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An overview of functional potential of rose hips

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Abstract

Rose hips, also known as rose hep or rose haw, is the name for the fruit that blooms from a rose plant which belongs to the Genus-Rosa and family-*Rosaceae*. The hips are usually a red-orange colour, but in some species can even vary in colour from black to purple. In addition to vitamins A, B1, B2, B6, C, E, and K, essential fatty acids (Omega 3 and 6), galacto lipids, bioflavonoids, carotenoids, and tannins, rosehips (*Rosa canina*) are a good source of minerals, antioxidants, and other nutrients that are easily absorbed. The fruit contains 60 times the vitamin C found in an orange. It helps to prevent cancer, lower the cholesterol, good for the heart, treat inflammation, aid digestion, regulate blood pressure, improve skin health and improve kidney health. The production of biologically active compounds is increased when rose hips are processed using closed-loop technology. The rose hip is regarded as one of nature's finest wholefoods, a real superfood that offers a variety of health advantages.

Keywords: Rose hips, Vitamin C, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant properties, closed loop technology

1. Introduction

The rose hip is an unappetizing looking fruit and have been used for centuries in herbal remedies. Rose hips have been the ingredient for many jams, jellies, teas and beverages ^[23]. Rose hips have been used in treatments for many diseases like cold and flu, as well as to treat diabetes. To varying degrees, the chemical composition of the rose hip changes based on which variation it is, where it is grown, how old it is and other factors ^[11]. Phenolics in fruits from the Rosaceae family may have many health benefits, including antioxidant and anticancer properties. In his study, Ercisli (2007) ^[12] found that the rosacea fruit contains 96 mg GAE/g DW of phenolic compounds. Ascorbic acid, which is present in rose hips, also has antioxidant and anti-cancer effects. Recent studies lack information on the world production of rosehips.

Product	Rosa canina
Common name	Rose hip
Harvest area (ha)	8,412 3,514
Quantity (t)	3514
Main producing country	Chile

Table 1:	World	production	of rose	hips [4]
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SL. No.	Nutrients	Quantity
1.	Water	58.6 g
2.	Energy	162 kcal
3.	Protein	1.60 g
4.	Fat	0.34 g
5.	Carbohydrates	38.22 g
6.	Sugars	2.52 g
7.	Dietary Fiber	24.1 g
8.	Calcium	169 mg
9.	Magnesium	69 mg
10.	Iron	1.06 mg
11.	Sodium	4 mg
12.	Potassium	429mg
13.	Vitamin C	426 mg
14.	Vitamin A	4345 IU
15.	Vitamin E	5.84 mg
16.	Vitamin K	25.9 μg

Table 2: Nutritional value of Rose hip/100g ^[9]

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2. Utilization of Wild Rose Species in India

In India, there are around 150 rose species, both wild and cultivated. The most common varieties of rose plants in India are the *Rosa hybrida* variety ^[11, 1]. India's regions with typically lower temperatures have more native species of roses than those with higher temperatures ^[31].

In India there are many uses for roses such as foods and aromatics. Three different species of roses, *Rosa multiflora*, *Rosa indica*, and *Rosa bourboniana* (Edward rose) are used for ornamental purposes. There are also other species that can be used for animal feed, medicine and food ^[5]. The production of rose hips to be consumed is small, with only *Rosa gigantea* being harvested by locals and sold in markets. Edible varieties include *Rosa viridiflora*, *Rosa sericea* and *Rosa sericea macrophylla* that have high levels of Vitamin C as recorded in some studies.

The research shows that the fruits of rose plants have been consumed for their flavor and nutritional value. Hips of *Rosa multiflora*, which are high in carotene and ascorbic acid, are used for foods, animal feeds and medicinal purposes. Apart from food and medicine, rose hips have been used for therapeutic purposes such as *Rosa centifolia* seeds are an astringent that reduce bleeding and diarrhoea and are also used to heal wounds and ulcers. Beauty and aroma of roses is often admired by people. The damask rose is made into Indian perfumes after being separated from its petals. After it has

been dried out, sections can be powdered to make incense sticks for worshipping a god ^[31]

