

## Long Chain *N*-Vanillyl-Acylamides from *Capsicum* Oleoresin

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Title running header:

LCNVAs from *Capsicum* oleoresin

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1     **Abstract**

2

3     *N*-Vanillyl-acylamides (NVAs) naturally occur as capsaicinoids in *Capsicum* plants.  
4     NVAs with a longer chain acyl moiety (LCNVAs) have been developed as attractive  
5     tools for medicinal usage because of their capsaicin-like bioactive and physiological  
6     properties, without harmful irritancy. In this study, we isolated four LCNVAs from  
7     *Capsicum* oleoresin. Their structures were determined to be *N*-vanillyl-hexadecanamide  
8     (palvanil, **2**), *N*-vanillyl-octadecanamide (stevanil, **3**), *N*-vanillyl-9*E*-octadecenamide  
9     (olvanil, **4**), and *N*-vanillyl-9*E*,12*E*-octadecadienamide (livanil, **5**) by spectroscopic  
10    analysis and by GC-MS analysis of their methanolysis products. Furthermore, the  
11    existence of two LCNVAs in oleoresin was suggested: *N*-vanillyl-tetradecanamide  
12    (myrvanil, **1**) and *N*-vanillyl-9*E*,12*E*,15*E*-octadecatrienamide (linvanil, **6**). The contents  
13    of these LCNVAs and the major capsaicinoids—capsaicin and dihydrocapsaicin—in  
14    three *Capsicum* oleoresins and the fresh fruits of two hot peppers were measured by an  
15    LC-MS/MS system. The contents ratio of the total LCNVAs, except for myrvanil,  
16    versus the capsaicin in the oleoresins (0.1—41%) was significantly larger than that in  
17    fresh fruits (<0.01%). The composition of these LCNVAs in each oleoresin was similar  
18    to that of fatty acids in the oil fraction of each oleoresin. We observed no relationship  
19    between the composition of these LCNVAs in the fresh fruits.

20

21    **Keywords**

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23    capsaicinoids, long chain *N*-vanillyl-acylamides (LCNVAs), olvanil, *Capsicum*  
24    oleoresin, LC-MS/MS

25

26 **Introduction**

27

28 When consuming *Capsicum* fruits, the burning sensation (pungency in the mouth  
29 or irritation of the skin and mucosa) is caused by the presence of capsaicinoids.

30 Capsaicinoids is a general term for a group of *N*-vanillyl-acylamides (NVAs) (1). The

31 acyl chain length of naturally-occurring NVAs ranges from 8 to 10 carbons (2). The

32 most abundant NVAs in nature are capsaicin (CAP) and its dihydro analog,

33 dihydrocapsaicin (DC). Studies on the relationship between the acyl chain length and

34 the pungency of NVAs revealed that a chain length of around 9 carbons, such as CAP

35 and DC, causes the strongest sensation of pungency in humans (3, 4). NVAs with a

36 longer or shorter acyl chain than CAP have less pungency, and NVAs with a chain

37 length of more than 18 carbons chain length do not generate any stimulus. The burning

38 sensation caused by CAP is induced by the direct activation of a non-selective cation

39 channel—transient receptor potential vanilloid 1 (TRPV1)—which is located at the end

40 of sensory nerves (5). It has been revealed that several physiological activities caused

41 by CAP are also related to the activation of TRPV1 (6).

42 Long acyl chain NVAs (LCNVAs) have been developed as synthetic CAP analogs

43 with CAP-like physiological activities and with no, or less, harmful stimuli (7). Since

44 the late 1980s, olvanil, *N*-vanillyl-9*E*-octadecenamide, has mostly been studied as an

45 attractive LCNVA because of its high CAP-like activities: it is anti-inflammatory (8),

46 anti-nociceptive (9), and it enhances adrenaline secretion (10), despite its lack of

47 irritancy or pungency. Furthermore, several studies have shown that the potency of

48 olvanil to activate TRPV1 is comparable to that of CAP (5, 11, 12). The paradoxical

49 relationship between the high potency of olvanil to activate TRPV1 and its lack of

50 pungency might be due to its lower accessibility to TRPV1 in the tongue owing to its

51 higher lipophilicity than CAP (12). LCNVAs with ubiquitously occurring natural fatty  
52 acid moieties, such as stearic (C18:0), linoleic (C18:2), and linolenic (C18:3) acids,  
53 have been developed as stevanil, livanil, and linvanil, respectively (13—15). LCNVAs  
54 with arachidonic (C20:4) and docosahexanoic (C22:6) acids have also been investigated  
55 (16, 17).

