

Special Issue

Essential Oils: Sources, Chemical Composition and Applications

Message from the Guest Editors

Essential oils are a mixture of volatile compounds such as monoterpenes, such as limonene, alpha-pinene and linalool; sesquiterpenes, such as beta-caryophyllene and germacrene; alcohols; esters; ketones; and phenols, such as thymol and carvacrol. They are extracted from plants such as oregano, thyme, citrus, eucalyptus, rose geranium, rosemary, garlic, cloves and others. Their chemical composition can vary greatly depending on the plant or extraction method, such as steam distillation, cold pressing, or solvent extraction. For this Special Issue, papers concerning the identification of new sources of essential oils; the development and optimisation of more efficient methods for the extraction of essential oils from plant sources, including steam distillation, solvent extraction and supercritical fluid extraction; experimental techniques that allow more accurate characterization of essential oils; optimization and new methods for quality control and sustainable production; and, above all, different applications in which essential oils can be used.

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As the world of science becomes ever more specialized, researchers may lose themselves in the deep forest of the ever increasing number of subfields being created. This open access journal Applied Sciences has been started to link these subfields, so researchers can cut through the forest and see the surrounding, or quite distant fields and subfields to help develop his/her own research even further with the aid of this multi-dimensional network.

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