

## **Rapid and easy identification of *Illicium verum* Hook. f. and its adulterant *Illicium anisatum* Linn. by fluorescent microscopy and gas chromatography**

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Joshi VC, Srinivas PV, Khan IA.

University of Mississippi, National Center for Natural Products Research, Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Science, School of Pharmacy, Thad Cochran Research Center, University, MS 38677, USA.

*Illicium verum* Hook. f. is used as an herbal tea to treat colic pain in infants. Reports suggest that Star anise herbal tea may be adulterated with *Illicium anisatum* Linn. A short and rapid method using microscopy and gas chromatography (GC) was developed to detect *I. anisatum* Linn., an adulterant in the powdered mixture of *I. verum*. Anatomical differences in the epicarp cells of *I. verum* and *I. anisatum* fruits were clearly defined as examined under fluorescent microscopy and scanning electron microscopy. A GC method was developed for quick identification of possible *I. anisatum* adulteration with *I. verum*.