.5	236.0	4.5	142.3	27.0	77.5	295.9	46.3	110.0	81.2	14.7	54.9	33.6	170.6	208.1	63.1	25.8	0.0												
20.P	1141.5	1644.7	237.4	10.9	114.0	14.3	56.3	265.7	35.1	70.8	51.8	19.6	30.3	14.7	145.2	183.2	34.7	11.9	10.0	0.0											
21.P	1107.6	1669.3	215.1	23.0	138.7	43.6	69.3	273.2	50.1	103.8	79.6	9.8	47.2	47.8	162.3	175.8	53.8	41.1	23.3	22.8	0.0										
22.P	1033.2	1414.4	269.2	31.7	49.1	12.5	24.8	181.6	2.1	71.4	40.0	45.0	31.7	41.8	106.5	136.2	30.3	30.8	51.2	39.6	56.3	0.0									
23.P	1097.0	1511.7	260.8	27.3	70.8	12.2	37.8	215.3	6.5	83.8	55.1	38.1	39.3	40.1	132.7	159.7	39.2	32.9	42.7	34.1	43.0	3.2	0.0								
24.P	1019.5	1455.9	311.7	57.9	43.0	55.4	26.6	121.8	38.2	103.7	51.0	80.3	57.8	115.3	51.3	62.8	59.5	80.7	85.1	84.2	90.3	40.7	50.0	0.0							
25.P	1117.7	1665.1	243.4	25.4	108.8	39.5	61.1	232.6	33.2	113.6	84.3	21.8	64.7	81.1	144.2	154.1	66.9	65.3	36.4	46.1	20.9	35.7	24.7	52.0	0.0						
26.P	1250.8	1968.2	229.8	42.8	218.2	81.5	127.3	382.4	95.8	197.9	151.4	40.0	99.5	85.5	234.0	246.0	122.2	76.3	35.1	52.9	20.8	96.3	75.9	113.2	36.6	0.0					
27.P	1058.6	1608.8	246.6	24.7	86.3	40.9	41.4	187.9	35.3	98.9	61.3	27.2	49.6	85.9	95.1	103.1	54.5	61.0	38.8	45.1	26.4	40.8	36.1	27.0	9.4	41.6	0.0				
28.P	1204.8	1822.2	238.8	19.8	143.3	41.8	78.0	294.4	46.3	151.9	104.6	29.6	69.4	65.6	173.3	190.9	84.5	51.3	23.1	38.2	22.9	44.5	31.9	58.6	13.8	14.9	18.3	0.0			
29.P	1232.5	1858.6	280.9	52.5	148.6	78.8	92.1	243.0	96.6	161.3	107.4	65.5	86.6	128.8	126.5	133.0	106.3	95.1	56.4	71.0	59.4	106.4	99.7	59.5	52.9	55.6	26.5	45.9	0.0		
30.P	1110.3	1687.4	252.2	18.7	102.4	33.8	51.5	234.8	30.4	127.4	77.5	32.0	54.7	68.0	126.7	144.5	66.9	47.4	29.8	41.3	32.4	30.1	24.8	30.9	13.3	32.8	9.8	5.5	40.7	0.0	

As illustrated in *Figure 1*, yellow-marked populations 1 and 2 formed the first cluster, while red-marked populations 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, and 17 and blue-marked populations 3, 4, 6, 9, 12, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30 formed the second cluster. In the dendrogram in *Figure 2*, it is shown that populations 1 and 2 from Yenikoy are distinctly separated from other populations and form a spontaneous cluster. The populations closest to each other in terms of the proportions of the components are populations 9 and 22 (Euclidean distance: 2.1). Following this, the closest populations were determined as 22 (Koycegiz) and 23 (Ortaca) and 4 (Ula) and 19 (Marmaris; Euclidean distances: 3.2 and 4.5, respectively). As a result of the hierarchical clustering analysis, the most distant populations were identified as populations 2 (Yenikoy) and 26 (Milas; Euclidean distance: 1,968.2). The next farthest populations were 2 (Yenikoy) and 3 (Ula) and 2 and 29 (Dalaman; Euclidean distances: 1,885.4 and 1,858.6, respectively). While populations from Fethiye (28 and 30), Milas (26 and 27), Ortaca (23 and 25), and Dalaman (24 and 29) were clustered tightly, it was determined that populations from Marmaris, Ula, and Mentese were distributed in separate subsets.

