

REGULAR ARTICLE

Evaluation of antioxidant and cytotoxic activity of extracts from fruits in fibroblastoma HT1080 cell lines: four fruits with commercial potential in Colombia

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ABSTRACT

Polyphenol compounds from plants have antioxidant activity because of their capacity of decrease the reactive oxidative species (ROS). Therefore, the search of new plant extracts containing polyphenols has been a priority of pharmaceuticals and research institutions. In this work we assessed the antioxidant activity and total phenol content in methanol extracts of four fruit with commercial potential in Colombia, such as *Averrhoa carambola* L., *Bactris minor*, *Vaccinium meridionale* and *Vitis labrusca*. In addition, we tested the effect of these fruit extracts on the reduction of viability induced by rotenone in cell lines HT1080. We report that *Vaccinium meridionale* exhibit a higher antioxidant capacity in comparison to others fruit extracts. However, all extracts present a slight antioxidant capacity in comparison to Vitamin C. Interestingly, all fruit extracts protect the HT1080 cells against reduction of viability induced by the rotenone, and *Vitis labrusca* present a best protection of these cells. Results describe some antioxidant properties of those fruits that could represent a therapy against disease generated by oxidative stress.

Keywords: Antioxidant capacity; Cytotoxic activity; *Averrhoa carambola* L., Star fruit; Carambolo; *Bactris minor*; Corozo; *Vaccinium meridionale*; Agraz; *Vitis labrusca*; Uva Isabella; HT1080 fibrosarcoma; Colombia

INTRODUCTION

Antioxidant properties of polyphenols are subject of ongoing research against illness related to oxidative stress-induced cell damage such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, Alzheimer Disease, Parkinson Disease and others neurodegenerative diseases (Valko et al., 2007; Circu and Aw, 2010; Albarracín et al., 2012; Sutachan et al., 2012). Polyphenols are characterized by the presence of multiple phenolic hydroxyl groups attached to ring structures, which classify them into different groups such as flavonoids, lignans and stilbenes. These structural rings act as reducing agents, hydrogen-donating antioxidants, metal chelators and singlet oxygen quenchers that give them the property of scavenger of reactive oxygen species (ROS). The beneficial role of polyphenol to the health is the reduction of ROS (Birt et al., 2001; Williams et al., 2004), which are compounds playing crucial roles in normal

physiological processes including response to growth factors, the immune response, and apoptotic elimination of damaged cells (Seifried et al., 2007). However, defects of cell antioxidant machinery cause its accumulation harming seriously the cell (Valko et al., 2007).

ROS are oxygen-containing molecules that lose an electron and become extremely reactive. Cellular redox process generates hydrogen peroxides and superoxide radicals that according to its concentration could be beneficial for biological process such as immune response, or harmful for the stability of proteins, lipids and DNA of the cell (González et al., 2001). ROS accumulation causes oxidative stress that is the hallmark in several neurodegenerative and chronic diseases such as cancer, autoimmune disorders, cataracts, rheumatoid arthritis, ageing or cardiovascular disease (Ebrahimzadeh et al., 2010; Lopera et al., 2013). That is why it is necessary to develop antioxidant treatment

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to decrease ROS by maintaining a balance between ROS and antioxidant level (González et al., 2001).

To combat the oxidative stress is available some compounds endogenously produced by cells, or exogenously obtained from nutrients or supplement with high level of antioxidants. These compounds scavenge the free radicals, inducing prevention and repair of the damages caused by ROS at cellular level. Hence, those compounds reduce and prevent the cancer and degenerative diseases (Kannan et al., 2010). Oxidative stress is a characteristic of cancer, which is a group diseases causing one in four death in United State of America (Siegel et al., 2014) and it is predicted to cause 15 millions of death by 2035 including 11 million from low- and middle-income countries such as those in Africa, Asia, Central and South America (Bender, 2014). Oxidative stress found in several types of cancer is the responsible of the DNA damage generating mutations in oncogenes or cancer suppressor genes. It has been identified more than 100 ROS-induced DNA damage that include DNA single or double strand break, purine, pyrimidine or deoxyribose modifications (Cooke et al., 2003; Cadet and Wagner, 2013). DNA damage leads to alteration of gene expression, signals transduction, DNA replication and genomic instability, and par consequent increase of carcinogenesis (Valko et al., 2007). It has been reported more than 150 epidemiological studies demonstrating antioxidant intake reduces the risk of several type of tumors; for instance, 170525 people supplemented with b-carotene decreases significantly risk of gastrointestinal cancer in comparison to placebo group (Rodríguez-Perón et al., 2001; Bjelakovic et al., 2004).

