

Systematic implications of seed coat morphology in Campanulaceae Juss.

Zeinab A. Elwan, Abdel-Monaim I.I. Aboel-Atta*,
Mohamed H.A. Loutfy* and Ehab A. Kamel*

*Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, Ain Shams University, Abassia
Cairo, Egypt*

**Department of Biological Sciences and Geology, Faculty of Education, Ain
Shams University, Roxy - Cairo, Egypt.*

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In the present study the seed coat micromorphology of 51 accessions of the Campanulaceae *s. l.* were investigated via SEM, the selected OTU's include accessions representing 11 genera and 35 species of the subfamilies: Campanuloideae and Lobelioideae. This study is an attempt to investigate variation between the species and the taxonomic relationships between them. Variations in seed coat micro-sculpture supported the monophyly of the family, favored the retention of *Lobelia* in the Campanulaceae, showed a relatively isolated nature of *Edraianthus serbicus* and suggested that the genus *Campanula* as is currently constituted may be polyphyletic and needs further studies. The study also recorded a relatively high degree of polymorphism within the seed shape and seed coats of the different accessions of the same species, thus suggesting more future studies for their re-evaluation.

Key words: Campanulaceae, numerical analysis, seed coat, SEM.

Introduction

The Campanulaceae *s. l.*, bellflower or *Lobelia* family is a natural nearly cosmopolitan family, with centers of diversity located mainly in temperate regions of the old world (Mabberley, 1997; Shulkina *et al.*, 2003 and Conser *et al.*, 2004). It is widely distributed in the temperate and sub-tropical regions and in the mountainous tropics, comprises 65 genera and 2200

species (Judd *et al.*, 1999) or 82 genera and 2000 species (Mabberley, 1997).

De-Candolle (1830) treatment is one of the first taxonomic treatments of the Campanulaceae; in his monograph he recognized two groups corresponding two tribes: Wahlenbergieae and Campanuleae. Later classification systems have traditionally followed the arrangements of Boissier (1875 & 1888) and Schönland (1889) together with the refinements of Charadze (1949, 1970 & 1976), Fedorov (1972), Kolakovsky (1987), Eddie (1997) and Takhtajan (1997).

The Campanulaceae *s. l.* is some times divided into several families, the Campanulaceae *s. str.*, Lobeliaceae, Cyphiaceae, Cyphonocarpaceae and Nemacladaceae (Bremer, 1994). The three last families are separated from the Lobeliaceae. Lobeliaceae were distinguished from Campanulaceae by Takhtajan (1997), but treated within the Campanulaceae by both Cronquist (1981 & 1988) and Thorne (1992).

Heywood (1993) treated *Lobelia* and allied genera in a separate family and stated that the family Campanulaceae *s. str.* (excluding the aberrant genera *Cyphia*, *Pentaphragma* and *Sphenoclea*) is rather natural and homogenous but its subdivision presents serious problems because there seems to be little correlation between the various diagnostic features. Based on the morphology of the ovary and capsule, he recognized three subtribes within the Campanulaceae *s. str.* which however, do not necessarily represent separate phyletic (evolutionary) lines: (1) Campanulinae; the ovary is inferior and carpels superposed on calyx teeth, the fruit is a capsule opening laterally, some times indehiscent and in one genus a berry (genera include *Campanula*, *Adenophora* and *Legousia*). (2) Wahlenberginae; the ovary may be inferior or semi-inferior to superior, the carpels are superposed on calyx teeth, the fruit is capsule opening on the top and in one genus a berry (genera include *Wahlenbergia*, *Codonopsis* and *Jasione*). (3) Platycodinae; the ovary is inferior to semi-inferior, the carpels alternate with the calyx teeth and the fruit is a capsule opening terminally or laterally (the type-genus is *Platycodon*).

However, in Schönland (1889), most widely accepted taxonomic treatment of the Campanulaceae, the family is treated as one entity with three distinguished subfamilies (Lammers, 1992). These are consecutively Campanuloideae (which contains *Campanula*, *Wahlenbergia*, *Phyteuma*, *Jasione* and *Platycodon*), Cyphioideae (*Cyphia* and *Nemacladus*) and Lobelioideae (including *Lobelia*, *Centropogon* and *Siphocampylus*). The

Campanuloideae (with radially symmetrical flowers and nonconnate anthers) is considered monophyletic on the basis of invaginating hairs on the upper portion of the style and the Lobelioideae constitutes a clade based on their connate anthers, resupinate flowers and one- to two-lipped corolla with a variously developed slit in the upper lobe (developmentally adaxial, but abaxial when flower is resupiate). Analysis of *rbcL* sequence variation also supports the monophyletic concept of both subfamilies (Cosner *et al.*, 1994). However, the circumscription of the Campanulaceae, up till now, has been controversial (Reveal, 1999 and Cosner *et al.*, 2004). In certain instances it is difficult to discern the rationale behind tribal placement of individual genera (Eddie *et al.*, 2003).

APG (2003) showed that no conclusive evidence can either favor the separation of *Lobelia* and allied genera in separate families or retaining them in the Campanulaceae. In their opinion, the option of recognizing Campanulaceae and Lobeliaceae as separate families is retained, although grouping them in one family is preferred. Takhtajan (1997) divided the Campanulaceae *s. str.* into four subfamilies. Subfamily Cyananthoideae includes the genera *Cyananthus*, *Codonopsis*, *Campanumoea*, *Leptocodon* and *Platycodon*; subfamilies Ostrowskioideae and Canarinoideae are monogeneric. Subfamily Campanuloideae consists of 12 tribes and includes all remaining genera. Eddie (1997) divided the family into two major tribes, since the differences between them do not warrant subfamilial status. Platycodoneae is subdivided into subtribes: Ostrowskiinae, Cyananthinae, Echinocodinae, Codonopsinae, Platycodinae, Campanumoeinae and Canarininae, while Campanuleae comprise Wahlenberginae, Jasioneinae, Musschiinae, Azorininae and Campanulinae.

Although the monophyly of the Campanulaceae *s. l.* was supported by morphology and *rbcL* sequences (Cosner *et al.*, 1994). There is considerable disagreement among all prior classifications of *Campanulaceae*. Furthermore, there is no common opinion about generic and specific limits or higher relationships among the major sub-divisions of the family. Taxonomic problems in this family can be explained by the fact that nearly all of earlier classifications had a geographical rather than biological basis (Eddie *et al.*, 2003). Judd *et al.* (1999) stated that generic delimitations are often problematic; *Campaula*, *Centropogon* and *Lobelia* are certainly not monophyletic. Shulkina *et al.* (2003) suggested that *Edraianthus* is closely

related to *Campanula* and not to genera with apical capsule dehiscence and should be excluded from the sub-tribe Wahlenberginae.

Members of the Campanulaceae and their presumed ancestors were subjected to several studies covering various aspects as phylogeny, histology, chemotaxonomy, phytogeography and breeding systems (Stace & James, 1996; Petterson, 1997; Tu *et al.*, 1998; Lewis *et al.*, 1999; Tyler, 1999; Jonsell *et al.*, 2000; Stephenson *et al.*, 2000; Teslov, 2000 and Buss *et al.*, 2001; Eddie *et al.*, 2003; Shulkina *et al.*, 2003; Conser *et al.*, 2004 and others).

