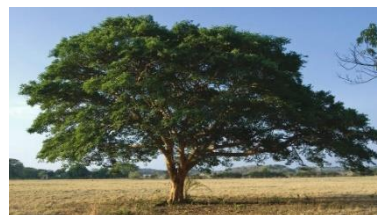
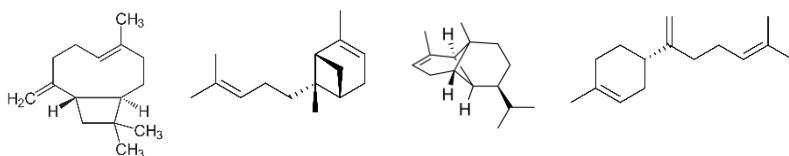


Copaiba Oil

Copaiba balsam is an oil-resin extracted from a tree native to Central and South America (*Copaifera langsdorffii*). The tree is also called “diesel tree” because its oil is also used as biodiesel. The sap is drained from the trunk of the tree with the help of a tube, after which the balsam is further processed by distillation to obtain the Copaiba oil. Its color varies from light gold to dark brown depending on the ratio of the resin and volatile compounds.



The oil's main constituents are sesquiterpene hydrocarbons ($C_{15}H_{24}$): β -caryophyllene, α -bergamotene, α -copaene and β -bisabolene. There are also diterpenes present, and both substance families render anti-inflammatory and antiseptic effect to the oil.



Health effects:

- anti-inflammatory
- anti-septic
- pain relief
- wound healing
- anti-infective (particularly against bladder infection and urinary-tract infections)
- anti-parasitic (proven against the parasite *Leishmania*)
- neuroprotective¹
- anti-cancer (promising early results with several strains of cancer cells)²
- against tendonitis³

Safety:

Copaiba oil has an acute oral and dermal LD₅₀ of more than 5 g/kg therefore it is considered non-toxic and safe to use.

Applications:

The oil is used by both the pharmaceutical and fragrance industry as food additive and in soaps and perfumes.

When used as essential oil the recommended dilution is 10-15 drops in 100 mL carrier liquid (eg. oil, honey, cream).

¹ <http://www.jornalbeiradorio.ufpa.br/novo/index.php/2012/137-edicao-105--junho-e-julho/1357-copaiba-tem-efeito-neuroprotetor->

² https://www.unicamp.br/unicamp/unicamp_hoje/jornalPDF/213-pag05.pdf

³ http://www.scielo.br/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0103-51502017000300443&lng=en&tlng=en