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Characterization of Volatiles in Rambutan Fruit (*Nephelium lappaceum* L.)

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The volatile compounds from the red-skinned cultivar of rambutan, Jitlee (*Nephelium lappaceum* L.), a tropical fruit native to Southeast Asia, were extracted using both Freon 113 and ethyl acetate solvents. Isolation and characterization of odor-active compounds present in the fruit were mediated by gas chromatography/olfactory (GC/O), chromatography, and spectrometry. Authentic standards were used to determine mass spectral, retention index, and odor match. Of over 100 volatiles detected by GC/MS, twice as many polar volatiles were detected in the ethyl acetate extract as in the nonpolar Freon extract. GC/O analysis also detected more odor-active compounds in the polar extracts. Over 60 compounds in the extracts had some odor activity. The 20 most potent odorants included β -damascenone, (*E*)-4,5-epoxy-(*E*)-2-decenal, vanillin, (*E*)-2-nonenal, phenylacetic acid, cinnamic acid, unknown 1 (sweaty), ethyl 2-methylbutyrate, and δ -decalactone. On the basis of calculated odor activity values, β -damascenone, ethyl 2-methylbutyrate, 2,6-nonadienal, (*E*)-2-nonenal, and nonanal were determined to be the main contributors to the fruit aroma. Taken together, these results indicate that the exotic aroma character of rambutan is the interaction of fruity-sweet and fatty-green odors, with the possible contribution of "civet-like"-sweaty, spicy, and woody notes.

Keywords: Aroma; GC/O; *Nephelium lappaceum*; rambutan; volatiles

INTRODUCTION

Among the many attractive and desirable attributes that create demand for fruits from the tropics and subtropics, their characteristic flavor is the most noticeable to consumers. In addition, these fruits are often inexpensive, are extremely rich in vitamins (Wills et al., 1986), and can be used in a wide range of products including beverages, dairy products, desserts, and gum.

Native to Southeast Asia, rambutan (*Nephelium lappaceum* L.) belongs in the same family (Sapindaceae) as the subtropical fruits lychee and longan and is often described as being less aromatic than the lychee. While this fruit is relatively unknown in the United States, it is an important commercial crop in Asia, where it is consumed fresh, canned, or processed and appreciated for its refreshing flavor and exotic appearance (Almeyada et al., 1979).

Various studies on the postharvest properties and marketing of this fruit have been reported without describing its flavor chemistry (Landrigan et al., 1994; Lam and Kosiyachinda, 1987). In this paper we describe the most potent odorants extracted from rambutan fruit juice detected by gas chromatography/olfactometry (GC/O) (Acree et al., 1984).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Fruits. Rambutan fruit was obtained from the Fruit Tree Center, Primary Production Department, Singapore. The red-skinned cultivar, Jitlee, was selected for this study due to its high popularity among consumers and its longer storage life (Lye et al., 1987).

