

DEVELOPMENT OF PROCESS FOR EXTRACTION OF FLORAL FRAGRANCES BY SUBCRITICAL CARBON DIOXIDE

by

PRASANTA KUMAR ROUT

Centre for Rural Development and Technology

Submitted

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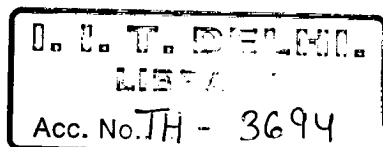
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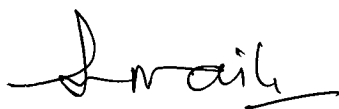
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To my Mother

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled, “**DEVELOPMENT OF PROCESS FOR EXTRACTION OF FLORAL FRAGRANCES BY SUBCRITICAL CARBON DIOXIDE**” being submitted by **Mr. Prasanta Kumar Rout** to the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi for the award of Doctor of Philosophy is a record of bonafide research work carried out by him under my guidance and supervision in conformity with the rules and regulations of Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

The research report and results presented in this thesis have not been submitted, in part or in full, to any other university or institute for the award of any degree or diploma.



(S. N. Naik)

Professor

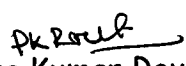
Centre for Rural Development and Technology

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

New Delhi-110016, India

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(Prasanta Kumar Rout)

The essential oil obtained by hydrodistillation, pentane or hexane extracts (concrete), fractionation of concrete with methanol to get absolute and subcritical CO₂ extract of flowers and concrete were analysed by GC-FID and GC/MS. The qualitative analysis of picked and live (flowers attached to the plant) flowers were carried out by HS-SPME with GC and GC/MS.

The yield of the essential oil is very less and it does not represent the true components present in the flowers. The limitations of the process are loss of the water-soluble essential oil components in the distillation water. In addition, prolonged heating of the essential oil in the presence of water results in various chemical changes (hydrolysis, molecular rearrangement, recimisation and degradation). The cohobated oil often exhibits an altered and inferior organoleptic profile. So the process is not suitable for extraction of fragrance from delicate flowers.

The process of production of concrete by non-polar hydrocarbon solvents viz. pentane or hexane is a better route for extraction of low yield and precious floral fragrances. But the solvent extracts carry waxy components co-extracted along with the desirable components. The fractionation of concrete with methanol can separate a part of the waxy components, and the absolute still carried fair amounts of fatty components. Though absolute is a better form of the floral extract but there is chance of loss of top note fragrance components with solvent at the solvent recovery step and also the product is not free from solvent residues.

The subcritical CO₂ extraction process overcomes the above mentioned drawbacks of solvent extraction. Subcritical CO₂ extract of flowers has given superior products with improved yield of desirable components with minimum amount of waxy components. But bulk volume of the flowers is large in comparison to the yield the floral fragrance. So, for commercial scale production, very large subcritical CO₂ extraction unit is needed.

Alternatively fractionation of floral concrete by subcritical CO₂ is comparable with subcritical CO₂ extract of flowers. The isolate is enriched with the desirable components and free from solvent residues. The optimum time period for extraction of desirable components at 20°C temperature and 65 bar pressure is 3 hours. It was therefore decided to fractionate the concrete in two stages of extractions with 90 minute duration in each extraction. The subcritical CO₂ fraction obtained in the first stage was organoleptically superior and enriched with desirable components and contained very less amounts of waxy components in comparison to subcritical CO₂ fraction obtained in the second stage.

Direct subcritical CO₂ extraction gave isolate which is free from solvents and enriched with desired components but due to the reasons mentioned already, it does not make an attractive proposal for commercial process, but subcritical CO₂ fractionation of floral concrete is an attractive proposal.

*The compound Manool has not been reported in *Murraya paniculata* Linn. floral extract so far and we report isolation of this compound for the first time. Similarly Quinoline-4-carbonitrile has been isolated from *Quisqualis indica* Dent. floral extract and this new compound has been reported for first the time as a natural compound.*

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ABSTRACT

Floriculture is an age-old farm activity with immense potential for generating remunerative self-employment among small and marginal farmers. India is bestowed with diverse agro-climatic zones, which enables it to produce large varieties of flowers like rose, jasmine, marigold, champa, kewda, tuberose etc. They are commercially cultivated in India for extraction of floral fragrances. These resources can be utilized to produce value added floral fragrances/ essential oils to meet the Indian and International demand. The world's total production of essential oils is estimated at about 1.0-1.1 lakh tons and India stands at third position with a share of 18-20% and second position in processed value added products. The traditional cottage essential oil industry of India used several natural plant raw materials like leaves, flowers, fruits, wood, roots, resins and gums. The demand of essential oils and extracts are increasing day by day. The floral extracts are not being produced on large scale in spite of vast potential in this sector. Hence there is a great scope for commercial cultivation of flower crops for production of floral fragrance to meet the growing demand.

Flowers produce different types of fragrances probably as a biological function to attract insects for helping pollination. Floral fragrances are used in several applications from high-grade perfumery to flavouring agents and even as odour masking agents. Several formulations based on composition of these floral oils are used in industrial applications such as soaps, detergents, scented tobacco, incense, toilet and hygienic products and their demand runs into several hundreds to tons.

Scented flowers are the natural sources for extraction of perfumes and flavours. These extracts may be in the form of concrete, absolute, attar, essential oil etc. Experiments were hence carried out to assess the quality and quantity of the extracts. Supercritical CO₂ is an

advanced process for extraction of floral fragrances. The subcritical CO₂ extraction (Liquid CO₂ extraction) has certain advantages over supercritical CO₂ extraction particularly when dealing with flavour and fragrance compounds that have medium molecular mass (<300) and with low polarity. This includes compounds such as oxygenated and non oxygenated mono and sesquiterpene compounds found in floral volatiles.

In the course of our studies, we have come across wide variation in the composition of different extracts due to variability of extraction or formation of artifacts etc. With the objective of determining the composition of fragrance emanated by flowers as such, we have carried out Head-space SPME analysis and results are quite interesting.

HS-SPME is a solvent free sample preparation technique in which a fused silica fiber coated with a polymeric organic liquid is introduced into the headspace of the flowers, placed in a closed container. The volatile compounds emanated by flowers get adsorbed onto the coating and concentrated for desorption and analysis. The analytes were concentrated enough to be detected by GC and GC/MS. The adsorbed materials on the fiber are thermally desorbed into the hot zone of the injection port and carried into the column for separation and analysis.

The flowers selected for the present study are Jasmine (*Jasminum sambac* Linn), Champa (*Michelia champaca* Linn), Kewda (*Pandanus fascicularis* Lam), Murraya (*Murraya paniculata* Linn) and Rangoon creeper or Madhumalati (*Quisqualis indica* Dent). The flowers such as *Jasminum sambac*, *Michelia champaca* and *Pandanus fascicularis* are cultivated for decoration, worship and extraction of fragrance, where as *Murraya paniculata* and *Quisqualis indica* are cultivated for gardening purpose only. Presently we have studied the different methods of extraction of floral fragrances and compared the chemical compositions of the extracts.

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