

International Gums & Oils

Company Profile

International Gums and Oils Ltd (IGO) is a plant product company that supplies raw material to the nutraceutical, fragrance and cosmetics industries. The company currently imports premium botanical compounds, including frankincense, myrrh and henna from Asia and the "Horn of Africa", principally Somalia, Ethiopia and Oman.

Collaborating with BEACON

It is well known that certain plants contain naturally occurring biochemical compounds with anti-retroviral, anti-malarial and anti-inflammatory properties. BEACON is working with IGO to identify high value compounds for the health and beauty industry. BEACON initially undertook a literature review surrounding particular plant components to better understand the potential for extracting actives. IGO are now interested in isolating and formulating such compounds for use in facemasks and as a skin cleanser for the personal care sector.

A collaborative R&D project between BEACON and IGO focused on solvent extraction and purification at laboratory scale, followed by scale-up. In addition, the Accelerated Solvent Extraction (ASE) system was used to try to screen the leafy powdered material for any other value added molecules. The initial analytical work produced encouraging results, and showed interesting and long-lasting additional functional properties of the leafy powder for natural cosmetics applications. Further development work to provide a better understanding of this functionality is underway. BEACON researchers have also undertaken a chemical analysis on the plant oil extract using Mass Spectrometry. The potential of the oil to

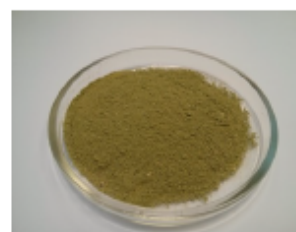
counteract the yeast pathogen associated with skin conditions such as dandruff (*Malassezia*) was also investigated.



For further information:
www.igold.com

"Working with BEACON has enabled our company to use alternative techniques and larger scale equipment to extract the high value compounds we are interested in for their commercial potential in the cosmetics and personal care sectors.

Dr Ahmed Ali
Research Director



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