### EFFECT OF IRRADIATION AND HEAT TREATMENTS ON ANTIOXIDANT ACTIVITY AND MICROBIAL LOAD IN CURCUMA (*curcuma longa*)

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#### Abstract

urmeric is the common name used for the dried rhizome of Curcuma longa L. It is a rich source for natural colorants and useful phytochemicals compounds, so that it is used as a spice and herbal in food processing especially in ready food but it's highly contaminated with pathogenic. Therefore, to find the suitable applied methods for preventing contamination with pathogenic microorganisms without affecting quality. The present work introduced comprehensive studies by using different ordinary treatments as thermal treatments. The investigated treatments included control, thermal treatments at 50°C for 15 and 30 min. and the irradiation process doses with 5.0 and 10.0 kGy. The treated samples were evaluated with respect to microbiological and chemical analysis. The obtained results proved that the best ability and suitable method is the gamma irradiation at 10.0 kGy process than other treatments due to its reduce the microbial contamination through activation the antibacterial activity against selected pathogenic microbes such as Staphylococcus aureus, Klebsiella pneumonia, E. coli and Bacillus subtilus. In addition, the same dose was increased the efficiency of antioxidant activity (49%) than other treatments. It was also; found that there was no change in colorant but the fractionation and identification of phenolic and flavonoids compounds by HPLC analysis proved presence of 56 compounds of phenolic and flavonoids which were affected by tested treatments. Irradiation doses were more affecting to generate new major compounds from minor phenols or flavonoids. The advantages of last compounds were increased the antioxidant activity besides increased the antibacterial activity against tested pathogenic microbes.

Key words: Turmeric, curcumin, irradiation, antibacterial.

#### INTRODUCTION

Turmeric rhizome (*Curcuma longa* L.) is the underground rhizome of Curcuma long. It is used as a spice, natural colorant and herbal medicine. India is the major producer and exporter of turmeric. Turmeric rhizomes contained a heavily microbe load due to being grown under soil surface besides role of environmental factors such as temperature, humidity, pre/ post-harvesting conditions, and the storage condition (Araújo and Bauab, 2012). High levels of pathogenic microbes were recorded in food

stuffs mainly as being 'ready-to-use'. Whereas, no additional further food processing which can cause out break as recorded before in USA, due to pathogenic bacteria. Some outbreaks of salmonellosis have been linked to the consumption of foods seasoned with spices involved turmeric powder. *Bacillus cereus* may also be present in spices and herbs, usually at counts below  $10^3$  CFU/g but may multiply to high levels  $(10^5 - 10^6$  CFU/g) in food to which it is added; this may be sufficient to cause food poisoning if the food is inappropriately handled or stored (D'Aoust, 1994).

In addition, the importance of correct food handling practices and usage of herbs and spices by end users cannot be overemphasized. (Little *et al.*, 2003).

Fumigation with chemicals as ethylene and propylene oxide are being progressively banned in several countries because of their toxic, mutagenic and carcinogenic effects (Fowles *et al.*, 2001). While, Lee *et al.*, (2005) showed that  $\gamma$ irradiation appeared to be the best way for microbial decontamination of spices and herbs without causing alterations in the condiment quality. The utilization of  $\gamma$ irradiation for microbial decontamination of whole spices and spice powders is legally allowed in more than 50 countries worldwide and it is well established that 40 countries are using this technology commercially (Farag *et al.*, 2013).

The active constituents are the flavonoid curcumin (diferuloylmethane) and other various volatile oils, including tumerone, atlantone, and zingiberene. Components of turmeric especially curcumin has been shown to have antiinflammatory, antiviral, and anticancer properties (Ji *et al.*,2012). The literature review confirmed plethora of information available on safety aspects of curcumin and essential oil fractions of turmeric (Liju *et al.*, 2012).

While curcuminoids based extracts were well studied for their pharmacological and safety aspects, polysaccharide extract of turmeric is gaining importance since it showed to have various pharmacological activities, which include antidiabetic, antitumour, antidepressant, antioxidant, antimicrobial, antifertility, hepatoprotective, and immunomodulatory properties (Mohankumar and Farlane,2011). Therefore, the present work introduced an evaluation on turmeric treated with two methods (thermal and  $\gamma$ -irradiation) for decontamination, the microbiological, biochemical characteristic by HPLC profile, antioxidant activity, and coloring (UV-visible scanning) materials .

