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Essential Oil Yields and Chemical Compositions of *Chamaecyparis obtuse* Obtained from Various Populations and Environmental Factors

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Abstract

Essential oil yields and chemical compositions from 5 populations of *Chamaecyparis obtusa* with several environmental factors were investigated through essential oil extracted distillation apparatus and metabolite profiling by GC-MS analysis. Among the populations, content of essential oil at Gokseong was significantly higher than other populations. To compare the several environmental factors affecting on chemical composition and essential oil yields from *C. obtuse* at Gokseong, the environmental factors (soil condition, temperature, humidity, and moisture content) were measured during 1 year. The essential oils at Goksung based on humidity on March, July, and November was significantly different from other months. The essential oils at Goksung based on temperature on July and August was significantly different from other months. The essential oils at Goksung based on the moisture content on September were significantly different from other populations. The percentage of T-N, OM, and yield of oil at Gokseong were significantly different on from other populations. The main constituents of *C. obtusa* at all populations were α -pinene, β -pinene, α -terpinene, terpinene, 4-ol, isobonyl acetate, terpinyl acetate, and cedar acetate. Specially, Essential oil compositions (%) of α -terpinene and cedar acetate were higher at Gokseong than at other populations. The chemical compositions of essential oils were variable depend on populations and environmental conditions. Therefore, this study might be used as fundamental research on study for selection of high productive terpenoids and for understanding about biosynthesis of essential oils in *C. obtusa*.

Key Words: Chamaecyparis obtusa, chemical composition, essential oil yields, environmental factors, terpenoids

Introduction

Since the crude herbal extracts of aromatic plants on ancient times have been used for different purposes such as food, drugs, and perfumery. Essential oils are the mixtures of volatile oils from various parts of plants and are considered as important antimicrobial, antifungal, and insecticidal or insect-repelling agents present in plants (Cowan 1999). Also, they have been reported to endow antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antitumor, antiaging, antimutation, and sedative effects (Hammer et al. 1999). Monoterpenes, sesquiterpenes, and their oxygenated derivatives such as alcohols,

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aldehydes, esters, ethers, ketones, and phenols are the present main components in essential oils involved in its physiological and biological activities (Harkenthal et al. 1999; Zhang et al. 2008). Essential oils from *Chamaecyparis obtusa* leaves were found to possess strong antimicrobial activity against microorganisms. The major components of essential oil from *C. obtusa* leaves were monoterpenes (56-68%) and sesquiterpenes (18-29%) (Seo et al. 2003). However, their actual compositions and biological activities are quite different among the plants, even in the same species, depending on their environmental and genetic variations (Connor et al. 2002). Additionally, the chemical and biological properties are quite different from the essential oils depending on the part of the same plant, which makes it difficult to understand systematically the biosynthesis of essential oils.

C. obtusa, belong to the family Cupressaceae, is a native plant of Asia. C. obtusa is evergreen with a narrow conical shape and tolerates partial shade, although it prefers a sunny location, cool, and moist soil. C. obtusa is one of the most economically important conifers due to its good quality wood and timber characteristics (Maruyama et al. 2005). Essential oils in C. obtusa may be an alternative source of stored-product insect-control agents, because they constitute a rich source of bioactive chemicals (Park et al. 2003). However, the determination of variation and biosynthetic factors of essential oil of C. obtusa have not been researched. The aim of this study is to evaluate the variation essential oil in population and individual tree of C. obtusa. Also, several environmental factors affecting essential oil yield and change of terpenoids composition from C. obtusa were determined. Therefore, we attempted to the study about the effect of seasonal climatic changes on biomass yield, essential oil yield, and terpenoids composition of C. obtusa in present investigation. The aim of this study was to compare the several environmental factors affecting on chemical composition and essential oil yields from C. obtusa. It might be useful fundamental information for selection of high productive terpenoids and for understanding about biosynthesis of essential oils in C. obtusa.

Materials and Methods

Plant materials and essential oil extraction

The healthy and mature leaves of 30-40 years old C. obtu-

sa were collected from five different populations (Jangseong, Gokseong, Suncheon, Jinju, and Namhae) and randomly selected individual 20 trees, respectively, around the top of the tree. Leaves were maintained in ice box right away and immediately extracted using extraction apparatus or kept at deep freezer -20°C until the used.

