



## **GC/MS Analysis of n-Hexane and Chloroform Extracts of *Chenopodium murale* Leaves in Iraq**

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### **Authors' contributions**

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. Author MSF designed the study, performed the statistical analysis, wrote the protocol and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Authors AHK and OHA managed the analyses of the study. Author AAT managed the literature searches. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Chenopodium murale* L. it is an essential annual herbaceous weed belongs to the genus *Chenopodium* and family *Chenopodiaceae*. *Chenopodium murale* L. commonly called as nettle leaf goosefoot. Aim of this study is the gas chromatography-mass spectroscopy analysis of chemical constituents of *Chenopodium murale* leaves in two different extracts; n-hexane and chloroform. These extracts contain 37 chemical components which are Monoterpenes, steroids precursor and fatty acids. Furthermore the n- hexane extract revealed about 35.22% of cyclic and acyclic monoterpenoids, fatty acid about 2.07%, also 2.31% of nitrogenous compounds and sterol precursor about 0.41%.

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However the chloroform extract revealed the presence of linolenic acid representing 13.54% and neo menthol representing 18.87%, also the other minor components are carvone oxide (0.27%), alpha- pinene epoxide (1.71%), Trans- Squalene (0.77%) and other minor bioactive components.

**Keywords:** GC/MS analysis; *n*-hexane; chloroform extracts; *Chenopodium murale* leaves.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

According to the World Health Organization, many people of the world depend on the traditional preparations or remedies of herbaceous source. It is important in the health care and recently used as a source of many potent and powerful drugs [1]. The Chenopodiaceae is a family comprised from 102 genera and 1400 species [2]. In general The genus *Chenopodium* contains collections of weedy herbs nearly more than 200 species native to Europe, America and Asia [3,4]. *Chenopodium murale* L., commonly called as nettle leaf goosefoot, it is an essential annual herbaceous weed that grows in waste places [5,6]. It is green, alternate, broad lobed ad stalked long or short leaves with forked stem [7].

From the phytochemical point of view, the plants of *Chenopodium* L were reported to possess numerous medicinal activity used in popular medicine according to its variety of structural patterns of phytochemicals, these chemical compounds are primary metabolites such as amino acids and proteins and secondary metabolites [8], such as terpenoids [9,10], sterols [11,12], saponins, [13] alkaloids, [14] vitamins [15], Flavonoids and coumarin [16,17].

A wide range of applications is well-known in folk medicine for treatment of cough, abdominal pain, pulmonary obstruction and have diuretic and laxative activity [18], as well as it is reputed to be good pharmacological activities of chenopodium species such as anthelmintic, anti-inflammatory activity [19] antimicrobial [20], antioxidant, [21,11], the *Chenopodium* extracts could be used as a readily accessible source of natural antioxidants, and may be used in the pharmaceutical industry and for food supplements production [22], antiviral [23] and hypotension effect [18], analgesic and spasmolytic [24,25].

Essential oils are active natural chemical compound in many medicinal plants, produced by aromatic plants. Considering that the essential oil have a variety uses in, food, cosmetic applications, as well as in perfume industries and in the pharmaceutical products as drugs for the

treatment of various diseases. The hydrocarbon monoterpenes and monoterpenes derivatives like alcohols, esters, acetates, and others are secondary metabolites belonging to the terpenes and considered the main constituents of volatile or essential oils which are very important in different pharmacological activity [25-30].

According to phytochemical review the Stigmasterol and its derivatives are very important for synthetic and semi-synthetic compounds for pharmaceutical industry. It acts as a precursor in the synthesis of hormones like progesterone, also acts as an intermediate in the biosynthesis estrogens, cortisone, androgens, and vitamin D3 [31].

## 2. METHODS

### 2.1 Plant Material

Fresh leaves of *Chenopodium murale* were collected from the garden of College of Pharmacy/University of Baghdad. The Leaves of plant were air dried at room temperature and powdered using a mechanical grinder.

### 2.2 Extraction of Crude Extracts

Dried and powdered samples were extracted with solvents have different polarity namely, *n*-hexane and chloroform using partitioned method with water 3 × (1:1). subsequently the extracted fractions were evaporated and concentrated using Heidolph Rotavapor (Germany).

### 2.3 GC-MS Analysis

GC-MS analysis was carried out on unit Shimadzu GCMS QP2010 apparatus. The extract of the leaves of *chenopodium murale* was injected into the Gas chromatography was the instrument used for GC-MS analysis. It is separated into various constituents with different retention time which are detected by mass spectrophotometer.

