



ESSENTIAL OILS OF *BACCHARIS SALICIFOLIA*, *B. LATIFOLIA* AND *B. DRACUNCULIFOLIA*

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Key Word Index—*Baccharis salicifolia*; *B. latifolia*; *B. dracunculifolia*; Compositae; verboccidentafuran; chromolaenin; germacrone.

Abstract—Samples of the essential oil from *Baccharis salicifolia*, four samples from *B. latifolia*, and one sample from *B. dracunculifolia* collected in the high valleys of Bolivia in the province of Cochabamba were analysed by a combination of gas chromatography and mass spectrometry. The identified products may be divided into four different groups: monoterpenes, oxygenated monoterpenes, sesquiterpenes, and various oxygenated sesquiterpenes such as germacrone and ledol. The latter compounds are characteristic constituents of the essential oils of *Ledum groenlandicum*. Rather unusual monooxygenated compounds with a cadinane structure were also detected, including verboccidentafuran, chromolaenin and related compounds.

INTRODUCTION

Baccharis (Compositae–Asteraceae) is a large genus of plants widely distributed from Mexico to Argentina. In Bolivia, *B. salicifolia* Pers. (local name: Chilca) can be found in the very high valleys at 2400–2800 m of altitude [1A]. *B. latifolia* (R. & P.) Pers. (local name: Yana chilka, Chilca negra) grows in the same region but at higher altitudes: > 3000 m [1B]. *B. dracunculifolia* (local name: Thola) grows also in the same region at 3280 m. These plants are used by local people for traditional medicinal uses [1, 2]. Bohlmann and co-workers have characterized several classes of compounds [3–11]. Among them are germacrene derivatives [4], diterpenes [5–7, 11], clerodanes and labdanes [8–10]. On the other hand, the essential oils from these species have not been studied. This paper reports the first systematic study of the essential oils of *Baccharis salicifolia*, *B. latifolia* and *B. dracunculifolia* collected in central Bolivia.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

B. salicifolia

Table 1 gives a complete analysis of the essential oil obtained from *B. salicifolia*. The constituents can be divided into three main groups of compounds: (1) monoterpenes with α -phellandrene as the main component, (2) sesquiterpenes with germacrene D, bicyclogermacrene, and δ -cadinene as the main products, and

(3) numerous monooxygenated sesquiterpenes such as *cis*- α -copaen-8-ol, (*E*)-nerolidol, the cadinols, and 5-guaien-4-ol (9). The solvent extract of the same plant collected in Texas and Mexico showed the presence of bisabolene, bisabolol, β -eudesmol, and cadinol [11]. Unfortunately, the lack of pure reference samples makes it difficult to have complete confidence in the proposed identifications. One example of this difficulty lies in the identification of the product appearing in the # 61 peak. The data included in the Chicoutimi data bank indicates cubenol (4-cadinen-1-ol) (1) (see Scheme 1), whereas the Berlin data bank shows a different structure for the same peak: 4-cadinen-10-ol (2).

Several uncommon monooxygenated cadinanes, with a furan structure, were also found. For example, verboccidentafuran (3) which was previously described as a major compound extracted from *Verbesina occidentalis* [12]. This compound was also observed as an important product in the solvent extract of *B. salicifolia* [11]. The fragment peaks at m/z 201 and 216 are the main peaks in the mass spectrum of this compound. Both in Chicoutimi and in Berlin, the intensity of the m/z 119 peak is much smaller than previously published [12] m/z (rel. int.) 216 $[M]^+$ (60), 201 (100), 91 (41), 41 (39), 43 (37), 145 (26).

Chromolaenin (4) has a similar structure to that of verboccidentafuran (3), with a deficit of four hydrogen atoms. This compound was identified in *Chromolaena laevigata* [13] and again in *B. salicifolia* [11]. The mass spectrum is in agreement with what was published [13] m/z (rel. int.): 212 $[M]^+$ (90), 197 (100), 152 (40), 153 (38), 182 (37).

