

The volatile compounds of some edible wild plants consumed in the Mediterranean region

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Abstract

In this study, 13 different edible weed species [*Centaurea depressa* Bieb., *Cichorium intybus* L., *Lactuca serriola* L., *Malva neglecta* Wallr., *Papaver dubium* L., *Polygonum cognatum* Meissn., *Rumex patientia* L., *Scorzonera cana* (C.A.Mey.Hoffm.), *Silene alba* (Mill.) Krause, *Stellaria media* L., *Sonchus oleraceus* L., *Taraxacum officinale*, *Tragopogon longirostris* Bisch] were collected from the same location in the Mediterranean region. Then, the leaves of all species were analyzed by the SPME-GC/MS method for the detection of volatile compounds. The compounds were grouped according to their structures as alcohols, aldehydes, alkanes, ester, furans, hydrocarbons, ketones, sulfur compounds, and terpenes. The percentages of the terpenes, aldehydes and alcoholic compounds were found to have the highest ratios of volatile compounds, respectively. The species found with the highest total terpene percentage was *Sonchus oleraceus* L. (78.84%), while the lowest one was *Stellaria media* L. (51.03%). Similarly, the highest total aldehydes percentage was found in *Stellaria media* L. (38.41%), and the lowest was in *Centaurea depressa* Bieb. (4.62%). Lastly, the highest total alcohol percentage was observed in *Centaurea depressa* Bieb. (9.92%) and the lowest was in *Malva neglecta* Wallr. (1.11%). The limonene, which is an important monoterpene, among 63 components, was found to be the major component in all species with a range of approximately 51-79%. Among them, *Sonchus oleraceus* L. had the highest limonene content (78.84%).

Keywords: Volatile compounds, Terpene, Limonene, SPME GC/MS, Wild species

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INTRODUCTION

Vegetables play a crucial role in the human diet due to their rich nutritional content and health benefits. They are essential components of a balanced diet as they provide a wide range of essential nutrients, including dietary fiber, phytochemicals, vitamins, and minerals (Dias & Imai, 2017; Amao, 2018), while their regular consumption contributes to improve the overall health (Leyo et al., 2022). In addition, consumption of vegetables is also associated with various health benefits, including improved gastrointestinal health, enhanced vision, reduced risk of heart disease, stroke, chronic diseases like diabetes, and certain forms of cancer (Dias, 2012). Vegetables are also known to be rich in phytonutrients such as phenolics, flavonoids, and carotenoids, which have antioxidant properties and contribute to overall well-being (Liu, 2013). Additionally, vegetables provide a diverse range of tastes, aromas, textures, and colors, as well as enhanced the variety in food choices and satisfying personal preferences (Hong & Gruda, 2020). Furthermore, vegetables are a significant source of vitamins and minerals like vitamin C, folate, potassium, and beta-carotene, which are essential for various bodily functions and overall health (Power et al., 2011). World Health Organization recommends the consumption of at least five portions of fruits and vegetables per day to promote health and prevent chronic conditions (Fulton et al., 2011). Increasing vegetable intake and reducing the consumption of energy-dense foods are important targets for nutrition interventions to maintain good health and prevent diseases (Pearson et al., 2010).

Thirteen species were chosen among the mostly used plants by residents of Bahtiyar village and served as the base of this study. One of them is *Taraxacum officinale*, commonly known as dandelion, a perennial herbaceous

plant belonging to the Asteraceae family. The primary bioactive components found in *T. officinale* include phenolic compounds, flavonoids, triterpenes, polysaccharides, and inulin. Among them, phenolic compounds are one of the most significant groups found in *T. officinale*. Some of compounds, like caffeic acid and chlorogenic acid, are known to be strong antioxidants that help the body to fight free radicals and reduced the oxidative stress (García-Carrasco et al., 2015; Khan et al., 2018). Flavonoids are another important class of bioactive compounds found in *T. officinale*, include quercetin and kaempferol. These flavonoids are known for their anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial and anticancer activities (Dongare et al., 2021). The presence of these compounds contributes to the overall health benefits of dandelion, making it a valuable addition to dietary and medicinal applications (Epure et al., 2023). Triterpenes, such as taraxasterol and taraxerol, are also prominent in extract of *T. officinale*, particularly in its roots. These compounds have been associated with various pharmacological activities, including anti-inflammatory and anticancer effects. Researchers have found that taraxasterol can control immune responses and fight against tumors, which makes *T. officinale* even more useful as a medicine (Ren et al., 2022). The presence of volatile compounds in *T. officinale* have been linked to its antimicrobial properties generally. Research has shown that extracts from dandelion roots exhibit significant antimicrobial activity against various bacterial strains, including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Bacillus cereus* (Kenny et al., 2015). This antimicrobial action is attributed to the presence of specific volatile compounds that disrupt bacterial cell membranes and inhibit growth (Jerković et al., 2015). The identification of nitriles as dominant volatile molecule in dandelion honey further underscores the plant's potential as a source of natural antimicrobial agents (Jerković et al., 2015; Siegmund et al., 2017).

Centaurea depressa Bieb. (Asteraceae), is consumed for its nutritional value and potential health benefits. Piperitone, elemol, β -eudesmol, and spathulenol are some of the important chemicals that have been studied and found to have medicinal and nutritional value (Carev et al., 2022). The presence of fatty acids like hexadecenoic acid and dodecanoic acid further enhances its profile, suggesting potential applications in dietary practices (Erdoğan et al., 2014). Moreover, *C. depressa* is in a broader trend towards utilizing wild leafy vegetables, which are often underappreciated in modern diets. People are increasingly recognizing these plants on their potential to improve food security and enhance nutritional diversity. Consuming such wild plants not only supports dietary variety, but also contributes to sustainable agricultural practices by promoting the use of native flora (Baydoun et al., 2023). The role of volatile components in the consumption of *Centaurea depressa* Bieb. is multifaceted, encompassing aspects of flavor, aroma, and ecological interactions. In the case of *C. depressa*, the presence of specific volatile organic compounds (VOCs) can improve the sensory experience of consuming the plant, making it more attractive to consumers (Xu et al., 2023).

People consume *Cichorium intybus* L., (Asteraceae), is commonly known as chicory, for its nutritional value, medicinal properties, and culinary versatility, among other reasons. This plant is rich in bioactive compounds, including inulin, flavonoids, and phenolic acids, which contribute in health benefits and make it a valuable addition to the diet. Various cultures have traditionally use of *Cichorium intybus* for its medicinal properties, in addition to its nutritional benefits. Studies have reported that chicory exhibits hepatoprotective effects, reducing enzyme levels in liver and improve its function in toxicity models (Maletha et al., 2022; Andalib et al., 2021). Moreover, the antimicrobial properties of *C. intybus* are noteworthy, with research indicating that its extracts possess activity against various pathogenic microorganisms. The volatile compounds in chicory have been shown to exhibit antibacterial effects against strains such as *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, suggesting their potential use as natural preservatives in food products (Ghaderi et al., 2012; Bezerra et al., 2022). This antimicrobial activity is particularly relevant in the context of increasing resistance to conventional antibiotics, positioning *C. intybus* as a valuable resource in the search for alternative antimicrobial agents.

