Phenolic Content and Antioxidant Capacity of Infusions of *Vitis tiliifolia* (Humb & Bonpl. ex Schult.) Leaves

H. M. Alejandro¹, J. G. Cruz-Castillo²*, M. E. Galindo Tovar¹, D. Guerra-Ramirez³, F. Famiani⁵, O. R. Leyva Ovalle¹, J. L. Monribot Villanueva⁴, J. A. Guerrero Analco⁴

**ABSTRACT**

The antioxidant capacity and polyphenol contents in leaves of *Vitis tiliifolia* are unknown. Leaves from four accessions of *Vitis tiliifolia* grown *ex situ* in the collection of the Universidad Autónoma Chapingo, Veracruz - Mexico, were collected in Autumn (2015) and Spring (2016), dehydrated and used to make water infusions at 80°C for 5 minutes. The four accessions were propagated from wild grapevines which grow in Huatusco, Atlahuilco, Cosautlan and Ixtaczoquitlan. The aqueous infusions were analyzed to evaluate the antioxidant capacity by application of 2,2-DiPhenyl-1-PicrilHydrazyl (DPPH), and the total phenolic compounds (total reducing power) were determined spectrophotometrically by the Folin-Ciocalteu method. The polyphenols identification and quantification were determined using an ultrahigh resolution liquid chromatograph. Fourteen compounds, including *trans*-resveratrol, quercetin and rutin were identified. The infusions obtained from leaves of Huatusco and Ixtaczoquitlan accessions had the highest contents of total phenols. The infusions from leaves of Cosautlan and Ixtaczoquitlan accessions showed the highest antioxidant activities. The results indicate that the *Vitis tiliifolia* leaves in infusions are a rich source of bioactive compounds. This is the first time that the phenolics content and the antioxidant capacity of leaf infusions of *Vitis tiliifolia* leaves are reported. As a large variability was found in the compounds of the different accessions, a selection of the genotypes with the most suitable composition of the leaves for their use in infusions and subsequent cultivation could represent a way for the valorization of *Vitis tiliifolia* and to diversify the agricultural productions in tropical areas.

**Keywords:** Grapevine leaves, Mesoamerican *Vitis*, Polyphenols, *Trans*-resveratrol.

**INTRODUCTION**

Wild and cultivated *Vitis* vine leaves are used as food and also as therapeutic remedies in different countries (Tobar-Reyes *et al.*, 2009, 2010). The wild grapevines (*Vitis* spp.) in Europe (De Andrés *et al.*, 2012) and America (Cruz-Castillo *et al.*, 2009) are not cultivated, and sometimes they are overexploited *in situ* for the beneficial properties of their fruits and leaves in the human health.

Grapevine leaves are of great interest in phytotherapy as they exhibit antioxidant, anticancer, antispasmodic and antibacterial

¹ Faculty of Agricultural Biological Sciences, University of Veracruzana, Córdoba, Veracruz, Mexico.
² Oriente Regional University Center, Chapingo Autonomous University, Huatusco, Veracruz, 94100. Mexico.
³ Natural Products Laboratory, Chemistry Area, Chapingo Autonomous University, km 38.5 Carretera Mexico_Texcoco, Chapingo, Mexico state, 56230, Mexico.
⁴ Advanced Molecular Studies Network, Biomimic® Cluster, National Institute of Ecology, Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico.
⁵ Department of Agricultural Sciences, Food and Environmental, University of Perugia, Borgo XX Giugno 74, 06121 Perugia, Italy.
* Correspondent author; e-mail: jcruzc@chapingo.mx

