

## Citrus species: Modern functional food and nutraceutical-based product ingredient

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REVIEW

### Abstract

*Citrus* is the most cultivated fruit crop in the world and occupies a place of considerable importance in the country's economy. Almost 33% of the *citrus* fruits are processed for juice production; however, a great amount of wastes, including peels, segment membranes, and seeds are also produced. Indeed, *citrus* fruits consist of 45% juice, 26% pulp, 27% peels, and 2% seeds. Pruning, a cultural practice involving the removal of tree branches and limbs, was applied to improve fruit's quality. A large amount of leaves are produced through pruning. These agri-food matrices contain a wide range of bioactive phytochemicals compared to fruits. The present review covers the past 5 years of research carried out in chemistry, health properties, and applications in food and nutraceutical industries of all portions of *citrus* fruit and its major bioactive compounds. Additionally, patents are also included.

**Keywords:** bioactive compounds, by-products, *citrus*, health properties, juice, peels, pulp, seeds

### Introduction

*Citrus* is the most cultivated fruit tree in the world and occupies a place of considerable importance in country's economy. The *citrus* fruits are processed for juice production (45%), and a great amount of waste, including peels (27%), pulp (26%) and seeds (2%), is produced (Mahato *et al.*, 2018).

Food waste is defined as the by-product obtained from various industrial, agricultural and other activities of food sector. Especially, food-processing industries produce large quantities of by-products, which are difficult to dispose of as they have a high demand for biological oxygen. Indeed, waste disposal has high costs and, also a potential negative impact on the environment (Kumar *et al.*, 2017).

These agri-food matrices contain a wide range of bioactive phytochemicals with different structures and

functionality that could be used as ingredients for food, food supplements or active bioactive compounds in pharmaceutical products (Rombaut *et al.*, 2014).

In food industry, *citrus* by-products and their value-added compounds, including polyphenols, vitamins, microelements and fiber are utilized as natural additives with the following properties: antimicrobials, antioxidants, colorants and flavoring agents (Mahato *et al.*, 2019). These wastes have gained increasing interest for further exploitation on the production of food additives, supplements with high nutritional value and pharmaceutical products.

The recent data were collected from several scientific databases (PubMed, Science Direct, SciFinder, Scopus, Elsevier, SpringerLink, ReserchGate and Google Scholar) from 2015 to 2020 using the following keywords: *citrus*, *citrus* by-products, juice, seed, peels, leaves, and

essential oils. This work is structured by dividing the text in *Citrus* portion and discussions on the phytochemical profile and biological activities of each. Additionally, patents are also included. The information collected would be useful for research on *citrus* species and for food and nutraceutical industries interested in using ingredients with health potential.

## Juice

### Antioxidant activity

Reactive oxygen species (ROS) and reactive nitrogen species (RNS) are involved in the pathogenesis of many human diseases, and antioxidants play a crucial role in restoring the physiological oxidative balance and modulating biological pathways and membrane functions (Smeriglio et al., 2018). The *citrus* genus is recognized for its protective effects against free radical-induced damage. Barberis et al. (2020) analyzed the antioxidant potential of fresh squeezed *pompia*, *lemon* (cv. Lisbon) and orange juices (cv. Hamlin, Sanguinello, and Moro). Among these, *Pompia* juice had a marked effect against ROS, and a moderate capacity to reduce ROS damages on cell membrane. On the contrary, orange juices resulted much less effective. The *in vitro* antioxidant potential (Table 1) of fresh squeezed *citrus* × *clementina* juices, collected from different areas of Calabria, was recently evaluated (Leporini et al., 2020a). Results revealed that juice obtained from fruits collected in Corigliano Calabro exhibited the highest radical activity, with the concentration giving 50% inhibition (IC<sub>50</sub>) values of 81.13 and 27.82 mg/mL for 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) and 2,2'-azinobis(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid) diammonium salt (ABTS) tests, respectively. The same juice exhibited the highest protection of lipid peroxidation. These results are similar to the previous study conducted by Loizzo et al. (2018) that reported the antioxidant activity of fresh squeezed *citrus* × *clementina* juices from fruits collected in flood plains, hills, and coastal plains of Sibari (Calabria, Italy). The following trend of radical potency was found: flood plain > coastal plain > hill.

Haraoui et al. (2020) compared the antioxidant activity of fresh squeezed juices derived from different *citrus* fruit varieties. All investigated samples possessed radical scavenging activity with IC<sub>50</sub> values comparable to positive control ascorbic acid and butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT). Among them, *Citrus maxima* and *Citrus aurantium* juices showed the highest DPPH radical scavenging activity (IC<sub>50</sub> = 0.42 and 0.44 mg/mL, respectively). The same trend was observed in β-carotene bleaching test with percentage exceeding to 80.55%, followed by *Citrus sinensis* cv. Sanguinelli and *Citrus limon*.

The antioxidant ability of fresh squeezed *Citrus limon* L. Burm. cv. Femminello comune juice was analyzed by Loizzo et al. (2019), founding the IC<sub>50</sub> values of 40.3 and 46.5 g/mL in DPPH and ABTS test, respectively, and 49.7 mg Fe (II)/g in the ferric-reducing ability power (FRAP) test. More recently, the antioxidant ability of two *Citrus sinensis* cultivars (Sanguinelli and Salustiana) was demonstrated by applying ABTS, DPPH, and ORAC assays (Ordóñez-Díaz et al., 2020). *Citrus sinensis* cv. Sanguinelli extracts were 40% more active than *Citrus sinensis* Salustiana samples.

Recently, Ali et al. (2020) reported that animals treated with 0.75% hydrogen peroxide in drinking water with daily drenching with 1 mL lemon juice, exhibited enhancement in hemoglobin concentration, red blood cells count, white blood cells count, and total proteins, and reduction in the level of aspartate aminotransferase and alanine aminotransferase. These findings clearly confirmed the protective and antioxidant features of lemon juice on hematological and biochemical parameters of the oxidatively stressed female mice.

### Metabolic syndrome

Metabolic syndrome (MS) is a clustering characterized by abdominal obesity, high blood pressure, high blood sugar, high serum triglycerides (TG), low serum, and high-density lipoprotein (HDL) that directly increase the risk of cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM), and all-cause mortality (Kaur et al., 2014).

Recently, the beneficial effects of *Citrus bergamia* juice were evaluated using an experimental animal model of MS and cardiovascular risk (De Leo et al., 2020). Results demonstrated that daily oral treatment reduced TG levels, cardiovascular risk, and showed protective effects on hepatic steatosis, probably due to the reduction of oxidative stress and inflammation. Previously, Impellizzeri et al. (2015) tested the *in vivo* anti-inflammatory activity of bergamot juice extract. Mice treated with this extract were more resistant to induction of colitis and reduction in the expression of important inflammatory mediators, tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-α) and interleukin-1 β (IL-1β), was observed.

The effects of a bergamot phytoextract (Patent No. EP3116520A1) was investigated by Di Folco et al. (2018). Each tablet provided 200-mg bergamot juice dry extract, 120-mg phytosterols, 80-mg artichoke leaf extract, and 20-mg vitamin *citrus*. After 6 months of administration, patients in the intervention group showed a significant reduction in fasting blood glucose compared to the simple dietary intervention alone.

Table 1. Biological effects of *Citrus* juices.

Juice	Biological activity	Mechanism	TPC, TFC, TCC, and/or main abundant identified compounds	References
<i>In vitro</i>				
<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i>	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging Ferric-reducing power	TPC = 52 mg GAE/L; TFC = 29.5 mg QE/L	Oboh <i>et al.</i> , 2015b
	Antibacterial	<i>S. aureus</i> , <i>S. epidermis</i> , <i>M. luteus</i> , <i>E. faecalis</i> , <i>B. subtilis</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>K. pneumoniae</i> , <i>S. thypii</i> , and <i>C. diphtheriae</i> inhibition	NR NR NR	Abdallah, 2020 Fadillah <i>et al.</i> , 2020 Azgara <i>et al.</i> , 2020
<i>Citrus aurantium</i>	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	TPC = 295.37 mg GAE/g; FC = 26.08 mg QE/g TPC = 0.58 mg GAE /mL; TFC = 0.43 mg RE/mL; Neohesperidin = 144.85 mg/mL; Naringin = 79.19 mg/mL; Hesperidin = 4.68 mg/mL.	Haraoui <i>et al.</i> , 2020 Chen <i>et al.</i> , 2020
<i>Citrus grandis</i>	Antibacterial	<i>S. aureus</i> inhibition		Haraoui <i>et al.</i> 2020
	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	TPC = 0.49–1.27 mg GAE /mL; TFC = 0.35–1.17 mg RE/mL; Naringin = 40.82–419.28 mg/mL; Neohesperidin = 37.52–42.54 mg/mL; Hesperidin = 3.14–12.17 mg/mL; Diosmin = 14.79–21.38 mg/mL; Tangeretin = 3.09–3.64mg/mL.	Chen <i>et al.</i> , 2020
<i>Citrus hystrix</i>	Antibacterial	<i>S. aureus</i> inhibition	NR	Kusumawardhani <i>et al.</i> , 2020
<i>Citrus limon</i>	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	TPC = 151.7 mg GAE/L; TFC = 30.8 mg QE/L; Eriocitrin = 16.7 mg/100 mL; Hesperidin = 14.1 mg/100 mL.	Loizzo <i>et al.</i> , 2019
	Metabolic syndrome	Inhibition of $\alpha$ -amylase and $\beta$ -glucosidase enzymes		Loizzo <i>et al.</i> , 2019
	Antibacterial	<i>S. aureus</i> , <i>S. epidermis</i> , <i>M. luteus</i> , <i>E. faecalis</i> and <i>B. subtilis</i> inhibition.	TPC = 231.16 mg GAE/g; TFC = 25.04 mg QE/g.	Haraoui <i>et al.</i> 2020
<i>Citrus medica</i>	Neuroprotective	AChE and BChE inhibition	Diosmetin 6,8-di-C-glucoside = 5.35 mg/100 mL; Hesperetin 7-O-rutinoside = 3.11 mg/100 mL.	Gironés-Vilaplana <i>et al.</i> , 2015
	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	TPC = 350.05 mg GAE/g; TFC = 55.38 mg QE/g.	Haraoui <i>et al.</i> , 2020
<i>Citrus medica</i>	Antibacterial	<i>S. aureus</i> , <i>S. epidermis</i> , <i>M. luteus</i> , <i>E. faecalis</i> and <i>B. subtilis</i> inhibition.		Haraoui <i>et al.</i> 2020
	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	TPC = 0.30–1.37 mg GAE /mL; TFC = 0.19–0.68 mg RE/mL; Hesperidin = 42.13 mg/mL; Eriocitrin = 28.46 mg/mL; Narirutin = 28.46 mg/mL; Didymin = 12.50 mg/mL; Tangeretin = 3.76 mg/mL.	Chen <i>et al.</i> , 2020
<i>Citrus paradisi</i>	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	TPC = 153.08 mg/mL; TFC = 390.21 mg/mL; Naringin = 287.15 mg/mL; Narirutin = 37.07 mg/mL; Naringenin = 31.25 mg/mL; Poncirin = 17.32 mg/mL; Neohesperidin = 13.48 mg/mL.	Sicari <i>et al.</i> , 2018

(continues)

Table 1. Continued

Juice	Biological activity	Mechanism	TPC, TFC, TCC, and/or main abundant identified compounds	References
<i>Citrus reticulata</i>	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	TPC = 0.30–1.37 mg GAE /mL; TFC = 0.19–0.68 mg RE/mL; Hesperidin = 50.53–141.85 mg/mL; Naringin = 26.57–78.39 mg/mL; Neohesperidin = 69.19 mg/mL; Didymin = 1.73–10.33 mg/mL; Eriocitrin = 27.17–78.39 mg/mL; Tangeretin = 3.43–4.32 mg/mL.	Chen et al., 2020
<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	TPC = 0.47–0.67 mg GAE /mL; TFC = 0.23–0.92 mg RE/mL; Hesperidin = 94.98–173.11 mg/mL; Eriocitrin = 28.38–46.95 mg/mL; Narirutin = 28.38–46.95 mg/mL; Didymin = 1.73–10.33 mg/mL; Tangeretin = 3.52–3.67 µg/mL.	Chen et al., 2020
<i>Citrus × clementina</i>	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging Ferric-reducing power Inhibition of lipid peroxidation	TPC = 17.58–54.65 mg CAE/100 mL; TFC = 18.16–51.48 mg QE/100 mL; TCC = 18.23–53.54 mg β-carotene E/100 mL; Neohesperidin = 80.26–110 mg/100 mL; Hesperidin = 40–81.08 mg/100 mL; Narirutin = 6.25–8.50 mg/100 mL. TPC = 29.74–44.20 mg GAE/100 mL; TCC = 42.89–75.45 mg β-carotene E/100 mL; Neohesperidin = 72.96–116.50 mg/100 mL; Hesperidin = 55.24–69.52 mg/100 mL; Didymin = 3.65–5.65 mg/100 mL	Leporini et al., 2020a Loizzo et al., 2018
	Metabolic syndrome	Inhibition of α-amylase, β-glucosidase and lipase enzymes		Leporini et al., 2020a Loizzo et al., 2018
	Antibacterial	<i>M. luteus</i> and <i>B. subtilis</i> inhibition	TPC = 75.60 mg GAE/g; TFC = 20.51 mg QE/g	Haraoui et al. 2020
<i>In vivo</i>				
<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i>	Metabolic syndrome	Reduction in plasma TC, TG, and LDL-c levels and increase in plasma HDL-cholesterol levels.		Oboh et al., 2015b
<i>Citrus bergamia</i>	Metabolic syndrome	Reduction TG levels, cardiovascular risk, oxidative stress and inflammation, protective effects on hepatic steatosis.	Neohesperidin 182.3 mg/mL; Neoceriocitrin = 165.0 mg/mL; Naringin = 160.1 mg/mL Not reported	De Leo et al., 2020 Impellizzeri et al., 2015
<i>Citrus lemon</i>	Antioxidant	Reduction in ROS levels	Hesperidin = 77.1 mg/L; Isorhamnetin 3-O-rutinoside = 44.9 mg/L; Rhoifolin = 31.4 mg/L; Eriocitrin = 29.9 mg/L; Diosmin = 25.7 mg/L.	Barberis et al., 2020
<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Antioxidant	ROS scavenger	Hesperidin = 422.8 mg/L; Naringin = 132.6 mg/L; Narirutin = 100.1 mg/L	Barberis et al., 2020
	Metabolic syndrome	Reduction in body mass index	1 tablet/die [day] containing 400 mg of Morosil®	Cardile et al., 2015

NR: not reported; TPC: total phenolics content; TFC: total flavonoids content; TCC: total carotenoids content; ROS: Reactive Oxygen Species.

The edible portion of hybrid Tacle®, a crossbreeding of *Citrus × clementina* and Tarocco tetraploids, was able to influence anthropometric values and lipid and glucose metabolism in a rat model having obesity and MS. For this reason, it could be included in dietary supplements for the management of metabolic disorders (Casacchia *et al.*, 2019). A promising anti-obesity potential of fresh squeezed *Citrus × clementina* juices against lipase enzymes with IC<sub>50</sub> values in the range of 179.32–197.69 mg/mL was recently confirmed (Leporini *et al.*, 2020a). Moro juice (*Citrus sinensis*) extract (Morosil®, 400 mg/die [day]) was able to induce a significant reduction in body mass index (BMI) after 4 weeks of treatment (Cardile *et al.*, 2015).

One important therapeutic approach for suppressing postprandial hyperglycemia is to reduce or bring down dietary carbohydrate digestion and absorption. The inhibition of carbohydrate-hydrolyzing enzymes,  $\alpha$ -glucosidase and  $\alpha$ -amylase, in the digestive tract also determined reduction in the rate of glucose absorption and consequently blunting the post-prandial plasma glucose rise (Tundis *et al.*, 2010). The fresh squeezed *Citrus lemon* exhibited a promising hypoglycemic inhibitory potential with the IC<sub>50</sub> values of 31.1 and 35.3 mg/mL against  $\alpha$ -amylase and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase enzymes, respectively (Loizzo *et al.*, 2019) whereas values in the range of 67.19–103.43  $\mu$ g/mL against  $\alpha$ -glucosidase were found for fresh squeezed *Citrus × clementina* juices from different areas of collection (Leporini *et al.*, 2020a). The hypoglycemic ability of *Poncirus trifoliata* juice, related to the genus *citrus*, was investigated against  $\alpha$ -amylase and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase enzymes (Tundis *et al.*, 2016), with the IC<sub>50</sub> values of 138.14 and 81.27  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively.

### 2.3. Antibacterial activity

The development of antibiotic resistance by pathogenic microorganisms necessitated the quest for alternative drug therapy. Medicinal plants are traditionally recognized as conventional medicines, and numerous studies have confirmed their antibacterial activity (Gavarić *et al.*, 2015). Haraoui *et al.* (2020) investigated the bacteriostatic action of *citrus* variety juices. Fresh squeezed *citrus limon* juice exhibited inhibition zone of 27.66 mm on *Micrococcus luteus*, followed by *Citrus aurantium* with an area of 24.66 mm against *Staphylococcus aureus*. Interesting results were observed also for *Citrus maxima* and *citrus × clementina* with inhibition zones of 23.00 and 17.66 mm, respectively, against *M. luteus*. The lime fresh squeezed juice as antibacterial agent was confirmed against *Salmonella thypii* (Fadillah *et al.*, 2020) and *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* (Azhara *et al.*, 2020).