Lactuca serriola L. (Asteraceae), commonly known as prickly lettuce, is consumed for its nutritional benefits, medicinal properties, and culinary versatility. This wild relative of cultivated lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*) is rich in various phytochemicals, including flavonoids, phenolic acids, and lactones, which contribute to its health-promoting effects. For instance, the presence of compounds such as lactucin and lactucopicrin has been linked to gastrointestinal relief and respiratory benefits, making it a valuable addition to traditional medicine. Furthermore, studies have shown that *L. serriola* can inhibit α -glucosidase activity, which may aid in regulation of blood sugar, thus providing potential benefits for individuals with diabetes. In addition to its health benefits, the volatile components of *L. serriola* play a significant role in its consumption. Traditional uses of *L. serriola* include its application as a sedative, diuretic, and antispasmodic agent, which have been corroborated by scientific studies. For instance, extracts from *L. serriola* have demonstrated significant sedative effects in experimental models, suggesting that its volatile constituents may play a crucial role in modulating the central nervous system (Aziz et al., 2016; İlgin et al., 2020). The presence of compounds such as lactucin and lactucopicrin in the volatile profile has been linked to these sedative effects, indicating their potential utility in treating anxiety and sleep disorders (Kim et al., 2022). These volatile compounds also contribute in development of plant's aroma and flavor, enhancing its appeal as a food source. The unique profile of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in *L. serriola* not only influences its sensory characteristics but also affects consumer preferences (Abdul-Jalil, 2020; Kim et al., 2022).

Malva neglecta Wallr. (Malvaceae), commonly known as low mallow or common mallow. Its leaves, flowers, and roots are edible, and it can be consumed raw in salads or as cooked in various dishes. They are known to have a mild flavor, which makes them suitable for incorporation into a variety of culinary preparations (Yeşil et al., 2019; Akbulut & Zengin, 2023). The plant is rich in mucilage, flavonoids, and phenolic compounds, which contribute to its health benefits, including anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties (Jędrzejczyk & Rewers, 2020; Saleem et al., 2020). These attributes make *M. neglecta* a popular choice among foragers and those interested in wild edible plants, as it is often regarded as a nutraceutical or functional food that promotes health (Yeşil et al., 2019). In addition to its antioxidant properties, *M. neglecta* exhibits notable antimicrobial activity. Research has shown that extracts from the leaves and flowers of *M. neglecta* possess significant antibacterial effects against various pathogenic bacteria, including *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus* (Bushra et al., 2012; Al-Qurashy, 2023). This antimicrobial action is attributed to the presence of specific volatile compounds that can disrupt bacterial cell membranes and inhibit growth, making *M. neglecta* a potential candidate for natural preservatives in food products (Keyrouz et al., 2017).

People consume *Papaver dubium* L. (Papaveraceae), also known as blind poppy or horned poppy, for its nutritional value, medicinal properties, and its role in traditional practices. The leaves of the plant are rich in vitamins and minerals, making them a valuable addition to salads and cooked dishes Honěk & Martinková (2010). Traditional medicine has utilized *P. dubium* for its therapeutic properties. Like other species in the *Papaver* genus, it contains alkaloids that may have health benefits. While *P. dubium* is less studied than its more famous relative, *Papaver somniferum*, and it is believed that *P. somniferum* possess same type of beneficial properties, such as anti-inflammatory and analgesic effects (Butnariu et al., 2022). Folk medicine has used plant to treat various ailments, including respiratory issues and digestive problems (Casado-Hidalgo et al., 2021). The presence of specific volatile compounds, phenolic compounds and alkaloids are believed to play a crucial role in antimicrobial action, making *P. dubium* a candidate for natural preservatives in food products. Moreover, the antimicrobial properties of *P. dubium* align with its traditional uses in folk medicine for treating infections and wounds (Mohammed, 2023).

Polygonum cognatum Meissn. (Polygonaceae), commonly known as "madimak" in Türkiye. One of the primary reasons for consuming *P. cognatum* is its nutritional profile. The plant is rich in vitamins A and C, minerals, and dietary fiber, which contribute to its health benefits (Demirgül et al., 2022; Akpınar, 2023). The presence of phenolic compounds and other bioactive substances contributes to its therapeutic potential, making it a valuable resource in herbal medicine (Kaplan & Gökşen Tosun, 2023; Yıldırım et al., 2002). Research indicates that essential oils and extracts from various parts of the plant possess significant antibacterial properties against a wide range of pathogenic bacteria. This antimicrobial action is attributed to specific volatile compounds that can disrupt bacterial cell membranes and inhibit their growth, making *P. cognatum* a best candidate for natural preservatives in food products. Its traditional use in folk medicine for treating infections further supports its relevance in modern therapeutic applications (Kaplan & Gökşen Tosun, 2023; Eryugur et al., 2020). Moreover, the volatile composition of *P. cognatum* has been linked to its antidiabetic properties. The plant has been reported to exhibit hypoglycemic effects, which may be associated with its ability to enhance insulin sensitivity and reduce blood glucose levels (Gözcü, 2023).

Rumex patientia L., also referred to as patience dock or garden patience, is a perennial herb. This perennial herb's leaves, belonging to the Polygonaceae family, are high in vitamins A and C, as well as minerals such as calcium and iron, making them a valuable addition to diets (Kaya et al., 2020). Research has indicated that extracts from this plant exhibit anti-inflammatory and antioxidant activities, which can be beneficial for managing various health conditions (Jovin et al., 2011). Furthermore, it is used in folk medicine to treat ailments such as respiratory issues and digestive disorders (Küpeli et al., 2007). *R. patientia* has been recognized for its anti-inflammatory effects. The plant has shown potential in reducing inflammation in various models, which may be beneficial for conditions such as arthritis and other inflammatory diseases (Gürbüz et al., 2005). The presence of bioactive compounds such as flavonoids and phenolic acids in the volatile profile is believed to contribute to these anti-inflammatory effects, highlighting the potential of *R. patientia* in managing inflammatory conditions.

Scorzonera cana (C.A. Mey. Hoffman), is a member of Asteraceae, commonly known as gray scorzonera. The bioactive compounds found in *S. cana* include flavonoids, phenolic acids, triterpenes, and other phytochemicals that are responsible for its health benefits. *S. cana*'s rich content of flavonoids and phenolic acids contributes to its antioxidant properties. These antioxidants help neutralize free radicals in the body, reducing oxidative damage and lowering the risk of chronic diseases such as heart disease and cancer (Deveci, 2022; Monteiro et al., 2018). In addition to its antioxidant properties, *S. cana* has demonstrated notable antimicrobial activity. This antimicrobial action is attributed to specific volatile compounds that can disrupt bacterial cell membranes. The traditional use of *S. cana* in folk medicine for treating infections further supports its relevance in modern therapeutic applications (Sakul et al., 2021).

Silene alba (Mill.) Krause (Caryophyllaceae), has several bioactive components that makes it nutritious and therapeutic. In addition to flavonoids, it contains saponins and glycosides, which have been reported to exhibit antimicrobial properties (Akgöz, 2014). These chemicals have antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and antibacterial activities. In addition, they can inhibit the growth of various pathogens, thus contributing to the plant's traditional

use in folk medicine for treating infections (Ullah et al., 2019). They reduce oxidative stress by scavenging free radicals. Preventing cardiovascular disease and cancer requires antioxidant capacity. *S. alba* also contains quinic and malic acids, which boost its nutrition value. These acids improve food flavor, preservation activity and aid metabolism. Hesperidin, a flavonoid glycoside, improves vascular health and lowers blood pressure, making the plant healthier (Zengin et al., 2018). Research has shown that the floral scent of *S. alba* is specifically adapted to attract nocturnal pollinators, such as moths, which are critical for its reproductive success. The composition of these volatile compound can vary based on environmental conditions and the plant's phenological state, even influenced by effectiveness of pollination (Barthelmess et al., 2005). Moreover, its volatile profile is also indicative of its defense strategies against herbivores. The presence of certain terpenoids and other secondary metabolites in the essential oils has been correlated with antifungal and antibacterial properties, which may protect the plant from pathogens and pests (Hussein et al., 2019). Additionally, the ecological significance of *S. alba* extends to its role in community dynamics. The interactions facilitated by its volatile compounds can influence the composition and structure of plant communities. This suggests that the volatile composition of *S. alba* not only serves its immediate ecological functions but also contributes to broader ecological processes (Ramseier et al., 2005).