The utilization of synthetic antioxidant could reduce the ROS-induced damage in cell; however the possible toxicity and bad taste for consumers made tougher their utilization in comparison to natural antioxidant (Ebrahimzadeh et al., 2010). Therefore, it propels the investigation of plant source of antioxidants for health utilization; for instance, polyphenols (flavonoids, tannins, phenolic acids, etc) inside of vegetables, fruits or seeds are considered (Ebrahimzadeh et al., 2010).

In the present study it was evaluated the antioxidant and cytotoxic activity of extract from four fruit highly consumed in Colombia. The extracts from *Averrhoa carambola* L. (carambolo), *Vitis vinifera* (Isabella grape), *Bactris minor* (corozo) and *Vaccinium meridionale* (agraz) are considered to exhibit a potential antioxidant and antitumoral properties because of its content of phenolic compounds (anthocyanins, flavanols, flavonols, etc, Table 1) (Gaviria Montoya et al., 2009; Tobar-Reyes et al., 2009; Abreu et al., 2014). However, so far there are no studies demonstrating a direct antioxidant and antitumoral capacity in cell lines culture.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Extract preparation

The fruits were collected from plants cultured in several regions in Colombia. *Vitis labrusca* and *Averrhoa carambola* were collected from the municipality of La Unión in Valle del Cauca. *Bactris minor* was collected from the municipality of Montería in Córdoba. And finally, *Vaccinium meridionale* was collected from the municipality of San Miguel in Boyacá.

The extracts were prepared by using maceration technique (Raaman, 2006). Briefly, 100 grams of each grinded fruit (epicarp and mesocarp, the seeds were excluded) were incubated in 500 ml of HCl 1N-acidified methanol during eight days. Then, methanol extracts were evaporated in rotavap to obtain fluid extract, which it was lyophilized for 48 hours.

Assessment of antioxidant capacity by DPPH and ABTS

DPPH method

Antioxidant activity of the extracts was assessed by 2,2-diphenyl-1-picryl-hydrazyl-hydrate (DPPH) free radical assay. This violet reactive has antioxidant activity by trapping radicals and turning to transparent color. The reaction was performed by adding 975 µl of 1 mg/ml DPPH diluted in methanol, and 25 µl of each extract diluted in deionized water at different working concentrations of 50, 500, 1000, 2000, and 4000 ppm that were previously prepared from 5000 ppm stock solution diluted in deionized water. 1 ml of reactions with different concentrations of extracts (1.25, 12.5, 25, 50 and 100 ppm) was incubated for 30 minutes at room temperature, and the decreasing absorbance was recorded at 516 nm. The percentage of inhibition (turning violet to transparent color) was determined by using the $I = [(A_0 - A_e)/A_0] \times 100$ equation, where A_0 is absorbance without extract, and A_e is the absorbance with extracts. To get IC_{50} of extracts turning to transparent color that indicate antioxidant capacity, was calculated by plotting % of inhibition vs. extract concentration; then linear regression equation was calculated ($y = mx + b$), and 50% inhibitory concentration by the equation $IC_{50} = (50 - b)/m$. The results were compared to those obtained using Trolox and Vitamin C (Brand-Williams et al., 1995; Tyrakowska et al., 1999; Kuskoski et al., 2005; Sequeda-Castañeda, 2008).

ABTS method

The 2,2'-azino-bis(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulphonic acid) (ABTS) is chemical that becomes a radical cation after oxidation by potassium persulfate having absorbance at 734 nm. This blue ABTS radical cation turns to colorless solution in presence of antioxidants such as vitamin C. Hence, the capacity of clearing ABTS oxidized solution by

Table 1: Polyphenols compounds present in *Averrhoa carambola*, *Bactris minor*, *Vaccinium meridionale* and *Vitis labrusca*