Growth of *S. aureus* was inhibited by fresh squeezed *Citrus hystrix* juice (Kusumawardhani *et al.*, 2020).

Abdallah (2020) suggested *Citrus aurantifolia* as natural antibacterial agent against *S. aureus*, *S. epidermis*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Klebsiella pneumonia*. Low antibacterial activity was found for *Citrus sinensis*.

### Prebiotic effects

The prebiotic effect of orange juice could be due to its positive effect on the intestinal microbiota and metabolic biomarkers of young women (aged 28.5 years) (Lima *et al.*, 2019). Indeed, daily intake of orange juice (300 mL/day for 2 months) did not change women's body composition, but improved blood biochemical parameters, such as low-density lipoprotein (LDL)-cholesterol, glucose, and insulin sensitivity. Additionally, orange juice positively modulated the composition and metabolic activity of microbiota, increasing the population of *Bifidobacterium* spp. and *Lactobacillus* spp. and reduction of Enterobacteria. Reduction in ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>) and increase in the production of short-chain fatty acids were also demonstrated. More recently, this prebiotic effect in healthy female volunteers after intervention with 300-mL/day orange juice for 60 days was confirmed (Fidélis *et al.*, 2020). Orange juice stimulated the growth of *Lactobacillus* spp. in the intestinal microbiota and improved glucose metabolism due to the probiotic effect of these bacteria.

Daily supplementation of juices of two oranges (cv. Cara Cara and cv. Bahia) with different flavanone content for 7 days in healthy volunteers resulted in increase in the abundance of Lachnospiraceae and Ruminococcaceae that represented the two most abundant phylum Firmicutes' families present in the gut environment (Brasili *et al.*, 2019). Interestingly, after intake of Cara Cara juice positive correlations were found between *Lachnospiraceae* and butyrate, as well as between the most abundant short-chain fatty acids present in the colon, including acetate, butyrate, and propionate (Brasili *et al.*, 2019).

## Pulp

### Antioxidant activity

The radical scavenging ability of eight *citrus* pulp methanol extracts, namely *Citrus sinensis* cv. Hamlin, cv. red blood, cv. succuri, *Citrus limetta* mosambi, *Citrus reticulata* tangerine, *Citrus paradise* macfed, *Citrus aurantium* L., and *Citrus jambhiri* lush (Table 2), were investigated (Rehman *et al.*, 2020a). Among these, *Citrus sinensis* cv. succuri had the highest values (65.3%). Costanzo *et al.* (2020) compared the antioxidant potential of powdered *Citrus reticulata*, *Citrus japonica*, and

Table 2.. Citrus pulp and biological potential.

Pulp	Extract	Biological activity	Mechanism	TPC, TFC, TCC, and/or main abundant identified compounds	References
<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i>	50% Ethanol Methanol 10% (KOH, saponification)	Antioxidant	Lipophilic antioxidant capacity	Hesperidin = 23–338 mg/100 g FW; Naringin = 0–271 mg/100 g FW; Neohesperidin = 51–158 mg/100 g FW. Luteolin = 0.02–0.21 mg/100 g FW; ( <i>all-E</i> )-Zeaxanthin = 0.02–0.03 FW.	Ernawita et al., 2017 Ernawita et al., 2016
<i>Citrus aurantium</i>	Ethanol, methanol, and acetone Ethanol	Metabolic syndrome Antibacterial Antioxidant	Inhibition of $\alpha$ -amylase and $\beta$ -glucosidase enzymes <i>K. pneumoniae</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> inhibition <i>E. coli</i> , <i>Klebsiella</i> , <i>Pseudomonas</i> , <i>Salmonella</i> inhibition Radical scavenging	NR TPC = 10.45 mg GAE/g DW; TFC = 7.14 mg RE/g DW; Neohesperidin = 517.10 mg/100 g DW; Naringin = 326.44 mg/100 g DW; Diosmin = 189.16 mg/100 g DW; Hesperidin = 53.05 mg/100 g DW. TPC = 208.02 mg GAE/g FW.	Ernawita et al., 2017 Ernawita et al., 2017 Bhuiyan et al., 2019 Chen et al., 2020
<i>Citrus bergamia</i>	Ethanol	Antioxidant Antibacterial	Radical scavenging <i>E. coli</i> , <i>L. monocytogenes</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , and <i>P. carotovorum</i> . inhibition	TPC = 4.52–7.65 mg GAE /g DW; TFC = 3.67–8.25 mg RE/g DW; Naringin = 199.95–777.65 mg/100 g DW; Neohesperidin = 34.29–52.20 mg/100 g DW; Hesperidin = 2.73–13.00 mg/100 g DW; Diosmin = 25.52–62.6 mg/100 g DW; Eriocitrin = 15.95–19.77 mg/100 g DW.	Fratanni et al., 2019 Fratanni et al., 2019
<i>Citrus grandis</i>	Ethanol	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	Hesperidin = 74 mg/100 g FW; Neohesperidin = 75 mg/100 g FW. Luteolin = 0.21 mg/100 g FW; ( <i>all-E</i> )- $\alpha$ -Carotene = 0.04 mg/100 g FW; ( <i>all-E</i> )-Zeaxanthin = 0.02 mg/100 g FW.	Chen et al., 2020 Ernawita et al., 2017 Ernawita et al., 2016
<i>Citrus hystrix</i>	50% Ethanol Methanol 10% (KOH, saponification)	Antioxidant	Lipophilic antioxidant capacity	NR	Ernawita et al., 2017 Ernawita et al., 2017
<i>Citrus japonica</i>	80% Methanol	Metabolic syndrome Antibacterial Antioxidant	Inhibition of $\alpha$ -amylase and $\beta$ -glucosidase enzymes <i>K. pneumoniae</i> , and <i>S. aureus</i> inhibition Radical scavenging	NR	Ernawita et al., 2017 Ernawita et al., 2017 Costanzo et al., 2020

<i>Citrus limon</i>	Ethanol, methanol, and acetone	Antibacterial	<i>S. aureus</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , <i>Klebsiella</i> , <i>Pseudomonas</i> , <i>Salmonell</i> inhibition	NR	Bhuiyan et al., 2019
<i>Citrus macroptera</i>	Ethanol, methanol, and acetone	Antibacterial	<i>K. pneumoniae</i> , and <i>Salmonella</i> inhibition	NR	Bhuiyan et al., 2019
<i>Citrus medica</i>	Ethanol	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	TPC = 148.02 mg GAE/g FW.	Fraïanni et al., 2019
		Antibacterial	<i>E. coli</i> , <i>L. monocytogenes</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , and <i>P. carotovorum</i> inhibition	TPC = 3.89–8.07 mg GAE/g FW; TFC = 1.89–5.08 mg RE/g FW; Naringin = 10.63 mg/100 g FW; Neohesperidin = 22.96 mg/100 g FW; Hesperidin = 18.55–136.39 mg/100 g FW; Diosmin = 17.36–21.64 mg/100 g FW; Eriocitrin = 23.76–24.11 mg/100 g FW; Narirutin = 26.85 mg/100 g FW.	Chen et al., 2020 Fraïanni et al., 2019
<i>Citrus nobilis</i>	Methanol 10% (KOH, saponification) 50% Ethanol	Antioxidant	Lipophilic antioxidant capacity	(9Z)-Violaxanthin = 2.76 mg/100 g FW; (all-E)-Violaxanthin = 1.93 mg/100 g FW; (all-E)-Antheraxanthin = 0.64 mg/100 g FW.	Ernawita et al., 2016
		Metabolic syndrome	Inhibition of $\alpha$ -amylase and $\beta$ -glucosidase enzymes		Ernawita et al., 2017
		Antibacterial	<i>K. pneumoniae</i> , and <i>S. aureus</i> inhibition		Ernawita et al., 2017
	Benzene, ethanol, and methanol		<i>B. cereus</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>S. epidermidis</i> , <i>P. vulgaris</i> , <i>S. typhimurium</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>C. albicans</i> and <i>T. viride</i> inhibition	NR	Sharma and Tyagi, 2019
<i>Citrus reticulata</i>	Ethanol 80% Ethanol	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging Ferric-reducing power	TPC = 4.25–8.55 mg GAE/g DW; TFC = 5.21–10.90 mg RE/g DW; Naringin = 7.68–160.03 mg/100 g; DW Neohesperidin = 19.86–287.4 mg/100 g DW; Hesperidin = 13.83–415.59 mg/100 g DW; Naringin = 7.68–160.03 mg/100 g DW; Eriocitrin = 23.92–45.50 mg/100 g DW; Narirutin = 23.91–120.03 mg/100 g DW; Tangeretin = 1.68–3.84 mg/100 g DW; TPC = 127.33 mg GAE /g extract; TFC = 0.87 mg QE /g extract.	Chen et al., 2020 Bentahar et al., 2020

(continues)

Table 2.. Continued

Pulp	Extract	Biological activity	Mechanism	TPC, TFC, and/or main abundant identified compounds	References
<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Ethanol 80% Ethanol 50% Ethanol	Antioxidant Metabolic syndrome	Radical scavenging Ferric-reducing power Inhibition of $\alpha$ -amylase	TPC = 4.98–9.49 mg GAE/g DW; TFC = 5.32–9.81 mg RE/g DW; Hesperidin = 103.14–385.37 mg/100 g DW; Eriocitrin = 13.85–24.55 mg/100 g DW; Narirutin = 41.62–153.48 mg/100 g DW; Didymin = 4.19–13.15 mg/100 g DW; TPC = 159.66 mg GAE/g extract; TFC = 0.85 mg QE/g extract. TPC = 207.69 mg CAE/g FW; TFC = 85.9 mg QE/g FW	Chen et al., 2020 Bentahar et al., 2020 Casacchia et al., 2019
	Benzene, ethanol, and methanol	Antibacterial	<i>B. cerus</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>S. epidermidis</i> , <i>P. vulgaris</i> , <i>S. typhimurium</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>C. albicans</i> and <i>T. viride</i> inhibition		Sharma and Tyagi, 2019
<i>Citrus x clementina</i>	80% Methanol 50% Ethanol	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging Lipid peroxidation inhibition	NR TPC = 90.01 mg CAE/g; FW TFC = 41.30 mg QE/g FW. $\beta$ -cryptoxanthin = 232.4 $\mu$ M Phytoene = 62.7 $\mu$ M 9-Z-Volaxanthin = 60.5 $\mu$ M Antheraxanthin = 39.0 $\mu$ M Hesperidin = 3.3 $\mu$ M Naringenin-7-O-glucoside = 1.4 $\mu$ M Narirutin = 1.0 $\mu$ M	Costanzo et al., 2020 Casacchia et al., 2019 Cilla et al., 2018
	50% Ethanol	Metabolic syndrome	Inhibition of $\alpha$ -amylase and lipase enzyme		Casacchia et al., 2019

NR: not reported; TPC: total phenolics content; TFC: total flavonoids content; TCC: total carotenoids content.



*citrus* × *clementina* tissue. In the *citrus* × *clementina* pulp extracts, the total antioxidant capacity (TAC) was found to be three-fold higher (7.1 mmol TE/mg fresh weight [FW]) compared to *Citrus reticulata* (2.6 mmol TE/mg FW) and six-fold higher compared to *Citrus japonica* (1.2 mmol TE/mg FW). Similarly, *Citrus sinensis* and *Citrus reticulata* fruits possessed good antioxidant activity studied by the hydroxyl radical scavenging activity and reducing power capacity methods (Bentahar *et al.*, 2020).

Fратиanni *et al.* (2019) indicated that *Citrus bergamia* and *Citrus medica* cv. *Salò* homogenized pulp extracts exhibited the highest antioxidant potential compared to *Citrus medica*. Previously, the *in vitro* lipophilic antioxidant capacity of seven *citrus* pulp extracts was reported (Ernawita *et al.*, 2017). Among them, jeruk makin (*Citrus aurantium*) showed the highest antioxidant capacity (19.5  $\mu$ mol TE/100 g), followed by jeruk calung pulp extracts (*Citrus aurantium*) and jeruk nipis (*Citrus aurantiifolia*) (10.7 and 10.6  $\mu$ mol  $\alpha$ -TE/100 g, respectively). Previously, *in vivo* studies have reported that *Citrus macroptera* ethanol pulp extract possessed a significant lipid-lowering activity and a significant diminution of lipid peroxidation in liver and kidney tissues was observed (Paul *et al.*, 2015). The protective effect against oxidative stress of pulp bio-accessible fractions of oranges from Navel and Cara oranges cultivars as well as clementine was also demonstrated (Cilla *et al.*, 2018). These fractions act by pre-serving cell viability, correct cell cycle progression, mitochondrial membrane potential, and diminishing ROS level and lipid peroxidation.

Recently, the effect of dried orange pulp on antioxidants level in the plasma was evaluated (Allam Sabbah *et al.*, 2020). Results demonstrated that the value of total antioxidant capacity, as a biomarker of oxidative stress, was gradually increased (ranged from 0.420 to 0.433 mm/L) by increasing the level of dried orange pulp supplementation (25, 50, and 75%). Additionally, a reduction of total lipids values was observed.

### Metabolic syndrome

The  $\alpha$ -amylase inhibition activity of seven *citrus* pulp extracts was analyzed by Ernawita *et al.* (2017). Makin and jeruk nipis pulp extracts exhibited the lowest IC<sub>50</sub> values (18.8 and 19.4 mg/mL, respectively), while calung extract possessed less activity (IC<sub>50</sub> = 56.2 mg/mL).

Oral administration of *Citrus hystrix* and *Citrus maxima* pulp extracts (5, 50, 300, and 2,000 mg/kg body weight (BW) in streptozotocin (STZ)-induced diabetic rats for 14 days was able to reduce blood glucose, TG level, and serum cholesterol. Additionally,

the HDL-cholesterol level was found to improve (Arumugam *et al.*, 2019).

The lipase inhibitor activity of *citrus* pulp extracts was reported by Casacchia *et al.* (2019), founding the IC<sub>50</sub> values of 86.30, 105.90, and 67.20 mg/mL, respectively, for *Citrus clementina*, *Citrus sinensis*, and their hybrid called Tacle®.

### Antibacterial activity

*Citrus bergamia*, *Citrus medica*, and *Citrus medica* cv. *Salò* pulp extracts were described as antibacterial agents against *Escherichia coli*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *S. aureus*, and *Pectobacterium carotovorum* (Fratianni *et al.*, 2019). The antibacterial activity of various *citrus* pulp extracts was also reported by Ernawita *et al.* (2017). Among them, jeruk makin and jeruk nipis showed the highest inhibitor capacity against *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (IC<sub>50</sub> = 3.3 and 4.1 mg/mL) and *S. aureus* (IC<sub>50</sub> = 2.6 and 3.1 mg/mL). In addition, *Citrus limon*, *Citrus aurantiifolia*, and *Citrus macroptera* pulp extracts were screened for antimicrobial activity against *S. aureus*, *E. coli*, *Klebsiella* sp., *Pseudomonas* sp., and *Salmonella* sp. (Bhuiyan *et al.*, 2019). *Citrus macroptera*, a taxonomic synonym of *Citrus hystrix* (kaffir lime) known for its antioxidant, nutritious, and therapeutic uses (Paul *et al.*, 2017) ethanol extracts exhibited the highest zone of inhibition (14 mm) against *Klebsiella* sp. while *Citrus aurantiifolia* methanol extract showed the highest zone of inhibition (8 mm) against *Salmonella* sp.

### Citrus seed

#### Antioxidant potential

Bitter orange, blonde orange, sweet orange, lemon, and mandarin seed ultrasound methanol extracts (Table 3) were investigated for their antioxidant ability but no differences were found in the radical scavenging activity (Falcinelli *et al.*, 2020). Conversely, Costanzo *et al.* (2020) demonstrated that powered *Citrus reticulata* seed extract tissue showed the highest antioxidant capacity (55.6 mmol TE/mg FW) compared to *Citrus japonica* seed extract tissue (3.2 mmol TE/mg FW). The radical scavenging ability of eight *citrus* seed extracts were investigated (Rehman *et al.*, 2020a). Among them, *Citrus jambhiri* lush, *Citrus sinensis* cv. red blood, and *Citrus reticulata* tangerine possessed the highest activity (54.3, 53.6, and 53.3%, respectively). Previously, the following ranking of radical scavenging effect was demonstrated: lemon seeds extract > orange seeds extract > mandarin seeds extract (İnan *et al.*, 2018).

Table 3. Bioactivity of *Citrus* seed.