Stellaria media L. (commonly known as chickweed) is a member of the Caryophyllaceae family. One of the most prominent groups of bioactive compounds is polyphenols, which are known for their strong antioxidant properties. Flavonoids are another important class of compounds, have been extensively studied for their health benefits. The flavonoid content in *S. media* has been quantified, revealing levels of at least 1.2% in raw plant material, while different extraction process showed extraction of higher concentrations (Demján et al., 2022). Research has shown that extracts from *S. media* can inhibit enzymes such as xanthine oxidase, which is involved in the production of uric acid, thus suggesting potential benefits for conditions like gout (Taskin & Bitis, 2013). The volatile profile of *S. media* has implications for its use in traditional medicine. The plant has been utilized for its anti-inflammatory and antiviral properties, with extracts demonstrating efficacy against various pathogens (Ma et al., 2012). The presence of specific volatile compounds may enhance these therapeutic effects, making *S. media* a valuable candidate for further pharmacological research and development. Additionally, the plant's essential oils have been studied for their potential applications in food preservation and as natural antimicrobial agents, highlighting the versatility of its volatile composition (Chak et al., 2021).

The phytochemical profile of *Sonchus oleraceus* L. (Asteraceae), includes flavonoids, phenolic acids, sesquiterpene lactones, and various vitamins and minerals, which collectively offer a range of health benefits. These compounds are well-known for their antioxidant properties, which help in neutralizing free radicals and reducing oxidative stress in the body. The presence of flavonoids such as quercetin and kaempferol has been documented, and these compounds are associated with anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, and anticancer activities (Hussein & Gobba, 2014; Nouidha, 2023; Li & Yang, 2018). Additionally, phenolic compounds, including hydroxycinnamic acids like caffeic acid, contribute significantly to the plant's antioxidant capacity (Nouidha, 2023; Chen et al., 2019). Understanding the volatile composition of *S. oleraceus* can aid in developing integrated weed management strategies. For instance, the allelopathic effects of its extracts on the germination and growth of other plants can be harnessed to suppress weed populations in agricultural settings (Gomaa et al., 2014). Additionally, the identification of specific VOCs that inhibit the growth of competing species can inform practices aimed at reducing the impact of this weed on crop yields (Ibrahim et al., 2022).

Tragopogon longirostris Bisch, a member of the Asteraceae family, exhibits a range of botanical and biochemical properties that are significant for both ecological and medicinal contexts. Biochemically, it is notable for its phytochemical composition, which includes various phenolic compounds and flavonoids known for their antioxidant properties. Similar species, like *Tragopogon porrifolius*, have been studied and found to have high levels of antioxidants like caffeic acid and flavonoids. These antioxidants help the plant's to possess the medicinal potential (Al-Rimawi et al., 2016; Abdalla & Zidorn, 2020). These compounds are associated with various health benefits, including anti-inflammatory and anticancer activities, as evidenced by studies on other *Tragopogon* species (Unver, 2023; Suleimen et al., 2019). In addition to their ecological significance, the volatile compounds of *T. longirostris* may possess medicinal properties. Research on related species within the *Tragopogon* genus has indicated that they contain bioactive compounds with antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities. For example, a study on *T. graminifolius* found that its essential oil exhibited antioxidant and antimicrobial properties (Farzaei et al., 2014). These properties are often attributed to the presence of phenolic compounds and other secondary metabolites found in the essential oils of these plants.

The relationship between taste and volatile compounds in vegetables is a complex interplay that significantly contributes to the overall sensory experience of consuming vegetables. Volatile compounds are key contributors to the aroma and flavor of vegetables, working in conjunction with non-volatile compounds to create a holistic taste profile (Alasalvar et al., 2012). Non-volatile compounds such as organic acids, sugars, and free amino acids primarily influence taste perception, while, volatile compounds like aldehydes, alcohols, ketones, and aromatic compounds play a crucial role in providing the characteristic aroma of vegetables. The characteristic taste and aroma of vegetables are often determined by specific volatile compounds present in them. For example, the cabbage-like flavor of certain vegetables is attributed to key volatile compounds, many of which contain sulfur

(Meinert et al., 2011; Alasalvar et al., 2012). These volatile compounds not only contribute to the aroma but also influence the overall taste perception of vegetables. In the case of vegetable soybeans, a variety of volatile compounds have been identified, with specific compounds like 1-octen-3-ol, hexanal, and nonanal playing significant roles in defining the flavor profile (Guo et al., 2022). Moreover, the sensory flavor of vegetables is a combination of taste and smell, with both non-volatile and volatile compounds, which play essential roles in shaping the overall taste experience (Fan et al., 2022). While, non-volatile compounds stimulate taste receptors, in the same way, volatile compounds stimulate olfactory receptors, hence, both collectively contribute in the perception of taste and aroma in vegetables (Caporaso & Sacchi, 2021).

Terpenes, the major components of essential oil, are produced by many plant species and have many roles, including herbivore, pathogen protection and plant development. The terpene basic chemical structure is isoprene (Mewalal et al., 2017). Many types of specialized plant cells generate terpenes via metabolic processes (Zulak & Bohlmann, 2010; Cho et al., 2017). In prevention from illness and its treatment, terpenes have shown antibacterial, anti-allergenic, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and immunomodulatory activities (Theis & Lerda, 2003). Their lipophilicity and low molecular weight lend the terpenes widespread usage in medicine (Miguel, 2010; Rufino et al., 2015). Limonene is one of the most common terpenes in nature as a colorless liquid which exists in two optical isomeric forms of d- or l-limonene, and as a racemic mixture (Zulaikha, 2015). This volatile compound found in various fruits and vegetables, contributes significantly to the flavor profile of vegetables. Limonene imparts a fruity aroma and is recognized as a key flavor compound that influences the odor of vegetables Xu et al. (2023). In the food industry, limonene is utilized as a flavoring agent in a wide range of food products, including vegetables, herbs, citrus juices, candies, beverages, and ice creams (Tang et al., 2022). The presence of limonene in vegetables enhances their sensory appeal by providing a distinct citrus-like flavor and aroma. Furthermore, limonene plays a crucial role in defining the taste and aroma of vegetables due to its characteristic properties. In plants, limonene is involved in biosynthetic pathways that lead to the production of various volatile compounds responsible for flavor and aroma. For instance, the 6-hydroxylation of limonene by specific enzymes is a crucial step in the biosynthesis of volatile compounds like carvone, which contributes to the flavor of spices such as caraway fruit (Dudareva et al., 2004). Limonene's citrus-like flavor makes it a popular choice as a flavoring agent in perfumes, creams, soaps, household cleaning products, and various food products, including fruit beverages and ice creams (Espina et al., 2013).

The aim of this study was to determine the volatile compounds content of some uncultivated weed species consumed as vegetables. The increasing interest in using various plants as human food for a healthy life, shaped this objective.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant Materials

Thirteen different species (*Taraxacum officinale*, *Centaurea depressa* Bieb., *Cichorium intybus* L., *Lactuca serriola* L., *Malva neglecta* Wallr., *Papaver dubium* L., *Polygonum cognatum* Meissn., *Rumex patientia* L., *Scorzonera cana* (C.A. Mey. Hoffm.), *Silene alba* (Mill.) Krause, *Stellaria media* L., *Sonchus oleraceus* L., *Tragopogon longirostris* Bisch.), used in various ways as vegetables are naturally cultivated in the Akdeniz region of Türkiye.

All plants were collected from Bahtiyar village, Yalvaç district in Isparta (Latitude: 38.190574, Longitude: 31.163447), during the vegetation period in May-June, 2021. At least 10 individuals per species were collected in the early hours of the day randomly. Then they brought to the Suleyman Demirel University, Innovative Technologies Application and Research Center under controlled conditions. Fresh plant samples transported to the laboratory with a cold chain were stored at -20 degrees until SPME analysis. In SPME analysis, homogenized leaves were studied in triplicate.