829
properties (Pignatelli et al., 2006). They are also used for the symptomatic treatment of mild to moderate chronic venous insufficiency in humans (Ortiz, 2004). Their properties are mainly due to their content of phenolic compounds that protect against various diseases because they eliminate free radicals (Yilmaz and Toledo, 2004). Among phenols, an important group of compounds in Vitis leaves is represented by flavonoids, which prevent platelets aggregation and induce muscle relaxation (Nijveltd, 2001), and together with proteoglycans, exert an inhibitory effect on allergic symptoms (Theoharides and Bielory, 2004). Among phenols, an important group of compounds in Vitis leaves is represented by flavonoids, which prevent platelets aggregation and induce muscle relaxation (Nijveltd, 2001), and together with proteoglycans, exert an inhibitory effect on allergic symptoms (Theoharides and Bielory, 2004). The stilbenoid, resveratrol, which is present in extracts of seeds, fruit and leaves of grapevine, may increase brain capacity and longevity (Barnes and Prasain, 2005). In plants, resveratrol accumulates in response to infections by fungi, UV radiation, external chemicals, and, in general, stress-causing factors (Jeandet et al., 2002). Then, as leaves of grapevines contain such useful compounds (Tobar-Reyes et al., 2009; Bárcena, 2014), the leaves of Vitis tiliifolia, native of the tropics in America (Tröndle et al., 2010), could represent an opportunity for the development of medicinal and nutritious infusions. In this context, the purpose of this work was to identify and quantify the total phenolic compounds, and the antioxidant capacity of leaf aqueous infusion extracts of the grapevine Vitis tiliifolia.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant Material and Treatments

Mature leaves of four Vitis tiliifolia (Humb & Bonpl. Ex Schult.) accessions, 6-year-old, grown ex situ in the collection of the Universidad Autónoma Chapingo, at Huatusco, Veracruz, Mexico (19° 08’ 48” N 96° 57’ 00” W, 1,344 m), were randomly harvested from the whole vines at about 80 cm from the soil. The leaf samples were collected after fruit harvest in November 2015 (Autumn) and after flowering in June 2016 (Spring). These accessions were under the same type of soil and climatic conditions. They were from grapevines that grew wild in the counties of Huatusco, Ixtacoquitlan, Cosautlan, and Atlahuicco in the state of Veracruz, Mexico (Cruz-Castillo et al., 2009).

The leaves were dried at 43°C to avoid leaves damage during six hours in an oven (Dehydrator Weston®). For the chemical extraction, 0.1 g of dehydrated powdered leaves were added to 20 mL of distilled water at 80°C for 5 minutes. Samples of the infusions were then stored at -20°C until analysis.

Total Phenolic Content

Total phenolic compounds (total reducing power) were determined spectrophotometrically according to the Folin-Ciocalteu method (Singleton et al., 1965), using gallic acid as calibration standard in concentrations from 0.5 to 4.5 mg mL⁻¹. Folin-Ciocalteu reagent was freshly prepared (1:10 v/v). In each microplate well, an aliquot of the infusions (25 μL), water (125 μL), Folin-Ciocalteu reagent (20 μL) and 20% Na₂CO₃ (30 μL) were added. After incubation for 30 min at room temperature, absorbance was measured at 750 nm in a microplate reader (Synergy 2 Microplate reader, Biotek International, software Gen5) versus a blank. The blank consisted of 25 μL of distilled water instead of the sample. A Gallic Acid standard curve with a linear range (2.5-29.0 µg GA mL⁻¹) was prepared from a freshly made 0.5 mg mL⁻¹ gallic acid stock solution. The standard curve was linear (y= 40.267+0.0412 and R²= 0.9824). Results were expressed as mg Gallic Acid Equivalents per gram of dry leaves (mg GAÉ g⁻¹ DW). All samples were analyzed in triplicate.