Fruit	Metabolite	Quantity	Method	Reference
<i>Averrhoa carambola</i>	Flavonoids	67 mg per gram dry weight	HPLC-DAD. UV-Vis	Yan et al., 2013
		42.7 mg per gram dry weight	HPLC-DAD. UV-Vis	Khanam et al., 2015
<i>Bactris minor</i>	Anthocyanins: cyanidin-3-rutinoside, cyanidin-3-glucoside, peonidin-3-rutinoside, peonidin-3-glucoside, cyanidin-3-(6-O-malonyl) glucoside, cyanidin-3-sambubioside	1.5 mg per gram fresh weight	HSCCC. HPLC-ESI/MS-MS. UV-Vis	Osorio et al., 2010
	Anthocyanins: cyanidin 3-rutinoside, cyanidin 3-O-glucoside	147 mg/L	HPLC-DAD. UV-Vis	Rojano et al., 2012
<i>Vaccinium meridionale</i>	Anthocyanins: cyanidin 3-galactoside, cyanidin 3-glucoside, cyanidin 3-arabinoside, delphinidin-3-O-glucoside	201 mg per 100 g fresh weight	UV-Vis	Gaviria Montoya et al., 2009
		329 mg per 100 g fresh weight	HPLC-DAD. HPLC-ESI/MS-MS	Garzón et al., 2010
		151 mg per 100 g fresh weight	UV-Vis	Maldonado-Celis et al., 2014
<i>Vitis labrusca</i>	Flavonols: myricetin, kaempferol, quercetin	296 mg per 100 g fresh weight	HPLC-DAD	Burin et al., 2014
	Flavanols: (+)-catechin, (-)-epicatechin	440 mg per 100 g fresh weight		
	Anthocyanins: cyanidin-3,5-diglucoside, cyanidin-3-O-glucoside, malvidin-3,5-diglucoside, malvidin-3-O-glucoside, peonidin-3-O-glucoside, delphinidin-3-O-glucoside	1592 mg/L	HPLC-Vis. UV-Vis	Toaldo et al., 2015
	Flavonols: myricetin, kaempferol, quercetin	15 mg/L		
	Flavanols: (+)-catechin, (-)-epicatechin	554 mg/L		

many compounds is considered as its antioxidant capacities. It was prepared an ABTS solution (1 mg/ml ABTS and 890 µM potassium persulfate) that was incubated at room temperature for 16 hours. The conditions for assessing the antioxidant capacity of the fruit extracts were the same of DPPH assay (Re et al., 1999; Tyrakowska et al., 1999; Kuskoski et al., 2005; Sequeda-Castañeda, 2008).

Phenol content measurement

Total phenol content was measurement by using the Folin-Ciocalteu reagent (FCR). Briefly, 2 mg of the different lyophilized extracts were diluted in 50 ml of distilled water, of which an aliquot of 0.5 ml is incubated with 0.75 ml of FCR for 5 minutes at room temperature (RT). Then, 0.75 ml of 20% sodium carbonate solution was added to the mixture to get a final volume of 2 ml that is mixed briefly, and incubated at RT for 90 minutes. The reducing capacity of phenols reacts with the FCR, and the mixture turn to blueish color with the absorbance recorded at 760 nm (Singleton et al., 1999; Kuskoski et al., 2005; Sequeda-Castañeda, 2008). To determine the exact amount of phenols in the extracts, gallic acid standard curve was performed. For this purpose, 0.1 g/L gallic acid stock solution was ten-fold diluted in water. Then, different aliquots of 20, 40, 60, 80 and 100 µl of these dilutions were mixed with 250 µl of FCR, and incubated for 5 minutes, and then 250 µl 20% sodium carbonate solution was added to each aliquots that were brought them up to 2 ml with distilled water, finally these solutions were incubated for

90 minutes at RT. The content of total phenol in the extract is represent as gallic acid in 100 grams of fruit.

Effect of extracts on cell line viability

The dose-response effect of Isabella grape, corozo, carambolo and agraz extracts on HT1080 cell line viability was performed by using MTT assay. This method described by Mosmann and modified by Ahmadian, assess the mitochondrial function because of the isocitrate dehydrogenase, in the inner mitochondrial membrane at respiratory chain, reduces the MTT (3-[4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl]-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide) into the blue formazan product, which is recorded by spectrophotometry at 595 nm (Mosmann, 1983; Ahmadian et al., 2009). Briefly, 4000 cells/well were seeded in 96-wells plate and exposed to different concentrations of extracts (10, 50 y 100 µg/ml) for 24 hours. Then, culture medium was taken out from each well, and replaced by new media without phenol red (salt's Earle [EBS] 2X supplemented with glucose), and with 10 µl of 5 mg/ml MTT solution prepared in PBS 1X, and then the cells were incubated at 5% CO₂ and 37°C for 4 hours. After incubation time completed, the media was replaced with 100 µl of DMSO, and incubated for 10 minutes under shaking in order to dissolve the formazan crystals. After the color was homogenized, the absorbance of each well was recorded at 595 nm. Higher absorbances (Abs) represent higher mitochondrial function, so that the cell viability is enhanced. Percentage of viability was calculated by the equation: % of viability = Abs of cells

treated x 100/Abs of cells untreated.

