

## Original Research Article

# MALE PHEROMONE ISOLATION, CHEMICAL ANALYSIS AND THE PERFUMES DEVELOPMENT FROM GOAT HAIR WASTE FROM SOME LOCAL FARMS IN THAILAND

### Abstract

Goat male pheromones are secreted through their hair and play a prominent role in “male effect”. In this study, we aimed to isolate some male pheromone from the goat hair, and waste from local goat farms in the Southern Thailand. Goat hairs were collected from three farms in three breeds and different parts of goat bodies compared in both males and females. The goat hair extraction was carried out by maceration with hexane. The isolation of the extract was performed by column chromatography using Sephadex LH-20 to give 100 fractions. The further separations yielded the 4-ethyl-octanoic acid reported as goat scent and the exert releaser pheromone activity to attract females. Quantitative analyses using GC-MS demonstrated  $12.73 \pm 0.78\%$  w/w in the extract. The results showed 17 fatty acid compositions, such as palmitic acid, stearic acid, cis-9-octadecanoic acid, lauric acid, and cis-vaccenic acid as prominent compounds. The qualitative of the extract by GC-MS illustrated 13 compounds in which the chemical fingerprint was confirmed by using  $^1\text{H}$  NMR technique. The microbial contamination of goat hair extract was further evaluated by spread-plate technique, showing no microbial contamination with *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Clotridium spp.* and *Salmonella spp.*. The extract was used as a raw material for perfume blended development and no irritation on human skin were observed.

**Keywords:** Goat hair; Male Pheromone; 4-ethyl-octanoic acid; Goat hair perfumes

### Introduction.1

In goat seasonal breeders, the introduction of a mature male into a flock of females eventually induces ovulation. It is generally accepted the olfactory signal, the pheromone plays a dominant role in the ‘male effect’, since it is seen when the presence of the male is replaced by its fleece/hairs [1] or their extracts [2]. The Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone (GnRH) pulse generator in the hypothalamus governs pulsatile GnRH secretion and thereby regulates pulsatile Luteinizing Hormone (LH) secretion from the pituitary [3]. It has been demonstrated that exposure to male goat hairs promptly stimulates the GnRH pulse generator in female goats [4] which is a striking contrast to other mammalian pheromones. Therefore, the male effect could serve as a unique model to investigate the neural pathways participating in pheromone signal transduction. Pheromone signals regulate conspecific behavior and physiology, releaser pheromone induces specific behavior, exerting acute effects on the neural response while the primer induces physiological changes with long-lasting effects by changing the neuroendocrine status of the recipients [5]. The olfactory signal molecule that activates from GnRH pulse generator in male goats has been identified using GC-MS reported in several ethyl-branched aldehyde and ketones. The 4-ethyl-octanal is stronger suggested to be a primer pheromone for the ‘male effect’ and found 18 compounds appear to have stronger activity than 4-ethyl-octanal, can be oxidized in the atmosphere to become 4-ethyl-octanoic acid, the main constituent of the goatly odour character and reported to exert releaser pheromone activity to attract goat females [6]. In this study reported for the first time of natural goat male pheromone separation and analysis could not only is an

efficiency of **livestock economically** important worldwide but also a novel discovery of perfume product development from the goat hairs.

## **.2Materials and Methods**

### **2.1 Materials**

Goat hairs were collected from three **different** local goat farms including 1) Sri Pong farm, Krabi Noi sub-district, Muang district, Krabi province, by Mr. Chuan Phukhaoluan. The Saanen, Shami and Shaanen hair, male goat breeder, was cut on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 and 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020, respectively. The Boer, female goat hair was cut on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020. 2)The Toggenburg goat hair was collected from, **the learning center of the goat** raising farm, Krabi Noi sub-district, Muang district, Krabi province by Mr. Sombat Boonthawon, on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The goat hair **is** collected differently such as body, head, beard, leg and genitalia parts of goat body. 3)The goat hair was collected from Jindarat farm, U-Di Charearn sub-district, Kuan Ka Long district, Satun province on 28<sup>th</sup> **April** 2021, Shami male breeder by Mr. Weerasak Duksukkeaw.