Determination of Volatile Compounds by Solid-Phase Micro Extraction Gas Chromatography/ Mass Spectrometry

A 2-g sample was weighed in a 15-mL vial closed by a silicone septum. The sample was placed on a heating block at 60°C and held for 15 minutes to achieve temperature equilibrium. A Carboxen/polydimethylsiloxane manual solid-phase microextraction (SPME) fiber (75- μ m Fused Silica, Supelco Ltd., Bellefonte, PA, USA) was inserted into the vial and kept for 30 minutes at 60°C to absorb volatile compounds from leaves. The fiber was then inserted into the injection port of gas chromatograph for 5 minutes at 250°C for the desorption of aroma compounds. Gas extraction/mass spectrometry (GC/MS) analyses were performed using a Shimadzu GC-2010 gas chromatograph equipped with an MS-QP2010 plus a mass spectrometer (Shimadzu Corporation, Kyoto, Japan). The analyses conditions are as follows: column, Rxi-5Sil MS (30 m \times 0.25 mm i.d. \times 0.25 μ m film thickness; Restek, Bellefonte, PA, USA); temperature program, from 40°C (2 minutes) to 250°C (5 minutes) at 4°C/min; injection temperature, 250°C; inlet pressure, 83.5 kPa; carrier gas, He [linear velocity (\bar{u}): 44.2 cm/s]; injection mode, split (10:1); MS interface temperature, 250°C; MS mode, electron ionization; detector voltage, 1.5 kV; mass range, 35–450 m/z; scan speed, 1428 u/s; interval, 0.30 seconds (2 Hz). Data handling was made through GCMS solution 2.5 (Shimadzu). GC/MS analysis was accomplished in the scan mode in the 40–300 amu mass range (Yilmazer et al., 2016).

Statistical Analysis

All the experiments were performed in triplicate and their statistical significance of differences between the averages in the obtained data was analyzed with the ANOVA and Duncan ($P < 0.05$) multiple comparison test in SPSS software (IBM-SPSS Inc., Armonk, NY, USA) version 25.0, and the values are given as mean \pm SD (standard deviation) (Zhang et al., 2022).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 63 volatile compounds belonging to 13 species were identified with SPME-GC and presented (Sample chromatogram is shown in Fig. 2). These compounds were grouped according to their structures as alcohols, aldehydes, alkanes, ester, furans, hydrocarbons, ketones, sulfur compounds, and terpenes (Table 1-2). These groups were calculated for each plant species. When the total percentages were analyzed, terpene was in highest concentration compare to other volatile compound contents in all plants following terpenes, aldehydes and alcohols in the groups (Figure 1).

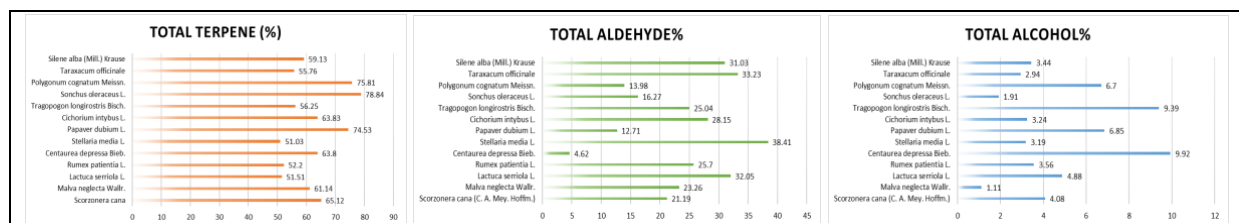


Figure 1. Total Terpene, Aldehyde and Alcohol Ratios (%) of Plant Volatile Compound Contents

In this study volatile component content of *Silene alba* consists of 59.13% terpene, 31.03% aldehyde and 3.44% alcohol (Figure 1). In headspace studies with different *Silene* species, high levels of monoterpenes (myrcene 23% in *Silene chlorantha*, trans- β -ocimene 27.2% in *S. nutans* and 34.9% in *S. sericea*, fenchyl acetate 12.7% in *S. chlorantha*, β -linalool 40.5% in *S. chlorantha* and 14.5% in *S. italica*) were found in all *Silene* species (Jürgens et al., 2002). The genus *Silene* comprises over 700 species, each exhibiting distinct volatile profiles that play critical roles in pollinator attraction and ecological interactions. The volatile components of different *Silene* species vary significantly, influenced by factors such as species-specific adaptations and environmental conditions. In their comparative study, Page et al. noted that the floral scent of *Silene species*, including *S. latifolia*, contains common volatile compounds that influence the preferences of pollinators like *Hadena bicurris* (Page et al., 2014). Moreover, Vivaldo et al. emphasized that the chemical composition of volatiles is often species-specific, with terpenes and nitrogen-containing compounds being prevalent in some *Silene* species, while others may emit sulfur-containing volatiles. This chemical diversity is further supported by the findings of Mamadalieva et al., who documented over 450 different secondary metabolites in *Silene*, indicating a rich array of volatile compounds that may serve various ecological functions (Mamadalieva et al., 2014; Vivaldo et al., 2017; Unlu et al., 2017).

The presence of volatile component content of *Taraxacum officinale* consists of 55.76% terpene, 33.23% aldehyde and 2.94% alcohol. A study on volatile compound was carried out on leaves and roots of *Taraxacum officinale* by HS-SPME/GC-MS. As terpene compounds, it was mentioned that caryophyllene, farnesene, -elemene, neofitadiene detected in the leaves of some varieties of dandelion have anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and anti-tumour like biological activities (Kiyama, 2017; Zhang et al., 2022). It was found that the most intense volatile compound group was dominated by esters and ketones. It was thought that those results, which are not very compatible with our findings, may be due to the difference in habitat condition of the plants.

The volatile component content of *Polygonum cognatum* consists of 75.81% terpene, 13.98% aldehyde and 6.7% alcohol. In another study, essential oils of different *Polygonum* species were extracted by hydro-distillation and analyzed by GC. Their results were found quite similar to our findings and presence of terpene groups were found to be dominant among the volatile compounds. Moreover, it was also observed that essential oil contains 33 different components, among them more than half identified groups were belonging to terpenes (Demirpolat, 2022).

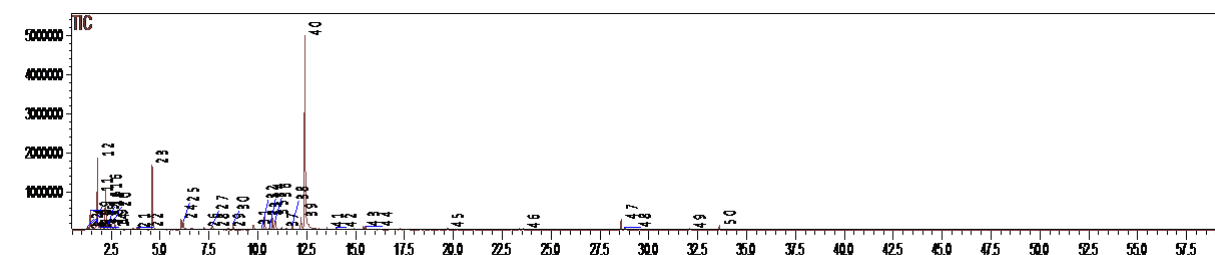


Figure 2. SPME/GC-MS chromatogram of *R. patientia*

The presence of volatile component content in *Sonchus oleraceus* consists of 78.84% terpene, 16.27% aldehyde and 1.91% alcohol. In already published study, gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC-MS) data showed the identification of ten volatile compounds in hexane fraction of the *Sonchus oleraceus*, among them two were found to be the major components (40.92% 9 Octadecenamide (CAS) and 21.01% 1 Hexacosanol). Moreover, other thirty-six compounds isolated from different parts of *S. oleraceus* have also been reported. Among them flavonoids and terpene lactones have been the most reported secondary metabolites in these species (Sánchez-Aguirre et al., 2024). Hence, this information also supports our findings.

