



Valorization of Grape by-Products

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Abstract: The by-products of processed grape (grape seeds and grape peels) can be recovered for further food applications. Extracts of grape by-products were obtained with solvents of different polarity (aqueous acetone, methanol and ethanol) and assayed for their total phenolic content and antioxidant activity. The high amount of total phenols was found in grape seeds. Higher yields of phenolic antioxidants were recovered with acetone. The recovery of phenolic antioxidants from the peels and seeds of processed grape could be a valuable alternative to traditional disposal routes (including landfill), in particular for cooking grape varieties. The recycling process could enhance the growth of traditional culinary markets thanks to the new business opportunities for the peel-derived and seed-derived materials.

Keywords: Waste Valorisation, Peel and Seeds Polyphenols, Antioxidant Value

1. Introduction

The agricultural sector produces a large amount of by-products and wastes, representing an increasing interest as industrial crops both due to the economic reasons and from the environmental concerns.

Grapes (*Vitis vinifera*) belong to Vitaceae family. There are many reports on the benefits of eating grapes as they are known to be packed with nutrients such as magnesium, vitamins (A, B1, B2, B6 and C) and possess antioxidants properties. Grapes are effective as anti-ageing agents through the effects of resveratrol, a molecule in the skin pulp [AHMAD, W., 2014].

The grape is one of the major fruit crops worldwide and its harvest is about 60 millions tones per year [LAFKA, T.I., 2007]. About 80% of the harvest is utilized for winemaking and the grape waste is about 20% of the weight of processed grapes [MAZZA, G., 1993]. Grape pomace consists in the skin, stems and seeds of grapes that remain after processing in the wine and juice industry [MUÑOZ-GONZÁLES, C., 2013]. Grape processing wastes can be an important economical problem to producers besides the environmental impact caused by the large amount of these types of residues generated during the harvest season. The majority of this pomace is discarded as natural waste or distilled to produce alcohol and other distilled beverages. Therefore, the wineries will have new economic difficulties with winery waste management.

Some traditional applications of grape pomace are for animal feed formulations or compost production, without any pre-treatment. Recently, the scientific works carried out on the characterization of the chemical components of grape waste by-products have allowed looking for different applications in trying to obtain high added value ingredients. Some of these applications are the production of grape-seed oil [FIORI, L., 2007] or biodiesel from it [FERNÁNDEZ, C.M., 2010], obtaining dietary fibre [IGARTUBURU, J.M., 1998] and the extraction of polyphenols with antioxidant properties [PINELO, M., 2005].

Marks, stems and dregs (sludgy residual deposits at the bottom of fermentation vats) represent sources of antioxidants that have been relatively unexploited to date, but are of increasing industrial interests. If stalks are stripped from grape prior to crushing, winery marc consists of approximately 30% seeds and 70% skin and pulp. Studies on grape seeds are rather limited, despite their richness in polyphenolic substances, mainly monomeric and oligomeric flavanols [TOUNSI, M.S., 2009]. Phenolic compounds have received considerable attention due to their pharmacological effects, including antimicrobial and antioxidant activities [DELIORMANORHAN, D., 2009]. Alternatively, polyphenols from grape pomaces are suggested to be a valuable crop for the production of adhesives [MENDES, J.A.S., 2013]. There are different efficient

detection methods [RZEPECKA-STOJKO, A., 2010].

In recent years, antioxidants have gained more importance because of their positive involvement as health promoters in conditions such as cardiovascular problems, atherosclerosis, treatment of many forms of cancer, and the ageing process. Many antioxidants compounds, naturally occurring in plant sources have been identified as free radical scavengers [DUH, P.D., 1998]. Nowadays, interest has considerably increased in finding naturally occurring antioxidants for use in food or medicinal materials to replace synthetic antioxidants, which are being restricted due to their side effects such as carcinogenicity [ZHENG, W., 2001, HABEEBULLAH, S.F.K., 2010]. Natural antioxidants are required at higher level than artificial products, so the importance of identifying active components and optimizing usage is emphasized [MOHAMED, H.M.A.,].

The antioxidant activity may be determined using different free radicals. One of the methods use DPPH or 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl, which as radical is violet and in reduced form is yellow. The reduction is made with antioxidants and the color variation is used to evaluate the antioxidant concentration needed to reduce a certain amount of radicals. Spectrophotometric measurements can determine the color variation [SÁNCHEZ-MORENO, C., 2002].

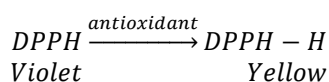


Figure1. DPPH method scheme.

The utilization of by-products from winemaking is an urged problem in Europe within context of recently posed regulations presuming measures against burying of wine by-products affecting the soil erosion/compaction and the quality of groundwater [CCE, 2006].