56 In the course of our survey on various capsaicinoids from natural sources, we  
57 found several LCNVAs in a foodstuff commonly used as a seasoning, *Capsicum*  
58 oleoresin. The six LCNVAs were identified to be myrvanil, palvanil, stevanil, olvanil,  
59 livanil, and linvanil (**Figure 1**) by spectroscopic analysis together with their chemical  
60 derivatization and/or by comparison of the data with authentic compounds. The contents  
61 of these LCNVAs in three oleoresins and the fruits of two hot peppers were determined  
62 by an LC-MS/MS analysis. On the basis of the relationship between the contents of the  
63 LCNVAs and the fatty acid composition of the oleoresins and the fruits, we discussed  
64 the origin of the LCNVAs in the oleoresins.

65

66

## 67 **Materials and Methods**

68

### 69 **Materials**

70 Three types of *Capsicum* oleoresin (A—C) were obtained from a Chinese market.  
71 The fresh fruits of *Capsicum annuum* cv. Takanotsume and *C. chinense* cv. Habanero  
72 were harvested from the experimental farm at the University of Shizuoka, Japan.  
73 Authentic capsaicin and dihydrocapsaicin were purchased from Sigma (St. Louis, MO,  
74 USA). Authentic LCNVAs were prepared according to a previous report (18). The other  
75 reagents were of guaranteed grade.

76

## 77 **Apparatus**

78  $^1\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectra (tetramethylsilane was used as the internal standard)  
79 were recorded on a JEOL  $\alpha$ -400 instrument (JEOL, Tokyo, Japan) at 399.65 and 100.40  
80 MHz, respectively. LC-APCI-MS/MS analysis was performed with the API2000  
81 LC-MS/MS system (Applied Biosystems, Carlsbad, CA, USA) equipped with a  
82 semi-micro HPLC system (Nanospace SI-1, Shiseido, Tokyo, Japan). GC-MS analysis  
83 was performed with the Agilent 6890 GC & 5975 MSD system (Agilent Technologies,  
84 Santa Clara, CA, USA).

85

## 86 **Isolation of LCNVAs from *Capsicum oleoresin***

87 *Capsicum* oleoresin (Sample A, 87.8 g) was extracted with MeOH (200 mL  $\times$  4) to  
88 obtain an LCNVA-containing extract (8.7 g). The extract was chromatographed on a  
89 silica gel column (70 mm i.d.  $\times$  200 mm) with the stepwise elution of *n*-hexane and  
90 EtOAc [*n*-hexane/EtOAc = 90:10 (1 L, Fr. 1 and 2)  $\rightarrow$  80:20 (1 L, Fr. 3 and 4)  $\rightarrow$   
91 70:30 (1 L, Fr. 5 and 6)  $\rightarrow$  60:40 (1 L, Fr. 7 and 8)  $\rightarrow$  50:50 (3.5 L, Fr. 9-15)]. Two  
92 fractions (Fr. No. 12 and 13) were as the LCNVAs-containing fractions. Fr. No.12 was  
93 chromatographed with an MPLC system (Yamazen Co., Osaka, Japan) using a reversed  
94 phase silica gel column (UltraPack ODS-50B, 26 mm i.d.  $\times$  300 mm, Yamazen) with the  
95 stepwise elution of MeOH and water [70% MeOH (100 mL)  $\rightarrow$  80% MeOH (900 mL)  
96  $\rightarrow$  85% MeOH (500 mL)  $\rightarrow$  90% MeOH (500 mL)]. The 80% MeOH elution was  
97 purified by an HPLC system (Shimadzu, Kyoto, Japan) using a reversed phase silica gel  
98 column (J'sphere ODS-H80, 20 mm i.d.  $\times$  150 mm, YMC, Kyoto, Japan) with 95%  
99 MeOH to attain compound **5** (53.0 mg). Further purification of the 90% MeOH elution  
100 by the same HPLC conditions yielded compound **3** (5.7 mg). The same HPLC system

101 equipped with a recycle valve (HPV-Rc, GL Sciences Inc., Tokyo, Japan) enabled the  
102 isolation of compound **2** (23.8 mg) and compound **4** (12.4 mg) from the 85% MeOH  
103 elution.

