

# Study of Eucalyptus & Lemongrass Essential Oil Extracted by Hydro Distillation Method

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**Abstract** - This research has conducted to study the difference between essential oil of lemongrass and eucalyptus oil. The essential oil is extracted from lemongrass stem and eucalyptus leaves using hydro distillation method by Clevenger apparatus. The effects of main operating parameters were studied: time to reach equilibrium, temperature (95 to 130°C) and particle size (0.5 to 2.5 cm) of the fresh stem and leaves, to find the best processing conditions for achieving maximum oil yield. We have performed extraction process on two types of samples dry sample and wet sample of both grasses. After the experimental analysis we observed that the yield of wet sample is much greater than the yield of dry sample. And we also observed that the oil content in lemongrass stem is more than the eucalyptus leaves. The results showed that the temperature 130° C of the raw material of particle size 0.5 cm for 180 minutes give the highest percentage of oil (29 %). The extracted oil was examined by GC-MS.

ketones, lactones, phenols and waxes. Out of these oxygenated compounds like alcohols are the principal odour carriers. They are more stable against oxidation agents. The unsaturated hydrocarbon like terpenes are less stable and are responsible for degrading oils. To make essential or ingredient oils more stable, so that they retain most of their odor and flavor, these terpenes are removed so that only oxygenated compounds are retained.

The lemon grass oil is obtained by hydro distillation of lemon grass. It is the most common and cheapest oil available in market. The hydro distillation process to obtain ingredient oil from leaves and the aromatic industry use this method because it is cheap when compared with technologically advanced methods as supercritical fluid extraction.

**Table.1 The Physical and Chemical Properties of Lemongrass Oil**

Colour	Pale Yellow to Vivid Yellow
State	Liquid-oil
Odour	Very strong and stimulating characteristic lemon odour
Taste	Like lemon
Major Components	Geranial
Molecular formula	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>18</sub> O
Molecular weight	154.253
Boiling Point of oil	224.00 °C. @ 760.00 mm Hg
Density of oil	0.8894 gm./cm <sup>3</sup>
Solubility	1. Insoluble in water; 2. Soluble in alcohol; 3. Miscible in oil; fats; paraffins; ether; chloroform and glacial acetic acid.

**Key Words:** Essential Oils, Eucalyptus Leaves, Hydro distillation, Lemongrass, Optimization.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Lemongrass

Lemon grass (Cymbogen citratus) is found in many parts of world. It is mainly grown as an ornamental plant however lemongrass has many other uses such as a food crop eg. It is used in herbal tea because of its sharp lemon flavor. It is used as the perfume in soaps and a medicine to treat various health ailments, decreasing acne, athlete's foot, flatulence, muscles aches and scabies. Further, bioactivity studies have shown that the various components of this ingredient oil contains antimicrobial, antifungal, antibacterial and mosquito repellent properties make it a valuable product to be extracted. The citral isolated from oil is used in the manufacturing of vitamin A, Because of those attributes lemon grass is of great use and value in the agriculture sector, especially for the protection of stored agricultural product. Crude essential oils are obtained by steam distillation of variety of natural products like plants, grasses, wood stumps saw dust, flowers, kernel and social hygiene of mankind in terms of their use in cosmetics, toiletries, medicinal formulations, aroma therapy, surface coatings etc. Most of the essential or ingredient oil occurring in nature consists of mixture of hydrocarbons like terpenes, sesquiterpenes, oxygenated compounds like alcohol esters, ether, aldehydes,

## 1.2 Eucalyptus Leaves

Eucalyptus oil  $C_{10}H_{18}O$ , is one of the most important essential oil. The oil is extracted from fresh and dried leaves. Eucalyptus oil has biological effects, antibacterial, antiviral and antifungal components and long history of use against the effect of cold, influenza, other respiratory infection, rhinitis and sinusitis. Essential oils chemistry is very complex; in nature essential oils themselves have many chemical ingredients. Some of them play a major part and others a minor part. The ingredients found in essential oils are organic due to their molecular structure which is based on carbon atoms held together by hydrogen atoms. Oxygen atoms and sometimes nitrogen and sulphur atoms are also present. They can be essentially classified into two groups:

**A. Volatile Fraction:** Essential oil constituting of 90–95% of the oil in weight.

**B. Nonvolatile Residue:** This comprises 1–10% of the oil, containing, fatty acids, sterols, carotenoids, waxes, and flavonoids.

**Table.2 The Physical and Chemical Properties of Eucalyptol**

Colour	Pale yellow liquid
State	Liquid-oil
Odour	Camphoraceous odour
Taste	Pungent and cooling taste.
Major Components	1, 8-Cineole
Molecular formula	$C_{10}H_{18}O$
Molecular weight	154.25
Boiling Point of Cineole (Eucalyptol)	$176^{\circ}C$ to $177^{\circ}C$ ;
Density of oil	0.921 to 0.923
Solubility	1. Insoluble in water; 2. Miscible in alcohol having high concentration or in anhydrous alcohol; 3. Miscible in oil; fats; paraffins; ether; chloroform and glacial acetic acid.

