

Improvements in or related to organic compounds

This invention refers to new alkyl-2-enoic acid esters, their manufacture and their use in flavour and fragrance compositions.

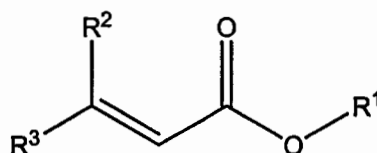
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The flavour and fragrance industry is always interested in new compounds that may enhance, improve, or modify the aroma or flavour in foodstuffs and consumable materials.

10 Surprisingly, we found certain alkyl-2-enoic acid ester compounds enhance, improve, or modify flavour notes, in particular fruity notes, e.g. blackberry and strawberry notes.

Accordingly, the present invention refers in one of its aspects to a flavour or fragrance composition comprising a compound of formula (I)

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wherein R¹ is C₄, C₅, or C₆ linear or branched alkyl, e.g. *n*-butyl, *sec*-butyl, *tert*-butyl, *n*-pentyl, 3-methyl-butyl, 2-methyl-butyl, 1-methyl-butyl, 1-ethyl-propyl, 1,2-dimethyl-propyl, 2-ethylbutyl; and

20 R² and R³ are independently hydrogen, methyl or ethyl, with the proviso that a maximum of one of R² and R³ is hydrogen;
with the proviso that if R² is hydrogen and R³ is methyl, R¹ is not butyl or 1,3-dimethylbutyl.

25 Particularly preferred compounds for use in compositions according to the invention are butyl 3-ethylbutenoate, isobutyl 3-ethylbutenoate, pentyl 3-ethylbutenoate, 3-methylbutyl 3-methylpentenoate, 2-methylbutyl pentenoate, 2-methylbutyl 3-methylbutenoate, 2-methylbutyl 3-methylpentenoate, 2-methylbutyl 3-ethylpentenoate, 1-methylbutyl butenoate, 1-methylbutyl 3-methylpentenoate, 1-ethylpropyl 3-
30 methylbutenoate and 1-ethylpropyl 3-methylpentenoate.

Most preferred is 2-methylbutyl 3-methylbutenoate.

Whereas some compounds of the formula (I) have been described in the literature, others have not, and are novel. Thus, the invention provides in another aspect of the invention a compound of formula (I) selected from the group of:

5	chemical name	R ¹	R ²	R ³
	butyl 3-ethylbutenoate	butyl	ethyl	methyl
	butyl 3-ethylpentenoate	butyl	ethyl	ethyl
	isobutyl 3-ethylbutenoate	isobutyl	ethyl	methyl
	isobutyl 3-ethylpentenoate	isobutyl	ethyl	ethyl
10	sec-butyl 3-ethylpentenoate	sec-butyl	ethyl	ethyl
	pentyl pentenoate	pentyl	ethyl	hydrogen
	pentyl 3-ethylbutenoate	pentyl	ethyl	methyl
	pentyl 3-ethylpentenoate	pentyl	ethyl	ethyl
	3-methylbutyl pentenoate	3-methylbutyl	ethyl	hydrogen
15	3-methylbutyl 3-methylpentenoate	3-methylbutyl	ethyl	methyl
	3-methylbutyl 3-ethylpentenoate	3-methylbutyl	ethyl	ethyl
	2-methylbutyl pentenoate	2-methylbutyl	ethyl	hydrogen
	2-methylbutyl 3-methylbutenoate	2-methylbutyl	methyl	methyl
	2-methylbutyl 3-methylpentenoate	2-methylbutyl	ethyl	methyl
20	2-methylbutyl 3-ethylpentenoate	2-methylbutyl	ethyl	ethyl
	1-methylbutyl butenoate	1-methylbutyl	methyl	hydrogen
	1-methylbutyl pentenoate	1-methylbutyl	ethyl	hydrogen
	1-methylbutyl 3-methylpentenoate	1-methylbutyl	ethyl	methyl
	1-methylbutyl 3-ethylpentenoate	1-methylbutyl	ethyl	ethyl
25	1-ethylpropyl butenoate	1-ethylpropyl	methyl	hydrogen
	1-ethylpropyl pentenoate	1-ethylpropyl	ethyl	hydrogen
	1-ethylpropyl 3-methylbutenoate	1-ethylpropyl	methyl	methyl
	1-ethylpropyl 3-methylpentenoate	1-ethylpropyl	ethyl	methyl
	1-ethylpropyl 3-ethylpentenoate	1-ethylpropyl	ethyl	ethyl
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The compounds of formula (I) may comprise one or more chiral centres and as such may exist as a mixture of stereoisomers, or they may be resolved as isomerically pure forms. Resolving stereoisomers adds to the complexity of manufacture and purification of these compounds and so it is preferred to use the compounds as mixtures of their

