

## The Essential Oil Composition of *Cunila platyphylla* Epling (Lamiaceae)\*

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**SUMMARY.** The essential oil of *Cunila platyphylla* wild growing in Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil) was analyzed by GC, GC/MS and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectroscopy. The main constituent in the leaves oil was found to be pulegone (71,2%). Other compounds in significant amounts were limonene (2,8%) and linalool (1,4%).

**RESUMEN.** "Composición del Aceite Esencial de *Cunila platyphylla* Epling (Lamiaceae)". El aceite esencial de *Cunila platyphylla*, especie nativa del sur de Brasil, fue analizado por cromatografía de gases (GC), cromatografía en fase gaseosa acoplada a espectrometría de masa (GC/MS) y resonancia magnética nuclear de carbono 13 (<sup>13</sup>C-RMN). El principal constituyente del aceite de las hojas es la pulegona (71,2%). Otros compuestos encontrados en cantidades significantes son el limoneno (2,8%) y el linalol (1,4%).

### INTRODUCTION

*Cunila platyphylla* belongs to the section *Spicatae* of the genus<sup>1</sup> and is native of South Brazil (states of Paraná, Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina)<sup>2</sup>. It is a perennial herb with prostrate or ascendent branches lignified at the base up to 50 cm high, growing in dense groupings in wet and shadowy places in clearing and edge of the *Araucaria angustifolia* forest. The leaves are subrotund to elliptical, 2-6 cm and 1-3.5 wide. Flowers and fruits are found from January to March. No popular uses have been quoted in the reviewed literature.

Continuing our investigation on essential oil from *Cunila* species<sup>3-6</sup>, we report here the composition of the essential oil of the title plant species, analyzed by GC, GC/MS and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectroscopy.

### EXPERIMENTAL

**Plant Material.** *C. platyphylla* sample was collected in Esmeralda (state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil) in September 1993. Herbarium specimens (voucher leg.

**KEY WORDS:** *Cunila platyphylla*, Essential oil, Labiate, Lamiaceae, pulegone

**PALABRAS CLAVE:** Aceite esencial, *Cunila platyphylla*, Labiate, Lamiaceae, pulegona.

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