

# Determination of antioxidant activity of gum arabic: An exudation from two different locations

Mohamed E.S. Mirghani<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Ahmed A.M. Elnour<sup>a,c</sup>, N.A. Kabbashi<sup>a</sup>, Md Z. Alam<sup>a</sup>, Khalid Hamid Musa<sup>d</sup>, Amina Abdullah<sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Bioenvironmental Engineering Research Centre, Biotechnology Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, International Islamic University, Malaysia, PO Box 10, Gombak 50728 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

<sup>b</sup> International Institute for Halal Research and Training, International Islamic University Malaysia, PO Box 10, Gombak 50728 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

<sup>c</sup> Department of Biochemistry & Gum Processing, Gum Arabic Research Centre, University of Kordofan, Box 160 Elobied, Sudan

<sup>d</sup> School of Chemical Sciences & Food Technology, Faculty of Science & Technology, 43600 UKM, Bangi Selangor, Malaysia

\*Corresponding author, e-mail: elwathig@iium.edu.my

Received 1 Oct 2016

Accepted 8 Feb 2017

**ABSTRACT:** Gum arabic (GA) is the main product of acacia trees. As a raw and commercial samples, GA was extracted with methanol and analysed to measure the antioxidant activity using five methods: 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH), Folin-Ciocalteu indexes (FCI), which indicate total phenolic compounds (TPC), oxygen radical absorbance capacity (ORAC), ferric reducing antioxidant power (FRAP), and cupric reducing antioxidant capacity (CUPRAC). This study used antioxidant assays to detect TPC and selected appropriate and inexpensive methods to determine the antioxidant capacity of GA samples. The results reveal that the FCI, ORAC, and CUPRAC are correlated highly with FRAP. Person's correlation coefficient ( $r$ ) values are 0.98, 0.93, and 0.99, respectively, based on the sample size of ( $n = 8$ ). This means that the TPC of GA is highly correlated with their antioxidant activities that are measured by these three methods. Hence the FCI, ORAC, and the CUPRAC methods are more effective and simpler. They had similar predictive power to the FRAP of GA antioxidant activity. Consequently, GA is generally recognized as being slightly acidic which may have been obtained from appropriate methods of the antioxidant capacity detection. This acidity is due to the electronic transfer mechanism based on the selection of the working pH.

**KEYWORDS:** antioxidants, extraction, CUPRAC, FRAP, TPC, DPPH, ORAC

## INTRODUCTION

Various high quality soluble dietary fibres are found in gum arabic (GA), and they are the main products of acacia trees. Sodium, calcium, and potassium salts and other organic compounds are also found with the high-class level in GA<sup>1</sup>. Although data extraction from antioxidant activities using specialized extraction procedure of GA and its partial products is really difficult, GA could be a valuable source of ingredients for functional foods and other related applications<sup>2</sup>. If GA is presented as a competitive source of phytonutrients, such information or data will become critical. Hence a smart procedure is necessary for quick, reliable, and inexpensive screening process of the antioxidant activity of GA.

GA from *Acacia seyal*, *Acacia polyacantha*, and *Acacia senegal* consists of branched chains of

polysaccharides. Polysaccharides are being used to reduce experimental toxicity as it has strong antioxidant properties. Various studies found that GA could improve antioxidant status of the human body by protecting the liver through modulating the expression of oxidative stress genes<sup>3</sup>. On the other hand, there is a lack of studies explaining the proper extraction procedures of the antioxidant compound directly from GA. Hence this study determines various procedures and methods for evaluating the antioxidant level in GA substances. For example, the evaluation of antioxidant activities of natural food compounds or biological systems is conducted by applying various methods which produce various results. In accessing antioxidant activity in vitro, free radical is commonly used, namely, 2-diphenyl 1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH<sup>\*</sup>). Compared with a Trolox (water-soluble vitamin E analogue) standard, the

free radical is generated in the aqueous phase. Measurement of the reduction of yellow-blue DPPH<sup>•</sup> radical by hydrogen-donating antioxidant is conducted by the suppression of long-wave absorption spectrum of the radical<sup>4</sup>. The procedure is commonly known as the Trolox equivalent antioxidant capacity method. It is a rapid procedure, and it can be used in both aqueous and organic solvent systems for a wide range of pH values<sup>5-7</sup>. Although it is mentioned in several studies that the method is easy to use, it does not have good repeatability function. Neither the correlation of the method with biological effects nor actual relevance with *in vivo* antioxidant efficacy is established.

The DPPH<sup>•</sup> is a stable free radical and its absorption band is 515 nm. By reducing an antioxidant or a free radical species, the DPPH<sup>•</sup> loses its absorption band. To detect antiradical or antioxidant activities of purified phenolic compounds in natural plant extractions, the method is widely used<sup>8</sup>. A study conducted by Bondet, Brand-Williams, and Berset showed that the reaction of the most phenolic antioxidants with the DPPH<sup>•</sup> is a slow process, and it takes 1–6 h or longer to reach the steady state<sup>9</sup>. Hence it is recommended that the antioxidant activity should be observed or evaluated from time to time while using the DPPH<sup>•</sup>. The method is used frequently as it has a good repeatability<sup>10</sup>.