Seed	Extract	Biological activity	Mechanism	TPC, TFC, TCC, and/or main abundant identified compounds	References
<i>Citrus aurantium</i>	Methanol	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	TPC = 2.5 GAE/g DW	Falcinelli et al., 2020
		Anti-inflammatory	Anti-edematogenic effects		
		Antibacterial	<i>Proteus</i> and <i>Pseudomonas</i> inhibition	NR	Aladekoyi et al., 2016
<i>Citrus aurantium</i>	Methanol	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	TPC = 107 mg/100 g; TFC = 20.8 mg/100 g.	Rehman et al., 2020c
<i>Citrus jambhiri</i>	Methanol	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	TCC = -25 mg/g FW	Costanzo et al., 2020
<i>Citrus jambhiri</i>	Methanol	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	TPC = 129 mg/100 g; TFC = 22.8 mg/100 g.	Rehman et al., 2020c
<i>Citrus junos</i>		Anti-inflammatory	Inhibition of NO production	Not reported	Ko et al., 2020
<i>Citrus limon</i>	Methanol	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging Restoration of antioxidant defense system	TPC = 1.2 GAE/g DW TPC = 152.70–212.30 mg GAE/kg	Falcinelli et al., 2020 İnan et al., 2017
		Metabolic syndrome	Reduction of glucose and lipid levels	NR	Demir and Celik, 2019
		Antibacterial	<i>Klebsiella</i> , <i>Proteus</i> and <i>Pseudomonas</i> inhibition	NR	Aladekoyi et al., 2016
<i>Citrus limetta</i>	Methanol	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	TPC = 99.1 mg/100 g; TFC = 19.37 mg/100 g.	Rehman et al., 2020c
<i>Citrus maxima</i>	Ethanol	Antibacterial	<i>S. aureus</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , and <i>B. subtilis</i> inhibition	TFC = 1602.740 mg/kg.	Sahlan et al., 2018
<i>Citrus paradise</i>	Ethanol	Antibacterial	<i>S. aureus</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , <i>S. typhimurium</i> , <i>S. enteritidis</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>K. pneumoniae</i> , <i>Citrus utilis</i> , and <i>B. cereus</i> inhibition	TFC = 483.562 mg/kg.	Sahlan et al., 2018
<i>Citrus reticulata</i>	Methanol	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	TPC = 112 mg/100 g; TFC = 21.5 mg/100 g.	Rehman et al., 2020c
	Methanol			TPC = 2.4 GAE/g DW. TCC = -10 mg/g FW. TPC = 152.70–212.30 mg GAE/kg.	Falcinelli et al., 2020 Costanzo et al., 2020 İnan et al., 2017
<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Methanol	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	TPC = 101–118 mg/100 g; TFC = 20.1–22.60 mg/100 g.	Rehman et al., 2020c
<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Methanol			TPC = 1.3 GAE/g DW	Falcinelli et al., 2020
	<i>n</i> -Hexane	Metabolic syndrome	Reduction of fasting blood glucose, serum TG, serum cholesterol, HDL	NR	Chilaka et al., 2015
	Ethanol	Antibacterial	<i>S. aureus</i> , <i>Enterococcus faecalis</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>E. coli</i> and <i>Citrus albicans</i> inhibition	NR	Oikeh et al., 2020

NR: not reported; TPC: total phenolics content; TFC: total flavonoids content; TCC: total carotenoids content.

### Metabolic Syndrome

It has been reported recently that lemon seed extract could prevent diabetic complications due to reduction in glucose and lipid profile levels and restoration of antioxidant defense system (Demir and Celik, 2019). Previously,

a reduction of blood glucose in alloxan-induced diabetic rats was observed after treatment with emulsified sweet orange seed oil (1000 mg/kg BW). In addition, this seed oil improved sugar and lipid profile with reduction of serum TG, cholesterol, and increased HDL-cholesterol in diabetic rats (Chilaka et al., 2015).

## Anti-inflammatory effects

Nitric oxide (NO) is recognized as a mediator and regulator in pathological reactions, especially in acute inflammatory responses (Terao, 2009). The development of substances to prevent the overproduction of NO has become a new research target to treat chronic inflammatory diseases. Ko *et al.* (2020) reported the anti-inflammatory effect of *Citrus junos* seed oil. NO production was suppressed by 53% at a concentration of 0.05% that does not show cytotoxicity. The possible anti-inflammatory and antinociceptive activity of *Citrus aurantium* seed oil, obtained by using Soxhlet apparatus with *n*-hexane, was evaluated by using formalin-induced paw licking, edema, and myeloperoxidase activity assessment (Azadeh *et al.*, 2019). The results showed that seed oil exhibited anti-inflammatory properties in the first and second phases of formalin test, anti-edematogenic effects but exerted no effects on myeloperoxidase activity.

## Antibacterial potential

Recently, the antibacterial activities of *Citrus sinensis* seed oil, obtained by Soxhlet apparatus using *n*-hexane as solvent and ethanol extract, was studied (Oikeh *et al.*, 2020). The results showed that the non-oil extract had better antibacterial activity against *S. aureus*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, and *E. coli*. On the contrary, the seed oil had better activity against *Salmonella* spp. Similar susceptibility was found for *P. aeruginosa*. Previously, it was demonstrated that *Citrus sinensis* seed oil obtained by Soxhlet apparatus using *n*-hexane as solvent possessed antibacterial activity against *S. aureus* and *Candida albicans* (Olabanji *et al.*, 2016). Buket *et al.* (2018) also reported that the lemon, orange, and grapefruit cold-pressed seed oil had inhibition zones ranging from 6.62 to 11.00 mm against pathogenic bacteria such as *S. aureus*, *E. coli*, *S. typhimurium*, *Salmonella enteritidis*, *P. aeruginosa*, *K. pneumoniae*, *Candida utilis*, and *Bacillus cereus* Holl. The antimicrobial and antifungal activities of aqueous and ethanolic grapefruit seed extracts were confirmed against *S. aureus*, *E. faecalis*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *E. coli*, *P. aeruginosa*, *K. pneumoniae*, and *C. albicans* (Eryilmaz *et al.*, 2018). The ethanolic extract of pomelo seeds also gives positive results with growth-inhibition effect on *Bacillus subtilis*, *S. aureus*, and *E. coli* (Sahlan *et al.*, 2018). Oil extracted from lemon, lime, and bitter orange seeds possessed different antimicrobial potential. Similar activity was found for *Staphylococcus*, but only lemon seed oil has activity against *Klebsiella* and the highest zone of inhibition against *Proteus*, while bitter orange has a maximum zone of inhibition (0.25 mm) against *Pseudomonas* (Aladekoyi *et al.*, 2016).

## Citrus peels

### Antioxidant effects

Recently, the antioxidant potential of *citrus × clementina* peel extracts, collected from different areas of Calabria and obtained by using different methodologies, was studied (Leporini *et al.*, 2020a). Results demonstrated that sample from Cetraro obtained by ultrasound extraction in ethanol possessed the highest antioxidant activity (Table 4). Interestingly, the *citrus × clementina* juice enriched with this extract (20% v/w) increased its antioxidant potential. Similarly, Pereira *et al.* (2020) reported the increase of beer antioxidant activity after addition of orange peels extract.

Huang *et al.* (2020) compared the antioxidant ability of eight *citrus* peel extracts: grapefruit, pomelo, kumquat, mandarin, ponkan, tangerine, lemon, and sweet orange. The most active samples were ponkan extract in DPPH and FRAP assays (386.25 and 466.14  $\mu\text{mol TE/g}$  of extract, respectively), tangerine extract in ABTS assay (689.43  $\mu\text{mol TE/g}$ ), and pomelo in ORAC assay (1964.0  $\mu\text{mol TE/g}$ ). An inhibition of 92.87% was reported for *Citrus hystrix* peels extract against DPPH radical (Ramli *et al.*, 2020).

*Citrus sinensis* and *Citrus aurantium* peels' extracts were investigated as potent antioxidant agents against lipid peroxidation (Rafiq *et al.*, 2018). Furthermore, the bergamot extract showed a higher ABTS radical inhibition with a value of 136.3 mmol TE/g dry weight (DW). The capacity of *Citrus medica* Diamante hydroalcoholic peels extract to inhibit both DPPH and ABTS radicals ( $\text{IC}_{50}$  = 0.81 and 3.48 mg/mL, respectively) was also demonstrated by Menichini *et al.* (2016). In  $\beta$ -carotene, this extract exhibited an  $\text{IC}_{50}$  value of 0.23 mg/mL. Da Silva *et al.* (2018) studied the antioxidant potential of pomelo peels cv. Toranja Buraram in *n*-hexane, ethyl acetate, acetone, ethanol, methanol, and methanol:water (80:20). The ethyl acetate and methanolic extracts presented the highest antioxidant activity *in vitro* by DPPH ( $\text{IC}_{50}$  = 298.3 and 303.8  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ , respectively), ABTS assay ( $\text{IC}_{50}$  = 298.2 and 296.4  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ , respectively), and FRAP ( $\text{IC}_{50}$  = 234.6 and 398.1  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ , respectively).

Long *et al.* (2021) evaluated the antioxidant effects of ethanol extract and its three subfractions—petroleum ether, ethyl acetate, and water extracts—of *Citrus sinensis* cv. Gannanzao peels. The ethyl acetate extract exhibited the best antioxidant potential compared to four extracts in all antioxidant assays with the  $\text{IC}_{50}$  values of 38.33 mg/mL and 8.47 mg/mL in DPPH and ABTS tests, respectively, and value of 21.54 mM Trolox equivalents (TE)/mg DW in FRAP assay. The results correspond to those reported by Guo *et al.* (2020) for *Citrus sinensis* cv. Newhall peels extract.

Table 4. Biological activity of Citrus peels.

Peels	Extract/Essential oil	Biological activity	Mechanism	TPC, TFC, TCC, and/or main abundant identified compounds	References
<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i>	96% Ethanol	Antibacterial Anti-inflammatory	<i>S. typhi</i> inhibition Reduction of IL-6 levels Inhibition of paw edema.	NR	Kasim et al., 2020 Kasim et al., 2020
	70% Ethanol Ethanol	Antioxidant Metabolic syndrome	Radical scavenging Inhibition of lipid peroxidation	TPC = 18.15 mg GAE/g FW; TFC = 17.09 mg RE/g FW; Neohesperidin = 1620.77 mg/100 g DW; Naringin = 879.33 mg/100 g DW; Hesperidin = 35.88 mg/100 g DW; Naruritin = 18.72 mg/100 g DW. NR	Pallavi et al., 2018 Chen et al., 2020 Rafiq et al., 2018
<i>Citrus grandis</i>	80% Ethanol		Reduction of BW, lipid droplets regulating adipogenesis and thermogenesis.	Naringin = 0.916 mg/mL; Neohesperidin = 0.657 mg/mL NR	Park et al., 2019
	70% Ethanol Ethanol	Anti-inflammatory Antioxidant	Inhibition of paw edema. Radical scavenging	TPC = 8.79–14.93 mg GAE/g FW; TFC = 8.25–14.03 mg RE/g FW; Naringin = 694.15–1676.31 mg/100 g DW; Neohesperidin = 28.42–73.04 mg/100 g DW; Hesperidin = 7.39–33.39 mg/100 g DW; Naruritin = 2.72–6.37 mg/100 g DW; Eriocitrin = 20.42–34.49 mg/100 g DW; Diosmin = 6.02–1.29 mg/100 g DW.	Pallavi et al., 2018 Chen et al., 2020
<i>Citrus limon</i>	70% Ethanol 70% Ethanol	Anti-inflammatory Antioxidant	Inhibition of paw edema. Radical scavenging	TPC = 198.52 mg GA/g extract; TFC = 183.13 mg/g extract; Hesperidin = 84.24 mg/g extract; Eriocitrin = 84.80 mg/g extract; Naruritin = 13.56 mg/g extract.	Pallavi et al., 2018 Huang et al., 2020
	70% Ethanol	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	TPC = 138.93 mg GA/g extract; TFC = 416.54 mg/g extract; Naringenin = 386.37 mg/g extract; Rhoifolin = 28.54 mg/g extract. NR	Huang et al., 2020
<i>Citrus medica Diamante</i>	95% Ethanol 70% Ethanol	Metabolic syndrome Antioxidant	Reduction the blood glucose level, total cholesterol, TG, and LDL-C. Inhibition of lipase enzyme Radical scavenging Inhibition of lipid peroxidation	Apigenin = 62.8 mg/Kg FW; Hesperitin = 30.4 mg/Kg FW; Naringenin = 18.6 mg/Kg FW; Quercetin = 18.2 mg/Kg FW.	Ani and Ochu, 2020 Huang et al., 2020 Menichini et al., 2016

<i>Citrus paradisi</i>	70% Ethanol	Metabolic syndrome	Reduction of serum glucose, cholesterol and TG.	Menichini et al., 2016
		Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	
<i>Citrus reticulata</i>	Water, 80% ethanol, and <i>n</i> -hexane 70% Ethanol	Metabolic syndrome	Reduction in the cholesterol and TG levels	Fayek et al., 2017
		Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	Huang et al., 2020
	Ethanol		Ferric-reducing power	Chen et al., 2020
	Water <i>n</i> -butane	Metabolic syndrome	Reduction in body mass index, body fat percentage and in waist circumference, TC and TG levels. Reduction of blood glucose level and plasma insulin level. Inhibition of lipase enzyme	Kamel et al., 2019 Guo et al., 2016 Huang et al., 2020
	Alkaline hot water Dichloromethane and ethyl acetate	Anti-inflammatory	Inhibition of NO Inhibition of COX1 and COX2	Chen et al., 2017 Hamdan et al., 2020
<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	70% ethanol 95% Ethanol, petroleum ether, ethyl acetate, and water 95% Ethanol, petroleum ether, ethyl acetate, and water	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging  Ferric-reducing power	Huang et al., 2020  Long et al., 2021

(continues)

Table 4. Continued

Peels	Extract/Essential oil	Biological activity	Mechanism	TPC, TFC, TCC, and/or main abundant identified compounds	References
				Narirutin = 0.94–6.27 mg/mg; Tangeretin = 0.18–2.72 mg/mg; TPC = 18.71–91.55 mg GAE/g DW; TFC = 3.62–86.91 mg QE/g DW; Sinensetin = 0–36.92 mg/mg DW; Nobiletin = 0–35.54 mg/mg DW; Narirutin = 1.27–20.21 mg/mg DW; Hesperidin = 1.65–42.56 mg/mg DW.	Guo et al., 2020
	0.5 g and 1 g of CitrusM® Methanol Water, 80% ethanol, and n-hexane 50% Ethanol	Metabolic syndrome	Reduction of fat, and increase lean mass reducing waist circumference. Reduced blood glucose and plasma insulin. Reduction in the cholesterol and TG levels. Inhibition of $\alpha$ -amylase and lipase enzymes	NR Rutin = 1248.3 mg/g DW; p-Coumaric acid = 957.4 mg/g DW; Protocatechuic acid = 326.3 mg/g DW; Ferulic acid = 316.0 mg/g DW; Naringenin = 220.7 mg/g DW; Vanillic acid = 112.2 mg/g DW. Nobiletin = 73.15 mg/mL. TPC = 177.16 mg CAE/g FW; TFC = 65.9 mg QE/g FW;	Kegele et al., 2019 Sathiyabama et al., 2018 Fayek et al., 2017 Casacchia et al., 2019
	Methanol and ethanol	Anti-inflammatory	Inhibition of edema.	Not reported	Osarumwense et al., 2017
	Benzene, ethanol, and methanol	Antibacterial	<i>B. cereus</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>S. epidermidis</i> , <i>P. vulgaris</i> , <i>S. typhimurium</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>C. albicans</i> and <i>T. viride</i> inhibition <i>E. coli</i> and <i>B. subtilis</i> inhibition	NR	Sharma et Tyagi, 2019 Guo et al., 2020
<i>Citrus tumida</i>	HDF+ 5% peel powder	Metabolic syndrome	Suppression BW gain	NR	Sato et al., 2019
<i>Citrus unshiu</i>	Methanol	Antioxidant Metabolic syndrome	Radical scavenging Ferric-reducing power Inhibition of $\alpha$ -glucosidase and lipase enzymes	Hesperidin = 50027 mg/g DW; Narirutin = 9284 mg/g DW; Nobiletin = 103.8 mg/g DW; Tangeretin = 55.5 mg/g DW.	Kim et al., 2020 Kim et al., 2020
	Fermented dried	Anti-inflammatory	Inhibition of LPS-induced NO, iNOS, COX-2 protein, TNF- $\gamma$ and IL-6	NR	Kim et al., 2019a
<i>Citrus × clementina</i>	Ethanol and 80% ethanol	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging Ferric-reducing power Inhibition of lipid peroxidation	TPC = 3.45–8.75 mg CAE/g FW; TFC = 2.47–6.05 mg QE/g FW; TCC = 9.66–39.84 mg b-carotene E/g FW; Hesperidin = 155.28–1093.36 mg/100 g FW; Sinensetin = 19.56–37.99 mg/100 g FW; Tangeretin = 5.43–9.60 mg/100 g FW; Luteolin = 3.02–8.58 mg/100 g FW.	Leporini et al., 2020a