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Materials

Turmeric Powder (*Curcuma longa* L.) rhizomes samples were collected in sterilized glass bottles from local markets in Cairo, Egypt.*Candida albicans* (CA),

*Aspergillus niger* (AN), as well as four bacteria species, namely, Gram positive bacteria, *Staphylococcus aureus* (SA), and *Bacillus subtilus* (BS), Gram negative bacteria , *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (KP), and *Escherichia coli* (EC) were obtained from the Egyptian Microbial Culture Collection, (EMCC), Cairo Microbiological Resources Center (Cairo MIRCEN), Faculty of Agriculture, Ain Shams University, Egypt. Chloramphenicol,Trimethoprim/ sulphamethnd oxazole, adimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) solvent were purchased from Sigma (St. Louis, MO,USA). Sabouraud dextrose agar and trypticase soya agar medium were purchased from Oxoid Laboratories, UK.

#### **Thermal and Irradiation of samples**

The collected turmeric powders (as one replicate=250 g.) were thermally treated at 50°C for 15 and 30 min. Meanwhile, Irradiation treatment were carried out at doses of 5.0 and 10.0 kGy using a <sup>60</sup>Co Russian gamma chamber, (dose rate 1.3 kGy/h), belonging to Cyclotron Project, Nuclear Research Center, Atomic Energy Authority, Cairo, Egypt.

#### **Microbiological analysis**

Total bacterial counts (CFU/g) were determined according to Farag *et al.* (2013). Total fungi counts (CFU/g) were conducted according to the method of Ichinoe Zirnstein and Rehberger. (1983).

#### Antimicrobial activity of turmeric alcohol extract

*In –vitro* antimicrobial screening of turmeric alcohol extract was prepared according to Pundir and Jain (2010). Antimicrobial activity was carried out using the agar disc diffusion method; culture of strains *Candida albicans* and *Aspergillus niger* were sub-cultured on Sabouraud dextrose agar, as well as four bacteria species, Gram positive bacteria, namely, *Staphylococcus aureus* (strains), and *Bacillus subtilus*, Gram negative bacteria , *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, and *Escherichia coli* were sub-cultured on Trypticase soya agar medium. Chloramphenicol and Trimethoprim/ sulphamethoxazole antibacterial agent were used as references to evaluate the potency of the tested compounds under the same conditions. (Hossain *et al.*, 2012).

#### **Chemical analysis**

Total phenol content (TPC) was determined as described by Swain and Hillis (1959) and later modified by Singleton and Rossi (1965). Antioxidant Activity was investigated with 2, 2'-Diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl method (DPPH) as described by Miller *et al.*, (2000). Color changes of irradiation or thermal treatments were determined with spectrophotometric analysis in (1%) Turmeric aqueous solution before and after treated samples. The mixtures were centrifuged at 10 g for 15 min, and the clear

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solutions were scanned by UV-Visible absorbance measurements at different wavelength of maximal absorption. A UV/visible spectrophotometer unicam 8625 (Japan) was used. A calibration plot constructed with diluted solutions of tested sample was employed. The degree of color degradation was calculated as (cb – ca)x

100/cb, where cb are untreated sample, ca after treated (Farag et al., 2013).

#### HPLC analysis of phenolic and flavonoid Compounds.

The polyphenol components of turmeric were determined by HPLC according to the method described by Goupy *et al.*, (1999). (1-3 ml) sample after preparation was collected from the previous step in a vial for injection into HPLC Hewllet packared (series 1050) equipped with auto-sampling injector, solvent degasser, ultraviolet (UV) detector was set at 280 nm and quarter HP pump (series 1050). Retention time and peak area (%) were used to identify and calculate the phenolic compound concentrations by standard curve of specified concentration. The same instrument was used, also, to determine the flavonoids compounds of Turmeric. After sample preparation (1-3 ml) was collected from the previous was step in a vial for injection into a HPLC Hewllet Packared (series 1050) equipped with auto-sampling injector, solvent degasser, ultraviolet (UV) detector set at 330 nm and quarter HP pump (series 1050). The column temperature was maintained at 35°C. Retention time and peak area (%) were used to identify and calculate the flavonoids concentrations by standard curve of specified concentration.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

There is a growing interest in the development and evaluation of natural antioxidants from medicinal plant materials in the food industry and the field of preventive health care. Therefore, the hygienic view was applied to find the appreciate method for decontamination without affecting the quality of spices.

