

# Application of Mass Spectrum Method in Determining Bioactive Compounds of the Essential Oil from Leaves and Stems of Clove (*Syzygium aromaticum*)

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**Abstract**—The essential oil from leaves and stems of clove (*Syzygium Aromaticum*) growing in Siwa (South Sulawesi, Indonesia), was obtained by hydrodistillation and gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) was used to identify the constituent of the sample. There were five most bioactive compounds contained in the clove oil of the leaves and stems, namely eugenol,  $\beta$ -caryophyllene, 1,4,7-cycloundecatriene-1,5,9,9 tetramethyl, caryophyllene oxide, and cadinene. The eugenol compound, which is contained in the stems is 55.83% bigger than the leaves, which is 45.3%. But on the contrary, other compounds in the leaves are  $\beta$ -caryophyllene (25.57%), 1,4,7- cycloundecatriene-1,5,9,9 tetramethyl (8.65%), caryophyllene oxide (4.64%) and cadinene (2.31%) greater than the other compounds in the stems, namely  $\beta$ -caryophyllene (19.72%), 1,4,7- cycloundecatriene-1,5,9,9 tetramethyl (4.38%), caryophyllene oxide (3.48%) and cadinene (0.5%). Eugenol is the major constituent of the clove oil that can be used in pharmacology as antiviral, antimicrobial, antiseptic, and industry of perfume.

**Keywords**—clove oil; eugenol; GC-MS

## I. Introduction

Clove plant is one of the plant's species of vegetation that produces essential oils known as clove oil. Clove oil is one of the most abundant essential oils in Indonesia compared to other essential oils. Clove oil production in Indonesia is 3500 - 4000 tons per year [1], and Indonesia's clove oil supply to the world market is more than 60% of the world's needs [2].

Clove oil, in general, can be obtained through traditional methods [3], namely steam distillation. However, several methods have been carried out, including through the hydrodistillation method [4], supercritical carbon dioxide [5], and extraction ultrasound [6].

Essential extracts obtained were widely applied in the field of pharmacology. Clove oil can function as an anti-oxidant [7], antibacterial [8], antifungal [9], anesthetic [10], and analgesic [11].

Clove oil gives a distinctive aroma of essential originating from flowers (10-20%), stems (5-10%), and a small portion of the leaves [12]. Clove oil contains three large compositions, namely eugenol (70-85%), eugenyl acetate (15%),  $\beta$ -caryophyllene (5-12%), and a small number of other bioactive compounds [12].

Gas chromatography-mass spectrometer (GC-MS) is the most popular method for the determination of essential oil composition. GC-MS enables compound identification by comparing the obtained mass spectra of the analytes with the library from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and comparing their similarity index (SI) [13]. The work started here, aiming to fill the blank field through the analysis constituent of essential oil from extracted oil from leaves and stems of clove. GC-MS was employed to identify compounds in the extracted oil of sample, and It would reveal how many concentrations contained in the sample.

## II. Research Methodology

### A. Material

Dry leaves and stems of clove plants was collected directly from Siwa District, South Sulawesi of Indonesia and transport to chemistry laboratory of Politeknik Negeri Ujung Pandang.

## B. Equipment

Gas chromatography mass spectrometer QP-2010 ultra shimadzu coupled with AOC-20i autosampler using RTX-5 capillary column (length 30 m) and hydrodistillation apparatus.

## C. Methods

### 1. Extraction of essential oil

Extraction of clove oil by hydrodistillation method 500 g of sample was powdered using porcelain mortar and placed in a round bottom flask fitted with condenser hydro distillation. The distillation process for 3 h at atmospheric pressure and constant temperature (70 – 80 °C). The strongly aromatic oil was separated from the water layer using diethyl eter, and removed the solvent by evaporation.