Antioxidant Capacity

The antioxidant capacity application of 2,2-DiPhenyl-1-PicrilHydrazyl (DPPH) was
carried out with leaves of *Vitis tiliifolia* in an aqueous extract. Three extracts were obtained from dry leaves of each of the four accessions. Each extract was evaluated four times for each antioxidant assay. The IC$_{50}$ values were calculated from a graph of inhibition rate. DPPH free radical activity was evaluated according to Brand-Williams (1995). A 1 mM DPPH stock solution with 80% methanol was prepared dissolving DPPH. Trolox calibration curve was prepared with 80% methanol using concentrations from 3.99 to 39.95 µM. Tests were done to determine which extracts degraded approximately 50% of DPPH.

Blank was prepared in eight wells with 250 µL of methanol 80%. For each accession, 12 repetitions with extract aliquots of 200 µL and 50 µL of DPPH standard solution in methanol were added to wells of a 96 wells microplate. After incubation for 30 min at room temperature, the absorbance of each solution was read at 515 nm using a microplate reader (Biotek modelo Synergy 2) to evaluate the total removal capacity of the DPPH radical (%). Results were expressed as µmol Trolox Equivalents per gram of dry sample (TE) g$^{-1}$ DW. The IC$_{50}$ value was calculated from the curve of percentage of degraded DPPH against sample concentration. All leaves extracts were analyzed in triplicate.

### Polyphenols Identification and Quantification

Phenolic compounds were extracted from 0.8 g of dehydrated leaves of each of the different accessions with 160 mL of water at 80°C, and allowed to cool for subsequent filtering. Afterwards, samples were stored at ~80°C until analysis.

The detection and quantification of phenolic compounds were performed with a 1,290 infinity Agilent ultrahigh resolution liquid chromatograph coupled to a 6,460 Agilent triple quadrupole mass spectrometer, on a ZORBAX RRHD Eclipse Plus C18 reverse-phase column (2.1×150 mm, 1.8 µm; Agilent Technologies Inc., Santa Clara, CA, USA) thermostated at 40°C.

The gradient elution program was arranged with two eluents: eluent A, pure water–formic acid (99.9: 0.1, v/v); eluent B, acetonitrile–formic acid (99.9: 0.1, v/v). The flow rate was set at 0.1 mL min$^{-1}$ and the injection volume at 5 µL. The gradient conditions of the mobile phase were: 0 minute 1% B, 0.1–40 minutes linear gradient 1–40% B, 40.1–42 minutes linear gradient 40–90% B, 42.1–44 minutes isocratic 90% B, 44.1-46 minutes linear gradient 90-1% B and 46.1-47 minutes 1% B isocratic (total run time 47 minutes). Mass spectrophotometry conditions were: Gas temperature of 300°C, with flow of 5 L min$^{-1}$, nebulization of 45 psi, capillary voltage of 3,500V and nozzles voltage of 500V. Fragment voltage was 100V, and throttle cellular voltage was 7V.

A dynamic Multiple Reaction Monitoring (dMRM) procedure was followed as reported by Durand-Hulak et al. (2015) on an Agilent 6460 134 Triplequadropole (QqQ) mass spectrometer. Quantification was performed using a calibration curve for each one of the 31 compounds analyzed with a concentration range from 0.03 to 30M. The determination coefficients were 0.99 or higher. Each polyphenol compound was reported as µg g$^{-1}$ of sample (dry weight). Each assay was performed in triplicate and data were analyzed using Masshunter software version B.06.00 (Agilent).

### Data Analysis

A completely randomized statistical design for the antioxidant capacity and the identified compound was used. ANOVA, Tukey’s test (P≤ 0.05) for mean separation, and standard deviations of the means were performed with SAS (Statistical Analysis System, version 8.1).

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Total Phenols (Total Reducing Power)
In general, the highest phenolic contents were found in Spring (June), after blooming, for all the accessions, with the exception of the Cosautlan one, which presented similar values in June and November. Leaves of the accession from Ixtaczoquitlan showed the highest value (31.6 mg GAE g\(^{-1}\) DW) (Table 1), followed by leaves of the accession from Huatusco (18.6 mg GAE g\(^{-1}\) DW) (Table 1).