Materials. Linalool oxides (pyranoid and furanoid) were a gift from Dr. H. Iwabuchi (San Ei Gen, Inc., Osaka, Japan). All other authentic standards were obtained commercially. However, (*E*)-4,5-epoxy-(*E*)-2-decenal was synthesized with a modification of the method described by Schieberle and Grosch (1991). (*E,E*)-2,4-Decadienal (4 mmol) dissolved in 40 mL of methylene chloride was oxidized with 3-chloroperbenzoic acid (8 mmol) added in approximately equal portions every 10 min for an hour. The reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h at ambient temperature and extracted with 10% sodium carbonate to remove the byproduct 3-chlorobenzoic acid. The crude extract was concentrated under vacuum on a rotary evaporator almost to dryness, redissolved in 5 mL of pentane, and separated on a column (300 mm \times 10 mm i.d.) packed with \sim 30 g of silica gel, 60 Å (Aldrich, Milwaukee, WI), that was deactivated with 5% water. Five fractions were obtained by stepwise elution with 50 mL of pentane, 100 mL of 5% ether in pentane, 100 mL of 10% ether in pentane, 100 mL of 20% ether in pentane, and 150 mL of 30% ether in pentane. The last fraction, which contained the desired compound, was concentrated to 5 mL and purified using a Varian Star model 9010 HPLC solvent delivery system (Varian Associates, Inc., Walnut Creek, CA) with a UV detector (Varian, model 9065) set at 220 nm. Forty microliter portions were separated on a 380 mm \times 10 mm i.d. column filled with 5- μ m Lichrosorb SI-100 and eluted with 5% ether in pentane at 3.5 mL/min. Ninety-five milligrams of product was obtained. The EI-MS of (*E*)-4,5-epoxy-(*E*)-2-decenal gave the following: *m/z* ions (%) 68 (100), 39 (33), 41 (29), 55 (17), 81 (7), 139 (1); ^1H NMR (δ , CDCl_3) 0.91 (3H, t, $J_1 = 5.8$ Hz, $J_2 = 6.6$ Hz, H-10), 1.26–1.41 (4H, m, H-9, H-8), 1.43–1.51 (2H, m, H-7), 1.60–1.70 (2H, m, H-6), 2.97 (1H, dt, $J_1 = 2.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 5.4$ Hz, $J_3 = 5.4$ Hz, H-5), 3.33 (1H, dd, $J_1 = 2.0$ Hz, $J_2 = 6.6$ Hz, H-4), 6.39 (1H, dd, $J_1 = 7.4$ Hz, $J_2 = 15.8$ Hz, H-2), 6.56 (1H, dd, $J_1 = 6.6$ Hz, $J_2 = 15.8$ Hz, H-3), 9.57 (1H, d, $J = 7.4$ Hz, H-1).

Sample Preparation. The fruit was peeled and the flesh separated from the seed. Two batches of \approx 1.3 kg of the flesh were blended with 1.0 M CaCl_2 for 1 min to inactivate enzymes

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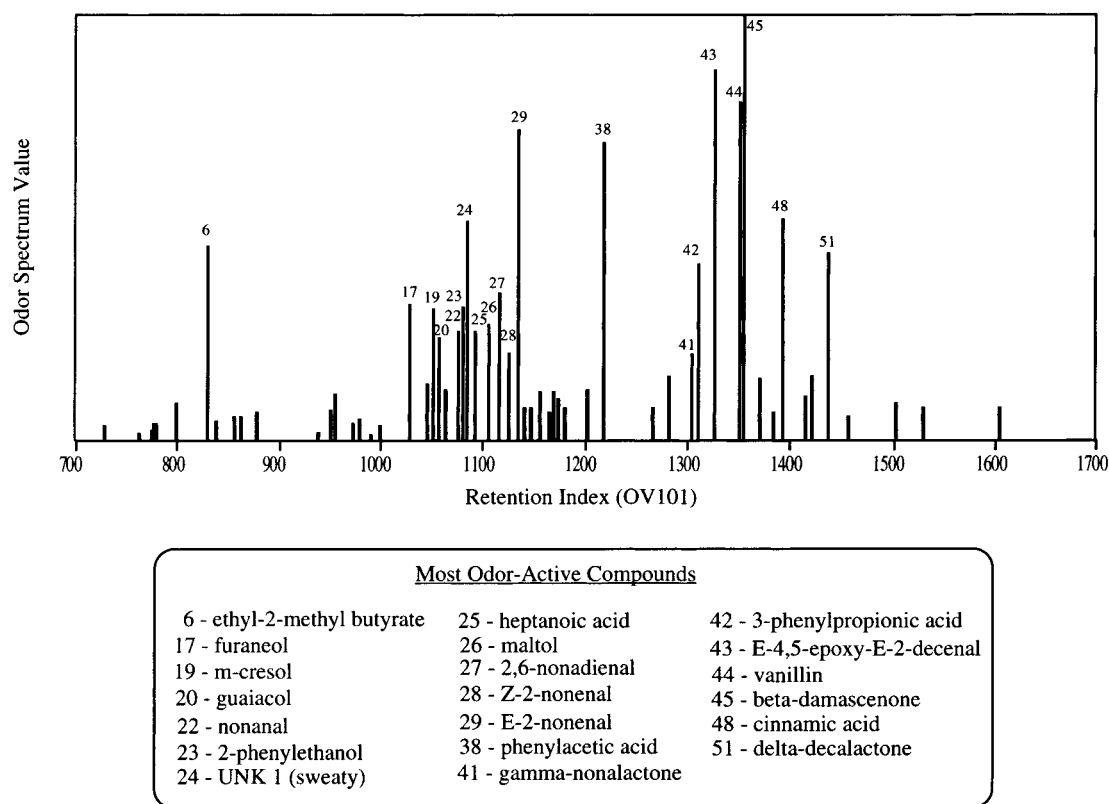


