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The Science Behind Cymbopogon citratus: A Detailed Review

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ABSTRACT

Cymbopogon citratus, commonly designated as lemongrass, constitutes an herbaceous plant categorized within the Gramineae family. This designation of "lemon" arises from its distinctive lemon-like aroma, which is attributable to the presence of citral, a cyclic monoterpene. Indigenous tall-flowering aromatic species within the Poaceae family, commonly referred to as lemongrass, are cultivated across a variety of regions in both tropical and subtropical climates throughout Africa and Southeast Asia. In the Indian subcontinent, Cymbopogon citratus is represented by several varieties that are cultivated in warm, temperate, and humid environments at altitudes not exceeding 750 meters above sea level. Optimal growth conditions are characterized by annual temperatures ranging from 23°C to 30°C, alongside an annual precipitation of approximately 2500-3000 millimeters, which facilitates the ideal development of Cymbopogon citratus. As an herb, lemongrass is employed for its leaves and essential oil in the management of various medical conditions, including bowel spasms, chest pain, hypertension, epilepsy, dysentery, respiratory infections, rheumatism, influenza, common colds, and fatigue in traditional medicinal practices. The chemical composition of the essential oils serves as a distinctive biomarker for the plant, akin to unique fingerprints, as it mirrors the physiological state of the organism. The present review elucidates the comprehensive characteristics and applications of Cymbopogon citratus. The extracted oil is regarded as appropriate for incorporation into soaps, fragrances, and cleaning agents. Furthermore, it encompasses a multitude of therapeutic applications. Lemongrass is acknowledged to possess a wide spectrum of ethnopharmacological uses. In addition to being an abundant source of essential nutrients, such as lipids, proteins, dietary fibers, and minerals, lemongrass also harbors bioactive compounds that can be classified into terpenoids, tannins, saponins, flavonoids, and phenolic entities.

Keywords:- lemongrass, citral, spasms, hypertension, ethnopharmacological

1. INTRODUCTION

Cymbopogon citratus, widely recognized as lemongrass, constitutes an aromatic perennial sedge predominantly cultivated across numerous tropical and subtropical regions of Southeast Asia and Africa. This species is particularly prevalent in the Indian states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and the Western Ghats, encompassing Maharashtra and Kerala, in addition to the foothills of Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh within the Indian subcontinent. The discovery of this species in India occurred over a century ago, and it has since achieved widespread utilization throughout the region. Lemongrass is characterized as a robust and elevated sedge, producing a compact rhizome that is densely clustered in thick bundles. The aerial portion of the plant exhibits an upright and vigorous growth form, reaching heights of up to 1.8 meters. The leaf blades are elongated, displaying a grass-green coloration, and are flat with margins oriented both upwards and laterally; the ligule is relatively diminutive, while the sheaths are slender and rounded; the basal sheaths are broader and fit closely, whereas the sheaths associated with the non-flowering shoots are sturdy and distinctly separated. This species is esteemed as a significant flowering plant that thrives under short-day conditions typical of Southern India. The inflorescence manifests as a spike capable of extending to approximately one meter in length. The flowers are produced on decompound spathulate panicles that exhibit lengths ranging from 30 to over 60 centimeters.

The genus *Cymbopogon*, often known as lemongrass, includes over 50 native grass species from tropical Asia and Southern India. Ornamental *Cymbopogon citratus* (lemongrass) is the most recognized cultivated species, widely utilized in Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Thai culinary practices. The herb with a lemon scent enriches the taste profile of curries, soups, teas, and different drinks. Aside from its culinary uses, lemongrass oil is utilized in diverse areas such as Ayurvedic medicine, aromatherapy, cosmetics, and the perfume industry. A key feature of lemongrass is its high citrus content in the oil, giving it a strong lemon aroma.