Extraction of essential oil

Extraction of essential oil using extraction apparatus reported Seo et al. (2003). *C. obtusa* collected leaves were cut (1-2 cm) 50 g and crushed 50 g into pieces. They were diluted with distilled water 500 mL in a 2 L round flask and steam distilled (100° C). Distillation continued for 5 hr. Essential oil yield was calculated according to the dry weight of the plant material. The extracted oil was stored in a refrigerator at 4°C until experiments. The yields of essential oil were calculated by the following equation:

$$\label{eq:Volume of essential oil, M} {\rm Yield \ of \ essential \ oil, ML} = \frac{{\rm Volume \ of \ essential \ oil, mL}}{{\rm Oven \ dry \ weight \ of \ a \ sample \ (leaves, g)}} {\rm \times 100}$$

Variations of essential oils for each population were analyzed from the 20 sampled individuals per population.

Determination of temperature and humidity in experimental populations

In order to environmental factors affecting on essential oil yield, temperature and moisture content were measured during one year (1 month interval). Temperature and humidity in experimental populations were surveyed according to Korea Meteorological Administration reported at sampling time (www.kma.go.kr).

Determination of seasonal variation on essential oil yield

Moisture content was determined from *C. obtusa* leaves, which were essential oil containing trees selected at Gokseong population. Moisture content and essential oil were measured 1 month interval during one year. All above experiments were conducted in five replications, and the data were averaged.

Determination of soil chemical properties

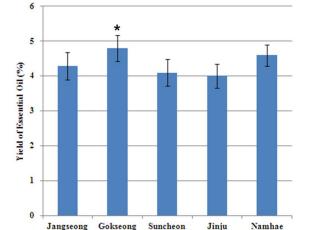
The soil samples were collected from five different areas (Jangseong, Gokseong, Suncheon, Jinju and Namhae).

These samples of 5 population were collected from the soil surface layer (0-15 cm) and soils were air-dried, crushed, and passed through a 2 mm sieve, then finely grounded with an agate mortar. Soil chemical properties were determined as follows; pH of 1:5 water extract (pH meter; 720A, Orion, USA), content of organic matter (Tyurin method), content of total nitrogen (micro-Kjeldahl digestion method), contents of available P_2O_5 (Lancaster method), and exchangeable cation (K, Ca, Mg, Na) : 1N-Ammonium acetate (pH 7.0).

Analysis of essential oil through GC/MS analysis

Composition of volatile essential oil components by five different populations of *C. obtusa* was determined through GC/MS qualitative analysis. The extracted essential oils were analyzed on gas chromatography-mass spectrometer (HP 5890II USA). The GC column was HP-IMS capillary column (60 m x 0.25 mm i.d. 0.25μ m). Working with the following temperature program; 50°C for 5 min, ramp of 3°C/min up to 240°C, injector temperature 250°C, carrier gas Helium (1 mL/min), and injection of 1 μ L.

MS spectra were obtained in the EI monde with 70 eV ionization potential. The sector mass analyzer was set to scan from 50 to 800 amu for 2s. Adjusted retention time for each peak was determined by subtracting the retention time. Components were identified base on comparison of mass spectra with those in the mass spectra library (The Wiley Registry of Mass Spectral Data, 6th ed.). Contents of



terpenoid compounds were determined through relatively area (%) on analyzed peaks.

Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis of contents of essential oil, variation of essential oil yield, environmental factors, and soil chemical characteristics were performed were performed by two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and Tukey's test (alpha= 0.05) using SAS program (SAS 9.1, SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC).

Results

Population and individual variation on essential oil yield

The analysis of essential oil for each population showed somewhat differences among populations (Fig. 1). As Fig. 1 was mentioned, the contents of essential oil at Gokseong was significantly different (alpha=0.05) from other population site at the given time. Among the experimental populations, content of essential oil at Goksung as 45 μ L/g DW was significantly higher than other populations. However, content of essential oil at Sunchun as 40 μ L/g DW and Jinju populations as 41 μ L/g DW were lower compared to other populations. The yields of essential oils showed highly variable among the individual trees (Fig. 2). Variation of essential oil yield from individual trees of all populations did not make any significant differences among

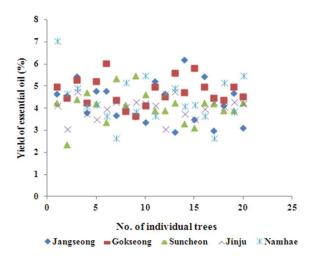


Fig. 2. Variation of essential oil yield from individual trees of all populations.