104 Fr. No. 13 was chromatographed with the same MPLC conditions as described  
105 above. The fraction eluted with 85% MeOH was subjected to the same HPLC  
106 conditions to yield a combination of compounds **1** and **6** (0.6 mg).

107

108 Compound **2** (*N*-vanillyl-hexadecanamide, palvanil): colorless amorphous;  
109 positive-ion APCI-MS:  $m/z$  392  $[M+H]^+$ , 268, 256, 137;  $^1H$ -NMR  $\delta$  6.86 (1H, d), 6.80  
110 (1H, d), 6.75 (1, dd), 5.71 (1H, br, NH), 4.35 (2H, d), 3.87 (3H, s, OMe), 2.19 (2H, t),  
111 1.63 (2H, quint), 1.25 (24H, m), 0.88 (3H, t);  $^{13}C$ -NMR  $\delta$  173.0, 146.7, 145.1, 130.4,  
112 120.8, 114.4, 110.7, 55.9, 43.5, 36.9, 31.9, 29.7 (multiplet), 29.6, 29.5, 29.4, 29.4, 29.3,  
113 25.8, 22.7, 14.1.

114 Compound **3** (*N*-vanillyl-octadecanamide, stevanil): colorless amorphous;  
115 positive-ion APCI-MS:  $m/z$  420  $[M+H]^+$ , 296, 284, 137;  $^1H$ -NMR  $\delta$  6.86 (1H, d), 6.80  
116 (1H, d), 6.75 (1, dd), 5.63 (1H, br, NH), 4.35 (2H, d), 3.88 (3H, s, OMe), 2.19 (2H, t),  
117 2.01 (4H, m), 1.65 (2H, m), 1.28 (20H, m), 0.88 (3H, t);  $^{13}C$ -NMR  $\delta$  172.9, 146.7, 145.1,  
118 130.4, 120.8, 114.3, 110.7, 55.9, 43.5, 36.9, 31.9, 29.8, 29.7, 29.5, 29.3 (multiplet), 29.2,  
119 27.2, 27.2, 25.8, 22.7, 14.1.

120 Compound **4** (*N*-vanillyl-9*E*-octadecenamide, olvanil): colorless oil; positive-ion  
121 APCI-MS:  $m/z$  418  $[M+H]^+$ , 294, 282, 137;  $^1H$ -NMR  $\delta$  6.86 (1H, d), 6.80 (1H, d), 6.75  
122 (1, dd), 5.66 (1H, br, NH), 5.34 (2H, m), 4.35 (2H, d), 3.87 (3H, s, OMe), 2.19 (2H, t),  
123 1.63 (2H, quint), 1.25 (24H, m), 0.88 (3H, t);  $^{13}C$ -NMR  $\delta$  172.9, 146.7, 145.1, 130.4,  
124 130.0, 129.7, 120.8, 114.4, 110.7, 55.9, 43.5, 36.9, 31.9, 29.8, 29.7, 29.5, 29.3, 29.3,  
125 29.3, 29.3, 29.2, 27.2, 27.2, 25.8, 22.7, 14.1.

126 Compound **5** (*N*-vanillyl-9*E*,12*E*-octadecadienamide, livanil): colorless oil;  
127 positive-ion APCI-MS:  $m/z$  416  $[M+H]^+$ , 292, 280, 137;  $^1\text{H-NMR}$   $\delta$  6.86 (1H, d), 6.80  
128 (1H, d), 6.75 (1, dd), 5.77 (1H, br, NH), 5.35 (4H, m), 4.34 (2H, d), 3.87 (3H, s, OMe),  
129 2.77 (2H, t), 2.19 (2H, t), 2.04 (4H, m), 1.63 (2H, quint), 1.35 (14H, m), 0.89 (3H, t);  
130  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$   $\delta$  173.0, 146.7, 145.1, 130.3, 130.2, 130.0, 128.1, 127.9, 120.8, 114.4, 110.7,  
131 55.9, 43.5, 36.8, 31.5, 29.6, 29.4, 29.3, 29.3, 29.2, 29.1, 27.2, 25.8, 25.6, 22.6, 14.1.

