Dear Editor,

I am submitting the manuscript entitled “**Fractionation of the essential oil from juniper (*Juniperus communis* L:) berries by hydrodistillation and rectification**” written by Miljana S. Marković, Nevenka M. Bošković-Vragolović, Mihailo S. Ristić, Vladimir P. Pavićević, Vlada B. Veljković and Svetomir Ž. Milojević for publication in your journal.

This is an original scientific paper based on our original work. The material has not been previously published elsewhere. All the authors agree that the manuscript should be submitted to your journal.

The paper presents the influence of rectification on the fractionation of a juniper essential oil by comparing the performances of two techniques, namely simultaneous hydrodistillation and rectification (SHDR) and conventional hydrodistillation (HD). In the former case, a Clevenger apparatus was combined with a rectification column. Fractions of the juniper essential oil were collected during the HD and the SHDR and then analyzed by GC-FID and GC-MS. The present study shows a higher essential oil yield with the HD (1.34 mass %) than with the SHDR (1.17 mass %). No difference among the qualitative chemical compositions of the two mixtures of all fractions collected during the two separation techniques was observed. However, the time distributions of monoterpene hydrocarbons (MHs), oxygenated monoterpenes (OMs) and sesquiterpene hydrocarbons (SHs) mass fractions, observed for the two separation methods, differed from each other. The SHDR increases the content of the high volatile components (predominantly MHs) in the initial fractions and the low volatile components (dominantly SHs) in the last fractions. Also, this method increases the separation degree of OMs.

I believe that the paper will be of interest to those studying HD and MAHD, especially to those dealing with their kinetics.

I hope the manuscript will meet all requirements of your journal and be accepted for publication.

Sincerely,

M. Marković