The olfactory properties of the oil facilitate its incorporation into soaps, detergents, and other consumer products. Additionally, the unprocessed material utilized in the synthesis of ionone, which is subsequently used in the formulation of vitamin A, is derived from lemongrass³. This plant encompasses multiple bioactive compounds that confer medicinal properties. Substantial evidence exists regarding its ethnopharmacological applications. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), herbal medicine is recognized as a vital component of the healthcare sector by over 66% of the population in developing nations⁴. Asthma is characterized as a persistent inflammatory condition, marked by airway hyperresponsiveness to various stimuli, predominantly of allergic origin, accompanied by reversible airflow obstruction. The most significant clinical manifestations of asthma include wheezing, dyspnea, and coughing; these symptoms may exacerbate during nocturnal hours, leading to disruptions in the affected individual's sleep⁵.

▪ Scientific Classification of *Cymbopogon citratus*

Cymbopogon species belongs to:

Kingdom	Plantae (plants)
Order	Poales (grasses, sedges, and allies)
Family	Poaceae (true grasses)
Subfamily	Panicoideae (a major lineage of grasses)
Tribe	Andropogoneae (tropical and subtropical grasses)
Subtribe	Andropogoninae (includes aromatic and medicinal grasses)



Fig. 1. Lemongrass plant (Inflorescence, leaf, root and stem)

▪ Botanical description

We are all familiar with lemongrass as a type of plant that comes from the grass family. It has a cluster growth form with short rhizomes, reaching a height of 6 ft (1.8 m) and 4ft (1.2 m) wide. The details related the family of its classification are explained in taxonomy of lemongrass while the anatomical parts of the plant are shown in Figure 1 below.

➤ Inflorescence

The entire inflorescence is 30-60 cm long. Other spikes in the inflorescence are developed but has been plash.

➤ Flowers

Lemongrass constitutes a specific cultivar and generally does not yield floral structures or inflorescent panicles⁶.

➤ Leaves

The bands that look like foliage are about 3 feet in width and droop at the tips. Dimensions of the leaves vary from 0.5 to 1 inch in length. The bluish-green foliage is evergreen and has a citrus fragrance when crushed⁷.

Leaf Form	Most of the leaves emerge directly from the substrate without a stem
Leaf margin	Entire
Leaf shape	Linear
Leaf venation	parallel,
Leaf type and persistence	Fragrant
Leaf blade length	18-36 inches
Leaf color	Green
Fall characteristic	conspicuously showy

2. HISTORY OF CYMBOPOGON CITRATUS

Cymbopogon citratus is a perennial botanical species that thrives in subtropical and tropical regions. It has two species: West Indian *Cymbopogon citratus* and East Indian *Cymbopogon flexuosus*. The former is cultivated extensively worldwide⁸, with the first exports of citronella oil from the Philippines in the 17th century. Lemongrasses are used in herbal tea production, soft drinks, foodstuffs, and confectionery. The oil is applied in perfumery and cosmetic compositions, while citronella oil is used in industrial applications⁹. Lemongrass has insect-repelling and carminative properties, while West Indian lemongrass essential oils have potent antimicrobial activity¹⁰. East Indian lemongrass volatile oils have marked antifungal activity, although some genotoxic and pesticide features have been observed. Lemongrass is a safe botanical extract/essential oil for human use and versatile, producing excellent herbal tea and being used in cooking as an antibiotic and weed barrier. It grows quickly and is tolerant of drought¹¹.

3. TRADITIONAL USES OF CYMBOPOGON CITRATUS

Currently, numerous people use phytotherapeutic drugs as integral parts of traditional medicines to cure many health disorders¹²⁻¹⁴. It has been observed that the application of traditional medicines enhances the living standard and health situations among peasant farmers in developing countries^{15,16}. *Cymbopogon citratus*, which is commonly referred as lemongrass, is one of the most widely applied medicinal plants by many people across the world¹⁷⁻¹⁹. The therapeutic uses of this species have considerable variation based on numerous factors, which include the nature of the disease for which they are used, the plant components used, and the cultural areas of the populations that use them. The whole traditional use of this plant is based on its rich content of bioactive compounds believed to have health benefits in *C. citratus*^{20,21}.

