

# Comparison of Volatile Compounds Profile and Antioxydant Activity of *Allium sativum* Essential Oils Extracted using Hydrodistillation, Ultrasound-Assisted and Sono-Hydrodistillation Processes

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## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** This work aims to evaluate the impact of the use of ultrasound during essential oils extraction from garlic bulbs. **Material and methods:** The essential oils were extracted by Conventional Hydrodistillation method (HD), Ultrasound-Assisted hydro-distillation (US-HD) and Sono-hydrodistillation (SHD) and compared using yield profile, chemical composition and antioxidant activity. **Results:** Higher performances were obtained when the direct application of ultrasound were used. Indeed, SHD allowed a higher yield after only 30 min of extraction time against 70 min and 90 min for the US-HD and the HD respectively. Among the total identified compounds by GC/MS, Sulphur compounds were found to be the most abundant with qualitative similarities for the three processes. Essential oils showed a potential DPPH radical scavenging activity with IC50 values of 0.96, 1.17 and 1.23 respectively for the three HD, US-HD and SHD processes. **Conclusion:** The use of ultrasound for the extraction of essential oil from garlic reduced extraction time without causing significant changes in volatile composition and antioxidant activity.

**Keywords:** Garlic essential oil, GC-MS, Antioxidant activity, Hydrodistillation, Ultrasound.

## INTRODUCTION

Garlic (*Allium sativum* L.) is considered as one of the twenty most important vegetables, with various uses throughout the world, either as a raw vegetable for culinary purposes, or as an ingredient of traditional and modern medicine. Furthermore, it has also been proposed as one of the richest sources of total phenolic compounds, among the usually consumed vegetables, and has been highly ranked regarding its contribution of phenolic compounds to human diet.<sup>1</sup> Garlic is a particularly rich source of organosulfur compounds that are partly responsible for the beneficial effects of garlic on health and allicin is a reactive sulfur species (RSS).<sup>2,3,4</sup>

Garlic essential oil which concentrates the bioactive components, presents also properties such as antibacterial, antifungal and antioxidant.<sup>5,6</sup> The quality and concentration of the targeted compounds can be substantially affected by the applied extraction method. Although conventional methods are most commonly used to extract essential oil from plants, they have some shortcomings, such as the difficulty to control the heat transfer throughout the process and the extensive extraction time. Moreover, many natural products are thermally unstable and can damage during thermal extraction. With growing a flavour and fragrance

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industry and the increasing demand for more natural products, the need for novel extraction methods has become more intense.<sup>7</sup> The extraction of essential oils using the ultrasonic assisted procedure has been recommended by several authors as one of the most efficient extraction system by allowing greater penetration of the solvent into the matrix of plant material under the cavitation effect thus facilitating the release of extractable compounds and reducing the extraction time.<sup>8</sup> This work describes a comparative study, in term of quality and antioxidant activity of the essential oils of garlic bulbs extracted by conventional hydrodistillation and new innovative processes using ultrasound technology.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Chemicals and plant material:** *A. sativum* plants were harvested from plains in the east of Algeria in June 2014. Butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA) and 2,2-Diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) were purchased from Sigma Aldrich (St. louis, Mo, USA). All other chemicals were of analytical reagent grade.

**Extraction procedures:** The essential oils were extracted by the conventional method and new innovative processes, as shown in Figure 1. The collected essential oils were dried with anhydrous sodium sulphate and stored in dark-sealed-vial at 4°C until analysis. All extractions were performed at least three times.

**Hydrodistillation (HD) procedure:** About 200g of fresh bulbs were crushed with 100 ml of deionized water for 2 min using a commercial blender. The obtained mixture was then diluted to final volume of 2L with deionized water and subjected to hydrodistillation in a Clevenger-type apparatus (recommended by pharmacopeia, Figure 1.a) until no more essential oil was obtained.