In the present investigation, phenolic content of seed and peel methanolic, ethanolic and aqueous acetone extracts of *Vitis vinifera* (Babeasca, Fraguta, and Tamaioasa) were investigated by spectrophotometry. Antioxidants activity against DPPH radical of these extracts were assayed too.

2. Materials and Methodology

2.1. Chemicals

DPPH (1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl) and Folin-Ciocalteu reagent were purchased from Aldrich. These solutions were wrapped in aluminium foil and stored at 40C. All other chemicals used were of analytical grade.

2.2. Plant Material

Our study was carried out on rape seeds and peels of grape of three varieties (*Vitis vinifera* L.) Babeasca (red grape), Fraguta (rosé grape) and Tamaioasa (white grape). 1 kg of samples has been harvested, dating from September 2013, from the local market. Seeds and peels were manually separated and dried at ambient temperature in dark until used.

2.3. Polyphenol Extraction

The air-dried seeds and peels were ground. 1 g of this ground material was extracted by stirring with 10 mL of pure methanol, ethanol and aqueous acetone for 30 min. The extracts were then kept for 24 h at 40C, filtered through a Whatman No4 filter paper, and evaporated under vacuum to dryness and stored at 4°C until analyzed [MAU, J.L., 2001].

2.4. Total Phenolic Content

Total phenolic contents were assayed using the Folin-Ciocalteu reagent, following Singleton's method slightly modified by Dewanto et al. [DEWANTO, V., 2002]. An aliquot (0.125 mL) of a suitable diluted methanolic, ethanolic and aqueous acetone seed and peel extract (0.25 mg.mL⁻¹) was added to 0.5 mL of deionized water and 0.125 mL of the Folin-Ciocalteu reagent. The mixture was shaken and allowed to stand for 6 min, before adding 1.25 mL of 7% Na₂CO₃ solution. The solution was then adjusted with deionized water to a final volume of 3 mL and mixed thoroughly. After incubation for 90 min at 230C, the absorbance versus prepared blank was read at 760 nm. The phenolic content of seeds and peels (three replicates per treatment) was expressed as mg gallic acid equivalents (GAE) per gram of dry weight through the calibration curve with gallic acid. The calibration curve range was 50-400 mg.mL⁻¹ (R² = 0.99).

2.5. DPPH Assay

The electron donation ability of the obtained methanol, ethanol and aqueous acetone extracts was measured by bleaching of the purple-colored solution of 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl radical (DPPH) according to the method of Hanato et al. [HANATO, T., 1988]. 2 mL of methanolic grape seed and peel extracts were added to a 0.5 mL of a 0.2 mmol.L⁻¹ DPPHmethanolic solution. The mixture was shaken vigorously and left standing at room temperature for 30 min. The absorbance of the resulting solution was then measured at 517 nm after 30 min. The antiradical activity (three replicates per treatment) was expressed as IC₅₀ (mg.mL⁻¹), the concentration required to cause a 50% DPPH inhibition. A lower IC₅₀ value corresponds to a higher antioxidant activity of seed and peel extract. The ability to scavenge the DPPH radical was calculated using the following equation:

$$\text{DPPHscavenging effect (\%)} = \left[\frac{(A_0 - A_1)}{A_0} \right] \times 100$$

where A_0 is the absorbance of the control at 30 min, and A_1 is the absorbance of the sample at 30 min. Samples were analyzed in triplicate.

2.6. Statistics

Samples were assayed in triplicate and results are given as averages \pm SD. Student's *t* test was used for the statistical evaluation and $p < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1. Total Phenolics Contents

Based on the absorbance values of methanolic extract solutions reacted with the Folin-Ciocalteu reagent and compared with the standard solutions of gallic acid

equivalents, the total phenolic content is given in Figure 2. The phenolic content of seed extracts varied between varieties and ranged from 134.88 to 413.88 mg.GAE/g. Babeasca seeds have a higher phenolic amount (413.88 mg.GAE/g) than Fraguta ones (267.53 mg.GAE/g). Tamaioasa seeds presented only 134.88 mg.GAE/g.