In the present study the seed coat micromorphology of 51 accessions comprising the two subfamilies Campanuloideae and Lobelioideae was investigated. The study is an attempt to investigate species differences and the taxonomic relationships between them. The relationships between the same taxa were formerly examined by Kamel (2005) using SDS-PAGE of seed protein profiles. Previous studies on seed micromorphology and anatomy of certain taxa of Campanulaceae *s. l.* are numerous e.g. Mededovic (1980), Belyayev (1986), Lakoba (1991), Murata (1992), Shrestha & Kravtsova (1992), Murata (1995), Werker (1997) Hong & Pan (1998) and Buss *et al.* (2001).

Materials and Methods

The plant material used in this study were 51 accessions of the Campanulaceae *s. l.* comprising 11 genera and 35 species, representing the two subfamilies Campanuloideae (48 accessions) and the Lobelioideae (three accessions). Seeds were kindly supplied by some European botanical gardens and Universities (Table 1). The voucher specimens are kept at the Herbarium of the Department of Biological Sciences and Geology, Faculty of Education, Ain Shams University (CAIA), Cairo, Egypt (CAI).

For SEM observations, dried mature seeds were mounted on brass stubs and coated with a thin layer of gold using JEOL-JFCL 1100E ion sputtering. Coated seeds were examined and photographed on a JEOL-JSM5300 SEM with an accelerating voltage of 15 KV at the Electron Microscopic Unit, Faculty of Science, Ain Shams University. The terminology of Stearn (1966) and Barthlott (1981 & 1990) were used to describe the SEM aspects of seed coat.

Table 1. The studied taxa of the Campanulaceae *s. l.* The suprageneric classification is after Schönland (1889) and the sections of the European *Campanula* after Tutin (1976).

No	Taxa	Subfamily	Tribe	Subtribe	section	Source
1	<i>Adenophora liliifolia</i> (L.) Ledeb. ex A. DC.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	campanulinae	-	PBG
2	<i>Campanula alliariifolia</i> Willd.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	campanulinae	-	BAW
3	<i>C. alpina</i> Jacq.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	campanulinae	Campanula	BAW
4	<i>C. barbata</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	campanulinae	Campanula	BAW
5	<i>C. carpatica</i> Jacq.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	campanulinae	Rapunculus	BAW
6	<i>C. cochlearifolia</i> Lam.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	campanulinae	Campanula	BAW
7	<i>C. collina</i> M. B.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	campanulinae	-	BAW
8	<i>C. erinus</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	campanulinae	Campanula	OBS
9	<i>C. glomerata</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	campanulinae	campanula	BAW
10	<i>C. glomerata</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	campanulinae	campanula	PBG
11	<i>C. glomerata</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	campanulinae	campanula	GPE
12	<i>C. lactiflora</i> M. B.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	campanulinae	rapunculus	PBG
13	<i>C. lactiflora</i> M. B.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	rapunculus	GPE
14	<i>C. latifolia</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	campanula	BAW
15	<i>C. latifolia</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	campanula	GPE
16	<i>C. nobili-macrantha</i> Fisch.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	-	BAW
17	<i>C. persicifolia</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	rapunculus	BAW
18	<i>C. persicifolia</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	rapunculus	PBG
19	<i>C. poscharskyana</i> Deg.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	campanula	BAW
20	<i>C. pyramidalis</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	campanula	PBG
21	<i>C. rapunculoides</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	campanulinae	campanula	BAW
22	<i>C. rapunculoides</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	campanula	GPE
23	<i>C. rapunculus</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	rapunculus	OBS
24	<i>C. rhomboidalis</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	campanula	GPE
25	<i>C. rotundifolia</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	campanula	BAW
26	<i>C. rotundifolia</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	campanula	GPE
27	<i>C. sarmatica</i> Ker-Gawl.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	-	OBS
28	<i>C. sarmatica</i> Ker-Gawl.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	-	GPE
29	<i>C. scheuchzeri</i> Vill.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	campanula	BAW
30	<i>C. thyrsoides</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	campanula	PBG
31	<i>C. thyrsoides</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	campanula	GPE
32	<i>C. tommasini</i> W. D. J. Koch	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	campanula	PBG
33	<i>C. trachelium</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	campanula	OBS
34	<i>C. trachelium</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	campanula	BAW
35	<i>C. trachelium</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	campanula	PBG
36	<i>C. trachelium</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	campanula	GPE
37	<i>Codonopsis clematidea</i> (Schrenk ex Fisch. et C. A. Mey.) C. B. Clarke	Campanuloideae	Wahlenbergieae	Wahlenberginae	-	PBG
38	<i>Edraianthus serbicus</i> Petrovic	Campanuloideae	Wahlenbergieae	Wahlenberginae	-	BAW
39	<i>Jasione laevis</i> Lam.	Campanuloideae	Wahlenbergieae	Wahlenberginae	-	BAW
40	<i>J. laevis</i> Lam.	Campanuloideae	Wahlenbergieae	Wahlenberginae	-	PBG
41	<i>Legousia speculum-veneris</i> (L.) Chaix.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	-	PBG
42	<i>Phyteuma orbiculare</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	-	BAW
43	<i>Platycodon grandiflorus</i> (Jacq.) A. DC.	Campanuloideae	Merciereae	Platycodinae	-	BAW
44	<i>P. grandiflorus</i> (Jacq.) A. DC.	Campanuloideae	Merciereae	Platycodinae	-	PBG
45	<i>P. grandiflorus</i> (Jacq.) A. DC.	Campanuloideae	Merciereae	Platycodinae	-	GPE
46	<i>Symphyandra armena</i> A. DC.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	-	BAW
47	<i>S. zanzegura</i> Lipsky	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	-	PBG
48	<i>Trachelium coeruleum</i> L.	Campanuloideae	Campanuleae	Campanulinae	-	OBS
49	<i>Lobelia inflata</i> L.	Lobelioideae	-	-	-	BGB
50	<i>L. siphilitica</i> L.	Lobelioideae	-	-	-	PBG
51	<i>L. siphilitica</i> L.	Lobelioideae	-	-	-	BGB

BAW = Bundesgarten Alpengarten in Beivedere, Wien, Austeria. BGB = Botanical Garden of Bonn University, Germany. GPE = Grugpark Essen – Gruga Vogelpark Botanischer Garten, bundesrepublik Deutschland. OBS = Orto Botanico Dell Universita di Siena, Italy. PBG = Universität Potsdam Botanischer Garten, Am Neuen Palais, Potsdam, Berlin, Germany.

For the numerical analysis, the accessions were numbered as in Table 1. The presence or absence of each of the different attributes of whole seed and seed coat micromorphology were treated as a binary character and coded 1 and 0, respectively for computation using the program NTSYS-pc (Rohlf, 1993). The method applied is based on cluster analysis and expresses the relationships between the studied taxa as average taxonomic distance (dissimilarity) in phenograms.

Results

The SEM features of whole seeds and seed coats of the studied taxa are shown in Plates 1-4. Their attributes are summarized in Table 2. The macromorphological aspects of the studied taxa showed that the seed shape was slightly variable, mainly of an ovate to ellipsoid pattern, the variants included the following: Ovate to oblong, Ovate to ellipsoid, ellipsoid, ovate to fusiform, glubose to ovate, boat shaped to ovate (Table 2 and Plates 1-4).

