



LC-ESI-QTOF/MS characterization of bioactive compounds from black spices and their potential antioxidant activities

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Abstract Black pepper (*Piper nigrum* L.), black cumin (*Nigella sativa* L.) and black cardamom (*Amomum subulatum*) are considered as important spices, seasoning and folk medicines. They have a diverse range of bioactive compounds, especially for polyphenolic compounds. These polyphenolic compounds contribute to the putative health benefits of these black spices. The purpose of this study was to identify, characterize and quantify the phenolic profile of these black spices using LC-ESI-QTOF/MS and HPLC–PDA and to access their antioxidant potential. The LC-ESI-QTOF/MS analysis led to the identification of 138 phenolic compounds in three black spices. In HPLC–PDA, the *p*-hydroxybenzoic acid was the most predominant phenolic acid in black pepper and black cumin while diosmin was the most abundant flavonoid in black cardamom (> 20 mg/g). Furthermore, black spices were systematically measured for their TPC, TFC and TTC followed by measurement of their antioxidant activities using DPPH, FRAP and ABTS assays. Black pepper showed the highest TPC, TFC, TTC, DPPH and ABTS activities as compared to other black spices while black

cardamom exhibited the highest FRAP activity. The obtained results highlight the importance of these black spices as promising sources of phenolic compounds and they could be potentially utilized in food, feed and nutraceutical industries.

Keywords Black spices · Black pepper · Black cumin · Black cardamom · Polyphenols · LC-ESI-QTOF/MS · HPLC–PDA · Antioxidant activity

Introduction

Polyphenols are secondary metabolites originated from plants, who constitute the largest group of phytochemicals (Li et al. 2014). Phenolic compounds have an aromatic ring with one or more hydroxyl substituents. There are at least 10,000 polyphenol compounds have been identified. Among them, phenolic acids, flavonoids and tannins are regarded as the most important dietary phenolic compounds. They attracted attention due to their diverse nature of bioactivities, especially for antioxidative attributes, which could be accounted for by redox ability of phenolic compounds. Polyphenols demonstrated their antioxidant activity through two pathways, acting as radical scavengers to prevent the cellular damage which is produced by reactive oxygen species, and to prevent the generation of reactive oxygen species directly (Teodora et al. 2019). Considering safety health concerns, standards, regulations and approval of synthetic antioxidants, identification and characterization of natural polyphenols extracted from diverse food materials is a demand for researchers (Yuan-Yuan et al. 2018).

Herbs and spices were used in cooking to flavor cuisines and medicinal purposes, like treating coughs and colds for

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children (Carlsen et al. 2010). There has been dramatically increasing research for spices and herbs because of their strong antioxidant activity, which is crucial for reduce oxidative stress, thus preventing aging-related diseases, including heart and chronic degenerative diseases that resulted from poor eating habits and high-speed lifestyles. Apart from antioxidant property, herbs and spices possess lowering glucose activities and anti-inflammatory effect (Kaefer and Milner 2008). Spices and aromatic plants, like black pepper (*Piper nigrum* L.), black cardamom (*Amomum subulatum*) and black cumin (*Nigella sativa* L.) contain a wide range of bioactive compounds, including polyphenols, vitamins, and enzymes (Nazzaro et al. 2017). These bioactive compounds could be utilized in several industries for different purposes including developing functional foods, ingredients, additives in food and pharmaceutical industries to improve human health (Sagar et al. 2018).

Polyphenols constitutions and antioxidant activity in black spices can be estimated using different in vitro assays, TPC (total phenolic content), TFC (total flavonoid content), tannins assays, DPPH (2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl), ABTS (2,2'-azino-bis-3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid) and FRAP (ferric reducing antioxidant power) assays. These assays are based on analyzing the ability of electron donation or free radical scavenging of samples with different mechanisms respectively (Kandi and Charles 2019). Black pepper contains ascorbic-acid, lauric-acid, linalyl-acetate, methyl-eugenol, piperine, ubiquinone flavonides, ferulic acid, piperine, phenolic amide feruperine (Suhaj 2006). The antioxidant effect of black cardamom was contributed mainly by α -terpinolene, γ -terpinene, sabinene, and thymol (Misharina 2016). Some of the phytochemicals were identified from black cumin including α -pinene, eucalyptol, linalyl anthranilate, geraniol, D-limonene and epoxy- α -terpenyl acetate (Kumar Kandikattu et al. 2017). The precise identification and quantitation of these phenolic compounds were complex because of structural diversity of polyphenols. Currently, liquid chromatography coupled with electrospray ionization—quadrupole time-of-flight and mass spectrometry (LC-ESI-QTOF/MS) is one of the latest techniques to identify and characterize polyphenols while high-performance liquid chromatography with photodiode array detector (HPLC-PDA) can be used for quantification purposes (Spinola et al. 2015).

The objective of this study was to (a) extract polyphenols from black pepper, black cardamom and black cumin (b) test whether they are anti-oxidative, and measure their antioxidant capacity, and (3) comprehensively characterize and quantify polyphenols from selected black spices by LC-ESI-QTOF/MS and HPLC. The results acquired from

this study will be useful for food, feed and pharmaceutical industries.

Materials and methods

Chemicals and reagents

Most of the chemicals used for extraction and characterization were analytical grade and purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA). Folin and Ciocalteu's phenol, aluminum chloride, sodium acetate, vanillin, sulfuric acid, 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH), 2,4,6-tripyridyl-s-triazine (TPTZ), potassium persulfate ($\text{Fe}[\text{III}]\text{Cl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$), 3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid (ABTS), potassium persulfate and acetic acid solution were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA). The HPLC standards (kaempferol-3-*O*-glucoside, quercetin, kaempferol, diosmin, protocatechuic acid, *p*-hydroxybenzoic acid, chlorogenic acid, caffeic acid) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA). Sodium carbonate (anhydrous) was obtained from Chem-Supply Pty Ltd (Mitcham, VIC, AU). Hydrated sodium acetate, methanol, hydrochloric acid, acetonitrile, anhydrous sodium acetate and glacial acetic acid were purchased from Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc (Scoresby, VIC, AU). A 98% sulfuric acid was bought from RCI Labscan (Melbourne, VIC, AU).

Sample preparation

Raw materials (black pepper, black cumin and black cardamom) used for the study were purchased from a local grocery store (Werribee Spice House, Melbourne, VIC, Australia). Samples were grounded into a fine powder by electric grinder (Sunbeam Multi Grinder—EM0405, Melbourne, VIC, AU) and stored at room temperature in dark area.

Extraction of phenolic compounds

Extracts were prepared using 30% ethanol and homogenizing with Ultra-Turrax T25 Homogenizer (IKA, Staufen, Germany) in 30% (v/v) ethanol at 10,000 rpm for 30 s followed by incubation in a ZWYR-240 incubator shaker (Labwit, Ashwood, VIC, Australia) at 120 rpm at 4 °C for 12 h. After incubation, extracts were centrifuged at 5000 rpm at 4 °C for 15 min (Hettich ROTINA 380R, Tuttlingen, Baden-Württemberg, Germany) and the supernatant was collected and stored at -20 °C for further analysis. For HPLC analysis, the extracted samples were filtered through syringe filters (0.45 μm) bought from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA).

Estimation of polyphenols and antioxidant assays

For polyphenol estimation, TPC, TFC and TTC were measured while for antioxidant capacity, three different antioxidant assays, including DPPH, FRAP, and ABTS, were performed using the method of Gu et al. (2019). The data was obtained by the Multiskan[®] Go microplate photometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA).

Determination of total phenolic content (TPC)

The TPC in the sample was determined by modifying the spectrophotometric method using Folin-Ciocalteu reagent (Yunfeng et al. 2018). 25 μ L extract, 25 μ L Folin reagent solution and 200 μ L water were added in 96-well plate (Costar, Corning, NY, USA), the reaction mixture was incubated at room temperature in the dark for 5 min. Subsequently, 25 μ L 10% (w:w) sodium carbonate was added and incubated the reaction mixture again for 60 min at 25 °C. The TPC was quantified from a calibration curve prepared with gallic acid standard, with concentrations ranged from 0 to 200 μ g/mL. An increase in absorbance was measured at 765 nm against blank (methanol) using spectrophotometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). The TPC content was expressed as mg of gallic acid equivalents per gram of sample (mg GAE/g of sample).

Determination of total flavonoid content (TFC)

The aluminum chloride method (Rajurkar and Hande 2011) was used for quantification of the TFC with some modifications. 80 μ L sample extract was added to a mixture solution of 2% aluminum chloride and 50 g/L sodium acetate solution, followed with 2.5 h' incubation at 25 °C in 96-well plate in the dark. The total flavonoid content was calculated by linear regression after plotting the absorbance at 440 nm against quercetin concentration (0–50 μ g/mL) and expressed as mg quercetin equivalents per gram dry material (mg QE/g of sample).

