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Ripening associated antioxidant and phytochemical changes in mango (*Mangifera indica*) cultivar Dusehri

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The phytochemical fingerprinting that add to the nutritional and nutraceutical value of the fruits during the ripening stages is beneficial for human consumption. Therefore, ripening-dependent changes in phytochemical content and antioxidant activities of mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) cultivar Dusehri at various ripening stages were evaluated. Bioassays for phenolic content, flavonoid content, antioxidant activities, and UHPLC/MS for phytochemical profiling was performed at five ripening stages (RSI-RSV). Total phenolic contents significantly increased from 4.25 to 13.08 µg GAE/mg extract upto stage III and non-significant decrease was observed thereafter. Flavonoid contents varied between 1.16 and 1.23 µg QE/mg extract. DPPH based free radical scavenging activity increased (41.07–52.33%) from stage I to stage V while FRSP based analysis showed decrease (53.01–27.61 µg TE/mg extract) in activity from stage I to stage V. Total antioxidant capacity and total reducing power potential of pulp extract gradually increased towards mango ripening stages. A non-significant change in amylase inhibition was observed from stage I to stage III that significantly dropped in stage IV and V. UHPLC analysis depicted that aconitic, methylisocitric, 2,4,6-Hydroxy benzoic acid and beta glucogallin, poly phenols, 1-Methylxanthine, 3-Furicacid, Heptenoic acid and many others are present at different ripening stages of dusehri mango. PCA analysis and hierachal analysis show Stage I & II clustering while stages III-V make separate cluster. These phytochemiclas are responsible for many health benefits. The study concludes that dusehri mango have significant antioxidative capacity that are due to diverse phytochemicals.

Keywords Antioxidant, Pulp, UHPLC, PCA, Phytochemicals, Enzyme inhibition

Mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) belongs to family *Anacardiaceae* is every green plant. Its fruit is liked by all human irrespective to age due to flavor, aroma, and nutritional value. These properties cumulatively distinguish this fruit from others therefore mango is said 'the king of fruits'¹. The evergreen mango plant grows well in tropical and subtropical climate therefore is distributed worldwide. The mango fruits are harvested when hard and green, that ripen at ambient conditions². During ripening process, various biochemical and physiological changes occur that develop color and aroma along with other nutritional additions³. The biochemical changes include change in endogenous level of hormones, ripening agents production, change in concentrations and types of carbohydrates, phenolics, organic acids, and other organic molecules⁴. The biochemical changes result in development of aroma, color, sweetness, and other health beneficial effects⁵.

Mango is an excellent source of dietary antioxidants and bioactive compounds, such as ascorbic acid, carotenoids, provitamin A, vitamin C and especially phenolic compounds^{6,7}, which are known to have different health-promoting properties⁸. The richness and diversity of nutrients and phytochemicals in mango designate it as superfruit and has significant health benefits. Due to diverse phytochemicals, mango pulp is considered effective remedy against leukemia, prostate, breast and colon cancers^{9,10}.

Mango pulp is used as flavor ingredient in dairy and beverage industries, and also in baby food formulations due to its likeliness and taste. However phytochemical and nutritional properties of mango pulp vary depending on variety, ripening stage, growth conditions, storage, etc¹¹. Antioxidant activities of fruits and vegetables provide nutritional and nutraceutical properties and functional qualities. It accounts for the presence of efficient oxygen radical scavengers, such as vitamin C, carotenoids, flavonoids and phenolic compounds. Such compounds either have synergistic and may also have antagonistic effects^{2,12}. There is no precise information on the exact stage

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of harvest and effect of ripening treatments on the antioxidant content and antioxidant activity of mangoes. Information about the right stage for mango consumption with highest antioxidant potential will be very useful. In view of this, a study was taken up to investigate the phytochemical and antioxidant changes during the ripening process of mango (*Mangifera indica L.*) variety Dusehri.

Materials and methods

Mango cultivars and ripening process

Uniform size green mature mango (*Mangifera indica L.*) fruits (average weight of 100–150 g) of Dusehri cultivar were harvested from Agriculture field Multan Punjab Pakistan and transported to the laboratory for evaluation. Fruits were selected based on their size, green but mature and unripen. Afterwards, fruit were sanitized with chlorinated water for 3 min and left to dry at room temperature (23–26 °C) for about 1 h. For study fruits were divided in 5 groups of 3 fruits each. The ripening process was performed as per commercial conditions to make the process simple and as per practice. The fruits were packed in cardboard boxes with holes. Approximately 0.5 g calcium carbide in paper bag was also placed inside the box. Calcium carbide produces acetylene gas that has similar effects like ethylene, the natural ripening agent. Acetylene accelerates the ripening process. Maturity was judged by visual color and texture each day. The dusehri mango does not change color from green to yellow but a little bit light green. Phytochemical evaluation was performed at five ripening stages (RS) starting from green freshly plucked state to fully ripened.

Pulp extraction and extract preparation

Mango at each ripening stage was peeled and pulp was cut into small pieces. The fresh pulp was used for proximate analysis while extracts of mango pulp were prepared by homogenization of 20 g pulp in 100 ml methanol. The mixture was left for 24 h and then filtered thereafter through Whatman filter paper No. 4. Filtrate was dried at room temperature under continuous air flow. The extract was used for phytochemical analysis and quantification of total phenolic and flavonoid contents and antioxidant activities. For assays the extract was dissolved in DMSO at 4 mg/ml.