D 1.1			014(~)	Av-P ₂ O ₅	CEC	Ex-cation (cmol ⁺ kg ⁻¹)				Yield of oil
Population	pH (H ₂ O)	T-N (%)	OM (%)	$(mgkg^{-1})$	$(\operatorname{coml.}+\operatorname{kg}^{-1})^{-1}$	K^+	Ca ⁺⁺	Mg^{++}	Na ⁺	(%)
Jangseong	4.53	0.88	9.25	16.96	9.71	0.19	0.20	0.22	0.07	4.28
Gokseong	4.55	1.68*	17.73*	9.99	6.21	0.06	0.07	0.09	0.05	4.80*
Suncheon	4.25	1.00	10.49	21.67	10.21	0.20	0.26	0.25	0.05	4.09
Jinju	4.46	0.93	10.22	10.87	8.25	0.16	0.14	0.31	0.05	4.00
Namhae	4.82	1.00	10.49	9.42	9.75	0.24	1.53	0.45	0.05	4.59

Table 1. Essential oil contents and soil chemical characteristics in populations

"*" indicates significantly difference (alpha=0.05).

all populations. Fig. 2 might provide the pattern of individual tree for representative variation. Content of essential oil among individual trees in all population ranged from 2.1% to 7.1%.

Interaction between essential oil contents and soil chemical characteristics

Soil characteristics in each population were investigated as Table 1. Soil pH of five populations ranged from 4.25 to 4.82 (Table 1). Total nitrogen (T-N) was variable in 0.88 to 1.68%. T-N content was higher in Gokseong population as 1.68%, however, Jangseong population was low as 0.88%. Organic matter was varied 9.25 to 17.73% in five populations. Among populations, Gokseong population was highly contained as 17.73% organic matters. Av-P₂O₅ level was highly variable 9.42 to 21.67 mg/kg. The highest proportion of Av-P₂O₅ (21.67 mg/kg) was revealed in Sunchun population. CEC content was not variable range from 6.21 to 10.21 cmol⁺ /kg. Ex-cation content was also variable based on population (Table 1). In each Ex-cation component as K, Ca, Mg and Na were not a difference among each component.

As Table 1 was indicated, there were represented characteristics of soil chemicals and essential oils in all populations. The percentage of T-N, OM, and yield of oil at Gokseong were significantly different (alpha=0.05) from other populations. Mean yield of essential oil was maximum 4.8% at Gokseong population and minimum 4.0% at Jinju. Generally, high concentrations of T-N and OM in the soil are positive biosynthesis of essential oil in *C. obtusa*. In contrast, Av-P₂O₅, CEC, and Ex-cation were inhibiting biosynthesis of essential oil in *C. obtusa*.

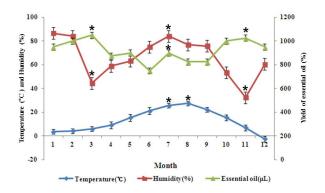


Fig. 3. Relationship among essential oil contents, temperature, and humidity during 1 year. "*" indicates significantly difference (*alpha*=0.05).

Interaction between environmental factors and essential oil contents

Interaction between moisture and temperature and essential oil content was determined in essential oil rich tree during 1 year (Fig. 3). As Fig. 3 was represented, the humidity and essential oil on March, July, and November were significantly different (alpha=0.05) from other months. Additionally, temperature on July and August were significantly different (alpha=0.05) from other months. Temperature in experimental site was range from the $-3^{\circ}C$ (Jan.) to $28^{\circ}C$ (August). Temperature was increased to August, and then it was dramatically decreased. Content of essential oil was high at early spring and early winter. Humidity was decreased to May and increased to July and then decreased to November. However, content of essential oil have nothing to do with temperature and humidity.

