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RESEARCH ARTICLE

EVALUATION OF SOME PHYTOCHEMICALS AND ANTIOXIDANT PROPERTIES OF SOME SELECTED SEAWEEDS FROM MANDAPAM COAST, TAMILNADU, (SOUTHEAST COAST OF INDIA)

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ABSTRACT

The methanol extract of four seaweeds collected from Mandapam coast were determined using phytochemicals of total phenolic activity, carotenoids, flavonoids and antioxidant potential assay. The methanol extract of brown seaweed *Sargassum weightii* showed higher phenolic content than all green seaweeds *Ulva lactuca*, *Caulerpa taxifolia*. Higher antioxidant activity was also observed in methanol extract of *Sargassum weightii*. The minimum values were observed in *Ulva lactuca*. In the present study, the extract of *Sargassum weightii* and *Caulerpa taxifolia* was found to possess strong antioxidant activity.

INTRODUCTION

The use of seaweed as food and medicine prior to 2000BC found mention in ancient Chinese medicinal literature (Abbott, 1996). Seaweeds also have a number of secondary metabolites that serve as chemical defense mechanisms against herbivores and fouling (De Nys *et al.*, 1998, De Lara-Isassi *et al.*, 2000). It is thus highly probable that algae have the potential to provide an alternative source of leads in solving many biomedical problems, including oxidative damage (Ruberto *et al.*, 2002). Seaweeds are receiving much attention mainly because of their contents of functional ingredients such as polyunsaturated acids, carotene and their pigment carotenoids, sulphated polysaccharide and sterol, Vijayabaskar and Shiyamala 2011. Though diverse phytoconstituents from various seaweed species has been reported and several compounds have been derived from them for prospective development of novel products, there is still an enormous number of species to be explored. One such algal species is the marine red algae, *Halymenia dilatata* (Uma Maheswari and Reena, 2017). Seaweeds are rich in antioxidants such as carotenoids, pigments, polyphenols, enzymes and diverse functional polysaccharides (Vinayak, 2011). Seaweeds act as a good contributor to iodine (Apaydin *et al.*, 2010) which could be consumed by animals as a potential source of iodine

in thyroid malfunction. Iodine content was found in the range of 30 to 2984 mg kg⁻¹ in seaweeds (Jane-Teas *et al.*, 2004). Seaweeds are a greater source of ions, minerals and metals which might be absorbed or adsorbed during its dwelling on seashores and are collectively evidenced as its ash content. Ash content reported in seaweeds range from 9.3 to 77.8 % (Sara-Marsham *et al.*, 2007). The energy that could be generated by the organism utilising its biochemical composition upon ignition is derived as the calorific value and this value varied from 0.64 to 4.37 kcalg⁻¹ (Sara-Marsham *et al.*, 2007). Seaweeds are also appreciable sources of carotenoids, vitamins and flavonoids and these beneficial constituents make the use of seaweeds in pharmaceutical activities. The present study were undertaken to investigate the biochemical composition and evaluate the antioxidant potential of the seaweeds such as *Ulva lactuca*, *caulerpa taxifolia*, *Sargassum weightii* and *Gracilaria birknahliae* collected from the Mandapam coast, Tamilnadu, Southeast Coast of India.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Four species of seaweeds *Ulva lactuca*, *Caulerpa taxifolia*, *Sargassum weightii* and *Gracilaria birknahliae* collected from Mandapam (Rameswaram) coast. The sample was washed with tap water to remove dirt, sand and was shade dried until constant weight was obtained. It was powdered in an electric mixer and powder was stored in refrigerator for future use.

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Extraction of seaweed: 500g of the dried seaweed powder was placed in Soxhlet apparatus (Perfit, India) and subjected to successive extraction using methanol and macerated to form an aqueous extract. Subsequently, extracts were filtered and the filtrate was evaporated using vacuum evaporator (Perfit, India) under reduced pressure at $\leq 50^\circ$ C temperature. The crude extract obtained after evaporation was stored in desiccator. After extraction with various solvent remaining residue of leaves was discarded and extract was weighed.