Proximate analysis of pulp

Proximate analysis i.e. moisture content, dry matter, protein content, fat, carbohydrate contents, ash content of safaid chonsa mango pulp were performed according to the Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC, 2000) methods. Moisture content was calculated by taking 5 g of sample in a pre-weight aluminium moisture dish. The dishes were kept in hot air oven at 150 °C for 2 h and weighed again. The moisture content was determined as:

$$\text{Moisture (\%)} = (\text{Weight of fresh sample} - \text{weight of dry sample}) / \text{Weight of fresh sample} \times 100.$$

To measure ash content, 5 g of pulp in silica crucible was heated at 525 °C for 5 h in a muffle furnace. The heating was continued until the weight became constant. The weight of ash was calculated by the following formula.

$$\text{Ash (\%)} = (\text{Weight of fresh sample} - \text{Weight after ashing}) / \text{weight of fresh sample} \times 100.$$

To determine total fat in mango pulp, 5 g pulp was weighed into fat free cellulose thimbles and placed in SocsPlus condensers. Petroleum ether (50 ml) was refluxed for 1 h over the sample. Ether was then drained and remaining by evaporation. The mass in the silica reflux cups was designated crude fat.

Crude fiber was determined by taking 2 g in beaker and was digested with 2.5 M H₂SO₄ followed by an equal volume of 2.5 M NaOH on a hot plate for 1 h. The sample was centrifuged and the precipitate was dried in muffle furnace at 600°C until constant weight was obtained. Fiber (%) was calculated as follow:

$$\text{Fiber (\%)} = ((\text{weight of crucible} - \text{weight of crucible containing ash}) * 100) / \text{weight of sample}.$$

Protein was determined by Kjeldahl method. Mango pulp (0.5 g) was weighed in a 50 mL Kjeldahl flask and 8 ml concentrated H₂SO₄ was added. 5 g copper and potassium sulfate mixture was also added as catalyst. Samples were digested until colorless residue was observed. Digested samples were distilled and vapor gas was collected in a conical flask containing mixture of 25 ml of 2% boric acid solution and indicator. The sample was titrated against 0.1 N HCl until a pink color persisted. Crude protein was calculated as.

$$\text{Crude protein} = ((\text{normality of acid} \times \text{volume of acid used in ml} \times 15 \times 6.25) / \text{weight of sample}) \times 100.$$

The total carbohydrate was calculated as.

$$\text{Total carbohydrate (\%)} = 100 - (\text{Moisture (\%)} + \text{Protein (\%)} + \text{Fat (\%)} + \text{Ash (\%)}).$$

The gross energy of mango pulp was calculated as.

$$\text{FE (K.Cal/100 g)} = (\% \text{carbohydrate} - \% \text{fiber}) \times 4 + (\% \text{fat} \times 9) + (\% \text{protein} \times 4).$$

Determination of total phenolic content

The total phenolic content in mango pulp was determined by Folin–Ciocalteu reagent with slight modifications¹³. 20 µl of pulp extract from 4 mg/ml DMSO stock were poured in wells of 96 well plate. 90 µl of Folin–Ciocalteu reagent was added and the plate was incubated for 5 min at room temperature. 90 µl sodium carbonate was also added in each well thereafter. Absorbance was determined at 630 nm by microplate reader (Biotech USA, microplate reader Elx 800). Gallic acid was used as standard and the results are expressed as µg gallic acid equivalent per milligram of mango pulp extract (µg GAE/mg extract).

Determination of total flavonoid content

The total flavonoid content in mango pulp was estimated by aluminum chloride colorimetric method described by Ali et al. with some modifications¹³. 20 µl of pulp extract from 4.0 mg/ml in DMSO stock were reacted with 10 µl each of 10% aluminum chloride and 1.0 M potassium acetate in 96 well plate. 160 µl distilled water was added in each well and plates were incubated at room temperature for 30 min. The absorbance was taken at

415 nm using microplate reader. Quercetin was used as a standard and the flavonoid content was calculated as μg equivalents of quercetin per milligram of mango pulp extract (μg QE/mg extract).

DPPH radical scavenging activity

The free radical scavenging capacity of crude mango pulp extracts was determined using 1,1-diphenyl-2-picryl-hydrazil (DPPH) radical discoloration method and ascorbic acid was used as standard 14. Spectrophotometric analysis was used to measure the percent radical scavenging capacity (%RSA). To determine DPPH radical scavenging activity of mango pulp extract at different ripening stages, 180 μl of methanol solution of DPPH radical in the concentration of 9.2 mg/100 ml was added to separate wells of 96 well plate. Mango pulp extract (20 μl) was then added to each well and incubated at room temperature for 30 min in dark. The absorbance was measured at 517 nm using microplate reader. Ascorbic acid was used as positive control. Scavenging activity in percent (%RSA) was calculated as.

$$\text{DPPH scavenging effect (\%)} = (\text{absorbance of negative control} - \text{absorbance of sample}) / \text{absorbance of negative control} \times 100.$$

Determination of total antioxidant capacity

Total antioxidant capacity was assessed using a modified method as described¹⁴. Activity was performed by mixing 0.1 ml mango pulp extract (4 mg/ml DMSO) with a mixture of 1 ml of reagent solution (0.6 M sulfuric acid, 28mM sodium phosphate and 4 mM ammonium molybdate). Ascorbic acid was used as positive control and DMSO was used as negative control. The tubes containing the reaction solution were then capped and incubated in a boiling water bath for 90 min at 95 °C. After incubation at high temperature samples were cooled to room temperature and absorbance of the solutions were measured at 695 nm against blank. The antioxidant activity was expressed as the μg ascorbic acid equivalent per mg of mango pulp extract i.e., μg AAE/mg extract.

