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Composition of the Essential Oils of *Thymus pectinatus* Fisch. et Mey. var. *pectinatus* at Different Stages of Vegetation

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Abstract

Water-distilled essential oils from herbal parts of *Thymus pectinatus* var. *pectinatus*, endemic to Turkey, collected at different stages of vegetation were analyzed by GC/MS. Thirty-eight compounds were identified in the oil from material collected at a very young stage representing 99% of the total components; 28 components were identified in the oil from material collected at pre-flowering stage representing 99.8% of the total components detected; and in the oil from flowering material 27 compounds were identified representing 99.3% of the total components. Thymol (47.81%, 61.67% and 52.48%), p-cymene (20.74%, 8.88% and 14.62%) and γ -terpinene (11.11%, 11.26% and 12.13%) were the main components in the oils, respectively.

Key Word Index

Thymus pectinatus var. pectinatus, Labiatae, essential oil composition, thymol, p-cymene, γ-terpinene.

Plant Name

Thymus pectinatus Fisch. et Mey. var. pectinatus (1).

Source

Plant materials were collected from Sivas: Sarkisla in Turkey on the following dates:

- A = At a very young stage on May 10, 1995
- B = At pre-flowering stage on July 3, 1995
- C = At flowering stage on August 2, 1995

Voucher specimens are kept at the Herbarium of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Anadolu University in Eskisehir, Turkey (ESSE 11416, 11417, 11478 for A, B and C, respectively).

Plant Part

Dried aerial parts were water distilled for 3 h using a Clevenger-type apparatus to yield 0.3% (A), 1.2% (B) and 1.8% (C) oils.

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Table I. Percentage composition of the oils of Thymus pectinatus var. pectinatus produced from plants harvested at three stages of maturity

Compound	A	В	С	Compound	A	B	С
α-pinene	0.3	0.2	0.5	camphor	0.1	<0.1	-
α-thujene	0.3	0.5	1.0	linalool	0.1	0.1	0.1
camphene	0.3	0.2	0.4	cis-sabinene hydrate	0.4	0.4	0.3
β-pinene	0.1	0.1	0.2	octanol	t	-	-
δ-3-carene	-	-	<0.1	trans-p-menth-2-en-1-ol	t	-	-
myrcene	1.0	1.4	1.9	bornyl acetate	0.1	-	0.1
α-phellandrene	0.1	0.1	0.2	terpinen-4-ol	0.9	0.6	0.8
α-terpinene	1.3	1.4	1. 6	β-caryophyllene	0.1	0.1	t
limonene	0.3	0.3	0.4	cis-dihydrocarvone	0.1	0.1	0.1
1,8-cineole	1.2	0.5	8.0	α-terpineol	0.2	0.1	0.2
β-phellandrene	0.1	0.1	0.2	borneol `	3.8	3.3	3.3
γ-terpinene	11.1	11.3	12.1	cuminaldehyde	0.1	-	-
5-methyl-3-heptanone	0.1	0.1	-	p-cymen-8-ol	0.6	0.1	0.1
p-cymene	20.7	8.9	14.6	thymyl acetate	0.7	0.1	<0.1
terpinolene	0.1	0.1	0.1	caryophyllene oxide	0.1	0.1	<0.1
3-octanol	0.1	-	-	cumin alcohol	0.1	-	-
α,p-dimethylstyrene	0.1	-	-	tetradecanol	0.1	-	-
1-octen-3-ol	0.1	0.1	-	thymol	47.8	61.7	52.5
trans-sabinene hydrate	0.7	0.5	0.7	carvacrol	5.8	7.8	7.1
(Z)-3-hexenyl 2-							
methyl-butyrate	0.1	-	-				

t = trace (<0.01%)

Previous Work

The oil from aerial parts of T. pectinatus var. pectinatus was reported to contain 47.8% thymol (2).

Present Work

The oils were analyzed by GC/MS using a Hewlett-Packard GCD system. Innowax FSC column (60 m x 0.25 mm) was used with helium as the carrier gas. GC oven temperature was kept at 60°C for 10 min and programmed to 220°C at a rate of 4°C/min, and then kept constant at 220°C for 10 min and programmed at 240°C at a rate of 1°C min. Split flow was adjusted at 50 mL/min. The injector and detector temperatures were at 250°C. MS were taken at 70 eV. Mass range was from m/z 35 to 425. Library search was carried out using Wiley GC/MS Library and TBAM Library of Essential Oil Constituents. Relative percentage amounts were calculated from TIC by the computer. The compounds identified in the oils are shown in Table I.

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