Water extraction of compounds with reducing properties, among which are the phenolics from plant tissues, is efficient and recoveries achieve values from 75 to 90% (Realini et al., 1981). The phenol contents (reducing power) of the aqueous infusions of the four accessions studied were higher than those reported for leaves of several other medicinal plants (Avonti et al., 2014; Pakade et al., 2013). This indicates that leaves of *Vitis tiliifolia* have the potential for preparation of infusions for human consumption.

**Antioxidant Activity**

The DPPH antioxidant capacity was higher in the leaves of the accessions from Huatusco and Ixtaczoquitlan when the leaves were collected in Spring (June) and Autumn (November) (Table 1). In general, the antioxidant activity values shown in the present study were superior to those reported by Jiao et al. (2013) with a *Forsythia suspensa* leaf infusion. Regarding the mean Inhibition Concentration (IC\(_{50}\)), the leaf extracts of *Vitis tiliifolia* had an antioxidant capacity value between 21 and 26 μg mL\(^{-1}\). Values lower than 30 μg mL\(^{-1}\) indicate a high antioxidant potential (Ramos et al. 2003; Zhu et al., 2011).

**Identification and Quantification of Polyphenols**

In the aqueous extractions, 14 different phenols were identified and quantified (Table 2). Leaves from Huatusco showed the highest values (P ≤ 0.05) of catechin, quercetin glucoside, quercetin galactose, and epicatechin. Leaves from Cosautlan had the highest values (P ≤ 0.05) for rutin and trans-resveratrol (Table 2). The Ixtaczoquitlan accession had the highest value of chlorogenic acid (Table 2), which is the principal phenol of the coffee beverage (Farah et al., 2005; Yuki et al., 2011). This accession also had high values of gallic acid (Table 2).

The content of resveratrol of the accession from Cosautlan was 8.3 times higher than that obtained by Tobar-Reyes (2010) with *Vitis* spp leaves. Leaves of the accession from Cosautlan presented a rutin content of 1,008 mg 100 g\(^{-1}\) DW that is about three times higher than that found in the skin of the fruit of *Vitis tiliifolia* (Jiménez et al., 2018) and more than six times higher than that found in the fruit skin of 10 *Vitis vinifera* cultivars (Lacopini et al., 2008). The recorded high values of rutin in the leaves of *Vitis tiliifolia* could be due to the existence of high levels of quercetins (Table 2) that promote rutin compounds (Jeong et al., 2008).

Polyphenols, such as gallic acid, quercetin and kaempferol present in the leaves of *V. tiliifolia* were higher than those measured in muscadine (*Vitis rotundifolia* Mixch) leaves (Pastrana et al., 2003). In ten cultivars of white and purple grapes, gallic acid was in the range of 7.6-9.5 μg 100 g\(^{-1}\) FW. These values are lower than those found in the Ixtaczoquitlan accession (12.5 μg g\(^{-1}\) DW). Also, the kaempferol was lower than that observed in the Atalahuilo accession. Likewise, the quercetin content was lower than that observed in the accession from Huatusco. Thus, the presence of these compounds in our water extracts indicate the potential of *Vitis tiliifolia* oven dried leaves for the elaboration of infusions rich in phenols.