## 2. Materials & Methods

### 2.1 Materials used

Lemongrass, eucalyptus leaves, Clevenger apparatus, heating mental, chopping board, knife, separating funnel, gas chromatography.

### 2.2 Experimental set-up

The schematic diagram of experimental setup is shown in fig.1. The experiment was conducted in a Clevenger's Apparatus. Apparatus consists of one round bottom flask of 1000ml which holds raw material. And further it is connected with a glass tube condenser through the connector. The separating funnel is used for the separation of essential oil and water.

### 2.3 Experimental Procedure

#### 2.3.1 Sample Preparation of Dry Lemongrass

Fresh lemongrass was collected. Fresh and healthy lemongrass was selected and washed with tap water to remove the dust and dirt over its surface. After draining free water on the surface of the lemongrass stem. It has been refrigerated for one night and then second day it was taken out from refrigerated and was shade dried under a fan for about 60 minutes. The fan dried stem was chopped in to different sizes like 2.5 cm, 2.0cm, 1.5cm and 0.5cm with the help of chopping board and knife.

#### 2.3.2 Sample Preparation of Wet Lemongrass

Fresh lemongrass was collected from the field and Fresh and healthy lemongrass was selected and washed with tap water to remove the dust and dirt over its surface. After draining free water on the surface of the lemongrass stem, then weight 300 gms of grass and chopped in to a different pieces of various size of about 2.5 cm, 2.0cm, 1.5cm and 0.5cm length with a sharp edged knife.

#### 2.3.3 Sample Preparation of Dry Eucalyptus leaves

Fresh leaves of Eucalyptus tree were collected. Fresh and healthy Eucalyptus leaves was selected and washed with tap water to remove the dust and dirt over its surface. After draining free water on the surface of the leaves. It has been refrigerated for one night and then second day it was taken out from refrigerated and was shade dried under a fan for about 60 minutes. The fan dried leaves were chopped in to different sizes like 2.5 cm, 2.0cm, 1.5cm and 0.5cm with the help of chopping board and knife.

#### 2.3.4 Sample Preparation of Wet Eucalyptus leaves

Fresh leaves of Eucalyptus tree were collected from the field and Fresh and healthy leaves were selected and washed with tap water to remove the dust and dirt over its surface. After

draining free water on the surface of the leaves, then weight 300 gms of grass and chopped in to a different pieces of various size of about 2.5 cm, 2.0cm, 1.5cm and 0.5cm length on chopping board with a sharp edged knife.



Fig -1: Laboratory experimental setup

**Hydro-Distillation procedure for laboratory experiment**

- Firstly distilled water was taken into a round bottom flask.
- For chopped raw grass.
- Then prepared leaves sample was placed in round bottom flask for distillation.
- After this the round bottom attaching the connecting pipe to the condenser and a mercury thermometer was inserted in hole of the flask so as to touch the top of the leaves bed.
- Then heating mental was switched on and kept in a pre-selected position to obtained desired rate of heating.
- Observations of cumulative extracted oil volume, temperature of extraction chamber and energy meter reading were recorded at every 30 minutes time interval. The weight of hydrosol, spent eucalyptus leaves and lemongrass and left over water in the extractor was also recorded at the end of each distillation test.
- At the end of process extracted eucalyptus and lemongrass oil were stored in refrigerator below 4°C for further analysis.

**3. Result & Discussion**

**3.1 Comparatively Analysis of Lemongrass & Eucalyptus Essential Oil**

**Table 3 Comparative analysis Lemongrass & Eucalyptus Essential Oil**

Sr. No.	Time (min)	Lemongrass Oil produced in ml/Yield		Eucalyptus Oil produced in ml/Yield	
		Dry	Wet	Dry	Wet
1	30	5	7	2	4
2	60	11	15	7	10
3	120	18	23	10	13
4	180	23	29	12	16
5	240	24	30	13	18
6	300	25	31	13.5	19

As we have seen the experimental data, the yield of wet sample is more than the yield of dry sample of both grasses. So, we compared the data of wet samples only and it shows that the yield of lemongrass essential oil is greater than the yield of eucalyptus oil, as we observed the reason behind that is we extracted the oil from lemongrass stem and eucalyptus leaves so, the oil present in stem is much greater than oil present in leaves. The analysis was done by GC-MS. The graphical results show the comparison between the yields of wet samples of both the grasses which are as follows:

**GC-MS analysis and identification of Lemongrass & Eucalyptus Oil**

The GC analysis showed that the major compound present in lemongrass essential oil is citral a or geranial (41.82%) and the major compound present in eucalyptus oil is 1-8 cineole (72.71 %).