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Table 1. Essential oils of *Baccharis salicifolia*

No.	Identification	DB-5 column			Supelcowax 10		
		R.T.	K.I.	%	R.T.	K.I.	%
2	α -Thujene	11.13	934	0.10	7.79	1028	0.10
3	α -Pinene	11.44	938	0.17	7.55	1021	0.18
4	Camphene	12.13	951	0.42	9.22	1066	0.33
5	Sabinene	13.68	972	0.06	11.89	1124	0.07
6	β -Pinene	13.95	976	0.62	11.08	1108	0.50
7	Myrcene	15.17	992	0.35			Traces
8	α -Phellandrene	15.82	1000	8.54	14.27	1165	7.98
9	<i>p</i> -Cymene	17.16	1022	1.00	20.71	1277	0.92
10	Limonene	17.46*	1030	0.29	16.23	1195	0.20
	+ β -Phellandrene				16.72	1202	0.03
	γ -Terpinene			Traces	19.11	1249	0.04
	<i>trans</i> - β -Ocimene			Traces	19.77	1261	0.04
11	Terpinolene	21.66	1098	0.09	21.43	1289	0.05
12	Menthone?	26.09	1155	0.08			Traces
13	Menthol	27.65	1174	0.17	44.42	1642	0.19
14	Lavandulyl acetate?	36.40	1301	0.17	42.62	1609	0.12
15	Isomer of δ -elemene	39.33	1326	0.03			
	δ -Elemene	38.98	1342	Traces	36.55	1472	0.03
16	α -Cubebene	40.14	1353	0.29	32.72	1458	0.20
17	α -Copaene	41.82	1375	0.16	34.79	1492	0.21
18	β -Cubebene	42.82	1387	0.45	37.61	1539	0.43
19	β -Elemene	42.97	1389	0.19	in β -caryophyllene peak		
20	α -Gurjunene	44.02	1403	0.51	37.08	1528	0.47
21	β -Caryophyllene	44.59	1413	2.07	41.27	1588	2.03*
22	β -Bourbonene?	45.25	1425	0.17	36.55	1519	0.13
23	6,9-Guaiadiene	46.62	1445	1.05	43.50	1625	1.02
24	Humulene	46.78	1447	0.69	45.69	1665	0.67
25	(<i>Z</i>)- β -Farnesene	47.39	1457	0.76	45.99	1670	0.74
27	γ -Murolene	48.18	1471	1.05	in valencene peak		
29	Germacrene D	48.58*	1475	6.90	48.14	1707	6.08
	+ α -Amorphene				37.84	1539	0.43
30	β -Selinene	48.87	1479	0.40	48.64	1715	0.31
31	ar-Curcumene?	48.98	1481	0.35	52.17	1772	0.34
32	<i>M</i> _r 204	49.22	1484	3.11*	45.40	1657	1.01
	+ <i>m/z</i> : 43, 161, 41, 105, 119, 207				58.24?	1888	2.27
33	Valencene	49.47	1488	2.20	48.40	1711	3.05*
34	Bicyclogermacrene	49.57	1490	5.19	49.56	1731	5.46
37	α -Selinene	50.07	1497	0.35	48.82	1718	0.33
38	<i>M</i> _r 204	50.33	1501	0.21			
40	γ -Cadinene	50.73	1508	1.63	49.13	1724	1.51
41	δ -Cadinene	51.35	1519	4.86*	51.03	1754	4.55
	+ β -Sesquiphellandrene				51.90	1768	0.28
	+ Eudesmadiene?				55.90	1835	0.53
42	(<i>E</i>)- β -Farnesene	51.89	1528	0.82			
44	α -Calacorene	52.40	1537	1.08	59.89	1914	1.01
45	(<i>E</i>)-Calamenene	52.72	1542	0.51	55.32	1826	0.63
47	γ -Elemene	53.21	1554	0.19	54.69	1819	0.33
48	<i>cis</i> - α -Copaen-8-ol	53.60	1557	3.18	68.82	2085	2.92
49	<i>trans</i> -Nerolidol	53.92	1562	3.34	66.79	2043	3.52
50	Spathulenol	54.43	1570	1.19	70.66	2120	1.08
51	Caryophyllene oxide	54.73	1575	0.49	63.27	2005	0.38
53	<i>M</i> _r 220??	55.28	1584	0.22			
55	<i>m/z</i> : 41, 43†, 95†, 109, 55, 161 Cadinol: <i>M</i> _r 222 (mixture?)	56.01	1595	1.27	3.22	2172	0.89
59	5-Guaien-4-ol?	57.34	1619	3.56	in verbococcidentafuran peak		
61	Cubenol? <i>M</i> _r 222	57.84	1628	4.55	69.41	2097	5.20
	<i>m/z</i> : 43, 119, 161, 105, 41, 81						
62	T-Cadinol	58.34*	1637	0.80	72.93	2166	0.32
	+ T-Murolol				73.48	2181	0.33
64	α -Cadinol	59.03	1649	0.26	in # 71 peak		

