



Development of genetic markers for *Ochradenus arabicus* (Resedaceae), an endemic medicinal plant of Saudi Arabia

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ABSTRACT. Some species of the genus *Ochradenus* are difficult to identify based on morphological markers. Similar limitations are found for biochemical markers. We developed genetic markers based on DNA sequences for *Ochradenus arabicus*, which is an endemic plant to Saudi Arabia, locally utilized as a medicinal shrub. The internal transcribed spacer sequence of nuclear ribosomal DNA and chloroplast (*rpoB* and *rpoC1*) markers were more informative than other chloroplast DNA markers. Based on these markers, we were able to discriminate this species from another species of the same genus (*O. baccatus*) that is widely distributed in Saudi Arabia, despite a high degree of morphological similarity. These genetic markers facilitate its identification, even when acquired in a dried state from local markets.

Key words: ITS; *Ochradenus arabicus*; *rbcL*; DNA barcode