<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i>	50% Ethanol	Metabolic syndrome	Inhibition of $\alpha$ -amylase, $\beta$ -glucosidase and lipase enzymes	TPC = 109.86 mg CAE/g FW; TFC = 61.3 mg QE/g FW;	Leporini et al., 2020a Casacchia et al., 2019 Lin et al., 2019
	Essential oil	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	Limonen = 42.35% $\gamma$ -terpinene = 15.44% $\beta$ -pinene = 12.57%	Lin et al., 2019
<i>Citrus aurantium</i>	Essential oil	Metabolic syndrome	Improve the serum TC, TG, LDL-c, alanine aminotransferase, and aspartate transaminase levels	Limonen = 85.22%; $\beta$ -myrcene = 4.30;	Taneva et al., 2019 Farahmandfar et al., 2020
		Antioxidant	Radical scavenging Ferric-reducing power Increase in mRNA gene expression of Cu-Zn SOD, CAT, and GPx	$\alpha$ -pinene = 1.28%. Limonene = 81.19%; Linalool = 4.06%; $\beta$ -myrcene = 3.07. Limonene = 48.7%; Linalool = 32.4%; $\beta$ -myrcene = 1.2%.	Hsouana et al., 2018
<i>Citrus bergamia</i>	Essential oil	Antibacterial	<i>E. coli</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>L. monocytogenes</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>B. subtilis</i> , <i>C. albicans</i> and <i>S. paratyphi B</i> inhibition	Limonen = 61.85%; $\gamma$ -Terpinene = 9.15%; Octanal = 5.28%; $\alpha$ -pinene = 3.02%.	Guo et al., 2018
		Anti-inflammatory	Reduction of NO production Reduction of cell migration, cytokine production and protein extravasation	Limonen = 31.1%; $\gamma$ -terpinene = 10.8%; $\beta$ -pinene = 8.5%; Neral = 7.1%.	Hsouana et al., 2018 Amorim et al., 2016
<i>Citrus limon</i>	Essential oil	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging Ferric-reducing power Chelate pro-oxidant metal	NR	Lombardo et al., 2020
		Anti-inflammatory	Reduction of IL-1 $\alpha$ , IL-6, TNF- $\gamma$ nitrite/nitrate and PGE <sub>2</sub>	Limonen = 61.72%; 3-Carene = 13.67%; $\alpha$ -Pinene = 13.97%.	Lombardo et al., 2020 Guo et al., 2018
<i>Citrus limon</i>	Essential oil	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	Limonen = 61.72%; 3-Carene = 13.67%; $\alpha$ -Pinene = 13.97%.	Guo et al., 2018
		Metabolic syndrome	Inhibition of $\alpha$ -amylase and $\beta$ -glucosidase enzymes	Limonen = 53.07%; $\beta$ -pinene = 9.53%; Borneol = 5.57%.	Oboh et al., 2017
		Anti-inflammatory	Reduction of cell migration, cytokine production and protein extravasation	Limonen = 53.9%; $\beta$ -Pinene = 13.1%; Sabinene = 3.4%.	Amorim et al., 2016

(continues)

Table 4. Continued

Peels	Extract/Essential oil	Biological activity	Mechanism	TPC, TFC, TCC, and/or main abundant identified compounds	References
		Antibacterial	<i>E. coli</i> , <i>Fusobacterium necrophorum</i> , <i>Trueperella pyogenes</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> inhibition <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>L. monocytogenes</i> , <i>B. subtilis</i> , <i>C. albicans</i> and <i>S. paratyphi</i> B inhibition	Limonene = 65.59% β-Pinene = 15.06%; γ-Terpinene = 7.93.	Braga et al., 2020 Guo et al., 2018
<i>Citrus lurnia</i>	Essential oil	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging Ferric-reducing power Inhibition of lipid peroxidation	Limonene = 48.90%; Linalool = 18.24% Linalyl anthranilate = 10.96%.	Smeriglio et al., 2018
<i>Citrus medica</i>	Essential oil	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	Limonene = 48.94%; α-pinene = 2.88%; Myrcene = 2.29%.	Guo et al., 2018
		Antibacterial	<i>E. coli</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>L. monocytogenes</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>B. subtilis</i> , <i>C. albicans</i> and <i>S. paratyphi</i> B inhibition		Guo et al., 2018
<i>Citrus paradisi</i>	Essential oil	Antioxidant Antibacterial	Radical scavenging <i>E. coli</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> and <i>Citrus albicans</i> inhibition	Limonene = 91.78%; δ-3-carene = 2.07%.	Denkova-Kostova et al., 2020
<i>Citrus reticulata</i>	Essential oil	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	Limonene = 61.72%; 3-Carene = 13.67%; α-Pinene = 13.97%.	Guo et al., 2018
		Metabolic syndrome	Improve the hypercholesterolemia, and hepatic steatosis. Reduction in serum total cholesterol, LDL-C, hepatic TC and TG levels.	Limonene = 84.89%; δ-3-carene = 3.14% Limonene = 76.58% γ-Terpinene = 12.88% β-Myrcene = 2.45%.	Denkova-Kostova et al., 2020 Konglong et al., 2020



<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Essential oil	Antibacterial	<i>E. coli</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>L. monocytogenes</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>B. subtilis</i> , <i>Citrus albicans</i> and <i>S. paratyphi</i> B inhibition	Guo et al., 2018
		Antioxidant	Radical scavenging Inhibition of lipid peroxidation	Magalhães et al., 2019
		Metabolic syndrome	Inhibition of $\alpha$ -amylase and $\beta$ -glucosidase enzymes	Obboh et al., 2017
		Antibacterial	<i>E. coli</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>L. monocytogenes</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>B. subtilis</i> , <i>C. albicans</i> and <i>S. paratyphi</i> B inhibition	Guo et al., 2018
		Anti-inflammatory	Reduction of edema	Thandiswa et al., 2020
<i>Citrus unshiu</i>	Essential oil	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	Guo et al., 2018
<i>Citrus x clementina</i>	Essential oil	Antibacterial	<i>E. coli</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>L. monocytogenes</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>B. subtilis</i> , <i>C. albicans</i> and <i>S. paratyphi</i> B inhibition	Guo et al., 2018
		Antioxidant	Radical scavenging Ferric-reducing power Inhibition of lipid peroxidation Inhibition of $\alpha$ -amylase and $\beta$ -glucosidase and lipase enzymes.	Leporini et al., 2020a
NR: not reported; TPC: total phenolics content; TFC: total flavonoids content; TCC: total carotenoids content.				

Recently, the antioxidant activities of *Citrus reticulata*, *Citrus paradise*, and *Citrus lemon* peels' essential oils were reported (Denkova-Kostova et al., 2020). The radical scavenging potential on DPPH radical revealed that the highest percentage of inhibition was found in the grapefruit (87.5%), followed by lemon and tangerine with values of 86.1% and 78.0%, respectively. The antioxidant potential of grapefruit, lemon, mandarin, and orange essential oils was also investigated by Raspo et al. (2020). Mandarin exhibited the highest activity in ABTS test, grapefruits exhibited the highest activity in FRAP test, and lemon exhibited the highest activity in DPPH test.

*Citrus lumia* essential oil showed a strong antioxidant activity in different assays, with the following order of potency (expressed as  $IC_{50}$ ):  $\beta$ -carotene (22  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ) > ORAC (46  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ) > DPPH (104  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ) > Folin-Ciocalteu (181  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ) > FRAP (202  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ) > Trolox equivalent antioxidant capacity (TEAC) (233  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ) (Smeriglio et al., 2018). For *Citrus aurantium* peels' essential oil, an inhibition percentage of 88.1% against DPPH radical was observed (Tevena et al., 2019). A lower activity was reported for bitter orange with an inhibition percentage of 31.33% (Farahmandfar et al., 2020).

### Metabolic syndrome

Recently, the effects of *Citrus reticulata* peels' water extract (800 mg) administered to obese adolescents were analyzed (Kamel et al., 2019). In this clinical trial, the extract showed a reduction in BMI, body fat percentage, and waist circumference after 4 and 8 weeks of supplementation. Additionally, a reduction of total cholesterol (TC) and TG levels was observed. Huang et al. (2020) compared the *in vitro* anti-obesity ability of grapefruit, pomelo, kumquat, mandarin, ponkan, tangerine, lemon, and sweet orange peels' extracts. Among them, the most active sample was sweet orange, followed by tangerine and ponkan with the  $IC_{50}$  values of 87.25, 109.44, and 126.62 mg/mL, respectively, against lipase enzymes. Also, for *Citrus unshiu* peels' water extract, an inhibitor effect was reported for lipase activity ( $IC_{50} = 507.01 \mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ ) (Kim et al., 2016). Better results were observed for *Citrus × clementina* peels extract with values in the range of 112.06–191.91 mg/mL (Leporini et al., 2020a). In particular, peels extract from Cetraro, obtained by ultrasound extraction EtOH, exhibited the strongest hypolipidemic activity. Additionally, this extract increased the hypolipidemic activity of *Citrus × clementina* juice when added at a concentration of 20% (w/v). Oboh et al. (2017) reported that the lemon peels' essential oil exhibited stronger inhibitory activity on  $\alpha$ -amylase and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase activities ( $IC_{50}$  values of 8.16 and 7.56  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ , respectively) compared to orange peels' essential oil ( $IC_{50}$  values of 11.51 and 11.53  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ , respectively).

The effectiveness of *Citrus maxima* peels ethanol extract was suggested recently in the management of diabetes (Ani and Ochu, 2020). Indeed, the administration of this extract (600 mg/kg BW/day) for 14 days decreased the blood glucose level (70.17%), TA (30.86%), TG (10.58%), and LDL-cholesterol (10.20%). Additionally, an increase of HDL-cholesterol (4.43%) was observed. Dietary ingestion of *Citrus tumida* Hort. ex Tanaka peels powder (5% w/w) suppressed BW gain by decreasing epididymal, perirenal, and subcutaneous fat weights (Sato et al., 2019). A similar effect, that is a significant decrease of BW, was observed for *Citrus aurantium* extract (100 mg/kg/day) administered for 8 weeks. Additionally, the same treatment in 3T3-L1 adipocytes determined a reduction of lipid droplets regulating adipogenesis and thermogenesis via AMP-activated protein kinase alpha (AMPK $\alpha$ ) pathway (Park et al., 2019). Kegele et al. (2019) investigated the effects of CitrusiM® (*Citrus sinensis* dried extract) on body composition: percentage of lean mass and percentage of fat mass. This extract determined a significant reduction of fat, and increase in lean mass reducing waist circumference after a dose of 0.5 or 1 g/day. Similarly, the obese mice treated with supplementation of 0.25% and 0.5% of *Citrus reticulata* extract in food for 12 weeks exhibited a reduction of 21% and 34% in BW, respectively (Guo et al., 2016). This effect was probably due to the action of citrus phytochemicals on metabolism of glucose and fatty acids.

Administration of *Citrus sinensis* methanol peels extract at doses of 50 and 100 mg/kg in diabetic rats reduced fasting blood glucose by 56.1% and 55.7%, respectively, and plasma insulin levels by 22.9% and 32.7%, respectively (Sathiyabama et al., 2018). *Citrus medica* Diamante hydroalcoholic peels extract was tested in db/db mouse model for leptin deficiency. This mutation confers susceptibility to obesity, insulin resistance, and T2DM. Administration of 600 mg/kg of Diamante peels extract significantly decreased the serum glucose level (Menichini et al., 2016). This extract was rich in phenolic compounds that are known to possess several actions to improve glucose tolerance as reported below. The *in vivo* reduction of blood glucose and plasma insulin levels was demonstrated for both *Citrus reticulata* and *Citrus sudachi* peels extract (Guo et al., 2016; Kobayashi et al., 2017). In particular, *Citrus sudachi* exerted its effect via reduction of TNF- $\alpha$  mRNA expression.

Literature showed that *Citrus* genus was able to counteract the effect of high cholesterol level (Favela-Hernández et al., 2016). Recently, the hypocholesterolemic effects of mandarin peels' aqueous and *n*-hexane extracts was demonstrated (Fayek et al., 2017). The results showed that these extracts decrease the cholesterol level by 59.3% and 56.8%, respectively. A reduction in cholesterol and TG levels was also observed with *Citrus medica* cv.

Diamante peels' hydroalcoholic extract of (300 and 600 mg/kg/day) administered in Zucker diabetic rats for 4 weeks (Menichini *et al.*, 2016). Successively, Konglong *et al.* (2020) demonstrated that *Citrus reticulata* peels' essential oil was able to ameliorate hypercholesterolemia and hepatic steatosis. In addition, a reduction in serum TC, LDL-cholesterol, and hepatic TC and TG levels was observed after supplementation (0.5% and 0.75%).

### Anti-inflammatory activity

Fermented dried *Citrus unshiu* peel extracts were investigated for its anti-inflammatory activities in murine macrophages and moisturizing effects in human keratinocytes (Kim *et al.*, 2019a). Results evidenced that *Citrus unshiu* peels extract, rich in polyphenolic compounds, was able to suppress lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-induced NO without exerting cytotoxic effects on RAW 264.7 cells. Moreover, extracts inhibited the expression of inducible Nitric oxide synthase (iNOS), cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) protein, TNF- $\alpha$ , and IL-6. The inhibition of NO without compromising cell viability was also reported for *Citrus reticulata* peels alkaline hot water extract (IC<sub>50</sub> 1.04–2.74 mg/mL) (Chen *et al.*, 2017).

Recently, the anti-inflammatory effect of *Citrus sinensis* peels' hydroalcoholic and methanol extracts was confirmed by Osarumwense *et al.* (2017). Interestingly, methanol extract was more active than hydroalcoholic extract, and a positive control drug (Indomethacin) with an inhibition of 95% on carrageenan induced rat paw edema at a concentration of 40 mg/kg. Similarly, after 4 h of edema induction, the oral administration (300 and 500 mg/kg BW) of pomelo peels methanol extract determined an inhibition of paw edema by 34.47% and 38.68%, respectively (Ibrahim *et al.*, 2019). The same model of paw was used by Pallavi *et al.* (2018), establishing that intraperitoneal (i.p.) doses (250 and 500 mg/kg) of pomelo peels extract inhibited paw edema (17% and 48%, respectively).

The mandarin dichloromethane and ethyl acetate peels' extracts against COX-1 and COX-2 were tested (Hamdan *et al.*, 2020). The dichloromethane extract was more active against COX-1 (IC<sub>50</sub> = 25.5 mg/mL) than ethyl acetate extract (IC<sub>50</sub> = 28.79 mg/mL); conversely against COX-2, the ethyl acetate extract had the highest activity (IC<sub>50</sub> = 3.55 mg/mL).

*Citrus limon* essential oil exhibited anti-inflammatory activity (30 or 10 mg/kg oral [p.o.]) by reducing cell migration, cytokine production, and protein extravasation induced by carrageenan (Amorim *et al.*, 2016). Treatment (200 and 50 mg/kg) with sweet orange dried peels essential oil evidenced a significant reduction of edema in rats (Thandiswa *et al.*, 2020). *Citrus bergamia*

essential oil, without furanocoumarins fraction, reduced levels of IL-1 $\beta$ , IL-6, and TNF- $\alpha$  in the paw homogenates, nitrite/nitrate, and prostaglandin E2 (PGE2) contents in exudates, and possesses antioxidant properties (Lombardo *et al.*, 2020).

### Antiproliferative activity

Selim *et al.* (2019) investigated the cytotoxicity activity of *Citrus reticulata* peels 70% ethanolic extract against human breast carcinoma, hepatocellular liver carcinoma (HepG2), and colon carcinoma and determined the IC<sub>50</sub> values of 34, 9.9, and 30 mg/mL, respectively. Previously, the anti-cancer effects of *Citrus medica* (2 morphotypes), *Citrus sinensis*, *Citrus maxima*, *Citrus limon*, and *Citrus reticulata* peels' water extracts were studied (Nair *et al.*, 2018). Among these, *Citrus reticulata* had significant activity against Dalton's lymphoma ascites (DLA) cell-inducing cell cycle arrest of DLA in G0/G1 phase.

### Antibacterial potential

The *in vivo* antibacterial activity of *Citrus hystrix* ethanol peels extract against *S. typhimurium* was demonstrated by Zulvikar *et al.* (2020). In particular, the bacterial loads of this pathogen in the ileum, liver, and spleen decreased after 24 h of administration of the extract (16 mg daily for 3 days in a mouse). Lime peels extract was used to inhibit the colonization and growth of bacteria *S. typhi* in Balb/c mice. Doses of 510 and 750 mg/kg BW decreased the number of *S. typhi* colonies; even maintenance for 20 days after the intervention showed no bacterial growth (Kasim *et al.*, 2020). Sharma and Tyagi (2019) analyzed benzene, ethanol, and methanol peels' extracts of *Citrus nobilis* and *Citrus sinensis* against four Gram-positive and four Gram-negative bacteria and two fungal pathogens. The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) values in the range of 18–40  $\mu$ g/mL were found against *Bacillus cereus*, *S. aureus*, *S. epidermidis*, *Proteus vulgaris*, *S. typhimurium*, *P. aeruginosa*, *C. albicans*, and *Trichoderma viride* for *Citrus nobilis* ethanolic extract, while less activity was reported for methanol and benzene extracts. The same observation was made for *Citrus sinensis* extracts, and, in particular, the MIC values in the range of 20–50  $\mu$ g/mL were observed for ethanolic extract. The results were in accordance with Rehab *et al.* (2018) that reported antibacterial and antifungal effects of *Citrus sinensis* peels' hot, cold, and ethanol extracts against *S. aureus*, *E. coli*, *P. aerogenes*, *B. cereus*, and *C. albicans*. Interestingly, the green synthesis of zinc oxide nanoparticles using *Citrus sinensis* peel extract was proposed by Gao *et al.* (2020) in food packaging application as nano-coatings on fresh strawberries with similar antibacterial characteristic of commercial zinc oxide nanoparticles.