To measure the antioxidant capability in protecting proteins from damage caused by free radicals, the ORAC (Oxygen Radical Absorbance Capacity) method could be used as presented in some studies<sup>11,12</sup>. In this study, several generators are utilized in producing three different radicals, which are peroxy radical (ROO<sup>•</sup>), hydroxyl radical (OH<sup>•</sup>), and Cu<sup>2+</sup> as a transition metal. Generations of these radicals are vital as the measurement of the antioxidant activity of biological samples depends on oxidant or free radicals<sup>13,14</sup>.

Since ROO<sup>•</sup> is the most commonly used in biological systems, the method was adopted as standard radical<sup>15</sup>. Previous studies considered  $\alpha$ -phycoerythrin ( $\alpha$ -PE) as the target protein, as its loss of fluorescence was an indication of damage from its reaction with peroxy radical. Practically, the result of the method showed poor repeatability as accredited from the protein interaction with sample polyphenols. In a study conducted by Smina et al, the method was implemented as a new fluorescent substance (fluorescein) to use  $\alpha$ -PE as a probe<sup>16</sup>. Results of this modified method presented much longer time (2–3 times higher) than the actual  $\alpha$ -PE.

The ORAC method is fully automated and well-

standardized which are the major advantages of the method, and the values can also easily be compared in laboratories. The method is also presented as a simulator to phenols antioxidant activity in biological systems as the method reflects a better performance than other while using biologically relevant free radicals to integrate both time and level of antioxidant activity<sup>17</sup>. Conversely, it requires expensive equipment in performing the method. Because of the usages of the expensive equipment, other methods were normally chosen from various types of research, such as CUPRAC (cupric reducing/antioxidant power)<sup>18</sup>, FRAP (ferric reducing antioxidant power)<sup>19,20</sup>, TRAP approach<sup>11</sup>, ABTS for natural radicals<sup>21</sup>, hydroxyl radical searching deoxyribose approach<sup>22</sup>, the DPPH (1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl)<sup>23</sup>, LDL (lipoprotein) oxidation<sup>24</sup>, categorization of lipid peroxidation-based compounds (i.e., thiobarbituric acid reactors)<sup>25</sup>, and reactive nitrogen varieties with biological end-points (i.e., oxidative DNA damage). The main objective of this study is to determine an appropriate method for a rapid performance in extracting, standardizing, and estimating GA antioxidant activity, and its extraction products.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Materials

Neocuproine (2,9-dimethyl-1,10-phenanthroline) and DPPH (1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl) were purchased from Sigma (St Louis, MO, USA). The FRAP reagent was freshly prepared to contain 1020  $\mu$ l of 300 mM sodium acetate pH 3.6, 100  $\mu$ l of 10 mM TPTZ (Sigma Chemical), and 6-hydroxy-2, 5, 7, 8-tetramethylchroman-2-carboxylic acid (Trolox) and Folin-Ciocalteu phenol reagent (Sigma Chemical Company, Steinheim, Germany), ( $\pm$ )-6-hydroxy-2, 5, 7, 8-tetramethylchroman-2-carboxylic acid (TR) (Aldrich Chemicals Company, Steinheim, Germany), ammonium acetate, CuCl<sub>2</sub>, potassium persulphate, NaOH, CuSO<sub>4</sub>, Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, sodium potassium tartrate, 96% methyl alcohol, and methanol (E. Merck, Darmstadt, Germany). CuCl<sub>2</sub> solution ( $1.0 \times 10^2$  M) was prepared by dissolving 0.4262 g CuCl<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O in water, and by diluting to 250 ml. Ammonium acetate buffer at pH 7.0, 1.0 M was prepared by dissolving 19.27 g NH<sub>4</sub>Ac in water and by diluting to 250 ml. Neocuproine (Nc) solution ( $7.5 \times 10^3$  M) was prepared daily by dissolving 0.039 g Nc in 96% methanol, and by diluting to 25 ml with methanol. Trolox ( $1.0 \times 10^3$  M) was prepared in 96% methanol.

The solutions used in the Folin assay of total phenolics were 2% aqueous  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  in 0.1 M NaOH (Lowry A), 0.5%  $\text{CuSO}_4$  aqueous solution in 1%  $\text{NaKC}_4\text{H}_4\text{O}_6$  solution (Lowry B), and: a freshly prepared mixture of 50 ml Lowry A + 1 ml Lowry B (Lowry C). Before using the Folin-Ciocalteu reagent, it was diluted with  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  at a volume ratio of 1:3. In this study, all percentages were presented as w/v ratio, and throughout the experiment, distilled de-aerated ( $\text{N}_2$ -bubbled) water was utilized. By using Spectro-Star Nano spectrophotometer, all spectrophotometric measurements were conducted with microplate which contains 96 micro-cuvettes.

