

Canarium luzonicum

Canarium luzonicum, commonly known as **elemi**, is a tree native to the Philippines. The oleoresin harvested from it is also known as elemi.

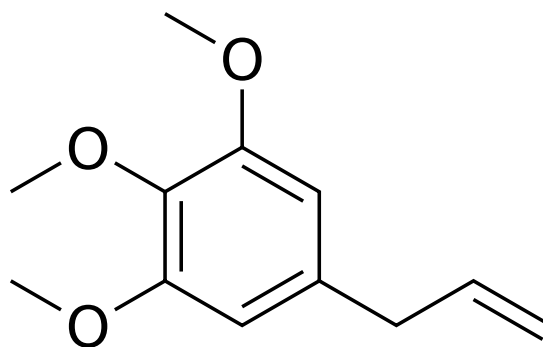
1 Uses



Elemi (Canarium luzonicum) essential oil in clear glass vial

Elemi resin is a pale yellow substance, of honey-like consistency. Aromatic elemi oil is steam distilled from the resin. It is a fragrant resin with a sharp pine and lemon-like scent. One of the resin components is called amyrin.

Elemi resin is chiefly used commercially in varnishes and lacquers, and certain printing inks. It is used as a herbal medicine to treat bronchitis, catarrh, extreme coughing, mature skin, scars, stress, and wounds. The constituents include phellandrene, limonene, elemol, elemicin, terpineol, carvone, and terpinolene.



Elemicin is named after Canarium luzonicum

2 History of the name

The word *elemi* has been used at various times to denote different resins. In the 17th and 18th centuries, the term usually denoted a resin from trees of the genus *Icica* in Brazil, and before that it meant the resin derived from *Boswellia frereana*. The word, like the older term *animi*, appears to have been derived from *enhaemon* (εναμμον): the name of a styptic medicine said by Pliny to contain tears exuded by the olive tree of Arabia.^[1]

“The name Elemi is derived from an Arabic phrase meaning 'above and below', an abbreviation of 'As above, so below' and this tells us something about its action on the emotional and spiritual planes.”^[2]

3 See also

- Pili nut

4 References

- World Conservation Monitoring Centre (1998). *Canarium luzonicum*. 2006. *IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*. IUCN 2006. www.iucnredlist.org. Retrieved on 11 May 2006. Listed as Vulnerable (VU A1cd v2.3)
- J. Lawless, *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Essential Oils* (Rockport, MA: Element Books, 1995), 59-67.
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5 Notes

- [1] Encyclopædia Britannica Eleventh Edition
- [2] Davis, Patricia. Aromatherapy A-Z. Revised and Enlarged Edition. Book Production Consultants plc, Cambridge. The C.W. Daniel Company Limited. 1998

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