**Time vs Yield of lemongrass & Eucalyptus oil**

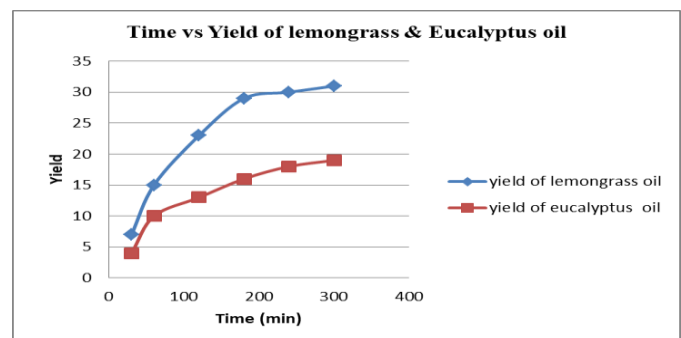


Chart-1: Time vs Yield of lemongrass & Eucalyptus oil

The experimental analysis shows that the yield of both grass i.e. lemongrass and eucalyptus leaves depends upon the time of distillation process. As we have seen that the yield of lemongrass is more than the eucalyptus leaves. At 3 hours the yield of lemongrass was 29 but the yield of eucalyptus leaves was 16.

### Temperature vs Yield of lemongrass & Eucalyptus oil

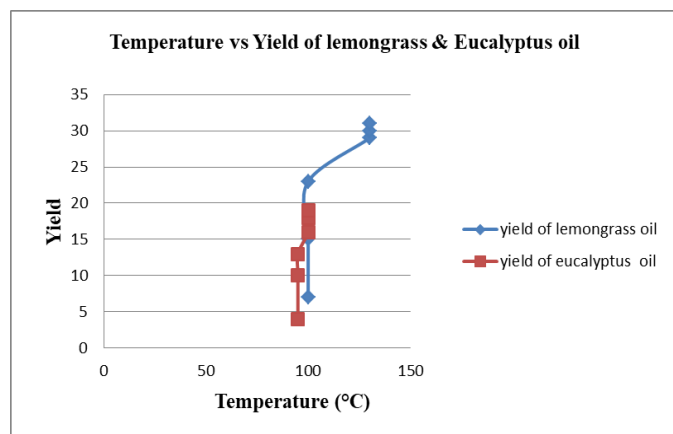


Chart-2: Temperature vs Yield of lemongrass & Eucalyptus oil

After analyzing the graphical data we can conclude that the temperature changed the yield percentage of the both grass. This graph also shows that the yield of lemongrass is more than the eucalyptus leaves. At the optimum temperature (130°C) for lemongrass the yield was 31 but for optimum temperature (100°C) of eucalyptus leaves the value of yield was 19.

### Conclusions

According to the data obtained from the experiments carried out following are the conclusions drawn;

1. The amount of extracted oil from wet grass sample of lemongrass is more than the dry grass sample of lemongrass.
2. The amount of extracted oil from wet grass sample of eucalyptus leaves is more than the dry grass sample of eucalyptus leaves.
3. As we observed that distillation time is the affecting parameter of extraction of oil. The yield of extraction process has increased with extraction time from 30 minutes to 3 hours, but after that it reached at saturation or equilibrium condition.
4. The condition of grass also affects the yield, as experimental data showed that as we decreased the size of grass the yield has increased.
5. The highest yield obtained at 180°C, when the distillation process was carried out for 180 minutes (3 hours) for the grass size of 0.5 cm approximately.

6. The kinetic studies of distillation process showed that oil is not instantly extracted, it have taken certain time.
7. The yield percent is raised from 8% to 12% by using water as solvent. As no chemicals are used there is no need of purification for final product.
8. As we compared the yield of both lemongrass and eucalyptus, we observed that the yield of wet lemongrass is much much greater that the yield of wet eucalyptus leaves. From that we concluded that the oil content in stem is greater than the oil contain in leaves.
9. The gas chromatographic analysis of lemongrass oil showed that the major compound present in extracted oil is citral a (41.82%) and the percentage of remaining compounds are as follows- $\alpha$ -pinene (0.13%),  $\beta$ -pinene, delta-3-carene (0.16%), myrcene (12.75%), dipentene (0.23%),  $\beta$ -phellandrene (0.07%),  $\beta$ -cymene (0.2%), methyl heptanene (2.62%), citronellal (0.73%),  $\beta$ -elemene (1.33%),  $\beta$ -caryophyllene (0.18%), citronellyl acetate (0.96%), geranyl acetate (3.00%), citral b (0.18%), geraniol (1.85%), elemol (1.2%) and  $\beta$ -caryophyllene oxide (0.61%).
10. The gas chromatographic analysis of eucalyptus oil showed that the major compound present in extracted oil is 1, 8-eucalyptol (72.71 %) and the percentage of remaining compounds are as follows- $\alpha$ -terpineol (2.54 %), terpinen-4-ol (0.34 %), linalool (0.24 %),  $\alpha$ -pinene (9.22 %), and  $\beta$ -pinene (0.4 %),  $\alpha$ -eudesmol (0.39 %), (-)-globulol (2.77 %), epiglobulol (0.44 %),  $\alpha$ -terpineol acetate (3.1 %), geranyl acetate (0.71 %), L-pinocarveol (0.36 %),  $\beta$ -sabinene (0.25 %), and terpinolene (0.19 %).

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