132

### 133 **Methanolysis of LCNVAs for GC-MS analysis**

134 A small amount (ca. 0.5 mg) of each of the compounds (**2—5**) and the mixture of  
135 compounds **1** and **6** was dissolved in ca. 1 mL of MeOH/conc. HCl (7:3); they were  
136 then heated at 100°C for 20 h. After extraction with *n*-hexane, an aliquot of the  
137 *n*-hexane fraction was subjected to GC-MS analysis. The GC/MS conditions were as  
138 follows: column, HP-5MS, 0.25 mm i.d.  $\times$  30 m (Agilent Technology); injector  
139 temperature, 260°C; oven temperature, initial temperature, 160°C increased at 3°C/min  
140 to 240°C; mobile phase, He, 2 mL/min; injection, splitless; injection vol., 1  $\mu\text{L}$ . The  
141 operation of the apparatus was performed with the ChemStation software (Agilent), and  
142 the data base analysis was by the NIST05.

143

### 144 **LC-MS/MS quantification of LCNVAs in samples**

145 Each of the *Capsicum* oleoresins (A, 1.0 g; B, 1.4 g; C, 2.9 g) was extracted with  
146 MeOH (10 mL  $\times$  3). The MeOH fractions were dried by evaporation; the residues were  
147 again dissolved and diluted with MeOH containing 0.1% AcOH for LC-MS/MS  
148 analyses.

149 The fresh fruits of Habanero (20.6 g) and Takanotsume (10.2 g) were freeze-dried  
150 and their seeds and calyces were removed. The residues (4.14 g Habanero and 6.24 g

151 Takanotsume) were ground and then soaked with EtOAc (41.4 mL for Habanero and  
152 62.4 mL for Takanotsume) for 1 month. After centrifugation, an aliquot of the  
153 supernatants was subjected to LC-MS/MS analysis, as described below, to quantify the  
154 LCNVAs. Another aliquot of each of the supernatants was dried to weigh the oleoresin  
155 of the pepper fruits. The weights of the Habanero and Takanotsume oleoresins were  
156 estimated to be 0.28 g and 1.09 g from 20.6 g and 10.2 g of the fresh fruits, respectively.

157 The LC-MS/MS conditions were as follows: LC; column, a reversed phase silica  
158 gel column, Unison UKC-8, 2 mm i.d. × 150 mm (Imtakt Co., Kyoto, Japan); solvent,  
159 80—100% MeOH containing 0.1% AcOH (0—15 min), 100% MeOH containing 0.1%  
160 AcOH (15—25 min); flow rate, 0.2 mL/min; injection volume, 5 μL; MS/MS; ion  
161 source, APCI; polarity, positive; detection mode, multiple reaction monitoring (MRM);  
162 detected ions, precursor/product, 306/137 for capsaicin, 308/137 for dihydrocapsaicin,  
163 364/137 for **1**, 392/137 for **2**, 420/137 for **3**, 418/137 for **4**, 416/137 for **5**, and 414/137  
164 for **6**. These ions were observed in the mass chromatogram at 9.6, 12.9, 15.7, 13.6, 11.8,  
165 and 10.1 min, respectively. The optimum parameters for the detection of each  
166 compound were tuned automatically using authentic samples by the Analyst software  
167 (Applied Biosystems). The samples were analyzed in duplicate, and each compound  
168 was quantified by the use of the calibration curves from the authentic samples.

169

#### 170 **GC-MS analysis of fatty acid compositions in the oil fractions of samples**

171 Approximately 10 mg of each sample (the oleoresins and the pepper fruit extracts)  
172 was dissolved in 25 μL of CHCl<sub>3</sub> solution containing 2% (w/v) pentadecanoic acid as an  
173 internal standard. The mixture was dried under a nitrogen stream. After heating the  
174 residue at 100°C for 1 min with 250 μL of 0.5 M NaOH in MeOH, the mixture was  
175 further heated at 100°C for 2 min with 300 μL of 14% BF<sub>3</sub> in MeOH. After petroleum



176 ether and water were added to the cooled mixture, the organic layer was collected and  
177 dried under a nitrogen stream. The residue was diluted with 100 mL of *n*-hexane for  
178 GC-MS analysis. The conditions of GC-MS have been described above.

