

# A Review on Extraction, Isolation and Separation Technique of Essential Oils from Coriander

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**Abstract:** Two different methods of coriander (*Coriandrum sativum* L.) essential oil isolation, steam distillation and extraction by methylene chloride (Soxhlet extraction) were investigated. After the determination of essential oil content in the investigated drug and in dry extract (using steam distillation), qualitative and quantitative composition of obtained essential oils, determined by TLC and GC-MS methods, were compared. The content of linalool was higher (52.4%) in essential oil obtained by coriander steam distillation than that in essential oil separated from dry extract (42.8%), and, on the other hand, content of geranyl-acetate was lower (4.6% and 11.7%, respectively).

**Keywords:** Coriander, essential oils, extract, linalool

## I. INTRODUCTION

Coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*) is a plant in the Apiaceous family. Its fruit (seeds) are typically called "coriander" while its leaves are called cilantro. Coriander is a source of vitamin C, calcium, magnesium, potassium, and iron. Coriander essential oil might have antibacterial effects. Coriander also contains chemicals that might lower blood pressure by causing blood vessels to dilate and work like a "water pill" (diuretic). People use coriander for anxiety, constipation, diabetes, indigestion, parasite infections, irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), skin irritation, and many other conditions, but there is no good scientific evidence to support these uses. Don't confuse coriander with similarly named Vietnamese coriander. Also don't confuse it with cilantro, which refers to the leaves of the same plant. These are not the same. The plant produces a slender hollow stem 30 to 60 mm (1 to 2.5 inches) high with fragrant bipinnate leaves. The small flowers are pink or whitish and are borne in umbel clusters. The fruit is a small dry schizocarp consisting of two semiglobular fruits joined on the commissural, or inner, sides, giving the appearance of a single, smooth, nearly globular fruit about 5 mm (0.2 inch) in diameter. The yellowish-brown fruits have a mild fragrance and taste similar to a combination of lemon peel and sage. The seeds contain from 0.1 to 1 percent essential oil; its principal component is coriandrol. Records of the use of coriander date to 5000 BCE. The Romans used it to flavor bread. It was once used as an aromatic and carminative, but its only modern use in medicine is to mask unpleasant tastes and odors of drugs.

## II. EXTRACTION TECHNIQUES

Extraction is a critical initial step in isolating bioactive compounds from coriander. Several techniques have been utilized, each with its advantages and limitations, depending on the target compounds and the desired yield.

### 1. Maceration:

Maceration is one of the oldest and simplest extraction methods, involving soaking plant materials in solvents at ambient temperature. The process is straightforward and requires minimal equipment, making it accessible. However, maceration has drawbacks, such as long extraction times and the potential for lower yields. For *Moringa oleifera*, maceration is effective in extracting phenolic compounds, though it may require high solvent volumes and longer durations to achieve satisfactory yields.

### Procedure of Maceration

- The plant material is finely ground or crushed to increase the surface area for better solvent penetration.
- The material is then submerged in a solvent such as water, ethanol, methanol, or a solvent mixture.

- The solvent is kept in contact with the material for an extended period, typically ranging from a few hours to several days, depending on the type of material, solvent, and target compounds.
- Stirring or occasional shaking may be applied to enhance the extraction process.
- After maceration, the solvent containing the extracted compounds (the filtrate) is separated from the solid plant material by filtration or decantation.
- The solvent is often evaporated to obtain a concentrated extract, which can then be used for further studies or applications.



**Maceration Process**

## 2. Soxhlet Extraction

This method involves a continuous solvent reflux, where the solvent repeatedly passes through the plant material, enhancing extraction efficiency. Soxhlet extraction is widely used due to its high yield potential for heat-stable compounds. However, it requires long extraction times and large amounts of organic solvents, which may limit its environmental sustainability and cost-effectiveness. Soxhlet extraction has been effectively used to isolate various bioactive compounds from Coriander, including essential oils and other phenolic constituents.

### Process:

- The round-bottom flask containing the solvent is heated, causing the solvent to evaporate and travel upwards.
- The vapor reaches the condenser, where it cools and condenses, then drips into the extractor chamber containing the plant material.
- The solvent gradually fills the chamber, allowing the target compounds to dissolve into the solvent.
- Once the chamber reaches a certain level, it siphons back down to the flask, carrying the dissolved compounds with it.
- cycle repeats continuously, with fresh solvent contacting the plant material until the extraction process is complete.

## 3. Ultrasound-Assisted Extraction (UAE)

UAE utilizes ultrasonic waves to disrupt cell walls, enhancing the release of bioactive compounds. The method is particularly advantageous due to its speed, low solvent requirement, and ability to extract heat-sensitive compounds, as it operates at lower temperatures. UAE has shown high efficacy in extracting antioxidants, phenolics, and essential oils from Coriander, making it a suitable choice for preserving delicate compounds while reducing extraction time and energy costs.

#### Procedure of Ultrasound-Assisted Extraction

- **Preparation:** The plant material is usually ground or cut into smaller pieces to increase surface area.
- **Sonication Setup:** The sample is placed in an extraction vessel with a suitable solvent, and an ultrasonic probe or bath generates ultrasonic waves.
- **Extraction Process:** Ultrasonic waves are applied for a specified duration, typically ranging from a few minutes to an hour, depending on the plant material, solvent, and target compounds.
- **Filtration and Concentration:** After extraction, the solvent containing the dissolved compounds is filtered to separate the solid residue. The solvent may then be evaporated to yield a concentrated extract.

