

**CHARACTERISATION OF MALAYSIA
AGARWOOD OIL (*AQUILARIA SP.*) AND
COMPARISON WITH DIFFERENT ORIGINS
BASED ON SENSORY STUDIES**

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ABSTRAK

Gaharu mempunyai aplikasi yang luas untuk perubatan, aromaterapi, minyak wangi, kosmetik, dan setangi. Salah satu isu utama dalam industri perdagangan gaharu adalah sukar untuk mengenal pasti gred dan kualiti dengan tepat kerana tiada rujukan standard. Oleh itu, tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk menganalisis dan membandingkan profil kimia minyak gaharu daripada negara yang berbeza (Malaysia, India, Kemboja, dan Thailand) menggunakan analisis kromatografi gas. Pengenalpastian dan pengesahan sebatian penanda terpilih berdasarkan taburan juzuk kimia di kalangan sampel telah dijalankan menggunakan kromatografi gas persediaan (Prep-GC). Penilaian profil bau daripada hidung elektronik yang direka (E-nose) telah dijalankan untuk gred minyak gaharu yang berbeza sebagai penilaian awal. Pengekstrakan telah dijalankan menggunakan kaedah Taguchi sebagai reka bentuk eksperimen untuk penyulingan hidro yang telah difabrikasi. Keputusan menunjukkan bahawa hasil tertinggi dicapai daripada sampel EX8 dengan 1.05 g minyak gaharu. Pengekstrakan EX8 dijalankan pada 14 hari masa rendaman, 16 jam masa pengekstrakan, dan nisbah rendaman 1:8 (sampel: air). Secara keseluruhan, sebatian seskuiterpenoid dikenal pasti sebagai sebatian utama dalam sampel gred tinggi, yang bercanggah dengan minyak kayu gaharu gred rendah. Sebatian seskuiterpenoid utama yang dikenal pasti dalam sampel ialah norketoagarofuran, asid selina-4,11-dien-14-oik, epi- α -kadinol, kusunol, agarospirol, 10-epi- γ -eudesmol, α -agarofuran, guaia-1(10), 11-dien-15-ol, α -eudesmol, bulnesol, guaiol, 9,11-eremophiladien-8-on, rotundon, dan selina-3,11-dien-9-on. Agarospirol dan asid n-heksadecanoik telah dipilih sebagai sebatian penanda dan selanjutnya diasingkan menggunakan Prep-GC. Akhirnya, profil bau sampel minyak gaharu gred tinggi dan gred rendah yang dihasilkan oleh E-nose berjaya dibangunkan. Kajian ini memberi rujukan kepada minyak gaharu dari negara yang berbeza, khususnya dari Malaysia, India, Kemboja, dan Thailand berdasarkan taburan juzuk kimia ke arah penyeragaman gred dan kualiti. Di samping itu, kajian mengenai tindak balas profil bau daripada E-nose yang direka memberikan rujukan asas untuk pembangunan instrumen sistematik untuk penilaian gred dan kualiti minyak gaharu dalam industri gaharu.

ABSTRACT

Agarwood has wide applications for medicine, aromatherapy, perfume, cosmetics, and incense. One of the primary issues in the agarwood trading industry is difficult to identify the grade and quality accurately as there is no standard reference. Therefore, this study aims to analyze and compare the chemical profile of agarwood oil from different origins (Malaysia, India, Cambodia, and Thailand) using gas chromatography analysis. The identification and validation of the selected marker compounds based on the distribution of chemical constituents among the samples were carried out using preparative gas chromatography (Prep-GC). The evaluation of the odor profile from the fabricated electronic nose (E-nose) was conducted for different grades of agarwood oil as a preliminary assessment. The extraction was carried out using the Taguchi method as the design of experiment for fabricated hydrodistillation. The results show that highest yield was achieved from sample EX8 with 1.05 g of agarwood oil. The extraction of EX8 was conducted at 14 days of soaking time, 16 h of extraction time, and a soaking ratio of 1:8 (sample:water). Overall, sesquiterpenoid compounds were identified as the major compound in a high-grade sample, which contradicted low-grade agarwood oil. The major sesquiterpenoid compounds identified in the samples were norketoagarofuran, selina-4,11-dien-14-oic acid, epi- α -cadinol, kusunol, agarospirol, 10-epi- γ -eudesmol, α -agarofuran, guaia-1(10),11-dien-15-ol, α -eudesmol, bulnesol, guaiol, 9,11-eremophiladien-8-one, rotundone, and selina-3,11-dien-9-one. Agarospirol and n-hexadecanoic acid were selected as the marker compounds and further isolated using Prep-GC. Finally, the odor profiles of agarwood oil samples were successfully developed by the E-nose based on sensory studies. This study provides a reference for agarwood oil from different origins, specifically from Malaysia, India, Cambodia, and Thailand based on the distribution of chemical constituents toward standardizing the grade and quality. In addition, a study on odor profile response from the fabricated E-nose provides fundamental results for the development of a systematic instrument for the assessment of the grade and quality of agarwood oil in the agarwood industry.

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