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180

## 181 **Results and Discussion**

182

### 183 **Isolation of LCNVAs from *Capsicum* oleoresin and the structural elucidation of the** 184 **LCNVAs**

185

186 It is difficult to isolate capsaicinoids from *Capsicum* oleoresin by chromatographic  
187 methods because oleoresin mainly consists of oils (triacylglycerols). In a preliminary  
188 experiment, the liquid—liquid partition of the oleoresin with methanol was determined  
189 to be suitable for the extraction of natural capsaicinoids (CAP and DC) and spiked  
190 olvanil quantitatively into methanol fractions. In the present study, therefore, we used  
191 methanol to extract the capsaicinoids and LCNVAs from a *Capsicum* oleoresin sample  
192 (Sample A). Silica gel TLC analysis of the extract showed a typical color development  
193 with Gibbs reagent caused by phenolic compounds; the extract had a higher  $R_f$  value  
194 than CAP and DC, suggesting the existence of capsaicinoids that were more  
195 hydrophobic than CAP and DC.

196 We isolated four compounds (**2—5**) from the extract by several chromatographic  
197 methods (see the Materials and Methods section). Their  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectra showed the  
198 typical signals of the vanillyl moiety of capsaicinoids, that is, a 1,2,4-substituted  
199 benzene ( $\delta$  6.86, 6.80, and 6.75), a methylene ( $\delta$  4.35), and a methoxy group ( $\delta$  3.88)  
200 attached to the benzene ring. Although the higher magnetic fields of their spectra

201 indicated the existence of long chain acyl moieties, it was difficult to estimate their  
202 exact structure from the data. However, it appeared that only one olefin group ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.34,  
203 2H;  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  130.0 and 129.7) was in the acyl moiety of **4**, and two olefin groups ( $\delta_{\text{H}}$  5.35,  
204 4H;  $\delta_{\text{C}}$  130.2, 130.0, 128.1, and 127.9) were in the acyl moiety of **5**. To confirm the  
205 structures of the acyl moieties, GC-MS analyses of the methanolysis products of each of  
206 the compounds were performed. The NIST database determined the methanolysis  
207 products of **2—5** to be methyl esters of hexadecanoic, octadecanoic, 9*E*-octadecenoic,  
208 and 9*E*,12*E*-octadecadienoic acids, respectively. From these data, the structures of **2—5**  
209 were elucidated to be *N*-vanillyl-hexadecanamide (palvanil), *N*-vanillyl-octadecanamide  
210 (stevanil), *N*-vanillyl-9*E*-octadecenamide (olvani), and  
211 *N*-vanillyl-9*E*,12*E*-octadecadienamide (livani), respectively (**Figure 1**). The APCI-MS  
212 spectra on the positive mode for these compounds showed mass peaks at  $m/z$  392 for **2**,  
213 420 for **3**, 418 for **4**, and 416 for **5**. These protonated molecular ion peaks of **2—5**  
214 strongly supported their structures. Furthermore, the common fragment ion of **2—5** at  
215  $m/z$  137 indicated the typical vanillylamine moiety caused by the cleavage of  
216 capsaicinoids (*19*, *20*). All of the data for **2—5** were complete agreement with the  
217 chemically synthesized authentic compounds (*18*).

218 We were also able to obtain a very small quantity of the mixture of compounds **1**  
219 and **6** from the oleoresin. Although further purification of the compounds from the  
220 mixture could not be achieved, the  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum of the mixture conclusively  
221 indicated the existence of capsaicinoids (data not shown). GC-MS analysis of the  
222 methanolysis products of the mixture revealed the existence of methyl esters of two  
223 fatty acids, tetradecanoic and 9*E*,12*E*,15*E*-octadecatrienoic acids. We, therefore,  
224 estimated the structures of **1** and **6** to be *N*-vanillyl-tetradecanamide (myrvani) and  
225 *N*-vanillyl-9*E*,12*E*,15*E*-octadecatrienamide (linvani), respectively (**Figure 1**). HPLC

226 analysis of the mixture showed two peaks whose retention times were complete  
227 agreement with the chemically synthesized authentic compounds (18).