### Samples collection and preparation

In November 2015, the acacia gum nodules were collected from the Blue Nile and the North Kordofan State of Sudan. After the collection, the experts from Sudanese Ministry of Forestry and Agriculture have examined the samples of acacia gum. This was to ensure that all the samples were identified properly and cleaned from plant bark parts and sand. To make the homogeneity of the samples and random selection of a nodule of GA were divided into two pieces. One piece of the nodule was grounding and made into a mechanical powder using USA standard testing sieve (Fisher Company) with 1.40 mm mesh size. Then by using Glossaries (DHAUS sensitive balance with 20 ml capacity in each vial), 1 g of gum powder was measured and 10 ml of absolute methanol was added into each vial. Additionally, all vials which contained samples and solvent were placed into magnetic stirrer (Model: RT 15P; Serial: 2930700). Then the samples were left to rotate for 24 h. Next, by using centrifuge (Mini, China), all extracted samples were centrifuged for 10 min at a stirring speed of 1000 rpm. Furthermore, a filtering process was applied to the clarified suspension by using Sartorius PTEF 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$  filter and the supernatants were stored in a freezer below  $-25^\circ\text{C}$  until the analysis was conducted.

### Extraction of antioxidant

To evaluate the capacity of phenolic extraction as convenient antioxidant from GA as acacia complex group of gum (ACGG), organic solvents were applied. Additionally, two more commercially available gum samples, *Almana* and *Taybat*, were exudated from *A. senegal* and *A. seyal*, respectively. Used solvents were acetone, ethanol, and methanol. All the used solvents and chemicals were with their analytical grades. The procedure of solvent

extraction was conducted based on the extraction techniques presented in Ref. 26.

First, by using Glossaries DHAUS analytical balance, 1 g of ACGG dry power was measured precisely. To, investigate the solvent effect on the phenolic compound; each sample was mixed with 10 ml of methanol, ethanol, and acetone. The phenolic compounds were placed in vials and the vials were wrapped with aluminium foil to protect the mixture being spilled off and from lights exposure. The mixture was then shaken for 24 h at ambient temperature. Finally, by using Sartorius PTEF 0.45  $\mu\text{m}$  the ACGG extract was filtered properly. The filtrate was filled into vials and preserved at  $-20^\circ\text{C}$  until further analytical usages.

### Determination of Folin-Ciocalteu index for total phenolic contents (TPC)

For determination of TPC, the Folin-Ciocalteu Index (FCI) assay was used with slight modifications; the procedure adopted follows the method described by 6. Approximately 0.5 ml diluted Folin-Ciocalteu reagent was added to 100  $\mu\text{l}$  sample extracts and allowed to set for 5 min before addition of 1 ml (8%) of  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  (w/v). The absorbance was taken at 765 nm wavelength using the spectrophotometer after 2 h, and the result recorded in terms of mg of gallic acid equivalent.

### Radical scavenging activity (DPPH)

The antioxidant activity was evaluated using a 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH), followed the method in Ref. 4. By using a spectrophotometer (Spectro Nanostar, Germany) at 517 nm wavelength, the DPPH was freshly produced by liquefying 40 mg DPPH in 1000 ml of methanol to obtain a  $1.00 \pm 0.01$  unit of absorbance. Before keeping it in the dark for 2 h, approximately 100  $\mu\text{l}$  of sample were mixed up with 1 ml of the DPPH solution. DPPH scavenging activity was determined as  $\text{DPPH}_{\text{sc}} = (A_{\text{con}} - A_{\text{sample}})/A_{\text{con}}$ , where  $A_{\text{con}}$  and  $A_{\text{sample}}$  represent the absorbance of the control and sample, respectively.

### Reducing antioxidant capacity (CUPRAC)

The procedure of the CUPRAC method is explained in Ref. 27. According to the procedure,  $\text{CuCl}_2$ , neocuproine (2,9-dimethyl-1,10-phenanthroline), ammonium acetate buffer, and water (1 ml each) were mixed together before adding to the sample (0.1 ml). Against a reagent blank, the absorbance was recorded at 450 nm of wavelength after 30 min of the previous step. In this

case, the UV-Vis spectrophotometer (Nanostar spectrophotometer, USA) was used. Per 100 g of fresh sample (mg TE/100 g of FW), the result is presented as mg of Trolox Equivalent (TE).

#### Determination of ferric reducing antioxidant power (FRAP)

Fresh FRAP reagent was prepared using 300  $\mu\text{M}$  acetate buffer, pH 3.6 (3.1 g sodium acetate trihydrate, plus 16 ml glacial acid were mixed up with distilled water as 1:1); 10  $\mu\text{M}$  TPTZ (2,4,6-tris (2-pyridyl)-s-triazine), in 40  $\mu\text{M}$  HCl; and 20  $\mu\text{M}$   $\text{FeCl}_3 \cdot 6\text{H}_2\text{O}$  with the ratio of 10:1:1 to prepare the working reagent. Then after 30 min, around 1 ml of FRAP reagent was added with 100  $\mu\text{l}$  of samples and by using a spectrophotometer, the absorbance was placed at 595 nm wavelength. The result was presented in mg of Trolox equivalent (TE) as per 100 g of fresh sample (mg TE/100 g of FW)<sup>28</sup>.