### 2. GC-MS Analysis

The GC-MS analysis achieved component identification. 1 mL of extract clove oil was dissolved in acetone and placed in a vial. The oven temperature of GC-MS was programmed commencing from 70 °C with a hold time of 2 min, and the temperature was increased to 200 °C at a rate of 10 °C/min and the final temperature was 280°C with a holding time of 9 min at a rate of 10 °C/min so that the total time of analysis was 36 min. The mobile phase using helium carrier gas with a flow rate of 14 mL/min and injector temperature 250 °C (splitless mode) with pressure 76.9 kPa. Ion source and interfaces of the mass spectrum were 200 °C and 280 °C, respectively, which is solvent cut time 3 min and range of mass spectrum 400 – 700 m/z.

### 3. Identification of components

The components of essential oil were identified based on a comparison of their retention time and mass spectra with published data and computer matching with Wiley 8 and National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST 2014) libraries provided with the computer controlling the GC-MS system, in Politeknik Negeri Ujung Pandang, Indonesia. The spectrum of the unknown components was compared with the spectrum of the known component stored in the library, the name, molecular weight and structure of the components of the test materials were ascertained.

## III. Results and Discussion

### A. Chromatogram GC-MS

The total number of components making up the clove oil sample in the leaves is 20 components, while in the stems, it is 30 components with different retention times, as shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2.

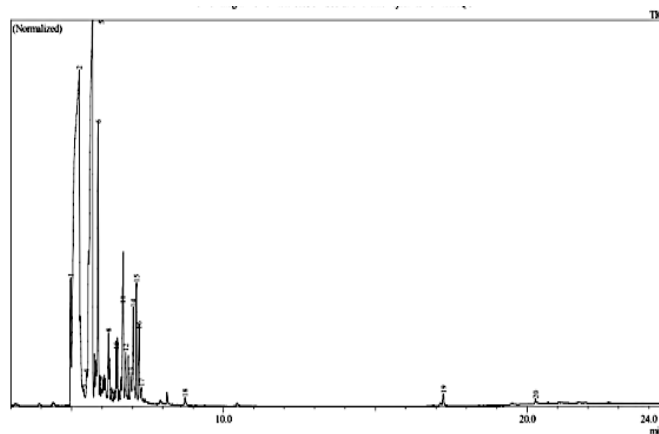


Figure 1. Chromatogram of clove leaf oil

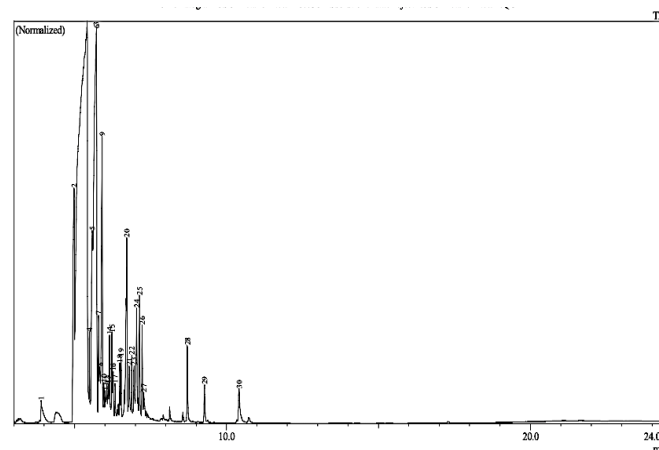


Figure 2. Chromatogram of clove stem oil

Based on the results of GC-MS analysis, there are five components of the most abundant constituent compounds in the two samples belonging to terpenoid class compounds, as shown in Table 1. Determination of the type of compound contained by the sample is determined based on the fragmentation of the mass spectrum (m/z) compared with similarity data mass spectrum (m/z) from library of instrument shown in Figures 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

Table 1. The major component of clove leaf oil and stem oil

Active Compounds	Retention Time (min)	Area (%)		Formula	Molecular Weight (g/mol)
		Leaf	Stem		
Eugenol	5.252	45.3	55.83	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	164
β-caryophyllene	5.683	25.57	19.72	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>24</sub>	204
1,4,7-cycloundecatriene-1,5,9,9 tetramethyl	5.874	8.65	4.38	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>24</sub>	204
Caryophyllene Oxide	6.683	4.64	3.48	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>24</sub> O	220
Cadinene	6.215	2.31	0.5	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>24</sub>	204

Eugenol has a molecular weight of 164 g/mol, and in the mass spectrum (figure 3), the compound gives a molecular ion (M+) at an m/z value of 164. The parent molecular ion produces a mass spectrum fragment (m/z): 164, 149, 131,121,103 with a base peak of m/z 164.