Assessment of antioxidant activity of extract on cell lines

Oxidative stress was induced in HT1080 cell line by using rotenone, which is an oxidant agent because of its inhibition the capacity of complex I at electron transport chain in the inner mitochondrial membrane generating superoxide and peroxide accumulation in the cell. For this purpose 4000 cells/well were seeded in 96-wells plate in media. 24 hours after adhesion, three groups of cells were treated with 10, 50 or 100 µg/ml of different extracts for 48 hours, and then each group of cells were treated with 1 µM of rotenone for 24 hours. Finally, the cell viability was assessed by using MTT as described above (Matsuda et al., 2006; Matsuda et al., 2007).

Statistical analysis

The software GraphPad Prism version 5 was used. All experiments were done in tetraplicate ($n=4$) and results were expressed as means \pm standard deviations. Analysis of variance was analysed using the Tukey HSD test based on significant difference of $p < 0.05$.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Antioxidant capacity and total phenol content

In order to assess antioxidant capacities of the methanol extracts of fruits, it was performed DPPH and ABTS assays as described above. In these assays an extract-induced decrease of absorbance, the solution becomes colorless, suggests that the extracts exhibit higher antioxidant capacities. IC_{50} of the extracts in the absorbance decrease were compared to those of the Trolox and Vitamin C that are considered as positive controls. In Table 2, it is indicated that *Vaccinium meridionale* extract exhibits the higher antioxidant capacity, the IC_{50} 's are 3.8 ± 0.3 and 22.9 ± 5.4 ppm in ABTS and DPPH assays, respectively. It is followed by *Vitis labrusca* extract showing 14.4 ± 1.1 y 29.1 ± 1.7 ppm in ABTS and DPPH assays, respectively. The higher total phenol content in *Vaccinium meridionale* extract, 86 ± 4 mg gallic acid/100 mg of sample, is in agreement with its enhanced antioxidant capacity, probably due to its high content of anthocyanins and others phenols (Gaviria Montoya et al., 2009; Garzón et al., 2010). In addition, it is well known the good performance of methanol (Paladino, 2008; Borges et al., 2011) and solvents such as ethanol, ethyl acetate and acetone in the isolation of high antioxidant compounds such as flavonoids, isoflavones, catechins and proanthocyanidins (Birt et al., 2001; Arranz-Martínez, 2010). The extracts of *Bactris minor*, *Vitis labrusca* and *Averrhoa carambola*, with less antioxidant capacities exhibited less total phenol content 78 ± 4 , 49 ± 3 and 46 ± 2 mg gallic acid/100 mg of sample, respectively.

Table 2: Antioxidant capacities and total phenol content in methanol extract of fruits

Fruit extract	IC_{50} (ppm)		Total phenols mg GA*/100 g
	ABTS	DPPH	
<i>Vitis labrusca</i>	14.4 ± 1.1	29.1 ± 1.7	49 ± 3
<i>Averrhoa carambola</i>	42.7 ± 0.7	58.5 ± 3.1	46 ± 2
<i>Bactris minor</i>	29.4 ± 1.6	97.4 ± 3.6	78 ± 4
<i>Vaccinium meridionale</i>	3.8 ± 0.3	22.9 ± 5.4	86 ± 4
Trolox	3.1 ± 0.1	4.2 ± 0.5	---
Vitamina C	2.1 ± 0.1	3.1 ± 0.1	---

*Gallic acid

Furthermore, dark colors such as red and purple of the fruits as *Vaccinium meridionale* and *Vitis labrusca* showed highest total phenol content and antioxidant capacities, and in same way the pale fruit such as *Averrhoa carambola* has less antioxidant capacity (Table 2). Formerly, it has been related the dark colors of fruits with its antioxidant capacities (García-Alonso et al., 2004).

