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## Chemical composition of *Rhododendron dauricum* (*Dahurian rosebay*) essential oil from Pribaikal'e

© Daniil N. Olennikov,<sup>1\*</sup> Lubov' V. Dudareva,<sup>2</sup>  
Semyon N. Osipenko,<sup>3</sup> and Tat'yana A. Penzina<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Laboratory of medical and biological research. Department of biologically active substances. Institute of general and experimental biology. Siberian division of Russian Academy of Sciences.

Sakh'yanovoi St., 6. Ulan-Ude, 670047. Russia.

Phone: +7 (3012) 43-43-63. E-mail: oldaniil@rambler.ru. Fax: +7 (3012) 43-34-30.

<sup>2</sup> Laboratory of physicochemical research methods. Siberian institute of plant physiology and biochemistry.

Siberian division of Russian Academy of Sciences. Lermontova St., 132. Irkutsk-33, 664033. Russia.

Phone: +7 (3952) 42-67-21. E-mail: laser@sifibr.irk.ru. Fax: +7 (3952) 51-07-54.

<sup>3</sup> Laboratory of plant physiological genetics. Siberian institute of plant physiology and biochemistry. Siberian division. Russian Academy of Sciences. Lermontova St., 132. Irkutsk-33, 664033. Russia.

Phone: +7 (3952) 42-67-21. Fax: +7 (3952) 51-07-54.

<sup>4</sup> Greenhouse group. Siberian institute of plant physiology and biochemistry. Siberian division of Russian Academy of Sciences. Lermontova St., 132. Irkutsk-33, 664033. Russia.

Phone: +7 (3952) 42-67-21. E-mail: penzina@sifibr.irk.ru. Fax: +7 (3952) 51-07-54.

\*Supervising author; <sup>+</sup>Corresponding author

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### Abstract

The essential oils from eight samples of leaves of *Rhododendron dauricum* from Baikal Lake water area and Irkutsk region, Pribaikal'e, have been isolated by hydrodistillation and analyzed by a combination of GC and GC/MS. Compounds representing 71.4-99.5% of the oils were identified. Forty-eight compounds were identified according to their chromatographic retention indices and mass spectra. The major components of the oils were  $\alpha$ -humulene (19.2-43.9%),  $\beta$ -caryophyllene (6.5-24.5%), caryophyllene oxide (3.9-11.3%), humulene oxide (2.2-11.7%) and bornyl acetate (2.1-9.5%). It has been found that the chemical composition of *Rh. dauricum* essential oil depends on the altitude of the growing plants and a level of environmental pollution.