Concerning the overall pattern of seed coat epidermal cells, the studied taxa showed two distinct morphotypes (reticulate and striate) that often crossed the generic, sectional and specific barriers. The first morphotype possessed isodiametric to slightly tangentially elongated cells. Cells in that morphotype either took a reticulate pattern with hexagonal cells (*C. carpatica* -5 and *C. pyramidalis* -20), both belonging to sections Rapunculus and Campanula consecutively or a ruminant pattern (*C. persicifolia* -17, section Rapunculus), a generally scalariform pattern with irregularly rectangular cells (*C. persicifolia* -18, *C. tommasiniana* -32, *Lobelia inflata* -49, *L. siphilitica* -50, *L. siphilitica* -51) and finally a pustulate pattern with rhomboid cells (*Edraianthus serbicus* -38). The second morphotype (striate) possessed tracheid or fiber shaped very narrow cells often tapering at both ends or taking a narrow rectangular to rod shape. The resulting pattern often ranged from a generally reticulate to scalariform one with rhomboid or rectangular cell shape (when the anticlinal walls are less thick and cell lumen relatively wide) and finally ending in the sulcate or ribbed sulcate pattern (when anticlinal walls are very thick, covering the outer periclinal walls). Several variants of the second morphotype can be

Table 2. Seed micromorphological aspects of the studied 51 accessions of Campanulaceae.

Characters	Attributes	Species numbers
Whole seed Shape	1. Ovate to oblong	4, 9, 12, 22, 29, 34, 37, 44 & 48
	2. Ovate to ellipsoid	1, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 20, 24, 26, 28, 31, 41, 42, 45, 49, 50 & 51
	3. Ellipsoid	5, 16, 23, 27, 33 & 39
	4. Ovate to fusiform	25, 32, 36, 40 & 47
	5. Ovate to globose	3, 17, 19, 26, 35, 43 & 46
	6. Boat shaped to ovate	2, 15, 18, 21, 30 & 38
Overall seed coat pattern	Morphotype (1): Reticulate pattern	
	7. Reticulate	5 & 20
	8. Ruminant	17
	9. Scalariform	18, 32, 49, 50 & 51
	10. Pusticulate	38
	Morphotype (2): Striate pattern	
	11. Reticulate to scalariform	1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 19, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 37, 43 & 44
	12. Reticulate scalariform to sulcate	3, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 24, 26, 36, 39, 45 & 46
	13. Sulcate	23, 40, 41, 42, 47 & 48
	14. Sulcate with transverse bridges	7
Anticlinal walls	Shape:	
	15. sinuate	17
	16. Slightly rounded	38
	17. Straight (in general)	The rest of the studied species
	Thickness degree:	
	18. Very thick	1, 2, 5, 7, 10, 11, 16, 23, 41 & 42
	19. Thick	4, 6, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 27, 28, 32, 33, 36, 37, 40, 43, 44 & 48
	20. Variable	3, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 26, 30, 31, 34, 35, 39 & 47
	21. Relatively thin	9, 17, 25, 29, 45, 46, 49, 50 & 51
	Texture of wall:	
	22. Buttressed	1, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 20, 32, 37, 41, 43 & 44
	23. Slightly buttressed to tuberculate	4, 8, 14, 16, 27, 28, 36 & 39
	24. Striated	19
	25. Smooth	2, 3, 6, 9, 10, 12, 15, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 40, 42, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50 & 51
	26. Illdefined	38
	27. Smooth and channeled	18
	Level:	
	28. Leveled	38
	29. Raised	The rest of the studied species
Periclinal walls	Level:	
	30. More or less flat	17 & 27
	31. Concave	The rest of the studied species
	32. Variable	38
	Texture	
	33. Slightly striate to tuberculate	4, 5, 6, 8, 19, 20, 27, 28, 32 & 49
	34. Sulcate	17
	35. Ribbed	38
36. Smooth	The rest of the studied species	

Generalized diagnostic features of seed coat	37. Uniformly buttressed rectangular cells	1
	38. Interwoven very thick walled cells	41
	39. Irregular rhomboid to rectangular cells	43, 44 & 45
	40. Uneven distribution of warty to illdefined bodies	46, 47 & 48
	41. Rhomboid to hexagonal elongated cells	9, 10 & 11
	42. Appearance of spherical bodies on anticlinal walls	12 & 13
	43. Intermingled rhomboid and rectangular cells	14, 15, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 39, 40 & 42
	44. Irregular wall thickenings with few illdefined bodies	21, 22, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39 & 40
	45. Rhomboid to irregular cells with buttresses on the anticlinal walls	37, 43 & 44

observed, these are: Reticulate to scalariform (21 taxa), reticulate-scalariform to sulcate (13 taxa), sulcate (six taxa), sulcate with transverse bridges (one taxon). A remarkable finding in this study was the prevalence of buttressed anticlinal walls in 12 taxa, slightly buttressed in ten taxa, striated in one taxon, smooth and channeled (one taxon), illdefined (one taxon) while smooth anticlinal walls were observed in 27 taxa (Table 2 and Plates 1-4).

The phenogram produced by the analysis of 45 applicable attributes of the seed shape and seed coat micromorphological aspects of the studied accessions is shown in (Fig. 1). The phenogram obtained shows that the examined taxa of the Campanulaceae have an average taxonomic distance (ATD) or total genetic distance of about 3.00. It seems non reasonable to discuss the results at OTU's level, so a simplified phenogram was made for the studied 51 accessions in order to construct reasonable taxonomic groups (Fig. 2).

This phenogram shows that the examined OTU's at a dissimilarity level of about 1.50 are divided into two GROUPS: A and B, GROUP A comprises *Edraianthus serbicus* (only one accession 1/1), *Legousia speculum-veneris* (only one accession 1/1) and four species of *Campanula* (out of 23 species); *C. collina* (1/1), *C. poscharskyana* (1/1), *C. persicifolia* (2/2) and *C. sarmatica* (1/2). This may indicate the high dissimilarity of these *Campanula* species from the other examined 19 species of *Campanula*.

The remaining 44 OTU's are in GROUP B, which is further subdivided at a dissimilarity level of about 1.45 into two Groups. Group B₁ includes only *Adenophora liliifolia*, while Group B₂ is further subdivided at a dissimilarity level of about 1.30 into two groups (B_{2-a} and B_{2-b}). Group B_{2-a}

comprises only *Campanula carpatica* (1/1) and *C. pyramidalis*. The remaining OTU's are within Group B_{2-b}.

At a dissimilarity level of about 1.25 B_{2-b} is divided into Group I, which includes *Codonopsis* and two accessions out of three of *Platycodon grandiflorus* and Group II, which contains the remaining OTU's. Group II which includes 38 OTU's is further divided into two groups (II-a & II-b) at the level of about 1.18. group II-a includes *Jasione laevis* (1/2), *Symphyantra armena* (1/1), *S. zanzegura* (1/2), *Trachelium coeruleum* (1/1), the two accessions of *Campanula lactiflora* (2/2) and *C. tommasiniana* (1/1).

On the other hand, group II-b is further subdivided at a dissimilarity level of 1.13 into; group II-b₁ which comprises two accessions out of three of *Campanula glomerata* (2/3), while group II-b₂ includes the remaining 28 OTU's. Group II-b₂ is further subdivided into group II-b₂₋₁ which includes three species of *Campanula*; *C. glomerata* (1/3), *C. scheuchzeri* (1/1), *C. rotundifolia* (1/2), *Platycodon grandiflorus* (1/3) and the three accessions of *Lobelia* (Fig. 2).

