

Essential Oils of the Leaves of the *Raukaua* Genus (Araliaceae)

Roderick J. Weston

Industrial Research Ltd., P.O. Box 31-310, Lower Hutt, New Zealand. Fax: +64-4-9313-055.

E-mail: r.weston@irl.cri.nz

Z. Naturforsch. **59c**, 35–38 (2004); received June 18, 2003

The *Raukaua* genus of the family Araliaceae consists of 3 species, *R. anomalus*, *R. edgerleyi* and *R. simplex*, all endemic to New Zealand. The essential oil of *R. edgerleyi* and *R. simplex* consisted largely of monoterpenes. Limonene was the most abundant (23%) in *R. edgerleyi* and myrcene the most abundant (34%) in *R. simplex*. The oil of *R. simplex* lacked any significant sesquiterpenoids whereas bicyclogermacrene constituted 12% of the oil of *R. edgerleyi*. The oil of *R. anomalus* contained monoterpenes in low abundance and the sesquiterpenoids germacrene-B (15%) and γ -muurolene (16%) dominated the composition of this oil. The oil of *R. edgerleyi* had a pleasant fresh green aroma but the low yields of all three oils excluded them from potential commercial use.

Key words: *Raukaua anomalus*, *edgerleyi* and *simplex*, Araliaceae, Essential Oil