Cytotoxic activity of the extracts in HT1080 cell lines

To analyze whether the extracts present cytotoxic activity in HT1080 cell lines, we tested the effect of 10 µg/ml, 50 µg/ml and 100 µg/ml of extracts on cell viability. These concentrations were chosen based on the experiments performed by Matsuda et al. 2006, where it was performed a dose response between 0 and 100 µg/ml of methanol extracts, and in the experiments from Sonoda et al. 2004 where it was defined a cytotoxic concentration of HT1080 cells to methanol extracts between 3.8 µg/ml to 50 µg/ml (Sonoda et al., 2004; Matsuda et al., 2006; Matsuda et al., 2007). Number were seeded in plate, and incubated in media at a 37°C, 10% humidity, and in atmosphere of 5% CO₂ for 24 hours to allow the adhesion. After adhesion the cells were treated with the extracts for 48 hours, and cell viability was recorded by using MTT assay according to the protocol provider by the supplier.

The absorbance values obtained in the MTT assay, which indicate an intracellular reducing environment, are presented as percentage of viability of the extracts-treated HT1080 cells divided by non-treated cells. The assays were repeated three times by using four wells each time ($n=4$). The Figure 1 illustrates the percentage of viability of the HT1080 cell line to four extracts (A is *V. labrusca*, B is *B. minor*, C is *A. carambola*, D is *V. meridionale*). We found no toxicity in any concentration of extract assessed. The percentage of viability of each concentration of extract were no significant in comparison to control ($P>0,05$). Tukey's test was used to calculate the significance values by using the absorbance of MTT assay. Hence, we conclude that any extract reduce the viability of HT1080 cell lines in the assessed concentrations.

The absence of cytotoxic activity on the fruit extracts could

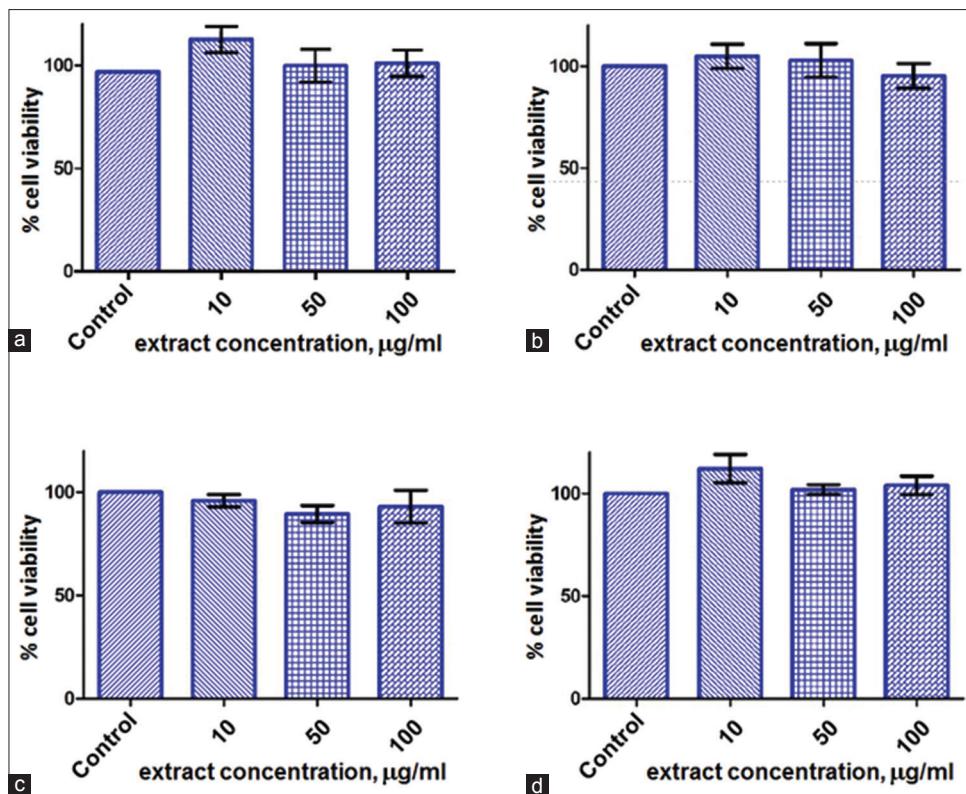


Fig 1. Cytotoxicity activity of fruit extract in HT1080 cell lines. Percentage of viability of the cells to different concentrations of the extracts. A: *Vitis labrusca*. B: *Bactris minor*. C: *Averrhoa carambola*. D: *Vaccinium meridionale*. Three different experiment with four replicates (wells) each one ($n=4$). Significance values ($P>0.05$) was calculated with Tukey's test by using the absorbance of MTT assay