#### Oxygen radical absorbance capacity (ORAC)

The FLUO star Omega microplate fluorescence reader (BMG LABTECH, Offenburg, Germany) was used with an excitation wavelength of 485 nm and an emission wavelength of 520 nm. 2,2'-azobis(2-amidino-propane) dihydrochloride (AAPH), fluorescein, and 6-hydroxy-2,5,7,8-tetramethylchroman-2-carboxylic acid (Trolox) were prepared in 75  $\mu\text{M}$  phosphate buffer (pH 7.4). Fresh AAPH (153  $\mu\text{M}$ ) and Trolox (2  $\mu\text{M}$ ) were prepared when fluorescein (10 nm) was generated earlier and kept in dark condition at 4°C. To make 3.125  $\mu\text{M}$  to 50  $\mu\text{M}$  working solutions, the Trolox standard was mixed in the phosphate buffer. Then, 150  $\mu\text{l}$  of fluorescein was added to 96-wells plate (Nunc, Thermo Scientific), followed by 25  $\mu\text{l}$  of Trolox, buffer (blank), or sample. Then, with the uses of the injector, AAPH (25  $\mu\text{l}$ ) was injected. By subtracting the AUC of the blank from AUC of a sample, ORAC values were calculated based on net area under the curve (AUC). The value was compared with Trolox standards curve and the result was expressed in micromole ( $\mu\text{mol}$ ) Trolox equivalents (TE).

#### Statistical analysis

By using the same extract, each analysis of antioxidant activity was conducted three times. The differences in antioxidant activities which resulted from these methods were also tested by conducting an ANOVA (MINITAB software version 17). To determine significant differences, Fisher's new multiple range tests were applied. Among the obtained data, correlations were identified by using Pearson's

correlation coefficient ( $r$ ). For the graphical representation of the identified results, GRAPH PAD PRISM software (version 6) was also used.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Total phenolic content

The results of the antioxidant activities were measured in methanol extraction and were expressed as a total phenolic content (TPC). The results were statistically significant ( $p \leq 0.5$ ) different from one another among the acacia complex group of gum. Several examinations were conducted including; Folin-Ciocalteu reagent index (CFI), radical scavenging activity (DPPH), Copper Reducing Antioxidant Capacity (CUPRAC), ferric reducing antioxidant power (FRAP), and oxygen radical absorbance capacity (ORAC) of antioxidant determination. To identify the optimum methods in extracting the antioxidant activity from gum arabic (GA), all the mentioned methods were applied.

According to Table 1 and Fig. 1, the TPC shows significantly highest ( $p \leq 0.5$ ) antioxidant assay compared with all other samples from two different locations. The ranges of other two samples were found as  $11933 \pm 38$ – $2679 \pm 644$  mg GA/100 g for *A. senegal* gum and  $1792 \pm 50$ – $3573.6 \pm 5.5$  mg GA/100 g for *A. seyal* gum. The commercial sample (*Taybat*) was prepared from the same source of *A. seyal* gum. The result also presents the highest value ( $p \leq 0.5$ ) of antioxidant activity as  $72370 \pm 553$  mg GA/100 g DW.

The DPPH value shows slightly different ( $p \leq 0.5$ ) from all the tested samples which were identified as ranging from  $71.7 \pm 0.3$ – $72.2 \pm 0.7$  mg TE/100 g DW for *A. senegal* gum from Both Locations. The results of the commercial gum samples (*Almana* and *Taybat*) also present the highest value ( $p \leq 0.5$ ) in scavenging capacity. The mean values of the results are  $30.6 \pm 0.8$  and  $33.4 \pm 2.2$  mg TE/100 g DW. Statistically, the significant effects ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) of the antioxidant activities between commercial and raw gum samples were observed from different locations.

In this study, the average of the antioxidant capacity is attributed to FRAP. The results presented the values ranging from  $162.5 \pm 1.1$ – $119.5 \pm 1.0$  mg TE/100 g for *A. senegal* gum from the two different locations. In addition, the average of the antioxidant activities of the *A. seyal* gum, *A. polyacantha* gum, and commercial gum samples (*Almana* and *Taybat*) which were calculated using the FRAP assay reflected different val-

**Table 1** Antioxidant activity (mg TE or GA/100 g DW) and total phenolic contents of gum arabic methanol extracts.

Source	DPPH		TPC		FRAP		CUPRAC		ORAC	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
<i>A. senegal</i>	71.7 ±0.3	72.2 ±0.7	11 933 ±38	2679 ±644	162.5 ±1.1	119.5 ±1.0	223.6 ±1.0	211.6 ±0.8	976.6 ±4.8	1451 ±61
<i>A. poly- acantha</i>	36.8 ±0.3	36.2 ±0.8	7550 ±50	1281.3 ±5.5	375.9 ±0.4	76.0 ±1.0	521.7 ±1.2	132 ±1	281 ±13	666 ±14
<i>A. seyal</i>	91.3 ±1.1	92.3 ±0.6	1792 ±50	3573.6 ±5.5	838 ±1	176.6 ±1.6	1025.9 ±1.4	358.9 ±0.2	1183.6 ±7.1	1876.5 ±7.3
<i>Almana</i>	30.6±0.8		3607±49		37.4±1.1		46.2±0.6		469.9±4.3	
<i>Taybat</i>	33.4±2.2		72 370±553		721.5±1.1		205.7±0.6		3265.8±7.3	

Location A: clay soil (Eldamazine area). Location B: lateritic soil (Kadogli area).

