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## Identification of phenolic compounds, antibacterial and antioxidant activities of raisin extracts

Yousef M. Abouzeed<sup>1,\*</sup>, Faraj Zgheel<sup>2</sup>, Abdurrezagh Abdalla Elfahem<sup>2</sup>, Mohammed Saad Almagarhe<sup>2</sup>, Abdulgader Dhawi<sup>1</sup>, Abdulkareem Elbaz<sup>1</sup>, Murad A. Hiblu<sup>3</sup>, Abdulwahab Kammon<sup>4</sup> and Mohamed O. Ahmed<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Microbiology and Parasitology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tripoli, Tripoli, Libya

<sup>2</sup>Department of Microbiology, Biotechnology Research Centre, Tripoli, Libya

<sup>3</sup>Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tripoli, Tripoli, Libya

<sup>4</sup>Department of Poultry and Fish Diseases, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tripoli, Tripoli, Libya

### Abstract

In this study, antibacterial, antioxidant and phenolic compounds of raisin extracts was evaluated. Different solvent extraction methods were utilized to extract phenolic compounds from raisin. The phenolic compounds of raisin extracts was determined using HPLC and three compounds were found, catechin, quercetin and rutin. The antibacterial activity of the acetonic extract was tested against four bacterial pathogens viz. *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Salmonella typhimurium* and *Escherichia coli* using both disk diffusion and minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) methods. The acetonic extract exhibited the highest activity against *Staphylococcus aureus* with zone of inhibition of 14mm and the MIC of 25 mg/ml. However, there was a little activity against *E. coli* and *S. typhimurium*. The methanolic extract showed good antioxidant activity as indicated by 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl free radical assay (DPPH). In conclusion, raisin contains potent phenolic compounds and their application might function as promising natural preservative and antimicrobial agents in food industry and also good antioxidant food that helps to minimize the risk of degenerative diseases.

**Keywords:** Antibacterial, Antioxidant, Phenolic compounds, Raisin extract.

### Introduction

Bioactive compounds extracted from natural sources can benefit human health (Samavardhana *et al.*, 2015). Plants are natural source of antimicrobial agents with great therapeutic values. According to world health organization (WHO) about 80% of the population in developed countries use plants and their extracts as medicine. Many drugs used in modern medicine are originated from natural sources (Okoko and Orumbo, 2008). Similarly, many researchers have demonstrated the usefulness of different plant compounds as effective antimicrobial agent (Szeto *et al.*, 2002; Jimoh *et al.*, 2008).

Raisins (dried grapes; *Vitis vinifera*), are very popular plant in Mediterranean area and are widely used as a traditional and natural biomedicine in several countries where it is well adapted to the climate (Di Lorenzo *et al.*, 2016; Cordero-Bueso *et al.*, 2017). Raisins are considered to be a good source of monomeric catechins, epicatechins, gallic acids and polymeric procyanidins which have an overall beneficial effect on human health (Monagas *et al.*, 2005). The sweetness of raisins was attributed to the presence of glucose and fructose (Winkler, 1962). Previous studies demonstrated that the various phytochemical compounds in raisin such as

polyphenol have both antioxidant and antimicrobial activities (Jayaprakasha *et al.*, 2003; Baydar *et al.*, 2004). Raisins contain the highest concentration of total phenolic compounds and the highest antioxidant activity among dried fruits (Karakaya *et al.*, 2001). The antioxidant property of raisins was also attributed to phenolic compounds (Yeung *et al.*, 2006). These findings supporting the idea of using raisin extracts as antioxidants in food systems. The phenolic contents and antimicrobial activities of raisins have previously been studied and found to be highly correlated (Bower *et al.*, 2003). The average distributions of polyphenolic compounds in raisins were estimated to be about 5 per cent in juice, 1 per cent in pulp and the remaining 62 per cent in the seeds (Singletary *et al.*, 2003).

It is also well known fact that spoilage of foodstuff due to microbial contamination is a serious problem. Generally, chemical additives are employed to prevent spoilage of food but many of them are carcinogenic. Recent studies, reported that some plant compounds can safely be used for preventing microbial spoilage of food, thus ensuring quality, safety and shelf life of foods. Therefore, the application of plant extracts to prevent food spoilage has been increased throughout the world (Baydar *et al.*, 2004).

\*Corresponding Author: Yousef M. Abouzeed. Department of Microbiology and Parasitology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Tripoli, Tripoli, Libya. Email: [y.abouzeed@vetmed.edu.ly](mailto:y.abouzeed@vetmed.edu.ly)

The aim of this study was to investigate the presence of phenolic compounds in raisins sold in Libyan market and also to evaluate their antibacterial and antioxidant activity of those compounds.