#### Effects of the thermal and irradiation treatments on microbial load of turmeric

Bacteria of public health importance, such as pathogenic, may be present and could potentially create a public health risk depending on the end use, such as addition to ready-to-eat foods that undergo no further processing. Some outbreaks of Salmonellosis have been linked to the consumption of turmeric powder (Little *et al.*, 2003). The obtained results in Table (1) proved the presence of bacteria and fungi was in high levels in control samples. Natural levels of bacteria near 90 X 10<sup>6</sup> and 8x10<sup>5</sup> for fungi are logic due to many observations confirmed that the turmeric are microorganisms highly contaminated herbs. Its bacterial level reaches to 80 to 100 million per gram level (Farkas, 1988). It showed that 96 % of tested turmeric samples have aerobic plate count more than  $10^5$  /g. This due to its growth under soil surface besides role of environmental factors such as temperature, humidity, pre-/postharvesting conditions and the storage condition (Araújo and Bauab, 2012; Parveen *et al.*, 2014). Whereas, investigated treatments were reduced these levels mainly  $\gamma$ irradiation, i.e., irradiation at low dose (5.0 kGy) was reduced 3 log from 6 log of bacteria and 2 Log from 5 Log. of fungi at untreated samples. It was found that the high dose (10.0 kGy) was more effective. Whereas the thermal treatments either at long or short time at 50 °C was less effective in efficiency than irradiation for decontamination of turmeric. These results are in parallel with those obtained by some workers (Zaied *et al.*,1996; Lee, 2004) who reported that irradiation dose of 3.0 kGy without heat treatment reduced the microbial load in coriander, cumin, turmeric and chili from 6 log to 3 log and from 5 log to 2 log units depending on the storage temperature.

Treatments	Total bacterial count (CFU/g)	Total Fungi count (CFU/g)
Control	90X10 <sup>6</sup>	8x10 <sup>5</sup>
Thermal process (50°C)		
-Time 15 min.	80X10 <sup>4</sup>	8.0X10 <sup>4</sup>
-Time 30 min.	20x 10 <sup>4</sup>	6.0x 10 <sup>4</sup>
Gamma irradiation		
- 5.0kGy.	30x10 <sup>3</sup>	3.0x10 <sup>3</sup>
-10.0kGy	20x10 <sup>2</sup>	4.0x10

Table 1. Effect of thermal and irradiation treatments on microbial load of tested turmeric

# Effect of heat and irradiation treatments on antimicrobial activity of turmeric

In the present work ethyl extract was chosen rather than other solvents due to its potential as showed by many workers (Pundir and Jain 2010). The obtained results of antimicrobial activity (AA) of tested turmeric alcohol extracts against yeast, fungi, and bacterial species are investigated by disc-diffusion assay in Table (2). It is shows that AA of ethanol extracts of treated turmeric produced inhibition zones against *Staphylococcus aureus, Klebsiella pneumonia, E.coli and Bacillus*. Whereas, no effect was recorded against fungi or yeast from turmeric extract either treated or not.

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	Treatments								
Strains	Control	Thermal process (50°C)		Gamma irradiation		Positive control			
		15 min	30 min	5.0 kGy	10.0 kGy	Chloramphenicol	T/ S	DMSO	
				Yeast				•	
C. albicans	N.R	N.R	N.R	N.R	N.R	29	24	N.R	
Fungi									
A. niger	N.R	N.R	N.R	N.R	N.R	20	18	N.R	
	Gram(+)								
Staph. aureus	11	15	17	17	24	25	13	N.R	
B. subtilus	9	10	11	15	25	30	10	N.R	
Gram(-)13									
K. pneumonia	9	19	16	12	26	24	23	N.R	
E. coli	10	10	11	13	25	24	12	N.R	

Table 2. Antimicrobial activity of treated turn	neric ethyl extracts as inhibition diameter
zones size (mm)	

N.R= no response T/S: Trimethoprim/ sulphamethoxazole DMSO: Dimethyl sulfoxide

Antimicrobial activity of the untreated turmeric extract was observed by (Niamsa and Sittiwet ,2009). The explanation of antimicrobial activity enhancement after thermal or irradiation process due to high content of phenolic and flavonoid which resulted after processing. This phenomenon in food after different process was observed by workers (Horváthová, 2007; Naguib *et al.*, 2012; Farag *et al.*, 2014).