Group II-b₂₋₂ is further subdivided into subgroup (i) which includes five species of *Campanula*; *C. barbata* (1/1), *C. erinus* (1/1), *C. sarmatica* (1/2), *C. cochlearifolia* (1/1) and *C. latifolia* (2/2). On the other hand, subgroup (ii) includes the remaining OTU's; *Campanula alliariifolia* (1/1), *C. thyrsoidea* (2/2), *C. alpine* (1/1), *C. rotundifolia* (1/2), *C. rhomboidalis* (1/1), *C. rapunculoides* (2/2), *C. trachelium* (3/4), *C. nobili-macrantha* and *C. rapaunculus* (1/1), in addition to *Jasione laevis* (1/1) and *Phyteuma orbiculare* (1/1).

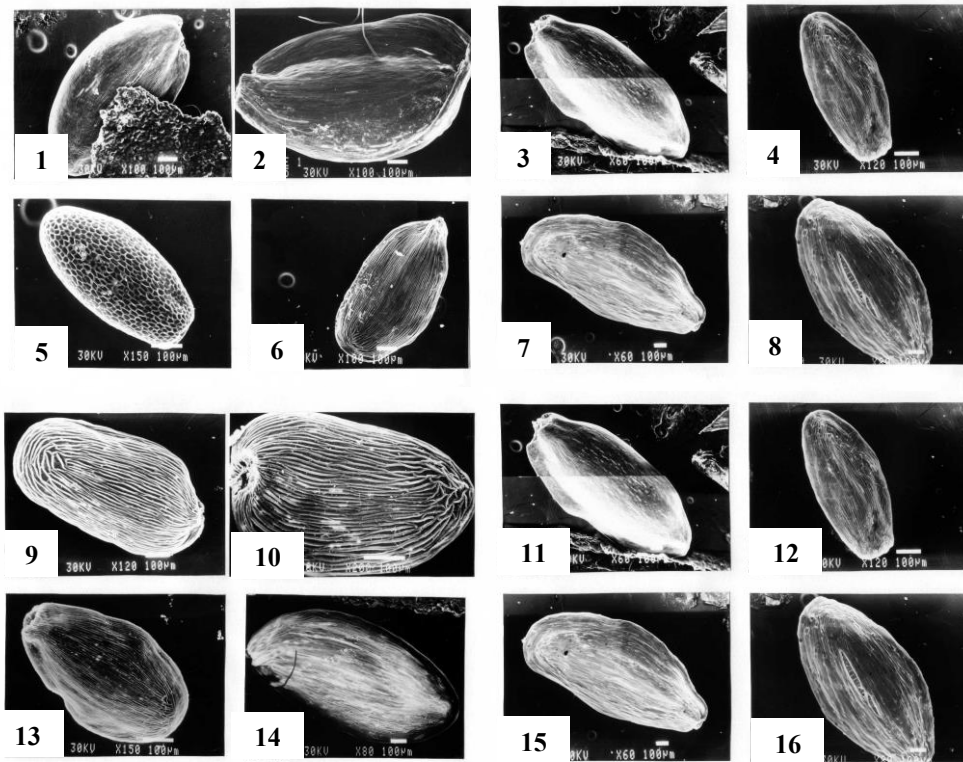


Plate 1. Figs. 1-16 SEM micrographs of the studied taxa of Campanulaceae.

(1) *Adenophora liliifolia*, (2) *Campanula alliariifolia*, (3) *C. alpina*, (4) *C. barbata*, (5) *C. carpatica*, (6) *C. cochlearifolia*, (7) *C. collina*, (8) *C. erinus*, (9) *C. glomerata* (BAW), (10) *C. glomerata* (PBG), (11) *C. glomerata* (GPE), (12) *C. lactiflora* (PBG), (13) *C. lactiflora* (GBE), (14) *C. latifolia* (BAW), (15) *C. latifolia* (GPE), (16) *C. nobilimacrantha*.

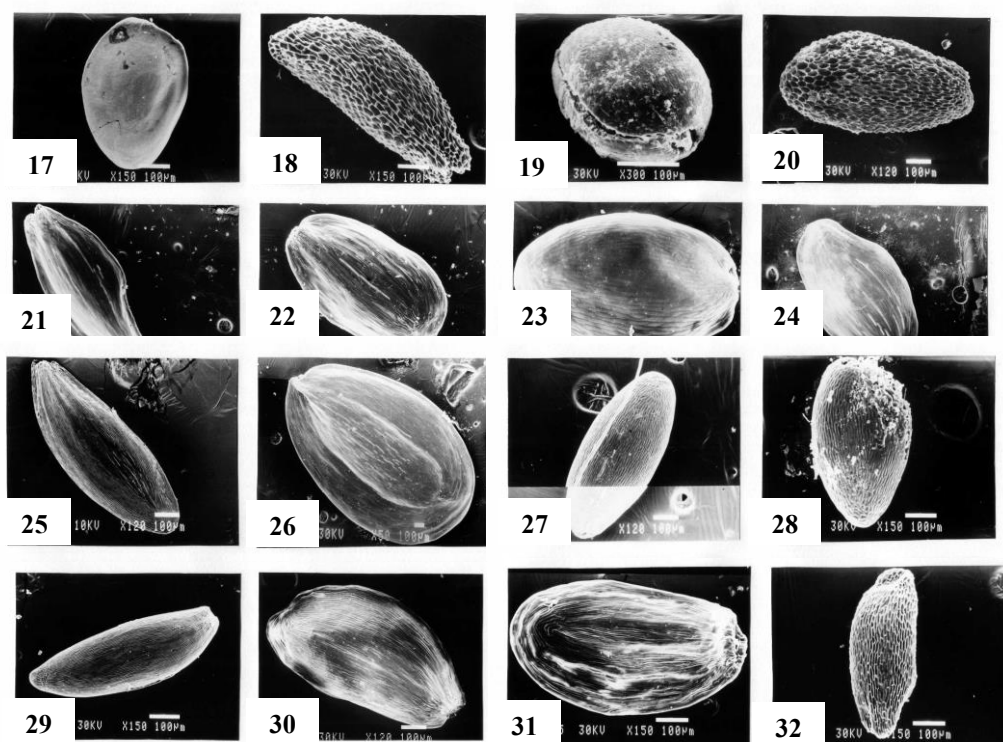


Plate 1 (Cont.). Figs. 17-32 SEM micrographs of the studied taxa of Campanulaceae.

(17) *C. persicifolia* (BAW), (18) *C. persicifolia* (PBG), (19) *C. poscharskyana*, (20) *C. pyramidalis*, (21) *C. rapunculoides* (BAW), (22) *C. rapunculoides* (GPE), (23) *C. rapaunculus*, (24) *C. rhomboidalis*, (25) *C. rotundifolia* (BAW), (26) *C. rotundifolia* (GPE), (27) *C. sarmatica* (OBS) and (28) *C. sarmatica* (GPE), (29) *C. scheuchzeri*, (30) *C. thyrsoides* (PBG), (31) *C. thyrsoides* (GPE), (32) *C. tommasiniana*.