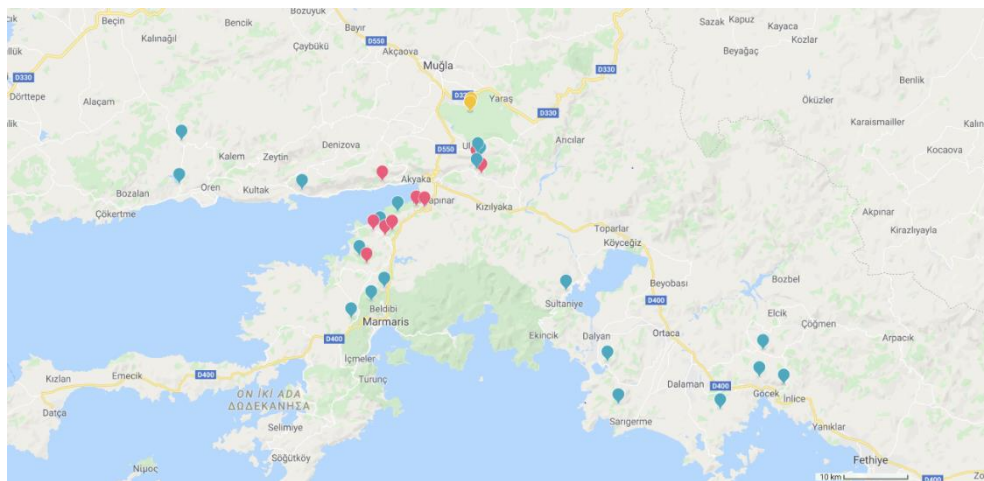


Figure 1. Map image of clusters of *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. populations according to chemical markers

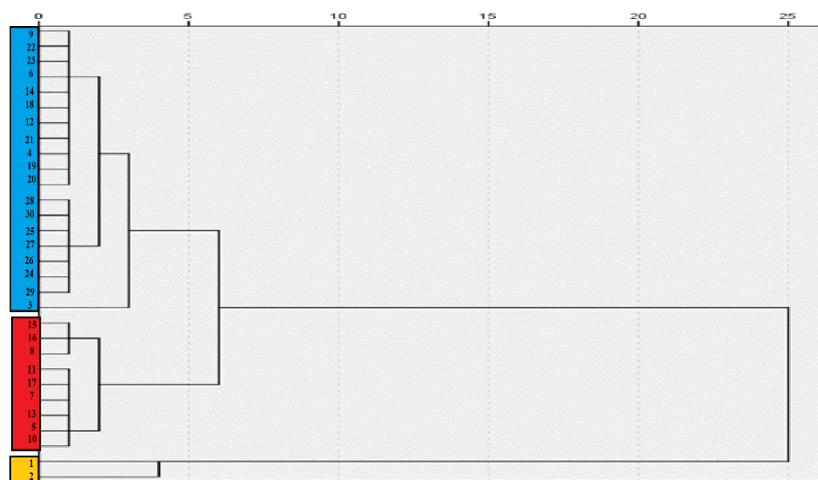


Figure 2. Dendrogram of the relationships between populations in terms of rates of chemical components of *Salvia fruticosa* Mill.

Molecular Marker Analysis

The amplified products from RAPD loci from each sample were separated by gel electrophoresis. In total 150 DNA bands were produced and evaluated. The bands were scored as 1 or 0 according to the presence and absence of bands. The agarose gel images of RAPD-PCR analysis with isolated DNA from the leaves of *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. are given in *Figure 3*.