Estimation of total reducing power estimation

The reducing power of the mango extract was measured by potassium ferricyanide colorimetric assay according to the method described previously¹⁴. To assess reducing power of the mango pulp extract, 200 μl of sample from 4 mg/ml in DMSO was reacted with 400 μl of 0.2 mol/l pH 6.6 phosphate buffer and 1% potassium ferricyanide $[\text{K}_3\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]$. The reaction mixture was heated at 50 °C for 20 min and 400 μl of 10% trichloroacetic acid was added. The mixture was centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 10 min and 500 μl upper layer was mixed with 500 μl distilled water and 100 μl of 0.1% FeCl_3 . The absorbance was measured at 700 nm. Ascorbic acid was used as positive control. The reducing power is expressed as μg ascorbic acid equivalent per milligram mango pulp extract (μg AAE/mg extract).

Determination of metal chelating ability

The protocol reported by Ali et al., was followed to determine metal chelating ability of samples¹³. 20 μl of pulp extract was reacted with 50 μl of 2mM FeCl_2 in 96 well plate. After incubation for 10 min in dark, 20 μl of 5 mM ferrozine was poured into each well and incubated again for 5–10 min. Absorbance was measured at 562 nm. EDTA was used as positive control and calculated as.

$$\text{MC ability \%} = [(\text{Absorbance of Control} - \text{Absorbance of sample}) / \text{Absorbance of Control}] * 100.$$

Determination of ABTS radical scavenging potential

The mixture of 7mM ABTS and 2.45mM potassium per sulphate (1:1) was kept in dark for 12–18 h and diluted at 1:2 thereafter. The absorbance was adjusted at 0.7 ± 0.02 at absorbance 540 nm. To perform assay, 10 μl of samples was reacted with 100 μl above reagent in 96 well micro plate. The plates were incubated in dark at room temperature for 10 min and final absorbance of the reaction mixture was measured at 540 nm¹³.

α -Amylase inhibition assay

The assay was performed following reported protocol¹². 15 μl phosphate buffer (pH 6.8), 25 μl of α -amylase enzyme (0.14 U/mL), 10 μl of extract (4 mg/mL in DMSO) and 40 μl starch solution (2 mg/mL in potassium phosphate buffer) were periodically added into each well of 96 well plate. The plates were incubated for 30 min at 50 °C and 20 μl of 1 M HCl, 90 μl iodine reagent were added into each well. The optical density (OD) was taken at 540 nm. Acarbose was used as positive control at 5–200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$. The percent α -amylase inhibition was calculated as.

$$\text{Enzyme Inhibition (\%)} = (\text{OD of Control} - \text{OD of sample} / \text{OD of control}) \times 100.$$

Secondary metabolite profiling by UHPLC/MS

Pytochemical profiling of mango extracts was evaluated through UHPLC (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA) and Agilent 6520 Q-TOF LC/MS (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA) via an electrospray ionisation source (ESI) was used for the tentative identification and characterization of the compounds. Agilent Zorbax xdb-C18 at 25 °C was used for analysis. Mobile phases 0.1% formic acid in water (A) and acetonitrile (B) at flow rate 0.5 ml/min was used. Injection volume was 10 μl with run time and post run time 25 min and 5 min, respectively. The scan was performed from 100 to 1000 m/z. Peak identification was performed in both negative and positive modes. The mass spectrometry conditions were set, as follows: nitrogen gas temperature 350 °C with the flow rate 300 L/hr, sheath gas temperature 250 °C with the flow rate 660 L/h, and nebulizer gas pressure 45 psi. The capillary and nozzle voltage were set at 3.5 kV and 500 V, respectively. The fragmentation voltage was optimized to 125 V. Analysis was performed with a capillary voltage of 3500 V. Data acquisition and analysis was performed using Agilent LC-MS-QTOF Mass Hunter Data Acquisition Software Version B.03.01 (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA).

Statistical analysis

All the assays were performed in triplicate. The results are reported as mean \pm standard error. Moreover, the results were analyzed statistically through analysis of variance (ANOVA) and the means were analyzed by LSD at 0.05% probability. The chromatographic data was further analyzed for principal component analysis (PCA) in order to detect the phytocomponents able to differentiate the dusehri mango samples of different ripening stages. PCA is multivariate method that is used for visualization of hidden trends in a data matrix among the variables. Cases plotted in the PCs explain the differences/similarities between the mango ripening stages. The PCA statistical analysis on phytochemicals was performed by using the OriginPro 9.0 software.

Results and discussion

Mango pulp is a source of carbohydrates, lipid and fatty acids, protein, organic acids, vitamins and many other phytochemicals. The energy value for 100 g of the pulp increased from 94.55 at RSI to 114.05 kcal at RSV (Table 1). The dry matter increased from 26.31 to 29.05% from RSI to RSV and then decreased at RS V. Protein content continued to increase from 1.49 to 1.7% from RS I to RSV. However fats and fiber did not change at significant level from stage I to stage V. During the ripening process there was significant increase of carbohydrate, 29.14% at stage I to 31.37% at stage III and then slight decrease in carbohydrate content was observed in next two stages (Table 1). The nutritional, solid content, and water content of mango fruit change depending upon cultivar and preharvest and postharvest factors⁴. The proximate analysis of Haden, Kent, Keitt, Tommy Atkins pulp¹⁵, Malgoa, Totapuri, Benishan, Sundari, and Neelam¹⁶, Alphonso, Paire, and Kent¹⁷, Harumanis, Kalabau, Stam Panjang, African Bush, Fazil, and Kanchamithia varieties¹⁸ has also been reported with variation based on cultivar type, environmental condition, processing strategy, and many other factors¹⁹.

