CLAIMS:

1. A method of causing or inducing the conversion of nootkatol to nootkatene comprising:

providing a feed containing nootkatol; and

adding a catalytically effective amount of at least one compound that catalyzes the conversion of α-nootkatol to nootkatene in the feed.

2. The method of causing or inducing the conversion of nootkatol to nootkatene of claim 1, wherein the feed comprises a blend of volatile terpenes including α-nootkatol and at least one other volatile terpene.

3. The method of causing or inducing the conversion of nootkatol to nootkatene of claim 1, wherein the compound that catalyzes the conversion of nootkatol to nootkatene comprises an acid.

4. The method of causing or inducing the conversion of nootkatol to nootkatene of claim 3, wherein the acid comprises at least one fatty acid.

5. The method of causing or inducing the conversion of nootkatol to nootkatene of claim 4, wherein the at least one fatty acid is selected from saturated and unsaturated fatty acids having 2 to 28 carbon atoms.

6. A method of preparing a terpene blend comprising:

providing a feed containing at least one nootkatol;

adding a catalytically effective amount of at least one compound to catalyze the conversion of said at least one nootkatol to nootkatene; and

carrying out fractional distillation on the feed to recover compounds comprising α-nootkatol, β-nootkatol, nootkatene, nootkatone, and valencene.

7. The method of preparing the terpene blend of claim 6, wherein the feed comprises a blend of volatile terpenes including α-nootkatol.

8. The method of preparing the terpene blend of claim 6, wherein the feed comprises a blend of volatile terpenes including α-nootkatol and β-nootkatol.

9. The method of preparing the terpene blend of claim 6, wherein the compound that catalyzes the conversion of nootkatol to nootkatene comprises at least one acid.

10. The method of preparing the terpene blend of claim 9, wherein the at least one acid comprises as least one fatty acid.