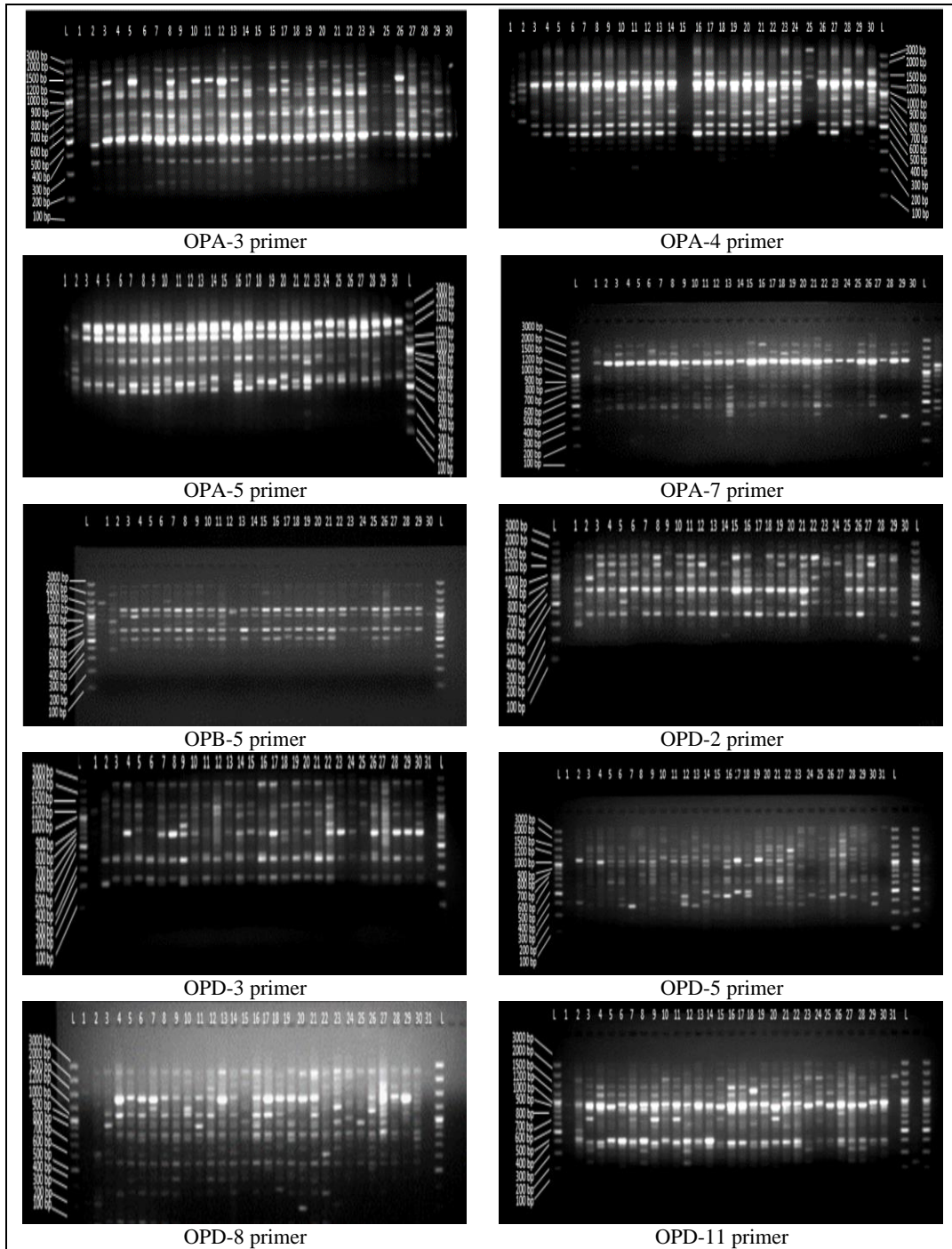


Figure 3. Agarose gel images of RAPD-PCR products obtained from drug leaf with primers

The values showing genetic relationships among *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. populations collected from nature in the Mugla region are given in *Table 6*. In addition, dendrograms showing genetic relationships between populations are given in *Figure 4*. As a result of the analyses illustrated in *Figure 4*, it is shown that populations are genetically divided into two main clusters.

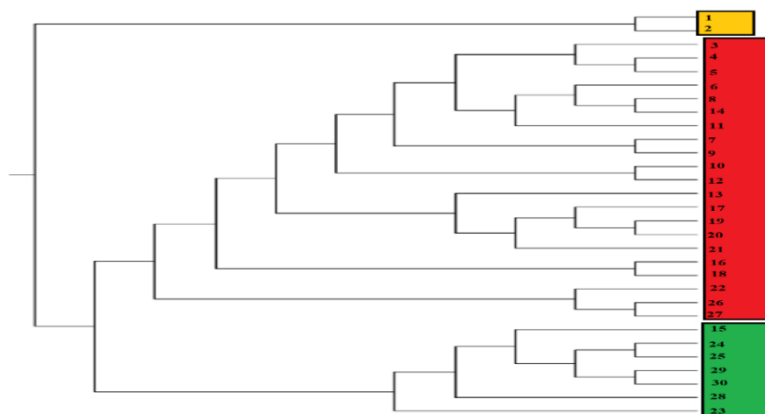


Figure 4. Dendrogram showing the genetic relationship between *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. populations