Dry matter content ranged from 16.38 to 20.52%. Keitt (20.52%) had the highest dry matter. Results were also comparable to the reports of Kansci et al.²⁰ and Saranwong et al.²¹ who had reported variation in different parameters in different varieties. The nutritional properties and non-nutritional contents i.e. fiber offers the potential for its use in human diet, nutraceuticals, and other industrial products²².

Antioxidative capacity, total phenolics and flavonoid content

Phenolic class of phytochemical and its sub-classes are well characterized due to their antioxidative properties and free radical scavenging capabilities²³. Total phenolic content (TPC) of Dusehri mango varieties increased significantly with advances in ripening stages from RSI (4.25 ± 0.38 μ g GAE/mg extract) to RSIII (13.08 ± 0.58 μ g GAE/mg extract) but after RSIII phenolic content remained constant up till RS5 which was last stage of ripening (Fig. 1). However non-significant variation in total flavonoid contents was observed during fruit ripening stages with TFC range from 1.16 to 1.23 μ g QE/mg extract. Total polyphenol content in fully ripe mango flesh is lower than green mature mango flesh. However TPC were lower in Dosehri cultivar as reported in other cultivars^{24,25}. This might be due to differences in the cultivar, sources of the materials, ripening stage, soil and climate conditions, etc. The ripening process generates heat that results in decrease of phenolic contents in mango pulp^{26,27}. While Gil et al.²⁸, reported increase in soluble phenolics in mangoes because starch converts to simple sugars by amylase and it breakdown the conjugative molecules. However ripening process did not change flavonoids contents of mango pulp. This has also been reported by others^{29,30}. The total phenolic contents in dosehri pulp analyzed in this study are in agreement with reported earlier in different varieties of mango, such as Haden, Mallika, Tommy Atkins, Pica, Ataulfo, and Pica mango varieties from different countries^{31–36}.

Several methods are used to determine total antioxidant capacity, and each has some limitations³⁶. Therefore different methods are opted for analysis of antioxidant activity. The total antioxidant capacity (TAC) is based on reduction of Mo (VI) to Mo (V) that produces green color and is consequence of antioxidants. Maximum TAC was displayed by Dusehri pulp extract at last ripening stage (343.17 μ g AAE/mg extract). However non-significant variation was observed to the adjunct ripening stage that shows gradual variation of antioxidative property of mango pulp (Fig. 1). Total reducing power of mango pulp also increased as mango pulp ripened. TRP was 340.75 – 356.83 μ g AAE/mg extract from stage I to stage III and then significantly increased at stage IV (392.06 μ g AAE/mg extract) and stage V (452.86 μ g AAE/mg extract). Free radical scavenging activity was performed by DPPH, FRSP, and metal chelating assays. DPPH assay showed 41.07% activity at stage I that increased up to 52.33% at stage V (Fig. 1). Inverse values were observed in case of FRSP activity where values

Parameter / Stage	RS I	RS II	RS III	RS IV	RS V
Moisture (%)	$68.49 \pm 1.26a$	$63.97 \pm 1.43b$	$66.04 \pm 1.41ab$	$66.71 \pm 2.14ab$	$68.35 \pm 1.94a$
Dry matter (%)	$26.31 \pm 0.38b$	$26.52 \pm 0.65ab$	$28.37 \pm 0.92a$	$29.05 \pm 1.03a$	$24.49 \pm 0.84c$
Ash(%)	$0.41 \pm 0.002d$	$0.42 \pm 0.002c$	$0.42 \pm 0.002c$	$0.46 \pm 0.003b$	$0.47 \pm 0.002a$
Protein (%)	$1.49 \pm 0.1b$	$1.52 \pm 0.13b$	$1.68 \pm 0.11ab$	$1.73 \pm 0.16a$	$1.7 \pm 0.14a$
Fat (%)	$0.47 \pm 0.001c$	0.49 ± 0.001	$0.49 \pm 0.001b$	$0.51 \pm 0.001a$	$0.49 \pm 0.001b$
Fiber (%)	$1.42 \pm 0.014d$	$1.49 \pm 0.018c$	$1.53 \pm 0.011b$	$1.53 \pm 0.017b$	$1.68 \pm 0.021a$
Carbohydrate (%)	$29.14 \pm 0.97b$	$33.6 \pm 1.08a$	$31.37 \pm 1.58ab$	$30.59 \pm 2.31ab$	$28.99 \pm 2.46ab$
K-Cal/100 g	$94.55 \pm 3.72c$	$98.05 \pm 4.83b$	$107.97 \pm 4.99ab$	$113.63 \pm 5.21a$	$114.05 \pm 5.39a$

Table 1. Proximate analysis of dusehri pulp of different ripening stages. The values are mean of triplicates. The small alphabets on the values represent significant difference between the mean by LSD at $p < 0.05$ within the row.

