

Technical datasheet – Kalahari Melon oil

Product Name:	Kalahari Melon oil		
INCI Name:	Citrullus lanatus		
CAS:	90063-94-8		
EINECS:	290-054-3		
Tree Names:	Botanical:	<i>Citrullus lanatus</i>	
	Family:	<i>Cucurbitaceae</i>	
	Common names:	Tsamma melon, Wild watermelon, Kalahari melon	
	Vernacular name:	Nwiwa	
Product Description:	The Kalahari Wild melon is the biological ancestor of the watermelon, now found all over the world, but originated in the Kalahari region of Southern Africa. Unlike the common water melon, whose flesh is sweet and red, the Kalahari melon's juicy flesh is pale yellow or green and taste bitter. A creeping annual herb, the Kalahari melon has hairy stems, forked tendrils and three-lobed hairy leaves. Its flowers are bright yellow		
Area of Origin:	Zimbabwe		

Traditional Uses:

Traditionally, a crucial water source in the Kalahari, the Kalahari wild melon has also been consumed as a food, despite its bitterness. The seeds are safely kept aside and eaten as a protein rich snack for food and for their oil content. The seeds are rich in clear, yellow oil which has a long history of cosmetic use. Traditionally used as a moisturiser to protect skin from the sun to ensure a blemish free complexion, to promote hair growth as well.

Scientific Data

Average Fatty Acid Composition	%
Monounsaturated Fatty Acids (C _y :1)	17
Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids (C _z :2 & 3)	64
Saturated Fatty Acids (C _x :0)	19

Unsaturated Fatty Acids		Saturated Fatty Acids		%
Oleic Acid C18 : 1 n-9	10.0-24.0	Palmitic Acid C16 : 0	7.0 – 13.0	
Linoleic Acid C18 : 2 n-6	55.0 – 70.0	Stearic Acid C18 : 0	5.0 – 11.0	
α Eleostearic Acid C18 : 3c n-5	<0.5			

Other properties:

The seed contains vitamin C, B2 and G, minerals, riboflavin, fat, carbohydrates and protein. There is a high activity of detoxifying hydroxyl radicals antioxidants) possibly aiding their survival in the extraordinarily harsh Kalahari desert environment.

Applications:

Skin:	Moisturising, restructuring, regenerating
Hair:	Conditioner
Soap:	Excellent oil for soap making

Manufacturing Process:

First cold pressing (T<60°C) - no solvents or chemicals used. Successive filtrations of the oil through blotting paper.

Packaging

Bulk packs: 20, 100, 200kg plastic containers

Storage and Stability:

The shelf life in sealed original containers and under normal storage conditions is two (2) years.

Before Opening: Keep away from light, heat (T<20°C) and in a dry place.

After Opening: Keep product in the original packaging away from light and heat (T<20°C) and in dry place.