Figure 1. Odor spectrum of rambutan fruit combined Freon and ethyl acetate extracts.

(Shure, 1992), yielding 1.3 L of the juice. The juice was sequentially extracted with Freon and ethyl acetate. Both extracts were dried with anhydrous magnesium sulfate and serially diluted or concentrated by 3-fold. The most concentrated extract was 729-fold and the least 1/27-fold.

Gas Chromatography/Olfactometry (GC/O). Extracted samples were analyzed using a GC/O system (CharmAnalysis) on a modified HP 5890 GC (Datu, Inc., Geneva, NY) and sniffed using an HP-1 (15 m \times 0.32 mm) or an HP-Innowax (15 m \times 0.32 mm) column. The oven temperature was programmed from 35 to 250 $^{\circ}$ C at 6 $^{\circ}$ C/min. All extract dilutions were sniffed twice (repeated measure) until no odor was observed (detection threshold), and the retention time of each odorant was converted to Kovats indices using 7–28-carbon normal paraffins. Caramel, floral, fruity, green, plastic, spicy, sweaty, urine, and woody were the words used to describe the most potent odorants chosen from a lexicon that also included the words coconut, citrus, earthy, fatty, gasoline, grassy, medicinal, minty, musty, mothball, and skunky. The lexicon was developed by sniffing the 729-fold sample three times and selecting the 20 most frequently used words.

Quantitative Analyses. The most odor active volatiles in rambutan as determined by GC/O were quantified using GC mass fragmentography of the most abundant ion. The concentration of each volatile was adjusted for loss during extraction by determining the percent recovery of each compound in a model system (Table 2). Odor activity values (OAVs) were then determined by dividing the concentration by its water phase detection threshold (Guadagni et al., 1966).

Capillary Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS). An HP model 5985 MSD GC/MS was used with an HP-1 (25 m \times 0.32 mm) or HP-Innowax (25 m \times 0.32 mm) column. The oven temperature was programmed from 35 to 250 $^{\circ}$ C at 4 $^{\circ}$ C/min. Retention indices (RI) of standard compounds that matched with RI of unknowns detected by GC/O were tentatively identified. Confirmation of unknowns were based upon odor, mass spectral, and RI matches with authentic standards.

Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy. 1 H NMR spectra was acquired on a Varian XL-200 instrument at 200 MHz.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Over 100 volatiles were detected in the rambutan extract by GC/MS. Twice as many of the most polar volatiles were detected in the ethyl acetate extract as were detected in the nonpolar Freon extract. Tables 1, 3, and 4 list the 101 compounds identified by GC/MS. At least 60 of the compounds had odor activity under GC/O, including 11 unidentified compounds. More odor active compounds were also detected in the ethyl acetate extracts than in the Freon extracts (Tables 1 and 3).

