

The essential oil of *Alpinia galanga* from Sri Lanka

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The volatile oil of *Alpinia galanga* (Family Zingiberaceae, S.Maha Aratta) was analysed by Gas liquid chromatography- Mass spectrometry to determine the constituents.

The dried rhizomes were cut into small pieces and distilled with water for 4 hours using a Clevenger arm. The volatile oil was dried and analysed by Shimadzu 14 B gas chromatograph equipped with FID. The GC/MS was carried out by using HP 5890-2 model GC equipped with Restek RTX-5 column and Jeol SX102A Mass equipment.

The Identification of the constituents was based on computer matching against the library spectra compiled from pure substances, retention time and NMR data where ever possible. The compounds identified were 3 carene, α - thujene, α - pinene, camphene, β - pinene, myrcene, α - phellandrene α - terpinene, p- cymene, 1,8 cineol, camphor, borneol, 4- terpineol, α - terpineol, fenchyl acetate, bornyl acetate, α - humulene and zerumbone. The major constituent was identified as zerumbone (44.9%) using MS and NMR data. This is the first report of zerumbone in *A. galanga* and also the first report of the composition of *A. galanga* essential oil. The major constituents in *A. galanga* essential oil from Malaysia, India and Indonesia are β - farnecene, myrcene and 1,8 cineol respectively.

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