*Almana*: commercial sample prepared in powder form the source of *A. senegal* gum.

*Taybat*: commercial sample prepared in powder form from the source of *A. seyal* gum.

DW = Dry weight. TE = Trolox equivalent, GA = Gallic acid.

ues ranging from  $838 \pm 1$ – $176.6 \pm 1.6$  mg TE/100 g DW,  $375.9 \pm 0.4$ – $76.0 \pm 1.0$  mg TE/100 g DW, and  $37.4 \pm 1.1$ – $721.5 \pm 1.1$  mg TE/100 g DW, respectively.

Statistically, the location shows a significant effect ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) of the antioxidant activity between commercial and raw gum samples. It shows that, locations affect the antioxidant activity ( $p \leq 0.05$ ), as the ORAC contains a high value ( $p \leq 0.5$ ) as  $3266 \pm 7$   $\mu$ M TE/100 mg DW for Taybat samples compared with that of *A. seyal* and *A. senegal* gum samples, which range from  $1184 \pm 7$ – $1877 \pm 7$   $\mu$ M TE/100 mg and  $976.6 \pm 4.8$ – $1451 \pm 61$   $\mu$ M TE/100 mg. On the other hand, the antioxidant activity using TPC, CUPRAC, FRAP, and ORAC assays for two different locations were found to be significantly different ( $p \leq 0.05$ ). As no previous studies on gum arabic extraction were found, comparison of the antioxidant extractions of this study was not conducted.

#### Antioxidant activity recovered by DPPH, FRAP, ORAC and CUPRAC assays

For a single sample, antioxidant activities were measured for methanol extraction, using FRAP, DPPH, and ORAC assays. To test the reproducibility of the assays, the single extract was measured three times. The best antioxidant activity among all other the assays used in this study are presented by the FCI (TPC) and ORAC assays, while the DPPH, FRAP, and CUPRAC assays are presented differently (Fig. 1). As all techniques produced a comparable ranking of antioxidant activity within each determination time, all assays had no genotype time interaction. Hence to determine antioxidant activity in GA, TPC,

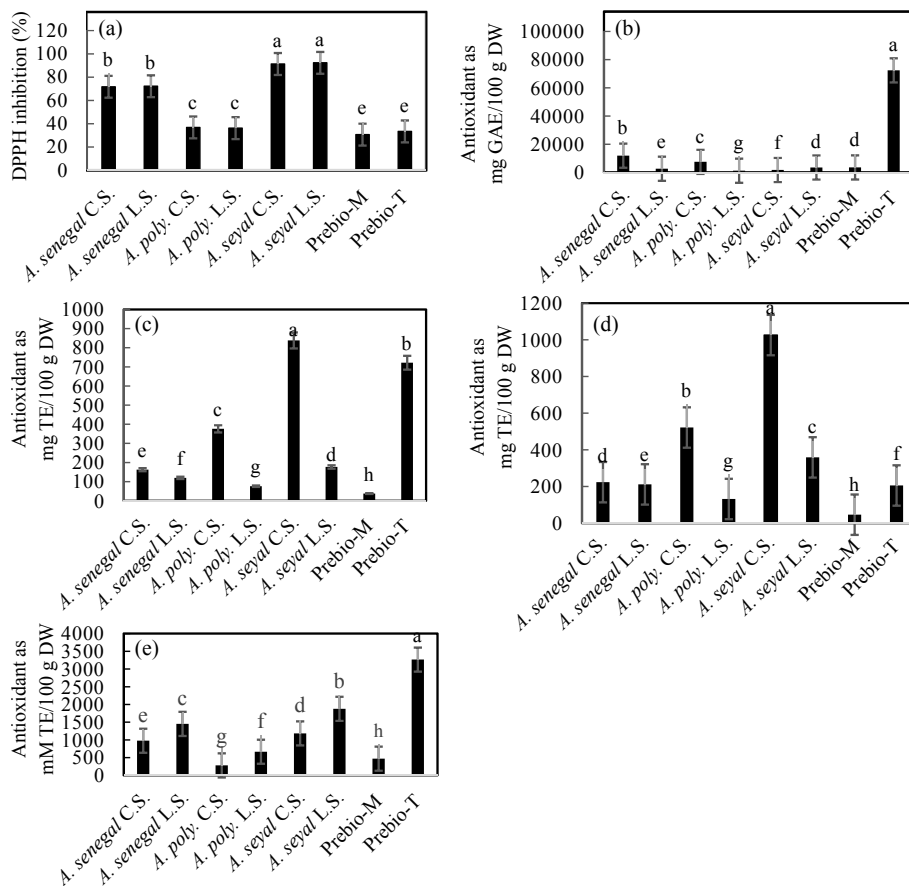
and ORAC are assessed could be used as both have shown high antioxidant activities. Conversely, the commercial (Taybat) gum sample shows the most antioxidant recovery, which was followed by *A. seyal* gum from two different locations.