The data include two different odor activity values (charm and OAV) as well as an odor intensity measure referred to as the odor spectrum value (OSV). A charm value is defined as the area of the peaks in the charm chromatogram and is proportional to the concentration of the component in the extract divided by the gas-phase detection threshold, while the OAVs are the concentration measured in the extract divided by the water-phase detection threshold reported in the literature (Table 2). Under ideal conditions, i.e. CharmAnalysis of the retronasal headspace and thresholds determined in the actual food matrix itself, the charm values and OAVs should yield the same results. The OSV is the normalized charm value modified with an approximate Stevens's law exponent (Stevens, 1958). OSVs are independent of concentration and approximate the relative importance of component odorants, while charm and OAVs as true activity measures are linear functions of concentration (Acree, 1997).

Figure 1 shows the combined odor spectrum for both Freon and ethyl acetate extracts. Among the volatiles detected by GC/O, β -damascenone, (E)-4,5-epoxy-(E)-2-decenal, vanillin, (E)-2-nonenal, phenylacetic acid, cinnamic acid, unknown 1 (sweaty), ethyl 2-methylbutyrate, δ -decalactone, 3-phenylpropionic acid, 2,6-nonadienal, furaneol, 2-phenylethanol, m-cresol, maltol,

Table 1. Most Potent Odorants Found in Rambutan Fruit (above 20% OSV^a)

| peak no. | compd detected | CAS Registry No. | retention indices | | descriptors | charm value | odor spectrum values (OSV) | confirmed by | |
|----------|---|------------------|-------------------|------------|----------------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------|----|
| | | | HP-1 | HP-Innowax | | | | GCO | MS |
| 45 | β -damascenone | 23726-93-4 | 1356 | 1790 | fruity, floral | 55427 | 100 | + | — |
| 43 | (<i>E</i>)-4,5-epoxy-(<i>E</i>)-2-decenal | | 1335 | 1913 | woody | 41890 | 87 | + | + |
| 44 | vanillin | 121-33 | 1345 | 2591 | vanilla | 34660 | 79 | + | + |
| 29 | (<i>E</i>)-2-nonenal | 18829-56-6 | 1130 | 1519 | plastic, green | 28158 | 71 | + | + |
| 38 | phenylacetic acid | 103-82-2 | 1236 | 2568 | urine | 26746 | 69 | + | + |
| 48 | cinnamic acid | 140-10-3 | 1394 | 2852 | woody | 14947 | 52 | + | + |
| 24 | unknown 1 | | 1085 | 2030 | sweaty | 14742 | 52 | — | — |
| 6 | ethyl 2-methylbutyrate | 7452-79-1 | 835 | 1041 | fruity | 11435 | 45 | + | + |
| 51 | δ -decalactone | 705-86-2 | 1437 | 2179 | coconut | 10443 | 43 | + | + |
| 42 | 3-phenylpropionic acid | 501-52-0 | 1308 | 2650 | balsamic | 9368 | 41 | + | + |
| 27 | 2,6-nonadienal | 557-48-2 | 1117 | 1553 | green | 5639 | 32 | + | + |
| 17 | furaneol | 3658-77-3 | 1029 | 2020 | caramel | 5479 | 31 | + | + |
| 23 | 2-phenylethanol | 60-12-8 | 1078 | 1905 | spicy | 5219 | 31 | + | + |
| 19 | <i>m</i> -cresol | 108-39-4 | 1048 | 2069 | medicine | 5070 | 30 | + | + |
| 26 | maltol | 118-71-8 | 1104 | 1954 | cotton candy | 4033 | 27 | + | + |
| 25 | heptanoic acid | 111-14-8 | 1092 | 1950 | sweaty | 3567 | 25 | + | + |
| 22 | nonanal | 124-19-6 | 1080 | 1380 | plastic, fatty | 3527 | 25 | + | + |
| 20 | guaiacol | 90-05-1 | 1056 | 1848 | medicine | 3051 | 23 | + | + |
| 28 | (<i>Z</i>)-2-nonenal | 60784-31-8 | 1121 | 1492 | plastic, green | 2534 | 20 | + | — |
| 41 | γ -nonalactone | 104-61-0 | 1304 | 2008 | musty | 2208 | 20 | + | + |

^a Odor spectrum value (OSV) is the normalized charm value modified with an approximate Stevens's law exponent.