As shown in *Figure 5*, yellow-marked populations 1 and 2 formed the first cluster, while green-marked populations 15, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, and 30 and red-marked populations 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, and 27 formed the second cluster. In the UPGMA dendrogram in *Figure 4*, it can be observed that populations 1 and 2 from Yenikoy are distinctly separate from the other populations. The genetic distances of the populations are as follows: Fethiye and Marmaris, 32.3–48.8%; Fethiye and Ula, 33.2–45.5%; Fethiye and Ortaca, 30.4–44.4%; Fethiye and Dalaman, 22.3–38.2%; Fethiye and Mentese, 40.2–64.6%; Fethiye and Milas, 34.2–39.2%; and Fethiye and Koycegiz, 40.2–41.2%. The genetic distance between populations 28 and 30 collected from Fethiye is 27.6%. The distance between the Marmaris and Mentese populations is 16.5–83.4%, that of Marmaris and Ortaca is 30.4–59.5%, that of Marmaris and Koycegiz is 28.5–59.5%, that of Marmaris and Dalaman is 32.3–55.8%, that of Marmaris and Ula is 17.3–48.8%, and that of Marmaris and Milas is 26.7–47.7%. The genetic distance of the Marmaris populations is 15.7–59.5%. As shown in *Table 6*, the most genetically distant populations were determined as 1 (Yenikoy) and 22 (Sultaniye, Koycegiz; genetic distance value: 0.88), followed by populations 2 (Yenikoy) and 20 (Marmaris) and 1 (Yenikoy) and 21 (Marmaris; genetic distance value of both: 0.83).

The genetically closest populations were populations 4 and 5, both collected from Ula (genetic distance value: 0.14). The next closest populations were populations 19 and 20 (Marmaris; genetic distance value: 0.15). Skoula et al. (1999) used the RAPD-PCR method to search the effect of genotype on the chemical profile of the *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. species and determined that there is genetic diversity both within and between populations; the same finding was evident in our study. In their research, the different essential oil rates and component's rates determined in the populations confirmed the genetic variability in each population. Skoula et al.'s (1999) results are compatible with the results obtained in our study.

Table 6. Genetic distance matrix between *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. genotypes

Pop.	1a	2a	3a	4a	5a	6a	7a	8a	9a	10a	11a	12a	13a	14a	15a	16a	17a	18a	19a	20a	21a	22a	23a	24a	25a	26a	27a	28a	29a	30a
1a	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2a	0.44	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3a	0.53	0.63	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4a	0.63	0.65	0.19	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5a	0.57	0.59	0.20	0.14	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6a	0.74	0.63	0.30	0.18	0.24	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7a	0.64	0.67	0.29	0.17	0.23	0.25	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8a	0.72	0.64	0.17	0.18	0.19	0.18	0.24	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9a	0.74	0.80	0.38	0.24	0.29	0.23	0.22	0.25	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10a	0.65	0.63	0.34	0.30	0.37	0.24	0.25	0.22	0.30	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11a	0.59	0.70	0.24	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.21	0.19	0.24	0.27	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12a	0.78	0.75	0.33	0.25	0.26	0.20	0.34	0.21	0.25	0.25	0.28	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13a	0.72	0.75	0.39	0.24	0.26	0.29	0.24	0.28	0.29	0.27	0.24	0.30	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14a	0.72	0.72	0.29	0.17	0.24	0.20	0.24	0.16	0.25	0.25	0.21	0.24	0.24	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15a	0.36	0.60	0.40	0.42	0.41	0.48	0.33	0.47	0.46	0.42	0.33	0.59	0.41	0.45	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16a	0.75	0.75	0.43	0.33	0.40	0.31	0.30	0.32	0.24	0.29	0.32	0.32	0.40	0.24	0.49	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17a	0.72	0.75	0.33	0.25	0.32	0.31	0.26	0.30	0.33	0.31	0.24	0.32	0.30	0.23	0.41	0.28	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18a	0.63	0.80	0.36	0.32	0.43	0.34	0.33	0.37	0.38	0.34	0.29	0.35	0.33	0.27	0.34	0.29	0.24	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19a	0.67	0.72	0.27	0.29	0.34	0.31	0.28	0.28	0.31	0.29	0.23	0.34	0.26	0.28	0.39	0.32	0.18	0.29	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20a	0.74	0.83	0.36	0.30	0.35	0.34	0.24	0.29	0.26	0.30	0.27	0.37	0.24	0.20	0.36	0.27	0.18	0.26	0.15	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21a	0.83	0.77	0.28	0.30	0.31	0.30	0.27	0.24	0.32	0.24	0.27	0.33	0.27	0.25	0.44	0.29	0.22	0.36	0.17	0.21	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22a	0.88	0.78	0.52	0.37	0.46	0.31	0.38	0.40	0.31	0.37	0.42	0.36	0.30	0.32	0.59	0.42	0.32	0.39	0.28	0.31	0.35	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23a	0.53	0.68	0.46	0.53	0.54	0.48	0.45	0.45	0.55	0.44	0.49	0.49	0.54	0.47	0.40	0.47	0.40	0.49	0.46	0.44	0.41	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24a	0.44	0.53	0.36	0.40	0.41	0.42	0.43	0.37	0.48	0.36	0.39	0.47	0.43	0.41	0.32	0.49	0.41	0.40	0.41	0.40	0.42	0.43	0.32	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0
25a	0.40	0.51	0.40	0.42	0.39	0.48	0.45	0.45	0.51	0.51	0.39	0.59	0.47	0.47	0.30	0.59	0.49	0.51	0.49	0.48	0.46	0.52	0.42	0.23	1.00	0	0	0	0	0
26a	0.74	0.68	0.40	0.30	0.31	0.32	0.33	0.35	0.34	0.32	0.37	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.42	0.35	0.33	0.38	0.31	0.26	0.30	0.27	0.38	0.34	0.40	1.00	0	0	0	0
27a	0.70	0.72	0.33	0.31	0.38	0.33	0.44	0.28	0.45	0.33	0.42	0.28	0.40	0.32	0.47	0.42	0.40	0.41	0.40	0.37	0.31	0.36	0.31	0.39	0.43	0.25	1.00	0	0	0
28a	0.59	0.64	0.39	0.41	0.40	0.45	0.44	0.40	0.45	0.39	0.44	0.42	0.40	0.44	0.43	0.46	0.48	0.43	0.40	0.39	0.47	0.40	0.41	0.29	0.39	0.35	0.34	1.00	0	0
29a	0.47	0.59	0.45	0.39	0.38	0.52	0.36	0.48	0.47	0.41	0.46	0.55	0.40	0.40	0.33	0.44	0.44	0.39	0.40	0.37	0.39	0.48	0.43	0.29	0.33	0.29	0.40	0.38	1.00	0
30a	0.48	0.53	0.40	0.34	0.35	0.40	0.33	0.41	0.40	0.40	0.35	0.47	0.37	0.37	0.32	0.47	0.37	0.42	0.37	0.34	0.40	0.41	0.44	0.23	0.30	0.34	0.39	0.27	0.22	1.00