Determination of total tannins content (TTC)

Total tannins contents were determined by vanillin–sulfuric acid method with some modification (Mesfin and Won Hee 2019). 25 μ L 32% sulfuric acid, 25 μ L sample and 150 μ L 4% vanillin solution was added to 96-well plate and incubated at room temperature for 15 min in darkness. Subsequently, the absorbance was measured at 500 nm against blank using plate reader. Catechin solution with concentration from 0 to 1 mg/mL were used for constitution of standard curve. The results were expressed as mg catechin equivalents (CE) per g of sample weight.

2,2-Diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) assay

The free-radical scavenging activity of extracts of black spices was assessed by modifying DPPH method of Ouyang et al. (2018). The DPPH radical solution was prepared by dissolving 4 mg DPPH in 100 ml methanol. 40 μ L sample and 260 μ L of DPPH solution were added to 96-well plate and kept at 25 °C for 30 min in the dark, absorbance of the mixture was measured at 517 nm against methanol. The calibration curve was plotted with different concentration of ascorbic acid ranging from 0 to 50 μ g/mL. The results were reported as mg of ascorbic acid equivalent per gram (mg AAE/g) of sample.

Ferric reducing antioxidant power (FRAP) assay

FRAP assay is based on the reduction of Fe³⁺ tripyridyl-triazine (TPTZ) complex (colorless complex) to Fe²⁺ TPTZ (blue colored complex) formed by the action of electron-donating antioxidants at low pH (Rajurkar and Hande 2011). The antioxidant capacity of different spices samples were estimated according to the previously reported method with slight modification (Rajurkar and Hande 2011). The FRAP reagent was prepared by mixing 300 mM sodium acetate solution, 10 mM TPTZ solution and 20 mM Fe[III] solution at 10:1:1. 280 μ L prepared dye solution was transferred into a 96-well plate of which containing 20 μ L sample, and absorbance was determined at 593 nm against blank solution after incubation at 37 °C for 10 min. From this assay, the standard curve was constructed with ascorbic acid; the concentration range was 0–50 μ g/mL. The FRAP values were expressed as mg of ascorbic acid equivalent per gram of sample (mg AAE/g).

2,2'-Azino-bis-3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid (ABTS) assay

Free radical scavenging activity of samples was also determined by ABTS radical cation decolorization assay of Rajurkar and Hande (2011) with some modification. The ABTS⁺ radical stock solution was prepared by mixing 5 mL of 7 mM ABTS with 88 μ L of 140 mM potassium persulfate in the dark at room temperature for 16 h. ABTS⁺ radical solution was then diluted with ethanol to obtain an absorbance of 0.700 at 734 nm to make dye. After adding 290 μ L dye solution to 10 μ L extract in a 96-well plate, the absorbance was measured after incubation at 25 °C for 6 min. The scavenging activity of spices was calculated using the calibration curve generated from ascorbic acid with concentration ranging from 0 to 2000 μ g/mL. ABTS values were reported as ascorbic acid equivalents (AAE) in mg per gram of sample.

Characterization of phenolic compounds by LC-ESI-QTOF/MS analysis

Characterization of phenolic compounds of three spices was performed on an Agilent 1200 series HPLC (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA) equipped with an Agilent 6520 Accurate-Mass Q-TOF LC/MS (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA).

Analyses were conducted at 25 °C for column and 10 °C for sample, using a 250 × 4.6 mm i.d. and particle size of 4 µm reverse phase LC column (Synergi 4 µm Hydro-RP 80A Lane Cove, NSW, Australia), who is protected by a Phenomenex 4.0 × 2.0 mm i.d. C18 ODS guard column. The binary solvent system was composed of water and acetic acid solution (98:2, v/v; eluent A), acetonitrile, water and acetic acid solution (50:49.5:0.5, v/v/v; eluent B), at a flow rate of 0.8 mL/min with a sample injection volume 6 µL. Both mobile phases were degassed for 15 min at 21 °C. Elution conditions were as follows: 0 min with 10% B, 20 min with 25% B, 30 min with 35% B, 40 min with 40% B, 70 min with 55% B, 75 min with 80% B, 77 min with 100% B, 79 min with 100% B, 82–85 min with isocratic 10% B.

Peak identification was performed in both positive and negative ion modes with capillary and nozzle voltage of 3.5 kV and 500 V respectively. Nitrogen gas at a pressure of 45 psi was used as the nebulizing and drying gas, with a flow rate of 5 L/min at 300 °C, whereas sheath gas was set at 11 L/min with lower temperature, 250 °C. The mass spectra were obtained over the m/z range of 50–1300 amu. Data acquisition and processing were performed using MassHunter (Qualitative Analysis, version B.03.01, Agilent).

HPLC–PDA analysis

The quantification of targeted phenolic compounds present in spices was carried out by (Waters Alliance 2690, Chromatograph Separation Module) equipped with a photodiode array (PDA) detector. The same column and conditions described in LC-ESI-QTOF/MS analysis were remained, except for sample injection volume was 20 µL and wavelength of 280 nm, 320 nm, 370 nm were used for detection. Concentrations of individual compounds found in each sample were determined using the calibration curves generated from standards. Results were expressed as µg/g of sample. Instrument control, data acquisition and processing of the chromatographic information were accomplished by Empower Software (2010).

Statistical analysis

Results of total polyphenol content and antioxidant activity were presented as means ± standard deviation of three parallel experiments ($n = 3$). The significance of antioxidant properties differences between three spices was tested by the one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA), followed by Tukey's honestly significant differences (HSD) multiple rank test at $p < 0.05$ using Minitab Statistical software for Windows Version 18.0 (Minitab Inc., USA).

Results and discussion

Polyphenol estimation (TPC, TFC and TTC)

The TPC of black spices were determined using the method of Folin-Ciocalteu, and TPC results were expressed as gallic acid equivalents (GAE)/g of the sample. Among spices, the TPC of black pepper was significantly higher than other two black spices ($p < 0.05$), with 5.46 ± 0.01 mg GAE/g, which was approximately two times higher than black cumin (2.79 ± 0.01 mg GAE/g) (Table 1). The total polyphenol contents of three black spices were in the order of black pepper > black cardamom > black cumin. Considerable differences in the TPC values among different spices had already been reported in twenty different spices, ranging from 12.03 to 22.88 mg GAE/g, which was much higher than our black spices (Soňa et al. 2017). It was widely accepted that the geographical environment and harvest time could influence the contents of spices polyphenols (Soňa et al. 2017).

The TFC values in the black species were varied significantly from 0.41 ± 0.01 mg QE/g to 3.97 ± 0.01 mg QE/g. Among three black spices, the most abundant flavonoid compounds were found in black pepper (3.97 ± 0.01 mg QE/g), followed by black cardamom (0.73 ± 0.01 mg QE/g) and black cumin (0.41 ± 0.01 mg QE/g). The TFC of our black cumin sample was almost 2 times higher than an Indian raw black cumin seeds, could be due to varietal difference or solvent extraction ratio (Liang et al. 2018). However, the TFC of black cumin was also compared with cumin seeds from South Korea (2.06 mg QE/g) (Assefa et al. 2018). Moreover, the TFC of South Korean cardamom pods (0.71 mg QE/g) was also similar to that of our black cardamom (Assefa et al. 2018).

Regarding total tannins in our selected three black spices, black pepper (2.88 ± 0.01 mg CE/g) had a higher level of tannins followed by black cardamom (2.18 ± 0.03 mg CE/g) and black cumin (0.86 ± 0.01 mg CE/g). The tannins in our black spices were lower than previously reported in one of the Indian cumin seeds (80.23 mg CE/g) (Bettaieb Rebey et al. 2012). It was

Table 1 Total polyphenols content and antioxidant activities of black pepper, black cumin and black cardamom

Antioxidant assays	Black pepper	Black cumin	Black cardamom
TPC (mg GAE/g)	5.46 ± 0.01 ^a	2.79 ± 0.01 ^c	4.11 ± 0.01 ^b
TFC (mg QE/g)	3.97 ± 0.01 ^a	0.41 ± 0.01 ^c	0.73 ± 0.01 ^b
Tannins (mg CE/g)	2.88 ± 0.01 ^a	0.86 ± 0.01 ^b	2.18 ± 0.03 ^a
DPPH (mg AAE/g)	1.19 ± 0.01 ^a	0.28 ± 0.01 ^c	0.75 ± 0.01 ^b
FRAP (mg AAE/g)	0.70 ± 0.01 ^b	0.19 ± 0.01 ^c	1.53 ± 0.01 ^a
ABTS (mg AAE/g)	7.05 ± 0.01 ^a	3.85 ± 0.01 ^c	6.16 ± 0.01 ^b

The data are shown as mean ± standard deviation (n = 3)

GAE gallic acid equivalents, QE quercetin equivalents, CE catechin equivalents, AAE ascorbic acid equivalents

^{a,b,c}The means in a row with significant difference ($p < 0.05$) using a one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and Tukey's test

highly possible that different extraction solvents contributed to the different extractability due to polarity differences of solvents, growing and agronomical conditions (Pitchaon et al. 2007).

Antioxidant activities (DPPH, FRAP and ABTS)

Antioxidant potential of three black spices was determined by DPPH, FRAP and ABTS assays, and the antioxidant activity was expressed as mg equivalents of ascorbic acid (AAE) per gram of sample.