### Materials and Methods

#### Sample preparation

The raisin fruit purchased from local market were washed, cleaned, dried at 60°C for 30 minutes and then grinded. The extraction was carried out using conventional solvent extraction procedure. Ten grams of homogenized raisin were extracted with 100 ml of methanol 95% at 60 °C for 60 minutes. Following extraction, the samples were filtered through Whatman No.1 filter paper and the residue was re-extracted with the same solvent. The filtrates were combined and dried in a rotary evaporator at 50°C. The extracts so obtained were used for spectrophotometer analysis and high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) measurements. For testing the antibacterial activity of the raisin, the extraction was carried out using acetone 95% for 72 h.

#### Bacterial strains

The bacterial strains used in this study are *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella typhimurium*. The strains were obtained from the stock culture collection of the Microbiology Department of the Biotechnology Research Center. All tested bacteria were pre-cultured in nutrient broth overnight at 37 °C.

#### Screening of antibacterial activity

The antimicrobial activity of the raisin acetonetic extract was evaluated against the selected microorganisms using disc diffusion method (Bauer *et al.*, 1966). Briefly, 20 ml of Mueller Hinton agar was poured in sterile petri plates and allowed to solidify. Thereafter, 0.2 ml of overnight broth cultures was streaked on Mueller-Hinton agar (MHA) to make a complete lawn. Sterile 6 mm filter paper discs (Whatman. No. 3) were soaked in extract for 30 min. After completely drying the discs at 55°C, they were plated on MHA. A cefotaxime sodium disk (10 µg/disk) was used as a positive control. The experiment was conducted in triplicate to minimize errors. All plates were incubated at 37 °C for 24h, after that, inhibition zone of was measured and the results recorded.

#### Determination of minimum inhibitory concentration

The dilution method was used to determine minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of acetonetic extract in 96 well microtitre plates. Stock solution of raisin extract (200 mg/ml) was prepared by dissolving in DMSO:water (4:2 v/v) solvent. One hundred microliters of sterile nutrient broth were poured in all the wells and 100 µl of stock solution was transferred to well A to obtain a concentration of 100 mg /ml. Thereafter, serial dilution was performed till the lowest concentration i.e. 6.25mg/ml was obtained. The solvent used to dissolve the

extract was also tested against the microorganisms to ensure the antibacterial activity of the solvent. Then 100 µl of each microorganism having concentration of  $1 \times 10^8$  cfu/ml were poured in all the wells and incubated at 37 °C for 24h. One plate for each microorganism species was used to avoid cross contamination between microorganisms. The presence of growth in all wells was checked by reculturing them on MHA and incubating again at 37 °C for 24h. The absence of growth at a particular concentration was then taken as the MIC for particular organism.

#### Determination of antioxidant activity

##### 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl free radical (DPPH) assay

The DPPH reagent (Sigma chemicals) was made to a concentration of 0.2 % m/v in methanol. Chromatogram eluted in two eluent systems, CEF (chloroform:ethyl acetate:formic acid, 20:16:4) and EMW (ethyl acetate:methanol:water, 20:10.8:8). Eluted plates were visualized under ultraviolet light at 254 and 360 nm and thereafter sprayed with DPPH-radical, as described by Braca *et al.* (2001), and monitored for visual colour for 30 minutes.

##### DPPH radical scavenging assay

The free radical scavenging capacity of the methanolic extracts of raisin was determined using DPPH. DPPH solution (0.004% w/v) was prepared in 95% methanol. Methanolic extract of raisin was mixed with 95% methanol to prepare the stock solution (10mg/100ml). From stock solution, 2ml, 4ml, 6ml, 8ml and 10ml were taken in five test tubes. Serial dilutions were made by adding same solvent in each tube to make a final volume of 10 ml and finally, the concentration obtained were 20 µg/ml, 40 µg/ml, 60 µg/ml, 80 µg/ml and 100 µg/ml, respectively. Freshly prepared DPPH solution (0.004% w/v) was then added in each of these test tubes containing raisin extracts. After 10 min, the absorbance was taken at 517 nm using a spectrophotometer. Ascorbic acid was used as a reference standard. Control sample was prepared containing the same volume without any extract and 95% methanol was used as blank.

Per cent scavenging of DPPH free radical was measured using the following equation.