The chromatogram a plot of intensity against retention time was recorded by the software attached to it. From the peaks of graph, the

compounds are identified comparing the data with the existing software libraries like NIST, NIST08 and NIST08s. 1 µl of the extract of leaves of *Chenopodium murale* was injected into GC. The injection mode was used split method with linear velocity of 45.4 cm/sec for flow control. The carrier gas used was Helium at a flow rate 1.53 mL/min. The injector temperature was maintained at 250°C. The pressure of the carrier gas was kept at 100.0kPa. The oven temperature was set at 80°C to 280°C with a gradual increment of 8°C per min.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

GC-MS chromatogram of the n-hexane extract and the chloroform extract of leaves of *Chenopodium murale* showed different number of peaks that indicate different chemical constituent were identified based to the narrow retention time, peak area and molecular formula.

The results revealed the presence of 37 natural chemical compounds in n-hexane extract of *Chenopodium murale* leaves were identified with different peak area percentage, as shown in Fig. 1. Furthermore, the total amount of identified compounds was estimated about 41% of total different chemical constituents which are: alpha.-Limonene diepoxide (18.09%), beta.-lonone epoxide (5.81%), Beta. Terpeneol (1.65%), Citronellol epoxide (0.95%), Carvone oxide (0.46%), Megastigmatrienone (0.44%), Cholesta-8, 24-dien-3-ol, 4-methyl-, 3.beta., 4.alpha. (0.41%), Palmitic acid, beta.-monoglyceride (2.07%), 3,7-Dimethyl-1, 7-octadien-6-ol (8.26%), 2,3-Bis(1-methylallyl)pyrrolidine (1.84%), as seen in Table 1.

Wherefore the cyclic and acyclic monoterpenoids estimated 35.22%, fatty acid about 2.07%, 2.31% of nitrogenous compounds and sterol accounted for 0.41%.

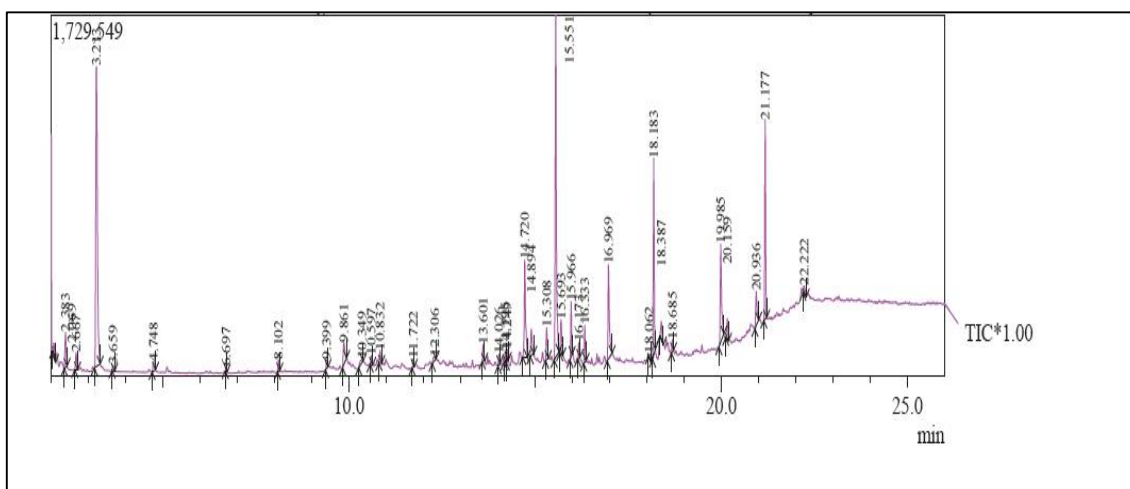


Fig. 1. Gc mass chromatogram of n- hexan extract of *Chenopodium murle* leaves

Table 1. Phytochemical compounds identified in hexane extract of leaves of *Chenopodium murale*

No. of peaks	Name of compound	Retention time	Area %	Molecular weight
17	Cholesta-8,24-dien-3-ol, 4-methyl-, (3.beta.,4.alpha.)	14.026	0.41%	398
18	Megastigmatrienone	14.19	0.44%	190
19	Carvone oxide	14.25	0.46%	166
20	beta.-lonone epoxide	14.71	5.81%	208
22	Beta. Terpeneol	15.3	1.65%	154
23	alpha.-Limonene diepoxide	15.5	18.09%	168
24	2,3-Bis(1-methylallyl)pyrrolidine	15.69	1.84%	179
30	3,7-Dimethyl-1, 7-octadien-6-ol	18.18	8.26%	154
34	Citronellol epoxide	20.15	0.95%	172
35	Palmitic acid .beta.-monoglyceride	20.93	2.07%	330