The DPPH values of three spices varied from 0.28 to 1.19 mg AAE/g, with statistically significant difference ($p < 0.05$). The highest DPPH value was recorded in black pepper (1.19 mg AAE/g), followed by black cardamom (0.75 mg AAE/g) and black cumin (0.28 mg AAE/g). Previously, the DPPH values of 20 different pepper spices grown in Vietnam, India and Indonesia had been reported, ranging from 6.79 to 15.81 mg AAE/g, which was much higher than our black spices (Soňa et al. 2017). However, black cardamom in this study showed similar DPPH activity to that of South Korea cardamom (0.83 mg AAE/g) (Assefa et al. 2018).

FRAP assay was also conducted to provide comprehensive information on the antioxidant capacity of three black spices, since antioxidants with different mechanisms contributed to the antioxidant properties of spices (Nikolic et al. 2019). The FRAP assay is based on the reducing reaction of Fe^{3+} TPTZ complex to Fe^{2+} TPTZ complex, and it estimates the total concentrate of redox-active compounds, excepted thiol antioxidants (Konczak et al. 2010). The FRAP activity in three black species varied significantly from 0.19 to 1.53 mg AAE/g; the highest FRAP capacity was found in black cardamom (1.53 ± 0.01 mg AAE/g). The FRAP values of three black spices were within the range of Serbian's black spices (0.14–2.40 mg AAE/g) (Nikolic et al. 2019).

Regarding ABTS, three black spices showed stronger antioxidant capacities measured by ABTS as compared to DPPH and FRAP assays. The ABTS antioxidant power was measured by dye's decolorization ability (Brekša et al. 2010). Black pepper (7.05 ± 0.01 mg AAE/g) had significantly higher antioxidant properties than black cumin (3.85 ± 0.01 mg AAE/g). The ABTS⁺ radical scavenging activity of our three black spices was comparatively higher than that of Korean black pepper (3.34 mg AAE/g), cumin (3.199 mg AAE/g) and cardamom (1.09 mg AAE/g), the discrepancy could be explained by different sample preparation method (Assefa et al. 2018).

LC-ESI-QTOF/MS characterization of the phenolic compounds

An untargeted qualitative characterization of phenolic compounds in black pepper, black cumin and black cardamom was employed by LC-ESI-QTOF/MS in both negative and positive ionization modes (Figure 1S & 2S, Supplementary Material). The LC-ESI-QTOF/MS identified compounds with more than 80 library identification score were selected firstly, among them, compounds with a mass error less than ± 10 ppm were further selected for characterization and m/z verification (Table 1S–3S, Supplementary Material).

A total of 138 compounds were detected and tentatively characterized in black pepper, black cumin and black cardamom (Table 2). Eight polyphenol classes were tentatively identified in three black spices samples, while stilbenes were only found in black cumin and non-phenolic metabolites only presented in black pepper and black cardamom. Flavonoids and phenolic acids were the key phenolic compounds among all samples. In flavonoids, flavonol was the predominant subclass in black cardamom, while isoflavonoids and anthocyanins were the major subclasses for black cumin and black pepper respectively. For phenolic acids, hydroxycinnamic acids were main

Table 2 Qualitative characterization of phenolic compounds in black pepper, black cardamom by LC-ESI-QTOF/MS in positive and negative ionization modes

Peak no.	Proposed compound	Molecular formula	RT (min)	Ionization mode	Molecular weight	Theoretical (m/z)	Observed (m/z)	Mass error (ppm)	Sample name
Phenolic acids									
Hydroxycinnamic acids									
1	Cinnamic acid	C ₉ H ₈ O ₂	9.169	[M + H] ⁺	148.0524	149.0597	149.0590	- 4.70	BCM ²
2	3-Sinapoylquinic acid	C ₁₈ H ₂₂ O ₁₀	9.655	[M - H] ⁻	398.1213	397.1140	397.1144	0.50	BP ²
3	Caffeic acid 3- <i>O</i> -glucuronide	C ₁₅ H ₁₆ O ₁₀	11.306	[M - H] ⁻	356.0743	355.0670	355.0698	7.89	BCM ²
4	1,2-Disinapoylgentiobiose	C ₃₄ H ₄₂ O ₁₉	13.655	[M + H] ⁺	754.2320	755.2393	755.2400	0.93	BP ²
5	Ferulic acid 4- <i>O</i> -glucoside	C ₁₆ H ₂₀ O ₉	18.048	[M - H] ⁻	356.1107	355.1034	355.1062	7.89	BCM ²
6	Isoferulic acid	C ₁₀ H ₁₀ O ₄	18.197	[M + H] ⁺	194.0579	195.0652	195.0645	- 3.59	BCM ²
7	Caffeic acid 3-sulfate	C ₉ H ₈ O ₇ S	19.522	[M - H] ⁻	259.9991	258.9918	258.9938	7.72	BCM ²
8	Chlorogenic acid	C ₁₆ H ₁₈ O ₉	19.884	[M + H] ⁺	354.0951	355.1024	355.1010	- 3.94	*BP ² , BCM ²
9	3- <i>O</i> -Methylrosmarinic acid	C ₁₉ H ₁₈ O ₈	20.069	[M + H] ⁺	374.1002	375.1075	375.1070	- 1.33	BCM ¹
10	Feruloyl tartaric acid	C ₁₄ H ₁₄ O ₉	22.145	[M - H] ⁻	326.0638	325.0565	325.0583	5.54	BCD ¹
11	<i>p</i> -Coumaroyl glycolic acid	C ₁₁ H ₁₀ O ₅	25.038	[M + H] ⁺	222.0528	223.0601	223.0596	- 2.24	BCM ²
12	<i>p</i> -Coumaroyl malic acid	C ₁₃ H ₁₂ O ₇	25.375	[M - H] ⁻	280.0583	279.0510	279.0511	0.36	BP ¹
13	3,4- <i>O</i> -Dimethylgallic acid	C ₉ H ₁₀ O ₅	25.375	[M - H] ⁻	198.0528	197.0455	197.0474	9.64	BP ¹
14	Avenanthramide 2f	C ₁₇ H ₁₅ NO ₆	33.409	[M - H] ⁻	329.0899	328.0826	328.0816	- 3.05	BP ²
15	Caffeic acid	C ₉ H ₈ O ₄	19.146	*[M - H] ⁻ / [M + H] ⁺	180.0423	179.0350	179.0349	- 0.56	BP ² , *BCD ²
16	<i>m</i> -Coumaric acid	C ₉ H ₈ O ₃	34.353	[M - H] ⁻	164.0473	163.0400	163.0416	9.81	BCD ¹
17	<i>p</i> -Coumaroyl tyrosine	C ₁₈ H ₁₇ NO ₅	35.074	[M + H] ⁺	327.1107	328.1180	328.1170	- 3.05	BP ¹
18	Sinapic acid	C ₁₁ H ₁₂ O ₅	35.988	[M - H] ⁻	224.0685	223.0612	223.0621	4.03	BCM ²
19	<i>p</i> -Coumaroyl tartaric acid	C ₁₃ H ₁₂ O ₈	49.461	[M - H] ⁻	296.0532	295.0459	295.0483	8.13	*BP ¹ , BCM ¹
20	<i>p</i> -Coumaric acid ethyl ester	C ₁₁ H ₁₂ O ₃	81.116	[M - H] ⁻	192.0786	191.0713	191.0715	1.05	BCD ¹
21	Rosmarinic acid	C ₁₈ H ₁₆ O ₈	81.838	[M + H] ⁺	360.0845	361.0918	361.0920	0.55	BCD ²
Hydroxybenzoic acids									
22	Vanillic acid 4-sulfate	C ₈ H ₈ O ₇ S	8.921	[M - H] ⁻	247.9991	246.9918	246.9937	7.69	BCM ¹
23	Protocatechuic acid 4- <i>O</i> -glucoside	C ₁₃ H ₁₆ O ₉	9.092	[M - H] ⁻	316.0794	315.0721	315.0724	0.95	BP ¹
24	Protocatechuic acid	C ₇ H ₆ O ₄	12.289	[M - H] ⁻	154.0266	153.0193	153.0205	7.84	*BP ² , BCM ²
25	4- <i>O</i> -Methylgallic acid	C ₈ H ₈ O ₅	14.359	*[M - H] ⁻ / [M + H] ⁺	184.0372	183.0299	183.0301	1.09	*BP ² , BCM ²
26	Hippuric acid	C ₉ H ₉ NO ₃	14.569	[M + H] ⁺	179.0582	180.0655	180.0643	- 6.66	BCM ²
27	<i>p</i> -Hydroxybenzoic acid	C ₇ H ₆ O ₃	19.903	[M - H] ⁻	138.0317	137.0244	137.0257	9.49	BP ² , *BCM ²

