

# A New Species of *Coronilla* (Loteae, Fabaceae) from Southeastern Spain: Evidence from Morphological and Molecular Data

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**Abstract** Currently, there are nine species classified within the genus *Coronilla* (Loteae, Fabaceae); however, some populations discovered in the province of Almería, SE Spain, have features that are not present, as a whole, in the other known species. These plants are related to *Coronilla juncea* and *C. minima*, although several features of branches, leaves, flowers and seeds (zigzag branches; fleshy, deciduous leaves without hyaline margin; connate reddish stipules; very narrow seeds with fluted foveolae) are usually recognized as belonging to distinct species. To clarify the taxonomic status of these populations, morphological and genetic studies have been performed. The results obtained suggest that their separate classification is appropriate. Accordingly, a new species, *Coronilla talaverae*, whose currently recorded range is restricted to three populations in southeastern Spain is described here. Regarding its risk of extinction, the IUCN red list criteria have been followed to assess its category, proposing the status EN B1ab(i,ii,iii,v)+2ab(i,ii,iii,v). In addition, an identification key is provided for the species of the genus *Coronilla*.

**Keywords** Conservation · *Coronilla* · Fabaceae · Phylogeny · Taxonomy

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