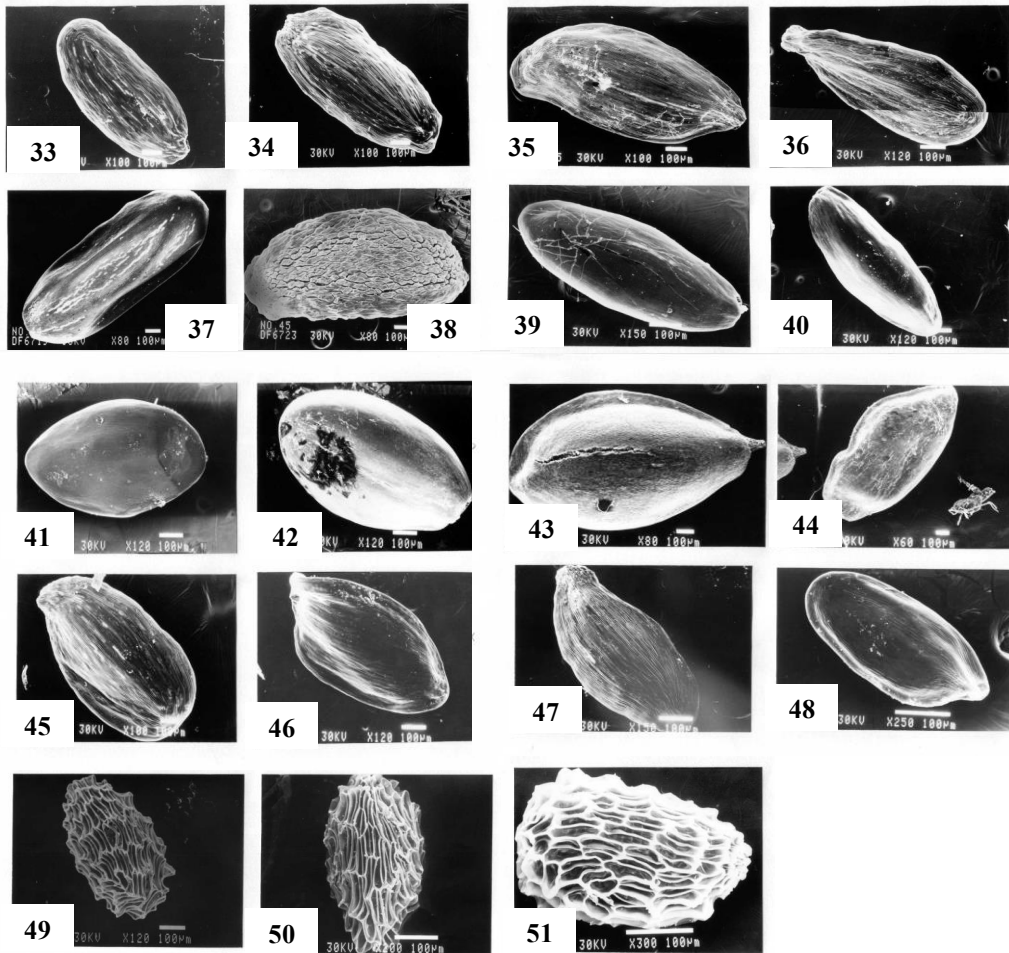


Plate 2. Figs. 33-51 SEM micrographs of the studied taxa of Campanulaceae.

(33) *C. trachelium* (OBS), (34) *C. trachelium* (BAW), (35) *C. trachelium* (PBG), (36) *C. trachelium* (GPE), (37) *Codonopsis clematidea*, (38) *Edraianthus serbicus*, (39) *Jasione laevis* (BAW), (40) *J. laevis* (PBG), (41) *Legousia speculum-veneris*, (42) *Phyteuma orbiculare*, (43) *Platycodon grandiflorus* (BAW), (44) *P. grandiflorus* (PBG), (45) *P. grandiflorus* (GPE), (46) *Symphyandra armena*, (47) *S. zanzegura*, (48) *Trachelium coeruleum*, (49) *Lobelia inflata*, (50) *L. siphilitica* (PBG) & (51) *L. siphilitica* (BGB)

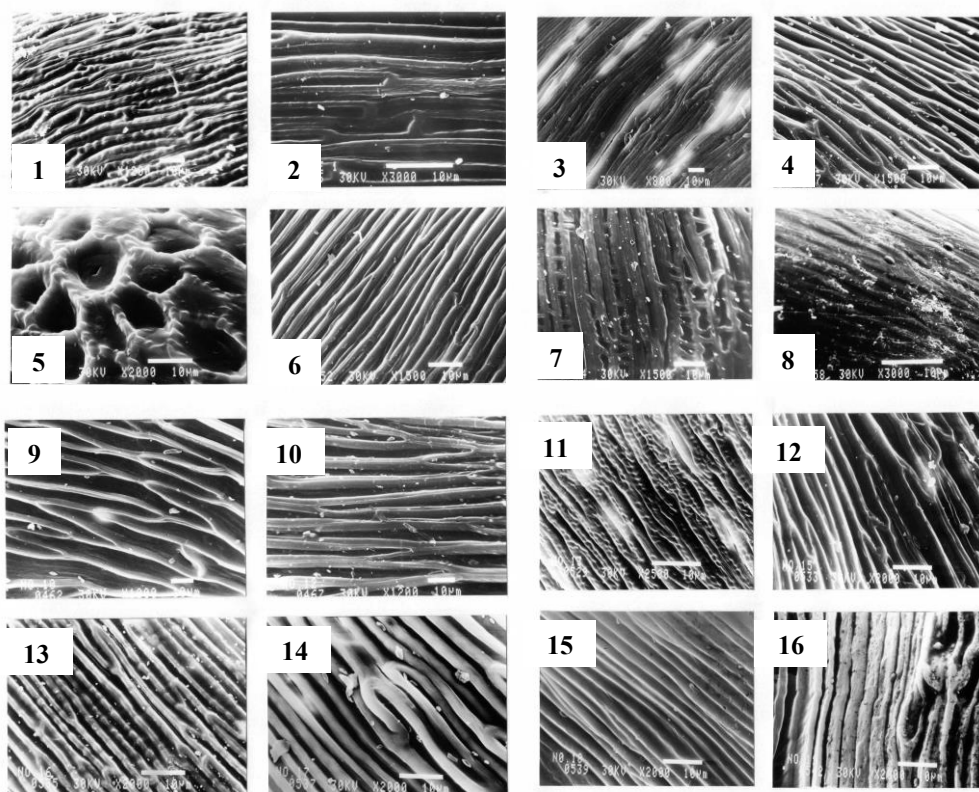


Plate 3. Figs. 1-16 SEM micrographs of the studied taxa of Campanulaceae.

(1) *Adenophora liliifolia*, (2) *Campanula alliarifolia*, (3) *C. alpine*, (4) *C. barbata*, (5) *C. carpatica*, (6) *C. cochlearifolia*, (7) *C. collina*, (8) *C. erinus*, (9) *C. glomerata* (BAW), (10) *C. glomerata* (PBG), (11) *C. glomerata* (GPE), (12) *C. lactiflora* (PBG), (13) *C. lactiflora* (GBE), (14) *C. latifolia* (BAW), (15) *C. latifolia* (GPE), (16) *C. nobilimacrantha*.