**Ultrasound-assisted hydrodistillation (US-HD):** Ultrasonic assisted extraction was performed using the Heilscher UP200Ht ultrasonic processor operating at 200W, 26 kHz (Figure 1b).The garlic bulbs prepared

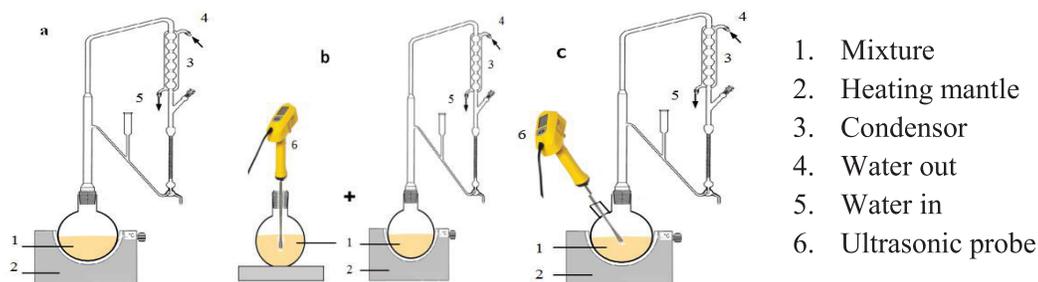
under the same conditions described above were sonicated at 60% amplitude, continuously for 20 minutes. After then, the mixture was subjected to a conventional hydrodistillation.

**Sono-hydrodistillation (SHD) :** In this method, extraction of the essential oil from the garlic was carried out using the modified Clevenger apparatus described by Pingret *et al.*<sup>9</sup> (Figure 1c). The ultrasonic probe was introduced into the second neck of the boiling flask containing the garlic bulbs, in order to release the ultrasonic waves directly into the matrix. The ultrasonic titanium probe system (UP200Ht operating at 26 kHz and 200 W) was maintained at amplitude of 60%, discontinuously at a range of 3 min.

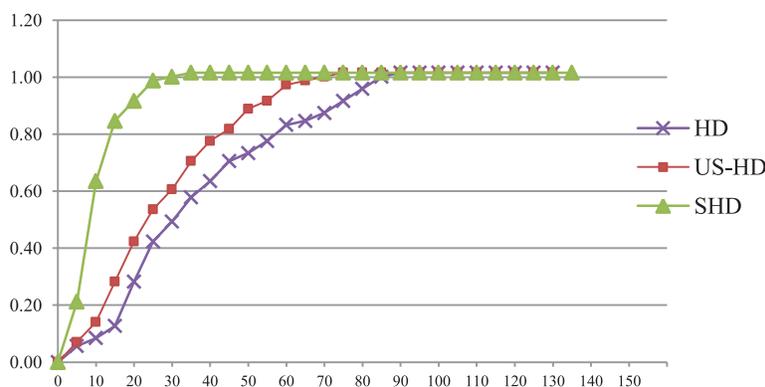
**Gas chromatography- mass spectrometry (GC/MS) analysis:** The extracted essential oil was analyzed using GCMS-QP5050A (Shimadzu, Japan) equipped with a FID detector and a capillary column SE30 (polydimethylsiloxane, 50 m× 0.25 mm, film thickness 0.25 µm). The injector and the detector temperatures were set at 250°C and 280°C, respectively. 1µl of sample was injected manually with helium (the flow rate of 1.2 ml / min) as carrier gas. The oven of temperature was initially kept at 50°C for 8 min and then gradually increased by 3 min to 250°C and held at 280°C for 15 min.

The identification of the volatile compounds was performed by comparing the mass spectra with the spectra available in the Nist library. Confirmation of identification was made with reference to theretention indices calculated for all components using a homologous series of n-alkanes (C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>28</sub>) injected under the same conditions as the samples.

