



Estimation of free fatty acids, iodine value and saponification value of sea oil and its FTIR study

Swaroop Rani N. Gupta

Department of Chemistry, Brijlal Biyani Science College, Amravati, Maharashtra India
swargupta@yahoo.com

Available online at: www.isca.in, www.isca.me

Received 5th November 2024, revised 25th May 2025, accepted 25th December 2025

Abstract

Sea buckthorn oil is red-orange oil derived from sea buckthorn plants. Oil content in seeds of sea buckthorn is on average 7–11 % while oil content of the fruit pulp is around 1.5–3%. Seed oil is characterized by high contents of polyunsaturated fatty acids while pulp oil contains monounsaturated fatty acids and carotenoids. Both oils also contain dense amounts of tocopherols, tocotrienols and plant sterols. Present Paper deals with Estimation of Free Fatty acids, Iodine value and Saponification value of Sea Buckthorn Oil and FTIR study of Sea Buckthorn Oil. Fat or oil contains small quantity of free fatty acids. On storing, the free fatty acid contents of the fat or oil increases. The free fatty acid contents are determined by direct titration of fat or oil with standard KOH solution. The acid value is defined as the numbers of milligrams of KOH required to neutralize the free fatty acid present in 1 g of the fat or oil. The iodine value of oil is the number of grams of iodine taken up by 100 g of the oil. It is determined by reacting a known volume of excess solution of iodine monochloride in acetic acid (Wij's solution) with oil and then back titrating unreacted iodine with Sodium thiosulphate solution. Saponification value of an oil or fat is defined as the number of milligrams of Potassium Hydroxide required to hydrolyse (saponify) one gram of oil completely. A known amount of oil is refluxed with excess amount of standard alcoholic potash solution and the unused alkali is titrated against standard acid solution using phenolphthalein as an indicator.

Keywords: Sea Buckthorn Oil, Estimation of Free Fatty acids, Estimation of Iodine value, Estimation of Saponification value, FTIR study.

Introduction

Sea buckthorn oil is red-orange oil derived from sea buckthorn plants. The most commonly used species for this purpose is *Hippophae rhamnoides*. Species belonging to this genus accumulate lipids in the mesocarp (the fruit pulp), so the oil can be extracted from either the seeds or the pulp. The resulting oils (seed oil and pulp oil, also called fruit or berry oil) are used in dietary supplements, nutraceuticals, cosmetics and skin care products.

Oil content in seeds of sea buckthorn is on average 7–11 % while oil content of the fruit pulp is around 1.5–3% (per fresh weight). Seed oil is characterized by high contents of polyunsaturated fatty acids while pulp oil contains monounsaturated fatty acids¹ and carotenoids². Both oils also contain dense amounts of tocopherols, tocotrienols³ and plant sterols⁴.

Oils from sea buckthorn seeds and pulp differ considerably in fatty acid composition. While linoleic acid and α -linolenic acid are the major fatty acids in seed oil, sea buckthorn pulp oil contains approximately 65% combined of the monounsaturated fatty acid, palmitoleic acid, and the saturated fatty acid, palmitic acid¹. This results in a major difference between the sea buckthorn oil extracted from seeds and the sea buckthorn oil

extracted from the fleshy part of the fruit, in term of appearance and consistency. Sea buckthorn fruit oil is dark orange in color and has a thick consistency (it is liquid at room temperature, but becomes much thicker if refrigerated), whereas the seed oil is pale yellow and does not solidify under refrigeration.

Few other vegetable oils contain a similar quantity of these fatty acids. The high proportion of unsaturated fatty acids are also responsible for the relatively poor shelf life, as they cause sea buckthorn oil to turn rancid quickly⁵. α -Tocopherol is the major vitamin E compound in sea buckthorn⁶. Seed oil also contains considerable amounts of gamma-tocopherol. The total amount of tocopherols and tocotrienols is roughly 64–300mg/100g in seed oil and 100–481mg/100g in pulp oil³.