Table 2 continued

Peak no.	Proposed compound	Molecular formula	RT (min)	Ionization mode	Molecular weight	Theoretical (m/z)	Observed (m/z)	Mass error (ppm)	Sample name
28	Paeoniflorin	C ₂₃ H ₂₈ O ₁₁	66.567	[M - H] ⁻	480.1632	479.1559	479.1570	2.30	BCM ²
Hydroxyphenylacetic acids									
29	3,4-Dihydroxyphenylacetic acid	C ₈ H ₈ O ₄	23.735	*[M - H] ⁻ / [M + H] ⁺	168.0423	167.0350	167.0360	5.99	*BP ² , BCM ² , BCD ²
30	5-(3',4'-dihydroxyphenyl)-valeric acid	C ₁₁ H ₁₄ O ₄	26.799	[M - H] ⁻	210.0892	209.0819	209.0837	8.61	BCD ¹
31	2-Hydroxy-2-phenylacetic acid	C ₈ H ₈ O ₃	31.794	[M + H] ⁺	152.0473	153.0546	153.0541	- 3.27	*BP ¹ , BCD ¹
32	Phenacetyl-glycine	C ₁₀ H ₁₁ NO ₃	32.249	[M - H] ⁻	193.0739	192.0666	192.0675	4.69	BCD ²
Hydroxyphenylpropanoic acids									
33	Dihydroferuloylglycine	C ₁₂ H ₁₅ NO ₅	26.826	[M + H] ⁺	253.0950	254.1023	254.1012	- 4.33	BCD ¹
34	3-Methoxyacetophenone	C ₉ H ₁₀ O ₂	77.515	[M + H] ⁺	150.0681	151.0754	151.0754	0.00	BCD ¹
35	3-Hydroxyphenylpropionic acid	C ₉ H ₁₀ O ₃	79.587	[M + H] ⁺	166.0630	167.0703	167.0693	- 5.99	*BCM ² , BCD ²
Hydroxyphenylpentanoic acids									
36	3-Hydroxyphenylvaleric acid	C ₁₁ H ₁₄ O ₃	28.199	[M + H] ⁺	194.0943	195.1016	195.1017	0.51	*BP ¹ , BCD ¹
Flavonoids									
Flavonols									
37	Kaempferol 7-O-glucoside	C ₂₁ H ₁₉ O ₁₁	8.246	[M - H] ⁻	447.0927	446.0854	446.0852	- 0.45	BCD ²
38	Myricetin	C ₁₅ H ₁₀ O ₈	19.405	[M + H] ⁺	318.0376	319.0449	319.0456	2.19	BCD ²
39	Kaempferol 3-O-glucosyl-rhamnosyl-galactoside	C ₃₃ H ₄₀ O ₂₀	26.244	[M + H] ⁺	756.2113	757.2186	757.2178	- 1.06	*BP ² , BCM ² , BCD ²
40	Patuletin 3-O-glucosyl-(1- > 6)-[apiosyl(1- > 2)]-glucoside	C ₃₃ H ₄₀ O ₂₂	29.974	[M + H] ⁺	788.2011	789.2084	789.2046	- 4.81	*BCM ² , BCD ²
41	Kaempferol 3,7-O-diglucoside	C ₂₇ H ₃₀ O ₁₆	32.641	[M - H] ⁻ / *[M + H] ⁺	610.1534	611.1607	611.1581	- 4.25	*BCM ¹ , BCD ¹
42	Kaempferol 3,7,4'-O-triglucoside	C ₃₃ H ₄₀ O ₂₁	32.658	[M - H] ⁻ / *[M + H] ⁺	772.2062	773.2135	773.2114	- 2.72	*BCM ¹ , BCD ¹
43	Myricetin 3-O-rhamnoside	C ₂₁ H ₂₀ O ₁₂	39.662	[M + H] ⁺	464.0955	465.1028	465.1036	1.72	*BP ² , BCM ¹ , BCD ¹
44	Patuletin 3-O-(2''-feruloylglucosyl)(1- > 6)-[apiosyl(1- > 2)]-glucoside	C ₄₃ H ₄₈ O ₂₅	32.691	[M - H] ⁻	964.2485	963.2412	963.2410	- 0.21	BCM ¹
45	Kaempferol 3-O-(2''-rhamnosyl-galactoside) 7-O-rhamnoside	C ₃₃ H ₄₀ O ₁₉	41.733	[M + H] ⁺	740.2164	741.2237	741.2247	1.35	*BP ¹ , BCD ¹

Table 2 continued

Peak no.	Proposed compound	Molecular formula	RT (min)	Ionization mode	Molecular weight	Theoretical (m/z)	Observed (m/z)	Mass error (ppm)	Sample name
46	Isorhamnetin 3- <i>O</i> -glucoside-7- <i>O</i> -rhamnoside	C ₂₈ H ₃₂ O ₁₆	52.144	[M - H] ⁻	624.1690	623.1617	623.1620	0.48	BP ¹
Anthocyanins									
47	Malvidin 3,5- <i>O</i> -diglucoside	C ₂₉ H ₃₅ O ₁₇	6.750	[M + H] ⁺	655.1874	656.1947	656.1945	- 0.30	BCM ¹
48	Delphinidin 3- <i>O</i> -glucosyl-galactoside	C ₂₇ H ₃₁ O ₁₇	15.088	[M - H] ⁻	627.1561	626.1488	626.1497	1.44	*BP ¹ , BCM ¹
49	Cyanidin 3,5- <i>O</i> -diglucoside	C ₂₇ H ₃₁ O ₁₆	23.238	[M - H] ⁻	611.1612	610.1539	610.1531	- 1.31	*BP ² , BCD ²
50	Peonidin 3- <i>O</i> -sambubioside-5- <i>O</i> -glucoside	C ₃₃ H ₄₁ O ₂₀	26.088	[M - H] ⁻	757.2191	756.2118	756.2130	1.59	*BP ¹ , BCM ¹
51	Cyanidin 3- <i>O</i> -rutinoside	C ₂₇ H ₃₁ O ₁₅	26.800	[M - H] ⁻	595.1663	594.1590	594.1587	- 0.50	*BP ² , BCD ²
52	Delphinidin 3- <i>O</i> -glucoside	C ₂₁ H ₂₁ O ₁₂	29.516	[M - H] ⁻	465.1033	464.0960	464.0955	- 1.08	BCD ¹
53	Cyanidin 3- <i>O</i> -diglucoside-5- <i>O</i> -glucoside	C ₃₃ H ₄₁ O ₂₁	32.575	[M - H] ⁻	773.2140	772.2067	772.2091	3.11	BCM ¹
54	Pelargonidin 3- <i>O</i> -sambubioside	C ₂₆ -H ₂₉ O ₁₄	43.647	[M - H] ⁻	565.1557	564.1484	564.1485	0.18	BP ¹
55	Cyanidin 3- <i>O</i> -(2- <i>O</i> -(6- <i>O</i> -(<i>E</i>)-caffeoyl-D-glucoside)-D-glucoside)-5- <i>O</i> -D-glucoside	C ₄₃ H ₄₉ O ₂₄	43.84	[M - H] ⁻	949.2614	948.2541	948.2547	0.63	BCM ¹
56	Peonidin 3- <i>O</i> -rutinoside	C ₂₈ H ₃₃ O ₁₅	46.512	*[M - H] ⁻ / [M + H] ⁺	609.1819	608.1746	608.1730	- 2.63	*BP ² , BCM ² , BCD ²
57	Pelargonidin 3- <i>O</i> -rutinoside	C ₂₇ H ₃₁ O ₁₄	53.900	[M - H] ⁻	579.1714	578.1641	578.1635	- 1.04	BP ²
Isoflavonoids									
58	3',4',7-Trihydroxyisoflavan	C ₁₅ H ₁₄ O ₄	6.618	[M - H] ⁻	258.0892	257.0819	257.0808	- 4.28	BCM ¹
59	Sativanone	C ₁₇ H ₁₆ O ₅	13.705	[M + H] ⁺	300.0998	301.1071	301.1077	1.99	BP ²
60	3'- <i>O</i> -Methylequol	C ₁₆ H ₁₆ O ₄	16.855	[M + H] ⁺	272.1049	273.1122	273.1138	5.86	BCM ¹
61	2'-Hydroxyformononetin	C ₁₆ H ₁₂ O ₅	18.710	[M + H] ⁺	284.0685	285.0758	285.0740	- 6.31	BCM ¹
62	3',4',7-Trihydroxyisoflavanone	C ₁₅ H ₁₂ O ₅	21.673	[M + H] ⁺	272.0685	273.0758	273.0750	- 2.93	*BP ² , BCM ²
63	6''- <i>O</i> -Acetylchrysin	C ₂₃ H ₂₂ O ₁₀	25.055	[M - H] ⁻	458.1213	457.1140	457.1126	- 3.06	BCM ¹
64	3',4',5',7-Tetrahydroxyisoflavanone	C ₁₅ H ₁₂ O ₆	26.645	[M + H] ⁺	288.0634	289.0707	289.0712	1.73	BCM ¹
65	6''- <i>O</i> -Acetylgenistein	C ₂₃ H ₂₂ O ₁₁	26.990	[M + H] ⁺	474.1162	475.1235	475.1213	- 4.63	BP ¹
66	Irinone	C ₁₆ H ₁₀ O ₆	29.923	[M + H] ⁺	298.0477	299.0550	299.0530	- 6.69	BCD ²
67	Quercetin	C ₁₅ H ₁₀ O ₇	67.231	[M + H] ⁺	302.0427	303.0500	303.0507	2.31	BP ² , *BCM ¹ , BCD ¹
68	3'-Hydroxymelanetin	C ₁₆ H ₁₂ O ₆	46.671	[M + H] ⁺	300.0634	301.0707	301.0694	- 4.32	BCD ²
69	3'-Hydroxydaidzein	C ₁₅ H ₁₀ O ₅	52.235	[M + H] ⁺	270.0528	271.0601	271.0592	- 3.32	BP ²
70	4'-Methoxy-2',3',7-trihydroxyisoflavanone	C ₁₆ H ₁₄ O ₆	66.291	[M - H] ⁻	302.0790	301.0717	301.0742	8.30	BCD ¹