Continued overleaf

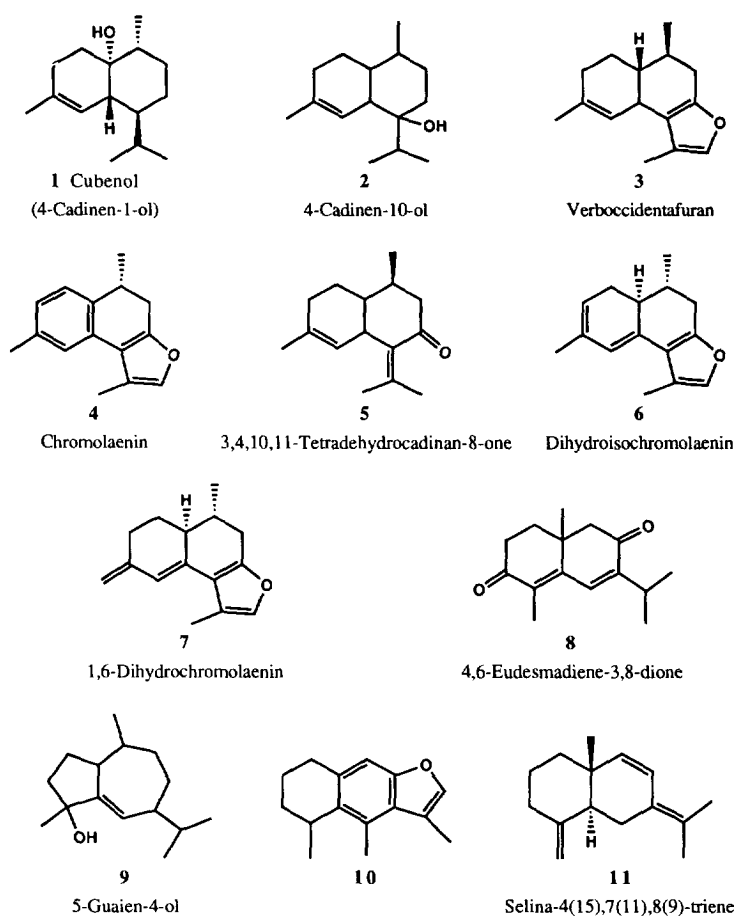
Table 1. Continued

No.	Identification	DB-5 column			Supelcowax 10		
		R.T.	K.I.	%	R.T.	K.I.	%
65	Verbocidentafuran	59.81	1662	7.69	71.79	2144	11.68*
67	<i>m/z</i> : 159, 132, 41, 105; <i>M</i> , 220	60.44	1673	0.96	74.45	2192	0.93
70	epi- α -Bisabolol	60.97	1682	0.96	75.51	2219	0.96
71	3,4,10,11-Tetrahydrocadinan-8-one	61.57	1692	4.67	75.79	2224	6.37*
72	<i>M</i> , 220?	62.46	1709	0.13			
73	<i>M</i> , 220	62.74	1713	0.56			
74	Chromolaenin	63.42	1726	1.22	82.68	2374	1.15
76	<i>m/z</i> : 199, 214, 115, 128	64.25	1741	6.05	80.66	2336	5.42
77	Dihydroisochromolaenin	65.50	1763	2.35	?		
	1,6-Dihydrochromolaenin			?	83.12	2383	1.22
80	4,6-Eudesmadiene-3,8-dione	69.29	1833	0.42	88.20?	2492	0.15
81	<i>m/z</i> : 43†, 68†, 41, 55, 57, 67, 82	69.61	1839	0.71	60.84	1931	0.74
82	<i>m/z</i> : 81, 109, 95, 69; <i>M</i> , 262	71.32	1872	0.33			
83	<i>m/z</i> : 210, 209, 165	72.82	1900	0.11	94.50?	2613	0.14
84	<i>m/z</i> : 119, 69, 132, 105; <i>M</i> , 772?	74.47	1934	0.17			
85	<i>m/z</i> : 119, 91, 132, <i>M</i> , 216	75.28	1950	0.25			
87	<i>m/z</i> : 119, 132, 91; <i>M</i> , 228?	76.50		Traces			
87	<i>m/z</i> : 228, 213; <i>M</i> , 228?	76.80		Traces			
Total				97.38			88.47