Immediately after generating free radicals, working solutions of the DPPH, FRAP, and CUPRAC were used within 4 h<sup>29</sup>. The activities of the DPPH, FRAP, TPC, CUPRAC, and ORAC working solutions reacting with GA samples might have been different as the solutions were not in the same age of determination. For example, while using ORAC assay, a 96-wells plate machine (BMG LABTECH, Offenburg, Germany) was used in this study. Values measured were higher at the top compared to the bottom and greater to the left compared with the right of the 96-well plate.

As reported in Ref. 30, a lower coefficient of variance (CV) is obtained when using 48-well than the 96-well plate. The CV of the data generated in 48-wells plate had approximately 50% of the CV 96-wells plate data. Hence based on the locations of the samples, a growing error rate in the assays was identified. In terms of time and running cost, the main disadvantage of the ORAC method is the necessity of expensive equipment<sup>31</sup>.

On the other hand, the other four methods required very simple machine (a spectrophotometer) which is available, and is commonly used in most laboratories. The advantages of using the three methods (TPC, CUPRAC, and FRAP) were the rapid reaction time, about 2 h with the samples or about 30 min with ferric ion. In contrast, the DPPH reaction took much longer time which is about 24 h in previous studies. Hence GA could be





**Fig. 1** Gum arabic antioxidant activity of methanol extraction expressed as mg GA or TE/100 g DW: (a) DPPH, (b) TPC, (c) FRAP, (d) CUPRAC, (e) ORAC. C.S.: clay soil, L.S.: lateritic soil.

presented as a natural product which has remarkably high antioxidant activity. Compared with other fruit crops, the antioxidant activities obtained in this study were very high. The antioxidant activities of 12 fresh fruits (pear, melon, apple, tomato, white melon, banana, pink grapefruit, pink grape, kiwi, orange, plum, and strawberry) have been previously reported ranging from less than 1  $\mu\text{mol TE/g}$  for melon up to 15  $\mu\text{mol TE/g}$  for strawberry<sup>32</sup>. As determined by FRAP, DPPH and the ORAC assays, the average antioxidant activity of methanol extracted values were 25.2, 31.1, and 21.3  $\mu\text{mol TE/g}$ , respectively.

To reduce the DPPH free radical, aqueous peroxyl radicals, and ferric iron in vitro systems, diverse AOAM levels were found in the assays which may produce a relative change in the attitude of antioxidant compounds in the extracts. Although the interaction between GA and assay was significant for the antioxidant activity of the methanol extraction, it only explained a little quantity of the total variation compared with GA or assay as presented in Table 1.

**Correlations**

Pearson’s coefficients are presented in Table 2, indicating the possible correlations between the antioxidant activities of GA and different assays. A correlation assays were conducted among FRAP, DPPH, TPC, CUPRAC, and ORAC, and the obtained antioxidant activities values are presented in Table 2. FRAP, TPC, CUPRAC, and ORAC. The results demonstrate a significant correlation ( $p < 0.05$  and  $p <$

**Table 2** Person’s correlation coefficients ( $r$ ) and an antioxidant activity of gum arabic methanol extraction.

	DPPH	FRAP	TPC	ORAC
FRAP	0.37 <sup>ns</sup>			
TPC (FCI)	0.48 <sup>ns</sup>	0.98 <sup>a</sup>		
ORAC	0.53 <sup>ns</sup>	0.93 <sup>a</sup>	0.98 <sup>a</sup>	
CUPRAC	0.42 <sup>ns</sup>	0.99 <sup>a</sup>	0.97 <sup>a</sup>	0.91 <sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Significant at  $p < 0.05$  and  $0.01$ ; <sup>ns</sup> non-significant. Antioxidant activity measured in methanol extraction is based on the DPPH, FRAP, TPC, and ORAC assays.

0.01) among different antioxidant activities with a decreasing order of TPC > DPPH. Hence it can be suggested that an antioxidant activity is highly correlated with the TPC than the scavenging power of GA. These results supported the results of other studies<sup>33–36</sup>. The high correlation between FRAP and CUPRAC, TPC and ORAC can establish a fact that, these assays rely on the common reaction mechanism and that there was no significant correlation between DPPH and the values with FRAP, TPC, and CUPRAC. No correlation was previously found between ABTS or DPPH values with ORAC data while applying different phenolic standards<sup>37</sup>. By comparing antioxidant methods of FRAP and CUPRAC (0.99), the maximum Pearson's coefficient was obtained as these two assays were based on similar mechanisms.

