

Antioxidant Activity, Total Phenol and Pigments Content of Seaweeds Collected from, Rameshwaram, Gulf of Mannar, Southeast Coast of India

Authors : Suparna Roy, P. Anantharaman

Abstract : The aim of this work is to estimate some in-vitro antioxidant activities and total phenols of various extracts such as aqueous, acetone, ethanol, methanol extract of seaweeds and pigments content by Spectrophotometric method. The seaweeds were collected during 2016 from Rameshwaram, southeast coast of India. Among four different extracts, aqueous extracts from all seaweeds had minimum activity than acetone, methanol and ethanol. The Rhodophyta and Phaeophyta had high antioxidant activity in comparing to Chlorophyta. The highest total antioxidant activity was found in acetone extract from *Turbinaria decurrens* ($98.97 \pm 0.00\%$), followed by its methanol extract ($98.81 \pm 0.60\%$) and ethanol extract ($98.58 \pm 0.53\%$). The highest reducing power and H₂O₂ scavenging activity were found in acetone extract of *Caulerpa racemosa* ($383.25 \pm 1.04\%$), and methanol extract from *Caulerpa racemosa* var. *macrophysa* ($24.91 \pm 0.49\%$). The methanol extract from *Caulerpa scalpelliformis* contained the highest total phenol ($85.23 \pm 0.12\%$). The Chloro-a and Chloro-b contents were the highest in *Gracilaria foliifera* ($13.69 \pm 0.38\%$ mg/gm dry wt.) and *Caulerpa racemosa* var. *macrophysa* ($9.12 \pm 0.12\%$ mg/gm dry wt.) likewise carotenoid was also the highest in *Gracilaria foliifera* ($0.054 \pm 0.0003\%$ mg/gm dry wt.) and *Caulerpa racemosa* var. *macrophysa* ($0.04 \pm 0.002\%$ mg/gm dry wt.). It can be concluded from this study that some seaweed extract can be used for natural antioxidant production, after further characterization to negotiate the side effect of synthetic, market available antioxidants.

Keywords : seaweeds, antioxidant, total phenol, pigment, Olaikuda, Vadakkadu, Rameshwaram

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