**Table A5**

Main floral (i.e. flower size, color, stamen type, flower numbers per individual) and vegetative characters (i.e. growth form, stem height), flowering time and population size informations. Green highlighted species belong to the subg. *Salvia* clade, yellow highlighted species belong to the subg. *Sclarea* clade, and blue highlighted species belong to the *Salvia verticillata* clade. \* endemic species.

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|  | *\*S. blepharochlaena*2 | *\*S. recognita*3 | *\*S. absconditiflora*1/2 | *\*S. tchihatcheffii1* | *S. virgata*1 | *\*S. hypargeia*1/2 | *S. aethiopis1* | *S. candidissima1* | *\*S. cyanescens1* | *S.*  *viridis*1 | *S. verticillata* subsp. *amasiaca*1 | *S. russellii*1 |
| Growth form | Perennial, woody at base | Perennial herb | Perennial herb | Perennial, mat forming, suffruticose hern | Perennial herb | Perennial herb | Perennial herb | Perennial herb | Perennial herb | Annual herb | Perennial herb | Perennial herb |
| Stem height (cm) | 10–30 | 40–180 | 10–30 (–42) | 10–20 | 40–120 | 20–60 | 40–100 | 40–100 | 40–100 | 12–16 | 30–60 | 30–60 |
| Flowering time | From 3th week of April to 2nd week of June | From 2nd week of May to end of July | From 1th week of May to mid of June | From 1th week of May to mid of June | From 2nd week of June to mid August | From 2nd week of May to end of June | From 3th week of May to end of June | From 1th week of June to end of July | From 1th week of June to end of July | From 1th week of June to end of June | From 1th week of June to end of July | From 2nd week of May to mid of June |
| Flower size (mm) | 27–50 | 33–45 | 18–26 (1. pop.)  10–18 (2. Pop.) | 10–17 | 12–20 | 26–32 | 13–21 | 23–29 | 23–29 | 12–16 | 7–10 | 8–10 |
| Flower color | White with big purple spot in the lower lip | Light to dark pinkish with White spots in the lower lip | Whitish-cream | white | Violet-blue | Light violet-blue to lilac | White | White with yellow lower lip | Light lilac with yellow lower lip | Lilac-purple | Violet-blue | Violet-blue |
| Flower number per individiual | 40–100 | 50–300 | 20–600 | 200–1000 | 500–1500 | 100–500 | 300–1500 | 30–500 | 30–500 | 12–400 | 400–5000 | 400–5000 |
| Population size | Small | Big | Big (1. pop)  Small (2. Pop.) | Small | Big | Small | Small | Small | Small | Large | Small | Small |
| Stamen type | A | A | A | A | B | B | B | B | B | B | C | C |