

Hydrogen peroxide scavenging activity of grape (*Vitis vinifera*) methanolic extract

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Abstract

Grape is a fruit used since antiquity by man for its therapeutic virtues due to its richness in antioxidant molecules that can replace synthetic antioxidants such as butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT) and butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA) and *tert*-butylhydroquinone (TBHQ) which are dangerous for human health. Antioxidant activity of methanolic grape extract was evaluated using the hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) scavenging activity. The high percentages of H₂O₂ scavenging activity were obtained for black varieties (Gros noir and Muscat noir) with 72.86 and 65.72, respectively. The white variety (Victoria) has exhibited a percentage of 38.57 which is close to that obtained for Cardinal 2 (38.64) and higher than that obtained for Cardinal 1 (30.64) which is red variety. These results suggest that grape extracts may serve as a potential source of natural antioxidant for food preservative and pharmaceutical application even black, red or white varieties.

1. Introduction

Antioxidants can terminate or retard the oxidation process by scavenging free radicals. Recent epidemiological studies have revealed the associations between the consumption of antioxidant-rich foods and the prevention of oxidative-stress-related diseases (Sies, 1997). However, synthetic antioxidants such as butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA), butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT) and *tert*-butylhydroquinone (TBHQ) are restricted by legislative rules and have recently been reported to be dangerous for human health due to the doubts over their toxicity and carcinogenicity in many countries (Gupta et Sharma, 2006; Hao *et al.*, 2007). Thus, the search for effective, non-toxic natural compounds with antioxidant activity has been intensified in recent years. In order to protect foods and human beings against oxidative damage, considerable attention has been paid to explore the natural and safer antioxidants, which could be used for human consumption. Among the dietary antioxidants, phenolic compounds, secondary metabolites occurring in plants, are the most abundant natural antioxidants (Gupta and Sharma, 2006; Pandey and Rizvi, 2009). Hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) is a non-radical reactive oxygen species (ROS) in living organisms and has the ability to penetrate cell membranes, inactivate enzymes by oxidation of thiol groups, and initiate lipid peroxidation (Zhang *et al.*, 2011). H₂O₂ is

produced inside cells both enzymatically and non-enzymatically by cellular metabolism. In the presence of metal ions, especially iron and copper, it causes mutations by producing hydroxyl radicals through the metal-catalyzed Fenton reaction (Halliwell and Gutteridge, 1999). Methanolic extracts from five Algerian *Vitis vinifera* varieties, Gros noir, Muscat noir (black grape), Cardinal 1, Cardinal 2 (red grapes) and Victoria (white grapes) were tested for their scavenging activity against H₂O₂.

2. Materials and methods

2.1 Grape samples

The work was carried out on four different varieties of table grape, namely: Cardinal (red variety), Gros noir, Muscat noir (blue-black varieties), Victoria (white varieties) (harvest year 2012) grown at four different sites (Cardinal grapes were harvested in two different sites 1 and 2) in the region of El-Tarf located in northern Algeria (36° 45' 00" N; 81 ° 1 0' 00" E). Samples were harvested at maturity (as determined by the owners of the vineyards), which was confirmed later by measuring the sugar content (°Brix). The sampling of grapes was done meticulously and berries were collected randomly from top, bottom, sun exposed and unexposed clusters on each side of the vine. Samples were placed in clean, dry, plastic boxes and quickly transported and stored until analysis. Table 1 summarizes the main characteristics of the vineyards and sample plots.

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Table 1. Characteristics of the vines and topography of the plots.

Site	1	2	3	4
Culture system	Royat Cordon	Royat Cordon	Royat Cordon	Pergola
Fertilization treatment	No	No	Yes (foliar nitrogen)	Yes (nitrogen fertilizers and phosphoric plus trace elements (Ca, K) by fertigation)
Vineyard age (year)	32	32	39	5
Distance x spacing (m)	3.0 x 1.0	3.0 x 1.0	3.0 x 1.0	3.0 x 2.5
Topographical situation	Plain	Plain	Plain	Plain
Soil type	Silty sandy	Silty sandy	Silty sandy clay	Silty sandy
Irrigation	Non irrigated	Non irrigated	Non irrigated	Dropwise
Varieties	Cardinal	Cardinal Gros noir	Muscat noir	- Victoria
Sampling date	15/07/2012	15/07/2012 (Cardinal) 04/08/2012 (Gros noir)	04/08/2012	04/08/2012

2.2 Sample preparation and extraction for scavenging activity analysis

Frozen grapes were washed with distilled water, dried with a cloth and crushed in a domestic mixer. A mixture of 10 g of crushed grapes, 20 ml of extraction solvent (methanol 80%) and 0.1 ml/10 ml of solvent (v/v) of concentrated HCl (to avoid oxidation of the phenolic compounds) was placed in a water bath with stirring. After agitation, the liquid extract was separated from the solid residues by centrifugation at 3 000 rpm/15 min; the extraction procedure was repeated three times. The final extract, which consisted of a mixture of three supernatants, was transferred into opaque vials and stored in a fridge (4°C) until further analysis. The extraction procedure was performed twice.

2.3 Scavenging activity against hydrogen peroxide

The scavenging capacity of grape extracts on hydrogen peroxide was determined according to the method of Atmani *et al.* (2009). Test tubes were prepared with 2.0 ml of various grape extracts and a solution of H₂O₂ (1.2 ml, 40 mM) in phosphate buffer (pH 7.4). A blank solution was prepared in the same way but without H₂O₂. After incubation of the mixture for 10 min, the absorbance was recorded at 230 nm. The scavenging activity was calculated using the following formula: % scavenging activity = [(Ac-At)/ Ac] 100, where Ac is the absorbance of the control and At is the absorbance of the extract. All data are reported as mean ± standard error of two replicates.