Estimation of Carotenoids: The carotenoid content of seaweeds was determined by following the Kirk and Allen method. The extract that was used for the chlorophyll estimation was used for carotenoid estimation also. The same chlorophyll extract was measured at 480nm in UV-spectrophotometer to estimate the carotenoid content.

$$\text{Carotenoid (mg/g. dr. wt)} = \Delta A_{480} + (0.114 \times \Delta A_{663}) - (0.638 \times \Delta A_{645})$$

ΔA = Absorbance at respective wavelength

Total Phenolic Content: The amount of total phenolic in methanol extract was determined with Folin–Ciocalteu reagent according to the method of Singleton and Rossi with Gallic acid as the standard Singleton and Rossi (1965). Briefly, standard stock solution of 10 mg/10 ml of gallic acid was prepared in distilled water. From this, various concentrations ranging from 200-1000 $\mu\text{g} / \text{ml}$ were prepared. To this 1 ml Folin and Ciocalteu reagents (1:2 with water) was added and kept at room temperature for 5 min and then 1 ml of 7% sodium carbonate solution was added to the reaction mixture and incubated at room temperature for 90 minutes. The colour developed was read at 750 nm. A 100 μl of methanol extract of sample was mixed with the same reagents. Gallic acid was used as the reference standard and the results are expressed as milligram gallic acid equivalent (mg / g dry weight of seaweed).

Flavonoids Content: Aluminium chloride colorimetric technique was used for flavonoids estimation (Chang *et al.*, 2002). 0.5 ml of sample, 0.1 ml of 10% aluminium chloride, 0.1 ml of 1 M potassium acetate, 2.8 ml of distilled water were taken and mixed in the given order. It was left at room temperature for 30 minutes after which the absorbance of the reaction mixture was measured at 415 nm. The calibration curve was prepared using Quercetin solution (20-100 μg) in methanol.

Total antioxidant activity: Total antioxidant activity of seaweed extracts was determined according to the method Pineda *et al.* (1999). Briefly, 0.3 ml of sample was mixed with 3 ml of reagent solution (0.6 M sulphuric acid, 28 mM sodium phosphate and 4 mM ammonium molybdate). The reaction mixture was incubated at 95° C for 90 min. Absorbance of the sample was measured at 695 nm. Total antioxidant activity is expressed as the number of equivalence of ascorbic acid in milligram per gram of extract.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The maximum level carotenoids was observed in (0.61 ± 0.051) in *Ulva lactuca* and low (0.49 ± 0.001) in *Sargassum weightii*. The values were 0.61 ± 0.051 and 0.51 ± 0.032 respectively in *Caulerpa taxifolia* and *Gracilaria bikhahiae*. The total phenol was high (39.07 ± 2.00) in *Sargassum weightii*