As carotenoids are the pigments that give sea buckthorn berry its distinctive orange-red color, these compounds are present in considerable amounts both in pulp oil and in seed oil; the average carotenoid content of pulp oil is 350 mg per 100 grams, as compared to 67.5 mg per 100 grams in seed oil. The total content of carotenoids in pulp oil varies (300–2000 mg/100 g) greatly between different growth locations and subspecies⁷, and between components, where total carotenoids were up to 85 mg/100 g in seed oil, and up to 1000 mg/100 g in pulp oil. In general, the main carotenoids present in pulp oil are beta-carotene, zeaxanthin and lycopene².

Blank Titration: Titration was performed using blank solution (without oil) and noted the end point.

FTIR Analysis: FTIR can be routinely used to identify the functional groups. FTIR spectra of Sea Buckthorn Oil was obtained at room temperature by using an FTIR Spectrophotometer - Shimadzu - IR Affinity – 1. The spectra is collected in range from 350 - 4700 cm⁻¹.

SEM Analysis: The Electron Microscope is an essential component for scientific analysis of a variety of materials. Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) comprises a powerful tool in studying (cell and molecular biology, anatomy, microbiology, pathology and forensic science) biological specimens, food stuffs and several other areas of material sciences (electronics, metallurgy, polymer and surface science). Morphological graphs of the Sea Buckthorn Oils provided by scanning electron microscopy (Digital Scanning Electron Microscope - JSM 6100 - JEOL) with a Link analytical system operating at 10 KV (acceleration voltage).

Results and Discussion

Estimation of Free Fatty acids: is as follows:

Table-1: Standardization of KOH.

| Volume of oxalic acid taken | Volume of 0.1N KOH required | Constant reading V ₁ |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 10ml | 10 ml | 10 ml |
| 10ml | 10ml | |
| 10ml | 10 ml | |

Table-2: Titration of Sea Buckthorn Oil.

| Volume of alcohol | Volume of 0.1N KOH | Constant reading V ₂ |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5 ml | 1 ml | 1 ml |
| 5 ml | 1 ml | |
| 5 ml | 1 ml | |

$$\text{Normality of oxalic acid (N}_1\text{)} = \frac{\text{Weight of Oxalic Acid} \times 10}{63} = \frac{0.63 \times 10}{63} = 0.1$$

$$\text{Normality of potassium hydroxide (N}_2\text{)} = \frac{N_1 \times 10}{V_1} = \frac{0.1 \times 10}{10} = 0.1$$

1litre 1N KOH \equiv 56g KOH

$$V_2 \text{ ml N}_2 \text{ KOH} \equiv \frac{V_2 \times 56}{1000} \times \frac{N_2}{1} \text{gKOH}$$

$$\equiv V_2 \times 56 \times N_2 \text{ mg KOH}$$

$$\equiv 1 \times 56 \times 0.1 \text{ mg KOH}$$

$$\equiv 5.6 \text{ mg KOH}$$

5.6 mg KOH is required to Neutralize the free fatty acid present in 1g of oil. Hence the acid value of Sea Buckthorn Oil is 5.6.

Estimation of Iodine value: As follows:

Table-3: Standardization of Sodium thiosulphate.

| Volume of CuSO ₄ | Vol. of Sodium thiosulphate | Constant reading V ₁ |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 10 ml | 10 ml | 10 ml |
| 10 ml | 10 ml | |
| 10 ml | 10 ml | |

Table-4: Titration of Sea Buckthorn Oil.

| Sea Buckthorn Oil | Vol. of Sodium thiosulphate V ₂ |
|-------------------|--|
| 1 g | 12.0 ml |

Table-5: Blank Titration.

| Sea Buckthorn Oil | Vol. of Sodium thiosulphate V ₃ |
|-------------------|--|
| 0 g | 12.3 ml |

$$\text{Normality of CuSO}_4 \text{ Solution (N}_1\text{)} = \frac{2.49 \times 10}{249.5} = 0.1$$

$$\text{Normality of Sodium Thiosulphate Solution (N}_2\text{)} = \frac{N_1 \times 10}{V_1} = \frac{0.1 \times 10}{10} = 0.1$$

$$\text{Iodine Value} = \frac{(V_3 - V_2) \times N_2 \times 127 \times 100}{\text{Wt of Sample} \times 1000} = \frac{(12.3 - 12) \times 0.1 \times 127 \times 100}{1 \times 1000} = 0.381$$

Hence the Iodine value of Sea Buckthorn Oil was found to be 0.381.