## CONCLUSIONS

This study presents the extraction findings from acacia complex groups of gum arabic (ACGG) with remarkable antioxidant activities which are rapidly influenced by the types of assays. The antioxidant extraction depends on the solubility of the antioxidant compounds (of plant material) in the extraction solvent. Hence, an appropriate extraction solvent method, namely, methanol was selected in this study. The selection was made based on a separate study on gum arabic (GA).

This is a pioneer work. In other words, this is the first time an investigation is conducted on the antioxidant activity of the ACGG cultivated in two different locations in Sudan representing clay soil in the Blue Nile area (Eldamazine) and lateritic soil area in North Kordofan (Kadogli), using different stable assays for evaluation. Overall, the FCI, ORAC, and CUPRAC assays are correlated highly with the FRAP assay. This means that the TPC of GA is highly correlated, with statistically significant values. The antioxidant activities were measured by these three methods. Hence the FCI, ORAC, and CUPRAC methods are more effective and simpler. They were used in order to have a similar predictive power as the FRAP of GA antioxidant activity. The findings of this study portray significant and effective measurement of the antioxidant potential benefits, since the cost and time of extraction can be managed to enhance the yield or extraction of new products especially for food and/or pharmaceutical uses.

**Acknowledgements:** The authors would like to express their gratitude to the University of Kordofan Sudan, Gum Arabic Research Centre, Bioenvironmental Engineering

Research Centre, Department of Biotechnology Engineering at the Faculty (Kulliyyah) of Engineering, International Islamic University Malaysia for providing necessary lab facilities and UKM. For this opportunity, authors also extend the appreciation to Dr Elbasheir Sallam for his significant, continuous, and unlimited financial support.

## REFERENCES

1. Chawla R, Patil G (2010) Soluble dietary fiber. *Compr Rev Food Sci Food Saf* **9**, 178–96.
2. Kong H, Yang J, Zhang Y, Fang Y, Nishinari K, Phillips GO (2014) Synthesis and antioxidant properties of gum arabic-stabilized selenium nanoparticles. *Int J Biol Macromol* **65**, 155–62.
3. Ahmed AA, Fedail JS, Musa HH, Kamboh AA, Sifaldin AZ, Musa TH (2015) Gum Arabic extracts protect against hepatic oxidative stress in alloxan induced diabetes in rats. *Pathophysiology* **22**, 189–94.
4. Musa KH, Abdullah A, Kuswandi B, Hidayat MA (2013) A novel high-throughput method based on the DPPH dry reagent array for determination of antioxidant activity. *Food Chem* **141**, 4102–6.
5. Arnao MB, Cano A, Acosta M (1999) Methods to measure the antioxidant activity in plant material. A comparative discussion. *Free Radic Res* **31**, S89–96.
6. Lemańska K, Szymusiak H, Tyrakowska B, Zieliński R, Soffers AE, Rietjens IM (2001) The influence of pH on antioxidant properties and the mechanism of antioxidant action of hydroxyflavones. *Free Radic Biol Med* **31**, 869–81.
7. Arabaci B, Gulcin I, Alwasel S (2014) Capsaicin: a potent inhibitor of carbonic anhydrase isoenzymes. *Molecules* **19**, 10103–14.
8. Liang N, Kitts DD (2014) Antioxidant property of coffee Components: Assessment of methods that define mechanisms of action. *Molecules* **19**, 19180–208.
9. Bondet V, Brand-Williams W, Berset C (1997) Kinetics and mechanisms of antioxidant activity using the DPPH. free radical method. *LWT Food Sci Tech* **30**, 609–15.
10. Karabegović IT, Stojičević SS, Veličković DT, Todorović ZB, Nikolić NČ, Lazić ML (2014) The effect of different extraction techniques on the composition and antioxidant activity of cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) leaf and fruit extracts. *Ind Crop Prod* **54**, 142–8.
11. Cao G, Alessio HM, Cutler RG (1993) Oxygen-radical absorbance capacity assay for antioxidants. *Free Radic Biol Med* **14**, 303–11.
12. Sueishi Y, Ishikawa M, Yoshioka D, Endoh N, Oowada S, Shimmei M, Fujii H, Kotake Y (2012) Oxygen radical absorbance capacity (ORAC) of cyclodextrin-solubilized flavonoids, resveratrol and astaxanthin as measured with the ORAC-EPR method. *J Clin Biochem Nutr* **50**, 127–32.