### **2.2 Chemicals**

Hexane, dichloromethane, methanol, ethyl acetate, AR grade, Lab-Scan, Thailand.

Sephadex LH-20, GE Healthcare, Sweden

TLC silica gel 60 F254 **Aluminum** plate, E. Merck, Germany.

UV lamp dual wavelength 254/365 nm., Alltech Ltd., USA.

### **2.3 Chromatography separation**

The goat hairs were extracted with hexane and isolated by open column chromatography using sephadex LH-20 as stationary phase, dichloromethane:methanol (3:2) and the TLC plate, **silica gel** 60 F<sub>254</sub> **aluminum** plate (E. Merck) size 20x20 cm.

### **2.4 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectra**

The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra were measured with a Bruker ASCEND 400 FT-NMR spectrometer, operating at 400 MHz (<sup>1</sup>H). The chemical shifts ( $\delta_H$  and  $\delta_C$ ) were recorded in ppm. with reference to residual solvent signal CDCl<sub>3</sub> ( $\delta_H$  7.24), **were** appropriated and coupling constants (*J*) were given in Hz.

### **25. Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometer analysis (GC-MS)**

**Instrument:** GC-MS GC7890A-MS 5975C (Agilent technologies)

#### **Analytical conditions:**

##### **Gas chromatography**

injection volume	1 $\mu$ l
injection temperature	250 °C
injection mode	Split
Split ratio	10 : 1
Column temperature	40 °C (5min)10) – °C /min)-250 °C (5min)
Carrier gas	He (Flow rate 1 ml/min)
Pressure	7.0699 psi
Total flow	14 ml/min
Average <b>velocity</b>	36.26 cm/sec
Thermal auxiliary temperature	250 °C

##### **Mass spectrometer**

<b>Ionization</b> mode	electronic impact at 70 eV
Ion source temperature	230 °C
Quadrupole temperature	150 °C
Scan range (m/z)	35-550

### **2.6 Determination of fatty acids by GC**

### Chemicals and Reagents

Standard fatty acid was used, Supelco 37 Component FAME Mix Varied conc. in dichloromethane CRM 47885 from Sigma Aldrich Co. 14% Boron trifluoride (BF<sub>3</sub>) (Merck Co., Ltd.) and 0.5 N Methanolic sodium hydroxide (NaOH) solution. Methanol with purity 99.9% (Analytical reagent grade) Isooctane with purity 99.5% (analytical grade), and Sodium chloride (analytical grade) were obtained from CARLO ERBA Reagent S.A.S

### Gas Chromatography (GC)

The separation and detection of the analytes were achieved by GC -2010 Plus and flame ionization detector (FID), respectively. They were purchased from Shimadzu Co., Ltd.

#### GC Conditions

Column type:	Capillary column: DB-23; 60 m, 0.25 mm ID, 0.15 μm
Split ratio:	30:1
Program rate:	1.0 °C/min
Injection temp:	250 °C
Detection temp:	270 °C
Injection sample:	1 μL

#### Samples preparation

The 0.2000 g of goat hair extract in each sample was balanced by Analytical Balance (Resolution. — 0.0001 g.). In the saponification process, the oil was added 10 mL Methanolic sodium hydroxide (NaOH) solution and stirred for 30 min. at 100 °C in an Erlenmeyer flask 25 mL then added with 10 mL of 14% Boron trifluoride (BF<sub>3</sub>). Continue stirring for 30 min and added Isooctane into the sample solution. After that added sodium chloride. Finally, the sample solution was injected to GC-FID.