Date of collection: 89-11-07, sample No. 02.

*Multiple peak.

†Peaks were of the same relative abundance. Missing peaks in left column indicate unidentified compounds.



Scheme 1.

One peak on the apolar column (DB-5) gave a mass spectrum very similar to that of dihydroisochromolaenin (**6**) m/z (rel. int.): 214 $[M]^+$ (100), 91 (35), 115 (34), 128 (33), 77 (30), . . . 212 (22), 197 (22). However, on the polar column, the corresponding mass spectrum is rather similar to that of 1,6-dihydrochromolaenin (**7**) [14] m/z (rel. int.): 214 $[M]^+$ (100), 128 (36), 41 (32), 115 (30). We were unable to find a mass spectrum corresponding to **7** during analysis on the apolar column. Both products were identified in *Chromolaena* species.

3,4,10,11-Tetradihydrocadinan-8-one (**5**) was isolated from *B. boliviensis* (Wedd.) Cuatr. [15] and *B. viminea* [16]. Both mass spectra from Berlin and from Chicoutimi are in agreement with the previously published spectrum m/z (rel. int.): 218 $[M]^+$ (63), 161 (95), 133 (95), 105 (75), 91 (100), 77 (79). Moreover, in the same paper, it was suggested that oxidation products from this compound are structurally related to verbocidentafuran [16].

Sesquiterpenes of elemene, eudesmane (selinane), and guaiane types are closely related in that ionic cyclization and ionic isomerization are processes relatively easily transforming one structure to another. Thus, isomerization from germacrene-D into δ - and γ -cadinenes, δ -elemene, β -bourbonene, and γ -muurolene is known [19].

B. latifolia

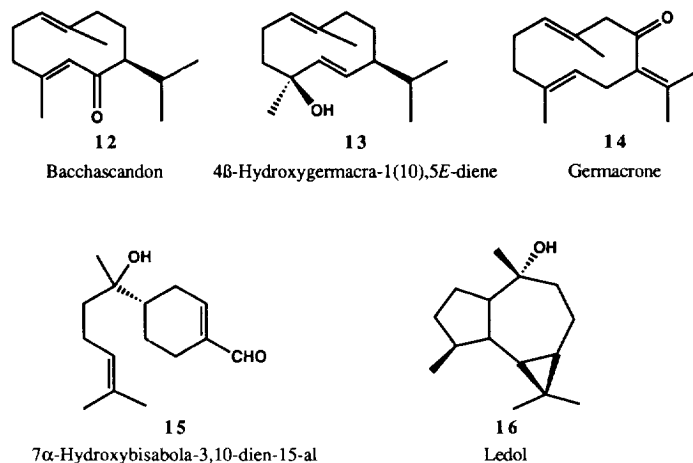
Table 2 gives the composition of the essential oils from 4 samples of *B. latifolia* collected in three localities of the Province of Cochabamba. For example, the composition of the essential oil from Colomi (Table 2, sample # 03) is simpler than the one just described above. Limonene is the main monoterpene. There are also several sesquiterpenes such as β -cubebene, germacrene D, and δ -cadinene. Several monooxygenated sesquiterpenes are also present such as verbocidentalol, epi- α -bisabolol, and dihydroisochromolaenin. Ledol is also a major compound. It may also be added that there exists a strong correlation between the structure of bicyclogermacrene and those of ledene and guaiane (ledol and guaialol) [17].