In the African setting, economic poverty forces communities to rely on traditional medicine. The uses of *C. citratus* and its extracts vary with region where they play a practical medicinal function in northern, western, southern, and eastern Africa²²⁻²⁴. The western region of Africa, the plant, with all of its parts, is used by people of Ethiopia as an antidote for gastrointestinal discomfort²⁵⁻²⁶. They are commonly administered with the ground fragments, mainly the roots, orally to patients suffering from digestive diseases²⁷. In North Africa, this species is primarily utilized by Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia's indigenous people in their folk medicine²⁸⁻³¹. In fact, locally reported documents from some Moroccan tribes indicate that *C. citratus* has been employed to treat bacterial

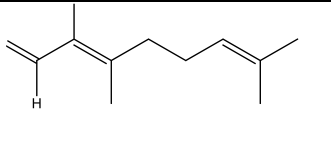
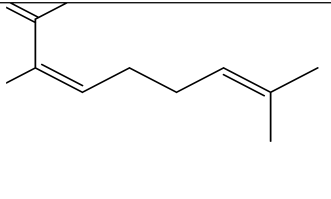
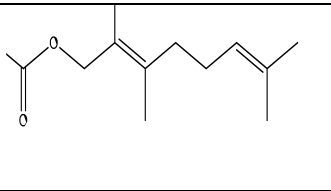
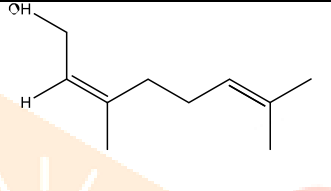
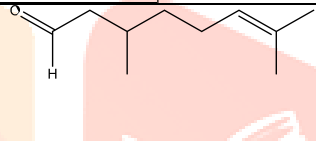
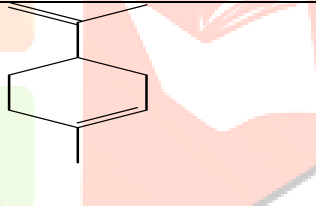
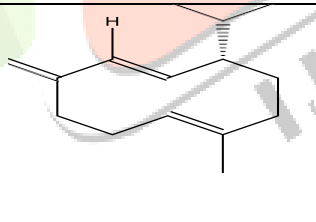
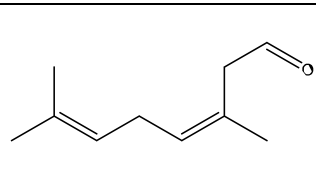
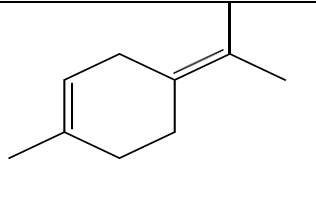
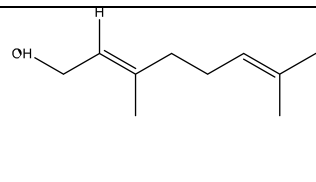
infection cases³². In Tunisia, infusions and extracts of *Cymbopogon citratus* are used by residents. *Citratus* as an antidote against diuretic problems and gastrointestinal disorders³³. In Egypt, Madi et al. have documented the application of essential oils isolated from *Cymbopogon citratus* as an agent possessing anticholinesterase activity. In Southern Africa, *C. citratus* has been extensively used by traditional communities for the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders, pyrexia, and cephalalgia. In Western Africa, specimens of *C. citratus* that originated in Nigeria have been known to act as antispasmodic³⁴, while Akono Ntonga et al.³⁵ recorded the use of essential oils, extracts, and infusions of *Cymbopogon citratus* in malaria and febrile condition treatment in Cameroon.

Several Asian studies have identified local populations' use of *C. citratus* for medicinal purposes^{36,37}. For example, the Chinese people have used *Cymbopogon citratus* as an anxiolytic preparation dating back to ancient times³⁸⁻⁴⁰. Infusion prepared from dried leaves is the most commonly used form of this drug among the Chinese population⁴¹. The Indonesian population has also described hot-water extracts from the whole plant for aiding emmenagogue activity in orally administered drugs⁴²⁻⁴⁴. Another study reports the use of the aerial parts of *Cymbopogon citratus* in Pakistan, it addressed disinfectant requirements beside its use in the treatment of ailments such as stomachic disorders, diuretic needs, rheumatism, and malaria⁴⁵.