#### 2.7 Microorganism contamination by Spread-Plate test

Made a dilution of a sample under sterile condition, pipetted 0.1 mL in 1 mL of sterile water mixed well by Vortex mixer. The sample 0.1 mL was spread from the appropriate desired dilution series onto the center of the surface of an agar plate by triangle shape glass spreader using sterile DI water as the control. The plate was incubated, containing, *S. aureus*, *Clostridium spp.* And *Salmonella spp.* on the mannitol salt agar, egg yolk agar and eosin methylene blue (EMB) agar, respectively. The incubation was at 37<sup>0</sup> C for 24-48 hrs. excepted for the *clostridium spp.* was under no oxygen condition using Anaerocult<sup>R</sup>A. Calculated the CFU value of samples, counted the colonies, and multiplied by the appropriate dilution factor to determine the number of CFU/mL in the original samples.

#### 2.8 Perfumes development from goat hair extracts

Perfume ingredients and bottles were purchased from JJ Mall, Chatuchak, Bangkok, Thailand. The ingredients were divided into three notes such as base notes, middle notes and top notes. The goat hair extract was blended into the base notes ingredients, followed by the middle notes and the top notes, respectively. The perfume base oil was added after all notes combinations were blended mixed the combination well, transferred the perfume to its bottle put the lid on and kept it in the room at 25<sup>0</sup>C temperature for at least 29 days before use.

#### 2.9 Skin Irritation test in volunteers

Volunteers of 10 people including 3 males and 7 females, their ages were between 21-55 years old. Determination of the skin of the volunteers with erythema index by using a mexameter probe. Detection of the skin at 0 hr after applying the goat hair perfume sample 200 μL, size 2x2 cm<sup>2</sup>, flowing by wool attached in the target area for 4 hrs. Detected erythema index of their skin at 4, 24, 48 and 72 hrs. after removing the wool (Jirova *et al*, 2010), compared to the skin applied on positive control (20% w/v SLS) and the blank skin, then calculated the red skin of erythema that has changed.

$$\% \text{ relative difference} = (\text{value after} - \text{value before} / \text{value before}) \times 100$$

### 3. Results & Discussion

#### 3.1 Fatty acids composition

The goat hair extract determined their fatty acids composition using GC-MS yielded the most abundant respectively, Palmitic acid, stearic acid and cis-9- octadecenoic acid in every breeding and they were varied between lignoceric acid, Arachidic acid, myristic acid and lauric acid, respectively. The goat male and female compositions were compared found the female was lack of cis-13-docosenoid, cis-Vaccenic acid and Cis-6,9,12-Octadecatrienoid. The male in Boer, Shami, Anglo-Nubian have found no cis-Vaccenic acid while the male Boer and Anglo-Nubian were absent of Cis-9,12,15-Octadecatrienoid when they were compared to The Saanen Males. (Table1)

**Table1** Fatty acids analysis of goat hair from different resources.

UNDER PEER REVIEW

### 3.2 Proton NMR analysis

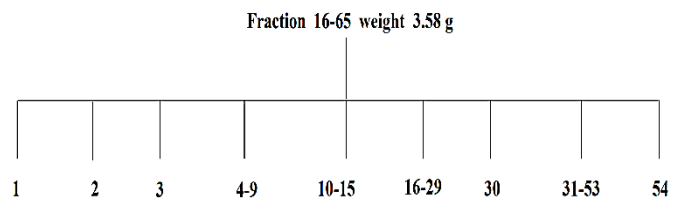
The proton NMR illustrated chemical shifts of goat hair extracts at  $\delta$  0.655-2.305 ppm.,  $\delta$  3.601-4.591,  $\delta$  4.810-5.643 ppm. Goat hair extracts with different parts of goat bodies were similar chemical shifts pattern, but with difference intensities, especially the only Saanen male breeder containing high intensity at  $\delta$  7.00-8.00 ppm. As can be seen in the Table1 showed the chemical shifts of compounds G1, G2, G3 and G4 that constitute 4-ethyloctanoic acid at  $\delta$  0.085-2.33 ppm.

