

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE PHYSICO-CHEMICAL  
PROPERTIES OF "THEMBILI OIL" WITH COCONUT OIL

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## ABSTRACT

Rath and Ran thembili oil show no considerable variation in the physico-chemical parameters from each other and from coconut oil except for sterol composition.

International literature accounts for 1% cholesterol and the major sterol to be  $\beta$ -sitosterol amounting to ca 58% for coconut oil apart from other sterols present. But Sri Lankan coconut oil accounts for no cholesterol and the major sterol to be  $\Delta^5$  Avensterol with  $\beta$ -sitosterol of less than 29%.

Both Rath and Ran thembili oil show no cholesterol but accounts for less than 43%  $\beta$ -sitosterol and is the major steroid. On this aspect thembili sterol composition approximate with literature coconut oil which differ significantly from Sri Lankan coconut oil.

Therefore the sterol composition could be conveniently used to differentiate "Thembili" from Sri Lankan Coconut oil and once this is established the Iodine value could be used to distinguish Rath and Ran thembili. The latter having a lower Iodine value.

Methods of extraction does not contribute significantly for the parameters analysed.