228

### 229 **The contents of LCNVAs in Capsicum oleoresins and fruits**

230

231 Various methods for capsaicinoids analysis have been developed in the last  
232 century (2). Recently, the LC-MS technique has been applied to capsaicinoids analysis  
233 (19—21). Although electronic spray ionization (ESI) has been mainly used as the  
234 ionization method for capsaicinoids, we selected the atmospheric chemical ionization  
235 (APCI) method for the LCNVAs analysis because APCI is effective for the ionization of  
236 higher hydrophobic compounds like LCNVAs. The positive-ion APCI-MS spectra of  
237 each LCNVA showed a corresponding protonated molecular mass ( $[M+H]^+$ ) as the  
238 major peak (see the Materials and Methods section). The successive fragmentation of  
239 the peak for each LCNVA by neutral gas collision (MS/MS analysis) conclusively  
240 showed a common peak at  $m/z$  137, which presents the vanillyl moiety derived from the  
241 cleavage of NVAs at their amide bond (19, 20). Therefore, we chose these two  
242 characteristic ions (multiple reaction monitoring, MRM) on an LC-APCI-MS/MS to  
243 identify and quantify each LCNVA (see the Materials and Methods section). In the  
244 MRM chromatogram of the mixture of authentic CAP, DC, and LCNVAs (1—6), the  
245 baseline resolution was achieved at a relatively higher quantity of the compounds (50  
246 pmol each). The detection limit was approximately 0.01 pmol and the dynamic range  
247 was 0.05—500 pmol under the conditions employed.

248 **Table 1** shows the contents of the LCNVAs (1—6), CAP, and DC from *Capsicum*  
249 oleoresin samples (A—C) and extracts from the pepper fruits (Habanero and  
250 Takanotsume), measured by LC-APCI-MS/MS. In all the samples, CAP and DC were

251 the dominant components of NVAs. The total amount of CAP and DC in the dry fruits  
252 of Habanero and Takanotsume were calculated as 8,380  $\mu\text{g/g dw}$  and 2,740  $\mu\text{g/g dw}$ ,  
253 respectively, which were within the ordinary amounts for these varieties (22). The total  
254 amounts of CAP and DC in the oleoresins A and C were similar to those of the fruit  
255 extract from Takanotsume. The ratio of DC to CAP in these oleoresins was also similar  
256 to that observed in Takanotsume. Therefore, the oleoresins A and C might be extracts  
257 from a Takanotsume-like variety.

258 The contents of LCNVAs in the samples were very small, except for oleoresin A.  
259 Only negligible amount of the LCNVAs **2—6** were detected in the fruit extracts, and the  
260 amount ratios of each LCNVA to CAP were extremely small ( $< 0.01\%$  each). In contrast,  
261 oleoresin A contained a large amount of total LCNVAs (**2—6**), 2,370  $\mu\text{g/g}$ , and its  
262 amount ratio to CAP was over 41%. Although the amounts of **2—6** in the other  
263 oleoresins (samples B and C) were also very small, their total amount ratios to CAP  
264 were obviously remarkable when compared to those of the fruit extracts (0.3% for B  
265 and 0.1% for C). On the other hand, *N*-vanillyl-tetradecanamide (myrvanil, **1**) and  
266 *N*-vanillyl-hexadecanamide (palvanil, **2**) were significantly abundant in the fresh pepper  
267 fruit extracts. Therefore, it is possible that intact fruits of *Capsicum* plants naturally  
268 possess these LCNVAs (**1** and **2**). The other LCNVAs are probably generated and/or  
269 increased in *Capsicum* oleoresin by an undetermined mechanism.

270

### 271 **The relationship between the composition of LCNVAs and fatty acids in *Capsicum*** 272 **oleoresins and fruits**

273

274 The oil fraction of plants or their products primarily consist of glyceric esters of  
275 fatty acids (triacylglycerol). **Table 2** shows the fatty acid composition of the oil

276 fractions in the oleoresins and pepper fruits, measured by GC-MS analysis after  
277 methanolysis of the oil fractions. The richest fatty acid in all the samples was linoleic  
278 acid (C18:2), followed by oleic (C18:1) or palmitic (C16:0) acids. In terms of  
279 composition, the samples was similar to each other and also to the compositions of  
280 common peppers (22). Therefore, the oleoresins we used must be the products  
281 processed by simple extraction from some peppers.

