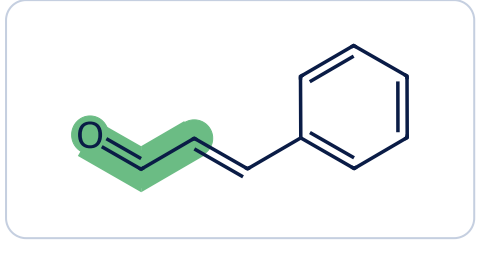
সুবাস

Aroma

Seven kitchen molecules you smell before you taste.

1 Heat and sting · 2 Aroma · 3 Taste and tricks

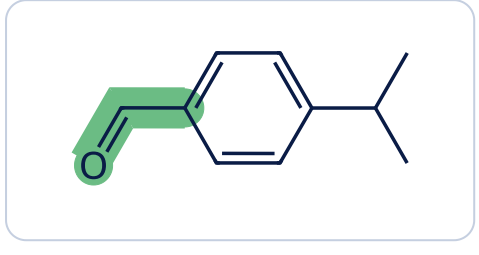
The coloured glow marks the working part of each molecule.



দারুচিনি Cinnamon — 132.2 g/mol

Cinnamaldehyde C_9H_8O ALDEHYDE

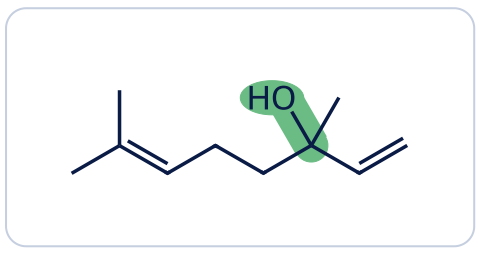
The smell and taste of cinnamon. It is an aldehyde, the group at the end of a carbon chain.



জিরা Cumin — 148.2 g/mol

Cuminaldehyde $C_{10}H_{12}O$ ALDEHYDE

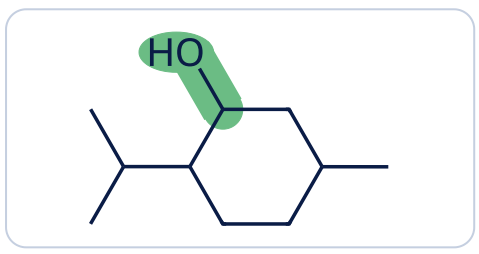
A main part of cumin's earthy smell. Another aldehyde.



ধনিয়া Coriander — 154.3 g/mol

Linalool $C_{10}H_{18}O$ ALCOHOL

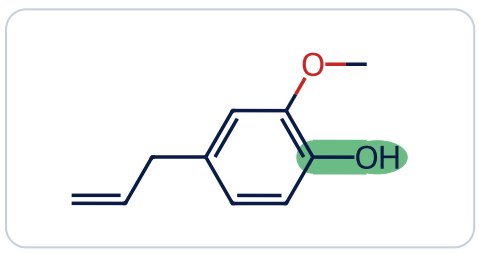
The light, flowery smell of coriander seed. The same molecule is found in lavender.



পুদিনা Mint — 156.3 g/mol

Menthol $C_{10}H_{20}O$ ALCOHOL

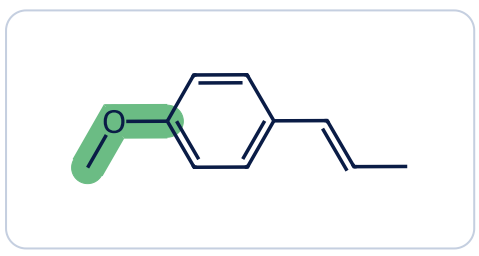
The cooling feel. It does not make you colder: it switches on a nerve that senses cold.



লবঙ্গ Clove — 164.2 g/mol

Eugenol $C_{10}H_{12}O_2$ PHENOL

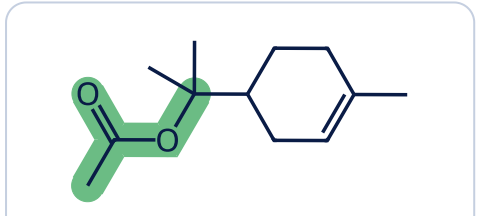
The warm, strong smell of clove. Clove oil has long been used on sore teeth.



মৌরি Fennel — 148.2 g/mol

Anethole $C_{10}H_{12}O$ ETHER

The sweet, liquorice-like flavour of fennel and aniseed.



এলাচ Cardamom — 196.3 g/mol

α-Terpinyl acetate $C_{12}H_{20}O_2$ ESTER

A main part of cardamom's sweet, flowery smell. It is an ester, and esters often smell fruity or floral.

GOOD TO KNOW

Why smells float

A smell is a molecule that evaporates easily and drifts into your nose. All seven molecules here weigh between 132 and 196 g/mol, small and light enough to float. Sugar, at 342, does not evaporate, which is why pure sugar has no smell.

HOW TO READ THIS MENU

The molar mass is the price.

Each dish is a kitchen ingredient, and the molecule behind it. On the right is its molar mass in g/mol, the "price" of one mole of it. The small label names its functional group, and the glow in the drawing shows where it sits.

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