4. PHYTOCHEMISTRY OF CYMBOPOGON CITRATUS

Citral, geranial, and neral constitute approximately 75% of the aldehydes derived from the essential oil of lemongrass. These compounds are pivotal in contributing to the olfactory characteristics of the plant, thereby facilitating its application in aromatherapy interventions. A plethora of researchers have successfully isolated various chemical constituents from distinct anatomical parts of lemongrass. A specific subset of these compounds includes citral α , citral β , nerol, geraniol, citronellal, terpinolene, geranyl acetate, myrcene, and terpinol methylheptenone. Additionally, two triterpenoids, identified as cymbopogone and cymbopogonol, along with flavonoids such as luteolin and its 6-C-glucoside, have been extracted from the foliage of *Cymbopogon citratus*. The therapeutic attributes of this plant encompass a range of effects: it is recognized as carminative, fungicidal, analgesic, antiseptic, astringent, and bactericidal, while also exhibiting properties that may mitigate psychological conditions. Moreover, it holds potential for the management of dermatophytic infections, including conditions such as ringworm and athlete's foot, attributable to its inherent antibiotic and antiseptic properties. Empirical evidence supports its significant inhibitory activity against methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* infections. Furthermore, it has been suggested for the treatment of colitis, dyspepsia, and gastroenteritis. It alleviates symptoms associated with headaches, myalgia, nervous fatigue, and stress-related disorders. Its infusions are frequently employed in the therapeutic management of infections such as sore throats, laryngitis, and bronchitis.

Recent scholarly studies have confirmed that the antioxidant activity of plant-based foods is mainly contributed by polyphenols, flavonoids, lignins, alkaloids, terpenoids, carotenoids, vitamins, and other ingredients. These factors delay degradation and extend shelf life, thereby maintaining nutritional quality, since they inhibit lipid oxidation while reducing rancidity as well as eliminating deleterious oxidative by-products⁵⁰⁻⁵³. Similarly, phenolic compounds are integral to the functionality of antioxidant mechanisms as well as providing a defense against pest resistance and the propagation of various species. Moreover, phenolic compounds are pivotal in the neutralization of reactive oxygen species (ROS), which encompass hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂), superoxide anion (O₂⁻), and free radicals produced during metabolic activities within the organism, thereby facilitating the alleviation of oxidative stress⁵⁴. Because of their high reactivity, ROS are known to cause damage to biochemical components such as cell membranes, cellular lipids, proteins, and DNA⁵⁵. These reactive species represent critical factors in the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, muscular degeneration, cataracts, a range of neurological disorders, malignancies, and the senescence process. Consequently, the presence of antioxidants within the organism is imperative to establish a defensive mechanism against the deleterious consequences of oxidative processes initiated by these free radicals. The antioxidant effectiveness of lemongrass essential oil grown in the northern Indian plains is assessed using the DPPH assay, Nitric Oxide assay, reducing power assay, and β -carotene bleaching assay. The authors reported that the IC₅₀ values for the DPPH and NO scavenging assays were established at 0.5 mg/ml and 2 mg/ml, respectively. The reducing capacity produced positive results, shown by a rise in absorbance related to the growing concentration of the oil. In the β -carotene bleaching test, an initial bleaching of 84.1% was noted during the first hour, falling to 46.8% by the end of the second hour. In every experimental procedure, BHT and Gallic acid were used as standard reference comparisons.

Citral	
Neral	
Geranyl acetate	
Nerol	
Citronellal	
Limonene	
Germacrene-D	
Isoneral	
Terpinolene	
Geraniol	

5. THERAPEUTIC PROPERTIES OF CYMBOPOGON CITRATUS

Traditionally, *Cymbopogon citratus* has been utilized for addressing various medical conditions. Its efficacy stems from the broad variety of secondary compounds that it produces. It was utilized in the treatment of fever, cough, elephantiasis, leprosy, malaria, and gastrointestinal illnesses among various other issues. The use of lemongrass within Ayurvedic practices is still relevant today due to its recognized therapeutic benefits.

