

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF KOTTEKILANGU (*BORASSUS FLABELLIFER L*)

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The young shoot of the palmyrah palm (*Borassus flabellifer L.*), commonly known as kottekilangu is a popular food item in Sri Lanka especially in the northern parts. Claims about its hepatotoxicity (Panabokke *et al.*, 1976) neurotoxicity (Greig *et al.*, 1980) and the presence of chromosome damaging and lethal factors (Arseculeratne *et al.*, unpublished results) prompted us to initiate a chemical analysis of kottekilangu. Although there are reports on the chemical composition of roots (Joachim and Kandiah, 1940), Kernel (Subramaniam *et al.*, 1956), sap (Bagehi and Basu, 1952) and fruits (Datta, 1963) of palmyrah, no systematic analysis has hitherto been performed on kottekilangu.

Herein we report out results of the gross analysis (Moisture, ash, carbohydrate, and protein contents) of kottekilangu, some properties of the oil obtained, protein and non-protein amino-acid constitution and screening for individual classes of compounds such as alkaloids, pyrrolizidine alkaloids, steroids/terpenes, saponins and free sugars.

References:

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