

NON-TRADITIONAL CHEMICAL PRODUCTS FROM CITRONELLA OIL

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Citronella (*Cymbopogon nardus*) oil is one of the principle essential-oils exported from Sri Lanka. Modern analytical techniques have shown that there are over sixty different chemical compounds present in this oil. Without using sophisticated techniques, it has been possible to separate the hydrocarbon compounds from oxygenated compounds by a steam distillation method. Using chemical methods most of the hydrocarbon terpene compounds have been converted to compounds such as α -terpineol, while the oxygenated terpene compounds were converted to esters such as geranyl acetate and linalylacetate. All these compounds are used extensively as inexpensive perfume material, and could replace some of the more expensive imported perfumes used in the soap, deodorant and antiseptic manufacture.

References :

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