# Effect of thermal and irradiation treatments on total phenols contents and antioxidant activity of turmeric.

Data in Table (3) and Fig.(1) show that, there are slight change in total phenols contents in all treatments. Meanwhile, the antioxidant activity increased in both thermal and Gamma irradiation treatments compared to control sample. The high percent of increase in antioxidant activity was observed after using high dose of Gamma irradiation (10.0 kGy) was 49 % but less value was resulted in the low dose of Gamma irradiation (5.0 kGy) was 20 %. A little increase was also, resulted by thermal treatments. Same results was obtained by (Zaied *et al.*, 1996).

Table 3.	Effect	of	thermal	and	irradiation	treatments	on	total	phenols	contents	and
	antiox	ida	nt activit	y of	turmeric.						

Treatments	Total phenols (mg/g)	Antioxidant activity %	Increasing %*
Control	11.12	29.72	
Thermal process(50°C)			23
-Time 15 min.	10.70	36.48	34
-Time 30 min	10.65	39.72	
Gamma irradiation			20
- 5.0 kGy	11.05	35.67	49
-10.0 kGy	10.77	44.19	

\*AA -increase (%) of AA=(AA after treatment-AA before/AA before) x100

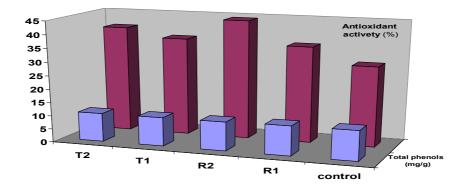


Fig. 1. Effect of thermal and irradiation treatments on total phenol contents and antioxidant activity of turmeric (T1 and T2 = thermal treatments at 50°C for 15 and 30 min, respectively. R1 and R2=  $\gamma$ -irradiation doses 5.0 and 10.0 KGy, respectively.

#### UV-Visible scanning of treated turmeric extract

For many centuries, turmeric has been used not only as a spice but also, as a natural colorant. The bright yellow powder of the ground rhizomes being one of the earliest known vegetable dyes. This yellow color results from the presence of a pigment called 'curcumin' which may be as high as 5-6% (Akram *et al.*, 2010). No wonder it is now known as the 'Yellow Wonder' The deep orange-yellow powder known as turmeric is prepared from boiled and dried rhizomes of the plant. Alcohol extracts scanning using UV-Scanning spectrophotometer, as shown in Fig. (2). Spectrum of all tested treated extracts. No higher changes were observed in the spectrum of extract of tested samples, except irradiated samples at its values were raised may be due to degradation of some compounds (Wang *et al*, 2009).

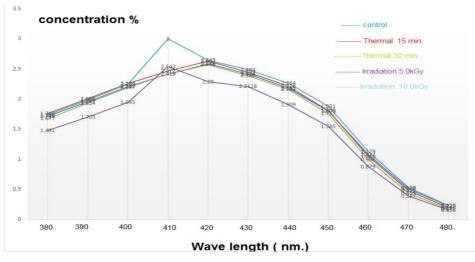


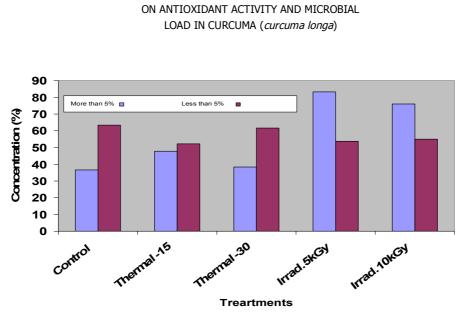
Fig. 2. UV-Visible scanning of treated turmeric extract