Table 2. Concentrations, Odor Thresholds, and Odor Activity Values (OAV) of Most Potent Odorants in Rambutan Fruit As Detected by GC/O

| peak no. | compd | % recovery | concn (μ g/L of juice) | threshold values ^a (ppb in water) | OAV |
|----------|---|------------|-----------------------------|--|--------|
| 45 | β -damascenone | 115 | 2.27 | 0.01 (a) | 226.69 |
| 43 | (<i>E</i>)-4,5-epoxy-(<i>E</i>)-2-decenal | 92 | 14.92 | 5 (b) | 2.98 |
| 44 | vanillin | 116 | 21.10 | 200 (c) | 0.13 |
| 29 | (<i>E</i>)-2-nonenal | 95 | 7.03 | 0.08 (d) | 87.83 |
| 38 | phenylacetic acid | 105 | 131.67 | 10000 (c) | 0.02 |
| 48 | cinnamic acid | 114 | 1340.15 | 5000 (b) | 0.27 |
| 6 | ethyl 2-methylbutyrate | 105 | 15.13 | 0.1 (d) | 151.30 |
| 51 | δ -decalactone | 105 | 9.77 | 100 (e) | 0.12 |
| 42 | 3-phenylpropionic acid | 104 | 363.09 | 25000 (c) | 0.02 |
| 27 | 2,6-nonadienal | 92 | 1.22 | 0.01 (d) | 121.50 |
| 17 | furaneol | 90 | 240.15 | 25 (f) | 9.61 |
| 23 | 2-phenylethanol | 95 | 107.78 | 17 (c) | 8.78 |
| 19 | <i>m</i> -cresol | 85 | 5.65 | 650 (c) | 0.01 |
| 26 | maltol | 90 | 53.79 | 10000 (b) | 0.01 |
| 25 | heptanoic acid | 99 | 30.43 | 500 (c) | 0.08 |
| 22 | nonanal | 101 | 51.90 | 1 (c) | 62.64 |
| 20 | guaiacol | 104 | 11.99 | 21 (c) | 0.61 |
| 28 | (<i>Z</i>)-2-nonenal | 95 | nd ^b | | |
| 41 | γ -nonalactone | 118 | 29.43 | 1 (g) | 35.90 |

^a (a) Ohloff (1978); (b) determined using method as described by Takeoka et al. (1990); (c) Fazzalari (1978); (d) Buttery (1981); (e) Takeoka et al. (1990); (f) Guth and Grosch (1994); (g) Stahl, 1973. ^b nd, not detected.

heptanoic acid, nonanal, guaiacol, (*Z*)-2-nonenal, and γ -nonalactone were identified as being the most potent odorants in rambutan extract (Table 1). Of the 20 most potent odorants, 7 were polar in nature, indicating the value of solvent extraction with polar solvents. An odor spectrum that would more accurately reflect the sensory perception of the fruit could be made from the GC/O of the retronasal headspace (Guth and Grosch, 1994; Roberts, 1996; Linforth and Taylor, 1993). However, an approximation of the retronasal headspace odor spectrum is the list of OAVs shown in Table 2, indicating a lower contribution to the perceived odor expected for compounds such as vanillin, maltol, and cinnamic acid.

The concentrations of the most potent odorants in rambutan determined by GC/MS are presented in Table 2. These values were used to determine the OAVs of each volatile. On the basis of OAVs, β -damascenone, ethyl 2-methylbutyrate, 2,6-nonadienal, (*E*)-2-nonenal, and nonanal had values over 60, indicating their significant contribution to the aroma of this fruit in

water-based media. Compounds that were acidic in nature, such as phenylacetic acid and cinnamic acid, had very low OAVs due to their very high thresholds reported in water. The exact role of these compounds is not clear, but they should be tested for their contribution in mixture experiments.

