

## Proximate Composition and Mineral Contents of *Ocimum gratissimum* Leaves (African Basil)

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**Abstract :** *Ocimum gratissimum* belongs to the Lamiaceae family and is known generally as African Basil. *Ocimum gratissimum* leaves are widely used as local condiments in diets. The leaves were destalked, sorted, washed with potable water to remove dirt, air dried for 14 days under ambient temperature and milled into powder. The proximate composition and mineral contents of *Ocimum gratissimum* leaves were investigated. The proximate analysis showed the moisture, crude protein, total ash, crude fiber, crude lipid and total carbohydrate contents were  $10.72\pm 0.01\%$ ,  $12.98\pm 0.10\%$ ,  $10.95\pm 0.42$ ,  $10.21\pm 0.04\%$ ,  $4.81\pm 0.04\%$  and  $49.01\pm 0.25\%$  respectively. The results of the analysis showed that *Ocimum gratissimum* could be a good source of important food nutrients.

**Keywords :** African Basil, drying, *Ocimum gratissimum*, proximate

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