282 **Figure 2** shows the comparison of the percent ratios of the fatty acid composition  
283 and LCNVAs content for the samples. In oleoresin A, the pattern of the ratio of fatty  
284 acids closely resembled those of LCNVAs. The patterns for oleoresins B and C were  
285 also alike, especially when myristic acid (C14:0) and myrvanil (**1**) were excluded. On  
286 the other hand, no resemblance was observed with the fruit samples even when C14:0  
287 and **1** were excluded. These results suggest that myrvanil (**1**) and palvanil (**2**) naturally  
288 occur in intact peppers, while the others (**3—6**) would be generated and accumulate in  
289 the oil fraction extracted from the peppers and that the generation of LCNVAs would be  
290 affected by the fatty acid composition of the oil fraction. This suggestion was consistent  
291 with the close resemblance between the patterns of LCNVAs and fatty acids that was  
292 observed in oleoresin A, the sample with highest accumulated amount of LCNVAs.  
293 There might be a positive correlation between the amount of LCNVAs and the storage  
294 and/or maturation period of oleoresin.

295 Transacylation of triacylglycerols with natural capsaicinoids like CAP and DC to  
296 generate LCNVAs probably occurred spontaneously during the storage of the *Capsicum*  
297 oleoresins. A nucleophilic amine could react with a carboxylic group, such as glyceride,  
298 to generate an amide in ambient conditions. Therefore, the vanillylamine in the pepper  
299 fruits could also be a possible source of the vanillyl moiety of LCNVAs. This possibility  
300 could be supported by our previous report on the existence of olvanil in olive oil

301 flavored with *Capsicum* pepper (23). A trace amount of linvanil (6) was detected despite  
302 the absence of linolenic acid (C18:3) in the oleoresins. The acyl moiety of this LCNVA  
303 might be donated from an extremely small amount of linolenic acid that would be  
304 undetectable by GC-MS analysis. Further investigation into the mechanism responsible  
305 for the generation of LCNVAs in *Capsicum* oleoresin is now in progress.

306 We found several LCNVAs from natural sources. These LCNVAs might be  
307 spontaneously generated from the major capsaicinoids (CAP and DC) and plant oils  
308 during the storage and/or maturation of these sources.

309

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380

381 Note: This work was supported by the Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C)  
382 (21580152) from the JPSP, Japan, and the Global Center of Excellence (COE) program  
383 from the MEXT, Japan.

384

385 **Figure Captions**

386

387 **Figure 1.** Chemical structures of capsaicinoids (capsaicin and dihydrocapsaicin) and  
388 long chain *N*-vanillyl-acylamides (LCNVAs).

389

390 **Figure 2.** Comparison of the relative contents of LCNVAs (**1—6**) and the fatty acid  
391 (FA) composition of the oil fraction in *Capsicum* oleoresins (A—C) and fruits  
392 (Habanero and Takanotsume).

## Tables

**Table 1.** Contents of capsaicinoids (CAP and DC) and LCNVAs (**1—6**) in *Capsicum* oleoresins and fruit extracts

	Oleoresins, µg/g			Fruit extracts, µg/g DW	
	A	B	C	Habanero	Takanotsume
<b>CAP</b>	5790 (100)	3.33 (100)	6490 (100)	90500 (100)	9020 (100)
<b>DC</b>	4170 (72)	2.96 (89)	4750 (73)	33400 (37)	6670 (74)
<b>1</b>	19.5 (0.34)	0.0060 (0.18)	4.21 (0.07)	36.1 (0.04)	4.41 (0.05)
<b>2</b>	392 (6.80)	0.0025 (0.08)	1.05 (0.02)	2.80 (<0.01)	0.578 (<0.01)
<b>3</b>	45.9 (0.79)	0.0016 (0.05)	0.13 (<0.01)	0.0155 (<0.01)	0.0025 (<0.01)
<b>4</b>	544 (9.40)	0.0007 (0.02)	1.02 (0.02)	0.0346 (<0.01)	0.0030 (<0.01)
<b>5</b>	1370 (24.0)	0.0037 (0.10)	3.15 (0.05)	nd	0.0017 (<0.01)
<b>6</b>	17.4 (0.30)	0.0013 (0.04)	0.649 (0.01)	0.0530 (<0.01)	0.0009 (<0.01)

nd: not detected; CAP: capsaicin; DC: dihydrocapsaicin

Parentheses show the percentage content of each compound against CAP.