The volatile component content of *Tragopogon longirostris* consists of 56.25% terpene, 25.04% aldehyde and 9.39% alcohol. Riu-Aumatell et al. (2011) analyzed *Tragopogon porrifolius*' volatile composition using HS-SPME and SDE, connected to GLC/MS. There were around 80 volatile components from different chemical classes. They found that the SDE approach can identify sesquiterpenes such as β -elemene, α -humulene, α -cadinol, and farnesol.

The volatile component content of *Cichorium intybus* consists of 56.25% terpene, 25.04% aldehyde and 9.39% alcohol. It has been reported in the literature that *Cichorium intybus* is a rich source of terpenoid and phenolic compounds (Nasimi Doost Azgomi et al., 2021).

The presence of volatile component content ration in *Papaver dubium* consists of 74.53% terpene, 12.71% aldehyde and 6.85% alcohol. Direct information on the terpene content in *Papaver dubium* is limited in the literature. However, related studies on *Papaver* species like *Papaver somniferum* shed light on the presence of terpenes in poppies (Muthukumar et al., 2019). Research on *Papaver somniferum* has highlighted the role of tyrosine aminotransferase in benzyloquinoline alkaloid biosynthesis, indicating the involvement of various compounds, including terpenes, in the metabolic pathways of poppies. Additionally, a study on the phytochemical analysis of *Papaver somniferum* identified the presence of terpenoids among other secondary metabolites (Karioti et al., 2014).

The volatile component content of *Stellaria media* consists of 51.03% terpene, 38.41% aldehyde and 3.19 % alcohol. The results of phytochemical analysis of *Stellaria media*, revealed the presence of various secondary metabolites including terpenoids, flavonoids, phenols, alkaloids, tannins, glycosides and saponin (Chak et al., 2021).

In this study volatile component content of *Centaurea depressa* consists of 63.8% total terpene (Figure 1), 4.62% aldehyde and 9.92% alcohol (Figure 1). In another study, the oil of *C. depressa* consisted of four oxygenated monoterpenes (36.5%), six sesquiterpene hydrocarbons (5.9%), 10 oxygenated sesquiterpens (39.7%), five aliphatic hydrocarbons (4.4%) and one aliphatic acid (4.0%) (Esmaeili et al., 2005). The chemical composition of *Centaurea scabiosa* hydro-distilled volatile oil was determined using the GC/MS chromatographic technique and 32 volatile oil or chemical compounds were detected, which represent 90.21% of volatile oils. The chemical compounds are grouped in terpenes (43.73%) (Carev et al., 2022). Similar to our findings, the highest volatile compound group was reported in literature appears to be terpenes. However, differences in the percentage of volatile compounds may be due to differences in the species, the method of analysis or the place of cultivation.

The volatile component content of *Rumex patientia* consists of 52.2% terpene, 25.7% aldehyde and 3.56 % alcohol. Data on the presence of volatile component contents of the same species were not found in the literature. However, the contents of a different species belonging to the same genus were found and compared with our findings. According to this study, presence of volatile constituents prepared from *Rumex visicarius* by hydro-distillation was viscous, with yellow in color and unpleasant nauseating odor; results of GC-FID and GC/MS analysis of the essential oil revealed the identification of 26 compounds representing 90.66% of the total sample. Thirteen terpenoid compounds were found (47.23%), of which 3 monoterpenes (7.71%) and sesquiterpenes (39.52%); 5 oxygenated terpenes (28.96%); and 5 esters were identified representing 14.99% (El-Hawary et al., 2011). These results are consistent with our findings.

The volatile component content of *Lactuca serriola* consists of 51.51% terpene, 32.05% aldehyde and 4.88% alcohol. In already published data, *L. serriola* essential oil was obtained by hydro-distillation of plant leaves and analyzed by Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS). As a result of the GS-MS analysis, hexadecanoic acid, oleic acid, myristic acid, hexahydrofarnesyl acetone, β -ionone, and n-tetradecyl butanoate were found as dominant components in the plant essential oil with the rate of 6.61%, 4.84%, 2.05, 1.55%, 1.3%, and 1.09% (v/v), respectively. The difference between the ratios may be due to a different methodology. One was analyzed by SPME directly from the leaf, while the other was analyzed by GC after extracting the essential oil. In addition, seven terpene compounds were isolated from the above-ground parts of *Lactuca indica* L. by column chromatographic separation of MeOH extract (Kim et al., 2008).

Table 1. The Volatile Compounds of *S. cana*, *M. neglecta*, *L. serriola*, *R. patientia*, *C. depressa*, *S. media*, *P. dubium*

COMPOUNDS	RT	<i>Scorzonera cana</i> (C. A. Mey. Hoffm.)	<i>Malva neglecta</i> Wallr.	<i>Lactuca serriola</i> L.	<i>Rumex patientia</i> L.	<i>Centaurea depressa</i> Bieb.	<i>Stellaria media</i> L.	<i>Papaver dubium</i> L.
ALCOHOLS								
3-Methyl-1-butanol	3.296	-	-	-	-	-	0.04±0.00 a	-
Pentanol	3.889	0.14±0.01 ab	0.14±0.00 ab	0.15±0.01 ab	0.25±0.08 a	-	0.17±0.02 ab	0.16±0.04 ab
E-2-Penten-1-ol	3.931	0.35±0.01 cd	0.33±0.06 cd	0.73±0.14 b	0.33±0.05 cd	-	0.15±0.00 de	0.51±0.12 bc
Z-3-Hexen-1-ol	6.166	2.59±0.03 bc	-	2.90±0.05 b	2.06±0.08 bc	5.77±0.14 a	-	3.04±0.78 b
E-2-Hexen-1-ol	6.539	-	-	-	-	0.33±0.09 c	-	0.19±0.04 c
Hexanol	6.631	0.73±0.01 cd	0.43±0.01 de	0.90±0.02 bc	0.29±0.02 e	2.20±0.00 a	2.38±0.15 a	0.72±0.19 cd
1-Octen-3-ol	10.583	-	-	-	0.30±0.03 b	-	0.22±0.01 b	1.83±0.40 a
Octan-3-ol	11.263	-	-	-	-	0.33±0.03 a	-	-
Benzyl alcohol	12.650	-	-	-	-	0.55±0.06 a	-	-
Phenethyl alcohol	15.655	-	-	-	-	0.18±0.00 a	-	-
2-Ethylhexanol	32.100	0.27±0.00 de	0.21±0.01 de	0.20±0.01 e	0.33±0.01 cde	0.56±0.02 b	0.23±0.03 de	0.40±0.07 bcd
ALDEHYDE								
Isobutanal	1.625	0.06±0.01 cd	-	0.30±0.02 a	-	-	0.06±0.01 cd	0.23±0.08 ab
3-Methylbutanal	2.224	0.49±0.00 cde	0.26±0.01 de	1.76±0.26 b	4.55±0.10 a	-	0.21±0.01 de	1.02±0.36 c
2-Methylbutanal	2.313	0.35±0.01 cdef	0.18±0.01 def	1.21±0.11 a	0.59±0.05 bc	-	0.15±0.02 ef	0.65±0.21 bc
Pentanal	2.677	0.71±0.03 cd	-	1.15±0.07 b	2.01±0.08 a	-	0.46±0.01 de	0.42±0.12 e
2-Methyl-2- butenal	3.388	-	-	-	-	-	0.14±0.00 a	-
E-2-Pentenal	3.601	1.07±0.01 bc	1.54±0.00 a	0.83±0.05 cd	0.37±0.06 ef	0.14±0.04 fg	0.96±0.00 bcd	0.42±0.11 e
Hexanal	4.588	3.15±0.23 ef	4.56±0.00 e	6.83±0.07 cd	12.81±0.89 b	0.16±0.01 g	15.29±1.08 a	0.46±0.10 g
Furfural	4.992	-	-	-	-	-	0.12±0.02 a	-
E-2-Hexenal	6.070	8.69±0.13 d	11.57± bcd	14.45±0.78 ab	2.41±0.25 e	2.74±0.57 e	15.20±0.01 ab	7.99±2.05 d
Heptanal	7.657	1.44±0.05 a	1.14±0.00 b	1.32±0.01 a	0.72±0.02 d	0.23±0.01 f	1.39±0.06 a	0.41±0.00 e
Z-2-Heptenal	9.657	0.11±0.01 cd	-	-	-	-	0.43±0.00 a	-
Benzaldehyde	9.770	1.09±0.14 b	1.75±0.00 a	0.87±0.09 b	1.13±0.06 b	-	0.97±0.06 b	-
E,E-2,4-Heptadienal	11.164	1.80±0.16 b	0.65±0.00 d	1.25±0.22 c	-	-	0.64±0.01 d	-
Octanal	11.433	0.49±0.01 bc	0.54±0.00 b	0.41±0.02 cd	0.25±0.01 e	-	0.38±0.01 d	-
E,Z-2,4-Heptadienal	11.766	-	-	-	-	-	0.66±0.06 b	-
Benzeneacetaldehyde	12.925	0.32±0.01 b	0.18±0.00 b	0.41±0.08 ab	-	1.35±0.67 a	-	0.34±0.06 b
Nonanal	15.385	1.26±0.02 cd	0.81±0.00 def	1.16±0.21 cde	0.86±0.03 def	-	1.24±0.04 cd	0.67±0.08 ef
Decanal	19.275	0.16±0.01 bc	0.08±0.00 d	0.10±0.01 cd	-	-	0.11±0.00 cd	0.10±0.02 cd
ALKANE								
2,2-Dimethyltetradecane	23.370	0.22±0.03 d	0.35±0.00 c	0.11±0.00 ef	-	-	0.09±0.00 f	0.19±0.02 de
2,2,11,11-Tetramethyldodecane	23.562	0.25±0.02 de	0.38±0.00 c	0.15±0.00 fg	0.25±0.00 d	-	0.11±0.02 gh	0.25±0.00 de
ESTER								
2-Propenoic acid, 2-methyl-, methyl ester	2.859	-	-	--	-	0.30±0.02 a	-	-