13. Cao G, Sofic E, Prior RL (1996) Antioxidant capacity of tea and common vegetables. *J Agr Food Chem* **44**, 3426–31.
14. Soto-Vaca A, Gutierrez A, Losso JN, Xu Z, Finley JW (2012) Evolution of phenolic compounds from color and flavor problems to health benefits. *J Agr Food Chem* **60**, 6658–77.
15. Niki E (2010) Assessment of antioxidant capacity in vitro and in vivo. *Free Radic Biol Med* **49**, 503–15.
16. Smina TP, Mathew J, Janardhanan KK, Devasagayam TPA (2011) Antioxidant activity and toxicity profile of total triterpenes isolated from *Ganoderma lucidum* (Fr.) P. Karst occurring in South India. *Environ Toxicol Pharmacol* **32**, 438–46.
17. Prior RL, Wu X, Schaich K (2005) Standardized methods for the determination of antioxidant capacity and phenolics in foods and dietary supplements. *J Agr Food Chem* **53**, 4290–302.
18. Apak R, Güçlü K, Özyürek M, Karademir SE (2004) Novel total antioxidant capacity index for dietary polyphenols and vitamins C and E, using their cupric ion reducing capability in the presence of neocuproine: CUPRAC method. *J Agr Food Chem* **52**, 7970–81.
19. Benzie IFF, Strain J (1996) The ferric reducing ability of plasma (FRAP) as a measure of “antioxidant power”: the FRAP assay. *Anal Biochem* **239**, 70–6.
20. Wayner D, Burton G, Ingold K, Locke S (1985) Quantitative measurement of the total, peroxy radical-trapping antioxidant capability of human blood plasma by controlled peroxidation. The important contribution made by plasma proteins. *FEBS Lett* **187**, 33–7.
21. Caillet S, Yu H, Lessard S, Lamoureux G, Ajdukovic D, Lacroix M (2007) Fenton reaction applied for screening natural antioxidants. *Food Chem* **100**, 542–52.
22. Brand-Williams W, Cuvelier M, Berset C (1995) Use of a free radical method to evaluate antioxidant activity. *LWT Food Sci Tech* **28**, 25–30.
23. Gheldof N, Engeseth NJ (2002) Antioxidant capacity of honey from various floral sources based on the determination of oxygen radical absorbance capacity and inhibition of in vitro lipoprotein oxidation in human serum samples. *J Agr Food Chem* **50**, 3050–5.
24. Chumark P, Khunawat P, Sanvarinda Y, Phornchirasilp S, Morales NP, Phivthong-ngam L, Ratanachamnong P et al (2008) The in vitro and ex vivo antioxidant properties, hypolipidemic and antiatherosclerotic activities of water extract of *Moringa oleifera* Lam. leaves. *J Ethnopharmacol* **116**, 439–46.
25. Apak R, Özyürek M, Güçlü K, Çapanoğlu E (2016) Antioxidant activity/capacity measurement. 1. Classification, physicochemical principles, mechanisms, and electron transfer (ET)-based assays. *J Agr Food Chem* **64**, 997–1027.
26. Soares AA, de Souza CGM, Daniel FM, Ferrari GP da Costa SMG, Peralta RM (2009) Antioxidant activity and total phenolic content of *Agaricus brasiliensis* (*Agaricus blazei* Murril) in two stages of maturity. *Food Chem* **112**, 775–81.
27. Apak R, Güçlü K, Özyürek M, Celik SE (2008) Mechanism of antioxidant capacity assays and the CUPRAC (cupric ion reducing antioxidant capacity) assay. *Microchim Acta* **160**, 413–9.
28. Musa KH, Abdullah A, Jusoh K, Subramaniam V (2011) Antioxidant activity of pink-flesh guava (*Psidium guajava* L.): effect of extraction techniques and solvents. *Food Anal Meth* **4**, 100–7.
29. Shahidi F, Zhong Y (2015) Measurement of antioxidant activity. *J Funct Foods* **18**, 757–81.
30. Thaipong K, Boonprakob U, Crosby K, Cisneros-Zevallos L, Byrne DH (2006) Comparison of ABTS, DPPH, FRAP, and ORAC assays for estimating antioxidant activity from guava fruit extracts. *J Food Compos Anal* **19**, 669–75.
31. Gul HI, Kucukoglu K, Yamali C, Bilginer S, Yuca H, Ozturk I, Taslimi P et al (2015) Synthesis of 4-(2-substituted hydrazinyl)benzenesulfonamides and their carbonic anhydrase inhibitory effects. *J Enzym Inhib Med Chem* **31**, 568–73.
32. Wang H, Cao G, Prior RL (1996) Total antioxidant capacity of fruits. *J Agr Food Chem* **44**, 701–5.
33. Giovanelli G, Buratti S (2009) Comparison of polyphenolic composition and antioxidant activity of wild Italian blueberries and some cultivated varieties. *Food Chem* **112**, 903–8.
34. Moylan S, Berk M, Dean OM, Samuni Y, Williams LJ, O’Neil A, Hayley AC, et al (2014) Oxidative & nitrosative stress in depression: why so much stress? *Neurosci Biobehav Rev* **45**, 46–62.
35. Edet E, Ofem J, Igile G, Ofem O, Zainab D, Akwaowo G (2015) Antioxidant capacity of different African seeds and vegetables and correlation with the contents of ascorbic acid, phenolics and flavonoids. *J Med Plant Res* **9**, 454–61.
36. Sahu N, Saxena J (2013) Different methods for determining antioxidant activity: a review. *Indo Am J Pharmaceut Res* **3**, 7025–8.
37. Tabart J, Kevers C, Pincemail J, Defraigne J-O, Dommes J (2010) Evaluation of spectrophotometric methods for antioxidant compound measurement in relation to total antioxidant capacity in beverages. *Food Chem* **120**, 607–14.