be explained by the complete lack or low concentrations of cytotoxic compounds to HT1080 cells. However, it is necessary to screen higher concentrations of the extracts, and to study the fragmentation pattern of the extracts in order to test the effect of polyphenol enriched fractions of different polarities on cell viability.

Effect of the extracts against reactive species oxygen

The antioxidant activity found in the extract propels us to evaluate a possible protective effect of the extracts against reactive species oxygen (ROS) generated in the cells. To generate ROS at cellular level we treated HT1080 cell lines with a well-known natural pesticide, rotenone, which is an isoflavone occurring in the roots of several tropical plants, such as *Derris* and *Lonchocarpus* (Haller et al., 1942). Lipophilic property of rotenone allows entry into the cell without any receptor; and once there, it interferes with mitochondrial electron chain by inhibiting the electron transfer from NADH dehydrogenase to ubiquinone, and for consequence produced superoxide and peroxide radicals generate oxidative stress. Final consequence of that is the activation of apoptosis-dependent caspase-3 (Li et al., 2003).

First we assessed the effect of different rotenone concentrations on cellular morphology. We set a dose

response of rotenone to the cell culture morphology; for that, we seeded 4000 HT1080 cells in the well of 96-wells plate, and incubate them for 24 hours until complete adhesion. Next the cells were treated with 100 nM, 500 nM, 1 μ M, 5 μ M or 10 μ M of rotenone for 48 hours. Light microscopy images evidence the normal HT1080 cell culture characteristics in non-treated control, such as ovoid shape with small nucleus, clear cytoplasm surrounded with hyaline collagenous fibers and lateral protrusions (Fig. 2a). In addition, these cells growth in many layers forming mini tumors in the plate (Fig. 2a) (Rasheed et al., 1974).

In the treated cells appeared morphological signs of apoptosis, such as cytoplasmic condensations, granules formation and cellular fragments (Fig. 2b-f). These signs appeared progressively and show that 100 and 500 nM rotenone treated culture still presents high density, microtumors and lateral protrusions but the abundant vacuoles are already formed suggesting apoptosis (Fig. 2b-c). In the same way, in the 1 μ M, 5 μ M or 10 μ M rotenone treated cell culture is possible observe a decreasing cell density, less micro tumors appearance, higher amount of vacuoles, and increasing number of residual cell bodies suggesting a rotenone-induced apoptosis.

To set the rotenone concentration causing more than 60%

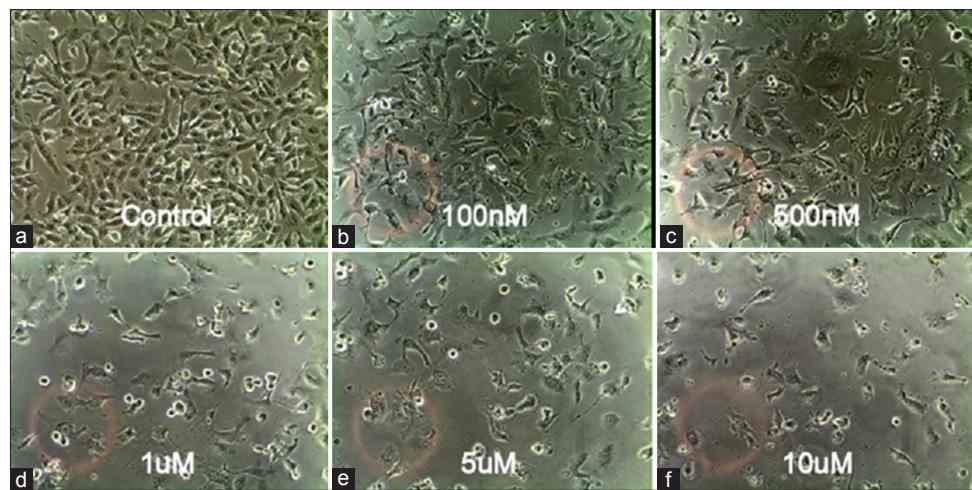


Fig 2. Effect of different concentration of rotenone on HT1080 cell culture morphology. Normal morphology in non-treated cells (a). Decreasing cell number and increasing vacuoles amount in treated cells (b-f).