Additionally, relationship between essential oil contents and leaf moisture content during 1 year were investigated as Fig. 4. Soil pH of five populations ranged from 4.25 to 4.82. The essential oil on March and on November were significantly different (alpha=0.05) from other months. The moisture content on September was significantly different (alpha=0.05) from other months.

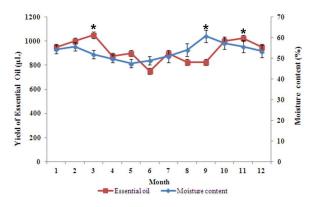


Fig. 4. Relationship between essential oil contents and leaf moisture content during 1 year. "*" indicates significantly difference (*alpha*=0.05).

Components of essential oil based on population

The chemical composition of essential oil obtained from *C. obtusa* leaves were analyzed by GC MS analysis (Table 2) including the representative data at Gokseong (Fig. 5). The main constituents of essential oil were α -pinene, β -pinene, α -terpinene, γ -terpinene, terpinene-4-ol, isobonyl acetate, terpinyl acetate and cedar acetate. The chemical compositions of essential oil was variable depend on population. Specific compound in Jangseong was α -terpinene isomer, γ -terpene isomer and terpinyl acetate. Essential oil compositions (%) of α -terpinene and cedar acetate were higher at Gokseong than at other populations. Also, terpinyl acetate was found in Sunchun population. α -Pinene, β -pinene and terpinyl acetate was specific compound in Jinju population. In Namhae population, α -terpinene isomer, α -terpinyl acetate and cadinene were determined as specific compounds.

Table 2. Components profiling of <i>C. obtusa</i> leaf essential oil by GC/MS analysis

N			Essential oil composition (%)					
No.	RT (min)	Compounds	А	В	С	D	Е	
1	18.11	Alpha-pinene	0.01	4.60	7.83	1.59	1.19	
2	18.77	Camphene	0.55	0.29	0.20	0.36	0.36	
3	20.28	Alpah-pinene isomer	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.91	0.00	
4	20.28	Beta-pinene	6.40	0.21	0.01	0.26	0.21	
5	21.08	Myrcene isomer	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.85	0.00	
6	22.31	Alpha-terpinene	1.59	1.69*	1.57	0.97	0.02	
7	22.35	Alpha-terpinene isomer	1.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.84	
8	23.22	Limonene	4.48	3.04	2.61	3.47	3.34	
9	24.55	Gamma-terpinene	0.11	2.22	2.71	3.51	2.44	
10	24.62	Gamma-terpene isomer	3.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
11	29.64	Borneol	0.59	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	
12	30.39	Terpinene-4-ol	3.11	2.06	2.99	2.74	2.16	
13	35.65	Isobornyl acetate	5.73	3.92	3.03	4.10	4.29	
14	35.91	Alpha-terpinyl acetate	0.00	0.03	0.00	9.74	8.23	
15	38.63	Terpinyl acetate	10.13	7.85	8.78	0.00	0.00	
16	42.06	Beta-caryophyllene	0.42	0.39	0.63	0.87	0.43	
17	42.16	Cadinene	0.01	3.32	0.01	0.02	6.62	
18	42.64	Cedar acetate	2.48	2.87*	1.19	3.12	0.59	
19	45.21	Epizonarene	0.00	2.92	1.61	4.12	3.97	
20	51.91	Alpha-bisabolol	0.60	0.57	0.29	1.20	0.00	
21	62.98	Kaur-15-ene	0.18	0.13	0.14	0.32	0.01	

RT, Retention time; A, Jangseong; B, Gokseong; C, Suncheon; D, Jinju; E, Namhae.

*The essential oil compositions (%) at Gokseong were higher than at other populations.

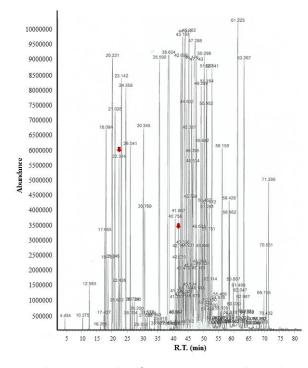


Fig. 5. The representative data of GC-MS at Gokseong. Allow 1 indicates alpha-terpinene (RT: 22.31 min) and allow 2 indicates cedar acetate (RT: 42.64 min).

