

# Natural Touch Aromatherapy

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## BENZOIN (SIAM, RESINOID)

**BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION** *Styrax benzoin* var. *tonkinensis* is a species of the Styracaceae family. This Siam benzoin resin is of a higher aromatic higher quality than Sumatran types

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION** A large tropical tree up to 20m high with green and white leaves. The tree bears a hard shelled fruit similar to a nutmeg. The resin is collected from the tree via insertions in the bark.

**ORIGIN** The resin is collected from trees in northern Siam (Thailand). Siam benzoin has a more refined odour than Sumatran benzoin (characterised by coniferyl cinnamate 55-70%). Siam benzoin resinoid is a dark brown-orange viscous liquid with a delightful sweet, vanilla-like aroma. The resin is imported into the UK and prepared into a resinoid by our supplier.

**GAS LIQUID CHROMATOGRAM** Key components of Natural Touch's benzoin resinoid type, as indicated by GLC, are compared to classic profiles below. Siam benzoin is made up mainly of coniferyl benzoate (circa 70% in a good benzoin). Other ingredients include coniferyl alcohol, vanillin, benzoic acid, resinolic acid and cinnamyl benzoate. Vanillin, benzoic and other acids cannot be firmly identified in GLC analysis without conversion to a volatile derivative although enough can be done to confirm quality by establishing the percentages of coniferyl benzoate and coniferyl alcohol.

COMPONENT	NATURAL TOUCH (%)	CLASSIC (%)
Coniferyl benzoate	73.0	65 - 75
Coniferyl alcohol	15.0	10 - 20
Vanillin	6.0	0 - 2
Benzoic acid		8 - 12

\* GLC analysis carried out at the Scottish Agricultural College, Auchincruive  
Official Stamp: