

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

We would like to revise the analytical information on the hexadecanyl alcohol content of orange roughy (*Hoplosthetus atlanticus*) oil that appeared in a paper by Buisson et al. (1). These published data are often used as a standard guide for the quality of the commercial orange roughy oil available, and the figure for hexadecanyl alcohol is unfortunately low, being determined from a nonrepresentative sample. To correct these findings we investigated the extracted orange roughy oil content from a commercial source of material.

It was stated (Table 4) that the mean value for hexadecanyl alcohol proportion of the total fatty alcohol content of the oil from whole orange roughy was 7.3% (w/w) (1). As commercial oil is commonly derived from offal we have directly re-examined oil extracts from filleted whole orange roughy as well as the filleted frames of those headed and gutted at sea. Values for the hexadecanyl alcohol content of these samples were found to be 20.6 (w/w) and 23.6% (w/w), respectively.

The reason for the difference between these and the earlier result (1) is possibly due to the precipitation of the saturated wax esters from the oil that was kept under chilled temperature storage before the former subsamples were taken for analyses. This could account for the reduction of the saturated fatty alcohols detected. The present results agree with those from offal parts found by Grigor et al. (2).

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REFERENCES

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2. Grigor, M.R., C.R. Thomas, P.D. Jones and D.H. Buisson, *Lipids* 18:585 (1983).

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