The estimated mean intake of trans-resveratrol for humans is 933 μg d\(^{-1}\) (Zamora et al., 2008). According to our results, drinking a cup of infusion of oven dried *Vitis tiliifolia* leaves (0.8 g) would contribute
Table 1. Total phenols, antioxidant capacity, and IC$_{50}$ by DPPH of aqueous infusions of oven dried leaves from four accessions of *Vitis tiliifolia* leaves collected in Spring (June-J) and in Autumn (November-N).* 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accession (Date)</th>
<th>Total phenols (mg GAE g$^{-1}$ DW)</th>
<th>DPPH (µ mol TE g$^{-1}$)</th>
<th>IC$_{50}$ (µmol L$^{-1}$)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlahuilco (J)</td>
<td>11.0 ± 0.3 d</td>
<td>251.2 ± 18 b</td>
<td>21.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlahuilco (N)</td>
<td>5.3 ± 0.0 e</td>
<td>149.7 ± 16 d</td>
<td>21.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cosautlan (J)</td>
<td>8.9 ± 0.3 d</td>
<td>118.3 ± 18 e</td>
<td>25.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cosautlan (N)</td>
<td>9.4 ± 0.4 d</td>
<td>205.8 ± 10 c</td>
<td>24.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huatusco (J)</td>
<td>18.6 ± 0.2 b</td>
<td>315.5 ± 14 a</td>
<td>21.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huatusco (N)</td>
<td>14.1 ± 0.3 c</td>
<td>142.6 ± 16 d</td>
<td>23.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ixtaczoquitan (J)</td>
<td>31.6 ± 0.4 a</td>
<td>271.8 ± 15 ab</td>
<td>21.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ixtaczoquitan (N)</td>
<td>13.9 ± 0.2 c</td>
<td>152.1 ± 11 d</td>
<td>20.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Letters identify differences of interactions between accession and date of sampling by Tukey (P≤ 0.05).

Table 2. Content of phenolic compounds of aqueous infusions of oven dried leaves from four accessions of *Vitis tiliifolia* collected in Spring (June).* 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phenolic compounds (µg g$^{-1}$ DW)</th>
<th>Atlahuilco</th>
<th>Cosautlan</th>
<th>Huatusco</th>
<th>Ixtaczoquitan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gallic acid</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>1.25 ± 0.2 b</td>
<td>12.46 ± 0.6 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catechin</td>
<td>31.3 ± 10 c</td>
<td>49.5 ± 12 c</td>
<td>1533.1 ± 18 a</td>
<td>193.5 ± 15 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanillic acid</td>
<td>79.4 ± 24 a</td>
<td>75.6 ± 26 a</td>
<td>86.4 ± 20 a</td>
<td>114.4 ± 30 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlorogenic acid</td>
<td>****</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>238.74 ± 70 b</td>
<td>961.20 ± 89 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caffeic acid</td>
<td>25.5 ± 5 b</td>
<td>88.2 ± 9 a</td>
<td>33.3 ± 10 b</td>
<td>2.1 ± 6 c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epicatechin</td>
<td>85.2 ± 15 b</td>
<td>132.4 ± 22 a</td>
<td>91.4 ± 30 ab</td>
<td>37.2 ± 12 c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanillin</td>
<td>16.8 ± 3 b</td>
<td>20.2 ± 3 b</td>
<td>17.1 ± 5 b</td>
<td>41.1 ± 8 a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coumaric acid</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>5.2 ± 2</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Routine</td>
<td>302.3 ± 52 c</td>
<td>10008.5 ± 74 a</td>
<td>2045.6 ± 100 b</td>
<td>246.7 ± 89 c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quercetin galactose</td>
<td>1527.2 ± 444 a</td>
<td>1551.6 ± 487 a</td>
<td>2221.0 ± 482 a</td>
<td>134.7 ± 100 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quercetin glucoside</td>
<td>9282.6 ± 1272 b</td>
<td>8052.4 ± 921 b</td>
<td>14979.6 ± 2000 a</td>
<td>751.1 ± 200 c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaempferol-3-o-glucoside</td>
<td>105.8 ± 20 a</td>
<td>95.1 ± 20 a</td>
<td>82.3 ± 37 a</td>
<td>***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans-resveratrol</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>160.3 ± 5 a</td>
<td>74.9 ± 5 b</td>
<td>6.4 ± 3 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quercetin</td>
<td>39.7 ± 12 b</td>
<td>50.6 ± 11 b</td>
<td>101.1 ± 20 a</td>
<td>***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Means with the same letter within each row do not differ statistically (Tukey, P≤ 0.05).

