Analysis of Methanolic Fruit Extract of *Citrus aurantifolia* Using Gas Chromatography – Mass Spectrum and FT-IR Techniques and Evaluation of Its Anti-bacterial Activity

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this study were analysis of the secondary metabolite products and evaluation antibacterial and antifungal activity. Bioactives are chemical compounds often referred to as secondary metabolites. Twenty nine bioactive compounds were identified in the methanolic extract of *Citrus aurantifolia*. The identification of bioactive chemical compounds is based on the peak area, retention time molecular weight and molecular formula. GC-MS analysis of Citrus aurantifolia revealed the existence of the Thieno[2,3-c] furan-3-carbonitrile, 2-amino-4,6-dihydro-4,4,6,6, Furfural, 2-Vinyl-9-[3-deoxy-β-d-ribofuranosyl] hypoxanthine, 2-Myristynoyl pantetheine, 2,5-Furandione, dihydro-3-methylene-, Cyclohexene,1-methyl-4-(1-methylethenyl)-,(S)-, O-Acetyl-4-hydroxyproline, 1,5,5-Trimethyl-6-methylene-cyclohexene, Acetic acid, 2-(1-buten-3-yl)-2-nitro-,ethyl ester, Methyl 3-hydroxytetradecanoate, L-α-Terpineol, 4-Methyl itaconate Glycyl-D-asparagine, 2(3H)-Benzofuranone , hexahydro-7a-methyl- , 7-Oxa-2-oxa-7thiatricyclo[4.4.0.0(3,8)]decan-4-ol, Cholestan-3-ol, 2-methylene-, $(3\beta,5\alpha)$ -, Formic acid, 3,7,11,-trimethyl-1,6,10-dodecatrien-3-yl ester, 7-epi-cis-sesquisabinene hydrate, 2,5-Cyclohexadien-1-one, 3,5-dihydroxy-4,4-dimethyl-2-(1-oxo, Pyrrolidin-2-one-3β-(propanoic acid, methyl ester), 5-methylen, D-Fructose, diethyl mercaptal, pentaacetate, n-Hexadecanoic acid, 2H-1-Benzopyran-2-one, 5,7-dimethoxy-, Dihydroxanthin, Oleic acid, Octadecanoic acid, Phorbol, 9-Octadecenamide, (Z)- and 9-Octadecenamide. Clinical pathogens were selected for antibacterial activity namely, Staphylococcus aureus, Escherichia coli, Proteusmirabilis, Klebsiella pneumonia, and Pseudomonas eurogenosa. Citrus aurantifolia has maximum zone against Escherichia coli 5.66±0.21.

Keywords: Antimicrobial activity, Bioactive compounds, Fruit, GC-MS, Citrus aurantifolia

INTRODUCTION

Fruit a globose to ovoid berry, 3-6 cm in diameter, sometimes with apical papillae, greenish-yellow; peel very thin, very densely glandular; segments with yellowgreen pulp-vesicles, very acid, juicy and fragrant. Seeds small, plump, ovoid, pale, and smooth with white

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Biomedical Science Department, University of Babylon, College of Nursing, Hillah city, Iraq; Phone number: 009647716150716; E-mail: imad_dna@yahoo.com embryos (polyembryonic). The fruit is used in nearly every home in the tropics, mainly to flavour food, but also to prepare drinks and for a variety of medicinal applications. The antifungal activity of the plant have been attributed to the presence of monoterpenes and the plant is currently used as a fungicide for citrus fruit crop, and it has also been suggested that the plant may be a potential candidate used for the protection of food and feeds from toxigenic fungal growth as well as their aflatoxin contamination ¹⁻⁹. It has been traditionally used in the management of several diseases and has the prospects of being developed into useful drugs. Citrus fruits are highly recommended for persons suffering from kidney stones, gout and arthritis ¹⁰⁻¹⁸. *C. aurantifolia* juice contains potassium citrate which prevents the formation of kidney stones and eases their dissolution. Due to the high content of vitamin C, citrus fruits are used in the treatment of scurvy ¹⁹⁻²³. The aims of our study were analysis of the metabolite products and determination of antimicrobial activity.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Collection and Preparation of Plant Material

In this research, *Citrus aurantifolia* fruit was dried at room temperature for fifteen days and the fine powder was then packed in airtight container to avoid the effect of humidity and then stored at room temperature ²³⁻³⁷.

Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectroscopy (GC-MS) and Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrophotometer (FTIR) analysis

GC-MS analysis of the ethanol extract of *Citrus aurantifolia* was carried out using a (Agilent 7890A series, USA) ³⁸⁻⁴¹. The powdered sample of *Citrus aurantifolia* was treated for FTIR spectroscopy (Shimadzu, IR Affinity 1, Japan). The sample was run at infrared region between 400 nm and 4000 nm ⁴²⁻⁴⁴.