β -Damascenone, with a characteristic fruity-floral aroma, had the largest odor activity by all three measures. This compound was found using GC/O to be a potent aroma compound in many other fruits such as apples, grapes, and tomatoes (Braell et al., 1986; Cunningham et al., 1986; Buttery et al., 1990). (*E*)-4,5-Epoxy-(*E*)-2-decenal, previously reported in puff pastries (Gassenmeier and Schieberle, 1994), soybean oil (Guth and Grosch, 1990), and wheat bread crumbs (Schieberle and Grosch, 1991), has been described as having a metallic odor. However, this compound was described by the authors as having more of a woody note at lower concentrations. Other odor descriptors provided by an informal sensory panel included green, chalky, fatty, and rust-like. The odor of this compound, the authors

Table 3. Additional Potent Odorants in Rambutan Fruit (below 20% OSV^a)

| compd detected | CAS Registry No. | retention indices | | descriptors | charm value | odor spectrum values (OSV) | confirmed by | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------|---------------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------|----|
| | | HP-1 | HP-Innowax | | | | GCO | MS |
| (<i>E,E</i>)-2,4-decadienal | 25152-84-5 | 1284 | 1778 | citrus | 1187 | 15 | + | + |
| ethyl cinnamate | 103-36-6 | 1426 | 2102 | musty | 1171 | 15 | + | + |
| unknown | | 1372 | | mothball-like | 1136 | 14 | + | — |
| 2-acetyl-2-thiazoline | 29926-41-8 | 1053 | 1725 | caramel | 836 | 12 | + | + |
| (<i>E</i>)-furan linalool oxide | 34995-77-2 | 1065 | 1453 | green | 721 | 11 | + | + |
| carvone | 6485-40-1 | 1208 | 1705 | minty | 711 | 11 | + | + |
| unknown | | 1170 | | earthy | 664 | 11 | + | — |
| (<i>E,Z</i>)-2,4-nonadienal | 5910-87-2 | 1165 | 1644 | vegetative | 637 | 11 | + | + |
| 1-octen-3-ol | 3391-86-4 | 954 | 1445 | earthy | 572 | 10 | + | + |
| γ -decalactone | 706-14-9 | 1418 | 2109 | coconut | 496 | 9 | + | + |
| (<i>E,E</i>)-2,4-nonadienal | 5910-87-2 | 1180 | 1680 | green | 446 | 9 | + | + |
| unknown | | 1505 | | plastic | 370 | 8 | + | — |
| furfural | 98-01-1 | 798 | 1410 | burnt | 347 | 8 | + | + |
| unknown | | 1605 | | plastic | 286 | 7 | + | — |
| unknown | | 1141 | | minty | 281 | 7 | + | — |
| benzothiazole | 95-16-9 | 1180 | 1909 | musty | 269 | 7 | + | + |
| unknown | | 1149 | | spicy | 266 | 7 | + | — |
| (<i>E,Z</i>)-2,4-decadienal | 25152-83-4 | 1267 | 1750 | fatty, green | 251 | 7 | + | + |
| γ -undecalactone | 104-67-6 | 1529 | 2235 | fruity | 247 | 7 | + | + |
| 3-methyl(thio)propanol | 505-10-2 | 950 | 1708 | earthy | 214 | 6 | + | + |
| <i>endo</i> -isocamphone ^b | 3767-44-0 | 1165 | | musty | 197 | 6 | — | + |
| unknown | | 1385 | | musty | 179 | 6 | + | — |
| unknown | | 878 | | musty | 174 | 6 | + | — |
| α -humulene | 6753-98-6 | 1454 | 1663 | woody | 138 | 5 | + | + |
| 2-heptanone | 110-43-0 | 865 | 1151 | musty | 125 | 5 | + | + |
| isoamyl acetate | 123-92-2 | 860 | 1101 | floral | 110 | 4 | + | + |
| 2-amylfuran | 3777-69-3 | 980 | 1221 | balsamic | 94 | 4 | + | + |
| 2-methylbutyric acid | 600-07-7 | 846 | 1665 | sour | 76 | 4 | + | + |
| 2-acetylthiazole | 24295-03-2 | 973 | 1623 | popcorn | 59 | 3 | + | + |
| ethyl butyrate | 105-54-4 | 780 | 1029 | fruity | 46 | 3 | + | + |
| hexanal | 66-25-1 | 778 | 1071 | grassy | 46 | 3 | + | + |
| hexanoic acid | 142-62-1 | 1005 | 1836 | sweaty | 43 | 3 | + | + |
| unknown | | 720 | | fruity | 28 | 2 | + | — |
| unknown | | 775 | | skunky | 16 | 2 | + | — |
| hexyl acetate | 142-92-7 | 994 | 1267 | grassy | <5 | <1 | + | + |
| 5-methylfurfural | 620-02-0 | 931 | 1558 | musty | <5 | <1 | + | + |
| isobutyl acetate | 110-19-0 | 760 | 1009 | fruity | <5 | <1 | + | + |
| 1,2-dimethoxybenzene | 91-16-7 | 1112 | 1716 | plastic | <5 | <1 | + | + |
| isobutyric acid | 79-31-2 | | 1551 | rancid | <5 | <1 | + | + |
| octanoic acid | 124-07-2 | 1165 | 2040 | sweaty | <5 | <1 | + | + |
| butyric acid | 107-92-6 | | 1630 | vomit/rancid | <5 | <1 | + | + |

