

25 August 2017

**Attn: Quality Assurance Manager**

Benje Marketing Pte Ltd  
Serangoon Central Post Office  
PO Box 552  
Singapore 915502

By email: [benjemarketing@hotmail.com](mailto:benjemarketing@hotmail.com)

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you as the CEO of the Australian Tea Tree Industry Association (ATTIA Ltd), an Australian based not-for-profit organisation formed in 1986 as the peak body to promote and represent the interests of the Australian tea tree industry. From the grower/producers to the manufacturers of off-the-shelf products for public use, ATTIA supports and promotes the responsible use of pure Australian tea tree oil (TTO).

ATTIA's aim is to develop a stable, cohesive, environmentally friendly, and internationally competitive TTO industry producing quality assured pure Australian TTO that meets or exceeds international standards. ATTIA promotes the safe effective use of pure Australian TTO for a wide range of applications.

A friend of the Australian TTO industry recently purchased a bottle of your Contack-T3 100% Australian Tea Tree Oil product from the internet and passed this on to me to have tested as part of ATTIA's ongoing campaign against adulteration.

As part of our ongoing campaign of education and awareness of the high incidence of adulteration of TTO in commercially available samples ATTIA Ltd continues to purchase random samples of TTO and test these for the enantiomers of the chiral ratios of three compounds always found in fixed ratio in pure TTO steam distilled from *Melaleuca alternifolia*. More detail of the testing is available from a paper titled "**Enantiomeric distribution of selected terpenes for authenticity assessment of Australian *Melaleuca alternifolia* oil**" available from this link:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0926669015000680>.

In this paper we demonstrate that more than 50% of 43 commercial samples tested failed to comply with the proposed chiral ratios. Further, of 15 commercially sourced samples in the European Union 73% of these showed significant differences in chiral abundances while TTO from both North America and Asia also displayed similar results where  $\geq 50\%$  of the tested samples did not match the expected results. In material of Chinese origin the incidence rises to 100% and we have yet to see a sample from China that matches the expected chiral ratios for 100% pure TTO.

The sample of your product we tested is from your **Lot 310116**. It states that it contains *Melaleuca alternifolia* 100% Pure Tea Tree Oil sourced from Australia. We had this analysed at Southern Cross University using the new Chiral Purity Test mentioned earlier.

**We are delighted to note that the product closely conformed to the expected chiral ratios giving a clear indication that it is indeed pure TTO steam distilled from *Melaleuca alternifolia*. This is a great outcome, congratulations and thank you for supplying pure TTO to your valued customers.**

ATTIA continues to educate manufacturers on detection of adulteration and this is the main purpose of my letter. This remains a significant concern to the wellbeing of end-users who are unwittingly purchasing material that has certainly not been steam distilled from *M. alternifolia* but is being sold as such. Further, an extraordinary range of compounds never found in pure TTO has been coincidentally detected by staff

at Southern Cross University's Plant Science division so it has been hypothesised that this, along with the likelihood that the material used is heavily oxidised, may be significant source of problems such as allergic contact dermatitis attributed to the use of TTO.

A Copy of the Certificate of Analysis is attached. The chiral CofA shows the chiral results of both a reference sample of known origin pure Australian TTO and your sample.

Whenever adulteration has been detected ATTIA Ltd has written to each manufacturer explaining the seriousness of the situation they may find themselves in both with the relevant authorities and the public who in good faith purchase and use their products. We have of course asked them to take immediate remedial action to stop selling industrial waste as pure TTO or face the consequences.

We have also recently cooperated with a Spanish Aromatherapy group (Esenco) to investigate adulteration in Spain. As a result of this cooperation we have developed a course which gives a greater insight into adulteration. It is titled "What they never told you about Tea Tree oil" and is available here: <http://www.escuelaesenco.com/courses/what-they-have-never-told-you-about-tea-tree-oil/> .

Further details of the origin and science behind the Chiral Purity Test can be made available if you wish to make the most of this as a marketing opportunity.

In addition to Chiral Purity, ATTIA members adhere to a voluntary Code of Practice (COP) that ensures all pure Australian TTO marketed globally is of the highest possible quality, meets all parameters for the International Standard **ISO 4730: 2017** (<https://www.iso.org/standard/69082.html>) which for the first time includes chiral abundance ranges as an additional measure.

All COP accredited 100% pure Australian TTO is supplied in appropriate packaging to maintain its freshness. More information on the COP and how it may enhance your marketing for TTO is available from the ATTIA website at this link: [http://www.teatree.org.au/teatree\\_about\\_quality.php](http://www.teatree.org.au/teatree_about_quality.php).

Once again thanks from the TTO producers of Australia for selling pure TTO.

Regards,



Tony Larkman

**CEO – ATTIA Ltd**