Estimation of Saponification value: Volume of 0.5 N Oxalic acid used for blank Titration (V₁) = 9 ml, Volume of 0.5 N Oxalic acid used for Sea Buckthorn Oil Titration (V₂) = 7 ml.

$$\text{Normality of Oxalic Acid} = \frac{\text{Wt of Oxalic acid} \times 10}{63} = \frac{3.15 \times 10}{63} = 0.5$$

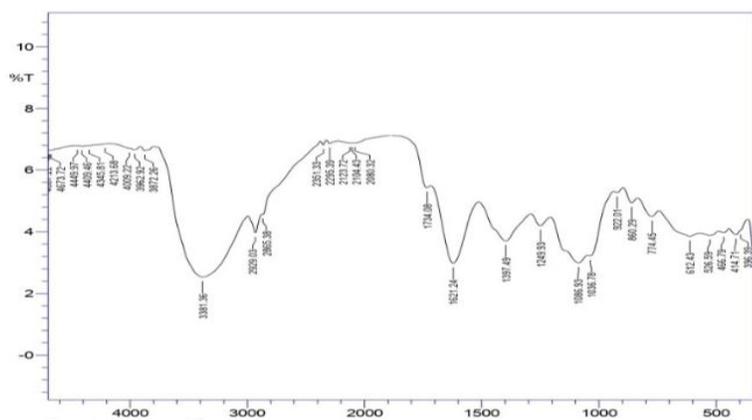
$$\text{Volume of Oxalic Acid used} = (V_1 - V_2) = (9 - 7) = 2 \text{ ml}$$

1liter of 1 N Oxalic Acid \equiv 56g KOH

$$\text{Hence (V}_1 - V_2\text{) ml of 0.5N Oxalic acid} \equiv \frac{56 (V_1 - V_2) \times 0.5}{1000 \times 1} \\ \equiv \frac{56 \times (9 - 7) \times 0.5}{1000 \times 1} = 0.056 \text{ g KOH} = 56 \text{ mg KOH}$$

56 mg KOH is required to saponify 1 g Sea Buckthorn Oil. Therefore, Saponification value of Sea Buckthorn Oil was found to be 56.

SEM Analysis: Scanning Electron Microscope image of Sea Buckthorn Oil shows that the material mainly consisted of spherical particles with 1-10 μm in diameter, and has a smaller aggregated particle size.