^a Odor spectrum value (OSV) is the normalized charm value modified with an approximate Stevens's law exponent. ^b Tentatively identified by GC/MS.

Table 4. Volatile Compounds Not Odor Active in Rambutan Fruit

| compd detected by GC/MS | CAS Registry No. | retention indices | | compd detected by GC/MS | CAS Registry No. | retention indices | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------|
| | | obsd | std | | | obsd | std |
| butyl acetate | 123-86-4 | 798 | 799 | δ -octalactone | 698-76-0 | 1230 | 1228 |
| ethyl crotonate | 623-70-1 | 823 | 823 | nonanoic acid | 112-05-0 | 1273 | 1271 |
| (<i>E</i>)-2-hexenal | 6728-26-3 | 824 | 826 | 1,2,3-trimethoxybenzene | 634-36-6 | 1276 | 1276 |
| (<i>E</i>)-2-hexen-1-ol | 928-95-0 | 850 | 850 | farnesane | 3891-98-3 | 1286 | 1286 |
| 1-hexanol | 111-27-3 | 854 | 854 | ethyl 3-hydroxyoctanoate | 7367-90-0 | 1310 | 1310 |
| γ -butyrolactone | 96-48-0 | 856 | 855 | butyl benzoate | 136-60-7 | 1348 | 1348 |
| amyl acetate | 628-63-7 | 897 | 897 | decanoic acid | 334-48-5 | 1353 | 1350 |
| ethyl 3-hydroxybutyrate | 5405-41-4 | 910 | 910 | tetradecane | 629-59-4 | 1398 | 1400 |
| benzaldehyde | 100-52-7 | 926 | 926 | <i>trans</i> -isoeugenol | 97-54-1 | 1420 | 1420 |
| ethyl 3-hydroxy-3-methylbutyrate | 18267-36-2 | 929 | 930 | β -caryophyllene | 87-44-5 | 1421 | 1430 |
| ethyl hexanoate | 123-66-0 | 982 | 984 | 2-methoxybenzene | 100-66-3 | 1425 | 1425 |
| benzyl alcohol | 100-51-6 | 1008 | 1003 | geranyl acetone | 3796-70-1 | 1430 | 1431 |
| limonene | 5989-27-5 | 1021 | 1022 | β -ionone | 14901-07-6 | 1448 | 1448 |
| acetophenone | 98-86-2 | 1030 | 1030 | methyl vanillate | 3943-74-6 | 1476 | 1476 |
| ethyl 2-hydroxycaprate | 124439-28-7 | 1042 | 1041 | <i>o</i> -phenylphenol | 90-43-7 | 1483 | 1484 |
| camphor-L | 76-22-2 | 1120 | 1120 | ethyl 4-hydroxybenzoate | 120-47-8 | 1488 | 1485 |
| DDMP ^b | 28564-83-2 | 1124 | 1124 | vanillic acid | 121-34-6 | 1541 | 1540 |
| benzyl acetate | 140-11-4 | 1134 | 1134 | ethyl vanillate | 617-05-0 | 1547 | 1548 |
| octyl acetate | 1112-14-1 | 1136 | 1137 | lauric acid | 143-07-7 | 1550 | 1550 |
| ethyl benzoate | 93-89-0 | 1146 | 1146 | lauryl acetate | 112-66-3 | 1592 | 1591 |
| (<i>Z</i>)-pyran linalool oxide | 14009-71-3 | 1150 | 1148 | δ -undecalactone | 710-64-3 | 1617 | 1617 |
| nonyl alcohol | 143-08-8 | 1155 | 1155 | myristic acid | 544-63-8 | 1742 | 1741 |
| (<i>E</i>)-pyran linalool oxide | 39028-58-5 | 1157 | 1155 | ethyl myristate | 124-06-1 | 1777 | 1775 |
| benzoic acid | 65-85-0 | 1170 | 1167 | palmitic acid | 57-10-3 | 1954 | 1952 |
| ethyl phenylacetate | 101-97-3 | 1213 | 1213 | ethyl palmitate | 628-97-7 | 1987 | 1986 |
| phenylethyl acetate | 103-45-7 | 1227 | 1226 | | | | |