Table 2 continued

Peak no.	Proposed compound	Molecular formula	RT (min)	Ionization mode	Molecular weight	Theoretical (m/z)	Observed (m/z)	Mass error (ppm)	Sample name
71	Kaempferol	C ₁₅ H ₁₀ O ₆	79.891	*[M - H] ⁻ / [M + H] ⁺	286.0477	285.0404	285.0411	2.46	*BP ² , BCM ² , BCD ²
Flavones									
72	Cirsilineol	C ₁₈ H ₁₆ O ₇	18.694	[M - H] ⁻	344.0896	343.0823	343.0839	4.66	BCM ²
73	Luteolin 7-O-glucuronide	C ₂₁ H ₁₈ O ₁₂	22.145	[M - H] ⁻	462.0798	461.0725	461.0734	1.95	BCD ¹
74	Gardenin B	C ₁₉ H ₁₈ O ₇	25.088	[M + H] ⁺	358.1053	359.1126	359.1120	- 1.67	BCM ²
75	Apigenin 6,8-di-C-glucoside	C ₂₇ H ₃₀ O ₁₅	26.990	[M - H] ⁻ / * [M + H] ⁺	594.1585	595.1658	595.1633	- 4.20	*BP ² , BCM ² , BCD ²
76	Diosmin	C ₂₈ H ₃₂ O ₁₅	46.512	*[M - H] ⁻	608.1741	607.1668	607.1693	4.12	*BP ² , BCM ² , BCD ²
77	Apigenin 7-O-apiosyl-glucoside	C ₂₆ H ₂₈ O ₁₄	31.613	[M + H] ⁺	564.1479	565.1552	565.1557	0.88	BCD ²
78	Kaempferol-3-glucoside	C ₂₁ H ₂₀ O ₁₁	45.874	*[M + H] ⁺	448.1006	449.1079	449.1076	- 0.67	BP ² , *BCM ¹ , BCD ²
79	Isorhoifolin	C ₂₇ H ₃₀ O ₁₄	35.306	[M + H] ⁺	578.1636	579.1709	579.1688	- 3.63	*BP ² , BCD ²
80	Apigenin 6-C-glucoside	C ₂₁ H ₂₀ O ₁₀	35.289	[M + H] ⁺	432.1056	433.1129	433.1129	0.00	*BP ² , BCD ²
81	Chrysoeriol 7-O-glucoside	C ₂₂ H ₂₂ O ₁₁	46.604	[M + H] ⁺	462.1162	463.1235	463.1235	0.00	BCD ¹
Flavanones									
82	6-Geranylaringenin	C ₂₅ H ₂₈ O ₅	7.584	[M - H] ⁻	408.1937	407.1864	407.1882	4.42	*BP ¹ , BCD ¹
83	Naringin	C ₂₇ H ₃₂ O ₁₄	41.270	[M + H] ⁺	580.1792	581.1865	581.1842	- 3.96	BCD ²
84	Hesperidin	C ₂₈ H ₃₄ O ₁₅	45.477	[M + H] ⁺	610.1898	611.1971	611.1967	- 0.65	*BP ² , BCD ²
Flavanols									
85	3'-O-Methyl(-)-epicatechin7-O-glucuronide	C ₂₂ H ₂₄ O ₁₂	42.246	[M + H] ⁺	480.1268	481.1341	481.1323	- 3.74	BP ¹
86	3'-O-Methylcatechin	C ₁₆ H ₁₆ O ₆	52.916	[M + H] ⁺	304.0947	305.1020	305.1001	- 6.23	BCD ¹
Dihydrochalcones									
87	3-Hydroxyphloretin2'-O-xylosyl-glucoside	C ₂₆ H ₃₂ O ₁₅	30.113	[M - H] ⁻	584.1741	583.1668	583.1700	5.49	BP ¹
88	Phloretin 2'-O-xylosyl-glucoside	C ₂₆ H ₃₂ O ₁₄	43.061	[M + H] ⁺	568.1792	569.1865	569.1865	0.00	BCM ¹
Dihydroflavonols									
89	Dihydroquercetin 3-O-rhamnoside	C ₂₁ H ₂₂ O ₁₁	20.268	[M - H] ⁻	450.1162	449.1089	449.1115	5.79	BCM ²
Lignans									
Lignans									
90	Schisandrin C	C ₂₂ H ₂₄ O ₆	15.845	[M - H] ⁻	384.1573	383.1500	383.1483	- 4.44	BCM ²
91	7-Hydroxysecoisolaricresinol	C ₂₂ H ₃₀ O ₅	29.262	[M + H] ⁺	374.2093	375.2166	375.2198	8.53	BCM ¹
92	Sesaminol 2-O-triglucoiside	C ₃₆ H ₄₆ O ₂₂	34.365	[M - H] ⁻	830.2481	829.2408	829.2393	- 1.81	BCM ¹

Table 2 continued

Peak no.	Proposed compound	Molecular formula	RT (min)	Ionization mode	Molecular weight	Theoretical (m/z)	Observed (m/z)	Mass error (ppm)	Sample name
93	7-Oxomatairesinol	C ₂₀ H ₂₀ O ₇	39.648	[M + H] ⁺	372.1209	373.1282	373.1283	0.27	BCM ²
94	1-Acetoxy-pinorensinol	C ₂₂ H ₂₄ O ₈	50.065	[M + H] ⁺	416.1471	417.1544	417.1542	- 0.48	BP ²
95	Laricinsinol-sesquiglan	C ₃₀ H ₃₆ O ₁₀	52.536	[M - H] ⁻	556.2308	555.2235	555.2265	5.40	BCM ²
96	Episesamin	C ₂₀ H ₁₈ O ₆	62.591	[M - H] ⁻	354.1103	353.1030	353.1055	7.08	BCM ²
97	Arctigenin	C ₂₁ H ₂₄ O ₆	74.697	[M + H] ⁺	372.1573	373.1646	373.1640	- 1.61	BP ²
98	Schisantrin	C ₂₄ H ₃₂ O ₇	76.735	[M + H] ⁺	432.2148	433.2221	433.2219	- 0.46	BP ²
99	Schisanhenol	C ₂₃ H ₃₀ O ₆	76.901	[M + H] ⁺	402.2042	403.2115	403.2111	- 0.99	BP ²
100	Cyclolairicinsinol	C ₂₀ H ₂₄ O ₆	77.398	[M - H] ⁻ / *[M + H] ⁺	360.1573	361.1646	361.1645	- 0.28	*BP ² , BCM ²
101	Conidrin	C ₂₀ H ₂₀ O ₆	77.515	[M + H] ⁺	356.1260	357.1333	357.1321	- 3.36	BCD ²
102	Matairesinol	C ₂₀ H ₂₂ O ₆	80.819	[M - H] ⁻	358.1416	357.1343	357.1336	- 1.96	BP ²
103	Dimethylmatairesinol	C ₂₂ H ₂₆ O ₆	81.274	[M + H] ⁺	386.1729	387.1802	387.1787	- 3.87	BP ¹
104	Schisantrin B	C ₂₃ H ₂₈ O ₆	81.357	[M + H] ⁺	400.1886	401.1959	401.1948	- 2.74	BP ²
Other polyphenols									
Tyrosols									
105	Hydroxytyrosol 4-O-glucoside	C ₁₄ H ₂₀ O ₈	9.671	[M - H] ⁻	316.1158	315.1085	315.1113	8.89	*BP ² , BCM ²
106	Hydroxytyrosol	C ₈ H ₁₀ O ₃	9.832	[M - H] ⁻	154.0630	153.0557	153.0547	- 6.53	BCM ²
107	Oleosidodimethyl ester	C ₁₈ H ₂₆ O ₁₁	14.470	[M - H] ⁻	418.1475	417.1402	417.1421	4.55	BCM ¹
108	Oleuropein	C ₂₅ H ₃₂ O ₁₃	21.880	[M - H] ⁻	540.1843	539.1770	539.1798	5.19	BCD ²
109	3,4-DHPEA-AC	C ₁₀ H ₁₂ O ₄	23.255	*[M - H] ⁻ / [M + H] ⁺	196.0736	195.0663	195.0672	4.61	*BP ² , BCM ² , BCD ²
110	Ligstroside-aglycone	C ₁₉ H ₂₂ O ₇	30.609	[M - H] ⁻	362.1366	361.1293	361.1312	5.26	BCD ²
111	p-HPEA-AC	C ₁₀ H ₁₂ O ₃	81.340	[M - H] ⁻ / *[M + H] ⁺	180.0786	181.0859	181.0852	- 3.87	*BP ² , BCD ²
Hydroxycoumarins									
112	Scopoletin	C ₁₀ H ₈ O ₄	11.836	[M - H] ⁻ / *[M + H] ⁺	192.0423	193.0496	193.0487	- 4.66	*BCM ² , BCD ²
113	Mellein	C ₁₀ H ₁₀ O ₃	19.014	*[M - H] ⁻ / [M + H] ⁺	178.0630	177.0557	177.0566	5.08	*BP ² , BCD ²
114	Coumarin	C ₉ H ₆ O ₂	26.660	[M + H] ⁺	146.0368	147.0441	147.0432	- 6.12	BCD ²
115	4-Hydroxycoumarin	C ₉ H ₆ O ₃	49.073	[M + H] ⁺	162.0317	163.0390	163.0379	- 6.75	BCD ²
116	Esculetin	C ₉ H ₆ O ₄	78.510	[M + H] ⁺	178.0266	179.0339	179.0335	- 2.23	BCM ²