3. Results and discussion

A wide variety of in vitro methods have been set up to assess radical scavenging ability and antioxidant activity. Antioxidant capacity is

widely used as a parameter for medicinal bioactive components. Different artificial species have been used such as 2,2-azinobis-3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid (ABTS) (Brand-williams *et al.*, 1995; Mariutti *et al.*, 2008), 1,1 diphenyl- 2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) (Sharma *et al.*, 2013; Arkoub-Djermone *et al.*, 2015), OH radicals scavenging activity (Mathew and Abraham, 2006), hydrogen peroxide scavenging activity (H₂O₂) (Baydar *et al.*, 2007), Ferric reducing-antioxidant power (FRAP) (Derradji-Benmeziane *et al.*, 2014), superoxide anion radical scavenging activity (O₂-)(Gulcin *et al.*, 2010) and many others methods. In this study, the antioxidant activity of the grape extract has been evaluated in vitro tests namely: hydrogen peroxide scavenging activity.

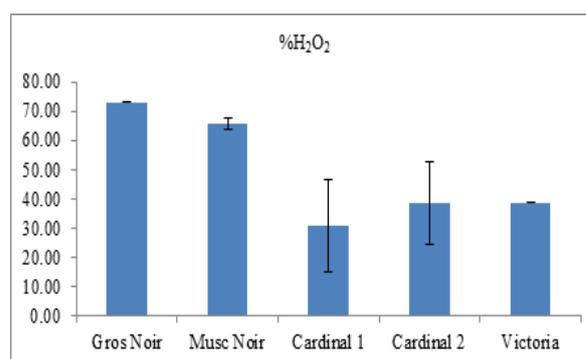


Figure 1. H₂O₂ scavenging activity of methanolic grape extract.

Values are means of duplicate determinations (n=2) ± standard deviation.

The results of the scavenging ability of the grape extracts on H₂O₂ are shown in Figure 1. H₂O₂ scavenging ability of the grape extracts was not dependent on the variety. The percentage of H₂O₂ scavenging activity of fresh grape extract varied between 72.86 ± 0.00 in Gros noir and 30.64 ± 15.9 in Cardinal 1, with intermediate values for the other three varieties: 65.72 ± 2.0; 38.64 ± 14.1 and 38.57 ± 0.00 in Muscat noir, Cardinal 2 and Victoria, respectively. The ability of H₂O₂ of the extracts decreased in order of Gros Noir > Muscat Noir > Victoria > Cardinal

2>Cardinal 1. Thus, the variety Gros noir showed the highest scavenging activity when comparing with other grape varieties, the result was of 72.86% which is important. This variety had presented the highest total polyphenols, total flavonoids and reducing power (data not shown in this work).

In their work, Baydar *et al.* (2007), found a percentage of H₂O₂ scavenging ability of 77.8% and 72.9% of grape seed acetic and methanolic extract of Narince variety, respectively, results which are closer to those obtained in this study. H₂O₂ scavenging activity varied from 4.6 to 18.6%, at a concentration of 1 mg in 50 µl grape skin and pulp extracts depending on grape cultivar and extract (Singha and Das, 2015). Rekha and Bhaskar (2013) found in their study that A 200 µg/ml of ethanolic grape seed extract and Vitamin C exhibiting 75.67% and 79.27% inhibition, respectively and the concentration of ethanolic grape seed extract needed of 50% of inhibition was found to be 88.15 µg/ml and 62.51 µg/ml was needed for Vitamin C.

Scavenging of H₂O₂ by the plant extracts may be attributed to their phenolics, which donate electron to H₂O₂, thus reducing it to water. These results suggested that phenolic compounds in grape with electron-donating capacities may govern the H₂O₂ scavenging activities of the tested extracts. Although H₂O₂ is not a highly reactive molecule, it can sometimes be toxic to cells and food systems because it may give rise to hydroxyl radicals and singlet oxygen by reacting with transition metal ions (Halliwell and Gutteridge, 1999). Significant correlation between the scavenging activities of grape extracts with phytochemicals, such as total phenolics and flavonoids, were observed in many previous studies (Caillet *et al.*, 2006; Lutz *et al.*, 2011; Weidner *et al.*, 2012; Singha and Das, 2015). In fact, phenolics are one of the major classes of natural antioxidants found in plants that remove such free radicals. Polyphenols are able to neutralize free radicals, scavenge singlet and triplet oxygen, and to break down peroxides. It is clearly shown that the number of phenolic-OH groups present in the structure of an antioxidant molecule isn't always the only factor determining its antioxidant activity. Positions of phenolic-OH groups, presence of other functional groups in the whole molecule, such as double bonds and their conjugation to (-OH) groups and ketonic groups, also play important roles in antioxidant activities (Gordon, 1990). It is noteworthy that the winery residues (skin and grape) could be an alternative source for obtaining natural antioxidants, and are considered completely safe in comparison with synthetic ones such as BHA and BHT, compounds used widely in the food industry

now with undesirable effects on the enzymes of human organs (Gupta and Sharma, 2006). Hence, scavenging H₂O₂ by natural antioxidants sources is important for protection of biological systems. The measurement of H₂O₂ scavenging activity can be one of the useful methods determining the ability of antioxidants to decrease the level of prooxidants such as H₂O₂ (Pazdzioch-Czochra and Widenska, 2002). Although H₂O₂ itself is not very reactive as cited above, it together with superoxide radical anion can damage many cellular components. This study affirms the *in vitro* antioxidant potential of crude methanolic grape extract.

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