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Effect of the harvesting time on chemical composition, bioactivity and yields of essential oils of *vitex agnus castus* in Chefchaouen region (North of Morocco)

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The chemical composition and the antifungal activity of the essential oils of *vitex agnus castus*, the plant which has been collected from the northern region of the Morocco in Chefchaouen were studied. The essential oils were obtained by hydrodistillation using Clevenger-type apparatus for 3 hours. The obtained results showed a yield of 0.5%, 0.49% and 0.37% according to three periods of harvest during the seasons June, November and January respectively. The chemical composition of the essential oils of the aerial parts were analyzed by GC and GC/MS systems, simultaneously. The chromatographic analysis identified the volatile compounds that are major where were Sabinene, 1,8-cineol and (Z)-farnesene. In the present study the results of essential oils of *Vitex agnus castus* against seven microorganisms were obtained and revealed a significant antifungal activity.

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