and low (29.40 ± 1.20) in *Ulva lactuca*. The distribution of flavonoids in the 15 species of seaweeds from Visakhapatnam coast was earlier reported Nayak Sarojini *et al.*, (2013). Extract of *Caulerpa* sp were reported to be exhibiting high phenolic content and also relatively high DPPH radical scavenging activities among the Chlorophyta species (Zubia *et al.*, 2007). In the present study, methanol extracts showed recorded desirable limits to all the seaweed samples. (Olfachiboub *et al.*, 2017) reported that Total Phenolic Compounds in different organic extract, to evaluate antioxidant capacity (DPPH and ABTS) and to study the antiprotozoal activity against *A. castellanii* Neff. Many reports show that presence of phenols etc., in seaweeds are responsible for its antioxidant activity (Shibata *et al.*, 2008). Among the Chlorophyceae the flavonoid content varied from 8.43 to 33.39 mg/g with a mean value of 19.24 mg/g. In the present study, *Caulerpa taxifolia* showed higher value whereas *Ulva lactuca* showed within the range as earlier reported. Phenolic compounds are commonly found in plants, including seaweeds, and have been reported to show a wide range of biological activities including antioxidant properties Kuda *et al.*(2007) and Athukorala *et al.*(2006). Total flavonoids are probably the most important natural phenol due to their broad spectrum of chemical and biological activities, including antioxidant and free radical scavenging properties. Flavonoids have been reported as antioxidants of a wide range of reactive oxygen species and inhibitors of lipid peroxidation and as potential therapeutic agents against a wide variety of diseases. It has been reported that the presence of phyto-constituents such as flavonoids, tannins and polyphenols (Soad M. Mohy El-din and Amani M.D. El- Ahwany, 2015). Scavenging properties. Literature on flavonoids content of seaweeds is very scarce (Subramanian *et al.*, 2014). In this study extracts of *ulva lactuca*, *caulerpa taxifolia*, *sargassum weightii* and *gracilaria bikhahiae* showed significant free radical scavenging activity and these results are comparable to the earlier studies (Subramanian *et al.*, 2014). The *Gracilaria bikhahiae* and *Caulerpa taxifolia* were recorded with 32.69 ± 1.13 and 31.75 ± 1.34 respectively. The maximum level flavonoids was observed in (46.290 ± 0.44) in *Sargassum weightii* and low (29.49 ± 0.56) in *Ulva lactuca*. The values were 31.32 ± 0.58 and 38.30 ± 0.58 respectively in *Caulerpa taxifolia* and *Gracilaria bikhahiae*. The maximum antioxidant was observed in (26.94 ± 1.55) in *Sargassum weightii* and low (19.38 ± 0.47) in *Ulva lactuca*. The antioxidant values were 19.38 ± 0.47 and 21.38 ± 0.59 respectively in *Caulerpa taxifolia* and *Gracilaria bikhahiae*. Antioxidant activity of marine algae may arise from pigments such as chlorophylls, carotenoids, vitamins and vitamin precursors, including cophenol, carotene, niacin, thiamine, ascorbic acid and phenolic compounds, such as polyphenols, hydroquinones and flavonoids. Phospholipids, particularly phosphatidylcholine, terpenoids, peptides, and other antioxidative substances, directly or indirectly contributed to the inhibition or suppression of oxidation processes (Soad M. Mohy El-din and Amani M.D. El- Ahwany, 2015). Flavonoids are known to show a broad spectrum of chemical and biological activities including antioxidant and free radical. Scavenging properties. Literature on flavonoids content of seaweeds is very scarce (Subramanian *et al.*, 2014). In this study extracts of *ulva lactuca*, *caulerpa taxifolia*, *sargassum weightii* and *gracilaria bikhahiae* showed significant free radical scavenging activity and these results are comparable to the earlier studies (Subramanian *et al.*, 2014).

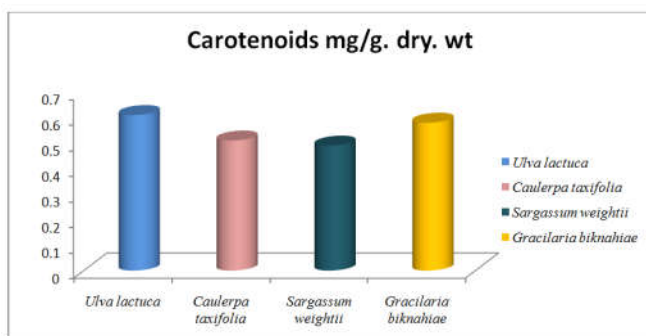


Fig. 1. Carotenoids level of *Ulva lactuca*, *Caulerpa taxifolia*, *Sargassum weightii* and *Gracilaria tikvahiae*