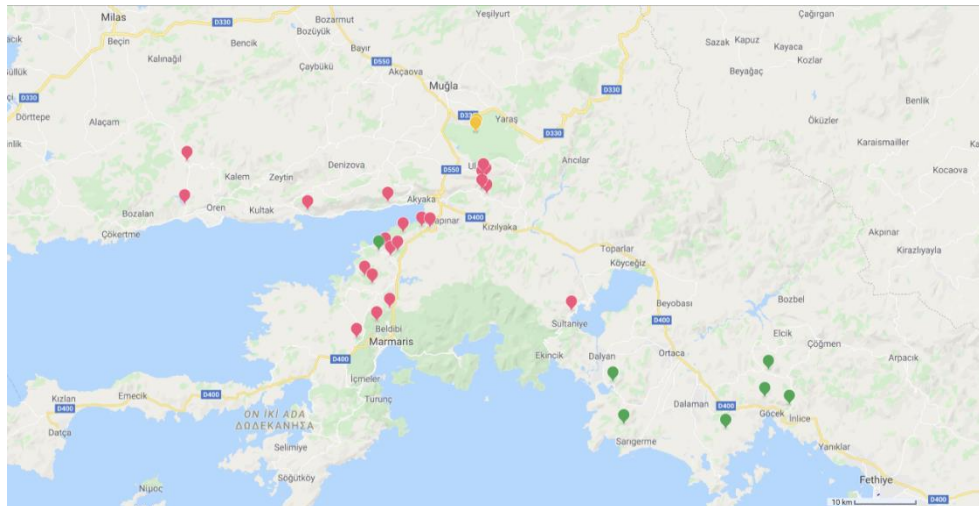


Figure 5. Map image of clusters of *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. populations according to molecular markers

In another study carried out in Muğla province, Altındal (2019) determined the genetic relationships in natural sage populations collected from the Fethiye, Gocek, Dalaman, Koycegiz, Yerkesik, Dalyan, Marmaris, and Bodrum districts. In the dendrogram, Dalyan, Koycegiz, Marmaris, and Bodrum were in the first group, while Gocek, Dalaman, and Fethiye formed the second group; the sages belonging to the Yerkesik region formed a spontaneous group. The highest genetic similarity rate was determined in the Koycegiz and Bodrum populations and the lowest between the Yerkesik and Bodrum populations. The molecular method used by Altındal (2019) to determine genetic relationships is different from that in our study, but the dendrogram in which the genetic relationships are shown is similar to ours.

