

Ocimum gratissimum

Ocimum gratissimum, also known as **Clove Basil**, **African Basil**,^[1] and in Hawaii as **Wild Basil**,^[2] is a species of *Ocimum*. It is native to Africa, Madagascar, southern Asia, and the Bismarck Archipelago, and naturalized in Polynesia, Hawaii, Mexico, Panama, West Indies, Brazil, and Bolivia.^[3]

1 Other names

- **EFINRIN** in Yoroba
- **Daidoya** in Hausa
- **Nchuawu** in Igbo
- **Ntonng** in Ibibio
- **Fobazen** in haiti

2 Seed germination

Seeds seem to need strong sunlight to germinate.^[4]

3 Pharmacology of extracts and essential oils

The essential oil of *Ocimum gratissimum* contains eugenol and shows some evidence of antibacterial activity.^{[5][6][7][8]} A polyherbal preparation of a water extract obtained from the leaves of *Gongronema latifolia*, *Vernonia amygdalina* and *Ocimum gratissimum* showed analgesic activity.^[9] The essential oil has potential for use as a food preservative,^[10] and is toxic to *Leishmania*.^[11]

4 References

- [1] PLANTS Profile for *Ocimum gratissimum* | USDA Plants, Retrieved Jan. 7, 2009.
- [2] *Ocimum gratissimum* - Wild Basil (Lamiaceae)
- [3] Kew World Checklist of Selected Plant Families
- [4] Influence of light, temperature and gibberellic acid on the germination of *Ocimum gratissimum* L. (Lamiaceae) seeds and evaluation of physiological quality by the X-ray test Martins J.R., Alvarenga A.A., Castro E.M., Batista L.A., Silva A.P.O. *Revista Brasileira de Plantas Medicinai*s 2008 10:2 (44-49)
- [5] Chemical composition, antibacterial activity in vitro and brine-shrimp toxicity of the essential oil from inflorescences of *Ocimum gratissimum* L., Lamiaceae Silva L.L., Heldwein C.G., Reetz L.G.B., Hörner R., Mallmann C.A., Heinzmann B.M. [In Process] *Brazilian Journal of Pharmacognosy* 2010 20:5 (700-705)
- [6] Celso Vataru Nakamura, Tania Ueda-Nakamura, Erika Bando, Abrahão Fernandes Negrão Melo, Dógenes Aparício Garcia Cortez, Benedito Prado Dias Filho, “Antibacterial Activity of *Ocimum gratissimum* L. Essential Oil”, *Memórias do Instituto Oswaldo Cruz*, Vol. 94(5): 675-678.
- [7] Justification for the use of *Ocimum gratissimum* L in herbal medicine and its interaction with disc antibiotics Nweze E.I., Eze E.E. *BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine* 2009 9 (37) Article Number 1472
- [8] Nutritional and antimicrobial properties of *Ocimum gratissimum* leaves Oboh F.O.J., Madsodje H.I., Enabulele S.A. *Journal of Biological Sciences* 2009 9:4 (377-380)
- [9] Analgesic properties of an indigenous polyherbal preparation Iroanya O.O., Okpuzor J.E., Mbagwu H., Ojobo P.D. *The FASEB Journal* 2009 23:S1
- [10] Food preservative potential of essential oils and fractions from *Cymbopogon citratus*, *Ocimum gratissimum* and *Thymus vulgaris* against mycotoxigenic fungi Nguefack J., Dongmo J.B.L., Dakole C.D., Leth V., Vismer H.F., Torp J., Guemdjom E.F.N., Mbeffo M., Tamgue O., Fotio D., Zollo P.H.A., Nkengfack A.E. *International Journal of Food Microbiology* 2009 131:2-3 (151-156)
- [11] Effects of essential oils from *Cymbopogon citratus* (DC) Stapf., *Lippia sidoides* Cham., and *Ocimum gratissimum* L. on growth and ultrastructure of *Leishmania chagasi* promastigotes Oliveira V.C.S., Moura D.M.S., Lopes J.A.D., De Andrade P.P., Da Silva N.H., Figueiredo R.C.B.Q. *Parasitology Research* 2009 104:5 (1053-1059)

5 Text and image sources, contributors, and licenses

5.1 Text

- **Ocimum gratissimum** *Source:* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ocimum%20gratissimum?oldid=653066433> *Contributors:* Mike Rosoft, Ste-monitis, Rsrikanth05, Anomalocaris, Cazort, Lamro, Alexbrn, Takeaway, Addbot, Cuaxdon, Luckas-bot, Rubinbot, DSisyphBot, Onjack-talluca, LittleWink, FoxBot, EmausBot, Look2See1, AvicAWB, Wingman4l7, Chuck Entz, Michael Bailes, Subset5, Joseph Laferriere, AtaAkpan and Anonymous: 5

5.2 Images

5.3 Content license

- Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0