

Qualitative and Quantitative Screening of Biochemical Compositions for Six Selected Marine Macroalgae from Mediterranean Coast of Egypt

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Abstract : Seaweeds are potential renewable resources in marine environment. They provide an excellent source of bioactive substances such as dietary fibers and various functional polysaccharides that could potentially be used as ingredients for both human and animal health applications. The observations suggested that these bioactive compounds have strong antioxidant properties, which have beneficial effects on human health. The present research aimed at finding new chemical products from local marine macroalgae for natural medicinal uses and consumption for their nutritional values. Macroalgae samples were collected manually mainly from the Mediterranean Sea at shallow subtidal zone of Abu Qir Bay, Alexandria, Egypt. The chemical compositions of lyophilized materials of six selected macroalgal species; *Colpomenia sinuosa*, *Sargassum linifolium*, *Padina pavonia*, *Pterocladia capillacea*, *Laurencia pinnatifida*, and *Caulerpa racemosa*, were investigated for proteins using bovine serum albumin, and carbohydrates were assayed by phenol-sulfuric acid reaction. The macroalgae lipid was extracted with chloroform, methanol and phosphate buffer. Vitamins were extracted using trichloroacetic acid. Chlorophylls and total carotenoids were determined spectrophotometrically and total phenols were extracted with methanol. In addition, lipid-soluble, and water-soluble antioxidant, and anti- α -glucosidase activities were measured spectrophotometrically. The antioxidant activity of hexane extracts was investigated using phosphomolybdenum reagent. The anti- α -glucosidase effect measurement was initiated by mixing α -glucosidase solution with p-nitrophenyl α -D-glucopyranoside. The results showed that the ash contents varied from 11.2 to 35.4 % on dry weight basis for *P. capillacea* and *Laurencia pinnatifida*, respectively. The protein contents ranged from 5.63 % in brown macroalgae *C. sinuosa* to 8.73 % in *P. pavonia*. A relative wide range in carbohydrate contents was observed (20.06–46.75 %) for the test algal species. The highest lipid percentage was found in green alga *C. racemosa* (5.91%) followed by brown algae *P. pavonia* (3.57%) and *C. sinuosa* (2.64%). The phenolic contents varied from 1.32 mg GAE/g for *C. sinuosa* to 4.00 mg GAE/g in *P. pavonia*. The lipid-soluble compounds exhibited higher antioxidant capacity (73.18-145.95 μ M/g) than that of the water-soluble ones ranging from 24.83 μ M/g in *C. racemosa* to 74.07 μ M/g in *S. linifolium*. The most potent anti- α -glucosidase activity was observed for *P. pavonia* with IC₅₀ of 17.12 μ g/ml followed by *S. linifolium* (IC₅₀ = 71.75 μ g/ml), *C. racemosa* (IC₅₀ = 84.73 μ g/ml), *P. capillacea* (IC₅₀ = 92.16 μ g/ml), *C. sinuosa* (IC₅₀ = 112.44 μ g/ml), and *L. pinnatifida* (IC₅₀ = 115.11 μ g/ml).

Keywords : α -glucosidase, lyophilized, macroalgae, spectrophotometrically

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