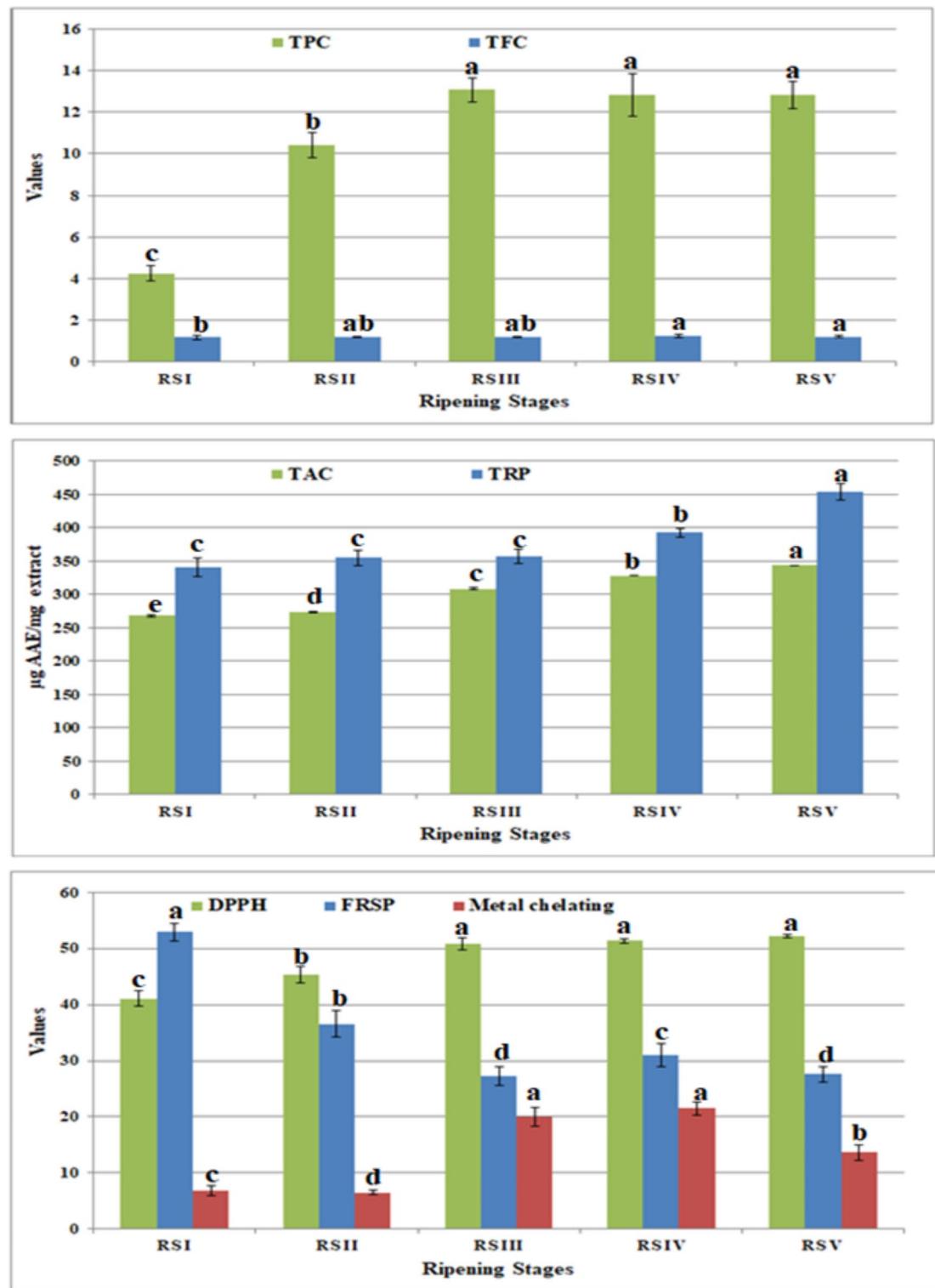


Fig. 1. Total phenolic content (TPC μg GAE/mg extract), total flavonoid content (TFC μg QE/mg extract), antioxidative response (total antioxidant capacity (TAC μg AAE/mg extract) and total reducing power (TRP μg AAE/mg extract)), and free radical scavenging activity (% inhibition) of pulp extracts of dusehri mango at five ripening stages. The values are mean of triplicates. The small alphabets on bars represent significant difference between the mean by LSD at $p < 0.05$.

decreased along with the ripening stages; 53.01 µg TE/mg extract at stage I to 27.61 µg TE/mg extract at stage V. The pulp extract showed minor metal chelating activity (6 µg EDTA/mg extract) at stage I and II that increased up to 20–21 µg EDTA/mg at stage III and IV, and then decreased at stage V. In biological system, oxidation is a natural phenomenon that produces highly reactive hydroxyl and peroxy radicals. The antioxidants reduce these radicals. If not reduced, excess of these free radicals may cause damage to DNA, proteins and fatty acid, phospholipids. Damage in cellular components may lead to diseases and cancer^{37–39}.

DPPH converts into the stable molecule when capture an electron or hydrogen radical. Therefore it is frequently used to investigate free radical scavenging activity of plant extracts⁴⁰. The DPPH method to determine free radical scavenging potential has been used by many researchers in many mango varieties such as Manila, Ataulfo, Tommy Atkins, Kent and it was found that percent radical scavenging potential varies among the mango cultivars^{26,41–43}. DPPH results correlate with the total phenolic and flavonoid contents in the sample and there is a linear correlation between these activities^{25,38}. The values of oxygen radical absorbance capacity in mango pulp are comparable to others findings^{5,33,42}. There is direct correlation between estimation of phenolics and flavonoids with antioxidant and radical scavenging activities. Therefore variation in activity was observed according to the ripening stage⁴⁴.