**Free radical- scavenging activity:** The DPPH radical-scavenging activity of the essential oil was measured using the method described by Brand-Williams *et al.*<sup>10</sup> The absorbance was measured at 517 nm using the UV-Visible spectrophotometer. BHA was used as positive control. All tests were carried out in triplicate. Inhibi-



**Figure 1a: Conventional Hydrodistillation, b: Ultrasound-assisted Hydrodistillation, c: Sono-Hydrodistillation.**



**Figure 2: Yield profile of essential oil from fresh garlic bulbs obtained via different methods.**

tions of DPPH radical in percent (%) were calculated by the formula:

$$\text{Inhibitions of DPPH activity} = \left[ \frac{(A_0 - A_s)}{A_0} \right] \times 100$$

Where  $A_0$  is the absorbance of the control sample (without antioxidant) and  $A_s$  is the absorbance of the sample. The concentration of antioxidant at which 50% of the reaction was inhibited ( $IC_{50}$ ) was determined from the graph plotting inhibition percentage against concentrations of the sample.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Extraction yield and chemical composition:** The essential oils of the garlic bulbs extracted by the different methods were compared using yield profile, chemical composition and antioxidant activity. Figure 2, presenting the yield profiles, shows that a final yield of 1.02 (g/100g Garlic bulbs) was obtained for the all three extraction processes (HD, US-HD, SHD) with significant differences in extraction time. SHD allowed a higher yield after only 30 min of extraction time against 70 min and 90 min for the US-HD and HD respectively. These results confirm the results of the literature, which indicate the high efficiency of ultrasound use in extraction of various plant materials.<sup>7</sup> The essential oils obtained from each experiment, had common organoleptic properties. They had a mobile liquid appearance, a yellow color and a powerful and pungent odor. Table 1 shows high content of polysulfides for the three processes. Although, the comparison of isolated essential oils clearly showed a similarity on a qualitative basis, their quantities vary more or less depending on the extraction technique used. In the SHD and US-HD processes, the percentage of some abundant constituents such as diallyl disulfide, diallyl trisulfide is lower than in HD, which

suggests that the use of coupled or assisted ultrasound may affect slightly the contents of some components.

**Antioxidant activity :** In the DPPH test, the antioxidants were able to reduce the stable, purple-coloured radical, DPPH, to the yellow- diphenylpicrylhydrazine. The antioxidant has the capacity to act as donors of hydrogen atoms in the transformation of the DPPH radical into its reduced form DPPH-H.<sup>11</sup> The Table 2, presents the free radical-scavenging of the essential oils. Lower  $IC_{50}$  values indicates higher antioxidant activity. All extracted essential oils showed the strongest radical scavenging effect with  $IC_{50}$  values of 0.96, 1.17 and 1.23 respectively for the three HD, US-HD and SHD processes. This remarkable antioxidant activity is partly due to the sulfur components, which represent the main constituents of these essential oils.<sup>3</sup> However, a slight decrease in scanning activity is observed for both methods using ultrasound, which is explained by the slight degradation of certain components such as *di et tri* sulfides. Studies on the antioxidant activity of garlic revealed that this activity is attributed in particular to Diallyl polysulfides.<sup>4</sup> It is important to note that although ultrasound has been shown to be effective in adapting conventional apparatuses as cited in some studies,<sup>12,9</sup> some researchers have reported changes in organoleptic characteristics.<sup>13,14</sup> Others described the degradation of antioxidants in food products when sonication is applied.<sup>14</sup> From these observations it can be said that ultrasound has contributed effectively to the acceleration of the extraction process without leading to a remarkable degradation of both the quality and the antioxidant activity of the essential oil.