Table 2 continued

Peak no.	Proposed compound	Molecular formula	RT (min)	Ionization mode	Molecular weight	Theoretical (m/z)	Observed (m/z)	Mass error (ppm)	Sample name
Hydroxybenzaldehydes									
117	<i>p</i> -Anisaldehyde	C ₈ H ₈ O ₂	24.514	*[M – H] [–]	136.0524	135.0451	135.0448	– 2.22	*BP ² , BCM ² , BCD ²
Hydroxybenzoketones									
118	3-Hydroxy-3-(3-hydroxyphenyl) propionic acid	C ₉ H ₁₀ O ₄	33.766	[M + H] ⁺	182.0579	183.0652	183.0645	– 3.82	BCD ¹
119	2,3-Dihydroxy-1-guaiacylpropanone	C ₁₀ H ₁₂ O ₅	50.529	[M + H] ⁺	212.0685	213.0758	213.0751	– 3.29	*BP ¹ , BCD ¹
Hydroxyphenylpropenes									
120	Acetylenol	C ₁₂ H ₁₄ O ₃	62.774	[M – H] [–]	206.0943	205.0870	205.0884	6.83	BCM ²
Alkylphenols									
121	3-Methylcatechol	C ₇ H ₈ O ₂	10.566	*[M – H] [–] / [M + H] ⁺	124.0524	123.0451	123.0455	3.25	*BP ² , BCM ² , BCD ²
122	4-Vinylphenol	C ₈ H ₈ O	34.353	[M – H] [–]	120.0575	119.0502	119.0512	8.40	BCD ¹
Alkylmethoxyphenols									
123	4-Ethylguaiacol	C ₉ H ₁₂ O ₂	19.125	[M – H] [–]	152.0837	151.0764	151.0774	6.62	*BCM ² , BCD ²
Naphthoquinones									
124	1,4-Naphthoquinone	C ₁₀ H ₆ O ₂	26.380	[M + H] ⁺	158.0368	159.0441	159.0444	1.89	BCM ²
125	Juglone	C ₁₀ H ₆ O ₃	82.367	[M + H] ⁺	174.0317	175.0390	175.0396	3.43	*BP ² , BCM ²
Phenolic terpenes									
126	Rosmanol	C ₂₀ H ₂₆ O ₅	34.563	[M + H] ⁺	346.1780	347.1853	347.1834	– 5.47	BCM ²
127	Thymol	C ₁₀ H ₁₄ O	69.678	[M + H] ⁺	150.1045	151.1118	151.1113	– 3.31	BP ²
Curcuminoids									
128	Demethoxycurcumin	C ₂₀ H ₁₈ O ₅	47.666	[M + H] ⁺	338.1154	339.1227	339.1227	0.00	BCM ²
Other polyphenols									
129	Pyrogallol	C ₆ H ₆ O ₃	8.788	[M + H] ⁺	126.0317	127.0390	127.0389	– 0.79	*BCM ² , BCD ²
130	3,4-Dihydroxyphenylglycol	C ₈ H ₁₀ O ₄	9.003	[M + H] ⁺	170.0579	171.0652	171.0651	– 0.58	*BCM ² , BCD ²
131	Catechol	C ₆ H ₆ O ₂	17.551	[M + H] ⁺	110.0368	111.0441	111.0435	– 5.40	BCM ²
132	Arbutin	C ₁₂ H ₁₆ O ₇	21.772	[M + H] ⁺	272.0896	273.0969	273.0951	– 6.59	BP ²
133	Isopropyl 3-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-2-hydroxypropanoate	C ₁₂ H ₁₆ O ₅	29.582	[M – H] [–]	240.0998	239.0925	239.0919	– 2.51	BCD ¹
134	Salvianolic acid C	C ₂₆ H ₂₀ O ₁₀	43.971	[M + H] ⁺	492.1056	493.1129	493.1104	– 5.07	BCD ²

Table 2 continued

Peak no.	Proposed compound	Molecular formula	RT (min)	Ionization mode	Molecular weight	Theoretical (m/z)	Observed (m/z)	Mass error (ppm)	Sample name
Non-phenolic metabolites									
135	Vanilloylglycine	$C_{10}H_{11}NO_5$	6.541	$[M - H]^-$	225.0637	224.0564	224.0563	- 0.45	BP ²
136	1,3,5-Trimethoxybenzene	$C_9H_{12}O_3$	57.471	$[M + H]^+$	168.0786	169.0859	169.0844	- 8.87	BCD ²
Stilbenes									
137	3'-Hydroxy-3,4,5,4'-tetramethoxystilbene	$C_{17}H_{18}O_5$	27.192	$[M - H]^-$	302.1154	301.1081	301.1100	6.31	BCM ²
138	Resveratrol	$C_{14}H_{12}O_3$	17.435	$[M + H]^+$	228.0786	229.0859	229.0869	4.37	BCM ²

*Example sample used for the LC-ESI-QTOF/MS parameters gathering for each phenolic compound in the selected mode

BP black pepper, BCM black cumin, BCD Black cardamom

¹Compounds identified first time in a particular black specie sample but already been reported in other plant materials including fruits, vegetables and medicinal plants

²Compounds already been identified in a particular black specie sample

phenolic acids in all samples. Phenolic acids and flavonoids were reported as a main sources of antioxidant activities in spices (Konczak et al. 2010). According to our knowledge and systematic literature search, we identified 52 new compounds that were not previously identified in these three black species although they were found in different medicinal plants, fruits and vegetables, mentioned in Table 2.

Phenolic acids

Phenolic acids were detected and characterized in all three black spices. In the present work, we tentatively characterized 5 subclasses, among these phenolic acids, two subclasses were all detected in three black spices (hydroxycinnamic acids and hydroxyphenylacetic acids), hydroxybenzoic acids and hydroxyphenylpentanoic acids were tentatively identified in both black pepper, while hydroxyphenylpropanoic acids were tentatively characterized in black cardamom and black cumin. Kanti Bhooshan and Syed Ibrahim (2009) reported that hydroxycinnamic acids are more common than hydroxybenzoic acids in most of the plant food. In this study, we tentatively characterized 21 different hydroxycinnamic acids and 8 hydroxybenzoic acids in three black spices.

Hydroxycinnamic acids Hydroxycinnamic acids were the most abundant compounds in three spices samples. Compound (**1**) with $[M + H]^+$ at m/z 149.0590 was tentatively identified as cinnamic acid. Cinnamic acid have also been identified in black cumin (Singh et al. 2004). Figure 1 showed the extracted ion chromatogram and the mass spectrum of cinnamic acid. Two compounds were both detected in black pepper and black cumin in ESI⁻ and ESI⁺ modes. In black pepper and black cumin, compound (**8**) with $[M + H]^+$ at m/z 355.1010 was tentatively characterized as chlorogenic acid while compound (**19**) in black pepper and black cumin with $[M - H]^-$ at m/z 295.0483 was tentatively identified as *p*-coumaroyl tartaric acid. However, these two compounds were not detected in black cardamom. Compound (**15**) with the molecular formula $C_9H_8O_4$ and having the precursor ion at m/z 181.0492 in both positive and negative mode, were tentatively characterized as caffeic acid in both black pepper and black cardamom, in keeping with a previous report on pepper (Fenglin et al. 2018).