stereoisomers simply for economic reasons. However, if it is desired to prepare individual stereoisomers, this may be achieved according to methods known in the art, e.g. preparative HPLC and GC or by stereoselective syntheses.

5 In one embodiment, the compounds of formula (I) may be used in flavoured products and are useful in modifying, for example, fruity flavours. They may also be used in aromatic, herbal and spicy flavouring. Flavoured products for which the compounds of formula (I) are suitable are food and beverages such as breakfast cereals, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, chewing gum, confections and frostings, fruit juices, frozen
10 dairy desserts and mixes, fruit and water ices, gelatins, puddings, hard candy and cough drops, jams and jellies, commercial milk (whole and skim), milk products, processed fruits and fruit juices, soft candy, sweet sauces, toppings and syrups. This list of products is given by way of illustration and is not to be regarded as being in any way limiting.

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The compounds of the present invention may be used in flavoured products alone or in combination with other flavour ingredients known to the person skilled in the art.

In another embodiment, the compounds of formula (I) may be used in fragrance
20 applications, e.g. in any field of fine and functionary perfumery, such as perfumes, household products, laundry products, body care products and cosmetics.

In flavour applications, the compounds of the formula (I) may be present in consumables, e.g. a food, a beverage or a consumer healthcare product, in amounts
25 ranging from 0.5 to 100ppm, more preferably from 1 to 50ppm.

When used in fragrance applications, compounds of the formula (I) can be employed in wide-ranging amounts depending upon the specific application, for example, from about 0.001 to about 10 weight percent. One application may be a fabric softener comprising
30 about 0.001 to 0.05 weight percent of the compound. Another application may be a perfume, i.e. an alcoholic solution, comprising about 0.1 to 10 weight percent of the compound. The preferred concentrations vary between about 0.1 and 5 weight percent. However, these values should not be regarded as limiting on the present invention, since the experienced perfumer may also achieve effects with even lower
35 concentrations or may create novel accords with even higher amounts.

Accordingly, a further aspect of the present invention refers to a method of improving, enhancing or modifying a flavoured or fragranced product comprising the step of adding thereto an olfactory acceptable amount of a compound of formula (I).

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The compounds of formula (I) may be synthesised from commonly-available starting materials by acidic catalyst esterification of carboxylic acids or acid chlorides according to synthetic protocols known in the art. Examples of acidic catalyst are para-toluene sulfonic acid monohydrate, tartaric acid and H₂SO₄. Optically pure compounds of formula (I) and stereoisomer mixtures of a compound of formula (I) enriched in one stereoisomer may be synthesised by starting from optically pure alcohol, e.g. S-(-)-2-methylbutanol, or an stereoisomer mixture enriched in one stereoisomer alcohol respectively.

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15 There now follows a series of non-limiting examples that illustrate the invention.