*** Values under quantification limit.

about 17.1% of the daily intake of this metabolite. The infusion of *Vitis tiliifolia* leaves represents a therapeutic and nutritional alternative for families that have access to wild grape populations in their localities. However, further studies are needed on possible side effects because an over dosage would cause nephrotoxicity (Cottar, 2010). This is the first time that the antioxidant capacity, the content, and identification of phenols in leaves of *Vitis tiliifolia* in infusion are reported.

**CONCLUSIONS**

The results of our experiments showed that oven dried leaves of *Vitis tiliifolia* have a great potential for being used for the preparation of aqueous infusions with antiradical activity and could be suggested for human consumption. This was due to the presence in the infusion of metabolites of
nutritional and pharmacological importance, including trans-resveratrol in its free form, along with gallic acid, catechin, vanillic acid, chlorogenic acid, caffeic acid, epicatechin, rutin, quercetin galacose, and quercetin glucoside. *Vitis tiliifolia* is spread in tropical areas in America as wild vines and the use of its leaves in infusion could have commercial potential for the elaboration of therapeutic drinks. As we found a large variability in the compounds released by the leaves of different accessions, a selection of the genotypes with the most suitable composition of the leaves for their use in infusions and subsequent cultivation could represent a way for the valorization of *Vitis tiliifolia* and diversification of agricultural production in tropical areas.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We thank Natural Products Laboratory of Universidad Autónoma Chapingo, Texcoco. Edo. de México; as well as the Laboratory of analytical chemistry and natural products of the Instituto Nacional de Ecología, Xalapa, Veracruz, México. To CONACYT project number 294968 for partially funding this study.

**REFERENCES**

محتوای فنولی و ظرفیت آنتی اکسیدانی عصاره آبی (اینفیوژن) برگ های Vitis tiliifolia (Humb & Bonpl. Ex Schult.)

ه. م. الجاندرو، ج. گ. کروز کاستیلو، م. ا. گالیندو توار، د. گ. ورا رامیرز، ف. فامیانی، ا. ر. لیاوا اوال، ج. ل. مونریوت ویلانووا، و چ. ا. گوررو آناکو

چکیده
ظرفیت آنتی اکسیدانی و محتوای فنولی برگ های Vitis tiliifolia دانسته نیست. در این پژوهش، در پاییز 2015 و بهار 2016، برگ های ۴ نمونه ثبت شده از دانشگاه Universidad Autónoma Chapingo، Veracruz، در مکزیک بطور پایه بودند، برداشت شد و از آنها برای نهایی عصاره آبی (اینفیوژن) در ۸۰ درجه سانتی گراد به مدت ۵ دقیقه استفاده شد. این ۴ نمونه ثبت شده از تک های وحشی در مناطق Cosautlan، Atlahuilco، Huatusco و Ixtaczoquitlan و یک تکنیک بود. عصاره های آبی به دست آمده مورد ارزیابی قرار گرفت. نتایج نشان داد، عصاره مولکولی Vitis tiliifolia مخصوصاً در مناطق Huatusco و Ixtaczoquitlan و Cosautlan بیشترین فعالیت آنتی اکسیدانی را نشان دادند. نتایج نشان داد که برگ های Vitis tiliifolia در فرآیند عصاره گیری منبعی غنی از مواد زیست-فعال (است. این نخستین بار است که محتوای فنولی و ظرفیت آنتی اکسیدانی عصاره آبی برگ های Vitis tiliifolia مورد بررسی قرار گرفت و نشان داد، این میزان از مجموعه ای از زنینه های دارای مناسبترین ترکیبات در برگ ها برای استفاده در عصاره آبی و متعاقب آن کاشت این محصولات می تواند راهی باشد برای ارزش گذاری Vitis tiliifolia و تنوع دادن به تولیدات کشاورزی در مناطق گرمی.