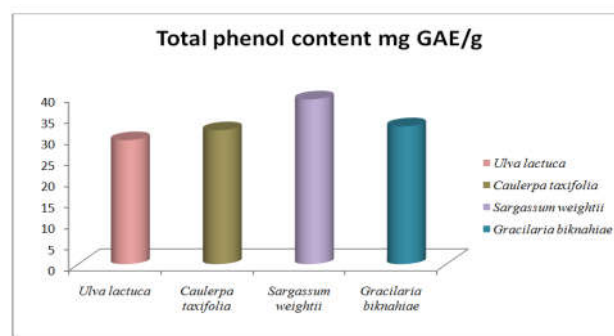


Fig. 2. Total phenol level of *Ulva lactuca*, *Caulerpa taxifolia*, *Sargassum weightii* and *Gracilaria tikvahiae*

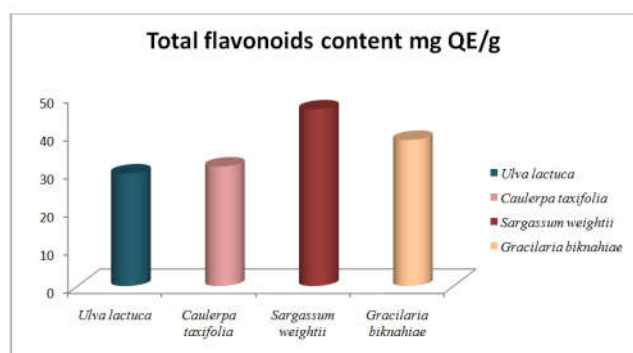


Fig. 3. Total flavonoids level of *Ulva lactuca*, *Caulerpa taxifolia*, *Sargassum weightii* and *Gracilaria tikvahiae*

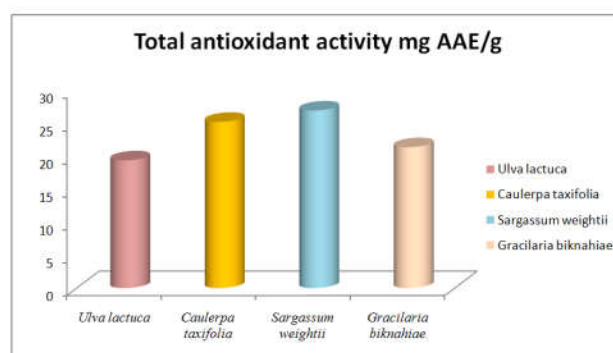


Fig. 4. Total antioxidant level of *Ulva lactuca*, *Caulerpa taxifolia*, *Sargassum weightii* and *Gracilaria tikvahiae*

The *Gracilaria tikvahiae* and *Caulerpa taxifolia* were recorded with 32.69 ± 1.13 and 31.75 ± 1.34 respectively. The maximum level flavonoids was observed in (46.290 ± 0.44) in *Sargassum weightii* and low (29.49 ± 0.56) in *Ulva lactuca*. The values were 31.32 ± 0.58 and 38.30 ± 0.58 respectively in *Caulerpa taxifolia* and *Gracilaria tikvahiae*. The maximum antioxidant was observed in (26.94 ± 1.55) in *Sargassum weightii* and low (19.38 ± 0.47) in *Ulva lactuca*. The antioxidant values were 19.38 ± 0.47 and 21.38 ± 0.59 respectively in *Caulerpa taxifolia* and *Gracilaria tikvahiae*. Antioxidant activity of marine algae may arise from pigments such as chlorophylls, carotenoids, vitamins and vitamin precursors, including cophenol, carotene, niacin, thiamine, ascorbic acid and phenolic compounds, such as polyphenols, hydroquinones and flavonoids. Phospholipids, particularly phosphatidylcholine, terpenoids, peptides, and other antioxidative substances, directly or indirectly contributed to the inhibition or suppression of oxidation processes (Soad M. Mohy El-din and Amani M.D. El-Ahwany, 2015). Flavonoids are known to show a broad spectrum of chemical and biological activities including antioxidant and free radical.

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