INTRODUCTION

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Most of the Egyptian flora, which comprises about 2000 species, are desert or semi-desert plants. Of these about 150 are weeds, which usually grow in fields, canal banks, road sides.. etc.

The family Compositae, is one of the families rich in medicinal plants. It is represented in Egypt by 93 genera and 107 species (1). Conyza, subject of the present work is represented in Egypt by 6 species, only two of them are of common abundance while the others are very rare.

Pharmacological studies carried out on certain Conyza species have been reported. The aqueous extract of Pluchea lanceolata possesses anti-inflammatory activity against granuloma pouch, in rats (2-4). It also reduces adrenal gland weight and increases the levels of adrenal ascorbic acid and cholestrol in arthrities rats. The cholinergic and anti-inflammatory activities are attributed to the presence of a quaternary base chloride (pluchine) (4). P.lanceolata was also found to potentiate the barbiturate

hypnosis of the central nervous system (5).

Conyza dioscoridis has been reported as a remedy for colic (6-7). The leaves have been stated as a valuable carminative and very efficient in many diseases of children (8).

Chemical studies carried out on Conyza species resulted in the isolation and identification of some interesting constituents particularly Terpenoids. As regards Conyza species, growing in Egypt only C.linifolia was studied chemically (9). Moreover, earlier preliminary investigation of C.dioscoridis was also reported (8).

Therefore, it was deemed of interest to study the two common Conyza species (C.dioscoridis & C.aegyptiaca) and to report on their constituents.