Two caffeic acid derivatives (Compound **3** and **7**) were detected in the ESI⁻ mode in black cumin with product ions at m/z 355.0698 and 258.9938 respectively. Caffeic acid had been identified in Tasmania pepper berries in the study of Konczak et al. (2010). Compound (**5**) with $[M - H]^-$ at m/z 355.1062 was tentatively identified as ferulic acid 4-O-glucoside. Ferulic acid have also been

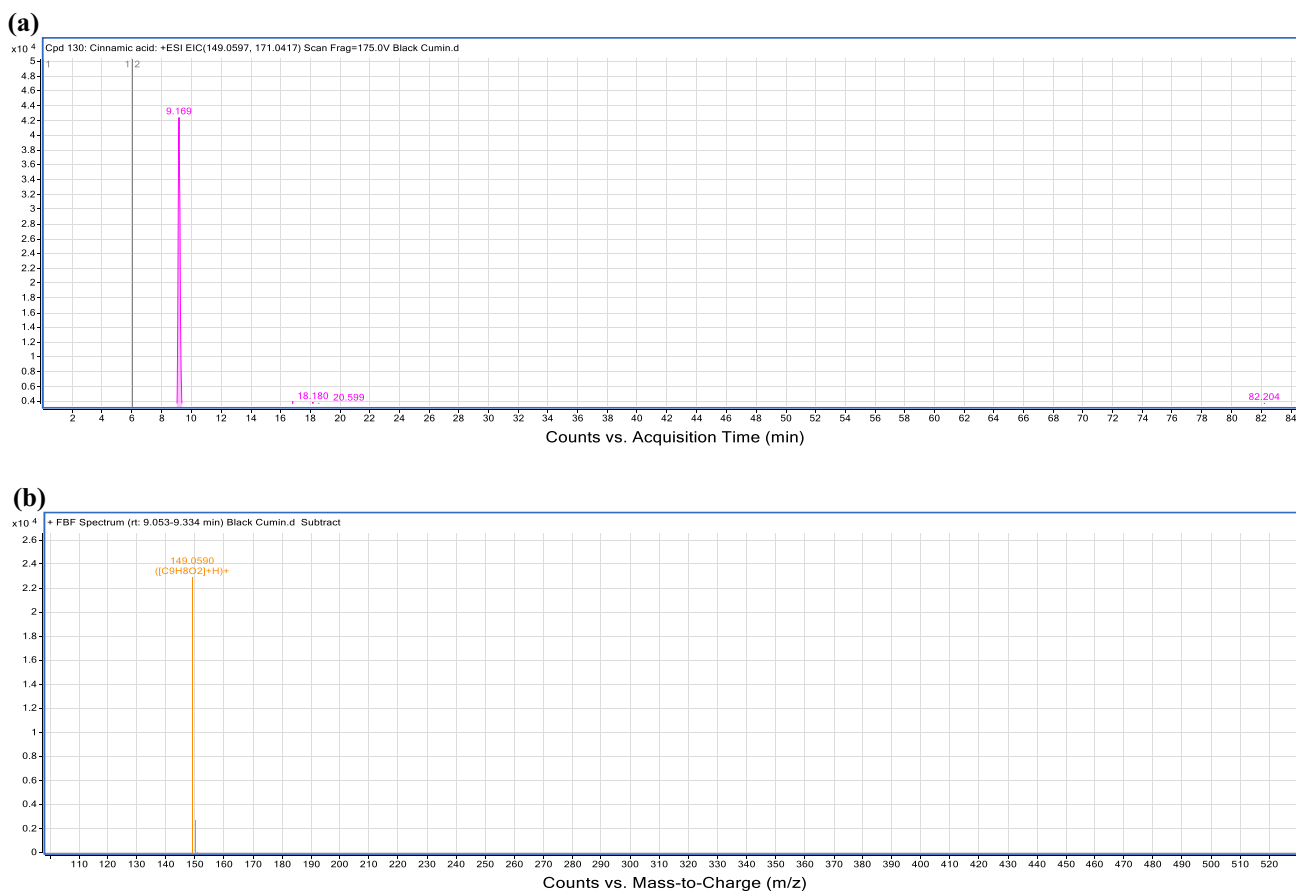


Fig. 1 Extracted ion chromatogram and their mass spectrum. **a** A chromatograph of cinnamic acid (Compound **1**, Table 2), Retention time (RT = 9.169 min) in the positive mode of ionization (ESI⁺)

[M + H]⁺) tentatively identified only in black cumin; **b** mass spectra of cinnamic acid showing an observed m/z 149.0590

identified in bitter cumin by Ani et al. (2006). In black cardamom (Compound **16**) with the precursor ion at m/z 163.0416 in the ESI⁻ mode was tentatively identified as *m*-coumaric acid. Coumaric acid was previously identified in Tasmannia pepper leaves (Konczak et al. 2010). Sruthi and Zachariah (2016) also identified hydroxycinnamic acids (including caffeic acid, and 4-coumaric acid) in Indian black pepper, which was consistent with our results.

Hydroxybenzoic acids Hydroxybenzoic acids were detected in black pepper and black cumin, while not detected in black cardamom. A total of three hydroxybenzoic acids have been detected both in black pepper and black cumin, including 3-hydroxybenzoic acid (Compound **24**), 4-*O*-methylgallic acid (Compound **25**) and 2-hydroxybenzoic acid (Compound **27**). The compound (**26**) in black cumin with [M + H]⁺ at m/z 180.0643 was tentatively characterized as hippuric acid. In black cumin (Compound **22** and **28**) with precursor ions at m/z 246.9937/479.1570 in ESI⁻ mode were tentatively identified as vanillic acid 4-sulfate and paeoniflorin. Hydroxybenzoic acids were also identified in cumin by Mnif and

Aifa (2015). Sruthi and Zachariah (2016) have previously identified hydroxybenzoic acids in black pepper collected from Kerala of India by LC–MS research.

Flavonoids

In the present work, we tentatively characterized eight different flavonoids derivatives from three spices. Among which, four subclasses (anthocyanins, flavonols, isoflavonoids and flavones) were tentatively identified in all samples in both positive and negative modes, while flavanones and flavanols were detected only in black pepper and black cardamom. Dihydrochalcones was tentatively identified in black pepper and black cumin while dihydroflavonols was only tentatively characterized in black cumin sample.

Flavonols Flavonol was the predominant subclass in three black spices. We tentatively characterized 10 different flavonols in all three spices. Compound (**39**), with the molecular formula C₃₃H₄₀O₂₀, having the precursor ion [M + H]⁺ at m/z 757.2178, was tentatively characterized

as kaempferol 3-*O*-glucosyl-rhamnosyl-galactoside in all three black spices. And compound (**43**), with the precursor ion $[M + H]^+$ at m/z 465.1036, was tentatively characterized as and myricetin 3-*O*-rhamnoside in all three black spices. Myricetin was also found in black cumin seedcake (Deepak and Lele 2017). Kaempferol was also identified in bitter cumin in the research lead by Ani et al. (2006). Three compounds were tentatively identified in both black cumin and black cardamom in positive and negative modes, being patuletin 3-*O*-glucosyl-(1- > 6)-[apiosyl (1- > 2)]-glucoside (Compound **40**) with $[M + H]^+$ ions at m/z 789.2046, kaempferol 3,7-*O*-diglucoside (Compound **41**) with $[M + H]^+/[M - H]^-$ ion at m/z 611.1581, and kaempferol 3,7,4'-*O*-triglucoside (Compound **42**), with both positive and negative ions at m/z 773.2114. Kaempferol 3-*O*-(2''-rhamnosyl-galactoside) 7-*O*-rhamnoside (Compound **45**) was tentatively identified both in black pepper and black cardamom.

Anthocyanins In the present work, we tentatively characterized 11 different anthocyanins, among which, seven anthocyanins were tentatively identified in black pepper, six were tentatively characterized in black cumin, and four were detected in black cardamom. Compound (**56**) with $[M - H]^-/[M + H]^+$ at m/z 608.1730 had been assigned as peonidin 3-*O*-rutinoside in black pepper, black cumin and black cardamom. Two compounds were tentatively identified in both black pepper and black cumin in negative ionization modes. Compound (**50**) in black pepper and black cumin with $[M - H]^-$ at m/z 756.2130 was tentatively characterized as peonidin 3-*O*-sambubioside-5-*O*-glucoside while compound (**48**) in black pepper and black cumin with $[M - H]^-$ at m/z 626.1497 was tentatively identified as delphinidin 3-*O*-glucosyl-glucoside. However, these two compounds were not detected in black cardamom. The other two compounds were both detected in black pepper and black cardamom in ESI^- modes. In black pepper and black cardamom, compound (**49**) with $[M - H]^-$ at m/z 610.1531 was tentatively characterized as cyanidin 3,5-*O*-diglucoside while compound (**51**) with $[M - H]^-$ at m/z 594.1587 was tentatively identified as cyanidin 3-*O*-rutinoside. However, these two compounds were not detected in black cumin. Cyanidin 3-rutinoside and cyanidin 3-glucoside were reported as phenolic composition in Tasmannia pepper berry (Konczak et al. 2010). Fenglin et al. (2018) previously identified cyanidin and cyanidin derivatives in *piper nigrum* Linnaeus.

Isoflavonoids A total of 14 isoflavonoids derivatives were detected and tentatively characterized in black spices. Two isoflavonoids were tentatively identified in three black spices, including 5,6,7,3',4'-Pentahydroxyisoflavone (Compound **67**) and 3'-Hydroxygenistein (Compound **71**).

In black cumin and black pepper, compound (**62**) with $[M + H]^+$ at m/z 273.0750 was tentatively identified as 3',4',7-trihydroxyisoflavone, which was not detected in black cumin. Black cardamom (Compound **66** and **70**) with precursor ions $[M + H]^+$ and $[M - H]^-$ at m/z 299.0530 and 301.0742 respectively, had been assigned as and irilone and 4'-methoxy-2',3,7-trihydroxyisoflavone.