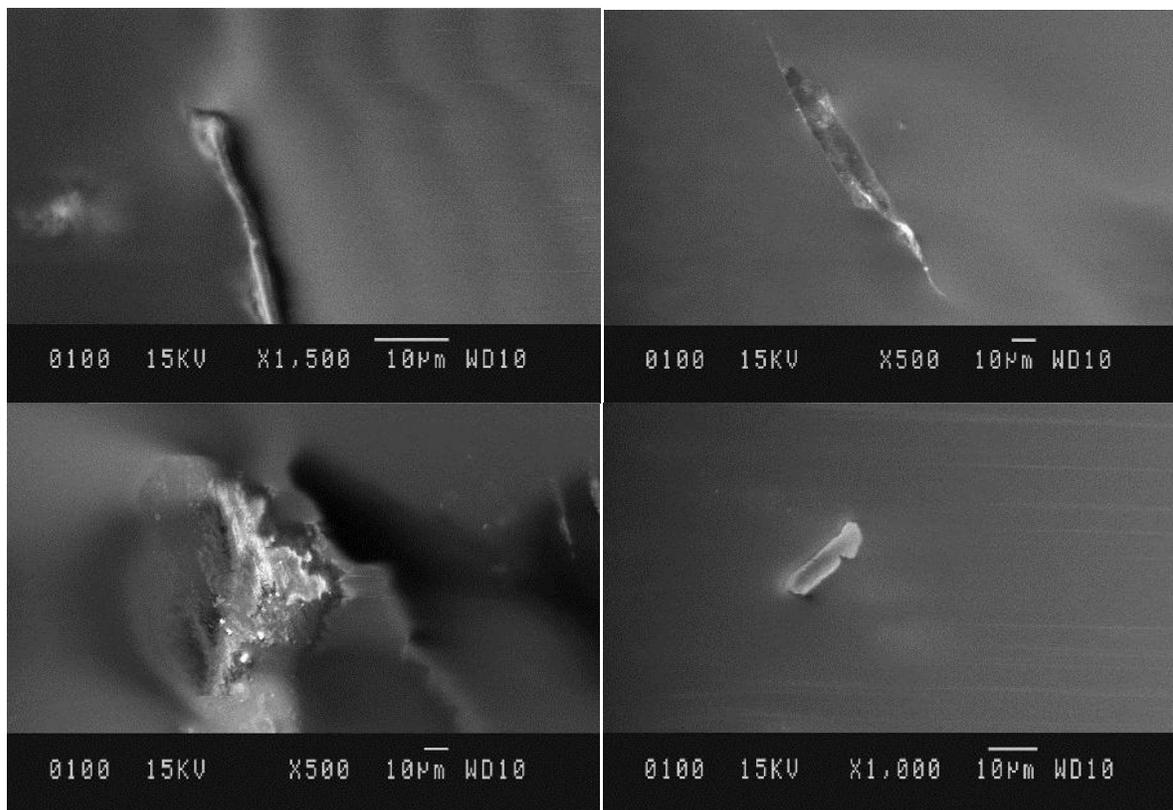
| No. | Peak | Intensity | Corr. Inte | Base (H) | Base (L) | Area | Corr. Are |
|-----|---------|-----------|------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1 | 396.39 | 4.0448 | 0.0119 | 397.35 | 397.46 | 41.0719 | 0.0317 |
| 2 | 414.71 | 3.9072 | 0.1607 | 444.61 | 397.35 | 66.1633 | 0.4825 |
| 3 | 468.79 | 3.9729 | 0.0914 | 468.01 | 445.58 | 59.2617 | 0.2362 |
| 4 | 526.59 | 3.8828 | 0.1077 | 569.03 | 488.08 | 112.5131 | 0.5111 |
| 5 | 612.43 | 3.8526 | 0.2797 | 743.59 | 569.09 | 240.9002 | 3.6843 |
| 6 | 774.46 | 4.4042 | 0.3215 | 835.21 | 744.55 | 120.3354 | 1.4259 |
| 7 | 860.29 | 4.9376 | 0.2880 | 895.97 | 836.18 | 77.2515 | 0.7414 |
| 8 | 922.01 | 5.2731 | 0.077 | 936.48 | 896.94 | 50.3581 | 0.1321 |
| 9 | 1030.76 | 3.2213 | 0.2132 | 1047.39 | 937.44 | 151.4443 | 0.9938 |
| 10 | 1086.03 | 2.9913 | 0.5457 | 1206.53 | 1048.30 | 231.8163 | 7.2173 |
| 11 | 1249.93 | 4.1933 | 0.334 | 1290.43 | 1207.49 | 112.8532 | 1.3476 |
| 12 | 1397.49 | 3.7005 | 1.0641 | 1512.26 | 1291.4 | 304.0061 | 12.095 |
| 13 | 1621.24 | 2.9763 | 2.2672 | 1716.72 | 1513.22 | 283.4848 | 22.5271 |
| 14 | 1734.08 | 5.4302 | 0.2151 | 1888.39 | 1717.68 | 201.9114 | 0.3748 |
| 15 | 2080.32 | 6.8804 | 0.0078 | 2086.1 | 1889.36 | 227.2271 | 0.0086 |
| 16 | 2104.43 | 6.8764 | 0.0028 | 2117.93 | 2087.07 | 35.8785 | 0.0028 |
| 17 | 2123.72 | 6.8774 | 0.0033 | 2225.95 | 2116.9 | 124.2485 | 0.0251 |
| 18 | 2295.39 | 6.8813 | 0.0994 | 2323.36 | 2226.01 | 111.9179 | 0.2713 |
| 19 | 2351.33 | 6.8197 | 0.128 | 2375.44 | 2324.32 | 59.4018 | 0.2056 |
| 20 | 2865.38 | 4.5664 | 0.0312 | 2871.17 | 2376.4 | 607.557 | 0.0444 |
| 21 | 2929.03 | 3.9694 | 0.5716 | 2992.69 | 2872.13 | 154.8622 | 2.9629 |
| 22 | 3381.36 | 2.5329 | 3.0662 | 3704.14 | 2993.65 | 1145.670 | 138.7752 |
| 23 | 3872.26 | 6.6311 | 0.1316 | 3909.88 | 3705.11 | 134.8033 | 0.5365 |
| 24 | 3962.92 | 6.6573 | 0.0747 | 4003.43 | 3910.64 | 106.7218 | 0.2447 |
| 25 | 4009.22 | 6.7076 | 0.0048 | 4173.17 | 4004.39 | 197.0884 | 0.0124 |
| 26 | 4213.68 | 6.9461 | 0.0004 | 4214.64 | 4174.14 | 47.1531 | 0.0024 |
| 27 | 4345.81 | 6.7971 | 0.0109 | 4388.96 | 4215.61 | 178.8773 | 0.044 |
| 28 | 4409.46 | 6.7755 | 0.0185 | 4447.08 | 4369.92 | 90.1494 | 0.0405 |
| 29 | 4449.97 | 6.7937 | 0.0003 | 4463.47 | 4448.04 | 18.0209 | 0.0002 |
| 30 | 4673.72 | 6.6411 | 0.0076 | 4683.17 | 4464.44 | 256.6155 | 0.0122 |
| 31 | 4687.22 | 6.6419 | 0.0001 | 4690.12 | 4684.33 | 6.815 | 0 |
| 32 | 4695.9 | 6.6418 | 0.0003 | 4700.73 | 4691.08 | 11.3584 | 0.0001 |