Conclusion

In this study on *Salvia fruticosa* Mill., which has a natural distribution in Muğla province, it was determined that there is wide chemical and genetic variation both within and among the populations. In the study, while within-population differences essential oil rates and components were determined by comparing them with the mean values of that population, differences between populations were determined by comparing the essential oil ratios in other populations and their mean value of components and by molecular analyses. In hierarchical clustering analysis and dendrogram, chemical and genetic profiles of *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. populations were found to be compatible with each other.

The differences between dendrograms may be due to a number of complex linkages, such as gene expression between phenotypes and genotypes, as well as the morphological and chemical characteristics of plants, which may change with the environment and gene exchange between species during natural selection. In the study, the genetic proximity of populations that are geographically close to each other showed that there was gene flow between populations (Skoula et al., 1999). The different rates and components of essential oils determined in the populations also confirmed that there is genetic variability in each population.

The chemical properties of medicinal and aromatic plants may vary depending on their genetic profile, and the geographical and climatic conditions in which they distributed naturally. In this study, *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. both essential oil rates and components showed wide variation in populations. Different biotic (bacteria, fungus, virus, etc.) and abiotic stress factors (drought, salinity, radiation, light, low or high temperatures, nutrient deficiencies, etc.), which were reported to cause changes in the chemical structure of the *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. plant in previous studies, may be the reason for the wide variation in chemical properties among the populations in this study (Arikat et al., 2004; Chrysargyris et al., 2016) In previous studies carried out on *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. it has been reported that the plant produces anatomical, physiological and morphological changes in its structure as well as changes in its chemical structure in order to overwhelm these factors that cause stress. The reason for the wide variation in the rates and components of *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. essential oil among the populations may be due to genetic characteristics, environmental, climatic conditions and the effect of each of different stress factors or a combination of all these factors.

Salvia fruticosa Mill. populations, which have a natural distribution in Mugla province, have been used extensively in folk medicine for many years and provide additional income to local people, who collect and sell the plants (Karik, 2015). However, many factors, such as irregular construction, intense grazing, and unconscious harvests in Mugla province—where many plant species are distributed naturally—can cause reduced populations of these species and jeopardize their continuity. The degradation or disintegration of these natural populations may lead to differentiation in the genetic structure of populations due to gene flow and genetic drift between species (Hatmaker et al., 2018). To prevent a possible genetic erosion, a gene database should be determined using molecular methods for economically valuable, endemic, and endangered species; furthermore, gene banks should be set up, and genetic resources of these species should be protected (Altindal, 2019).

Production of superior genotypes that will provide economic benefits by determining and manipulating genetic and chemical diversity can be beneficial for economic development. *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. is a species of high medicinal and economic value, so it is important to investigate its utilizability and sustainability in future studies. Characterization of the diversity of essential oils of *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. and the comparison of molecular characterization can contribute to the opportunity to grow homogeneous plant material with desired commercial characteristics such as stable essential oil profile. This study will provide insight into the future studies to obtain superior genotypes and to benefit from them in commercial breeding studies. In future studies on *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. it is recommended to investigate genetic differences and identify agriculturally important genes using different molecular markers (ISSR, SSR etc.) together with chemical and morphological characteristic analyzes.

The limitations of the study are as follows:

1. Soil analysis of the locations where *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. populations were collected was not performed. Therefore, other than genetic diversity, the cause of the wide variation in the population and between populations may be related to many ecological factors, including soil structure, temperature, precipitation, sunshine duration and intensity, altitude, drought, and salinity.

2. The study was conducted at the end of the flowering period of *Salvia fruticosa* Mill., and in each population, the plant material collection hours were different. In previous

studies, the highest essential oil rates of *Salvia fruticosa* Mill. was reported in May–June, before flowering or at the beginning of flowering, and at noon when the active components reached their peaks. In addition, various factors affect the yield and quality of the essential oil of the plants, including the age of the plant; climatic, seasonal, and geographical conditions; harvest time of the plant; drying methods; part of the plant; and distillation technique (Altindal, 2019).

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