The essential oil from Montepunco has a different composition in that germacrene is a major compound

(40%) (Table 2). In some cases, the germacrene percentage is so high that crystallization occurs during the steam distillation process. Note that the analysis on both columns are quantitatively different. This is partly due to the fact that germacrene is thermally sensitive. Since its residence time on the polar column is longer than that on the apolar column (the temperature at the exit of germacrene is higher than that on the apolar column: $T = 157^\circ$), the germacrene peak is preceded by a large shoulder indicating a high rate of conversion of the molecule. A Cope rearrangement, isomerization of germacrene to β -elemene, is a facile process at temperatures higher than 165° [18]. We have observed the same behaviour in the analysis of the essential oil obtained from *Ledum groenlandicum* [19]. It is also valuable to recall that it is known that *L. groenlandicum* gives rise to different sub-varieties: one well-known for its ledol (**16**) content (mainly the European sub-variety) and the North American sub-variety for its high germacrene (**15**) content [19]. It should be mentioned that one of the unknown spectra is similar to that of eudesm-11-en-4-ol (neointermedol) [20]. An important product with a M_r of 202 appears in this analysis. Its mass spectrum is similar to that of selina-4(15),7(11),8(9)-triene (**11**) [20] (Scheme 2).

The essential oil from *B. latifolia* collected in Kayarani (Table 2) may be described as a mixture of those from Colomi and Montepunco. Verbocidentafuran, chromolaenin as well as germacrene are present in high amounts. The second sample of the essential oil from Colomi (Table 2, sample # 06) is rather different. This sample contains a high fraction of α -pinene and other monoterpenes and a variety of monooxygenated monoterpenes such as α -pinene oxide, β -thujone, pinocarveol, verbenol, myrtenol, myrtenal, and carvone. Among the sesquiterpenes, ledol (**16**) is again an important product. This composition again is similar to the composition of the essential oil obtained from *L. groenlandicum*.

A solvent extract from this plant collected in Bolivia showed the presence of bacchascandon (**12**), 4-hydroxygermacra-1(10),5-diene (**13**), and 7-hydroxybisabola-3,10-dien-15-al (**15**) [10] (Scheme 2).



Scheme 2.