The antimicrobial potential of *Citrus sinensis* L. and *Citrus limonia* Osbeck methanol, ethyl acetate, ethanol, and distilled water peels extracts was also evaluated by Saleem and Saeed (2020) against six Gram-positive (*S. aureus*, *Aeromonas hydrophila*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, and *Lactobacillus casei*), six Gram-negative (*P. aeruginosa*, *K. pneumoniae*, *Serratia marcescens*, *E. coli*, *P. vulgaris*, and *S. typhi*), two microscopic filamentous fungi (*Aspergillus niger* and *Penicillium citrinum*), and two yeasts (*C. albicans* and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*). Interestingly, the zone of inhibition is well comparable with amoxicillin, used as a positive control. In addition, the yellow lemon extract exhibited the highest antimicrobial activity compared to orange peels, and resulted more effectively on Gram-negative bacteria as compared to Gram-positive bacteria. Strawberries treated with *Citrus limon*, *Citrus sinensis*, and *Citrus reticulata* essential oils showed the highest TAC and physicochemical parameters compared to untreated fruits. This effect extends the shelf-life and delays the fruit senescence (Shehata et al. 2020).

The antimicrobial effects of tangerine, grapefruit, and lemon peels' essential oils on the growth of saprophytic and pathogenic microorganisms were compared by Denkova-Kostova et al. (2020). The highest inhibitory activity was observed for grapefruit, followed by tangerine and lemon essential oil, with MIC values in the range of 60–60 ppm against *E. coli*, *S. aureus*, *P. aeruginosa*, and *Citrus albicans*. Similarly, grapefruit and lemon have respective MIC values of 0.35 mg/mL and 0.33 mg/mL against *E. coli* (Raspo et al., 2020). The antimicrobial effect of bitter orange essential oil against Gram-positive and Gram-negative selected bacterial strains was studied by Farahmandfar et al. (2020). MIC values of 20, 40, and 10 mg/mL were found, respectively, for *E. coli*, *P. aeruginosa*, *S. aureus*, and *L. monocytogenes*.

The addition of *Citrus medica* essential oil to the wines (0.010%) determined reduction in microbial counts compared to untreated wine, and is thus proposed as bio-preservative. In particular, it the antimicrobial activity of enriched wine against the common spoilage bacteria and yeasts/molds such as *Gluconobacter cerinus*, *Oenococcus oeni*, *Pediococcus pentosaceus*, *Dekkera bruxellensis*, *Candida zemplinina*, *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, *Pichia guilliermondii*, or *Zygosaccharomyces bailii* was studied and inoculated (Mitropoulou et al., 2020).

## Leaves

### Antioxidant effects

The antioxidant activity of leaf methanol–water extracts of 10 varieties of *citrus* fruits was reported by Haraoui

et al. (2020). All investigated samples exhibited radical scavenging activity with IC<sub>50</sub> values in the same order of positive controls such as ascorbic acid and BHT. Among them, *Citrus maxima* and *Citrus aurantium* leaves showed the highest DPPH radical scavenging activity with the IC<sub>50</sub> values of 0.51 and 0.57 mg/mL, respectively (Table 5). More recently, the antioxidant activity of methanol leaves extract and ethyl acetate fraction of *Citrus pseudolimon* was examined (Kumar et al., 2019). The ethyl acetate fraction displayed greater DPPH radical scavenging activity than the methanol leaves extract with the IC<sub>50</sub> values of 278.60 and 313.20 µg/mL, respectively. The IC<sub>50</sub> values of 476.39 and 498.26 µg/mL were also found in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> scavenging assay. The methanol extract of *Citrus medica* leaves was also investigated for its capacity to inhibit DPPH radical (Shojaemehr et al., 2020). Similar values were observed in extracts (IC<sub>50</sub> = 0.111 mg/mL) and ascorbic acid (IC<sub>50</sub> = 0.109 mg/mL) used as control.

The *citrus × clementina* leaves subjected to different extractions were investigated for their antioxidant potential (Leporini et al., 2020b). The hydroalcoholic extract obtained by using ultrasound-assisted maceration had the highest antioxidant DPPH, ABTS, FRAP, and β-carotene bleaching values. Previously, methanol and aqueous leave extracts of *Citrus clementina*, *Citrus limon*, *Citrus hamlin*, *Citrus navel*, *Citrus aurantifolia*, *Citrus aurantium*, and *Citrus grandis* were investigated for their antioxidant activity (Khattal et al., 2017). Among aqueous extracts, *Citrus limon* had an important DPPH radical scavenging activity (IC<sub>50</sub> = 35.35 µg/mL), while *Citrus clementina* exhibited the highest ABTS radical scavenging activity (IC<sub>50</sub> = 1,174.43 µM TE/g) and ferric-reducing potential (IC<sub>50</sub> = 30.60 mg butyl-hydroxyanisole equivalents (BHAEE)/g). Regarding methanolic extracts, *Citrus clementina* showed the highest antioxidant activity in all assays with the IC<sub>50</sub> values of 41.85 µg/mL, 378.63 µM TE/g DM, and 13.85 mg BHAEE/g DM for DPPH, ABTS radicals scavenging activities, and ferric-reducing potential, respectively. The antioxidant potential of *Citrus macroptera* leaf methanol extract has been recently demonstrated by Lala et al. (2020) that reported the capacity of this extract to reduce ROS, which was generated on HepG2 cell line.

Previously, Bonesi et al. (2018) investigated six *citrus* petitgrain essential oils for their antioxidant properties. In this study, *Citrus aurantium* petitgrain oil demonstrated the strongest radical scavenging activity in DPPH assay with an IC<sub>50</sub> value of 27.2 µg/mL, followed by *citrus × clementina* oil with an IC<sub>50</sub> value of 39.0 µg/mL, while in β-carotene bleaching test, the highest antioxidant capacity was observed with *Citrus sinensis* oil with the IC<sub>50</sub> values of 176.3 and 51.3 µg/mL after 30 and 60 min of incubation, respectively. Less activity was reported for clementine essential oils by Leporini et al. (2020b).

Table 5. Biological properties of Citrus leaves

Leaves	Extract/Essential oil	Biological activity	Mechanism	TPC, TFC, TCC, and/or main abundant identified compounds	References
<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i>	Water and methanol	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging Ferric-reducing power	TPC = 5.77–106.05 mg GAE/g DW; TFC = 2.72–38.36 mg QE/g DW.	Khettal et al., 2017
<i>Citrus aurantium</i>	Ethanol	Metabolic syndrome	Reduction in the total serum cholesterol	NR	Cyndi et al., 2016
	Water and methanol	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging Ferric-reducing power	TPC = 7.77–69.97 mg GAE/g DW; TFC = 5.08–11.99 mg QE/g DW.	Khettal et al., 2017
<i>Citrus grandis</i>	Water and methanol	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging Ferric-reducing power	TPC = 2.48–68.23 mg GAE/g DW; TFC = 1.04–13.06 mg QE/g DW.	Khettal et al., 2017
<i>Citrus limon</i>	Water and methanol	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging Ferric-reducing power	TPC = 3.83–98.06 mg GAE/g DW; TFC = 2.83–38.73 mg QE/g DW.	Khettal et al., 2017
	80% Methanol	Inhibition of lipid peroxidation	Inhibition of lipid peroxidation	TPC = 30.51 mg GAE/g; TFC = 14.64 mg QE/g.	Haraoui et al., 2020
<i>Citrus macroptera</i>	Water	Metabolic syndrome	Reduction of the BW and plasma insulin levels	NR	Thomas et Kamath, 2017
	Methanol	Antioxidant Anti-inflammatory Antibacterial	Reduction of ROS Reduction of edema <i>Staphylococcus</i> sp. and <i>Klebsiella</i> sp. inhibition	TPC = 24.55 mg GAE/g extract; TFC = 10.76 mg QE/g extract.	Lala et al., 2020
<i>Citrus maxima</i>	80% Methanol	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging Ferric-reducing power	TPC = 91.76 mg GAE/g; TFC = 16.98 mg QE/g.	Haraoui et al., 2020
	Ethanol	Metabolic syndrome	Inhibition of lipid peroxidation Reduction of TG, TC, HDL, LDL, VLDL serum level and BW	NR	Dinesh and Hegde, 2016
<i>Citrus medica</i>	Methanol	Antibacterial	<i>M. luteus</i> , <i>S. epidermis</i> , <i>B. subtilis</i> , and <i>E. faecalis</i> inhibition		Haraoui et al., 2020
	Methanol	Antioxidant Antibacterial	Radical scavenging <i>B. subtilis</i> , <i>B. cereus</i> , <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>M. luteus</i> , <i>E. faecalis</i> , <i>P. aeruginosa</i> , <i>K. pneumoniae</i> , <i>S. typhi</i> and <i>E. coli</i> inhibition	TPC = 102.7 mg GAE/g extract; TFC = 3.95 mg GAE/g extract.	Shojaemehr et al., 2020
<i>Citrus pseudolimon</i>	Methanol	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging	TPC = 10 mg GAE/g extract TFC = 7.9 mg GAE/g extract	Kumar et al., 2019
<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	80% Methanol	Metabolic syndrome	Inhibition of $\alpha$ -amylase and $\beta$ -glucosidase enzymes. Reduction of blood glucose level		
		Antioxidant	Radical scavenging Ferric-reducing power Inhibition of lipid peroxidation	TPC = 35.09–62.59 mg GAE/g; TFC = 3.67–6.39 mg QE/g.	Haraoui et al., 2020

(continues)

Table 5. continued

Leaves	Extract/Essential oil	Biological activity	Mechanism	TPC, TFC, TCC, and/or main abundant identified compounds	References
<i>Citrus unshiu</i>		Metabolic syndrome	Inhibition of lipase enzyme	TPC = 209.27 mg GAE/g FW; TFC = 65.02 mg QE/ g FW.	Haraoui et al., 2020
<i>Citrus × clementina</i>	Methanol 80% Methanol Ethanol and 80% Ethanol	Antibacterial Metabolic syndrome Antioxidant	<i>M. luteus</i> , <i>S. epidermis</i> , <i>B. subtilis</i> , and <i>E. fecalis</i> inhibition Inhibition of lipase enzymes Radical scavenging Ferric-reducing power Inhibition of lipid peroxidation	NR TPC = 31.43 mg GAE/g; TFC = 4.84 mg QE/g. TPC = 13313–45.54 mg GAE/g FW; TFC = 5.50–29.16 mg QE/g FW; Hesperidin = 174.91–656.66 mg/100 g FW; Rutin = 4.24–68.52 mg/100 g FW; Isoquercitrin = 7.73–52.01 mg/100 g FW; Sinensetin = 7.24–35.69 mg/100 g FW; Tangeretin=7.46–41.76 mg/100 g FW;	Itoh et al., 2019 Haraoui et al., 2020 Leporini et al., 2020a
<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i>	Essential oil	Metabolic syndrome Antibacterial Antioxidant	Inhibition of $\alpha$ -amylase, $\beta$ -glucosidase and lipase enzymes <i>M. luteus</i> , <i>B. subtilis</i> , and <i>E. fecalis</i> inhibition Radical scavenging	Limonene = 63.35%; Geraniol = 6.23%; Citral = 4.35% Limonene = 57.84%; Neral = 7.81%; Linalool = 4.74%.	Leporini et al., 2020a Haraoui et al., 2020 Al-Aamri et al., 2018
<i>Citrus aurantium</i>	Essential oil	Metabolic syndrome Antibacterial Antioxidant	Reduction in fasting blood, hepatic glucose, TC, triacylglycerol and LDL-c <i>S. aureus</i> , and <i>P. aeruginosa</i> inhibition <i>E. coli</i> , <i>S. typhi</i> , and <i>B. cereus</i> inhibition	Limonene = 30.11%; b-pinene=19.27%; b-Ocimene = 3.48%; Sabinene=39.81%; Linalool = 13.75%; g-Terpinen = 7.43%; d-3-carene=6.55%	Ibrahim et al., 2018 Chi et al., 2020 Al-Aamri et al., 2018 Bonesi et al., 2018
<i>Citrus bergamia</i>	Essential oil	Antifungal Antioxidant	<i>C. albicans</i> inhibition Radical scavenging Ferric-reducing power Inhibition of lipid peroxidation	Linalyl acetate = 70.51%; Linalool=10.25%; Geranyl acetate = 3.04%.	Nidhi et al., 2020 Bonesi et al., 2018
<i>Citrus grandis</i>	Essential oil	Antioxidant Antibacterial	Radical scavenging <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>S. typhi</i> , and <i>B. cereus</i> inhibition	Limonene = 21.87%; $\alpha$ -caryophyllene = 6.75%; $\beta$ -ocimene = 6.35%.	Chi et al., 2020

<i>Citrus limon</i>	Essential oil	Antioxidant  Antibacterial	Radical scavenging Ferric-reducing power Inhibition of lipid peroxidation  <i>Listeria</i> inhibition <i>S. aureus</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , and <i>B. subtilis</i> inhibition	Limonene = 30.57%; Geraniol = 14.44%; $\beta$ -pinene = 14.98%;  Geraniol = 298.65 mg/mL; Limonene=256.87 mg/mL; Geraniol = 98.39 mg/mL; Neral = 86.81 mg/mL. NR	Bonesi et al., 2018  Fancello et al., 2020 Saeb et al., 2016
<i>Citrus reticulata</i>	Essential oil	Antioxidant	Radical scavenging Ferric-reducing power Inhibition of lipid peroxidation	Sabinene = 39.81%; Linalool = 13.75%; $\gamma$ -terpinene = 7.43%; $\delta$ -3-carene = 6.55%; NR	Bonesi et al., 2018
<i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Essential oil	Antibacterial Antioxidant	<i>S. aureus</i> , <i>E. coli</i> , and <i>B. subtilis</i> inhibition  Radical scavenging Ferric-reducing power Inhibition of lipid peroxidation	NR  Limonene = 13.77%; $\beta$ -pinene = 16.93%; $\beta$ -ocimene = 7.48%. Sabinene = 49.67%; $\beta$ -ocimene = 9.25%; Limonene = 5.48%	Saeb et al., 2016 Chi et al., 2020 Bonesi et al., 2018
		Anti-inflammatory	Reduction of edema	Sabinene = 20.4%; Terpinen-4-ol = 13.2%; Limonene = 7.5%; $\delta$ -3-carene = 6.55%.	Thandiswa et al., 2020
<i>Citrus x clementina</i>	Essential oil	Antibacterial  Antioxidant  Metabolic syndrome	<i>S. aureus</i> , <i>S. typhi</i> , and <i>B. cereus</i> inhibition  Radical scavenging Ferric-reducing power Inhibition of lipid peroxidation Inhibition of $\alpha$ -amylase, $\alpha$ -glucosidase and lipase enzymes	Sabinene = 27.84%; Linalool = 19.76%; Limonene = 6.44%.  Linalool = 15.80%; Limonene = 6.41%; $\beta$ -Ocimene = 6.52%; $\delta$ -3-carene = 6.33%.	Chi et al., 2020  Bonesi et al., 2018  Leporini et al., 2020b Leporini et al., 2020b
NR: not reported; TPC: total phenolics content; TFC: total flavonoids content; TCC: total carotenoids content; ROS: reactive oxygen species.					

## Metabolic syndrome

In recent decades, numerous *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies have demonstrated the importance of genus *Citrus* in the prevention of T2DM. Recently, the hypoglycemic effects of *citrus* × *clementina* leaves extract has been reported by Leporini *et al.* (2020b), who found the IC<sub>50</sub> values of 64.37–247.61 mg/mL in α-amylase enzyme and the IC<sub>50</sub> values of 51.61–282.65 mg/mL against α-glucosidase. In particular, hydroalcoholic extract obtained by ultrasound-assisted maceration from Corigliano Calabro leaves was found to be the most active. The addition of this extract to the juice increased its hypoglycemic (+37% and +25% against α-glucosidase and α-amylase, respectively) and hypolipidemic (+17% against lipase) potential. The inhibitory activity of *Citrus unshiu* leaf methanol extract on pancreatic lipase enzyme was reported by Itoh *et al.* (2019) that showed an IC<sub>50</sub> value of 44 µg/mL.

*Citrus pseudolimon* methanol leave extracts and ethyl acetate fraction possessed a hypoglycemic potential (Kumar *et al.*, 2019). The ethyl acetate fraction displayed a greater inhibition against α-glucoside (84.18%) in comparison to the methanol extract (82.94%). The IC<sub>50</sub> values of 83.66% and 78.52% for ethyl acetate and methanol extract, respectively, were found against α-amylase. In addition, the authors indicated that oral administration of methanol leaves extract (200 mg/kg) and ethyl acetate fraction (100 mg/kg) for 21 days decreased the fasting blood glucose level in diabetic rats. Aqueous extract of *Citrus limon* leaves was tested against STZ-induced diabetic rats. This extract, orally administered at doses of 50 mg/kg BW and 100 mg/kg BW for 28 days, decreased BW and plasma insulin levels and increased blood glucose levels (Thomas and Kamath, 2017). The hypocholesterolemic effects of *Citrus aurantifolia* was reported by Cyndi *et al.* (2016). Indeed, the ethanol extract of leaves determined reduction in TC serum in mice, with the most significant reduction at a dosage of 3.5 g/kg BW. Similarly, the oral administration of *Citrus maxima* leaves extract (200 and 400 mg/kg BW) in obese rats determined reduction in TG, TC, HDL, LDL, and very low-density lipoprotein (VLDL) serum levels and BW (Dinesh and Hegde, 2016).

