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CONSTITUENTS OF ALPINIA BREVILIGULATA GAGNEP. FROM VIETNAM

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The Essential oils of the Root, Rhizome, Stem, Leaf, Flower, Fruit-peel and Seed of Alpinia breviligulata Gagnep. from Vietnam were analyzed by a combination of capillary GC, GC/MS, IR and NMR and found to contain:

* More than thirty components in the Root oil, in which 1,8-cineole (6.0%), borneol (5.5%), fenchyl acetate (8.8%), β-caryophyllene (7.5%), α-humulene (10.8%) and caryophyllene oxide (13.0%) are main compounds [1].
* More than thirty compounds in the Rhizome oil. The major components were β-pinene (10.0%), 1,8-cineole (5.9%), bornyl acetate (7.0%), β-caryophyllene (8.0%), α-humulene (7.9%) and caryophyllene oxide (10.5%) [1].
* More than forty components in the Stem and Leaf oils of which the major ones were found to be α-pinene (14.3%), caryophyllene oxide (27.5%), and γ-eudesmol (6.2%) in the Stem oil and α-pinene (17.7%) and caryophyllene oxide (23.1%) in the Leaf oil [2].
* More than thirty five components in the Flower oil of which α-pinene (12.7%), β-pinene (20.2%) and β-caryophyllene (14.0%) were found to be the main compounds. The components which provide the characteristic aroma are verbenone, bornyl acetate, hedycarrol, (E)-nerolidol, α-pinene, caryophyllene oxide (10.8%) [3].
* More than thirty components in the Fruit-peel oil. The major constituents were found to be β-pinene (21.2%), α-terpinol (7.0%), β-caryophyllene (5.7%), α-humulene (5.5%), and caryophyllene oxide (8.4%) [4].
* More than twenty compounds in the Seed oil of which the major ones were found to be geranyl acetate (8.8%), α-humulene (6.1%) and (E,E)-farnesol (65.0%). These compounds and another components such as (Z)-nerolidol, (Z,E)-farnesal, (E,E)-farnesal, (E,E)-farnenyl acetate, citronellyl acetate, geraniol, octyl acetate, α-terpinol, linalool, hexyl acetate and other acetates are thought to be responsible for the pleasant floral odor of this oil [4]. This result shows that the Seed oil of Alpinia breviligulata Gagnep. is a valuable source for (E,E)-farnesol. The application of the Alpinia breviligulata Gagnep. in traditional medicine is also presented.

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