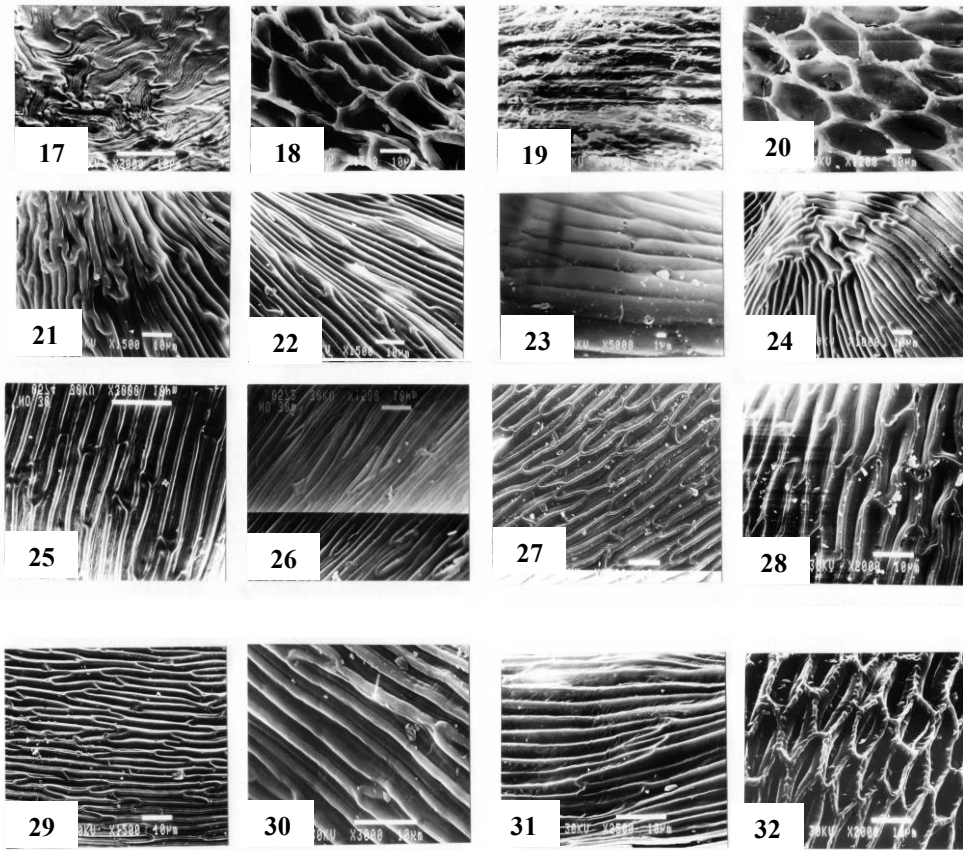


Plate 3 (Cont.). Figs. 17-32 SEM micrographs of the studied taxa of Campanulaceae.

- (17) *C. persicifolia* (BAW), (18) *C. persicifolia* (PBG), (19) *C. poscharskyana*,
 (20) *C. pyramidalis*, (21) *C. rapunculoides* (BAW), (22) *C. rapunculoides* (GPE),
 (23) *C. rapaunculus*, (24) *C. rhomboidalis*, (25) *C. rotundifolia* (BAW),
 (26) *C. rotundifolia* (GPE), (27) *C. sarmatica* (OBS) and (28) *C. sarmatica* (GPE),
 (29) *C. scheuchzeri*, (30) *C. thyrsoides* (PBG), (31) *C. thyrsoides* (GPE),
 (32) *C. tommasiniana*.

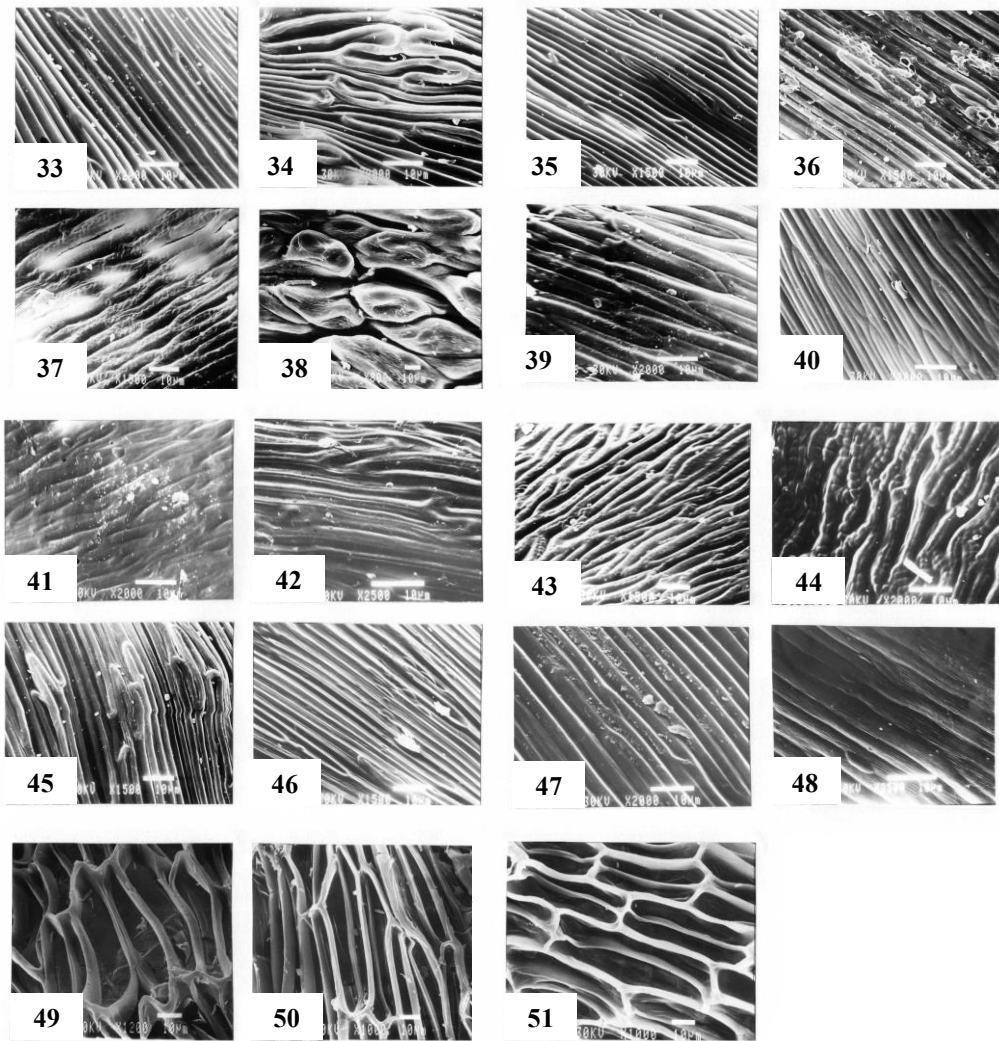


Plate 4. Figs. 33-51 SEM micrographs of the studied taxa of Campanulaceae.

(33) *C. trachelium* (OBS), (34) *C. trachelium* (BAW), (35) *C. trachelium* (PBG), (36) *C. trachelium* (GPE), (37) *Codonopsis clematidea*, (38) *Edraianthus serbicus*, (39) *Jasione laevis* (BAW), (40) *J. laevis* (PBG), (41) *Legousia speculum-veneris*, (42) *Phyteuma orbiculare*, (43) *Platycodon grandiflorus* (BAW), (44) *P. grandiflorus* (PBG), (45) *P. grandiflorus* (GPE), (46) *Symphyandra armena*, (47) *S. zanzegura*, (48) *Trachelium coeruleum*, (49) *Lobelia inflata*, (50) *L. siphilitica* (PBG) & (51) *L. siphilitica* (BGB).