Table 2. Essential oils of *Baccharis latifolia*

Origin of sample: Date of collection: 92-03-12-No.		Colomi 03 DB-5 column		Colomi 03 Supelcowax 10		Montrepunco 04		Kayarani 05		Colomi 06	
No.	Identification	R.T.	K.I.	%	R.T.	K.I.	%	%	%	%	%
1	α -Thujene	10.88	933	10.89	7.69	1020	12.88	0.25	1.92	7.86	
2	α -Pinene	11.18	938	6.28	7.45	1012	7.39	1.15	1.74	23.04	
3	Camphene	11.97	950		9.00	1057		0.27			
4	Sabinene	13.55	974	3.47	11.48	1115	4.03	1.32	3.12	4.52	
5	β -Pinene	13.75	975	3.76	10.71	1099	4.20	0.82	8.06	6.83	
6	Myrcene	14.87	992	2.31	13.97	1162	2.97	0.60	0.62	0.51	
7	α -Phellandrene	15.50	999	2.81	13.75	1158	2.95	0.49	12.63		
8	<i>p</i> -Cymene	16.82	1024	1.70	19.93	1268	2.01	0.22	3.41	2.19	
9	<i>m/z</i> : 43, 91, 109, 41	16.92	1026							0.74	
10	Limonene +	17.13	1030	23.63*			22.15	3.31	1.06	17.50	
11	β -Phellandrene				15.64	1189	1.48	Tr	6.98	Tr	
12	<i>trans</i> - β -Ocimene	18.71	1057	0.65	16.09	1196	0.75	1.71	1.45		
13	γ -Terpinene	19.25	1066	0.44	19.05	1252	0.46	0.15	0.29	0.11	
14	Terpinolene	21.29	1097	0.74	18.39	1240	0.69	0.13	0.12	0.28	
15	α -Pinene oxide	21.74	1103		20.63	1280				1.03	
16	<i>m/z</i> : 43, 41, 91, 69	22.31	1111		39.52?	1570				0.38	
17	β -Thujone	23.11	1122							0.36	
18	<i>cis</i> -Pinene hydrate?	23.46	1127							0.30	
19	Nojigiku alcohol	23.81	1131							1.18	
20	Pinocarveol	24.58	1141		43.97	1642				0.51	
21	<i>trans</i> -Verbenol	25.14	1148							0.53	
22	Terpinen-4-ol	27.49	1175	0.52	41.06	1591	0.41	0.27	0.43	0.28	
23	para-Cymen-8-ol	28.08	1183		55.45	1841				0.26	
24	Myrtenal	28.64	1189		42.33	1612				0.37	
25	Myrtenol + ?	28.84	1191		42.69	1618				0.31	
26	Verbenone	29.54	1198		47.07	1697				0.35	
27	<i>trans</i> -Carveol	30.51	1214		54.70	1826				0.44	
28	Carvone	32.11	1241		49.01	1730				0.30	
29	Sabinyl acetate?	36.04	1302							0.24	
30	2-Carene epoxide??	37.77	1326							1.23	
31	δ -Elemene	38.91	1342		32.67	1464	Traces	0.20			
32	α -Cubebene?	39.71	1353	0.11							
33	Neryl acetate	40.91	1368	0.27							
34	α -Ylangene	41.08	1370								
35	α -Copaene	41.38	1374	0.40	33.91	1485	0.36	0.22			
37	Geranyl acetate	42.19	1385	1.43	50.37	1751	1.26				
38	β -Cubebene	42.38	1387	0.13	36.88	1531	0.13				

Continued overleaf

Table 2. *Continued*

Origin of sample: Date of collection: 92-03-12-No.		Colomi 03 DB-5 column		Colomi 03 Supelcowax 10		Montrepunco 04		Kayarani 05		Colomi 06	
No.	Identification	R.T.	K.I.	%	R.T.	K.I.	%	%	%	%	%
39	β -Elemene	42.53	1389		40.14*	1578	2.98	0.22		1.25	
40	α -Gurjunene	43.57	1402	0.34	36.08	1518					
41	β -Caryophyllene	44.11	1412	2.17	40.20	1579	1.82			0.29	
42	Selina-4(15),7(11),8(9)- triene	45.31	1433		46.10?	1681	9.92	0.37		0.10?	
43	Humulene	46.31	1451		44.55	1652	0.85			0.19	
45	<i>cis</i> - β -Farnesene	46.88	1461	0.64	45.12	1663		0.36			
46	γ -Gurjunene	47.57	1472	0.41	45.83?	1675				0.31	
48	Germacrene-D	48.13	1480	4.74*	47.01	1696	2.83	0.11		0.80	
49	(+) δ -Cadinene?				44.54?	1653	0.82				
50	(+) Longipinene				44.86	1658		0.88			
51	+ Isomer of α -muurolene	48.12	1480							0.80	
52	β -Selinene???	48.38	1486	0.35	47.26?	1700	0.66				
54	α -Selinene + ?	49.00	1495		47.48	1704	1.27*			0.44	
55	Bicyclogermacrene	49.09	1497	1.98	48.39	1719		0.87			
56	α -Muurolene	49.44	1502	0.50						0.22	
56	Isomer of β -elemene	49.59	1505				3.76				
58	δ -Cadinene	49.85	1509				1.64				
59	Geranyl isobutyrate? + ?	50.09	1513	0.78			0.39	0.32			
60	γ -Cadinene	50.23	1515	0.59	48.07	1714		0.21		0.41	
61	δ -Cadinene	50.87	1515	2.58	49.86	1743	0.77	0.59			
62	Selinatriene? <i>M</i> _r 202	51.40	1534	0.68				0.82			
63	α -Calacorene	51.90	1541	0.32	58.66	1901					
64	<i>m/z</i> : 146, 41; <i>M</i> _r 202	52.39	1549	0.38*				0.54			
65	β -Vetiven? (+)Elemol?						0.39			0.32	
66	γ-Elemene	52.72	1554		66.39	2049		0.55			
68	Ledol	53.35	1563	4.29	53.71?	1805	10.29			6.12	
69	<i>trans</i> -Nerolidol	53.47	1564		59.33?	1914					
70	Spathulenol	53.92	1571	0.84	67.74	2076	0.36	0.33			
71	Caryophyllene oxide	54.21	1577	0.36	69.43	2110				0.55	
72	<i>m/z</i> : 41, 55, 126 ... <i>M</i> _r 220	54.51	1580		62.02	1963	0.31			2.66	
73	Globulol?	54.87	1585							0.33	
74	<i>m/z</i> : 43, 41, 69, 55	55.46	1594	0.64	67.53	2073				0.84	
75	<i>m/z</i> : 107, 41, 67, 121, 135	55.63	1596				0.64	0.34			
76	<i>m/z</i> : 43, 41, 67, 55, 109	55.76	1598								
77	<i>m/z</i> : 41, 43, 79, 55, 91	56.12	1604							0.75	

