

Chemical Composition of the Essential Oil of *Thymus serpyllum* L.s.l. Growing Wild in Altai Region

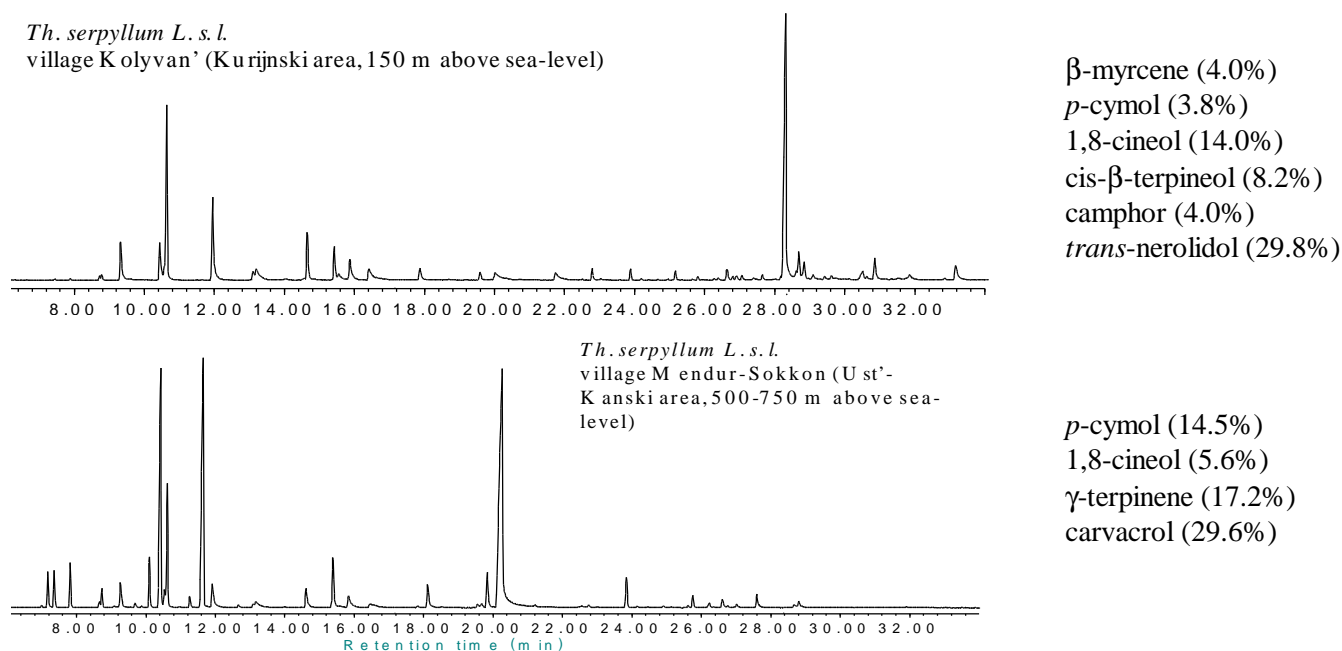
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Medical plant *Thymus serpyllum* L. s. l. (*Lamiaceae* family) has been extensively used in official and folk medicine for many years. Fresh and dried grass of *Th. serpyllum* L. s. l. possess interesting medical properties mainly due to the presence of significant amount of essential oil, whose composition depends on many factors: genetic and ecological. The genus *Thymus* L. is very complex from the taxonomical and systematic points of view, demonstrating significant polymorphism not only in morphological characteristics but also in composition of ethereal oils. We have studied composition of essential oil of eight populations of *Thymus serpyllum* L.s.l. growing wild in Altai Mountains. The oils were prepared from air-dried material by the standard hydrodistillation procedure and were analyzed by GC-MS. The yields of the oils from *Th. serpyllum* L. s. l. do not vary significantly (0.5-1.0%) and are typical for this genus. In contrast to this, chemical composition of the oils differs dramatically (see the figures below).



The composition of the oil from some places are quite unusual for *Th. serpyllum* L. s. l. as one can see from the data listed above where compositions of the oils from two populations are shown. It should be stressed, that both oils contain not more than 2% of thymol which is usually believed as the main constituent of *Th. serpyllum* L. s. l.

Chemical composition of the essential oil of the eight populations of *Thymus serpyllum* L. s. l. are discussed.

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