For making Gulkand jam, rose blossoms were utilised. To give tea a certain scent, Rosa centifolia blooms are incorporated. Rosa damascena and Rosa gallica, two of the rosa subspecies, may both be utilised to make rose water products that have medical benefits. A sore throat, heart disease and swollen tonsils can all be treated with Rosa damascena. Making tonics can also be done with the dried petals of Rosa gallica. While Rosa centifolia treats intestinal ulcers, Rosa alba flowers help reduce fever and heart palpitations. While rose pollen contains carotene, other plant parts can also be used, such as Rosa banksiae bark is used to make tonics, while the leaves are used to cure wounds. Rosa *multiflora* has shown antibacterial capabilities against Mycobacterium and gram-positive bacteria in its flowers, leaves and stems. It has been reported that Rosa moschata roots are useful for treating eye diseases ^[31]. Rose hips include substances like phenolic compounds and ascorbic acid. Due to these phytochemicals, conditions like redox equilibrium and health benefits are maintained. According to Czyzowska et al. 2015^[7], these levels of ascorbic acid in rose hips range from low to high depending on a number of factors. Their research confirms that Rosa canina has 600 mg/L and Rosa rugosa has 1200 mg/L.

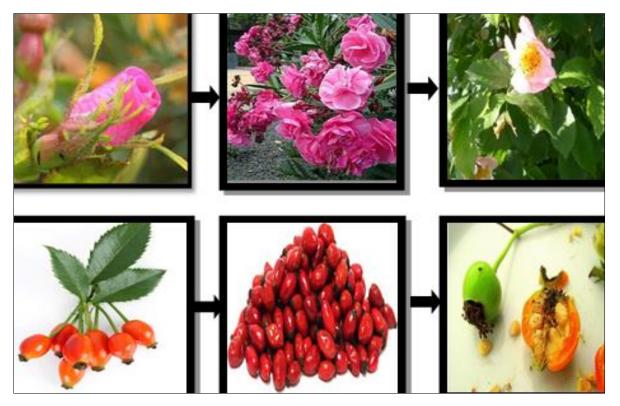


Fig 1: Rose hip cycle

3 Closed-Loop Processing Technology for Rose Hips

Chemical and technical investigations on *Rosa corymbifera* were conducted by Novruzov and Shamsizade, 2004 ^[26] to determine the most effective method of processing rose hips. The study found that the generation of substances that are helpful to the body is impacted by drying before processing. They created the frozen approach to get around this. Utilizing a semi-closed loop method, the new technique produces high-

yield concentrates of the vitamins C and P, carotene, pectin, vitamin E, and sterine. It is feasible without compromising any content because of the quicker turnaround time and economic advantages over conventional approaches. In a test on a semi-industrial scale, the production process efficiency for vitamin C ranged from 90 to 95% and for pectin from 65 to 70%, with comparable percentages for all other components, but with variable degrees of success.

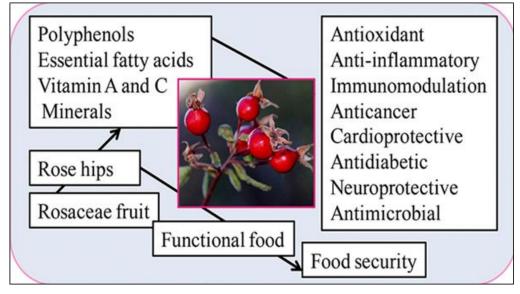


Fig 2: Nutritional Benefits of Rose hips [27]

4. Rose hips provide the following nutritional benefits4.1. GOPO is a definitive bioactive compound in rose hip

Researchers found that the (2S)-1, 2-di-O-[(9Z, 12Z, 15Z)octadeca-9, 12, 15-trienoyl] of RH powder of Rose hips contain -3-O-D-galactopyranosyl glycerol (GOPO), which is responsible for the anti-inflammatory properties and decreasing chemotaxis of human neutrophils ^[21, 29].

According to Schwager *et al.* (2011) ^[29], the GOPO found in rose hips can decrease inflammatory responses in a range of biological systems, including mouse macrophages, chondrocytes and peripheral blood leukocytes (PBLs).

A double-blind placebo-controlled clinical study from Winther *et al.* 2005 ^[32] indicated that consuming 5g of RHP daily can significantly reduce WOMAC (Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index) pain.