Determination of antimicrobial activity of crude bioactive compounds of *Citrus aurantifolia*

Antimicrobial activity was evaluated by measuring the zone of inhibition against the test microorganisms. Methanol was used as solvent control ⁴⁵⁻⁴⁷.

Serial No.	Phytochemical compound		Exact Mass
1.	Thieno[2,3-c]furan-3-carbonitrile ,2-amino-4,6-dihydro		222.0826845
2.	Furfural		96.021129
3.	2-Vinyl-9-[3-deoxy-β-d-ribofuranosyl]hypoxanthine	3.596	278.101505
4.	2-Myristynoyl pantetheine	3.751	484.297094
5.	2,5-Furandione, dihydro-3-methylene-	4.437	112.016044
6.	Cyclohexene,1-methyl-4-(1-methylethenyl)-,(S)-	4.649	136.1252
7.	O-Acetyl-4-hydroxyproline	4.861	173.068808
8.	1,5,5-Trimethyl-6-methylene-cyclohexene	4.969	136.1252
9.	Acetic acid, 2-(1-buten-3-yl)-2-nitro-,ethyl ester	5.336	187.084458
10.	Methyl 3-hydroxytetradecanoate	5.467	258.219496
11.	L-a-Terpineol	5.891	154.135765
12.	4-Methyl itaconate	6.263	144.042258
13.	Glycyl-D-asparagine	6.549	189.074956
14.	2(3H)-Benzofuranone, hexahydro-7a-methyl-	6.972	154.09938
15.	7-Oxa-2-oxa-7-thiatricyclo[4.4.0.0(3,8)]decan-4-ol	7.235	188.050715
16.	Cholestan-3-ol, 2-methylene-,(3β,5α)-		400.370516
17.	Formic acid, 3,7,11,-trimethyl-1,6,10-dodecatrien-3-yl ester	8.214	250.19328
18.	7-epi-cis-sesquisabinene hydrate		222.198365
19.	2,5-Cyclohexadien-1-one,3,5-dihydroxy-4,4-dimethyl-2-(1-oxo		238.120509
20.	Pyrrolidin-2-one-3β-(propanoic acid, methyl ester), 5-methylen		311.173273
21.	D-Fructose, diethyl mercaptal, pentaacetate		496.14369
22.	n-Hexadecanoic acid		256.24023
23.	2H-1-Benzopyran-2-one, 5,7-dimethoxy-		206.057909
24.	Dihydroxanthin		308.162374
25.	Oleic acid	15.423	282.25588
26.	Octadecanoic acid		284.27153
27.	Phorbol		364.18859
28.	9-Octadecenamide, (Z)-	17.272	281.271864
29.	9-Octadecenamide	17.323	281.271864

Table 1. Major phytochemical compounds identified in methanolic extract of *Citrus aurantifolia*.

No.	Peak (Wave number cm- ¹)	Intensity	Type of Intensity	Bond	Type of Vibration	Functional group assignment	Group frequency
1.	661.5	58.395	Strong	C-Cl	Stretch	alkyl halides	600-800
2.	688.5	58.541	Strong	C-Cl	Stretch	alkyl halides	600-800
3.	873.7	73.620	Strong	=С-Н	Bending	Alkenes	650-1000
4.	921.9	71.540	Strong	=С-Н	Bending	Alkenes	650-1000
5.	1016.1	50.097	Strong	C-F	Stretch	alkyl halides	1000-1400
6.	1047.4	52.070	Strong	C-F	Stretch	alkyl halides	1000-1400
7.	1095.2	60.041	Strong	C-F	Stretch	alkyl halides	1000-1400
8.	1244.7	73.963	Strong	C-F	Stretch	alkyl halides	1000-1400
9.	1317.1	75.349	Strong	C-F	Stretch	alkyl halides	1000-1400
10.	1361.6	73.525	Strong	C-F	Stretch	alkyl halides	1000-1400
11.	1373.3	72.091	Strong	C-F	Stretch	alkyl halides	1000-1400
12.	1394.2	71.347	Strong	C-F	Stretch	alkyl halides	1000-1400
13.	1608.3	69.356	Bending	N-H	Stretch	Amide	1550-1640
14.	1645.9	71.054	Variable	C=C	Stretch	Alkene	1620-1680
15.	2335.2	82.034	Unknown	-	-	-	-
16.	2358.5	75.576	Unknown	-	-	-	-

Table 2. Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopic profile solid analysis of Citrus aurantifolia.

Table 3. Zone of inhibition (mm) of test bacterial strains to *Citrus aurantifolia* bioactive compounds and standard antibiotics.