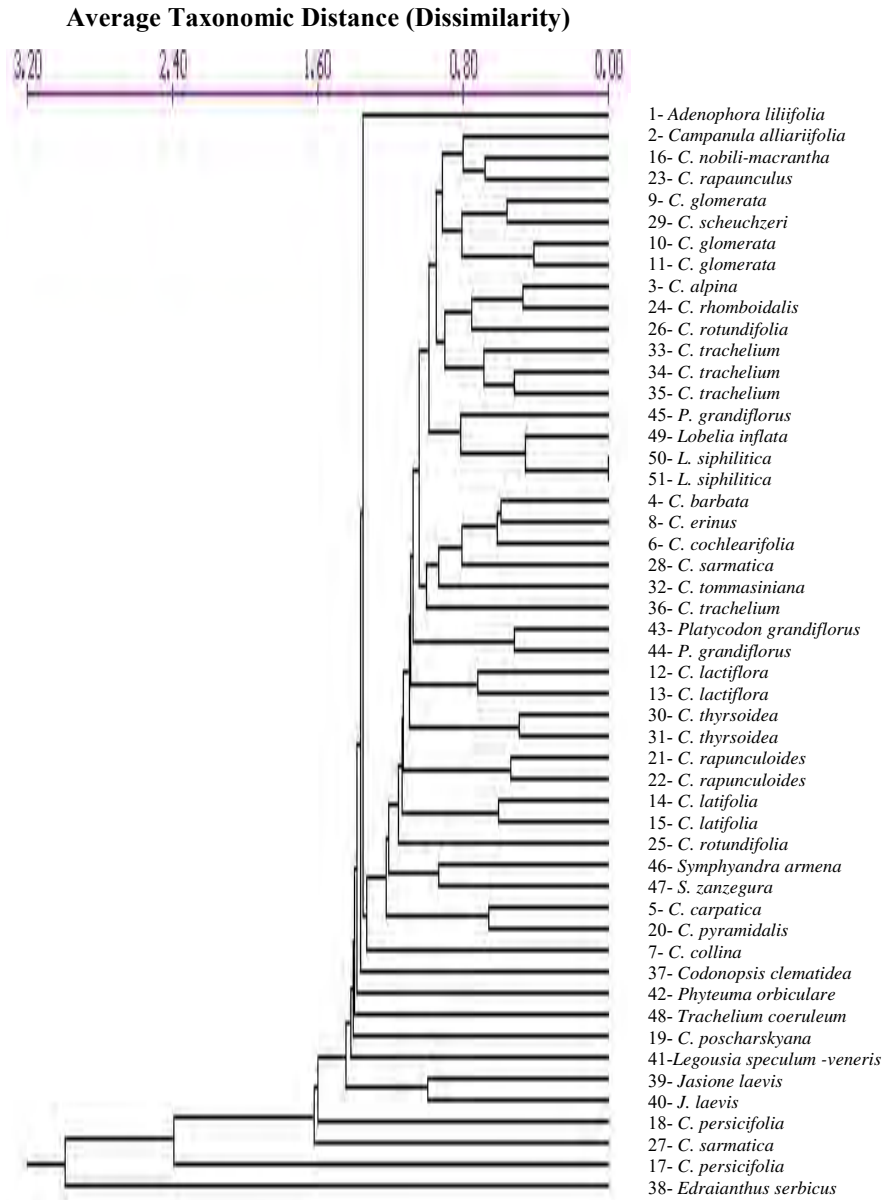


Fig. 1. UPGMA - phenogram based on coding of 45 attributes obtained from seed scan micromorphology of 51 accessions of Campanulaceae.

Discussion

According to Barthlott (1981 & 1990), micro-characters connected with the structure of the anticlinal and periclinal epidermal cell walls are usually of high systematic significance at various taxonomic levels. Most seed coats exhibit a complex and highly diverse morphology, providing valuable taxonomic characters that can be useful for assessing phenetic relationships and delimiting taxa at different levels (Hufford, 1995; Karcz *et al.*, 2000 and Johnson *et al.*, 2004). Variation in seed morphology (overall seed coat pattern or primary sculpture of seed coat epidermal cells) has been stated to be of high taxonomic significance at the generic level and has been used variously in systematic efforts ranging from identification (Sako *et al.*, 2001 and Khalik & Van der Maesen, 2002) and taxonomic circumscription (Constantinidis *et al.*, 2001 and Mendum *et al.*, 2001).

In the present study, SEM observations of seed surface sculpture were focused on the arrangement of epidermal testa cells (overall seed coat pattern), the curvature, level and thickness of the outer anticlinal walls, the curvature of the outer periclinal walls (primary sculpture) and the fine cuticular ornamentation of the cell walls (secondary sculpture). Although this study is a preliminary one, yet some concluding remarks can be deduced. The constructed phenogram produced by the analysis of 56 attributes of seed morphology, showed that the studied taxa were scattered along the phenogram regardless of the genera included in the study. This finding may give extra support to the concept of the strictly monophyletic nature of the family (Thorne, 1992; Tob & Morin, 1996; Conser *et al.*, 1994 & 2004 and Eddie *et al.*, 2003).

The overall pattern of seed coat epidermal cells of the studied taxa showed two distinct morphotypes (reticulate and striate) that often crossed the generic and specific barriers (Table 2 and Plates. 1-4). This finding seems rather natural, as the Campanulaceae include plants with varied life forms and/or morphotypes (Shulkina *et al.*, 2003). The same life form may be present in different tribes and individual tribes may include more than one life form. The same species or lower categories sometimes exhibit various different morphotypes (Tutin, 1976). However, Shulkina *et al.* (2003) states that for this family in particular, polymorphism may be of minor taxonomic significance and do not correlate with Campanulaceae taxonomic classifications.

In the present study, *Edraianthus serbicus* (38) was the sole taxon with pusticulate overall seed coat pattern, consisting of large rhomboid cells with levelled anticlinal walls and flat to convex periclinal walls. In the constructed phenogram, it splitted from the rest of the studied taxa at a high dissimilarity level (3.00). Kamel (2005) found that SDS-PAGE of seed protein profiles supported a relation between *Edraianthus serbicus* and the following taxa: *Symphyandra armena*, *S. zanzegura*, *Lobelia inflata* and *L. siphilitica*. Shulkina *et al.* (2003) suggested that *Edraianthus* is closely related to *Campanula* and not to genera with apical capsule dehiscence and should be excluded from the sub-tribe Wahlenberginae. However, the present study shows that this taxon is of a relatively distinct and isolated nature and so, its relationships with other genera in the Campanulaceae is in need of more studies.

As for *Adenophora liliifolia* (1), it is splitted from the majority of the studied taxa (Fig. 1) at the dissimilarity level of 1.38 due to the fact that its seed coat pattern showed a unique scalariform pattern with tangentially elongated rectangular cells with highly uniform buttressed thick anticlinal walls. Kamel (2005) showed that this taxon was highly divergent from the same studied taxa of Campanulaceae *s. l.* when testing its seed protein profiles. This finding, in addition to the relatively early splitting of the taxa, *Legousia speculum-veneris* (41) *Trachelium coeruleum* (48) and *Phyteuma orbiculare* (42) from the constructed phenogram, may give an indication that at least, some of these genera may not be closely related to *Campanula* as was presumed before (Eddie *et al.*, 2003).