Identified compounds= 10

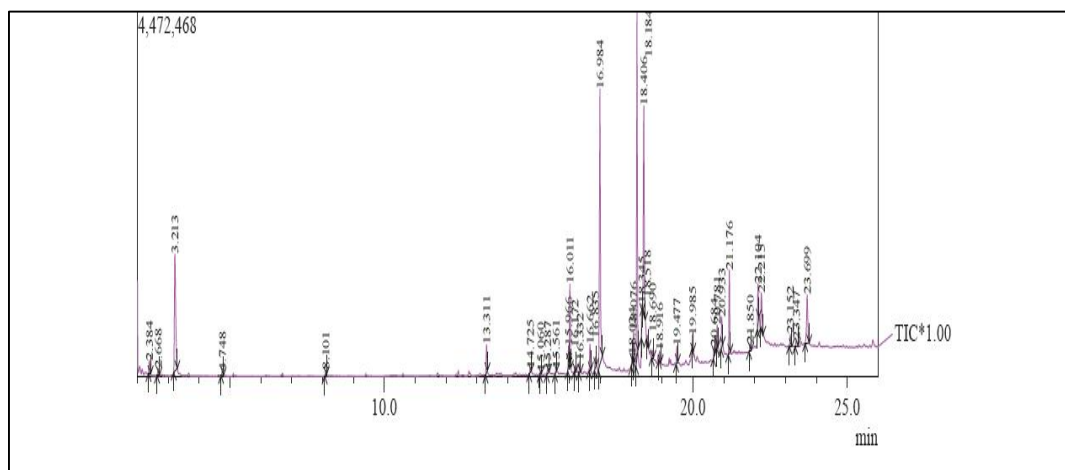
However the GC-MS analysis of chloroform extract of leaves of *Chenopodium murale* as shown in (Fig. 2) have 37 peaks represent variety of chemical components, from which 21 compounds were identified representing 45.49% of the total components in chloroform extract. Fatty acids and monoterpenes were found to be the major groups of this analysis the dominant constituents were linolenic acid representing 13.54% and neo menthol representing

18.87%, also the other minor components are carvone oxide (0.27%), alpha-pinene epoxide (1.71%), Trans-Squalene (0.77%), pseudoionone (3.3%), alpha-Monopalmitin (1.81), Methyl 12-methyltetradecanoate (1.53), Stearolic acid (0.98), palmitic acid (0.32%), Citronellyl butyrate (0.26%), Oleic acid amide(0.65%), Stearic acid (0.34%), Capric acid (0.36%) and other components as seen in Table 2.

**Table 2. Phytochemical compounds identified in chloroform extract of leaves of *Chenopodium murale***

No. of peaks	Name of compound	Retention time	Area %	Molecular weight
6	alpha.-Pinene epoxide	13.3	1.71%	166
7	Carvone oxide	14.7	0.27%	66
8	8-Methyloctahydrocoumarin	15.06	0.13%	168
9	Palmitic acid	15.28	0.32%	256
11	Stearaldehyde	15.9	0.9%	268
12	Pseudoionone	16.0	3.3%	198
13	Citronellyl butyrate	16.17	0.26%	226
14	9-Eicosyne	16.3	0.59%	278
15	Methyl 12-methyltetradecanoate	16.65	1.53%	265
16	(9E,12E,15E)-9,12,15-Octadecatrien-1-ol	16.8	0.65%	264
19	11,14,17-Eicosatrienoic acid, methyl ester	18.07	1.52%	320
20	Neo-Menthol	18.18	18.87%	156
21	Stearolic acid	18.34	0.98%	280
22	alpha.-Linolenic acid	18.40	13.54%	278
23	Capric acid	18.5	0.36%	172
24	Stearic acid	18.6	0.34%	284
26	Cyclohexane-1,2-dimethanol, diacetate	19.4	0.89%	228
27	Oleic acid amide	19.9	0.65%	281.48
30	alpha.-Monopalmitin	20.9	1.81%	330
34	cis,cis,cis-7,10,13-Hexadecatrienal	22.2	2.95%	234
35	trans-Squalene	23.15	0.77%	410.73

Identified compound = 21



**Fig. 2. Gc mass analysis of chloroform extract of *Chenopodium murle* leaves**

#### 4. CONCLUSION

According to the findings the GC-MS analysis revealed presence of 37 phytochemical constituents both hexan and chloroform extracts of leaves of *Chenopodium murle*, The important phytochemicals groups present are monoterpenoids, fatty acids and steroids precursor. Therefore *Chenopodium murle* may be used as a source of much pharmacological activity. However further studies will need to be evaluate biological activities of isolated compounds.

#### CONSENT AND ETHICAL APPROVAL

It is not applicable.

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#### COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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