Example 1: 2-Methylbutyl 3-methylbutenoate

At room temperature under nitrogen in a 500ml flask, a mixture of 87.3g of 3,3-dimethylacrylic acid (0.85mol) and 134.7g of DL-2-methyl-1-butanol (1.50 mol, 1.75 eq.) and 4.25g of para-toluene sulfonic acid monohydrate (0.024mol, 0.026 eq.) was treated with 100ml heptane and then heated at reflux at 90°C for 14 hours while 15.4ml (0.85mol) of H₂O was collected in a Dean-Stark trap. The result was an orange solution. The solution was extracted with MTBE / brine (2 x 350 ml / 200 ml brine). The organic layers were washed with NaHCO₃ (200 ml saturated solution), brine (200 ml), dried over MgSO₄ and concentrated. 205 g of a orange liquid was recovered, which was purified by distillation over a 30cm plate-column. 131.1g of a colorless liquid was recovered (bp 58°C /3.5 torr (4.7bar) 90.5% yield).

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30 ¹H NMR: 5.69 (s, 1H), 3.93 (dq, 2H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 1.89 (s, 3H), 1.74 (m, 1H), 1.44 (m, 1H), 1.20 (m, 1H), 0.91 (m, 6H). ¹³C NMR: 116, 68, 34, 27, 26, 20, 16, 11. MS:170 (M⁺), 100, 83, 70, 55, 43.

Taste description (4ppm in water): fleshy, metallic, skinny, floral, complex, powdery, fatty.

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Odour description: blackberry, peely, light tobacco with metallic aspects

Example 2: Beverage with blackberry flavour

- 5 4ppm 2-Methylbutyl 3-methylbutenoate was added to a beverage base (a) containing 0.15% by weight of the fruit flavour (b). Comparing the resulting composition with the aroma note of the starting beverage, the green, seedy and ionone notes were enhanced. The overall impression showed a nice complexing effect. By "complexing effect" is meant that the flavour profile is less simplistic, it rounds up the flavour profile.

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(a) Beverage base

	weight %
sugar	10.00
citric acid	0.15
15 water	89.85

(b) Composition of a blackberry flavour

	parts by weight 1/1000
water (deionized),	533.2000
20 propylene glycol	225.0000
ethyl alcohol 190 PR grain	225.0000
blackberry essence 100x	10.0000
ethyl butyrate	2.2000
ethyl pyruvate	1.1502
25 maltol	1.0000
raspberry ketone	0.5000
2-heptanol	0.4000
hexanol	0.2160
2-methyl butyric acid	0.2133
30 cis-3-hexenyl acetate	0.1944
acetaldehyde diethyl acetal	0.1485
methyl amyl ketone	0.1350
4-terpinenol	0.1134
alpha-terpineol crude	0.1080
35 ethyl isovalerate	0.0999

	ethyl caproate	0.0999
	furaneol	0.0918
	menthol	0.0405
	hexyl acetate	0.0378
5	trans-2-hexenal	0.0216
	ionone	0.0108
	dimethyl sulfide	0.0081
	menthyl acetate	0.0054
	benzyl acetate	0.0027
10	ambrette seed absolute	0.0027
	total	1000.0000

Example 3: Beverage with strawberry flavour

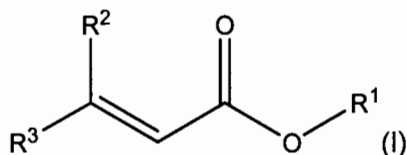
- 8ppm 2-Methylbutyl 3-methylbutenoate was added to a beverage base (a) of Example 2
 15 containing 0.20% by weight of the fruit flavour (c). Comparing the resulting composition with the aroma note of the starting beverage, seediness, fattiness and red fruit character was increased, and almost gave a raspberry note to the strawberry profile.