At times, traditional medicine presents a fairly extensive array of unwanted side effects.

As a result, phytotherapy has emerged as the most favored alternative to synthetic pharmaceutical agents. In this context, this herbaceous species could hold considerable value in the pharmaceutical industry⁵⁷⁻⁶⁰.

Para ilmuwan Indonesia telah melakukan penelitian dan membuktikan kemampuan dari komponen utama minyak "Sereh Wangi", yang di Indonesia juga disebut serai, yaitu β -sitronelol dalam secara signifikan mengurangi total berat badan tikus yang diberi diet tinggi lemak.

The sympathetic nerve activities in the experimental subjects, triggered by β -citronellol vapor, enhanced metabolic activity in adipose tissue, promoting weight loss. These results are crucial as β -citronellol causes a decrease in body weight without negative impacts on the levels and performance of liver enzymes⁶¹. Losing weight is just one of the many benefits linked to citronella grass. Keeping up with oral hygiene is a crucial aspect of daily life for overall wellness. The accumulation of dental plaque leads to gingivitis and periodontitis, both identified as pathological conditions related to oral health. Several studies have indicated that these dental cavities elevate the risk of cardiovascular diseases and ischemic stroke. Lemongrass has demonstrated opposing effects on both planktonic and biofilm states of *Candida dubliniensis*, a prevalent oral infection. Citronella grass can additionally be used in the production of herbal medicinal products aimed at promoting oral health⁶²⁻⁶⁵.

Hyperlipidaemia, hypercholesterolaemia, and hyperglycemia are additional medical diseases that contribute to metabolic illnesses such as diabetes mellitus and obesity. Lemongrass has been shown to have hypoglycemic, hypolipidemic, and hypocholesteremic effects. Reports showing a decrease in very low-density lipoproteins and plasma cholesterol, which are closely linked to cardiovascular diseases, showed that plant extracts were helpful. Hypoglycemia state in rats was induced after 42-day treatment with the use of lemongrass extracts at a dose of 500 mg/kg/day, though the mechanism is not well understood⁶⁶⁻⁶⁸. Moreover, several studies have confirmed the anti-inflammatory, anticonvulsant, and anxiolytic effects of lemongrass extracts^{69,70}. Lemon grass is also well-documented in published studies to possess antagonistic properties against pathogenic bacteria, protozoa, and fungi. Leishmaniasis is a significant illness that impacts the human population worldwide on an annual basis to a considerable degree. Research indicates that contact with citral, the primary component of lemon grass oil, induces programmed cell death in the Promastigotes of *Leishmania infantum*. Research additionally demonstrates that citronella oil prevents the development of Leishmaniasis anemic amastigotes⁸¹⁻⁸³. It was believed that lemon grass could possess anti-protozoan medicinal properties. The capability of *Cymbopogon* species to impede the growth and Aflatoxin synthesis in *Aspergillus* sp. and *Penicillium* has been demonstrated to decrease the spoilage of melon seeds⁸⁴. Moreover, there are indications of a combined inhibitory effect between the oil and silver nanoparticles.

It is recognized for its effectiveness in fighting infections such as *Candida* sp., *Moraxella*, *Staphylococcus*, *Escherichia*, and *Enterococcus*. Furthermore, citronella oil shows notable antifungal properties against *Aspergillus niger* and *Candida* sp. by revealing inhibitory zones at distances between 35 and 90 mm⁸⁵.

Additionally, when given to mice with carrageenan-induced oedema, the oil has effects comparable to those of the synthetic oral medication diclofenac at a dose of 50 mg/kg. The fact that the oil is topically given to croton oil-induced oedematous mice further supports its in vivo anti-inflammatory properties⁸⁶.

Lemon grass can be used in the manufacturing of oral drugs derived from plants and in the fabrication of skin

creams that are applied topically.

