

Extracting Therapeutic Grade Essential Oils from the Lamiaceae Plant Family in the United Arab Emirates (UAE): Highlights on Great Possibilities and Sever Difficulties

Authors : Suzan M. Shahin, Mohammed A. Salem

Abstract : Essential oils are expensive phytochemicals produced and extracted from specific species belonging to particular families in the plant kingdom. In the United Arab Emirates country (UAE), which is located in the arid region of the world, nine species, from the Lamiaceae family, having the capability to produce therapeutic grade essential oils. These species include; *Mentha spicata*, *Ocimum forskolei*, *Salvia macrosiphon*, *Salvia aegyptiaca*, *Salvia macilenta*, *Salvia spinosa*, *Teucrium polium*, *Teucrium stocksianum*, and *Zataria multiflora*. Although, such potential species are indigenous to the UAE, however, there are almost no studies available to investigate the chemical composition and the quality of the extracted essential oils under the UAE climatological conditions. Therefore, great attention has to be given to such valuable natural resources, through conducting highly supported research projects, tailored to the UAE conditions, and investigating different extraction techniques, including the application of the latest available technologies, such as superficial fluid CO₂. This is crucially needed; in order to accomplish the greatest possibilities in the medicinal field, specifically in the discovery of new therapeutic chemotypes, as well as, to achieve the sustainability of this natural resource in the country.

Keywords : essential oils, extraction techniques, Lamiaceae, traditional medicine, United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Conference Title : ICMAP 2014 : International Conference on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

Conference Location : Penang, Malaysia

Conference Dates : December 04-05, 2014