Table 1. Continued

COMPOUNDS	RT	<i>Scorzonera cana</i> (C. A. Mey. Hoffm.)	<i>Malva neglecta</i> Wallr.	<i>Lactuca serriola</i> L.	<i>Rumex patientia</i> L.	<i>Centaurea depressa</i> Bieb.	<i>Stellaria media</i> L.	<i>Papaver dubium</i> L.
FURAN								
2-ethyl- Furan	2.691	-	0.51±0.00 a	-	-	-	-	-
HYDROCARBONS								
<i>o</i> -Xylene	6.540	0.55±0.00 a	0.32±0.05 b	0.21±0.01 c	-	-	-	-
Styrene	7.249	0.61±0.00 a	0.66±0.05 a	0.42±0.02 b	0.48±0.03 b	-	0.17±0.02 d	-
1,2,3-Trimethylbenzene	10.995	0.33±0.00 a	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>p</i> -Dichlorobenzene	11.755	1.47±0.00 a	1.28±0.10 a	1.45±0.15 a	0.72±0.04 b	-	-	0.30±0.07 c
γ -Cadinene	29.908	-	-	-	-	1.30±0.07 a	-	-
δ -Cadinene	30.079	-	-	-	-	1.97±0.09 a	-	-
KETONES								
1-Penten-3-one	2.518	0.85±0.06 bcdefg	1.56±0.08 ab	1.66±0.12 a	1.30±0.16 abcd	0.19±0.00 g	0.29±0.01 fg	1.35±0.46 abc
2,3-Pentanedione	2.655	-	0.39±0.05 a	-	-	-	-	0.52±0.16 a
3-Pentanone	2.666	-	-	-	-	0.26±0.00 a	-	-
2-Heptanone	7.278	-	-	-	-	0.14±0.00 a	-	-
6-Methyl-5-hepten-2-one	10.730	1.93±0.02 bc	1.78±0.09 bc	2.20±0.04 b	3.41±0.29 a	-	0.58±0.04 def	1.81±0.49 bc
3-Octanone	10.772	-	-	-	-	1.32±0.12 a	-	-
3,5-Octadien-2-one	14.005	0.32±0.01 de	0.51±0.02 abc	0.48±0.03 bcd	0.57±0.04 ab	-	0.65±0.06 a	0.27±0.06 ef
E- β -Ionone	28.763	0.06±0.03 cd	0.12±0.01 cd	0.16±0.01 c	0.60±0.07 a	-	0.41±0.06 b	0.14±0.03 c
SULFUR COMPOUNDS								
Dimethyl sulfide	1.496	1.13±0.02 c	4.20±0.51 a	2.55±0.24 b	-	-	-	-
Carbon disulfide	1.559	0.52±0.01 b	0.61±0.01 a	-	-	-	-	-
TERPENE								
α -Thujene	8.486	-	0.08±0.01 cde	0.13±0.00 cd	0.32±0.03 b	-	-	0.10±0.01 cd
α -Pinene	8.727	-	0.08±0.02 de	0.49±0.06 b	0.94±0.05 a	0.92±0.14 a	0.15±0.01 cde	0.36±0.09 bc
Sabinene	10.223	-	-	0.13±0.02 b	0.31±0.04 a	-	-	0.10±0.01 bcd
β -Pinene	10.362	-	0.17±0.03 ef	0.98±0.15 bc	2.29±0.12 a	-	0.46±0.02 de	1.16±0.18 b
β -Myrcene	10.903	3.49±0.06 a	3.53±0.13 a	1.98±0.01 bcd	1.03±0.02 f	2.20±0.19 bc	1.06±0.05 f	1.68±0.30 cde
δ -3-Carene	11.212	-	-	-	0.30±0.01 a	-	-	-
β -Ocimene	11.594	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>p</i> -Cymene	12.213	4.88±0.00 a	4.43±0.08 ab	3.35±0.12 cde	2.52±0.10 f	2.59±0.04 f	2.84±0.03 ef	3.15±0.32 def
Limonene	12.447	56.16±0.16 b	52.35±0.54 bc	44.08±2.42 c	44.13±0.81 c	53.82±1.57 bc	45.68±0.77 c	67.39±5.80 a
γ -Terpinene	13.535	0.59±0.00 abc	0.50±0.01 bc	0.37±0.02 c	0.36±0.00 c	0.80±0.04 a	0.84±0.03 a	0.59±0.14 abc
Linalool	15.237	-	-	-	-	0.22±0.03 a	-	-
α -Cedrol	29.259	-	-	-	-	1.22±0.11 a	-	-
Bicyclogermacrene	29.355	-	-	-	-	1.55±0.08 a	-	-
α -Muurolole	29.451	-	-	-	-	0.48±0.04 a	-	-
OTHERS		1.40±0.03 ef	1.84±0.03 def	2.18±0.06 def	11.20±0.76 b	16.19±0.83 a	5.07±0.16 c	1.08±0.19 ef

* Shows values with insignificant difference ($p < 0.05$) for each column shown with same letters (\pm standard deviation)

Table 2. The Volatile Compounds of *C. intybus*, *T. longirostris*, *S. oleraceus*, *P. cognatum*, *T. officinale*, *S. alba*