Flavones In this work, it was found that flavones derivatives were one of the most abundant compounds in three black spices. Thus, 10 compounds have been tentatively characterized in this subclass. Compound (**75**), with the molecular formula $C_{27}H_{30}O_{15}$ and having the precursor ion $[M - H]^-/[M + H]^+$ at m/z 595.1633 was tentatively characterized as apigenin 6,8-di-*C*-glucoside in three black spices. Apigenin was also previously characterized in Indian black pepper by Sruthi and Zachariah (2016). The identification of apigenin derivatives in black pepper was consistent with the work of Fenglin et al. (2018) about *Piper nigrum* Linnaeus. Compound (**76**) with $[M - H]^-$ at m/z 607.1693 was tentatively identified as diosmin in all three black spices, and compound (**78**) in black pepper, black cumin and black cardamom with $[M + H]^+$ at m/z 449.1060 was tentatively identified as 6-Hydroxyluteolin 7-*O*-rhamnoside. Compound (**79**) in black pepper and black cardamom with $[M + H]^+$ at m/z 579.1688 was tentatively characterized as isorhoifolin.

Lignans and tyrosols

A total of 15 lignans derivatives have been detected in three black spices. Compound (**100**) with $[M + H]^+$ at m/z 361.1645 was tentatively identified as cyclolaricresinol in both black pepper and black cumin. Compounds (**104**) in black pepper and compound (**90**) in black cumin with different modes (at m/z 401.1948 and 383.1483, respectively) were tentatively identified as schisandrin derivatives. Black cardamom (Compound **101**) with precursor ion at 357.1321 in the ESI^+ was tentatively characterized as conidendrin, which was the only lignans detected in black cardamom. In black pepper (Compound **94**) with $[M - H]^-$ at m/z 417.1542 was assigned as 1-acetoxypinoresinol.

In the present work, we tentatively characterized seven different tyrosols, among which, three tyrosols were tentatively identified in black pepper, four were tentatively characterized in black cumin, and four were detected in black cardamom. Compound (**109**) in black pepper and black cumin with $[M - H]^-/[M + H]^+$ at m/z 195.0672 was tentatively characterized as 3,4-DHPEA-AC, who was also detected in black cumin. In black pepper and black cardamom, compound (**111**) with $[M - H]^-/[M + H]^+$ at m/z 181.0852 was tentatively identified as *p*-HPEA-AC,

which was not identified in black cumin. One compound was tentatively characterized both in black pepper and black cumin, being hydroxytyrosol 4-*O*-glucoside (Compound **105**), while not detected in black cardamom. In black cardamom (Compound **108**) with $[M - H]^-$ at m/z 539.1798 was assigned to be oleuropein.

Non-phenolic metabolites and stilbenes

Both black cardamom and black pepper contained non-phenolic metabolites, who was not identified in black cumin. Black pepper (Compound **135**) and black cardamom (Compound **136**) with $[M - H]^-$ and $[M + H]^+$ ions at m/z 224.0563 and 169.0844 were tentatively identified as vanilloylglycine and 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene respectively. Stilbenes was only detected in black cumin. In black cumin (Compound **137** and **138**) with different ion modes at m/z 301.1100 and 229.0869 were detected as 3'-hydroxy-3,4,5,4'-tetramethoxystilbene and resveratrol respectively.

The screening and characterization of polyphenolic compounds showed that some of the polyphenols presented in these black spices have strong antioxidant potential. Hydroxycinnamic acid derivatives, hydroxybenzoic acids and their derivatives, protocatechuic acid, chlorogenic acid, catechin, hydroxytyrosol, matairesinol, quercetin and kaempferol derivatives are regarded as potential compounds showing considerable free radical scavenging capacity (Ma et al. 2019; Peng et al. 2019; Tang et al. 2020). The presence of these antioxidant compounds indicates that black spices can be good sources of polyphenols and antioxidant potential. In short, black spices are a good source of polyphenols and could be utilized in food, feed, and pharmaceutical industries.

Quantitative analysis of polyphenol in three spices by HPLC

The HPLC technique is widely used to separate and quantify the phenolic compounds. Eight polyphenols were targeted to quantify through HPLC–PDA including 4 phenolic acids (protocatechuic acid, *p*-hydroxybenzoic acid, chlorogenic acid, caffeic acid), 4 flavonoids (kaempferol-3-glucoside, quercetin, kaempferol and diosmin) based on the LC-ESI-QTOF/MS characterization and previously reported antioxidant activities (Supplementary Material, 3S1 & 3S2).

Protocatechuic acid was detected in all three black spices, and the highest content was found in black pepper (3.98 ± 0.07 mg/g), followed by black cumin (1.39 ± 0.01 mg/g) and black cardamom (0.36 ± 0.01 mg/g) (Table 3). The amount of the detected protocatechuic acid in black cumin was significantly higher

than that in black cumin (0.13 mg/g) reported by Ani et al. (2006). *p*-hydroxybenzoic acid was detected to be the most predominant phenolic acid in black pepper and black cumin, with 38.18 ± 0.01 and 22.86 ± 0.01 mg/g respectively but not detected in black cardamom. The concentration of *p*-hydroxybenzoic acid in our black cumin was higher than Iranain black cumin sample (0.188 ± 0.21 mg/100 g) (Mariod et al. 2009). The only phenolic acid that did not quantify in black cumin was caffeic acid. The content of caffeic acid in black pepper and black cardamom were 2.15 ± 0.01 mg/g and 0.36 ± 0.01 mg/g respectively, who was reported as the main sources of antioxidant activities in Indian black pepper (Sruthi and Zachariah 2016).

In this study, four flavonoids were quantified in three black spices. Diosmin was quantified to be the predominant component in black cardamom, with 23.94 ± 0.09 mg/g, which was almost 5 times higher than that of black pepper (4.42 ± 0.02 mg/g). The highest content of kaempferol was quantified in black cumin (9.81 ± 0.07 mg/g), followed by black cardamom (0.40 ± 0.02 mg/g) and black pepper (0.35 ± 0.03 mg/g). The kaempferol content of our black cumin sample was higher than the Indian bitter cumin (94.7 g/g) (Ani et al. 2006).

The present study showed differences in the levels of phenolic compounds in the evaluated black spices. In short, all black spices are a good source of polyphenols and could be utilized in food, feed and pharmaceutical industries.

Conclusion

The LC-ESI-QTOF/MS analysis was successfully applied to identify the polyphenolic compounds from three different black species (black cumin, black pepper and black cardamom), they have distinct phenolic composition, mostly flavonoids and phenolic acids. A total of 138 compounds were tentatively identified from there black spices. Anthocyanins, flavonols, isoflavonoids, hydroxycinnamic acids, hydroxybenzoic acids, lignans and tyrosols were tentatively identified in black spices. In the HPLC analysis, *p*-hydroxybenzoic acid (phenolic acid) and diosmin (flavonoid) was the most abundant polyphenols in black spices. For the antioxidant activity, black pepper had the highest DPPH and ABTS values, whereas black cardamom had the highest FRAP activity. Our results indicated that antioxidant capacity was significantly correlated with polyphenolic composition of black spices. This study will provide valuable information for future exploitation of phenolic compounds as well as supporting the widespread use of black pepper, black cumin and black cardamom in food, nutrition and pharmaceutical industries.

Table 3 Phenolic compounds (mg/g) in black pepper, black cumin and black cardamom

No.	Compound name	RT (min)	Standard equation	Concentration (mg/g DW)			Polyphenol class
				Black pepper	Black cumin	Black cardamom	
1	Kaempferol-3-glucoside	47.111	22405x–33,766	0.06 ± 0.01 ^b	0.39 ± 0.01 ^a	0.04 ± 0.01 ^b	Flavonoids
2	Diosmin	49.249	1368x–18,098	4.42 ± 0.02 ^b	0.21 ± 0.01 ^c	23.94 ± 0.09 ^a	Flavonoids
3	Quercetin	70.098	2585.7x–29,267	0.24 ± 0.03 ^c	1.83 ± 0.02 ^a	0.69 ± 0.02 ^b	Flavonoids
4	Kaempferol	80.347	4425.8x–110,841	0.35 ± 0.03 ^b	9.81 ± 0.07 ^a	0.40 ± 0.02 ^b	Flavonoids
5	Protocatechuic acid	12.569	1824x–16,182	3.98 ± 0.07 ^a	1.39 ± 0.01 ^b	0.36 ± 0.01 ^c	Phenolic acids
6	<i>p</i> -Hydroxybenzoic acid	20.240	1387.5x + 5575.1	38.18 ± 0.01 ^a	22.86 ± 0.01 ^b	–	Phenolic acids
7	Chlorogenic acid	20.579	3043.6x + 4706.3	0.04 ± 0.01 ^a	0.02 ± 0.01 ^a	–	Phenolic acids
8	Caffeic acid	25.001	5622.4x + 23,944	2.15 ± 0.01 ^a	–	0.36 ± 0.01 ^b	Phenolic acids

Samples were analyzed as described in the method section and reported as means ± standard deviation (n = 3). The superscript letters were results of statistical analysis

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Compliance with ethical standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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