/ Citrus	Bacteria						
aurantifolia Antibiotics	Staphylococcus aureus	Escherichia coli	Proteus mirabilis	Klebsiella pneumonia	Pseudomonas eurogenosa		
Citrus aurantifolia	4.97±0.20	5.66±0.21	3.98±0.19	3.98±0.20	3.99±0.19		
Rifambin	1.09±0.21	1.05±0.19	0.99±0.18	1.03±0.19	1.95±0.18		
Streptomycin	0.99±0.18	1.71±0.20	1.07±0.18	0.94±0.17	1.72±0.19		
Kanamycin	0.43±0.16	1.00±0.18	1.94±0.14	0.77±0.14	1.63±0.18		
Cefotoxime	2.06±0.19	2.05±0.19	1.06±0.15	1.18±0.19	1.03±0.16		

Table 4. Zone of inhibition (mm) of fungal strains test to Citrus aurantifolia bioactive compounds and standard antibiotics.

/ Plant	Fungal strains			
Antibiotics	Aspergillus niger	Penicillium expansum	Aspergillus flavus	Trichophyton mentagrophytes
Citrus aurantifolia	2.860±0.16	5.000±0.22	6.160±0.24	4.972±0.21
Amphotericin B	2.771±0.14	3.931±0.21	3.951±0.21	3.813±0.19
Fluconazol	4.655±0.19	2.869±0.23	2.904±0.20	4.614±0.20
Control	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Chromatogram GC-MS analysis of the methanol extract of Citrus aurantifolia showed the presence of twenty nine major peaks and the components corresponding to the peaks were determined Thieno[2,3-c]furan-3-carbonitrile,2-amino-4,6dihydro-4,4,6,6, Furfural, 2-Vinyl-9-[3-deoxy- B-dribofuranosyl] hypoxanthine, 2-Myristynoyl pantetheine 2,5-Furandione dihydro-3-methylene-. Cyclohexene, 1-methyl-4-(1-methylethenyl)-, (S)-, O-Acetyl-4-hydroxyproline, 1,5,5-Trimethy 1-6methylene-cyclohexene, Acetic acid, 2-(1-buten-3-yl)-2-nitro-,ethyl ester, Methyl 3-hydroxytetradecanoate, Lα-Terpineol, 4-Methyl itaconate Glycyl-D- asparagine, 2(3H)-Benzofuranone, hexahydro-7a- methyl-, 7-Oxa-2-oxa-7-thiatricyclo[4.4.0.0(3,8)] decan-4-ol Cholestan-3-ol, 2-methylene-, $(3\beta,5\alpha)$ -, Formic acid, 3,7,11,-trimethyl-1,6,10-dodecatrien- 3-yl ester, 7-epicis-sesquisabinene hydrate, 2,5-Cyclohexadien-1-one, 3,5-dihydroxy-4,4-dimethyl- 2-(1-oxo , Pyrrolidin-2one-3β-(propanoic acid, methyl ester), 5-methylen, D-Fructose, diethyl mercaptal, pentaacetate, n-Hexadecanoic acid, 2H-1-Benzopyran- 2-one, 5,7dimethoxy-, Dihydroxanthin, Oleic acid, Octadecanoic acid, Phorbol, 9-Octadecenamide, (Z)- and 9-Octadecenamide Table 1. The FTIR analysis of Citrus aurantifolia leaves proved the presence of alkyl halides, Alkenes and Amide which shows major peaks at 661.5, 688.5, 873.7, 921.9, 1016.1, 1047.4,

1095.2, 1244.7, 1317.1, 1361.6, 1373.3, 1394.2, 1608.3, 1645.9, 2335.2 and 2358.5 Table 2. In the current study, the anti-microbial activity of Citrus aurantifolia methanolic extract was evaluated by determining the zone of inhibition against five bacteria and four fungi. Clinical pathogens were selected for antibacterial activity namely, Staphylococcus aureus, Escherichia coli, Proteus mirabilis, Klebsiella pneumonia, and Pseudomonas eurogenosa. Citrus aurantifolia has maximum zone against Escherichia coli (5.66±0.21)
Table 3. Antifungal activities against Aspergillus niger.
 Penicillium expansum, Aspergillus flavus and Trichophyton mentagrophytes. Citrus aurantifolia was very highly active against Aspergillus flavus (6.160±0.24) Table 4. In comparison to the antibiotics used in this study, the plants extracts were far more active against the test bacterial strains. However, further studies are needed, including toxicity evaluation and purification of active antibacterial constituents from Citrus aurantifolia extracts looking toward a pharmaceutical use.

CONCLUSION

Twenty nine major chemical constituents have been identified from methanolic extract of the *Citrus aurantifolia* by gas chromatogram mass spectrometry (GC-MS). In vitro antimicrobial evaluation of *Citrus aurantifolia* forms a primary platform for further phytochemical and pharmacological investigation for the development of new potential antimicrobial compounds.

Financial Disclosure: There is no financial disclosure.

Conflict of Interest: None to declare.

Ethical Clearance: All experimental protocols were approved under the Department of Biology, College of Science FOR Women, Hillah city, Iraq and all experiments were carried out in accordance with approved guidelines.

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