

***Hypericum perforatum* L.**

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**Abstract**

Particularly noted at flowering, due to the numerous and showy yellow flowers, St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum* L.), occurs throughout the mainland Portugal and the Azores. Numerous glands occur at the petals edge, which exhibit a reddish ferrous colour, after drying. The leaves show similar pellucid or dark glands. The infusion of the dried plant, namely the flowering and vegetative aerial parts, is widely used in folk medicine. St. John's wort flowers are worldwide marketed as antidepressant. The essential oil isolated from *Hypericum perforatum* flowering aerial parts, collected at Campo de Tiro (Portugal), were obtained with a yield of 0.1% (v/f.w.). 2-Methyl octane and germacrene D (19% each),  $\alpha$ -pinene (16%) and  $\beta$ -caryophyllene (7%) were the dominant components of this oil.