Figure-1: FTIR spectra of Sea Buckthorn Oil.

Table-6: Interpretation of IR Spectra of Sea Buckthorn oil.

| Spectra region wave number cm^{-1} | Intensity and Pattern of peak | Bond causing Absorption | Compound Class |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| 4695.9 | Weak and Broad | - | - |
| 4687.22 | Weak and Broad | - | - |
| 4673.72 | Weak and Broad | - | - |
| 4449.97 | Weak and Broad | - | - |
| 4409.46 | Weak and Broad | - | - |
| 4345.81 | Weak and Broad | - | - |
| 4213.68 | Weak and Broad | - | - |
| 4009.22 | Weak and Broad | - | - |
| 3962.92 | Weak and Broad | - | - |
| 3872.26 | Weak and Broad | - | - |
| 3381.36 | Strong and Broad | O-H Stretching | Alcohol |
| 2929.03 | Medium and Sharp | C-H Stretching | Alkane |
| 2865.38 | Weak and Broad | C-H Stretching | Alkane |
| 2351.33 | Weak and Broad | - | - |
| 2295.39 | Weak and Broad | - | - |
| 2123.72 | Weak and Broad | $\text{C}\equiv\text{C}$ Stretching | Alkyne |
| 2104.43 | Weak and Broad | $\text{C}\equiv\text{C}$ Stretching | Alkyne |
| 2080.32 | Weak and Broad | - | - |

| | | | |
|---------|------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1734.08 | Medium and Broad | - | - |
| 1621.24 | Strong and Broad | C=C Stretching | α, β – unsaturated ketone |
| 1397.49 | Medium and Broad | O-H Bending | Carboxylic acid, Alcohol |
| 1249.93 | Weak and Broad | - | - |
| 1086.93 | Strong and Broad | C-O Stretching | Primary alcohol, Secondary alcohol |
| 1036.78 | Strong and Broad | S=O Stretching | Sulfoxide |
| 922.01 | Weak and Broad | - | - |
| 860.29 | Weak and Broad | - | - |
| 774.45 | Weak and Broad | - | - |
| 612.43 | Weak and Broad | - | - |
| 526.59 | Weak and Broad | - | - |
| 466.79 | Weak and Broad | - | - |
| 414.71 | Weak and Broad | - | - |
| 396.39 | Weak and Broad | - | - |