## HPLC analysis of phenolic and flavonoids compounds of treated turmeric samples

HPLC analysis of turmeric extract proved that of 56 compounds of phenolic, flavonoids were prevented and affected by tested treatments as shown in Table (3).Like same compounds obtained by Shiyou et al., (2011). The tabulated compounds involved, monoterpenes, sesquiterpenes, fatty acid, steroid besides different biochemical like volatile oils. The compounds can be classified to majore (with total area more than 5%) and minor compounds less than 5%. The major as isochroman (Rt=4.89) and eucalyptol (Rt=8.015), but the minor present the big percent as shown in Fig. (3). Gamma irradiation doses only were more affecting on all these compounds, i.e. the major one as isochroman (Rt=4.89) in control samples which occupied (15.54%) increased due to y-irradiation to 21.85% and 20.74% after irradiation with 5.0 and 10.0 kGy respectively, as shown in Table (3) and Fig.(3). Also, eucalyptol (Rt=8.015) with 9.39 % then decreased by all treatments, i.e. 5.93 and 0.59 % for short and long time for thermal treatments. Whereas, irradiation was more destructive same compound to 0.3%, 0.93 after irradiation with 5.0 and 10.0 kGy, respectively as shown in Table (3) and Fig.(3). Radio-degeneration lead to small molecular terpens, mono terpens as volatile oils which increased the total area of these minor compounds. The total of calculated (%) identified phenols and flavonoids were increased by irradiation to 137 and 131 % due to irradiation with 5.0, 10.0 kGy respectively as shown in Table (3) and Fig. (3). The decomposition happen by irradiation or thermal treatments was usually observed by workers due to high energy which decompose some sensitive terminal groups as-OH then the major compound can produce series of low carbon number compounds less than 5% as shown in Fig.(3). The enhancement of phenols and flavonoids by different food processing especially by irradiation was observed by workers (Horváthová, 2007, Naquib et al., 2012; Farag et al., 2014).

1 4.98 Isochroman 15.37 15.54 16   2 5.3 Coumarin 1.58 1.55 1.   3 5.7 Cumic acid 0.28 0.22 0   4 6.16 Methyl cumate 0.25 0.47 0.   5 6.26 2,5-Dimethyl-para-anisaldehyde 1.37 1.07 2.   6 6.61 cis-Edulan 0.28 0.45 0   7 6.89 Dimethoxydurene 0.19 0.18 0.   8 7.055 3,5-Dimethoxycinnamic acid 0.21 0.26 0.	30 5.0   .94 21.85   .81 3.62   .4 5.77   .25 1.7   .32 1.33   .3 0.51   .26 0.95   .17 0.29   .67 0.3	(kGy) 10.0 20.74 1.82 2.02 1.23 0.61 0.8 1.36
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3 5.7 Cumic acid 0.28 0.22 0   4 6.16 Methyl cumate 0.25 0.47 0.   5 6.26 2,5-Dimethyl-para-anisaldehyde 1.37 1.07 2.   6 6.61 cis-Edulan 0.28 0.45 0   7 6.89 Dimethoxydurene 0.19 0.18 0.   8 7.055 3,5-Dimethoxycinnamic acid 0.21 0.26 0.	.4 5.77   .25 1.7   .32 1.33   .3 0.51   .26 0.95   .17 0.29   .67 0.3	2.02 1.23 0.61 0.8
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8 7.055 3,5-Dimethoxycinnamic acid 0.21 0.26 0.	.17 0.29 .67 0.3	1 36
	.67 0.3	
		0.27
	12 0.20	0.38
10 7.42 Hexestrol 0.37 0.19 0.	.23 0.36	1.14
	.47 0.34 .18 0.29	0.37 0.51
	.18 0.29	0.51
	.59 0.29	0.93
	.2 0.37	0.35
	.23 0.75	0.33
	.84 0.32	0.52
	.14 4.19	0.45
19 9.7 Fisetin 0.21 0.21 0.	.24 2.36	5.46
Chromone, 5-hydroxy-6,7,8-trimethoxy-2,3-		
	.49 0.51	3.27
	.41 1.35	0.81
	.22 0.29	2.21
	.47 0.79	0.24
	.49 0.57	0.26
	.28 1.32	1.04
	.24 0.8	2.17
	.66 0.33	0.42
	.29 28.01 .37 0.6	23.08 0.81
	.19 4.33	5.56
	.83 0.35	0.45
	.25 1.25	1.34
	.73 0.51	1.07
	.73 1.31	2.42
	.42 0.59	1.06
	.51 0.96	0.81
37 13.85 β-Santalol 1.48 1.56 2	2 0.67	0.77
38 13.93 γ-Elemene 3.14 3.34 4.	.66 0.42	0.42
39 14.17 δ-Tocopherol 1.9 0.68 2	.2 2.14	2.55
	.48 0.28	0.43
	.4 1.13	1.68
	.85 3.24	5.89
	.16 1.53	1.2
	.34 0.66	0.43
	.57 <u>21.85</u>	20.74
	1 3.62 .92 5.77	1.82
	.92 5.77	1.23
	.26 1.33 .47 0.51	0.61
	.68 0.95	1.36
	.95 0.29	0.27
	.19 0.29	0.27
	.19 0.3	1.14
	.42 0.34	0.37
	.84 0.29	0.57