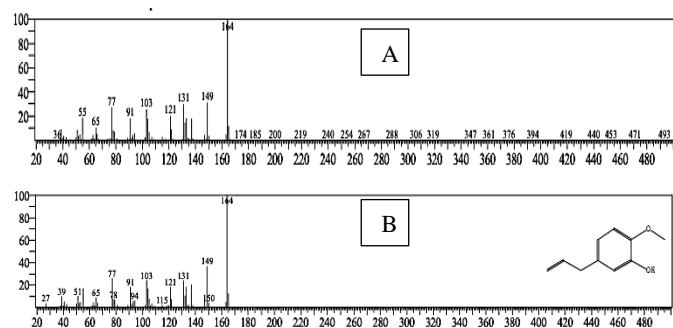


Figure 3. (A) Mass spectrum of sample compared with (B) mass spectrum library of eugenol with SI: 96

Caryophyllene has a molecular weight of 204 g/mol, and in the mass spectrum (figure 4), the compound gives a molecular ion (M+) at an m/z value of 204. The parent molecular ion produces a mass spectrum fragment (m/z): 204, 161, 133, 93, 79, 69 with a base peak of m/z 93.

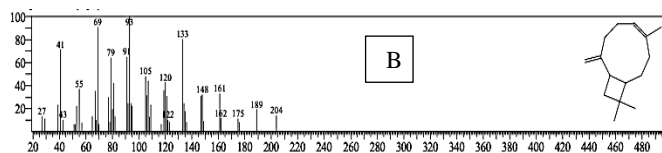
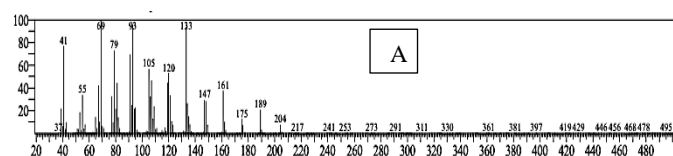


Figure 4. (A) Mass spectrum of sample compared with (B) mass spectrum library of caryophyllene with SI: 96

1,4,7- cycloundecatriene-1,5,9,9 tetramethyl has a molecular weight of 204 g/mol, and in the mass spectrum (figure 5), the compound gives a molecular ion (M+) at an m/z value of 204. The parent molecular ion produces a mass spectrum fragment (m/z): 204, 147, 121, 93, 80 with a base peak of m/z 93.

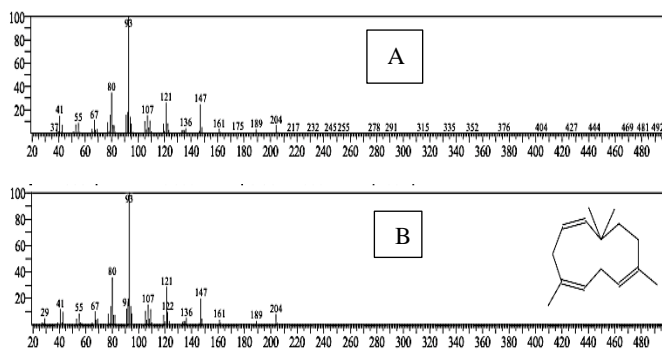


Figure 5. (A) Mass spectrum of sample compared with (B) mass spectrum library of 1,4,7- cycloundecatriene-1,5,9,9 tetramethyl with SI: 97

Caryophyllene oxide has a molecular weight of 171 g/mol, and in the mass spectrum (figure 6), the compound gives a molecular ion (M+) at an m/z value of 171. The parent molecular ion produces a mass spectrum fragment (m/z): 177, 121, 109, 93, 79, 69, 55, 43 with a base peak of m/z 43.

