

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF THE ESSENTIAL OIL OF *SALVIA LIMBATA* C. A. MEY.

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ABSTRACT

The essential oil obtained by hydrodistillation of the aerial parts of *Salvia limbata* C.A. Mey. (Lamiaceae) was analyzed by GC/MS. Among the forty-two constituent, forty components were characterized representing 98.6% of the total component which were detected. Bicyclogermacrene (21.1%), α -pinene (15.5%), 1,8-cineole (11.0%), sabinene (10.6%), β -pinene (9.2%), spathulenol (8.2%), β -caryophyllene (5.3%) and δ -elemene (5.1%) were found to be the major constituents.

Keywords: *Salvia limbata*, Lamiaceae, essential oil, bicyclogermacrene, α -pinene, 1,8-cineole

INTRODUCTION

Fifty-eight species of the genus *Salvia* (Lamiaceae) are found in Iran, of which 17 are endemic. The rate of endemism in the genus *Salvia* in Iran is ca.29% (1, 2). The leaves of *Salvia* species have reputation as a medicinal plant. The most common sage in the world is *S. officinalis* L. Sage leaves are used as tonic, carminative, antispasmodic, antiseptic and hypoglycemic herbal drug (3-7). Official sage is traditionally used to treat the symptoms of miscellaneous digestive disturbances (8). The sage gargle is also recommended as an antiphlogistic for inflammation of the mouth and throat (6, 7). Sage oil is usually used in soap as a perfumery for its powerful and camphoraceous odor in perfumery industries (9).

Salvia limbata C. A. Mey. is a native plant of Iran whose essential oil and other chemical components have not been studied previously. As a part of our research on the aromatic flora of Iran, the analysis of the essential oil of *S. limbata* is described for first time.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant material

Plant material was collected from Charmahal and Bakhtiari Province (south-west of Iran) on June 2000 at an altitude of 2320 m. A voucher specimen has been deposited in the Herbarium of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Isfahan, Iran (No: 1111).

Isolation of the oil

The air-dried aerial parts of *S. limbata* were reduced to a coarse powder and the oil was isolated by hydrodistillation for 3h according to the British Pharmacopoeia (10). The oil was

subsequently dried over anhydrous sodium sulfate.

GC-MS analysis

GC-MS analysis was carried out on a Hewlett-Packard 6890 gas chromatograph fitted with a fused silica HP-5MS capillary column (30 m \times 0.25 mm; film thickness 0.25 μ m). The oven temperature was programmed from 60 $^{\circ}$ -280 $^{\circ}$ C at 4 $^{\circ}$ C/min. Helium was used as carrier gas at a flow rate of 2 mL/min. The gas chromatograph was coupled to a Hewlett-Packard 6890 mass selective detector. The MS operating parameters were: ionization voltage, 70 eV; ion source temperature, 200 $^{\circ}$ C.

Identification of components of the oil was based on retention indices relative to *n*-alkanes and computer matching with the WILEY275.L library, as well as by comparison of the fragmentation patterns of the mass spectra with those reported in the literature (11, 12).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Aerial parts of *S. limbata* yielded 0.3% of a clear yellowish oil. Forty components were characterized representing 98.6% of the total components which were detected. The constituents of the oil of *S. limbata* and their percentage are given in table 1. As it is shown, the main constituents of the oil of *S. limbata* are bicyclogermacrene (21.1%), α -pinene (15.5%), 1,8-cineole (11.0%), sabinene (10.6%), β -pinene (9.2%), spathulenol (8.2%), β -caryophyllene (5.3%) and δ -elemene (5.1%). The oil contains 55.9% monoterpene and 42.8% sesquiterpene.

Table 1. Composition of the essential oil of *Salvia limbata*

No.	Compound	%	RI	No.	Compound	%	RI
1	α -thujene	0.3	929	22	α -terpineol	0.6	1190
2	α -pinene	15.5	937	23	myrtenol	0.3	1195
3	camphene	1.3	951	24	<i>trans</i> -carveol	T	1218
4	sabinene	10.6	977	25	linalyl acetate	0.3	1256
5	β -pinene	9.2	981	26	bornyl acetate	0.3	1285
6	myrcene	0.5	992	27	unknown ^a	0.4	1325
7	α -phellandrene	0.1	1006	28	δ -elemene	5.1	1338
8	δ -3-carene	t	1010	29	α -cubebene	0.2	1350
9	α -terpinene	0.2	1017	30	α -copaene	T	1375
10	p-cymene	0.1	1025	31	β -elemene	0.1	1390
11	1,8-cineole	11.0	1032	32	(Z)-jasnone	T	1396
12	γ -terpinene	0.6	1061	33	β -caryophyllene	5.3	1420
13	<i>cis</i> -sabinene hydrate	0.4	1067	34	aromadendrene	0.3	1437
14	terpinolene	1.4	1090	35	α -humulene	0.2	1452
15	linalool	0.2	1100	36	allo aromadendrene	0.3	1459
16	α -campholene aldehyde	0.1	1125	37	germacrene-D	1.7	1478
17	<i>trans</i> -sabinol	0.2	1139	38	bicyclogermacrene	21.1	1492
18	<i>trans</i> -verbenol	0.3	1145	39	γ -cadinene	0.1	1515
19	pinocarvone	T	1161	40	spathulenol	8.2	1578
20	borneol	1.9	1166	41	isospathulenol	0.2	1628
21	terpinen-4-ol	0.5	1177	42	unknown ^b	0.2	1658