COMPOUNDS	RT	<i>Cichorium intybus</i> L.	<i>Tragopogon longirostris</i> Bisch.	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> L.	<i>Polygonum cognatum</i> Meissn.	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	<i>Silene alba</i> (Mill.) Krause
ALCOHOLS							
3-Methyl-1-butanol	3.296	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pentanol	3.889	-	0.16±0.00 ab	0.05±0.00 bc	0.23±0.02 a	-	0.09±0.01 bc
E-2-Penten-1-ol	3.931	0.11±0.01 de	0.46±0.03 bc	0.09±0.00 de	1.49±0.09 a	0.07±0.01 de	0.28±0.01 cde
Z-3-Hexen-1-ol	6.166	2.43±0.21 bc	3.05±0.06 b	1.50±0.03 c	1.99±0.04 bc	1.90±0.10 bc	2.25±0.07 bc
E-2-Hexen-1-ol	6.539	-	2.40±0.15 a	-	1.58±0.27 b	-	-
Hexanol	6.631	0.28±0.02 e	2.39±0.10 a	0.27±0.00 e	1.15±0.06 b	0.37±0.05 de	0.45±0.03 de
1-Octen-3-ol	10.583	0.11±0.00 b	0.07±0.01 b	-	0.11±0.00 b	0.13±0.01 b	0.10±0.00 b
Octan-3-ol	11.263	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benzyl alcohol	12.650	-	-	-	-	-	-
Phenethyl alcohol	15.655	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-Ethylhexanol	32.100	0.31±0.02 cde	0.86±0.05 a	-	0.15±0.02 ef	0.47±0.09 bc	0.27±0.02 de
ALDEHYDE							
Isobutanal	1.625	-	0.15±0.00 bc	-	-	0.11±0.01 bcd	0.10±0.01 cd
3-Methylbutanal	2.224	0.33±0.01 de	0.84±0.03 cd	0.37±0.04 cde	-	0.38±0.00 cde	0.63±0.00 cde
2-Methylbutanal	2.313	0.44±0.00 bcde	0.52±0.04 bcd	0.16±0.00 def	-	0.56±0.04 bc	0.70±0.03 b
Pentanal	2.677	0.49±0.01 de	0.86±0.00 c	-	-	0.73±0.08 cd	0.79±0.06 c
2-Methyl-2- butenal	3.388	-	-	-	-	-	-
E-2-Pentenal	3.601	-	0.77±0.00 d	0.46±0.01	0.34±0.05 ef	1.19±0.02 b	0.89±0.11 cd
Hexanal	4.588	4.05±0.18 e	3.82±0.16 e	1.14±0.02 fg	1.15±0.19 fg	5.08±0.47 de	7.63±0.27 c
Furfural	4.992	-	-	-	-	-	-
E-2-Hexenal	6.070	16.44±0.06 a	14.26±1.34 abc	11.66±0.12 bcd	11.55±0.41 bcd	14.72±0.56 ab	10.12±1.05 cd
Heptanal	7.657	1.18±0.03 b	0.94±0.00 c	0.61±0.02 d	0.27±0.00 f	-	1.45±0.04 a
Z-2-Heptenal	9.657	0.09±0.00 d	-	0.05±0.00 e	-	0.24±0.00 b	0.12±0.02 c
Benzaldehyde	9.770	0.46±0.06 c	0.20±0.01 cd	0.36±0.01 cd	0.08±0.02 d	1.95±0.03 a	1.11±0.15 b
E,E-2,4-Heptadienal	11.164	1.36±0.08 c	1.14±0.07 c	0.36±0.00 de	0.22±0.03 de	1.98±0.02 ab	2.41±0.02 a
Octanal	11.433	0.55±0.02 b	-	0.13±0.00 f	-	0.75±0.07 a	0.70±0.01 a
E,Z-2,4-Heptadienal	11.766	0.71±0.06 b	-	-	-	1.88±0.23 a	1.76±0.02 a
Benzeneacetaldehyde	12.925	0.22±0.01 b	0.25±0.03 b	0.17±0.00 b	-	0.37±0.03 ab	0.25±0.00 b
Nonanal	15.385	1.64±0.06 c	1.19±0.18 cde	0.80±0.01 def	0.37±0.01 fg	2.94±0.19 a	2.21±0.08 b
Decanal	19.275	0.19±0.00 b	0.10±0.01 cd	-	-	0.35±0.04 a	0.16±0.01 bc
ALKANE							
2,2-Dimethyltetradecane	23.370	-	0.92±0.01 a	0.09±0.00 f	0.15±0.02 def	0.78±0.03 b	0.31±0.00 c
2,2,11,11-Tetramethyldodecane	23.562	-	1.04±0.02 a	0.08±0.01 h	0.19±0.02 ef	0.83±0.02 b	0.36±0.00 c

Table 2. Continued

COMPOUNDS	RT	<i>Cichorium intybus</i> L.	<i>Tragopogon longirostris</i> Bisch.	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> L.	<i>Polygonum cognatum</i> Meissn.	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	<i>Silene alba</i> (Mill.) Krause
ESTER							
2-Propenoic acid, 2-methyl-, methyl ester	2.859	-	-	-	-	-	-
FURAN							
2-ethyl- Furan	2.691	-	-	-	0.52±0.05 a	-	-
HYDROCARBONS							
<i>o</i> -Xylene	6.540	0.12±0.01 d	-	-	-	0.20±0.01 cd	-
Styrene	7.249	0.17±0.02 d	0.30±0.03 c	-	0.12±0.00 d	0.12±0.02 d	0.10±0.01 de
1,2,3-Trimethylbenzene	10.995	-	-	-	0.14±0.00 c	0.30±0.00 a	0.22±0.03 b
<i>p</i> -Dichlorobenzene	11.755	-	0.71±0.03 b	0.34±0.02 c	0.21±0.03 cd	-	-
γ -Cadinene	29.908	-	-	-	-	-	-
δ -Cadinene	30.079	-	-	-	-	-	-
KETONES							
1-Penten-3-one	2.518	0.42±0.03 efg	1.13±0.02 abcde	0.42±0.00 efg	0.94±0.06 abcdef	0.58±0.07 defg	0.73±0.06 cdefg
2,3-Pentanedione	2.655	0.49±0.01 a	-	0.56±0.02 a	-	-	-
3-Pentanone	2.666	-	-	-	-	-	-
2-Heptanone	7.278	-	-	-	-	-	-
6-Methyl-5-hepten-2-one	10.730	1.38±0.06 bcd	1.59±0.04 bc	0.63±0.02 def	0.53±0.04 ef	1.15±0.06 cde	1.09±0.04 cde
3-Octanone	10.772	-	-	-	-	-	-
3,5-Octadien-2-one	14.005	-	0.36±0.03 cde	0.13±0.01 fgh	0.09±0.02 gh	0.32±0.02 e	0.23±0.01 efg
E- β -Ionone	28.763	-	-	0.09±0.00 cd	-	0.12±0.01 cd	0.10±0.00 cd
SULFUR COMPOUNDS							
Dimethyl sulfide	1.496	-	-	0.76±0.03 cd	-	0.51±0.03 cd	0.84±0.14 c
Carbon disulfide	1.559	-	-	-	-	-	-
TERPENE							
α -Thujene	8.486	0.15±0.02 c	0.07±0.01 cde	-	0.05±0.01 de	1.33±0.05 a	-
α -Pinene	8.727	0.35±0.03 bcd	0.15±0.00 cde	0.09±0.00 cde	0.13±0.03 cde	0.11±0.00 cde	0.26±0.01 bcde
Sabinene	10.223	0.12±0.01 bc	0.12±0.00 bc	0.05±0.00 cde	0.03±0.01 de	-	0.08±0.00 bcd
β -Pinene	10.362	0.92±0.12 bc	0.32±0.00 def	0.31±0.00 def	0.37±0.04 def	0.28±0.04 def	0.62±0.01 cd
β -Myrcene	10.903	1.80±0.10 cde	-	1.25±0.01 ef	1.43±0.05 def	2.48±0.04 b	1.89±0.01 cd
δ -3-Carene	11.212	-	0.30±0.03 a	-	-	-	-
β -Ocimene	11.594	-	0.09±0.01 a	-	-	-	0.10±0.01 a
<i>p</i> -Cymene	12.213	2.78±0.06 ef	2.96±0.05 def	3.55±0.13 cd	2.65±0.05 f	4.01±0.09 bc	3.90±0.23 bc
Limonene	12.447	57.27±0.76 b	51.79±1.04 bc	72.92±0.61 a	70.17±0.87 a	47.42±0.58 bc	51.82±1.11 bc
γ -Terpinene	13.535	0.44±0.03 c	0.34±0.02 c	0.60±0.01 abc	0.74±0.10 ab	-	0.46±0.02 c
Linalool	15.237	-	0.11±0.01 bc	0.07±0.00 c	0.24±0.02 a	0.13±0.01 b	-
α -Cedrol	29.259	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bicyclogermacrene	29.355	-	-	-	-	-	-
α -Muurolene	29.451	-	-	-	-	-	-
OTHERS		2.21±0.16 def	3.26±0.16 d	0.97±0.01 ef	0.58±0.06 f	3.15±0.06 d	2.42±0.15 de