### 3.3 Separation of goat hair extracts

The Shami male breeder goat hair weighs 4.19 g and has been separated by open column chromatography using sephadex-LH20 to give 100 fractions. The fractions 16-65 (3.58 g) were combined and further separated giving 54 fractions (Scheme1) The fractions 10-15 were selected and combined to purify for the goat male pheromone. The fraction was developed as a band on to the TLC plate, silicagel 60 F<sub>254</sub> aluminum plate (E. Merck) size 20x20 cm. using hexane: ethyl acetate (4:1) as the mobile phase yielded G1 (0.01g), G2(0.02g), G4 (0.01g) have appeared as single spot and G3 (0.01g) showed as two spots separately. The G1, G2, G3, and G4 were

Goat breeding, sexes and farm resources							
Fatty acids		Saanen Male Krabi	Anglo-Nubian Male Nakhonratcha	Shami Male Satun	Boer, Male Satun	Shami Female Satun	Boer Female Satun
Capric acid	C10:0	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Lauric acid	C12:0	3.1	0.3	1.1	0.4	0.5	1.0
Myristic acid	C14:0	2.3	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.7
Pentadecanoid acid	C15:0	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
<b>Plamitic acid</b>	<b>C16:1 n-7</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>22.1</b>	<b>17.5</b>
Palmitoleic acid	C16:1 n-7	0.8	0.3	1.1	1.1	1.8	1.1
Heptadecanoid acid	C17:0	1.1	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.4
<b>Stearic acid</b>	<b>C18:0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>11.4</b>
<b>Cis-9-Octadecanoid acid</b>	<b>C18:1 n-9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>11.1</b>
Cis-Vaccenic acid	C18:1 n-7	2.6	-	-	-	-	-
Cis-9,12-Octadecadienoid acid	C18:2 n-6	0.7	0.3	0.9	0.7	1.0	1.9
Cis-9,12,15-Octadecatrienoid	C18:3 n-3	0.1	-	0.1	-	0.1	0.1
Cis-6,9,12-Octadecatrienoid	C18:3 n-6	0.2	-	-	-	-	-
Arachidic acid	C20:0	1.2	0.7	1.6	1.7	2.2	2.1
Cis-11-Eicosenoid acid	C20:1 n-9	0.5	0.1	0.8	0.5	1.4	0.9
Heneicosanoid acid	C21:0	0.1	-	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Behenic acid	C22:0	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.4
Cis-13-Docosenoid	C22:1 n-9	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	-	-
Tricosanoid acid	C23:0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
<b>Lignoceric acid</b>	<b>C24:0</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>6.2</b>

submitted for <sup>1</sup>H NMR compared to 4-ethyl octanoic acid spectrum as a standard shown in Table2



---

Results on chemical analysis of goat hair fractions

---

**Scheme1** Separation of goat male pheromone

**Table2** Chemical analysis of goat hair fraction

Samples	TLC	Proton NMR chemical shift ( $\delta$ ppm.), in CDCl <sub>3</sub> , 400 MHz
Goat hair extract	G1	0.021-0.066, 0.665-2.017, 0.859-0.891, 1.178-1.312, 1.480-1.549, 2.269-2.307, 4.669 (s)
	G2	0.020-0.050, 0.610-1.967, 0.865-0.894 (few), 1.186-1.292 (few), 2.254-2.260 (few), 1.868-1.967, 3.417-3.495, 4.620 (s), 5.276-5.289
	G3	0.021-0.048, 0.668-2.037, 0.860-0.876, 1.233-1.320, 1.546-1.602, 2.256-2.331, 2.256-2.356, 3.603-3.637, 4.463-5.582,
	G3,1	0.021-0.057, 0.658-2.036, 0.859-0.885, 1.233-1.294, 1.558-1.611, 2.286-2.353, 3.606-3.639, 2.256-2.353, 3.606-3.639
	G3,2	0.021-0.048, 0.662-2.036, 0.853-0.882, 1.232-1.319, 1.545-1.602, 2.256-2.322, 2.256-2.376, 3.603-3.636, 4.463-5.582
	G4	0.021-0.048, 0.656-2.027, 0.860-0.885, 1.205-1.603, 1.551-1.603, 2.251-2.314, 2.221-2.374, 4.033-5.356,
4-ethyl octanoic acid (STD)	G1,	0.866-0.883, 1.197-1.311, 1.555-1.608, 2.283-2.323, 10.927 9 (s)
	G2	