## Antibacterial effect

More recently, Haraoui *et al.* (2020) investigated the antibacterial activity of leaves methanol water extracts obtained from *Citrus aurantium*, *Citrus maxima*, *Citrus lemon*, *Citrus Clementine*, and *Citrus sinensis* cv. Sanguinelli, Thomson, Washington, Portuguese, Double Fine, and Jafa. *M. luteus* resulted in the most sensitive Gram-positive bacteria to the action of *Citrus aurantium*

and *Citrus sinensis* cv. Jaffa leave extracts with an inhibition area of 20.00 mm and 16.00 mm, respectively. For Gram-negative bacteria, the best results were observed for the *Citrus lemon* extract with an inhibition area of 15.66 mm (*P. aeruginosa*) and 15.33 mm (*E. coli*).

The antibacterial effects of different extracts obtained from *Citrus medica* leaves were tested. Interestingly, the inhibitory activity of methanol extract on *B. cereus*, *E. coli*, and *E. aerogenes* was more potent than the gentamicin used as a positive control (Shojaemehr *et al.*, 2020).

*Citrus aurantium* leaves essential oil demonstrated strong antifungal activity against two strains of *Citrus albicans* with MIC values of 0.15–0.31% (v/v) (Nidhi *et al.*, 2020). Interestingly, *Citrus limon* var *pompia* leaves essential oil showed specific anti-listeria activity on ricotta salata cheese (Fancello *et al.*, 2020). Recently, De Oliveira Filho *et al.*, (2020) proposed a chitosan films enriched with *Citrus limonia* leaves essential oil as an active packaging material for food preservation for its capacity to: (a) reduce the moisture content and water vapor permeability; (b) decrease the visible light transmission rate values; (c) change the color of bioactive films significantly, remaining darker and yellowish; and (d) inhibit *S. aureus*. Similarly, the addition of lemon essential oil to chitosan coatings enhanced fermentative process during storage, with modification of strawberry fruit aroma composition notably appreciated (Perdones *et al.*, 2015).

## Bioactive compounds

Polyphenolic compounds are a wide group of metabolites that originate from the secondary metabolism of plants. These are considered as potent antioxidants for their capacity to increase catalase activity, trap reactive oxygen species, and to act as a metal chelator. Additionally, they determined the inhibition of chain lipid peroxidation by trapping peroxy radical and quickly reacted with peroxy nitrite (Pisoschi and Pop, 2015). Flavonoids and phenolic acid (Figure 1) are dominant bioactive compounds found in *citrus*. In particular, peels are rich in flavone aglycons and polymethoxy flavones, rarely found in other plants. Polyphenols are present in both edible and nonedible parts of the fruits (Singh *et al.*, 2020). In addition, *citrus* fruit is a good source of carotenoids (Figure 2) compounds recognized for their beneficial effects on human health (Ikoma *et al.*, 2016).

*Citrus* by-products represented a rich source of essential oils that possessed a wide range of antioxidant, antimicrobial, and antidiabetic properties, and thus used in pharmaceutical and food industries (Bora *et al.*, 2020).



## Flavonoids

Flavonoids are secondary metabolites in plants, with a multitude of functions: They regulate the development of plants, their pigmentation, and protect them from UV-light. Furthermore, they act as defense and signaling between plants and microorganisms (Mathesius, 2018).

### Hesperidin

Hesperidin is one of the main flavanone glycosides known in citrus fruits. Great attention has been focused on hesperidin and its aglycone form, hesperetin, which plays an important role in the prevention of diseases associated with oxidative stress such as obesity, diabetes, inflammation, and cancer (Barreca *et al.*, 2017). Its antioxidant mechanism was correlated to direct ROS scavenging, transition metal ion chelation, and its ability to increase cellular glutathione content. De Souza *et al.* (2016) compared the antioxidant activity of hesperidin, hesperetin, and G-hesperidin *in vitro* and *in vivo*, administering each of these for 30 days at 1 mmol/kg body mass to Wistar male rats. The aglycone form has the greatest inhibitory activity of xanthine oxidase by increasing superoxide dismutase (SOD) activity in the liver of animals. Recently, the antioxidant activity of hesperidin, and its ability to inhibit pancreatic lipase enzyme, was studied (Huang *et al.*, 2020). Results demonstrated that hydrogen bonds and van der Waals forces played major roles in the interaction of hesperidin and lipase.

The metabolic effects of hesperidin were also demonstrated by Sahnoun *et al.* (2017) and Zeng *et al.* (2018), who reported its ability to inhibit  $\alpha$ -amylase,  $\alpha$ -glucosidase, and lipase enzyme with the  $IC_{50}$  values of 111 and 1  $\mu$ M, and 688.25  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively. In a randomized double-blind controlled clinical trial design, 23 subjects with T2DM consumed 500 mg/day hesperidin supplement for 8 weeks. Hesperidin supplementation led to significant decrease in fasting blood glucose and glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA1c). A significant increase in serum insulin and decrease in TG were also observed in the hesperidin-treated group (Eghtesadi *et al.*, 2016). Similarly, the supplementation with hesperidin (500 mg/day for 8 weeks) in T2DM patients resulted in reduction of fasting blood glucose, TC, and HbA1c, and at the same time a significant increase in serum insulin (Mohammadi *et al.*, 2016). A dose of 100 mg or 500 mg of hesperidin for 6 weeks in subjects with hypercholesterolemia decreased serum TG and LDL levels (Li and Schluesener, 2017). In addition, intra-gastric hesperidin attenuates the increased level of plasma cholesterol, LDL-cholesterol VLDL-cholesterol, TG, free fatty acids, and phospholipids, and decreased levels of high-density lipoprotein-cholesterol (HDL-c) (Homayouni *et al.*, 2017).

In an *in vivo* study, hesperidin and naringin increased the production and release of insulin from the islet cells and decreased intestinal glucose absorption (Mahmoud *et al.*, 2015). In addition, hesperidin and hesperetin inhibited two gluconeogenesis enzymes, alanine aminotransferase and aspartate aminotransferase, indicating their effectiveness in treating diabetes mellitus (Zareei *et al.*, 2017).

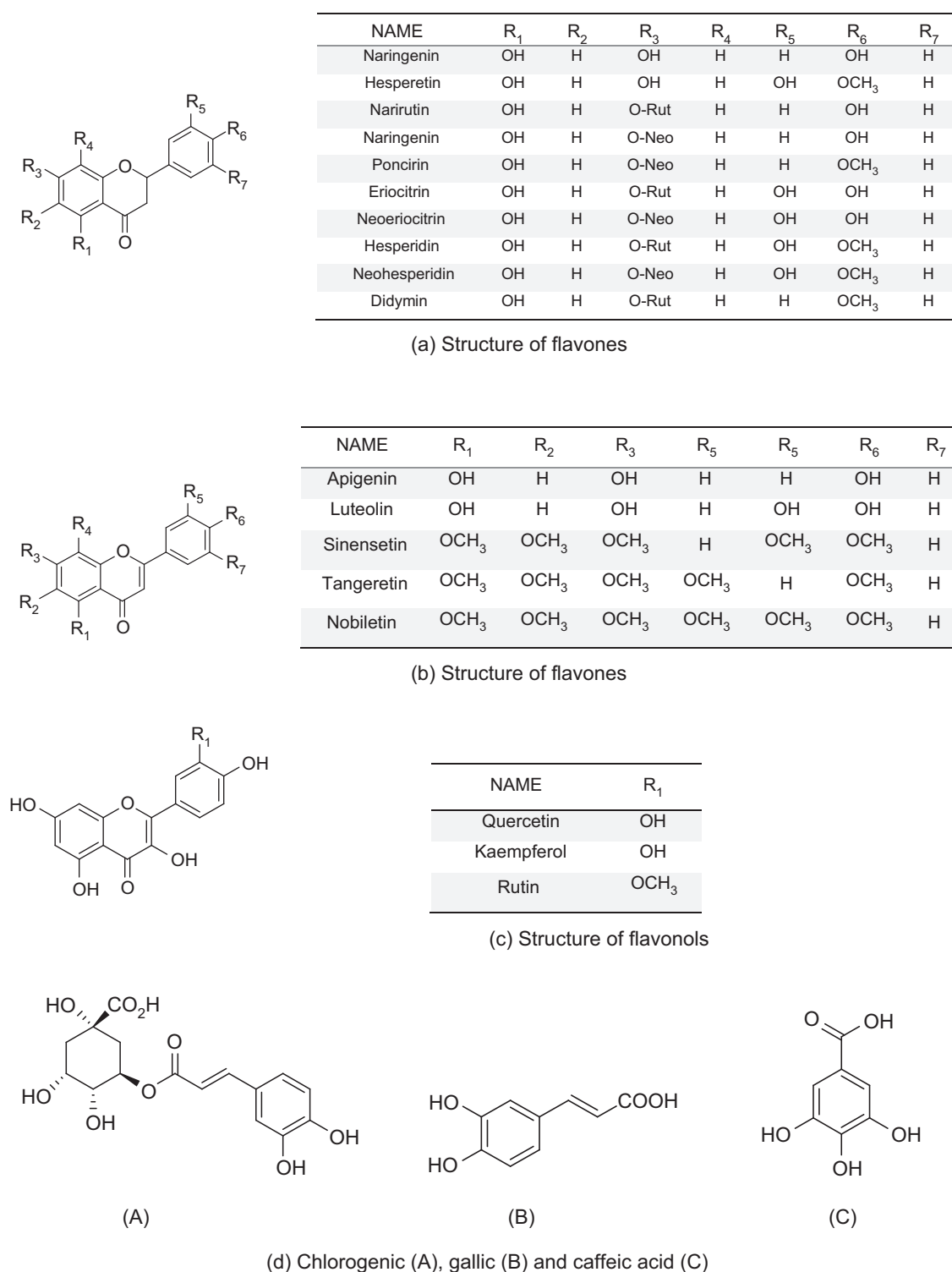
The therapeutic potential of hesperidin has been confirmed recently (Rehman *et al.*, 2020b). This flavanone improved leptin and insulin resistance, IL-6 and TNF- $\alpha$  more significantly compared to the reference drug Orlistat used in high fat diet (HFD)-induced obese rats. In addition, the treatment with 500-mg hesperidin significantly reduced the plasma levels of C-reactive protein and serum amyloid A in individuals with MS (Homayouni *et al.*, 2017). Moreover, hesperidin reduced symptoms of MS and improved cardiac function in HFD-induced MS in rats (Prasatthong *et al.*, 2021). Indeed, treatment with hesperidin (15 or 30 mg/kg) ameliorated cardiac dysfunction and hypertrophy in rats, restored the insulin signaling pathway, and IRS/Akt/GLUT4 protein expression.

The consumption (500 mL) of orange juice enriched with hesperidin had positive effects on blood and pulse pressures in mildly hypertensive individuals (Valls *et al.*, 2021). The results are in accordance with a recent study in which high blood pressure was attenuated by hesperidin (50 mg/kg BW). Regulation in the expressions of TNF- $\alpha$ , COX-2, and PGE2 with improvement of oxidative stress by increasing glutathione reductase and decreasing malondialdehyde (MAD) was also observed (Khidr *et al.*, 2020).

Previously, the cardioprotective effect of hesperidin was investigated by Haidari *et al.* (2015). Administration of 600 mg/day of hesperidin decreases levels of adiponectin and HDL-cholesterol and increases E-selectin in patients with myocardial infarction.

The neuroprotective activity of hesperidin was evaluated by Thenmozhi *et al.* (2015). In this study, administration of 100 mg/kg of hesperidin along with aluminum chloride ( $AlCl_3$ ) injection for 60 days significantly reduced the concentration of ROS in hippocampus and cortex, the AchE activity, the protein expressions of amyloid precursor protein, the levels of both  $Ab_{1-42}$  and b and g secretases. Recently, Li and Schluesener (2017) demonstrated that administration of 100 mg/kg of hesperidin for 10 days significantly attenuated  $\alpha$ -amyloid deposition and microglial activation in brain of transgenic mice.

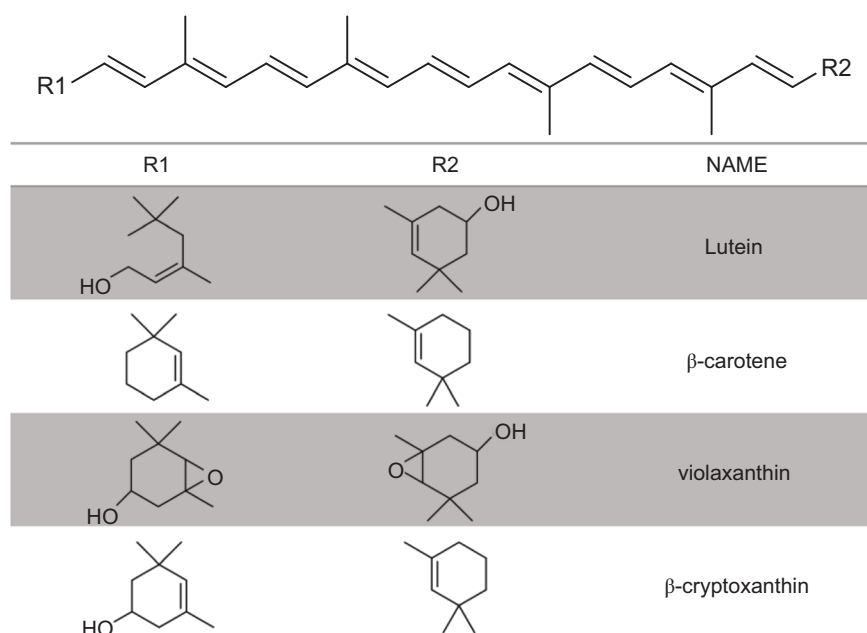
The combination of diosmin and hesperidin exerted analgesic and/or anti-inflammatory effects (Patent No.



**Figure 1.** The main phenolic constituents of *Citrus* species.

WO2015019334) as reported by López Muñozmaría *et al.* (2015). This application was used for the treatment of different kinds of pain: moderate to severe pain, chronic pain, and/or neuropathic pain. No occurrence of adverse effects was observed.

Supplementation of a mixture of *Imperata cylindrica*, *Citrus unshiu markovich*-hesperidin, and *Evodia officinalis* Dode-Evodiamine for 12 weeks significantly reduced the BW, body fat mass, and waist circumference in overweight subjects (Cho *et al.*, 2017). Recently, it was



**Figure 2.** The most abundant *Citrus* carotenoids.

reported that hesperidin ameliorates hepatic dysfunction and dyslipidemia in male Wistar rats exposed to cadmium chloride (Aja *et al.*, 2020).

#### Hesperetin

Recently, hesperetin showed cellular antioxidant activity with a value of 23.57  $\mu\text{mol}$  of QE/100  $\mu\text{mol}$  (Huang *et al.*, 2020). Both hesperidin and hesperetin were able to reduce oxidative stress directly by scavenging intracellular ROS and increase natural antioxidant defense system with particular reference to glutathione (Dhanya and Jayamurthy, 2020). In addition, these flavonoids inhibited the non-enzymatic glycation of proteins involved in the formation of advanced glycation end-products which have an important role in developing diabetes. Previously, Jayaraman *et al.* (2018) investigated the anti-hyperglycemic, antioxidant, and anti-hyperlipidemic effects of hesperetin against STZ-induced experimental rats. Supplementation with 40 mg/kg of hesperetin for 45 days determined a significant decline in plasma glucose level and a marked improvement in insulin and glycogen secretions.

Hesperetin is also known to induce apoptosis in cancer cells primarily through activation of caspase-9 (Farooqi *et al.*, 2015). This compound revealed significant cytotoxicity for HeLa cell line, and its anticancer ability was revalidated by *in silico* molecular docking study, which exhibited strong interaction with E6 protein of HPV16 cervical carcinoma with significant binding energy (Prakash *et al.*, 2020). The capacity of hesperetin to attenuate testicular alteration in Wistar rats was also reported

through inhibition of inflammation, oxidative stress, and apoptosis (Samie *et al.*, 2018).

Interestingly, Li *et al.* (2018; Patent No. CN108815154A) investigated the ability of hesperetin to inhibit chloride channel and propose its use for the treatment of diarrhea, heart disease, pulmonary disease, stomach, brain, and mental diseases, rhinitis, ontological disease, and eye disease drug development.

Hesperetin administered orally (50 mg/kg/day for 46 days) reduced ROS, DNA fragmentation, serum glucose, MDA levels, and caspase 3 activity. In addition, this compound potentiated testicular antioxidant system with consequent increase in glutathione levels, ferric-reducing antioxidant power, catalase (CAT), SOD, and glutathione peroxidase (GPx) activity in diabetic rats (Samie *et al.*, 2018). Shagirtha *et al.* (2017) has recently demonstrated the neuroprotective properties of hesperetin. The oral administration of this flavanone (40 mg/kg BW for 21 days) protected the brain of Wistar rats by increasing the levels of enzymatic antioxidants such as CAT, SOD, GPx, and glutathione-s-transferase (GSTs). In addition, hesperetin reduced oxidative stress, neuroinflammation, and motor dysfunction as well as amyloidogenesis and cognitive dysfunction in mice with positive effect against Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases (Khan *et al.*, 2020).

#### Neohesperidin

The *in vivo* hypoglycemic and hypolipidemic effects of neohesperidin on KK-A(y) mice were studied (Jia *et al.*, 2015). Treatment with neohesperidin significantly

decreased serum glucose, fasting glucose, glycosylated serum protein, and insulin resistance. Moreover, this bioactive compound significantly decreased TC, serum TG, leptin level, and inhibited lipid accumulation. Lv *et al.* (2015) also noted that naringin and neohesperidin mainly inhibited amylose digestion. In addition, the neohesperidin administration (50 mg/kg/day) attenuates weight gain, low-grade inflammation, and insulin resistance in mice, as well as restored gut barrier damage and metabolic endotoxemia (Lu *et al.*, 2020).