* Shows values with insignificant difference ($p < 0.05$) for each column shown with same letters (\pm standard deviation)

The presence of volatile component content in *Malva neglecta* consists of 61.14% terpene, 23.26% aldehyde and 1.11 % alcohol. SPME analysis of *M. neglecta* was not found in the literature. However, *M. neglecta* crude methanolic extract (Mn.Cme) was chemically characterized using GCMS analysis. In GC-MS analysis, oleic acid (19.67%), taurine (17.60%), ethylene dimercaptan (14.67%), isoeugenol (14.61%), patchoulane (10.36%), methyl 12-methyltetradecanoate (8.47%) and isopropyl myristate (7.02%) were highly abundant compounds. In another study, the efficacy of solvent-free microwave extraction (SFME) was investigated for the extraction of essential oils from the above-ground parts of *Malva neglecta* Wallr. The essential oils were then injected onto the HP-5MS column of a commercially available GC/MS (Hewlett-Packard 5973), resulting in a chromatogram of 24 compounds, accounting for 99.9% of the oil composition. In terms of general categories, non-terpene hydrocarbons and sesquiterpene hydrocarbons were found to be the main fractions of the chemical profiles (Mohammadhosseini, 2021).

The volatile component content of *Scorzonera cana* consists of 65.12% terpene, 21.19% aldehyde and 4.08 % alcohol. In another study published by Lenzion et al. (2021), presence of many bioactive compounds like triterpenoids, sesquiterpenoids, flavonoids, or caffeic acid and quinic acid derivatives were found in extracts obtained from aerial and subaerial parts of *Scorzonera* species. On the other hand, *Scorzonera* species are found to be highly rich in terpenes compounds: such as monoterpenes, sesquiterpene lactones, and triterpenes (Acikara et al., 2013; Yang et al., 2016). These studies also support our results.

As mentioned above, terpenes were the dominant group of volatile compounds in all plants and limonene was the major component among them. The interaction of abiotic factors such as soil characteristics and climate can influence the volatile profiles of all species. For instance, environmental conditions can affect the emission rates and types of volatiles produced, leading to variations in the chemical cues available to pollinators and herbivores. Some of the different results we obtained in our study compared to the literature are probably due to this interaction of abiotic factors. The volatile components may play a role in enhancing the sensory attributes of the plant, making it more appealing for culinary uses. The aroma and flavor profile of volatile compounds can significantly affect consumer preferences. For example, terpenes, which are prevalent in many plants, contribute to the characteristic scents and flavors that can enhance the palatability of foods (Fukuda et al., 2013). This sensory enhancement can encourage the consumption of vegetables that contain terpene aromas, thereby increasing their nutritional intake. In conclusion, the high terpene content species serves crucial ecological functions such as pollinator attraction, defense against herbivores, and potential allelopathy. Nutritionally, terpenes contribute to the health benefits, flavor, and potential medicinal properties of these plants, enhancing their value as food sources. The interplay between ecological roles and nutritional benefits highlights the importance of terpenes in these species' survival and utility.

Limonene is frequently identified as one of the most highly volatile compounds found in plants, and this prominence can be attributed to several factors related to its chemical properties, ecological roles, and biosynthetic pathways. Limonene is a monoterpene, characterized by its low molecular weight and relatively simple structure, which contributes to its high volatility. The volatility of a compound is influenced by its molecular weight, boiling point, and vapor pressure; limonene has a low boiling point (approximately 177°C) and high vapor pressure, making it readily evaporate at room temperature. This property allows limonene to be emitted in significant quantities into the atmosphere, where it can serve various ecological functions (Erasto & Viljoen, 2008). Limonene plays a crucial role in attracting pollinators. Its pleasant citrus aroma is appealing to many insects, including bees and butterflies, which are essential for the pollination of many flowering plants. The ability to attract these pollinators enhances the reproductive success of plants that produce limonene, thereby promoting genetic diversity and plant population stability (Zhao & Kang, 2002). Limonene also serves as a defense compound against herbivores and pathogens. Its insecticidal properties have been documented, with studies showing that limonene can deter certain insect pests, thereby reducing herbivory (Lackus et al., 2018). Additionally, limonene has antifungal properties, which can help protect plants from fungal infections. This dual role as both an attractant and a deterrent underscore the ecological significance of limonene in plant survival (Quintana-Rodríguez et al., 2014). The emission of limonene and other volatile compounds can trigger induced resistance in neighboring plants. When a plant is damaged by herbivores, it may release limonene, which can signal nearby plants to bolster their own defenses against potential threats (Erasto & Viljoen, 2008). This phenomenon enhances community resilience against herbivory and disease. Limonene is biosynthesized from geranyl pyrophosphate (GPP) through the action of limonene synthase, an enzyme that catalyzes the conversion of GPP into limonene in a single step. This pathway is common among many plant species, contributing to the widespread occurrence of limonene in various plant genera, particularly in citrus fruits and aromatic herbs. The ability of plants to produce limonene from a common precursor facilitates its prevalence in the plant kingdom (Maruyama et al., 2001; Chen, 2024). The highest limonene content in all species was found in *Sonchus oleraceus* L. with approximately 73%, while the lowest content was found in *Lactuca serriola* L., and *Rumex patientia* L. with 44%. In the food sector, limonene can be utilized as a flavoring agent to mask bitter tastes, and it also possesses antioxidant, antimicrobial, anti-carcinogenic, chemo-preventive, and antidiabetic properties that are beneficial for pharmaceutical purposes (Hidajat et al., 2020). The limonene aroma likely contributes to the local people's preference for collecting and

consuming these 13 species. For this reason, limonene can have a positive effect on consumers' vegetable consumption rates.

CONCLUSION

This study provides important data for determining plants' volatile compound profiles. The volatile components play a significant role in the sensory attributes of food, influencing both aroma and flavor. They are produced by plants in response to various stimuli, including biotic and abiotic stresses, and are crucial for attracting pollinators, deterring herbivores, and facilitating seed dispersal. The complexity of these compounds contributes to the overall sensory experience of food, as they can evoke specific flavors and aromas that enhance consumer appeal. They are integral to the sensory characteristics of food, influencing aroma, flavor, and even food safety. The findings from this study will contribute to obtaining more information about plants potential biological activities and applied areas. Future studies should compare the volatile compound profiles of the same species growing in different habitats or different species growing in the same habitat to better understand the effects of environmental factors. Furthermore, conducting similar analyses on various plant species may increase the general results' validity. These studies will be plants complex interactions and biosynthetic pathways present opportunities for enhancing food quality through agricultural and processing innovations.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Peer-review

Externally peer-reviewed.

Conflict of interest

The author declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article.

Author contribution

ACT: design, writing and laboratory studies. The author verifies that the Text, Figures, and Tables are original and that they have not been published before.

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