Per cent DPPH radical- scavenging = [(Absorbance of control – Absorbance of test sample / (Absorbance of control)] \* 100

##### Preparation of standard solution

Standard stock solutions of three flavonoids i.e. catechin, quercetin and rutin were prepared in ethanol at concentration of 0.5 mg/ml. All sample solutions were filtered through 0.54 µm membrane and injected directly.

##### HPLC Analysis

HPLC was used to identify compounds in raisin extract. The analysis was performed using a

SHMADZU SCL-10 AVP C18 column (100\*4.6mm, 5µm particle size) equipped with an auto sampler and UV detector. The mobile phase was methanol–acetonitrile–water (40:15:45 v/v/v) containing 1.0% acetic acid. The column was eluted at 1.0 ml min the chromatogram. The chromatographic peak of the analysed data was confirmed by comparing their retention time and UV spectra with those of reference standard.

## Results

### Antibacterial activity

The activity of raisin acetic extract against *S. aureus*, *P. aeruginosa*, *E. coli*, and *S. typhimurium* is illustrated in Table 1.

Our results indicated that the acetic extract exhibited significant activity against the *S. aureus*. Whereas, the effect against other tested bacterial strains was non-significant as compared to the inhibitory zone of cefotaxime sodium standard.

The MIC value of acetic extracts was 25 mg/ml against *S. aureus* and 100mg/ml for the other tested bacteria (Table 2).

**Table 1.** Antibacterial activity of raisin acetic extract by disk diffusion method

Bacterial strain	Cefotaxime sodium (mm)	Acetone extract (mm)
<i>S. aureus</i>	20	14
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	12	10
<i>S. typhimurium</i>	27	7
<i>E. coli</i>	25	7

**Table 2.** Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) of acetic extract of raisin (mg/ml).

Bacterial strain	Serial dilution of acetone raisin extract (mg/ml)					
	200	100	50	25	12.5	6.50
<i>S. aureus</i>	-	-	-	-	+	+
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	-	-	+	+	+	+
<i>Salmonella Spp.</i>	-	-	+	+	+	+
<i>E. coli</i>	-	-	+	+	+	+

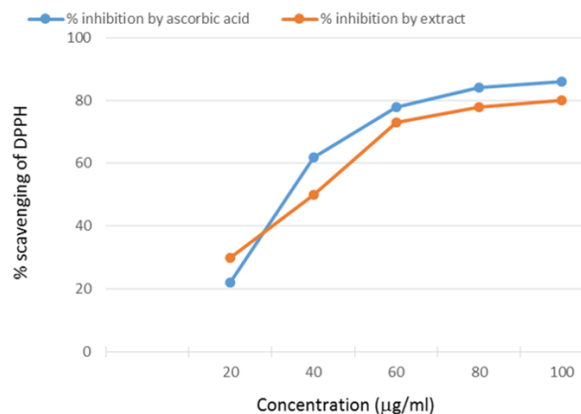
### Phytochemical screening of raisin extract

#### Antioxidant activity of raisin

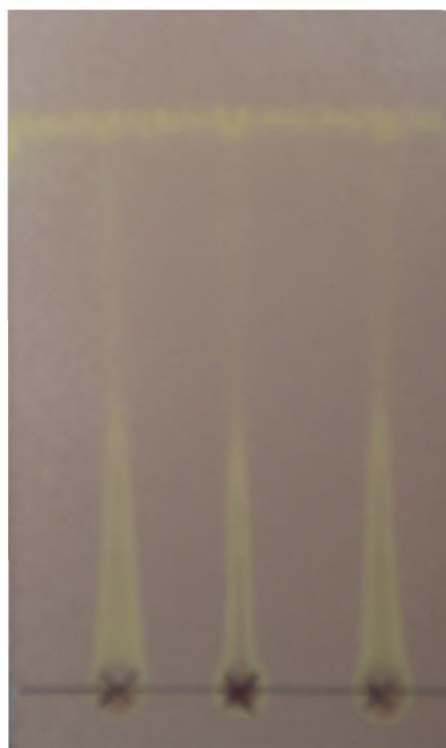
##### DPPH Assay

The raisin methanolic extracts showed profound antioxidant activity as compared to ascorbic acid which was indicated by their ability for scavenging DPPH free radical standard (Fig. 1).

The presence of yellow zones against a purple background on chromatograms depicted the scavenging activity of free radicals by compounds in the extracts (Fig. 2).



**Fig. 1.** DPPH radical scavenging activity of methanolic extract of raisin.



**Fig. 2.** Chromatogram developed in EMW and sprayed with DPPH, with clear yellow zone indicating the antioxidant activity.