of cell viability decrease, we perform a rotenone dose response in MTT recorded cell viability as described in materials and methods. 0.1 μM , 0.5 μM , 1 μM , 5 μM and 10 μM of rotenone generates a percentage of cell viability of 58 \pm 3, 48 \pm 3, 39 \pm 1, 30 \pm 2 y 9 \pm 1%, respectively. We set 1 μM of rotenone to get less than 40% of cell viability for extracts test.

Once rotenone concentration has been established, we assessed the effect of different concentrations of extracts on the decrease in cell viability induced by rotenone. For that, we seeded HT1080 400 cells in a well of 96-well plate, and incubate them for 24 hours until complete adhesion. Next, the cells were treated with 10, 50 or 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ of each extract for 48 hours; after that the cells were treated with 1 μM of rotenone for 48 hours before the MTT cell viability test was done.

The Figure 3 illustrates a protective effect of fruit extracts on the decrease of cell viability induced by 1 μM of rotenone. It was performed three independent experiment with 4 replicates (wells) each one ($n=4$). The data are presented as percentage of HT1080 cell viability, which is calculated dividing the MTT absorbance of extract treated cells between MTT absorbance of non-treated cells. 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ of *Vitis labrusca* extracts did not show significative (n.s. $P>0.05$) protection of cell viability against harmful effect of rotenone, by the contrast 50 and 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ of these extracts increased respectively the cell viability 1,5 and 2 fold versus rotenone control cells, with a P value less than 0.001 (Figure 3A). In the case of *Bactris minor* extracts, only 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ treatment exhibits a significant (** $P<0.001$) protection against diminution of cell viability induced by rotenone, neither 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ nor 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ extract treatment present any significant protection (Fig. 3B). *Averrhoa carambola* extracts presenting significant

(** $P<0.01$) protection are the treatment of 50 mg/ml of extracts (Fig. 3C). Surprisingly the 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ and 100 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ extract concentration did not present any protection to rotenone. As the results of *Vitis labrusca* above, the extracts of *Vaccinium meridionale* present a significant protection in cell viability against rotenone at the concentration of 50 and 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ (** $P<0.01$; *** $P<0.001$, respectively), however it is lower than that of *Vitis labrusca* (Fig. 3D). The concentration of 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ did not show any significant protection, as well as each extract assessed in in this experiment.

In the Fig. 3 is evidenced the antioxidant protection of some concentrations of the fruit extracts. Interestingly, this protection occurs against rotenone that is a strong inhibitor of complex 1 of mitochondrial electron chain. The effect of rotenone is the production of abundant free radical leading and oxidative stress to apoptosis (Li et al., 2003). The extracts of fruits increase the HT1080 cell viability when the cell are treated with 50 or 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ of extract for 48 hours before the oxidative stress induced by rotenone. As it is reported above, the fruit extracts does not induce viability in healthy cells (Fig. 1), it is possible to argue that the fruit extract contain high level of antioxidants inducing protection against the rotenone-induced oxidative stress. We report that the stronger antioxidant activity of the fruit extracts assessed belong to *Vitis labrusca*, it had 30 \pm 3% of protection against the injury induced by rotenone, it is follow *Bactris minor*, *Vaccinium meridionale* and *Averrhoa carambola* extracts with 26 \pm 10%, 19 \pm 2% and 10 \pm 1% of protection, respectively. All of these percentages of protection were reached at extract concentration of 500 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$, except for *Averrhoa carambola* extract that presented its better protection at 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$.