A novel pharmaceutical use of neohesperidin in the preparation of drug for treating bronchial asthma or diseases caused by Th1/Th2 cell immune imbalance was disclosed (Shi and Yang, 2018; Patent No. CN108478586).

The efficacy of citrus flavonoids on MS resulted in the commercialization of Bergavit<sup>®</sup>, a standardized extract containing 150 mg of main active flavonoids of bergamot juice (16% of neoeriocitrin, 47% of neohesperidin, and 37% of naringin). This supplement was administered at a fixed daily dose for 6 months in patients with moderate hypercholesterolemia. Results revealed reduction in TG, TC, and LDL-cholesterol (Toth *et al.*, 2016).

It has been demonstrated recently that the neohesperidin inhibited Angiotensin II-induced myocardial contractile dysfunction, and reduced hypertension, myocardial hypertrophy, fibrosis, SOD production, and inflammation (Zhang *et al.*, 2020).

#### Naringenin

Naringin, as reported by Sahnoun *et al.* (2017), showed an excellent inhibition for  $\alpha$ -amylase and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase enzyme, with IC<sub>50</sub> values of 8.0  $\mu$ M and 0.55  $\mu$ M, respectively. Lim *et al.* (2018) studied the protective effects and molecular mechanisms of naringin in diabetic mice. The results showed that this flavanone ameliorated hyperglycemia and protected STZ-induced  $\beta$ -cell death by inhibiting both intrinsic and extrinsic apoptotic pathways. These protective effects have been related to the ability of naringin to reduce ROS and pro-inflammatory cytokines accumulation. It was suggested recently that antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties of naringenin could confer hepatoprotective effects after oral treatment with 60 mg/kg BW (Kometsi *et al.*, 2020).

In a clinical study, administration of naringin (400 mg/capsule/day) for 8 weeks in hypercholesterolemic individuals resulted in reduced concentration of plasma TC and LDL-cholesterol. Naringin exerted its effect by inhibiting gluconeogenesis and upregulation of AMPK, hence metformin-like effects. In addition, it increased glucose uptake in skeletal muscles, ameliorated pro-inflammatory reactions, and prevented metabolic dysregulation and atherosclerosis (Nyane *et al.*, 2017).

Moreover, naringenin decreased blood glucose, serum lipid, and ameliorated glucose tolerance through down-regulating oxidative stress and inflammation in STZ-induced rats (Jia *et al.*, 2015).

Liang *et al.* (2015; Patent No. CN104940932A) reported the protective effects of naringenin and naringin during radiotherapy. Additionally, the use of naringenin and its derivative in preventing Alzheimer's disease and other cognitive disorders was reported (Liao, 2018; Patent No. CN108785301A).

The administration of naringenin (50 mg/kg/day) increased the serum level of insulin and consequently glucose uptake, improved lipid profile, TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-6, normalized level of NO, and increased SOD level (Rehman *et al.*, 2020c). These effects were confirmed by Wu *et al.* (2016); they showed how this compound inhibited the expression of cytokine signaling, iNOS, COX-2, and release of NO and pro-inflammatory cytokines in microglial cells. A direct effect of this flavanone determined downregulation of genes involved in *de novo* lipogenesis, lipolysis, and triglyceride synthesis/storage. Moreover, narirutin and didymin are able to inhibit lipase enzyme with the IC<sub>50</sub> values of 58.98 and 67.30  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively (Zeng *et al.*, 2018).

#### Didymin

Didymin acted as an anticancer agent by inhibiting phthalate-mediated invasion, migration, and proliferation of breast cancer cells (Hsu *et al.*, 2016), and as a scavenger of free radicals (Lin *et al.*, 2016). More recently, Ali *et al.* (2019) demonstrated that didymin was also able to inhibit  $\alpha$ -glucosidase and  $\alpha$ -amylase enzymes and increase glucose uptake. In addition, didymin reduced the expression of two key enzymes involved in the gluconeogenesis such as glucose 6-phosphatase and phosphoenolpyruvate carboxy-kinase with a consequent decrease of glucose production. Recently, it was found that didymin prevented hyperglycemia-induced ROS, production of lipid peroxidation product MAD, hyperglycemia-induced monocyte-endothelial cell adhesion, and nuclear factor kappa-light-chain-enhancer of activated B cells (NF- $\kappa$ B) activation. In addition, this compound inhibited the release of various inflammatory cytokines and chemokines (Kirtikar *et al.*, 2018).

#### Eriocitrin

Eriocitrin is known as a strong antioxidant agent (Smeriglio *et al.*, 2019). It has been shown that a major role is played by its two hydroxy groups that are bound to the B ring in *ortho* position with respect to each other (Diab *et al.*, 2015). This flavanone (200 mg/kg) showed protective effects against inflammation and oxidative stress in C57BL/6J mice, and may therefore prevent metabolic alterations associated with the development of cardiovascular diseases (Ferreira *et al.*, 2016).

More recently, Kwon and Choi (2020) proposed a possible eriocitrin mechanism of action. In this study, dietary supplementation with eriocitrin (0.005%) in C57BL/6N mice for 16 weeks improved adiposity by increasing adipocyte fatty acid oxidation, energy expenditure, mRNA expression of thermogenesis-related genes in brown adipose tissue and skeletal muscle, and decreasing the expression of lipogenesis-related genes in white adipose tissue. The supplementation with eriocitrin also decreased hepatic lipogenesis and prevented hyperlipidemia whereas increased hepatic fatty acid (FA) oxidation and fecal lipid excretion. Moreover, eriocitrin supplementation improved insulin resistance, glucose tolerance, and decreased hepatic gluconeogenesis and pro-inflammatory responses. Previously, Liu *et al.* (2019a; Patent No. CN109806272A) proposed eriocitrin as potential  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitor.

#### Nobiletin

Nobiletin is one of the most abundant polymethoxylated flavones. This compound was investigated for its capacity to improve and prevent obesity and metabolic diseases. Recently, the application of nobiletin in preparation treatment of gastric accommodation disorder remedies was reported (Li, 2019; Patent No. CN108619130B). This compound selectively relaxes stomach smooth muscles, promotes the recovery of physiological gastrointestinal motility, and calms stomach upset. As a new therapeutic agent, it has provided and presented great market prospects and economic value.

Sahnoun *et al.* (2017) reported the carbohydrate hydrolyzing enzymes inhibitory activity of nobiletin with the  $IC_{50}$  values of 42.0  $\mu$ M and 50.0  $\mu$ M against  $\alpha$ -amylase and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase, respectively. This flavone was also able to inhibit lipase with an  $IC_{50}$  value of 26.28 mg/mL (Zeng *et al.*, 2018), with  $IC_{50}$  value being better than that those reported for the positive control. In db/db diabetic mice, oral administration of nobiletin (200 mg/kg BW for 10 weeks) significantly attenuated BW gain, decreased fasting glucose levels, improved glucose tolerance and insulin sensitivity, and diminished serum TG levels (He *et al.*, 2016). Moreover, nobiletin was able to reduce the protein peroxisomal acyl-coenzyme A oxidase 1, carnitine palmitoyltransferase-1, and ameliorated fatty acids  $\beta$ -oxidation via AMPK (Lone *et al.*, 2018). In addition, treatment with this compound at 10–100 mg/kg BW for 8 weeks in obese mice accelerated lipid catabolism in adipose tissues.

Recently, it was found that nobiletin improved cognitive deficits and the pathological features of Alzheimer's disease, such as A $\beta$  pathology, hyperphosphorylation of tau, and oxidative stress (Nakajima and Ohizumi, 2019). In addition, nobiletin ameliorated motor and cognitive deficits in Parkinson's disease models. Qi *et al.* (2019) also demonstrated that oral administration of nobiletin

(100 mg/kg/day for 6 weeks) ameliorated LPS-triggered memory deficit regarding synaptic dysfunctions and neuronal loss, and inhibited the microglial activation and pro-inflammatory cytokine secretion (IL-1 $\beta$ , COX-2, TNF- $\alpha$ , and iNOS). In addition, in BV-2 microglia cells, the action of this flavone decreased pro-inflammatory cytokines secretion, and channeled modulation of mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPKs), phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase/phosphorylated protein kinase B (PI3K/Akt), and NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathways. Interestingly, nobiletin promotes antioxidant and anti-inflammatory responses and elicits protection against ischemic stroke *in vivo* with increase in the expression of SOD and glutathione (GSH) which are responsible of antioxidant endogenous defense systems. Moreover, a reduction in the levels of NF- $\kappa$ B and MDA was also observed (Zhang *et al.*, 2016).

Wen-Zhe *et al.* (2015; Patent No. US9808477B2) detected a pharmaceutical composition for multidrug-resistant cancer treatment comprising *citrus* methoxyflavone (nobiletin) and chemotherapeutic drug. In addition, Chen and Wang (2015; Patent No. CN105030559A) proposed application of nobiletin in preparation of health products or medicines for prevention and/or treatment of oral cancer. The experiments showed that these compounds possessed an obvious effect on inhibiting proliferation of human oral epidermoid carcinoma cells through the anti-proliferation effects of hesperetin, naringenin, and nobiletin on human oral epidermoid carcinoma cells.

#### Tangeretin

Both nobiletin and tangeretin ameliorated ROS production and lipid peroxidation in mutant *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* deficient in glutathione synthase, SOD, or CAT (Wang *et al.*, 2018). Similarly, a significant decrease in ROS content, with increase in the activities of SOD, CAT, and GPx through inhibition of NF- $\kappa$ B pathway in rats' insulinoma cell line (INS-1) pre-treated with tangeretin (0, 10, or 20  $\mu$ M) for 12 h was also observed (Liu *et al.*, 2019b).

Recent report has elucidated the anti-obesity capacity of tangeretin via inhibition of pancreatic lipase. This compound inhibited the enzyme with an  $IC_{50}$  value of 57.31 mg/mL (Zeng *et al.*, 2018). Moreover, tangeretin ameliorated insulin resistance and increased glucose uptake by attenuating obesity-induced inflammation in adipose tissue through reduction of NO production, the expression of IL-6, IL-1 $\beta$ , TNF- $\alpha$ , iNOS, and COX-2 in 3T3-L1 adipocytes and macrophage cell line (Shin *et al.*, 2017). Sahnoun *et al.* (2017) evaluated the inhibitory activities of tangeretin on carbohydrate metabolism key enzymes. This pentamethoxy flavone showed the  $IC_{50}$  values of 141.0  $\mu$ M and 14.8  $\mu$ M against  $\alpha$ -amylase and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase, respectively.

Recently, the neuroprotective effect of tangeretin against cerebral ischemia-reperfusion injury was demonstrated

(Yang *et al.*, 2020). This compound downregulated the inflammatory and pro-inflammatory cytokines and oxidative stress parameters in the serum and brain tissues of rats with suppression of IL-1 $\beta$ , TNF- $\alpha$ , and IL-6. Lee *et al.* (2018; Patent No. KR102015221B1) proposed the application of tangeretin for the prevention and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder. This compound showed an excellent anti-anxiety effect, and was consequently included in the pharmaceutical composition of foods as an active ingredient. Moreover, tangeretin was an active ingredient for alleviating, preventing, or treating renal fibrosis or cirrhosis of kidney glomerulus or albuminuria (Young-Hee and Min-Kyung, 2018; Patent No. KR101949471B1).

#### *Sinensetin*

The effects of sinensetin on lipid metabolism in mature 3T3-L1 adipocytes without causing cytotoxicity were reported by Kang *et al.* (2015). This compound showed anti-adipogenic property by downregulation of sterol regulatory element-binding protein 1c, and lipolytic property with increase of lipase enzyme. Moreover, sinensetin inhibited insulin-stimulated glucose uptake by decreasing the phosphorylation of insulin receptor substrate, and increased the phosphorylation of AMPK and acetyl-CoA carboxylase. It also upregulated mRNA expression of carnitine palmitoyltransferase-1a, suggesting that sinensetin enhances fatty acid  $\beta$ -oxidation through AMPK pathway. In addition, it was found that sinensetin quenched the fluorescence of  $\alpha$ -glucosidase, and inhibited  $\alpha$ -glucosidase and non-enzymatic glycation (Liu *et al.*, 2020). Kim *et al.* (2019b) reported the anti-inflammatory activities of sinensetin on LPS-stimulated L6 skeletal muscle by regulating NF- $\kappa$ B.

Recently, the application of sinensetin as an active ingredient for preventing, ameliorating, or treating liver cancer or gastric cancer has been proposed (Kim and Lee, 2018; Patent No. KR20190050535A).

#### *Luteolin*

Sangeetha (2019) reported the antioxidant activity of luteolin and demonstrated how this polymethoxyflavone protects the pancreas and promotes insulin secretion. In addition, luteolin suppressed oxidative damage, lipid peroxidation, and increased antioxidant enzymes such as CAT and SOD (Xu *et al.*, 2019). Antioxidant properties of luteolin are also proved in the central nervous system (CNS). The inhibition of gastric secretion and reduction of pepsin activity by luteolin was reported by Dai and Li (2018; Patent No. CN108309971B). In particular, the preparation includes 3–5 parts of luteolin and 1–2 parts of schisandrin B as active ingredients, and the dosage form of the compound preparation was preferably tablets, capsules, injections, and granules.

#### *Quercetin*

Quercetin has been used as a nutritional supplement and may have beneficial effects against a variety of diseases. Several *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies have evidenced its biological functions. Recently, Doustimotlagh *et al.* (2020) suggested the ability of quercetin (50 mg/kg/day for 10 days) to cause a significant decrease in protein carbonyl, hydroxyproline, and to regulate the GPx activity. Therefore, quercetin acted as an enzyme inducer by renewing the glutathione peroxidase activity and inhibiting the oxidation of proteins, and hence decreases ROS production. These results confirmed the positive role of quercetin in attenuating the liver damage and degeneration. Milanezi *et al.* (2019) analyzed the antioxidant activity of quercetin-capped gold nanoparticles. Quercetin-capped gold nanoparticles (IR<sub>50</sub> 0.37  $\mu$ g/mL) exhibited greater activity than free quercetin (IR<sub>50</sub> 0.57  $\mu$ g/mL) by NO free radical scavenging assay.

Similarly, quercetin vesicular formulations (Eudragit-coated liposomes) were capable of ensuring optimal protection against oxidative stress in human intestinal cells by reducing ROS production, as reported by Caddeo *et al.* (2019). Its antioxidant capacities were correlated to the presence of two antioxidant pharmacophores in the molecule that had optimal configuration for free radical scavenging. The high antioxidant potential of quercetin was also confirmed in superoxide test with the IC<sub>50</sub> values of 0.025 mM versus 0.243 mM, for quercetin and kaempferol, respectively. Increasing *in vivo* studies have proved that quercetin acted as an antioxidant because of its ability to ameliorate antioxidant defenses, decrease free radical formation, and inhibit xanthine oxidase and lipid peroxidation (Shi *et al.*, 2019).

Literatures data show that quercetin was able to reduce glucose levels when it was administered at a minimum dose of 30 mg/kg BW for 14 days (Yang and Kang, 2018). Additionally, this compound potentiated insulin secretion induced by glucose and glibenclamide and protected  $\beta$ -cells against oxidative damages (Shi *et al.*, 2019). It was reported recently that the oral administration of quercetin (25 and 50 mg/kg) for 28 days remarkably reduced the level of blood glucose, HbA1c, hepatic glycogen, and restored the activity of glucose-6-phosphatase and hexokinase in diabetic rats (Oyedemi *et al.*, 2019). Eid *et al.* (2015) proposed the use of quercetin as an anti-diabetic compound, since this flavonoid could act through the stimulation of GLUT4 translocation in the skeletal muscle and the inhibition of glucose-6-phosphatase in hepatocytes.

In a human study of 12-week, Lee *et al.* (2016) used 100 mg/day/subject of quercetin to treat obesity and showed that this compound diminished the total body fat, and decreased the BMI of overweight or obese subjects. In

addition, quercetin ameliorated mitochondrial functions in adipose tissue of HFD-induced obese mice by increasing the levels of oxidative stress-sensitive transcription factor and antioxidant enzymes (Kobori *et al.*, 2016).

#### *Kaempferol*

The protective effect of kaempferol against oxidative stress in STZ-induced diabetic rats was evaluated by Al-Numair *et al.* (2015). Kaempferol administration (100 mg/kg BW) to diabetic rats reduced plasma glucose, insulin, and lipid peroxidation products enzymatic such as SOD, CAT, GPX, and GSTs.

Another study (Alkhalidy *et al.*, 2018) demonstrated that oral administration of kaempferol (50 mg/kg/day than corresponding human equivalent dose of 240 mg/day for 60 kg) ameliorated blood glucose control in obese mice as well as reduced hepatic glucose production and improved insulin sensitivity. Additionally, these authors have found that kaempferol was a direct inhibitor of pyruvate carboxylase and suppressed gluconeogenesis in HepG2 cells. Torres-Villarreal *et al.* (2019) studied the kaempferol effects (60  $\mu$ M for 21 days) in order to evaluate its lipolytic and anti-adipogenic potential. The results of anti-obesity effects showed that kaempferol modulated adipogenic differentiation in 3T3-L1 cells through promoting downregulation of *Cebpa* gene expression and decreased lipid accumulation in mature adipocytes for its positive effects on *Pnpla2* and *Lipe* mRNA levels.

