

D-68 The effect of fillings on the quality of cinnamon (*Cinnamomum verum*) quills

S P Prematilake¹, S Kathirgamathaiyah², D N Samaraweera³

¹Research Station, Dept of Export Agriculture, Matale, ² Dept of Export Agriculture, Peradeniya, ³Cinnamon Research Station, Matara

Cinnamon quills of high quality and bark oils with high cinnamaldehyde percentages fetch a premium price in the market. Longer drying time due to the fillings that stuff into the quill in processing, affects the quality of it. Quills prepared with peeled off longitudinal bark pieces taken on the day of making quills with fillings of the same day (T₁), and 1 to 5 day dried fillings, treatments T₂ to T₆ respectively were tested for some quality parameters, moisture content, oil content and oil composition.

Compared to T₁, in the treatment T₆ the cinnamaldehyde percentage increased by 31%. The drying time decreased by more than 50%, unpleasant total monoterpenes by 66% and undesired eugenol/cinnamyl acetate content by 12.5%.

High quality quills and the bark oils extracted from them with more aroma and flavour constituents can be prepared by making the quills with 4-5 day dried fillings. Though the oil content is 15% less in T₆ than in T₁, the processing of quills by using pre-dried fillings will be profitable as the price gap between high and low quality cinnamon products is high.