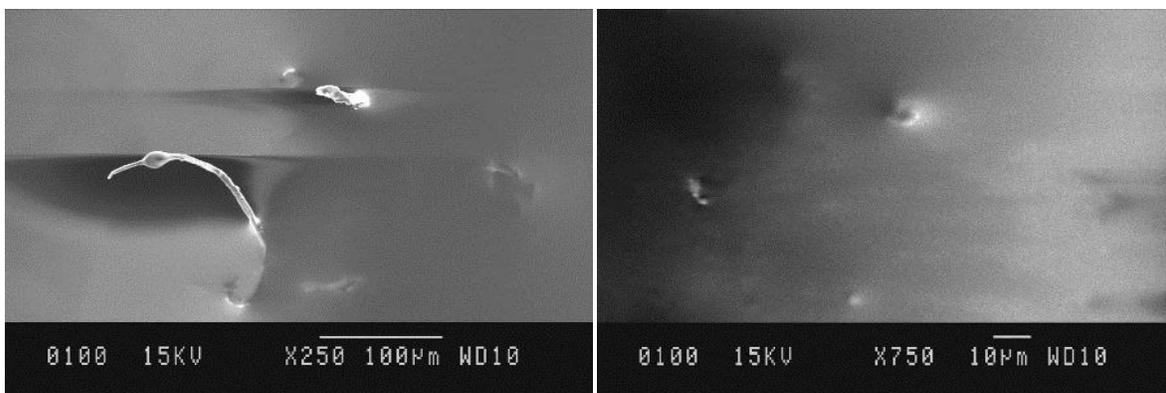


Figure-2: Scanning Electron Microscope images of Sea Buckthorn Oil.

Conclusion

The acid value of Sea Buckthorn Oil is 5.6. The Iodine value of Sea Buckthorn Oil was found to be 0.381 and Saponification value of Sea Buckthorn Oil was found to be 56.

Interpretation of FTIR Spectra of Omega-3 Salmon Oil shows presence of various functional groups such O-H Stretching – Alcohol; C-H Stretching – Alkane; C≡C Stretching – Alkyne; C=C Stretching - α , β – unsaturated ketone; O-H Bending - Carboxylic acid, Alcohol; C-O Stretching - Primary alcohol, Secondary alcohol; S=O Stretching – Sulfoxide.

References

1. Yang B. and Kallio H.P. (2001). Fatty acid composition of lipids in sea buckthorn (*Hippophaë rhamnoides* L.) berries of different origins. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, 49(4), 1939–1947.
2. Andersson S.C., Olsson M.E., Johansson E., Rumpunen K. (2009). Carotenoids in sea buckthorn (*Hippophaë rhamnoides* L.) berries during ripening and use of pheophytin a as a maturity marker. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* 57(1), 250–258.
3. Kallio H, Yang B, Peippo P, Tahvonon R and Pan R (2002). Triacylglycerols, glycerophospholipids, tocopherols, and tocotrienols in berries and seeds of two subspecies (ssp. *sinensis* and *mongolica*) of sea buckthorn (*Hippophaë rhamnoides*). *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, 50(10), 3004–3009.
4. Yang B, Karlsson RM, Oksman PH, Kallio HP (2001). Phytosterols in sea buckthorn (*Hippophaë rhamnoides* L.) berries: identification and effects of different origins and harvesting times. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, 49(11), 5620–5629.
5. Zielńska A and Nowak I (2017). Abundance of active ingredients in sea-buckthorn oil. *Lipids in Health and Disease*, 16(1), 95.
6. Gâtlan, A. M., & Gutt, G. (2021). Sea buckthorn in plant based diets. An analytical approach of sea buckthorn fruits composition: Nutritional value, applications, and health benefits. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 18(17), 8986.
7. Bal, L. M., Meda, V., Naik, S. N., & Satya, S. (2011). Sea buckthorn berries: A potential source of valuable nutrients for nutraceuticals and cosmeceuticals. *Food research international*, 44(7), 1718-1727.
8. Koskovic, M., Cupara, S., Kipic, M., Barjaktarevic, A., Milovanovic, O., Kojicic, K., & Markovic, M. (2017). Sea buckthorn oil—A valuable source for cosmeceuticals. *Cosmetics*, 4(4), 40.
9. Bath- Hextall, F. J., Jenkinson, C., Humphreys, R., & Williams, H. C. (2012). Dietary supplements for established atopic eczema. *The Cochrane database of systematic reviews*, 2012(2), CD005205.