### 3.4 Chemicals analysis by GC-MS

The chemicals analysis of the goat hair extract by GC-MS resulted in ethyloctanoic acid, germacranen-decyldocosane, 5-octadecane, 2-hexyl-1-octanol, nonadecane, 1-exadecene, ethyl palmitate, propionaldehyde allyldrazone, 6-methyltridecane-hexadecene, 2-ethyl-1-dodecanol,

cholasta-4,6-diene-3-ol as goat hair main component while it comprised of 12.73±0.78% w/w of 4-ethyloctanoic acid.

### 3.5 Microorganism contamination by Spread-Plate test

The results found no contamination of microorganism *Staphylococcus aureus* , *Clotridium* spp. , *Salmonella* spp. in goat hair extracts by Spread-Plate technique.

### 3.6 Skin Irritation test in volunteers

The irritation test of the perfume development from goat hair extract found no caused of irritation from the red skin of volunteers were appeared after applied the perfume at 4, 24, 48 and 72 hrs found no difference from 0 hr while found the significant difference ( $p<0.05$ ) of the red skin applied of 20% W/V SLS in the same experiments after 4 hrs compared to 0 hr. As shoen in the **Table3**.

**Table3** The erythema index, EI in 10 volunteers after applied of goat hair perfume at 4, 24, 48 and 72 hrs compared to 0 hr.

Examples	Erythema index (EI)				
	Before test	After test (hrs.)			
	0 hr	4	24	48	72
Goat hair perfume	172.33±54.10	172.85±49.16	170.33±50.89	172.70±53.08	171.81±54.91
20% w/s SLS	170.11±32.43	238.63±23.97	178.93±48.40	184.41±42.56	177.70±30.06
No application	171.37±39.40	172.93±31.46	170.81±42.71	189.07±49.74	170.22±49.97

## 4 .Conclusion

The goat hair extracts possess thirteen chemicals constituents as well as the similar pattern of chemical shift in their proton NMR except the Saanen male breeder containing high intensity of aromatic compounds at  $\delta$  7.00-8.00 ppm. could provide the strong goat smell which promotes as good perfumes smell to be more secreted and mysterious. The main chemical composition of goat hair extract was 4-ethyl octanoic acid, reported as goatty smell and a releaser goat male pheromone. The separation found G1-G4 comprised of the releaser male pheromone. The goat hair extract gave no contamination of prohibited microorganism and skin irritation on volunteers when the perfume was blended.

### COMPETING INTERESTS DISCLAIMER:

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist. The products used for this research are commonly and predominantly use products in our area of research and country. There is absolutely no conflict of interest between the authors and producers of the products because we do not intend to use these products as an avenue for any litigation but for the advancement of

knowledge. Also, the research was not funded by the producing company rather it was funded by personal efforts of the authors.

### References

- [1] Claus, R., Over, R. and Dehnhard, M. *Anim. Reprod. Sci.* **1990**, 22, 27-38.
- [2] Knight, T.W. and Lynch, P.R. *Anim. Reprod. Sci.* **1980a**, 3, 133-136.
- [3] Knobil, E. *Biol. Reprod.* **1981**, 24, 44-49.
- [4] Ichimaru, T., Mogi, K., Ohkura, S., Mori, Y. and Okamura, H. *Anim. Reprod. Sci.* **2008**, 106, 361-368.
- [5] Haga, S., Hattori, T., Sato, T., Sato, K. *Nature*, **2010**, 466, 118-122.
- [6] Sugiyama, T., Sasada, H., Masaki, J. and Yamashita, K. *Agri. Biol. Chem.* **1981**, 45, 2655-2658.