(c) Composition of a strawberry flavour

20		parts by weight 1/1000
	2-methylbutyl isovalerate	5.00
	ethyl butyrate	19.00
	ethyl isovalerate	2.00
	cis-3-hexenol	15.00
25	furaneol 20% in propylene glycol	100.00
	ethyl caproate	0.23
	methyl-2-methyl butyrate	0.22
	benzaldehyde	0.40
	delta-dodecalactone	0.30
30	gamma-decalactone	0.70
	diacetyl, 10% in triacetin	0.17
	acetic acid	0.03
	butyric acid	0.08
	propylene glycol	856.87
35	total	1000.00

Claims

1. A flavour composition comprising a compound of formula (I)

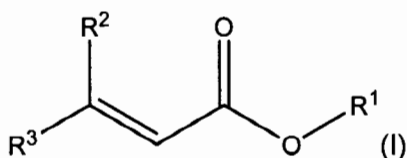


wherein R¹ is C₄ or C₅ linear or branched alkyl; and

R² and R³ are independently hydrogen, methyl or ethyl, with the proviso that a maximum of one of R² and R³ is hydrogen;

with the proviso that if R² is hydrogen and R³ is methyl, R¹ is not butyl or 1,3-dimethylbutyl; and at least one other flavour ingredient.

2. A flavour composition according to claim 1 comprising a compound of formula (I) selected from butyl 3-ethylbutenoate, isobutyl 3-ethylbutenoate, pentyl 3-ethylbutenoate, 3-methylbutyl 3-methylpentenoate, 2-methylbutyl pentenoate, 2-methylbutyl 3-methylbuteonate, 2-methylbutyl 3-methylpentenoate, 2-methylbutyl 3-ethylpentenoate, 1-methylbutyl butenoate, 1-methylbutyl 3-methylpentenoate, 1-ethylpropyl 3-methylbutenoate and 1-ethylpropyl 3-methylpentenoate.
3. A flavoured product comprising a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 or claim 2.
4. A flavoured product according to claim 3 comprising a compound of formula (I) in an amount ranging from 0.5ppm to 100ppm.
5. A flavoured product according to claim 3 or claim 4 selected from a food, a beverage, pharmaceutical, oral hygiene product or healthcare product.
6. A method of improving, enhancing or modifying a flavoured or fragranced product comprising the step of adding thereto an olfactory acceptable amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 or claim 2.
7. A compound of formula (I)

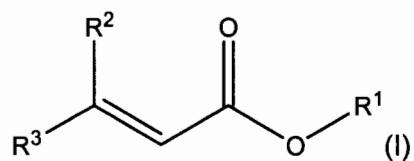


wherein the groups R¹, R² and R³ are selected according to the following table:

R ¹	R ²	R ³
butyl	ethyl	methyl
butyl	ethyl	ethyl
isobutyl	ethyl	methyl
isobutyl	ethyl	ethyl
sec-butyl	ethyl	ethyl
pentyl	ethyl	hydrogen
pentyl	ethyl	methyl
pentyl	ethyl	ethyl
3-methylbutyl	ethyl	hydrogen
3-methylbutyl	ethyl	methyl
3-methylbutyl	ethyl	ethyl
2-methylbutyl	ethyl	hydrogen
2-methylbutyl	methyl	methyl
2-methylbutyl	ethyl	methyl
2-methylbutyl	ethyl	ethyl
1-methylbutyl	methyl	hydrogen
1-methylbutyl	ethyl	hydrogen
1-methylbutyl	ethyl	methyl
1-methylbutyl	ethyl	ethyl
1-ethylpropyl	methyl	hydrogen
1-ethylpropyl	ethyl	hydrogen
1-ethylpropyl	methyl	methyl
1-ethylpropyl	ethyl	methyl
1-ethylpropyl	ethyl	ethyl

8. The use as flavour or fragrance of a compound of formula (I)

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wherein R^1 is C_4 or C_5 linear or branched alkyl; and

R^2 and R^3 are independently hydrogen, methyl or ethyl, with the proviso that a maximum of one of R^2 and R^3 is hydrogen;

with the proviso that if R^2 is hydrogen and R^3 is methyl, R^1 is not butyl or 1,3-dimethylbutyl.

9. The use according to claim 8 in a product wherein the product is selected from fine fragrance, cosmetic product, consumer healthcare product or household product.