## CONCLUSION

The present work indicates that extraction of the essential oil from garlic by sono-hydrodistillation provides

**Table 1: Chemical composition of garlic essential oils obtained via the different methods**

Compounds <sup>a</sup>	RI <sup>b</sup>	HD(%)	US-HD(%)	SHD(%)
Propylenesulfide	642	0.03	0.02	0.03
MethylallylSulfide	685	0.39	0.16	0.14
Dimethyldisulfide	778	0.41	0.5	0.89
Diallyl sulfide	784	3.5	2.1	2.73
Thiophene, 2,4 dimethyl	874	0.02	0.03	0.04
1.3Dithiane	890	0.14	0.15	0.05
Methyl allyl ,disulfide	918	1.19	1.22	1.28
Dimethyl trisulfide	947	0.32	0.58	0.23
Diallyl disulfide	1111	38.37	36.26	33.35
Methyl allyl trisulfide	1116	8.2	8.67	11.67
3-Vinyl-3,6- dihydro -1,2- dithiine	1176	1.14	1.25	1.22
3-Vinyl-3,4- dihydro -1,2- dithiine	1201	2.02	2.06	2.02
Diallyl trisulfide	1207	29.96	26.37	23.5
Diallyltetrasulphide	1481	1.78	1.56	1.59
<b>Yield (g oil/100g of Garlic bulbs)</b>		1.02	1.02	1.02
<b>Extraction time</b>		90	70	30

<sup>a</sup> Compounds are listed in order of their elution from the SE<sub>30</sub> column.

<sup>b</sup> retention indices relative to *n*-alkanes (C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>) calculated on SE<sub>30</sub> column.

**Table 2: Antioxidant activity of garlic essential oils obtained via different methods**

Essential Oils	DPPH Inhibition (%)					
	1 mg/mL	3 mg/mL	6 mg/mL	9 mg/mL	12 mg/mL	IC <sub>50</sub> *
HD	51.1 ± 1,12	54.4 ± 0,39	59.5 ± 0,61	64.4 ± 0,67	75 ± 0.49	0.96
US-HD	51.23 ± 0.66	53.05 ± 0.5	59.77 ± 1.21	64.55 ± 0.73	75.21 ± 0.65	1.176
SHD	50.74 ± 0.83	53.23 ± 0.36	59.36 ± 1.03	64.2 ± 0.9	74.2 ± 0.8	1.234
	<b>0.02 mg/mL</b>	<b>0.04mg/ml</b>	<b>0.06mg/mL</b>	<b>0.08 mg/mL</b>	<b>0.10 mg/mL</b>	
BHA	45.33 ± 0.88	59.77 ± 0.39	82.28 ± 0.79	91.69 ± 0.26	93.89 ± 0.68	0.022

IC<sub>50</sub> \*: concentration (mg/ml) for a 50% inhibition

yields comparable to those obtained by conventional hydrodistillation but with reduced extraction times and without notable differences in quality and antioxidant activity.

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors have no conflict of interest.

## ABBREVIATIONS USED

DPPH: 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl; BHA: Butylated hydroxyanisole, IC<sub>50</sub>: concentration (mg/ml) for a 50%

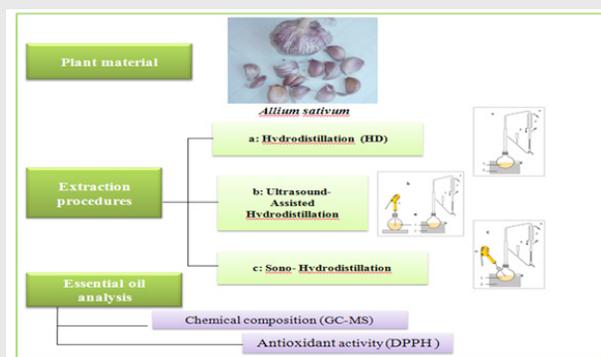
inhibition; HD: Hydrodistillation; US-HD: Ultrasound-assisted Hydrodistillation; SHD: Sono- Hydrodistillation.

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## PICTORIAL ABSTRACT



## SUMMARY

- This study reports the impact of the use of ultrasound during essential oils extraction from garlic bulbs.
- The Sono Hydrodistillation method provides a yield comparable to those obtained by conventional hydrodistillation.
- Direct use of ultrasound significantly reduces the time extraction without notable differences in quality and antioxidant activity.
- The Sono Hydrodistillation extraction can be considered a novel technique.

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