According to Kharazmi, 2008 ^[20], an *in vitro* experiment, human blood cells chemotaxis and chemiluminescence were shown to be suppressed by an aqueous rosehip extract. The extract was later identified as GOPO, a galactolipid, using a bioassay-guided fractionation process.

4.2. Linolenic acid and α-linoleic acid

A rose hip extract can relieve symptoms of arthritis. The extract modulates inflammation by influencing certain low-molecular-weight compounds. It has an impact on cytokines and pro-inflammatory enzymes that are also implicated in this process (Dao *et al.* 2004) ^[8]. One type of such enzyme that plays a role is called cyclooxygenase (COX). COX-1 and COX-2 are the two isoforms that make up the COX family. The isoform COX-1 produces prostaglandins and COX-2 catalyzes the conversion of arachidonic acid to prostaglandin, which has different effects on cell signaling, angiogenesis and platelet aggregation induction (Cho *et al.* 2004) ^[6]. Both inhibitors are suppressed by an organic solvent extract from the rose hips-linalool and alpha linolenic acid contribute to its anti-inflammatory properties ^[17, 18].

4.3 Carotenoids in rose hips

After using thermal lens spectrometry and high-performance liquid chromatography, the researchers detected carotenoids in *Rosa canina* fruits ^[16]. The carotenoids discovered included rubixanthin, lutein, carotene, lycopene and zeaxanthin. Quantitative analysis was used to measure these carotenoids. In a study, Hodisan *et al.* (1997) ^[16] identified that there was no significant difference in the levels of carotenoids among 10 individuals on average. Horvath *et al.* (2012) ^[17] found that the carotenoid extract of rosehips had anti-tumour, anti-Helicobacter pylori and radical scavenging capabilities when tested *in vitro* (in a petri-dish).

4.4 Lycopene

Rosehip has the highest concentration of lycopene of any fruits and berries, with 12.9-35.2 mg/10. Lycopene is best known for treating cardiovascular disorders, cataracts, asthma and other issues ^[18]. Several research groups looked into the possibility that lycopene consumption can lower prostate cancer risk. Researchers found promising results but there remain debates about using lycopene as a treatment for prostate cancer ^[2].

4.5 Vitamin C

Vitamin C, also referred to as L-ascorbic acid, is an essential water-soluble vitamin. It aids in the synthesis of collagen, norepinephrine, and L-carnitine. Alpha-tocopherol (vitamin E) has been substituted in some cases by vitamin C, a key physiological antioxidant. According to various studies, carotenoids and flavonoids increase vitamin C's stability and bioavailability in humans, making rose hips a significant source of beneficial natural sources of vitamin C that prevent oxidation ^[22, 33, 19, 7, 13].

According to Georgieva *et al.* (2014) ^[15], the rosehip tree (*Rosa canina*) produces fruits that are exceptionally rich in vitamin C and other antioxidants. The results show that the dog rose has a comparatively large concentration of Vitamin C, with the skin having the highest concentration $^{[28]}$.

5. Functional properties of rose hips

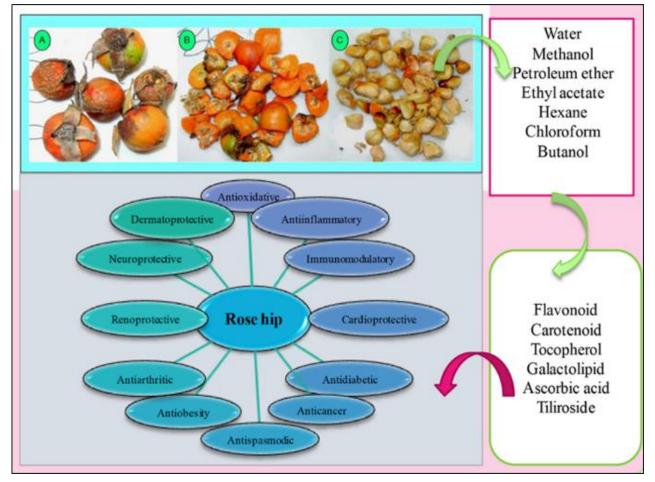


Fig 3: Functional properties of rose hips ^[27]