Concerning the studied taxa of *Campanula* (2 - 36), overall seed coat pattern showed the prevalence of the aforementioned two morphotypes (Table 2 and Plates. 1-4). The constructed phenogram based on the coding of 45 attributes of seed shape and outer seed coat micromorphology showed that the studied *Campanula* taxa were scattered along the phenogram (Fig. 1), *C. poscharskyana* (19) was unique in possessing geometrically shaped rectangular cells with highly striated to warty anticlinal walls, *C. rapaunculus* (23) possessed a typical sulcate seed coat pattern, *C. collina* (7) possessed a sulcate pattern with transverse elevated bridge like connections (Plate 2). Moreover, the encountered variations in seed shape and seed coat micromorphology between the different accessions of the same species were sometimes remarkable, leading to either the clustering of the same accessions together at a relatively high dissimilarity level (*C. latifolia* -14 &

-15, *C. rapunculoides* -21 & -22, *C. thyrsoidea* -30 & -31, *C. lactiflora* -12 & -13) or the clustering of the different accessions of the same species with other taxa, thus, concerning *C. trachelium* (33, 34, 35 & 36), one of its accessions (36) clustered with other *Campanula* taxa (4, 8, 6, 28 & 32), at the dissimilarity level of 0.90.

The other three accessions of *C. trachelium* (33, 34 & 35) clustered together, but separated from each other at a relatively high dissimilarity at 0.60 and 0.48. The same is true for *C. glomerata* (9, 10 & 11), where one of its accessions (9), clustered with *C. scheuchzeri* (29) at a dissimilarity of only 0.50 due to their striking similarity in most seed coat aspects (Plate. 2 and Table 2), while the other two accessions (10 & 11) grouped together with a dissimilarity of 0.40. Also, the two accessions of *C. rotundifolia* (25 & 26) were widely separated in the constructed phenogram, the former accession (25), grouped with most of the studied taxa and splitted at 1.20, while the latter one (26) grouped with *C. alpina* (3) and *C. rhomboidalis* (24) due to their sharing the reticulate to sulcate overall seed coat pattern. The two accessions of *C. persicifolia* (17 & 18) represented an extreme case, where their seed coat epidermal cells varied greatly. The first accession (17) possessed ruminant overall seed coat pattern, cells with sinuate thin anticlinal walls and flat periclinal walls showing sulcate ornamentation, while the second accession possessed a typical scalariform overall seed coat pattern with relatively thicker anticlinal walls and concave periclinal walls. Tutin (1976) showed that these three species (*C. glomerata*, *C. persicifolia*, *C. trachelium* and *C. rotundifolia*) possess different very variable and divergent morphotypes, the variants often controversially classified as separate species, subspecies and lower categories. He also cautioned that in some species as *C. rotundifolia*, diagnostic characters are extremely variable, often with little correlation between them. He also points out that in addition to an array of intraspecific taxa, numerous variants are often treated as distinct species.

Kamel (2005) found remarkable variations between the same accessions of the studied *Campanula* taxa when testing their storage seed protein profiles. Eddie *et al* (2003) showed that many species have been placed, for convenience, in *Campanula* L. and this has further complicated the understanding of phylogenetic relationships. In their opinion, the boundaries between the infra generic categories of *Campanula* are still misleading, with some of these probably deserving a generic status than some of the currently recognized segregate genera. Kovai (2004) stated that *Campanula* species

are geographically, edaphically and micro climatically highly specialized and characterized by extensive polymorphism, leading to artificial boundaries between species and lower categories up to the varieties, subvarieties, forms and even subforms. He further pointed that the genus *Campanula*, in its current circumscription, needs fundamental revision. Thus, the observed variations in the seed shape and sculpture of the seed coat of the studied taxa of *Campanula* may give extra support to views held by Eddie *et al.* (2003), Kovai (2004) that the genus *Campanula* as is currently constituted may be non monophyletic and in need of revision .

Concerning the studied species of *Codonopsis* (37), seed coat pattern was characterized by a narrowly interwoven network of rhomboid cells with buttressed outer anticlinal walls (Plate 2). This pattern was strikingly similar to one of the accessions of *Platycodon grandiflorus* (43) and similar to a certain extent to the second accession of *Platycodon grandiflorus* (44) as regards the presence of buttresses on anticlinal walls and the overall pattern of cells. However, it differed in other aspects as the relatively large cell size and undulated anticlinal walls in *Platycodon grandiflorus* (44) (Plate 2 and Table 2).

The two accessions of *Jasione* (39 & 40) clustered together at the dissimilarity level of 1.10, but showed relationships with most of the studied taxa of *Campanula* (Plate 3 and Table 2). This finding is in agreement with Sales *et al* (2002) who showed that the position of *Jasione* is probably basal and/or somewhat intermediate between Wahlenbergioid and Campanuloid taxa, with more similarities to Campanuloids.

As for *Platycodon grandiflorus* (43, 44 & 45), one of its accessions (45) clustered with *Lobelia* species at 0.80 due to their possessing similar ovate to ellipsoid seed shape and smooth anticlinal walls of seed coat epidermal cells, However, this finding may be non significant because the same characters are present in other taxa. The other two accessions grouped together at 0.40 and were shown to have relations with most of the studied taxa. The same finding was shown by Kamel 2005 where seed protein profiles grouped the accessions of *Platycodon* together, but stressed on its relation to most of the studied taxa. In fact, *Platycodon grandiflorus* possess distinct morphological features (Heywood, 1993) and more work is still needed on this taxon.

The relationships of the two studied species of *Lobelia* (49, 50 & 51) to most of the studied taxa were confirmed in this study (Plates 1-4 and Table 2). Kamel (2005) achieved similar results when investigating the seed protein profiles of the same taxa. These results can favor to some extent the views stating that *Lobelia* should not be separated from the Campanulaceae in a separate Lobeliaceae (Tobe & Morin, 1996; Thorne, 1992 and Cronquist 1981 & 1988). Concerning the remaining taxa *Legousia speculum-veneris* (41), *Phyteuma orbiculare* (42), *Symphyandra armena* (46) *S. zanzegura* (47) and *Trachelium coeruleum* (48), the following will be reviewed:

Legousia speculum-veneris (41) possess a generally sulcate overall seed coat pattern. However, this apparently sulcate pattern is in fact an interwoven network of very thick walled cells, reminiscent of the patterns of *Codonopsis clematidea* (37) and *Platycodon grandiflorus* (43, 44 & 45) if we imagine the anticlinal cell walls becoming thinner. Kamel (2005) confirmed the aforementioned relation of *Legousia speculum-veneris* to *Platycodon grandiflorus*. However, much controversy still surrounds the taxonomy of *Legousia* (Conser *et al.*, 2004). *Phyteuma orbiculare* (42) possessed a similarity to a certain extent with many of the studied taxa (Plates 1-4 and Table 2), yet, more conclusive results are still needed. The same applies to *Trachelium coeruleum* (48) who splitted at an early stage from most of the studied taxa at 1.40.

As for *Symphyandra armena* (46) *S. zanzegura* (47), the two species were shown to possess relationships with most of the studied *Campanula* taxa (Plates 1-4 and Table 2) *Symphyandra* have been segregated from *Campanula* based on the presence of a conspicuous tubular nectariferous disc and connate anthers, respectively. However, seed coat morphology may suggest a still closer relation to *Campanula*, but more work is still needed.

Finally, the remarkable polymorphism in either the seed shape or seed coat microsculpture within the different accessions of the same species may render this criterion alone, not an adequate one in the delimitation and classification of taxa within the Campanulaceae *s. l.* However, this study is only a preliminary investigation; more future work is still needed on the Campanulaceae, its classification, its generic and specific concepts and finally their delimitation. This cannot be achieved except by investigating more cosmopolitan material and utilizing other criteria.

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