It is well known that phenol inhibits the harmful effect

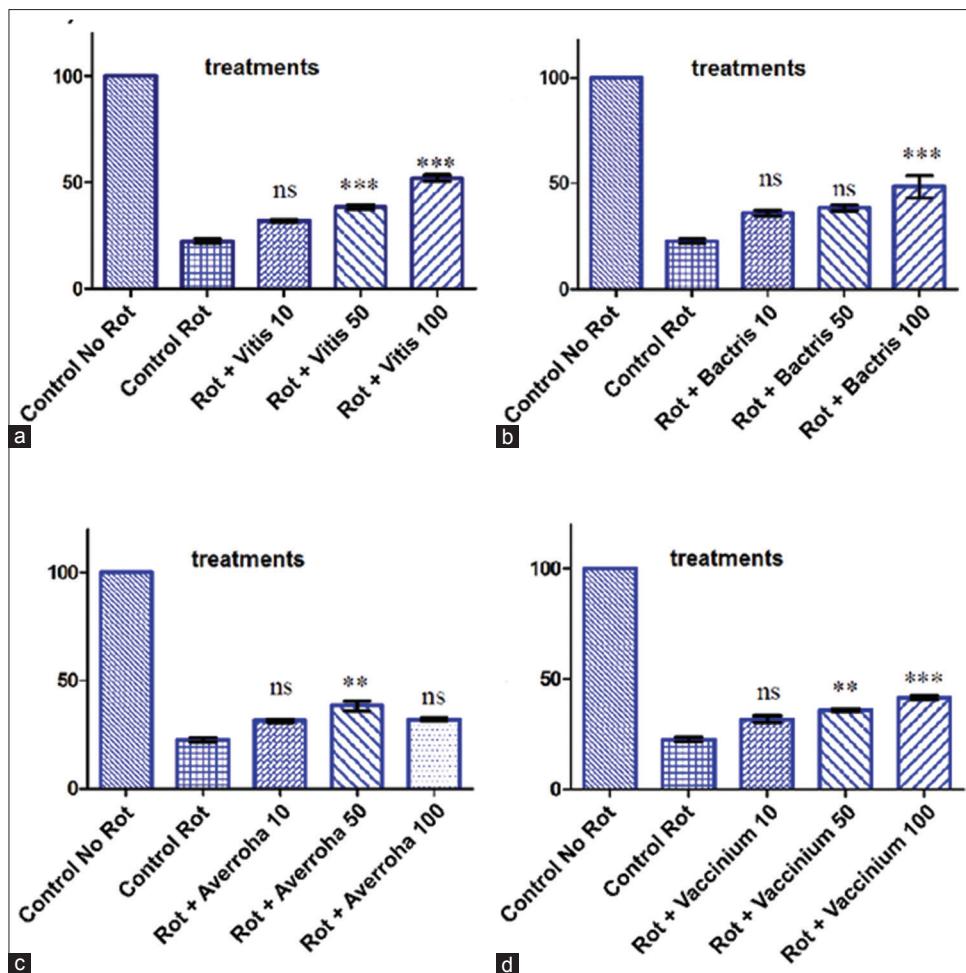


Fig 3. Effect of fruit extracts on the decrease in the HT1080 cell viability induced by the rotenone. Effect of the 10, 50 and 100 µg/ml of fruit extracts on HT1080 cell viability impaired with 1 µM of rotenone. A: *Vitis labrusca*. B: *Bactris minor*. C: *Averrhoa carambola*. D: *Vaccinium meridionale*. Three independent experiments with 4 replicates each one ($n=4$). Significance values was calculated with Tukey's test by using the absorbance of MTT assay; ** $P<0.01$, *** $P<0.001$, ns = non-significant.

of oxidative stress (Martínez-Flórez et al., 2002), because of flavones and isoflavones transfer electron to free radicals, and it remove oxidative chain generating by these radicals. The antioxidant molecule does not became a new antioxidant because of the restante electron in antioxidant molecule is inactive. At cellular level occurs because of superoxide anion, singlet oxygen molecular and peroxide radicals are neutralized by antioxidant extracts.

CONCLUSION

Vitis labrusca showed the higher antioxidant capacity in DPPH and ABTS tests. In this report we evidence a direct correlation between total phenol content and antioxidant capacity tested by DPPH and ABTS assays. In addition, the fruits extracts did not show cytotoxic activity in healthy HT1080 cell lines. These antioxidant capacities of the fruit extracts protect HT1080 cell lines against an oxidative stress generated by the rotenone. Taking all together we

can propose these fruits extract as therapeutic strategies for numerous disease related to oxidative stress injuries, as neurodegenerative disease, cancer and diabetes type II.

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Author contributions

ARB made sample preparation, biological activities, discussion and conclusion in their theses. CC, JI and LM was involved in the methodology and manuscript writing. LGSC made a major contribution to the paper, was involved in overall planning, supervision, manuscript

writing, is the lead scientist and corresponding author.

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