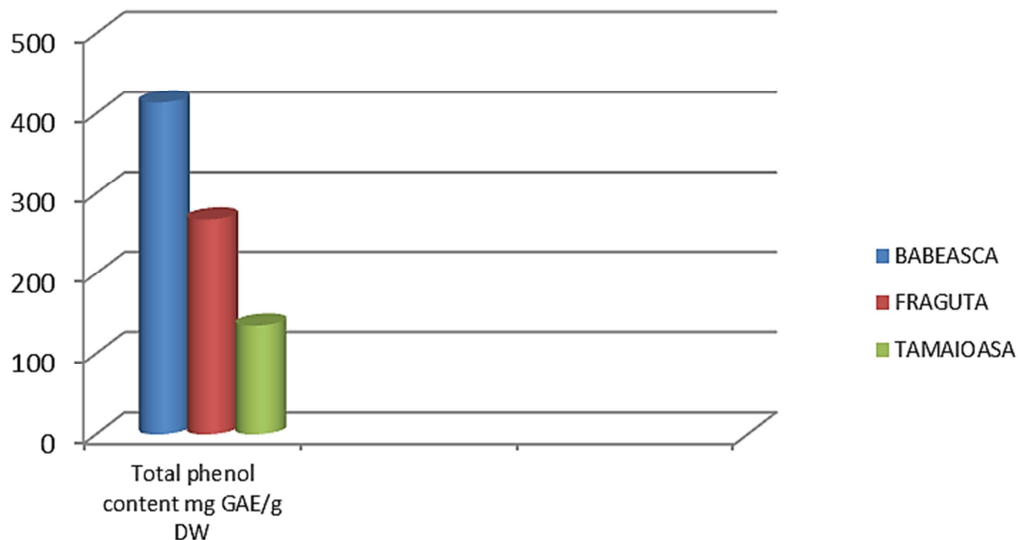


Figure 2. Total phenolic content in methanolic extracts from Babeasca, Fraguta and Tamaioasa seeds (mg gallic acid equivalents (GAE) per gram of dry weight).

Our results were different to those of Berrin et al. (2008) who mentioned the presence of moderate phenol amounts (88.11-105.7 mg.GAE/g DW) of four international varieties from Turkish *Vitis vinifera* seeds. However, Nilgün et al. (2004) noted that total phenolic content in seeds of *Vitis vinifera* L. species can reach 667.98 mg.GAE/g DW. These variations in total phenol content could be due to the various factors. One such factor may be the genetic potential of individual species for polyphenol biosynthesis [TOUNSI, M.S., 2009]. Apart from the genetic (varietal) background, maturation stage may also be critical in this respect [DE

FREITAS, V.A.P., 1999]. It was observed that amounts of all seed polyphenols in grape decline considerably, and this fact was attributed to an initiation of oxidative phenomena, which appeared to follow second order kinetics [KENNEDY, J.A., 2000].

Winery waste was ground before extraction in order to reduce particle size and increase the yield of extracted phenols and their antioxidant activities. Ethanol gave extracts with lower phenol content than those of methanol. Extraction with aqueous acetone gave a yield of 43.5%, compared to extraction with methanol.

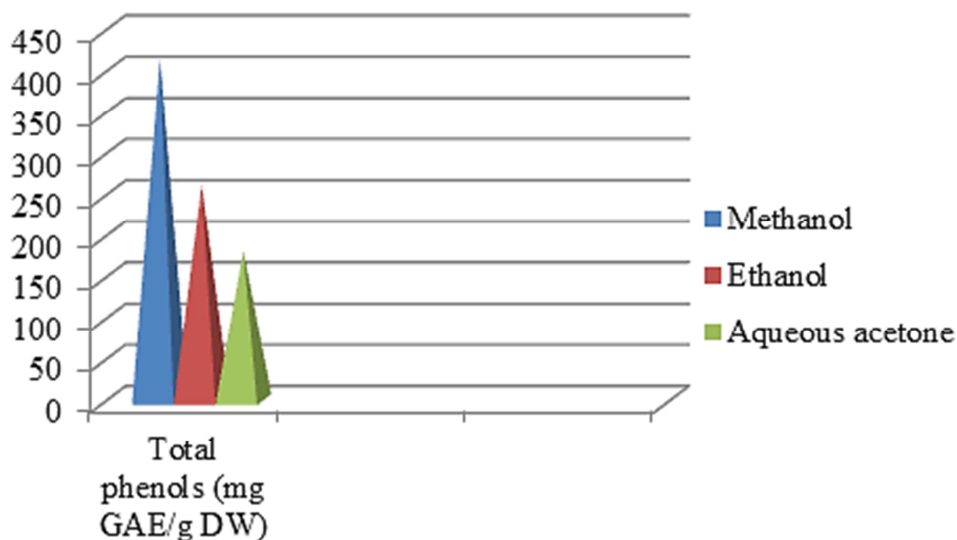


Figure 3. The effect of solvent on the quantity of extracted phenols from Babeasca winery waste.