Table 3. HPLC analysis of treated turmeric.



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Fig. 3. Effect of treatments on phenols and flavonoids compounds (%).

### CONCLUSION

Finally, it could be clearly concluded through this study, this work that has technological and applicable values, as it proved the significance of turmeric as a natural colorant and also as a spice preferred by the majority of consumers. Besides, irritation was an effective procedure to increase the antioxidant activity substances of turmeric as well as inhibiting the activity of pathogenic bacteria. It was also proved that irradiation had no harmful effect on coloring capacity of turmeric.

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تأثير التشعيع والمعاملات الحرارية على مضادات الاكسدة والحمل الميكروبي للكركم

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يستخدم الكركم وهو الاسم الشائع للريزوم لنبات L. Curcuma longa في عديد من الاستخدامات التكنولوجيه، حيث انه يحتوى على مركبات كيماوية هامة وملونات طبيعية ، لذا فهو يستخدم على نطاق واسع فى التصنيع الغذائى كتوابل وملون طبيعى فى الاغذية خصوصا الاغذية الجاهزة، الا أنه على واسع فى التصنيع لغذائى كتوابل وملون طبيعى فى الاغذية خصوصا الاغذية الجاهزة، الا أنه عالى النلوث الميكروبى خاصة الميكروبات الممرضه. ولهذا السبب فانه من الضرورى ايجاد طريقة لمتقيم الكركم من غير تاثير على جودته وقد تم تتفيذ العمل الحالى لدراسة مقارنة باستخدام طرق طبيعية مثل الحرارة المنخصة (٥٠ م لمدة ١٥ ، ٢٠ دقيقة) والتشعيع باستخدام المعقم طبيعية مثل الحرارة المنخفضة (٥٠ م لمدة ١٥ ، ٢٠ دقيقة) والتشعيع باستخدام المعة جاما والكيماوية. وقد أثبتت النتائج ما يلى: الاشعاع على الجرعه ١٠ كيلو جراى أعطى أفضل النتائج فى بجرعات (٥، ١٠ كيلو جراى) بجانب الكنترول (غير المعامل) على التغيرات الميكروبية في الكيماوية. وقد أثبتت النتائج ما يلى: الاشعاع على الجرعه ١٠ كيلو جراى أعطى أفضل النتائج فى مقارنة بالمعاملة الحرارة المنكروبيولوجية أوالكيماوية. وقد أثبتت النتائج ما يلى: الاشعاع على الجرعه ١٠ كيلو جراى أعطى أفضل النتائج فى مقارنة بالمعاملة الحرارية والكنترول كذلك زيادة محتوى المواد الميكروبات ضد النتائج فى مقارنة بالمعاملة الحرارية والكنترول كذلك زيادة محتوى المواد الميكروبات ضد انواع من البكتريا في الينوبي ويقليل الفطريات وكذلك فى تشجيع النشاط المضاد للميكروبات ضد انواع من البكتريا مقارنة بالمعاملة الحرارية والكنترول كذلك زيادة محتوى المواد الميكروبات ضد التشعيع بجرعة من المحتوى الكلى للفينولات الكلية وعدم حدوث أى أضرار فى المواد الملونه عند التشعيع بجرعة المن المحتوى الكلونية معلى الكنترول. وقد ثبت بالتحليل الكروماتوجرافى وجود ٢٠ مركب من ما معان الينوبي بعني ١٩

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