Amylase inhibition of pulp extracts

The results show that phytochemicals in mango pulp inhibit the amylase activity at different stages of ripening. Amylase inhibition was non-significantly different in between RSI to RSIII (27–24%) and then significantly dropped at RSIV (9.00%) and RSV (2%) (Fig. 2). The activity of amylase indicates the role played in the onset of fruit ripening process as reported for Ashwina hybrid variety of mango⁴⁵. The physiological and biochemical variations during fruit ripening are due to expression of fruit ripening-related genes. The main role is played by enzymes that are responsible for texture, taste, aroma, and softening of fruits. Carbohydrate hydrolyzing enzymes as amylase are critical in this process^{11,46}. The results show that at the initial stage amylase is inhibited and as maturity of mango proceed, the amylase inhibition reduced therefore the mango turn more sweet with the ripening process.

Phytochemical profiling

UHPLC analysis was performed to determine presence and change in phytochemicals during the mango ripening process. The biochemical changes that occur during ripening process include variation in color, aroma, taste, and others. The conversion of green to yellow color is due to Carotenoids synthesis while aroma and flavor variations are due to volatile compounds such as esters, terpenes, lactones, aldehydes, etc^{47–49}. RSI, the unripe mango analysis demonstrated 24 compounds while RSII demonstrated 22 phytochemicals (Tables 1 and 2). While RSIII, RSIV and RSV analyses presented 8, 12, and 14 compounds, respectively (Table 1).

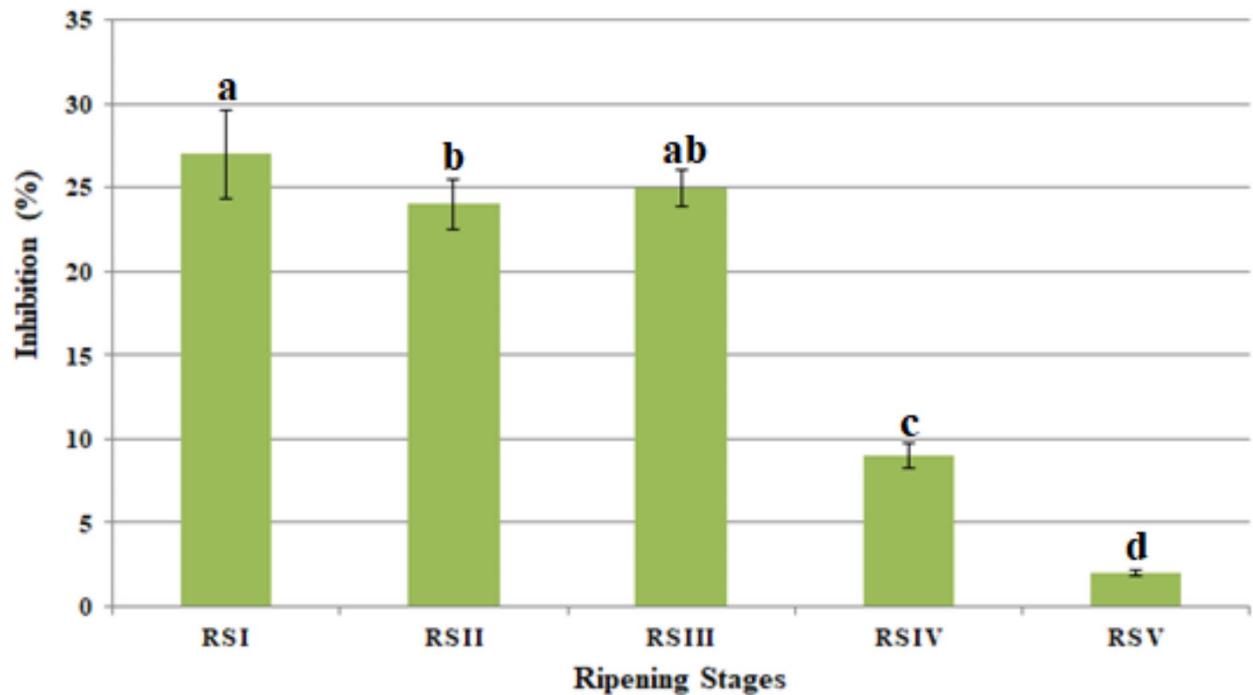


Fig. 2. Amylase inhibition activity of pulp extracts of dusehri mango at five ripening stages. The values are mean of triplicates. The small alphabets on bars represent significant difference between the mean by LSD at $p < 0.05$.