The characteristics of lemon grass have It determined that limonene, nerol, geranial, geraniol, and myrcene were its main constituents. Thus, it is possible that they are responsible for its anti- inflammatory and microbicidal properties. A significant body of evidence supports the anti- inflammatory effects of monoterpene aldehydes. Research has demonstrated that the bioactive compounds citral, neral, and geranial diminish inflammation by inhibiting the production of IL- 1 β , an inflammatory cytokine secreted by macrophages when exposed to pathogens⁸⁷⁻⁹⁰.

Additionally, it has been demonstrated that the bioactive compounds in lemon grass exhibit a considerable antagonistic effect against viruses. In mice, lemon grass has demonstrated antiviral effects against non-enveloped viruses. The mouse norovirus simulates the human norovirus, which is associated with global outbreaks of non-bacterial gastroenteritis. By enclosing the viral capsid, the research's lemon grass oil and citral's tangy aroma reduced the virus's ability to spread.

Preventing it from attaching to host cells. Foodstuffs and surfaces can be sterilised using lemon grass and citral to stop viral infections⁹¹.

A comprehensive study on the bioactive constituents present in citronella grass regarding their anticancer properties has been conducted. The emulsion mixture of citral and lemongrass oil evinced considerable anticancer activity against cervical cell lines, such as HeLa and ME-180, through the regulation of cell proliferation, accompanied by apoptosis induction. Moreover, emulsion treatment altered the mitochondrial membrane potential and increased the levels of production of ROS in the cancerous cells. Additionally, two lipopolysaccharides from lemongrass with (1 $\rightarrow$ 4) connected b-D-Xylofuranose units have been shown to trigger apoptosis in the Siha and LNCap reproductive malignant cell lines via the intrinsic apoptotic mechanism⁹²⁻⁹⁴. Thus, the bioactive principles of lemongrass are likely to become the starting material in formulating effective anti-cancer drugs for the not-so-distant future.

Sl. No.	Properties of Cymbopogon citratus	MOA
1	Anti-hypertensive	Lemongrass extracts may act as natural calcium channel blockers, reducing calcium influx into vascular smooth muscles, leading to relaxation and reduced blood pressure.
2	Anti-bacterial	Essential oils such as β -citral and α -citral have been isolated, characterised and analysed from lemon grass leaf. These compounds are active Anti-bacterial compounds with predominant activities against gram positive and negative bacterial isolated ⁹⁵ .
3	Anti-inflammatory	Suppresses cytokines and prostaglandins that cause inflammation and pain ⁹⁶ .
4	Anti-fungal	Essential oils like citral and geraniol damage bacterial and fungal cell membranes, leading to cell death ⁹⁷ .
5	Anti-diabetic	Active compounds may help regulate blood glucose metabolism ⁹⁸ .
6	Anti-oxidant	Rich in flavonoids and phenolic compounds that prevent cell damage ⁹⁹ .
7	Anti-malaria	Secondary metabolites such as Citral (3, 7-dimethyl-2, 6-octadienal), myrcene and and citronella have been isolated from lemon grass and were characterized as antimalarial compounds ¹⁰⁰ .

8	Anti-HIV property	Some studies suggest that lemongrass contains compounds that may interfere with HIV reverse transcriptase, the enzyme responsible for converting viral RNA into DNA, which is essential for HIV replication.
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6. CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF CYMBOPOGON CITRATUS

Among many phytochemicals present, chemical composition of several species of essential oils of *C. citratus* have been extensively studied. The study that was carried out with *C. citratus*, has shown citrus-based compounds were the principal make up of essential oil profile. An experimental approach has gradually been developed for the investigation, and the sophistication with which researchers enhance their study can be done. The major and trace constituents identified are the essential oils obtained from *Cymbopogon citratus*. Chemical composition of lemongrass is summarized as follows in Table 1.