Retention indices on HP-5 capillary column, t= trace ($\leq 0.05\%$)^a MS, 70 eV, 200°C, m/z (rel. int.): 207[M]⁺(2), 161(16), 136(14), 121(100), 107(51), 93(76), 79(53), 67(39), 53(31), 41(40)^b MS, 70 eV, 200°C, m/z (rel. int.): 220[M]⁺(11), 159(31), 145(30), 119(44), 107(71), 91(100), 77(65), 67(34), 55(50), 41(46)**Table 2.** Major components and their relative percentages of essential oils of different *Salvia* species

Plant Name	Plant Part	Main Component	Percentage	Ref. No.
<i>S. nemorosa</i>	Aerial Parts	β -caryophyllene	41.6	13
<i>S. virgata</i>	Aerial Parts	β -caryophyllene	46.6	14
<i>S. aethiopis</i>	Aerial Parts	β -caryophyllene	27.5	15
<i>S. verticillata</i>	Aerial Parts	β -caryophyllene	24.7	16
<i>S. hypoleuca</i>	Aerial Parts	β -caryophyllene	22.0	17
<i>S. atropatana</i>	Aerial Parts	β -caryophyllene	16.3	18
<i>S. candidissima</i>	Aerial Parts	β -pinene	34.4	19
<i>S. tomentosa</i>	Aerial Parts	β -pinene	19.2	19
<i>S. lereifolia</i>	Aerial Parts	β -pinene	23.7	20
<i>S. santolinifolia</i>	Aerial Parts	α -pinene	59.4	16
<i>S. multicaulis</i>	Aerial Parts	α -pinene	26.0	17
<i>S. officinalis</i>	Leaves	camphor	30.8	21
<i>S. clevelandii</i>	Leaves	camphor	31.7	22
<i>S. aytachi</i>	Aerial Parts	camphor	30.8	23
<i>S. fruticosa</i>	Aerial Parts	1,8-cineole	55.5	19
<i>S. aramiensis</i>	Aerial Parts	1,8-cineole	46.0	24
<i>S. moorcraftiana</i>	Aerial Parts	linalool	26.9	25
<i>S. schimperii</i>	Leaves	linalool	26.6	26
<i>S. hydrangea</i>	Aerial Parts	spathulenol	23.1	27
<i>S. syriaca</i>	Aerial Parts	germacrene-B	34.8	14
<i>S. sclarea</i>	Aerial Parts	linalyl acetate	34.9	28
<i>S. cryptantha</i>	Aerial Parts	borneol	24.8	19
<i>S. reuterana</i>	Aerial Parts	(E)- β -ocimene	32.3	13
<i>S. euphratica</i>	Aerial Parts	<i>trans</i> -pinocarvyl acetate	16.8	29

There are many reports on the essential oils of different *Salvia* species. Table 2 presents the major component of the essential oils of twenty four *Salvia* species. As it can be seen, β -caryophyllene is the major component of the oil of aerial parts of *S. nemorosa*, *S. virgata*, *S. aethiopis*, *S. verticillata*, *S. hypoleuca* and *S. atropatana* (13-18). In the essential oil of *S. candidissima*, *S. tomentosa* and *S. lereifolia*, β -pinene; (19-20) and in the oils of *S. santolinifolia* and *S. multicaulis*, α -pinene are recorded as the major constituent (16-17). Camphor was detected as the dominant fraction in the oils of *S. officinalis*, *S. clevelandii* and *S. aytachi* (21-23). About fifty percent of the volatile oils of *S. fruticosa* and *S. aramiensis* are consisted of 1,8-cineole (19, 24). Linalool, spathulenol, germacrene-B, linalyl acetate, borneol, (*E*)- β -ocimene and *trans*-pinocarvyl acetate are also reported as major components of the oils of other *Salvia* species (25-34).

Many identified compounds in the oil of *S. limbata* such as β -caryophyllene, 1,8-cineole, α -pinene, β -pinene and spathulenol are very common components in the essential oil of *Salvia* species. Although bicyclogermacrene, as the main component of the oil of *S. limbata*, was previously reported in the volatile oil of some *salvia* species such as *S. euphratica* (29), *S. aethiopis*, *S. hypoleuca* (17), *S. verticillata* (16) and *S. sclare* (28), however, it is present in high amount only in the oil of *S. hypoleuca* (15.1%) (17).

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