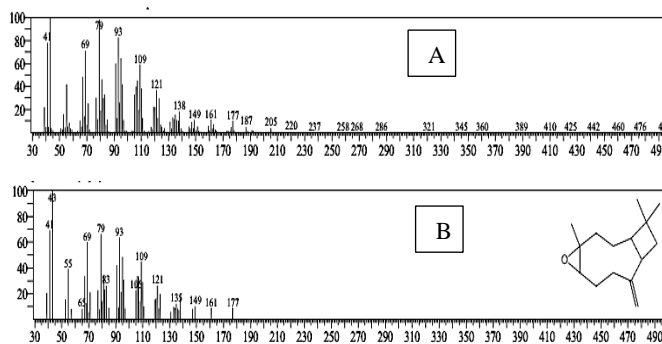


Figure 6. (A) Mass spectrum sample compared with (B) mass spectrum library of caryophyllene oxide with SI: 94

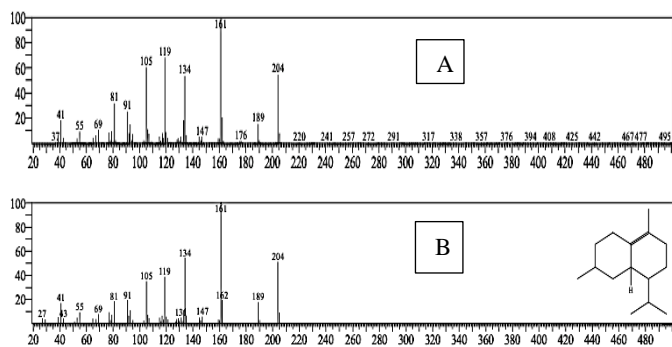


Figure 7. (A) Mass spectrum of sample compared with  
(B) mass spectrum library of cadinene with SI: 94

Cadinene has a molecular weight of 204 g/mol, and in the mass spectrum (figure 7), the compound gives a molecular ion ( $M^+$ ) at an  $m/z$  value of 204. The parent molecular ion produces a mass spectrum fragment ( $m/z$ ): 204, 189, 161, 134, 119, 105, 91, 81 with a base peak of  $m/z$  161.

#### B. Bioactive Compounds and their reported biological action

Eugenol is an aromatic phenol compound that has a distinctive aroma. This compound has been used in the health sciences as an anti-inflammatory [14], anti-fungal [15], anti-cancer [16] and recent research have found eugenol which can be used as an inhibitor against Ebola virus [17]. Besides, eugenol compounds are also used in the food industry as scented substances [18] and antimicrobials in food [19].

$\beta$ -caryophyllene, caryophyllene oxide, and cadinene is the bicyclic sesquiterpene group most contained in essential oils. Utilization in the field of pharmacology is so broad as anti-cancer, anti-oxidant, anti-microbial and analgesic [20].

## IV. Conclusion

From the above discussion, it can be drawn conclusion:

1. GC-MS analysis revealed that there were five most compounds contained in the clove oil of the leaves and stems, namely eugenol,  $\beta$ -caryophyllene, 1,4,7- cycloundecatriene-1,5,9,9 tetramethyl, caryophyllene oxide and cadinene.
2. The eugenol compound, which is contained in the stems is 55.83% bigger than the leaves, which is 45.3%. But on the contrary, other compounds in the leaves are  $\beta$ -caryophyllene (25.57%), 1,4,7- cycloundecatriene-1,5,9,9 tetramethyl (8.65%), caryophyllene oxide

(4.64%) and cadinene (2,31%) greater than the other compounds in the stems, namely  $\beta$ -caryophyllene (19.72%), 1,4,7-cycloundecatriene-1,5,9,9 tetramethyl (4.38%), caryophyllene oxide (3.48%) and cadinene (0.5%).

3. Bioactive compounds obtained from this study indicate that the essential oil can be fully utilized for the manufacture of perfumery products, antivirus, antiseptic, and antimicrobial agent.

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