^a Retention indices on HP-1 column. ^b 2,3-Dihydroxy-3,5-dihydroxy-6-methyl-4(*H*)-pyran-4-one.

believe, is a detectable attribute of rambutan fruit. The fatty and green notes, which were exhibited by (*E*)- and (*Z*)-2-nonenal, nonanal, and 2,6-nonadienal, were all probably derived from lipid oxidation. The presence of the alkadienals (C9 and C10) has been shown to be derived from the hydroperoxidation of unsaturated fatty acids typically dictated by a lipogenase (Lindsay, 1985). The civet-like and sweaty notes were due to phenylacetic acid, heptanoic acid, and unknown 1, which may contribute to the underlying exotic aroma of the fruit. However, as noted in their low OAVs, the contribution of these compounds found even at relatively high concentrations may be limited.

Table 3 lists odorants that had OSVs below 20% of the most potent odorant identified— β -damascenone. These compounds have all been reported in various fruits and vegetables. Although these compounds seem to contribute little to the odor character of rambutan, they should be tested for their contribution to the complexity of rambutan flavor.

Listed in Table 4 are the remaining rambutan volatiles that were detected by GC/MS. Over 50 volatiles were identified, including alcohols, aldehydes, esters, ketones, terpenes, and other miscellaneous compounds. Most of these volatiles had no detectable odor when analyzed by GC/O, thus indicating these compounds had no odor activity or were below their respective thresholds in this fruit.

Analysis of the rambutan extracts on a polar HP-Innowax column was useful in the analysis of the ethyl acetate extracts, providing better chromatographic separation of the acidic compounds. Although unknown 1 is presently unidentified, it is suspected that the sweat-like odor [RI = 1085 (HP-1) and 2030 (Innowax)] is an unsaturated acid. These acids have been identified as the chemicals responsible for the characteristic human axillary odors (Zeng et al., 1991) and are likely suspects since the odor detected in the fruit had an odor similar to human sweat.

Taken together, these results indicate that the exotic aroma character of rambutan is the interaction of fruity-sweet (β -damascenone, ethyl 2-methylbutyrate, fura-neol) and fatty-green (2-nonenal, nonanal, 2,6-nonadienal) notes, with sweaty (phenylacetic acid, heptanoic acid, unknown 1), woody [(*E*)-4,5-epoxy-(*E*)-2-decenal, lactones, vanillin], and spicy (cinnamic acid, guaiacol, etc.) notes contributing to the complexity of the flavor.

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