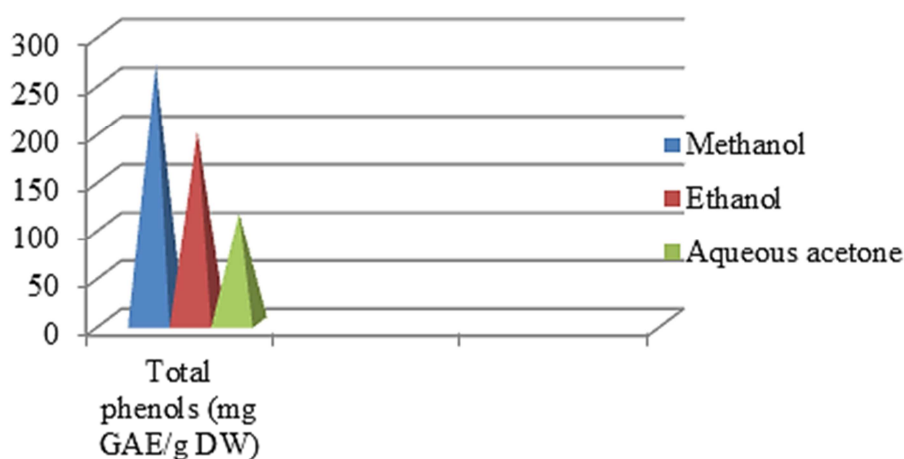


Figure 4. The effect of solvent on the quantity of extracted phenols from *Fraguta* winery waste.

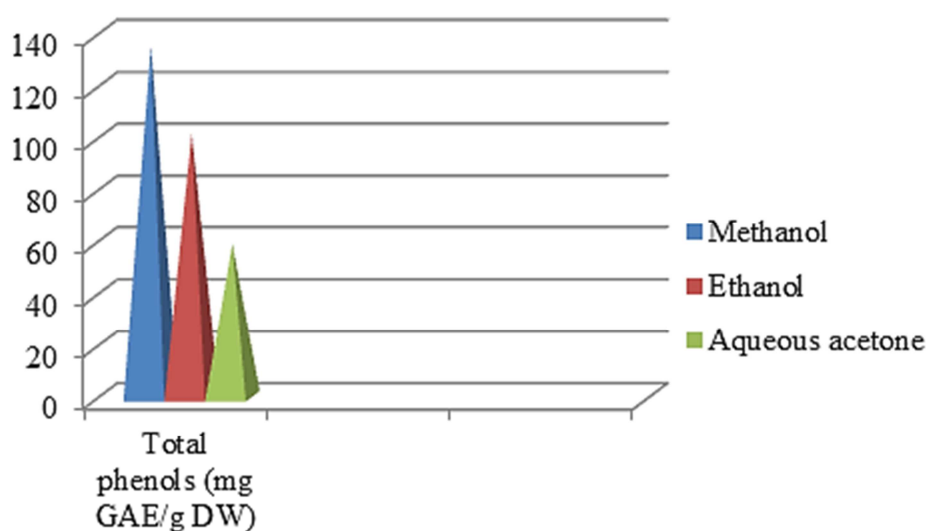


Figure 5. The effect of solvent on the quantity of extracted phenols from *Tamaioasa* winery waste.

3.2. Antioxidant Activity

The assessment of antioxidant activity showed that the examined seeds and peels were able to scavenge this radical (Table 1). *Tamaioasa* seeds displayed the highest activity compared to *Fraguta* seeds and *Tamaioasa* seeds (IC₅₀ values were: 2.8, 7.9 and 27 μ g/mL, respectively). The synergic effect of the antioxidants in the extracts should be considered. The values of IC₅₀ for the grape peels show that are no significant differences between *Babeasca*, *Fraguta* and *Tamaioasa*.

Table 1. Antiradical activity (DPPH) of *Babeasca*, *Fraguta* and *Tamaioasa* seeds and peels.

Samples	IC ₅₀ (μ g/mL) DPPH
Babeasca seeds	2.8 \pm 0.12
Fraguta seeds	7.9 \pm 0.67
Tamaioasa seeds	27 \pm 0.33
Babeasca peels	1.096 \pm 1.11
Fraguta peels	1.107 \pm 2.87
Tamaioasa peels	1.088 \pm 1.65

Values are means \pm standard deviation, $n = 3$

A good correlation was found for the total polyphenols and DPPH method ($r = 0.87$). Although researchers often reached different conclusions, the issue of relation of the antioxidant activity and the concentration of polyphenolic compounds in foods has been repeatedly undertaken in the literature. Some did not discover the correlation between polyphenol content and the antioxidant activity of plant extracts while others showed a strong relationship between them [MARKOWSKI, J., 1998, WILL, F., 2008].

4. Conclusion

The results of this work indicate the presence of compounds possessing high antioxidant activity in grape seeds and peels (*Vitis vinifera* L.). In addition, the obtained results showed large differences found among the varieties in relation to the polyphenol content.

The present study provides data for supporting the use of *Babeasca*, *Fraguta* and *Tamaioasa* seeds and peels as natural antioxidant agents, and confirms that these extracts represent a significant source of phenolic compounds.

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