B. dracunculifolia

The extract from *B. dracunculifolia* showed the presence of germacrene-D, bicyclogermacrene, and 4 β -hydroxygermacra-1(10),5*E*-diene (13) as well as prenyla-

ted coumarinic acid derivatives [10]. Germacrene-D and bicyclogermacrene (1–4%) are among the main products of the essential oil together with δ -cadinene (13%) and germacrone (14) (5%) (Table 3). The analysis of the essential oils from these three *Baccharis* species and parti-

Table 3. Essential oils of *Baccharis dracunculifolia*

No.	Identification	R.T.	DB-5 column		R.T.	Supelcowax 10	
			K.I.	%		K.I.	%
1	α -Thujene	10.91	933	0.50	7.71	1021	0.73
2	α -Pinene	11.21	938	3.23	7.49	1014	4.22
3	β-Pinene	13.67	976	17.23*	10.75	1100	19.56
	(+)Sabinene				11.51	1116	0.69
4	Myrcene	14.89	992	1.52	14.00	1163	1.69
5	α -Terpinene	16.36	1016	0.15	14.58?	1172	0.16
6	<i>p</i> -Cymene	16.86	1025	0.26	19.97	1269	0.30
7	Limonene	17.15	1030	4.17	15.67	1189	4.16
	(+) β -Phellandrene				16.03	1195	0.82
8	<i>trans</i> - β -Ocimene	18.74	1058	0.46	19.11	1254	0.52
9	γ -Terpinene	19.26	1066	0.41	18.43	1241	0.43
10	Terpinolene	21.32	1097	0.67	20.66	1281	0.66
11	Linalool	22.32	1112	0.12	38.08	1549	0.21
13	Terpinen-4-ol	27.52	1176	0.22	40.91	1589	0.38
14	α,β -Terpineol	28.54	1188	0.09		in germacrene-D peak	
16	α -Cubebene	39.73	1353	0.51	31.91	1451	0.41
17	α -Copaene	41.39	1374	1.07	33.93	1485	1.04
18	β -Elemene	42.54	1389	0.16	39.99	1576	0.15
19	α -Gurjunene	43.58	1402	0.31	36.10	1519	0.34
20	β -Caryophyllene	44.44	1412	3.23	40.23	1579	3.21
21	β -Bourbonene?	44.82	1425	0.30	36.90?	1531	0.20
22	Aromadendrene	45.40	1435	0.45	40.91	1589	0.38
23	6,9-Guaiadiene	45.95	1444	0.36	43.13	1626	0.38
25	α -Humulene	46.32	1451	0.68	44.60	1653	0.52
27	Alloaromadendrene	46.96	1462	1.10	44.17	1645	0.91
28	γ -Gurjunene?	47.73	1475	0.98	47.28?	1700	1.12
29	γ -Murolene?	47.93	1478	1.89	45.86	1676	2.10
30	Germacrene-D	48.15	1481	7.29*	47.04	1696	3.42
	(+) α -Longipinene				44.89	1658	3.70
31	β -Selinene	48.40	1486	0.46		in germacrene-D peak	
33	Bicyclogermacrene	49.09	1497	1.81*	48.42	1720	0.89
	(+) α -Selinene				47.53	1705	0.56
34	α -Murolene	49.46	1503	3.16	48.11	1714	3.02
35	γ -Cadinene??	50.23	1515	4.80	54.61?	1823	4.32
36	δ-Cadinene	50.90	1526	12.97	49.91	1744	15.93*
37	Selinatriene??	51.43	1534	5.10	54.61?	1823	4.32
39	Elemol? (+) β -Vetiven?	52.41	1549	1.21*	66.44	2049	0.43
40	(<i>E</i>)-Nerolidol	53.48	1565	2.11	65.69	2033	1.78
41	Spathulenol	53.94	1572	0.86	69.48	2110	0.76
42	Caryophyllene oxide	54.23	1576	0.16	62.06	1963	0.28
43	Cubenol?	55.47	1594	0.42	72.22	2165	0.37
46	Cubenol	57.34	1628	1.77	68.14	2085	1.73
47	T-Cadinol	57.77	1636	3.86*	71.72	2155	2.84
	(+)T-Murolol				72.56	2171	0.86
48	β -Eudesmol	58.09	1642	0.25		in germacrone peak	
49	α -Cadinol	58.54	1650	1.61		in germacrone peak	
50	epi- α -Bisabolol	60.30	1682	0.15		in germacrone peak	
53	Germacrone?	61.06	1696	4.96	74.54	2212	7.10*
Total				99.85			98.77