5.1 Anti-inflammatory and Immunomodulatory Activity

Rose hips are beneficial for knee pain and inflammation ^[30]. The following symptoms are lessened by the antiinflammatory and immunomodulatory properties of rose hips: The most prevalent kind of arthritis is osteoarthritis (OA). The friction of the bones causes discomfort, stiffness, and reduced joint movement. Recent research has revealed that prostaglandins, chemokines and cytokines are crucial for the onset and development of OA^[3]. There is evidence that the galactolipid (2S)-1, 2-di-O-[(9Z, 012Z, 15Z)-octadeca-9, 12, anti-inflammatory 15-trienoyl] an compound with chemotaxis-inhibitory properties, 3-O-d-galactopyranosyl glycerol was discovered by bioassay guided fractionation from dried and milling fruits of Rosa canina^[21].

5.2. Antioxidant Properties

In vitro antioxidant properties of RH and its components have been reported in so many studies among them the Gao *et al.* 2000 found that the ascorbic, phenolic, and lipophilic components all exhibited high antioxidant activity when investigated with a crude extract made with 50% ethanol. The phenolic fraction contributed the most to antioxidant activity, but the lipophilic component played the most effective role ^[10, 14]. The findings of Fascella *et al.* 2019 ^[13] showed that there is a lot of variation among the rose species, with *Rosa canina* and *Rosa sempervirens* hips having the highest total polyphenol contents and antioxidant activities (6784.5 and 6241.2 mg GAE/100 g DW, respectively), while *Rosa canina* and *Rosa micrantha* hips had the highest total anthocyanin contents (2.94 and 3.86 mg CGE/100 g DW, respectively)^[33].

5.3 Anti-obese activities

Nagatomo et al. (2013) [24] demonstrated the anti-obesity and anti-diabetic characteristics of a rose hips by having shown that its berries increase fatty acid oxidation in the liver and skeletal muscle. According to Ninomiya et al. (2007)^[25] rose hip extract reduced obesity in rat models by enhancing lipid metabolic activity. In addition, the rose hip extract increased the expression of the PPARa gene, which is important for reducing inflammation and oxidative stress in fatty acids. Trans-tiliroside is a compound found in Rosa canina reduces body weight in mice and inhibits fat buildup [24]. The earlier research of Ninomiya et al. 2007 ^[25] suggested that transtiliroside is involved in lipid metabolism and adipogenesis. He also observed that pre-obese volunteers had a healthier body fat distribution and more favourable levels of abdominal visceral fat after daily intake of rose hip extract, without any negative side effects.

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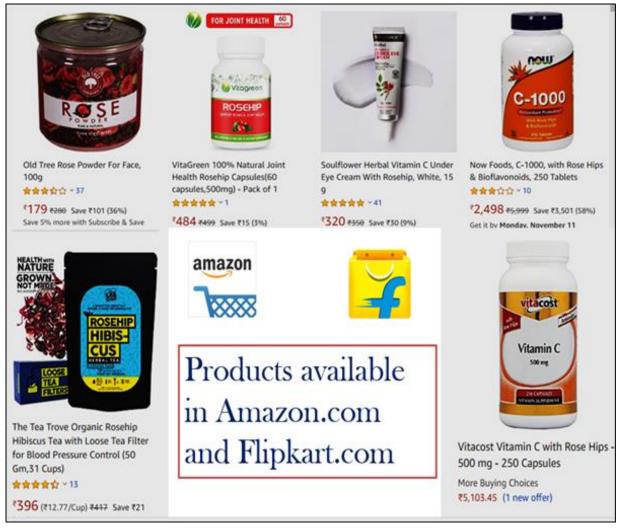


Fig 4: Rose Hips Products available in market

5. Conclusion

Rose hips are a great source of vitamins, minerals, and other beneficial compounds. According to studies, rose hips provide more vitamin C than the majority of berries that may be eaten. These research on rose hips' potential to treat complicated metabolic, autoimmune, and degenerative disorders, however, resulted in no findings. Rose hips are expensive, yet consumers are ready to spend a lot for nutritional supplements. Randomized controlled trials in human and animal intervention studies must be conducted to eliminate any potential health concerns associated with rose hip use.

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