m/z	Name	Formula	RT	Actual Mass	Score (MFG)	Difference (MFG, ppm)	Ions	Height	Vol	Hits (DB)	Score (MFE)
Stage I (RS-I)											
119.0363	Purine	C ₅ H ₄ N ₄	0.623	120.0436	85.1	-0.44	2	150,122	617,323	1	97.8
179.0579	Theobromine	C ₇ H ₈ N ₄ O ₂	0.628	180.0652	95.51	-2.6	8	1,705,881	12,599,008	3	100
165.0419	1-Methylxanthine	C ₆ H ₆ N ₄ O ₂	0.639	166.0492	98.91	-0.63	3	70,585	221,444	5	100
404.1078	(3R,5 S,6E)-rel-7-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1 H-indol-2-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy-6-Heptenoic acid	C ₂₁ H ₂₀ FNO ₄	0.652	369.1384	89.43	-0.35	4	948,508	4,922,716	1	100
439.0872	3,5-Dihydroxyphenyl 1-O-(6-O-galloyl-beta-D-glucopyranoside)	C ₁₉ H ₂₀ O ₁₂	0.654	440.0945	86.31	2.17	3	123,293	716,409	3	90.8
387.1178	Fructoselysine 6-phosphate	C ₁₂ H ₂₅ N ₂ O ₁₀ P	0.657	388.1249	98.24	-2.61	4	1,935,795	12,146,067	1	100
539.1407	Panose	C ₁₈ H ₃₂ O ₁₆	0.659	504.17	76.19	-1.88	11	75,860	746,211	10	82.2
295.0692	Flunixin	C ₁₄ H ₁₁ F ₃ N ₂ O ₂	0.69	296.0768	94.83	1.15	4	121,568	477,208	6	100
193.0722	Quebrachitol	C ₇ H ₁₄ O ₆	0.719	194.0794	97.96	-1.99	8	105,214	732,295	10	95.2
475.1321	Marchantin A	C ₂₈ H ₂₄ O ₅	0.721	440.1626	99.06	1.7	2	86,200	377,098	1	100
515.1271	b-D-Glucuronopyranosyl-(1->3)-a-D-galacturonopyranosyl-(1->2)-L-rhamnose	C ₁₈ H ₂₈ O ₁₇	0.985	516.1342	74.1	-2.98	3	253,116	1,556,134	3	87
331.0683	beta-Glucogallin	C ₁₃ H ₁₆ O ₁₀	1.127	332.0755	95.19	-3.58	8	223,748	1,730,581	9	100
129.0196	Glutaconic acid	C ₅ H ₆ O ₄	1.191	130.027	98.53	-2.83	3	94,648	471,324	9	100
147.0301	2-Dehydro-3-deoxy-D-xylonate	C ₅ H ₈ O ₅	1.195	148.0374	87.29	-1.2	4	166,010	845,602	10	100
405.0504	1-O-p-Coumaroyl-(b-D-glucose 6-O-sulfate)	C ₁₅ H ₁₈ O ₁₁ S	1.242	406.0578	90.62	-2	4	166,168	989,726	1	100
169.0145	2,4,6-Trihydroxybenzoic acid	C ₇ H ₆ O ₅	1.553	170.0218	99.18	-1.73	3	123,580	600,554	3	100
205.0364	Methylisocitric acid	C ₇ H ₁₀ O ₇	1.631	206.0436	95.27	-4.82	4	2,546,943	20,130,486	5	100
111.0093	3-Furoic acid	C ₅ H ₄ O ₃	1.656	112.0166	85.68	-4.83	2	1,153,582	8,588,875	4	100
173.01	Aconitic acid	C ₆ H ₆ O ₆	1.658	174.0172	96.52	-4.47	4	744,944	5,694,116	4	100
183.0303	4-O-Methyl-gallate	C ₈ H ₈ O ₅	6.607	184.0375	99.22	-1.98	9	210,223	2,342,182	4	100
Stage I (RS-I)											
119.0363	Purine	C ₅ H ₄ N ₄	0.623	120.0436	85.1	-0.44	2	150,122	617,323	1	97.8
179.0579	Theobromine	C ₇ H ₈ N ₄ O ₂	0.629	180.0653	95.14	-3.05	9	1,787,682	13,222,566	3	100
521.175	Glucosylgalactosyl hydroxylsine	C ₁₈ H ₃₄ N ₂ O ₁₃	0.636	486.2058	85.41	-1.24	3	153,563	529,449	2	94.5
165.0418	1-Methylxanthine	C ₆ H ₆ N ₄ O ₂	0.639	166.0492	97.12	-0.59	3	114,676	351,582	5	90.8
404.1082	(3R,5 S,6E)-rel-7-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1 H-indol-2-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy-6-Heptenoic acid	C ₂₁ H ₂₀ FNO ₄	0.653	369.1389	98.27	-1.2	5	947,277	5,001,359	1	100
387.1179	Thr-Phe-OH	C ₁₉ H ₂₀ N ₂ O ₇	0.658	388.1251	79.21	5.15	4	1,989,162	12,432,013	8	100
539.1406	Panose	C ₁₈ H ₃₂ O ₁₆	0.66	504.1714	87.31	-4.76	8	66,828	799,564	10	80
193.0718	Quebrachitol	C ₇ H ₁₄ O ₆	0.72	194.0805	89.9	-7.7	6	75,956	535,002	10	94.1
475.1328	Marchantin A	C ₂₈ H ₂₄ O ₅	0.721	440.1632	89.27	-1.27	2	115,569	519,942	1	100
111.0089	3-Furoic acid	C ₅ H ₄ O ₃	0.907	112.0162	87.68	-1.14	2	98,499	372,122	4	91.5
191.0205	Citric acid	C ₆ H ₈ O ₇	0.907	192.0277	97.36	-3.72	4	2,196,824	8,734,044	10	100
331.0684	beta-Glucogallin	C ₁₃ H ₁₆ O ₁₀	1.126	332.074	95.25	1.02	8	206,172	1,702,178	9	100
129.0196	Glutaconic acid	C ₅ H ₆ O ₄	1.19	130.027	96.43	-2.88	3	91,235	476,037	9	100
147.0301	2-Dehydro-3-deoxy-D-xylonate	C ₅ H ₈ O ₅	1.195	148.0374	99.74	-1.31	5	171,773	862,991	10	100
147.0301	2-Dehydro-3-deoxy-D-xylonate	C ₅ H ₈ O ₅	1.195	148.0374	99.74	-1.31	5	171,773	862,991	10	100
205.0362	Methylisocitric acid	C ₇ H ₁₀ O ₇	1.63	206.0435	96.65	-4	4	2,335,103	17,969,756	5	100
173.0097	Aconitic acid	C ₆ H ₆ O ₆	1.658	174.0169	98.7	-2.62	4	614,105	4,714,870	4	100
183.0302	4-O-Methyl-gallate	C ₈ H ₈ O ₅	6.615	184.0375	99.16	-1.75	8	124,161	1,349,810	4	100
Stage III (RS-III)											
179.0579	Theobromine	C ₇ H ₈ N ₄ O ₂	0.628	180.0652	95.1	-2.74	9	975,984	6,583,885	3	95.8
404.108	(3R,5 S,6E)-rel-7-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1 H-indol-2-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy-6-Heptenoic acid	C ₈ H ₈ O ₅	0.652	369.1387	84.61	-2.37	4	124,627	4,779,730	1	100
135.0307	Hypoxanthine	C ₂₈ H ₂₄ O ₅	0.654	136.0381	83.69	3.17	2	45,248	249,623	5	83.1
387.1178	Fructoselysine 6-phosphate	C ₅ H ₄ N ₄ O	0.657	388.125	99.18	1.72	6	158,913	11,838,859	1	100
475.1336	Marchantin A	C ₇ H ₁₀ O ₇	0.717	440.164	85.48	-2.38	2	627,941	991,297	1	80.5
275.0237	Dihydroferulic acid 4-sulfate	C ₁₂ H ₂₅ N ₂ O ₁₀ P	0.719	276.0312	69.77	-2.98	2	1,287,524	343,357	3	94.5
205.0356	Methylisocitric acid	C ₇ H ₈ N ₄ O ₂	1.454	206.0429	99.66	-1.18	3	4,791,267	411,990	5	86.2
173.0096	Aconitic acid	C ₁₀ H ₁₂ O ₇ S	1.65	174.0169	98.81	-2.59	3	249,182	1,189,364	4	100
183.0302	4-O-Methyl-gallate	C ₆ H ₆ O ₆	6.627	184.0375	99.52	-1.52	7	462,805	953,867	4	100
Stage IV (RS-IV)											
Continued											

