

Special Issue

Essential Oil Composition of Forests Trees

Message from the Guest Editors

Essential oils are volatile compounds predominantly found in the leaves, wood, and fruits of coniferous trees and shrubs, and the composition and abundance of individual oil components vary across different plant parts. Terpenes (monoterpenes, sesquiterpenes, diterpenes, and triterpenes) dominate in essential oils, being the most abundant class of secondary metabolites, with plants containing over a hundred of them in varying concentrations. The terpene profile of certain species consists of a few dominant (abundant) components and numerous less abundant ones. According to current research, essential oils possess antiviral, antibacterial, antifungal, herbicidal, molluscicidal, nematocidal, and acaricidal properties, as well as toxicity towards insects and rodents. They also exhibit antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, analgesic, immunomodulatory, cytotoxic, antigenotoxic, and other properties. The literature on the composition of essential oils is vast, but their biological activity and applications in industry and agriculture have yet to be extensively studied.

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