Discussion

Population studies on the pattern of variation in many plant existences of localized populations each adapted to the particular environmental conditions of their habitat. From the chemical point of view, the essential oil composition frequently changes in individual plant. Quite often, between the different organs of the plant even within one individual plant. Variation of the essential oil vield is caused by genetic and environmental factors. The impact of environmental factors such as temperature, relative humidity, irradiance, photoperiod and cultivation practices influence the composition of essential oils (Hernandez et al. 1988). Polymorphism is also often found of individual plants of one species (Johnson et al. 2004). Schnitzler et al. (2004) proposed a genetic background that leads to differences in the expression of terpenoids synthesis for individual trees according to their parent genes.

In general the effect on pH was the greatest at higher concentrations and the fall in pH was the greatest in the nutrient broth. Hood et al. (2004) reported that the addition of *Backhousia citriodora* essential oil to nutrient broth resulted in a fall in pH from 7.29 +/- 0.02 (no oil) to 5.2 +/-0.03 (10% oil). Accordingly, nutrient in soil plays an important role in the biosynthesis of essential oil. Baranauskienne et al. (2003) reported that increasing N and P levels increased the oil content, and increasing K reduced it. However, N fertilization has been reported to reduce essential oil content in creeping juniper (Robert 1986).

Monoterpene emission rates were investigated for different seasons, tree ages, and leaf moistures; the result showed that the highest emission rates were found during spring months rather than during summer months (Kim 2001). In this study, these results were not entirely consonant with other reports. However, higher content in spring season was in concordance with other reports. The higher emissions during spring might be associated with the growing rates of plants and their metabolisms. Monoterpene emissions from coniferous plants are mainly reported to be only temperature-dependent. However, only a little is known about the seasonal variability of standard emission rates of monoterpenes (Komenda et al. 2002).

Moisture content in leaf was decreased to May and increased to September and then decreased. Generally, higher irrigation frequency and a brief water stress period increased essential oil yield (James et al. 1992). This result was consistent with the other reports. Biosynthesis of essential oil influences on various factors as environmental as temperature, humidity and leaf moisture.

The quantitative composition of the essential oils in many aromatic plants is greatly influenced by the genotype and agronomic conditions, such as harvesting time, plant age, and crop density (Marotti et al. 1994). However, their actual compositions and biological activities are quite different among the plants, even in the same species, depending on their environmental and genetic variations (Connor et al. 2002). Additionally, the chemical and biological properties are quite different from the essential oils depending on the part of the same plant, which makes it difficult to understand systematically the biosynthesis of essential oils.

In production of secondary metabolites in plants, the growth of biomass and the production of essential oils are in inverse proportion to each other (Seo et al. 2003; Park et al. 2004; Choi and Kang 2013). The content of essential oils at

Gokseong was significantly higher than others. The environmental factors (humidity, temperature, moisture content, and soil composition) might be effect on production of essential oils (Lamarche et al. 1984; Park et al. 2004; Seong et al. 2014; Son et al. 2014). There were significant variations on specific months based on humidity, temperature, and the moisture content at Gokseong. The percentage of T-N, OM, and yield of oil at Gokseong were significantly different on from other populations. Specific environmental variations at Gokseong may made positive biosynthesis of essential oils in C. obtusa. Especially, environmental factors may be affected on growth of biomass in C. obtuse at Gokseong. The C. obtuse at Gokseong may produce more essential oils in order to be survived and to be adapted from dramatic environmental conditions (Seo et al. 2003; Lin et al. 2011; Choi and Kang 2013). As provided in Fig. 4 and Fig. 5, the essential oils of alpha-terpiene (RT: 22.31 min) and cedar acetate (RT: 42.31 min) at Gokseong were higher than at other populations. These compounds are very important compounds of Chamaecyparis Species (Lin et al. 2011). Additionally, total essential oil contents were also higher at Gokseong than at other populations.

Therefore, we attempted to the study about the effect of seasonal climatic changes on biomass yield, essential oil yield, and terpenoid composition of *C. obtusa*. The aim of this study was to compare the several environmental factors affecting on chemical composition and essential oil yields from *C. obtusa*. with fundamental research on study for selection of high productive terpenoids and for understanding about biosynthesis of essential oils in *C. obtusa*.

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