Table 1: Chemical composition of *Cymbopogon citratus*¹⁰¹⁻¹⁰³

S.No	Components	Percent of oil
1	Terpene	20-70
2	Linalyl acetate	0.1
3	Terpinol	0.45
4	Tetaraniol	20-24
5	Myrecene	0.72
6	Geraniol	0.0-22.5
7	Citral	40.8
8	Nerol	4.18
9	Citronellal	2.10
10	Methylheptenone	0.2
11	Gel-terpine	7.5
12	Ci-Malic	0.0-3.5
13	Borneol	0.1-0.4
14	Jwarankusa	20-6
15	Geranyl acetate	0.83
16	Cihronellular	30-40
17	Pinene	3.5
18	Terpene-piperitone	20-6

Camphor, β -caryophyllene oxide, α -chamigrene, α -cubebene, cuprene, o-cymene, borneol, d- cadinene, calamene, camphene, camphor, β -bisabolene, α -bisabolene, and alleloaromadrenes are the trace components. Citronellol, 1.8-cineole, and 5.6-dimethyl-5-norbornene-2-ol. EU carvone, Eudemon, Fernone, geranyl, geranyl acetate, geranyl formate, geranyl propionate, germacrene, α - farnesene, β -farnesene, fenchone, and geranyl acetate are trace amounts of β -component, d- component, and elemi. Linalool, lavender, spirit cassock, iso-borneol, and α -humulene. Alpha- pineol, α -pineol, β -thuj-2-en-4-ol, verbenone, β -ylangene, cis and α -p-mentha-2, p-mentha-2, methyl thymol ether, α -murolene, myrtenal, phellandrene, myrtenal, and 8-dien-1-ol.

Geraniol and geranyl acetate are the main components of *C. citratus* leaves, and their levels vary significantly throughout the leaf's growth phases. The percentages of geraniol and geranyl acetate in the essential oil were around 59 and 33, respectively, ten days after the leaf formed. Piperidone, which makes up 54.36% of the essential oil, and phenoldrene, which makes up 30.86%, are its two main ingredients. The basic oil of *C.*

citratus contained the following substances: flavonoids, phenolic compounds, alcohol, quinones, tannins, and saponins. The main constituents of essential oils are ketones, aldehydes, alcohols, terpenes, citrates, and esters. The luteolin and their content are the orientin 2-O-rhamnoside, quercetin, kaempferol, and apigenin. This table 1 below presents the mineral and vitamin contents of lemongrass.

Table 2: Vitamin/Mineral Content of *Cymbopogon citratus*¹⁰⁴

S.No.	Vitamin/mineral	Quantity (mg/100g)
1	Na	54.8
2	Mg	7.0
3	Zn	121
4	Fe	0.0024
5	Mn	0.952
6	Ca	39.5
7	P	89.3
8	K	59.5
9	Phytate	11860

Since infused lemongrass oil has a lot more calories, it is typically created by mixing lemongrass extract with cooking oil, such as canola oil. For example, a widely recognized brand of flavored oil spray contains 40 calories (1 teaspoon) and 4.5 grams of fat per serving, suitable for cooking or storage.

It should be noted, however, that flavored lemongrass oil has significantly higher calorie content. As a result, most flavored oils, like canola oil, mix cooking oils with extracts of lemongrass. Lemongrass stalks are smashed to extract their fragrant oils into the liquid when combined with teas, soups, and other liquid foods. The pieces are soaked in the liquid to release the active aromatic oils contained within. Prior to serving a cocktail, the stems ought to be divided. Prior to incorporating these bulb or lower stalk sections into a curry, salad, marinade, or stir-fry as per a recipe, they should be chopped or minced.

7. CONCLUSION

Cymbopogon citratus is a multifunctional plant that holds significant medicinal, culinary, and industrial importance. Its abundant mix of bioactive substances, including essential oils and flavonoids, enhances its antimicrobial, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, and therapeutic features. Lemongrass, as a renewable resource, presents encouraging uses in the fields of pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and complementary medicine. Nonetheless, additional studies are needed to investigate its complete potential, enhance its cultivation methods, and standardize its commercial applications. As global fascination with natural treatments grows, lemongrass presents considerable potential for future developments and breakthroughs.

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