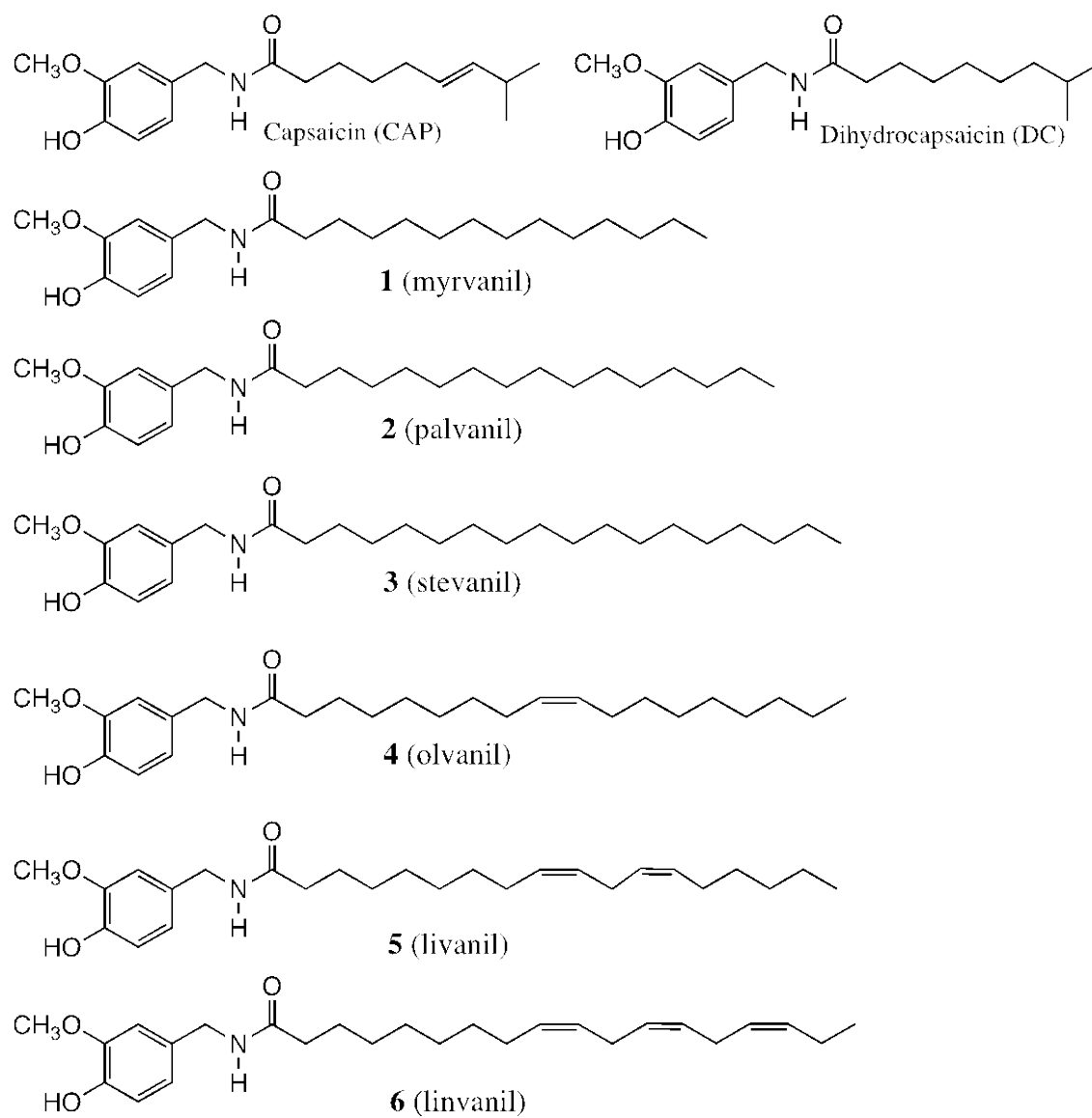
**Table 2.** Fatty acid composition (mg/g) of the oil fraction in *Capsicum* oleoresins and fruit extracts

	Oleoresins			Fruit extracts	
	A	B	C	Habanero	Takanotsume
C12:0	nd	3	nd	nd	nd
C14:0	5	8	6	4	nd
C16:0	200	82	78	96	110
C18:0	20	15	19	20	9
C18:1	150	150	140	96	57
C18:2	750	520	470	500	770
C18:3	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd

nd: not detected; C12:0: lauric acid; C14:0: myristic acid; C16:0: palmitic acid; C18:0: stearic acid; C18:1: oleic acid; C18:2: linoleic acid; C18:3: linolenic acid

## Figures

**Figure 1.**



**Figure 2.**

