

# Ylang-ylang first Essential oil Comoros

*Cananga odorata forma genuina (Lam.) Hook. F. & Thom. (Baillon)*



**Floral**  
Jasmine



Botanical family : Annonaceae  
Method of culture : Conventional  
Part harvested : Flowers

CAS TSCA : 8006-81-3  
INCI : Cananga odorata oil

## Specifications

Method for obtaining : Hydrodistillation  
:  
Appearance : Pale yellow to dark yellow liquid  
Constituents : Germacrene D, farnesene, benzyl benzoate and benzyl acetate

## Harvest period

J F M A M J J A S O N D



Native to the Philippines, Borneo, and the Moluccas, ylang-ylang is now widespread in the Indian Ocean. Mayotte, Nosy Be (Madagascar), and the Comoros Islands are the main producer countries. To simplify the harvest process, the ylang-ylang tree is kept at a height of two to three meters, with the trained branches drooping like those of the weeping willow. Ylang flowers are much sought-after in perfumery. When the golden-yellow flowers mature, the base of their petals turns red. Harvesting takes place all year long, because the ylang tree remains constantly in bloom, though the flowers are most numerous in the summer, from November to March. They are picked at dawn, when the aromatic qualities are at their peak. Ylang-ylang essential oil comes from steam distillation of the flowers, which is performed in fractions to generate different qualities. The oil density is what determines this quality, of which there are five: extra superior (no longer produced), extra, first, second, and third. The first essential oil requires two to three hours of distillation. There is also an unfractionated essential oil known as complete. Ylang-ylang first essential oil is of a quality that permits its use in perfumery: It has floral and jasmine notes, but also fruity facets.

Ylang-ylang's botanical name is *Cananga odorata forma genuina*: the tree is of the same genus and species as *cananga* (*Cananga odorata forma macrophylla*); only the variety is different. In Malay, ylang-ylang means "flower of flowers." It is a popular and widely used essence in Southeast Asia, where women mix it with coconut oil to scent their hair. Ylang is also the national emblem of the island of Mayotte. Vanilla and ylang were long the island's only two exports. Today, there is a museum dedicated to the two plants, displaying information about the trees and harvesting.

Advised uses : Aromatherapy, Perfumery, Cosmetic, Alimentary



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