Abstract

The essential oil composition of Vernonia amygdalina Del. air-dried leaves was analysed by GC and GC-MS. A total of 20 compounds, representing 83.9% of the total oil were identified. The major constituents of the oil were thymol (27.0%), (E)-phytol (15.7%) and ocymene (12.7%). Other representative compounds were β-selinene (8.1%), γ-terpinene (4.4%), β-caryophyllene (3.9%) and apiole (3.8%). The essential oil has different composition compared with similar species earlier reported from the eastern part of Nigeria.