#### *Rutin*

Rutin is considered a strong antioxidant agent; in fact, it acts as free radical scavenger, metal ions chelator, and reducing agent (Kaurinovic *et al.*, 2019).

In STZ-induced diabetic rats, oral administration of 50 or 100 mg/kg BW of this compound decreased fasting blood glucose as well as HbA1c levels. Moreover, chronic administration of 200 mg/kg BW of rutin reduced (30–40%) the prevalence of diabetes in STZ-treated mice (Ghorbani, 2017). In addition, rutin treatment (50 mg/kg) for 24 weeks arrested the biochemical disturbances of diabetic retinopathy, lowering vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), TNF- $\alpha$ , and increasing TAC in the retina (Gupta *et al.*, 2019). This compound also acted in reducing adiposity, increasing energy expenditure, and improving glucose homeostasis in obese mice (Yuan *et al.*, 2017).

The positive effects of rutin on lipid profile was also proved (Wang *et al.*, 2015). Glucose and lipid metabolism are strictly correlated. The most important clinical manifestation of this interaction is diabetic dyslipidemia characterized by high level of TG, LDL, and VLDL. Rutin, among its antidiabetic effects, decreased serum

levels of TG and VLDL, and increased the level of HDL. Additionally, rutin decreased ROS formation, advanced glycation end-product precursors, and production of inflammatory cytokines. The anti-inflammatory activity of rutin was recently confirmed by Su *et al.* (2019). Authors evidenced the inhibition of NF- $\kappa$ B pathway and understatement of endoplasmic reticulum stress.

#### **Phenolic acids**

Phenolic acids are a diverse class of phenolic compounds made by plants. They act as agents of plant defense, and are, indeed, immensely important in plant–microbe interactions/symbiosis (Mandal *et al.*, 2010).

#### *Chlorogenic acid*

Chlorogenic acid is an important bioactive dietary polyphenol. Several studies have reported the ability of chlorogenic acid to act in metabolic disease through different mechanisms of action. Recently, use of chlorogenic acid in the treatment of metabolic disorders was proposed (Kodimule, 2018; Patent No. US20190111015A1).

Chlorogenic acid supplementation in hypercholesterolemic rats at a dose of 20 or 90 mg/kg BW for 12 weeks suppressed serum lipid levels, while a dosage of 10 mg/kg significantly reduced total LDL-cholesterol and increased HDL-cholesterol by upregulating the expression of PPAR- $\gamma$  gene (Huang *et al.*, 2015). Additionally, administration of chlorogenic acid at a dose of 80 mg/kg BW for 12 weeks decreased percentage of body fat, fasting plasma glucose, and HbA1c level via modulation of adiponectin receptor signaling pathways (Jin *et al.*, 2015). Recently, Di Wang *et al.* (2019) reported that chlorogenic acid (100 mg/kg/day BW) taken for 4 weeks ameliorated the survival rate after myocardial infarction and demonstrated that this compound showed a protective effect on myocardial infarction by reducing inflammatory response, exerting antioxidant activity, and minimizing weight gain. Similarly, chlorogenic acid (100 or 150 mg/day) reduced oxidative-induced damage and increased antioxidant protection in the inflamed paw skin, and reduced lipid peroxidation in serum (Mitrea *et al.*, 2020). The effect of chlorogenic acid (100 mg/kg BW for 13 weeks) on energy balance in obese mice has been studied recently (He *et al.*, 2020). This compound reduced food intake, increased body temperature, thermal dissipation, brown adipose tissue activity, and improved glucose tolerance. The anti-obesity effect of chlorogenic acid was also observed in male Sprague–Dawley rats at a dose of 20 or 90 mg/kg BW for 12 weeks (Huang *et al.*, 2015). Oboh *et al.* (2015a) evaluated the inhibitory effects of chlorogenic acid on  $\alpha$ -amylase and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase enzymes. This compound showed the IC<sub>50</sub> values of 9.10  $\mu$ g/mL and 9.24  $\mu$ g/mL for  $\alpha$ -amylase and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase,

respectively. Additionally, the same authors suggested its antioxidant properties with an  $IC_{50}$  value of 38.83  $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ .

#### Caffeic acid

The antioxidant protection of caffeic acid and chlorogenic acid against oxidative stress was studied *in vivo* using BY4741 strain and SOD and glutathione-deficient mutants of *S. cerevisiae* (Prudêncio *et al.*, 2019). In the cell viability tests, caffeic acid showed higher stress tolerance, with a 106% increase in *S. cerevisiae* BY4741. However, in the SOD mutant, the effect of chlorogenic acid was stronger than caffeic acid, with a 3.3-fold increase. Conversely, in the glutathione-deficient mutant both treatments showed a similar level of protection. Arriagada *et al.* (2019) proposed the use of a hybrid nano-carrier consisting of core-shell silica nano-spheres linked to the surface with caffeic acid. These nano-spheres characterized by a potentiated antioxidant property accept the caffeic acid alone.

#### Gallic acid

Gallic acid was able to restore vitamin C and GSH levels in the pancreas of STZ-treated rats (Kahkeshani *et al.*, 2019). Yang (2018; Patent No. CN108464949A) disclosed a kind of antioxidant lightening compositions and its applications. The antioxidant lightening compositions include element of orange peels (tangeretin) and gallic acid.

### Carotenoids

Carotenoids are a group of natural tetraterpenoid pigments distributed widely in plants. They play essential roles: (a) in photosynthesis and photoprotection; (b) as precursors for the biosynthesis of phytohormones; and (c) as signaling molecules to mediate plant development and responses to environmental cues (Sun *et al.*, 2018).

In humans, carotenoids were recognized for their biological activities associated with the reduction of risk of developing chronic diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular and neurodegenerative diseases as well as metabolic disease. Additionally, these compounds acted as antioxidants and protected the cells against free radicals formed in the tissues. Some of these compounds are vitamin A precursors (Cardoso *et al.*, 2017).

$\beta$ -Carotene (Figure 2) is an intense orange-colored pigment used as a food coloring agent (Milne, 2005). In nature,  $\beta$ -carotene is a vitamin A precursor, which is synthesized from carotenoids via the action of enzyme  $\beta$ -carotene 15,150-monooxygenase. The beneficial effects of  $\beta$ -carotene-fortified synbiotic food intake on metabolic status were studied in T2DM patients (Asemi *et al.*, 2016). The  $\beta$ -carotene-fortified synbiotic food also

contains *Lactobacillus sporogenes* ( $1 \times 10^7$  CFU), 0.1-g inulin, and 0.05-g  $\beta$ -carotene. Results showed that this synbiotic food had favorable effects on homeostatic model assessment of insulin resistance, insulin, TG, VLDL-cholesterol, and TC/HDL-cholesterol ratio, and NO and glutathione levels. Antioxidant immune response, and anti-inflammatory, anti-diabetic, and antitumor activities of  $\beta$ -carotene are also reported (Torregrosa-Crespo *et al.*, 2018). In addition, existence of a positive effect of  $\beta$ -carotene on insulin sensitivity in obese patients through a positive regulation of adiponectin, either directly or via its pro-vitamin, was also suggested (Ben Amara *et al.*, 2015).

Lutein ( $\beta$ ,  $\epsilon$ -carotene-3,30-diol) acted as a powerful antioxidant, prevented HFD-induced atherosclerosis in apoE-deficient mice by inhibiting NADPH oxidase and increasing PPAR- $\gamma$  gene expression (Han *et al.*, 2015). Additionally, it protects dopaminergic neurons against 1-methyl-4-phenyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine (MPTP)-induced apoptotic death and motor dysfunction by ameliorating mitochondrial disruption and oxidative stress (Nataraj *et al.*, 2016).

$\beta$ -Cryptoxanthin is used as a coloring agent for food products in certain countries. It is associated with the E number, E161C  $\beta$ -Cryptoxanthin, obtained from its common food sources. It exhibits high bioavailability, and  $\beta$ -cryptoxanthin-rich foods might be considered equivalent to  $\beta$ -carotene-rich foods as a source of retinol (Burri *et al.*, 2016). Recently, Dhuique-Mayer *et al.* (2020) suggested that *citrus*  $\times$  *clementina* juice enriched in  $\beta$ -cryptoxanthin (43  $\mu\text{g}/\text{g}$ ), hesperidin (2,850  $\mu\text{g}/\text{g}$ ), and pectin (376 mg/100 g) can be used for prevention of MS/T2DM. Moreover, the cancer preventive effects of  $\beta$ -cryptoxanthin have been described (Leoncini *et al.*, 2016). The study included over 6,000 subjects with oral, laryngeal, and pharyngeal cancers. The treatment with  $\beta$ -cryptoxanthin determined a reduction of at least 18% in the rate of oral and pharyngeal cancers and a reduction of 17% in the rate of laryngeal cancer.

Lycopene, one of most potent oxygen-quenching reagents among carotenoids, possessed the ability to inhibit the reactions initiated by free radicals, such as peroxy radicals or hydroxyl radicals. Indeed, cellular enzymes glutathione S-transferase, superoxide dismutase, and quinone reductase were activated by lycopene with consequent protection cells against ROS (Supatra, 2019). Owing to its antioxidant potential, lycopene (a) facilitated cell-to-cell communication at sites called "gap junctions" and consequently prevent cancer from developing; (b) stimulated the immune system; (c) regulated the endocrine communication pathways; and (d) regulated the cell reproductive cycle, preventing development of cancer (Supatra, 2019). Caseiro *et al.* (2020) also reported the ability of lycopene



to protect lipids, proteins, and DNA from oxidative damage, and stimulate the modulation of cell growth and the expression of connexin 43, insulin-like growth factor-1 and/or blood levels of insulin-like growth factor-binding proteins, as well as intermediate levels in the immune system and inflammatory processes. In addition, lycopene improved insulin sensitivity through inhibition of signal transducer and activator of transcription 3/Srebp-1c-mediated lipid accumulation and inflammation in mice fed with HFD (Zeng *et al.*, 2017).

## Terpenes

Terpenes are the largest class of natural products applied in industrial sector as flavors, fragrances, and spices as well as used in perfumery and cosmetics. In plants, these act as defense against biotic and abiotic stresses, or they are treated as signal molecules to attract insects for pollination (Singh and Sharma, 2015).

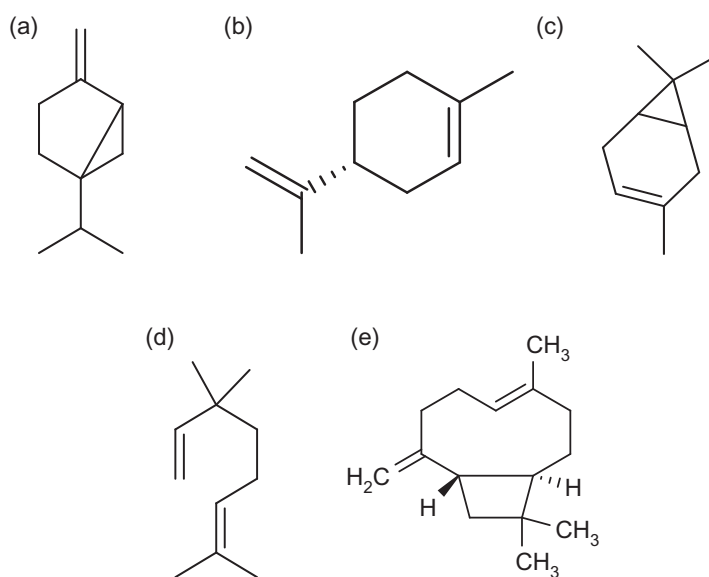
Ameh and Obodozie-Ofoegbu (2016) reported the utilization of *citrus* essential oil as flavorings in carbonated cola and *citrus* soft drinks. In particular, lemon–lime sodas contain *Citrus limon*, *Citrus aurantifolia*, and *Citrus aurantium* essential oils as main flavorings, while orange sodas contain *Citrus aurantium* oil as the main flavoring constituent.

The chemical variation of each component in *citrus* essential oil is based on variety, season, and geographical position as well as the ripening phase of the fruit (Bora *et al.*, 2020). The major components are monoterpenes

(Figure 3), and D-limonene is the most abundant element. This monocyclic terpene is consumed by humans as an ingredient of traditional foods and is listed in the Code of Federal Regulations, as Generally Recognized as a Safe (GRAS) and used as a flavoring agent (Roberto *et al.*, 2010).

The ameliorative effects of limonene on cadmium-induced genotoxicity in cultured human peripheral blood lymphocytes has been demonstrated recently (Verma *et al.*, 2019). In this *in vitro* study, at concentrations of 20 and 100 Mm, it reduced the sister chromatid exchange frequency and peroxidation of lipids.

D-limonene reduced weight gain percentage, TC, LDL, and VLDL, and increased the level of HDL-cholesterol (Khan *et al.*, 2019). In addition, the monoterpene (400 mg/kg) increased the levels of thiobarbituric acid (TBARS), SOD, CAT, and (GSH) in the liver tissue after treatment for 28 days. These results agreed with those reported by Yu *et al.* (2017); the authors observed how treatment with 50 or 100 mg/kg of D-limonene increased the levels of endogenous antioxidant enzymes. The treatment with limonene (50 mg/kg) displayed anti-inflammatory activity through decreasing TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-6, and IL-1 $\beta$  levels and increasing the level of IL-10 (De Souza *et al.*, 2019). Additionally, this compound determined reduction in gastric ulcer area (93%) and myeloperoxidase activity. Increase in GPx activity was also observed. Limonene has also reported its ability to protect PC12 cells against corticosterone-induced neurotoxicity by activating the AMPK pathway (Tang *et al.*, 2019). In fact, reductions were observed in MDA



**Figure 3.** Chemical structure of main monoterpenes of *citrus* essential oils: (a) sabinene, (b) limonene, (c)  $\delta$ -3-carene, (d) linalool, (e)  $\beta$ -caryophyllene.

and NO levels, NADPH oxidase activity, iNOS, COX-2, IL-6, IL-1 $\beta$ , TNF- $\alpha$ , and expressions of pro-apoptotic proteins.

Another monoterpene found particularly abundant in *citrus* essential oil is sabinene which acts as a potential modulator of bacterial resistance. It could act in synergism with antibiotics to reduce MIC values against bacterial strains of PA03 and SA358 (Matias et al., 2016).

Linalool is an acyclic monoterpene tertiary alcohol (Figure 3) and is one of the most investigated aroma compounds. Currently, linalool and citral are mainly used as flavoring and natural preservatives due to their antimicrobial and antifungal ability. Indeed, they were used to extend the short shelf-life of seafood products and cheese because of their capacity to reduce populations of microorganisms, especially Enterobacteriaceae (Bora et al., 2020). At a concentrations of 0.1%, linalool exhibited antimicrobial activity against different strains such as *S. aureus*, *E. coli*, *B. subtilis*, and *Pasteurella multocida*, with major activity against Gram-positive bacteria than Gram-negative bacteria.

Baldissera et al. (2017) evaluated the effect of  $\beta$ -caryophyllene on hypercholesterolemia in rats and the possible effect on hepatic antioxidant enzymes. Administration of  $\beta$ -Caryophyllene at a dose of 1.0 mL/kg for 3 days reduced the levels of TC, LDL-cholesterol, and TG, inhibited the HMG-CoA reductase activity, and increased the antioxidant system of ROS and TBARS levels. These results agree with those reported by Basha and Sankaranarayanan (2016), who investigated the effect of  $\beta$ -caryophyllene on hyperglycemia. Oral administration of this compound (200 mg/kg BW) for 45 days reduced the level of glucose and increased the level of insulin, with restored antioxidant status enhancing the activity of CAT, SOD, and GPx as well as inhibition of pro-inflammatory cytokines, TNF- $\alpha$  and IL-6. It has been recently demonstrated that  $\beta$ -caryophyllene reduced PGE2 and iNOS production and COX-2 expression (Hu et al., 2017). Varga et al. (2018) have successively evidenced that at a dose of 10 mg/kg BW, this compound improved the chronic and binge alcohol-induced liver injury and inflammation by attenuating the pro-inflammatory phenotypic “M1” switch of Kupffer cells and diminishing the expression of E-Selectin, P-Selectin, and neutrophil infiltration. Additionally, it ameliorated the hepatic metabolic dysregulation, such as protein hyperacetylation, steatosis, and PPAR- $\gamma$  – gene signaling. These protective effects were correlated to activation of type-2 cannabinoid receptor. Interaction with this receptor causes the expression of vascular cell adhesion molecule-1 mediated by the JAK2/STAT1/IRF-1 pathway (Zhang et al., 2017).

## Conclusion

A critical review of recent studies on the health properties of different portions of *citrus* fruits and their major bioactive compounds was reported. It was interesting to observe that not only the edible portion but also its by-products are characterized by high biological value. A large number of *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies have suggested an inverse relationship between increased consumption of *citrus* fruits and lowered risk of chronic diseases correlated to their large contents in polyphenols responsible for a wide range of beneficial effects in humans. The extraction of this bioactive compound, its addition to food, and development of nutraceuticals have gained increasing interest. In addition, *citrus* essential oils are frequently used as natural alternatives to synthetic preservatives for food safety, packaging, and preservation.

Interest in this plant genus is evidenced by the numerous patents and nutraceutical/pharmaceutical products already on the market for the prevention and treatment of numerous pathological conditions, including those related to metabolic disorders.

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