##### HPLC-UV analysis

Methanol–acetonitrile–water (40:15:45 v/v/v) results in separation of the polyphenolic compounds, catechin, rutin and quercetin. The presence of acid in a mobile phase system can improve peak trailing of compound and change pH value of the mobile phase, thus having a significant effect on the resolution of compounds. As a result, a mixture system of methanol–acetonitrile–water (40:15:45v/v/v) containing 1.0% acetic acid was confirmed as the optimum mobile phase.

## Discussion

The phytochemical screening of raisins revealed the presence of catechin, quercetin and rutin. These polyphenolic compounds were correlated to antioxidant and antimicrobial activity of raisins (Iacopini *et al.*, 2008). Our results indicated that the acetic extract exhibited significant activity against the *S. aureus*. Whereas, there was non-significant effect against other tested bacteria as compared to the inhibitory zone of cefotaxime sodium standard.

The MIC value of acetic extracts was 25 mg/ml against *S. aureus*, while for the other tested bacterial strains, was 100mg/ml. Several researchers have focused on the bioactivity of polyphenolic compounds of grape as they possess a potential antioxidants and antimicrobials activities (de Bruyne *et al.*, 1999; Jung *et al.*, 2005; Chavez *et al.*, 2006; Bruno and Sparapano, 2007). Our results are not in agreement with Rodriguez-Vaquero *et al.* (2007) who reported that grape wine inhibited the growth of *E. coli*. This could be assigned to the difference in the concentration of polyphenolic compounds of grape and raisin. The inhibition of growth increased as the polyphenol concentration increased, thus clarified wines were ineffective against all tested bacteria. Many bacterial species exhibited different sensitivities to phenolic compounds (Rodriguez-Vaquero *et al.*, 2007). It has been reported that *S. aureus* was highly sensitive to wine extracts, followed by *E. coli* and the least effect was observed in *Candida albicans* (Papadopoulou *et al.*, 2005).

Recently, few researchers reported that seed extracts has more antimicrobial potential than other parts of grapes (Shrestha *et al.*, 2012). The MIC of seed extracts for *Listeria* was 0.26 mg (Anastasiadi *et al.*, 2009). The grape extracts from whole grape fruit inhibited bacterial growth at concentrations of 680 mg/L and 1360 mg/L for gram positive and gram negative bacteria, respectively (Serra *et al.*, 2008). However, Jayaprakasha *et al.* (2003) noted that grape seed extracts inhibited bacterial growth at 340–390 mg/L and 475–575 mg /L for gram positive and gram negative bacteria, respectively. The extract of grape leaves exhibited less antimicrobial activity than seed extracts. The extract from grape's flesh did not have antimicrobial effect (Yigit *et al.*, 2009). The grape skin possessed the highest anti-*Helicobacter pylori* activity followed by synergy of skin and seed (Brown *et al.*, 2009). The antimicrobial agents present in grape is distributed mainly in flesh, followed by whole fruit, followed by grape extracts, fermented pomace, skin, leave and seed (Shrestha *et al.*, 2012).

Jayaprakash *et al.* (2003) reported that two different solvents system i.e. acetone: water: acetic acid (90: 9.5: 0.5) and methanol: water: acetic acid (90: 9.5: 0.5) were used for extraction and their results revealed that

both extracts had activity against gram positive bacteria but not against gram negative bacteria. This could be attributed to the difference in the cell wall structure between gram positive and gram negative bacteria (Serra *et al.*, 2008).

Antioxidant activity of raisin is tested using DPPH assay. Our result of DPPH assay shows that free radical scavenging ability of raisin extracts was almost similar to ascorbic acid under the test conditions. The antioxidant activity of raisin extracts is increased with an increase of its concentration (direct proportion). DPPH has been widely used in the determination of antioxidant activity of single compounds as well as the different plant extracts (Kulis'ic' *et al.*, 2004).

HPLC results in separation of the polyphenolic compounds, catechin, rutin and quercetin. Rutin is one of the phenolic compounds that contributes to the antibacterial properties of the plant (van der Watt and Pretorius, 2001). Quercetin has been reported to inhibit the oxidation of other molecules and hence is classified as an antioxidant (Russo *et al.*, 2014). Catechin has been shown to be powerful inhibitor of *in vitro* human LDL oxidation (Teissedre *et al.*, 1996). However, as flavonoids, catechins can act as antioxidants when in high concentration *in vitro*, but compared with other flavonoids, their antioxidant potential is low (Pietta, 2000). Another study concluded that catechins, whether from tea or other sources, might reduce the risk of ischaemic heart disease mortality (Arts *et al.*, 2001)

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## Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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