Date of collection: 92-10-03, sample No. 06.

*Multiple peak. Missing peaks in left column indicate unidentified compounds.

cularly the occurrence of germacrone do not indicate a high specificity in the composition of its essential oils [10].

EXPERIMENTAL

Material. *B. salicifolia* can be found from Colombia to Chile and Argentina. It mainly grows along the rivers, in humid places with a temperate climate. This is a very frequent perennial plant that can be found in the high valleys of the Province of Cochabamba. We have collected ca 10 plants in the region of Queru-Queru (city of Cochabamba) at 2258 m of altitude. *B. latifolia* grows in the Andean region of South America, from Venezuela to Argentina. This is a perennial plant that prefers a cold climate. Altogether 4 samples were collected, 2 (ca 10 plants) in Colomi (3100 m), one (ca 50 plants) in Montepunco (2850 m), and one (ca 10 plants) in Kayarani (3460 m). A sample of *B. dracunculifolia* (10 plants) was collected in Waca Huasi (3280 m). The botanical classification of the 3 species has been performed by the Botany Dept at The Smithsonian Institute, Washington, DC. Also, these voucher specimens can be found at the National Herbarium in La Paz, Bolivia, with the respective keys: *B. salicifolia* (R & P) Pers.: Beck 8160 (LPB, SI); *B. latifolia* (R & P) Pers.: Beck y Seidel 14459 (LPB); *B. dracunculifolia* D.C.: Hensen 2497 (LPB).

Isolation of volatile compounds. 1 kg of fresh aerial parts was extracted ($\times 3$) by steam distillation (at 564 mm Hg) until exhaustion (5–6 hr). The yield of a pale yellow essential oil measured from *B. salicifolia* was 0.16 to 0.30% (v/w), *B. dracunculifolia* 0.16 to 0.32% (v/w), and *B. latifolia* 0.18 to 0.45% (v/w).

Analysis. The essential oils were analysed by GC and GC/MS. We used 2 chromatographs equipped with either a split-splitless injector and a DB-5 column (30 m), or an "on column" injector and a Supelcowax 10 column (30 m). The GC/MS system is a VG 1250 equipped with an "on column" injector. Both columns were used with this apparatus and were temp. programmed as follows: 2 min at 40°, 2°C min⁻¹ up to 210°, and maintained at this temp. up to 120 min. The identity of each compound was, first, determined by Kovats indices [21], using either our own data bank or data from the literature. In a second step, the mass spectrum of each compound was compared to those available from the literature [21, 22].

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