#### 4. Microwave-Assisted Extraction (MAE)

MAE employs microwave energy to heat solvents and plant materials, improving the efficiency of the extraction process. The method is known for its rapid processing times, reduced solvent usage, and high yields of bioactive compounds. MAE has been successfully applied in extracting Coriander bioactive compounds, such as glucosinolates and saponins, due to its ability to disrupt plant cell matrices and release intracellular compounds effectively. One limitation is the potential degradation of heat-sensitive components if the temperature is not carefully controlled.

#### Procedure of Microwave-Assisted Extraction

- **Preparation:** The plant material is often dried and ground to increase surface area.
- **Microwave Setup:** A microwave reactor or microwave-assisted extraction system is used, containing the plant material and solvent in an extraction vessel.
- **Extraction Process:** The vessel is subjected to microwave irradiation, rapidly heating the solvent and plant matrix for a specified time (usually a few minutes).
- **Filtration and Concentration:** After extraction, the solvent is filtered to separate the plant residue. The solvent may then be evaporated or further processed to concentrate the extract.

#### 5. Supercritical Fluid Extraction (SFE)

SFE uses supercritical fluids, typically carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), to extract non-polar compounds, offering selectivity, rapid extraction times, and minimal solvent residue. SFE is particularly effective for extracting lipophilic compounds such as essential oils and lipids coriander, and CO<sub>2</sub>'s non-toxic and non-flammable nature makes it an environmentally friendly choice. However, SFE requires specialized equipment and may have limited effectiveness for polar compounds unless co-solvents are used.

#### Procedure of Supercritical Fluid Extraction

- **Preparation:** The plant material is dried and ground to increase the extraction surface area.
- **Supercritical Setup:** The material is placed in an extraction chamber, and CO<sub>2</sub> is pumped under high pressure, becoming supercritical in state.
- **Extraction Process:** Supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> passes through the plant matrix, dissolving target compounds. The CO<sub>2</sub> and extracted compounds then flow into a separation chamber, where CO<sub>2</sub> is depressurized back to its gaseous state.
- **Collection and Recovery:** As CO<sub>2</sub> becomes a gas again, it releases the extracted compounds, which can then be collected. The CO<sub>2</sub> can be recycled for additional extractions, making the process environmentally efficient.

#### 6. Hydro distillation

Commonly used for extracting essential oils, hydrodistillation involves passing steam through the plant material to vaporize volatile compounds, which are then condensed and collected. Although efficient for isolating essential oils, hydrodistillation is limited in extracting non-volatile bioactive compounds. For Cymbopogon Citratus, hydrodistillation has been used to extract essential oils from seeds and leaves, though it may not be ideal for other bioactive.

**Preparation:** Plant material is often dried and sometimes chopped or ground to improve extraction efficiency.

**Loading:** The plant material is loaded into a distillation chamber with either water or directly exposed to steam, depending on the specific method.

**Heating and Extraction:** The chamber is heated, releasing essential oils and volatile compounds as steam.

**Condensation and Separation:** The vaporized essential oils and water pass through a condenser, turning into a liquid that collects in a separator. Since essential oils are typically immiscible with water, they form a separate layer that can be easily isolated.

### Isolation and Separation Techniques

Once the compounds are extracted, further isolation and separation are required to purify specific bioactive compounds. Techniques used for *Moringa oleifera* include chromatography, electrophoresis, and other advanced methods, each with varying degrees of specificity and resolution.

**1. Chromatography:** Chromatography techniques, including thin-layer chromatography (TLC), high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC), and gas chromatography (GC), are widely used for separating and purifying bioactive compounds. HPLC is particularly effective in isolating *Moringa* compounds due to its high resolution and versatility in separating different types of compounds based on polarity and molecular weight. TLC is often used for initial screening and rapid qualitative analysis, while GC is suitable for volatile compounds such as essential oils. Chromatographic methods have been widely applied in isolating citral, geraniol, isogeraniol and citronellol from *Cymbopogon* extracts.

**2. Electrophoresis:** Electrophoretic techniques, such as capillary electrophoresis (CE), offer high-resolution separation based on the charge-to-size ratio of molecules. Capillary electrophoresis is suitable for analyzing *Cymbopogon* smaller bioactive compounds and offers rapid analysis with minimal sample and solvent requirements. However, it may be less effective for larger, non-ionic compounds, limiting its application for certain *Cymbopogon* constituents.

**3. Liquid-Liquid Extraction (LLE):** LLE separates compounds based on their solubility in different solvents. It is a simple yet effective technique for fractionating coriander extracts into polar and non-polar components. LLE has been used as a preliminary separation step before further purification, particularly for isolating hydrophilic and lipophilic compounds in Coriander extracts.

**4. Preparative HPLC:** This technique is an advanced form of HPLC used to isolate large quantities of purified compounds for further study or application. Preparative HPLC has proven effective in isolating Coriander *Citrus* bioactive constituents with high purity, though it requires sophisticated equipment and expertise.

### III. CONCLUSION

There is a growing interest in the application of the essential oil of Coriander in the food system. The oil contains many phytoconstituents such as linalool, camphor, limonene. Many studies have confirmed that coriander essential oil may serve as a natural meat preservative offering protection against various microorganisms, increasing shelf-life of the product, and ensuring its quality. Before industrial application in the meat industry, further research is necessary to explore the efficiency of suitable concentrations of the oil. Additionally, the use of lemongrass oil opens new perspectives to the management of storage fungi, which not only deteriorate the quality of food but also may cause food-borne diseases. In general, coriander essential oil is a promising plant product for preserving stored foodstuffs replacing synthetic additives which are associated with various adverse human health effects. Its application in stored food products may be a good solution in remote rural areas which still have no possibility to use modern storage system.

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