m/z	Name	Formula	RT	Actual Mass	Score (MFG)	Difference (MFG, ppm)	Ions	Height	Vol	Hits (DB)	Score (MFE)
179.0579	Theobromine	C ₇ H ₈ N ₄ O ₂	0.597	180.0653	94.77	-3.03	12	1,466,857	10,102,145	3	92.8
135.0312	Hypoxanthine	C ₅ H ₄ N ₄ O	0.617	136.0386	96.62	-0.57	4	182,464	612,985	5	80
404.1082	(3R,5 S,6E)-rel-7-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1 H-indol-2-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy-6-Heptenoic acid	C ₂₁ H ₂₀ FNO ₄	0.621	369.1389	99.18	-1.41	4	768,330	4,232,592	1	100
439.0865	3,5-Dihydroxyphenyl 1-O-(6-O-galloyl-beta-D-glucopyranoside)	C ₁₉ H ₂₀ O ₁₂	0.621	440.0935	79.35	4.47	6	211,532	1,392,198	2	80
387.1177	Fructoselysine 6-phosphate	C ₁₂ H ₂₅ N ₂ O ₁₀ P	0.623	388.1249	94.62	-0.29	6	1,758,220	10,775,118	1	100
475.1337	Marchantin A	C ₂₈ H ₂₄ O ₅	0.68	440.1642	99.17	-1.53	2	335,321	1,601,698	1	88.4
111.009	3-Furoic acid	C ₅ H ₄ O ₃	0.872	112.0163	87.12	-2.55	5	97,644	358,620	4	81.2
147.0304	2-Dehydro-3-deoxy-D-xylonate	C ₅ H ₈ O ₅	1.205	148.0377	86.04	-3.35	2	186,260	733,476	10	81.9
205.0358	Methylisocitric acid	C ₇ H ₁₀ O ₇	1.458	206.0431	98.9	-2.24	3	60,884	370,382	5	92.1
169.0144	2,4,6-Trihydroxybenzoic acid	C ₇ H ₆ O ₅	1.595	170.0217	99.76	-0.92	3	91,812	538,634	3	100
173.0095	Aconitic acid	C ₆ H ₆ O ₆	1.68	174.0168	99.14	-2.14	3	158,956	1,008,288	4	100
183.0302	4-O-Methyl-gallate	C ₈ H ₈ O ₅	6.638	184.0375	99.35	-1.67	4	130,392	1,194,642	4	100
Stage V (RS-V)											
215.0349	Theobromine	C ₇ H ₈ N ₄ O ₂	0.629	180.0656	94.48	-5.02	4	1,067,215	3,278,844	9	100
404.1079	(3R,5 S,6E)-rel-7-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1 H-indol-2-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy-6-Heptenoic acid	C ₂₁ H ₂₀ FNO ₄	0.653	369.1386	91.38	-2.18	4	691,905	3,733,154	1	100
387.1175	Fructoselysine 6-phosphate	C ₁₂ H ₂₅ N ₂ O ₁₀ P	0.653	388.1247	96.28	-2.49	4	1,743,285	10,191,152	1	100
521.1742	Artelastochromene	C ₃₀ H ₃₀ O ₆	0.662	486.2049	87.19	-1.24	3	102,469	476,612	2	85.2
475.1333	Marchantin A	C ₂₈ H ₂₄ O ₅	0.713	440.1638	94.62	-1.82	2	326,400	1,464,322	1	100
111.0089	3-Furoic acid	C ₅ H ₄ O ₃	0.904	112.0161	87.57	-0.67	2	106,348	381,966	4	100
191.0204	Citric acid	C ₆ H ₈ O ₇	0.904	192.0276	97.67	-3.35	4	2,060,365	7,313,080	10	100
331.0681	beta-Glucogallin	C ₁₃ H ₁₆ O ₁₀	1.12	332.0753	96.22	-2.98	7	107,010	759,351	9	100
129.0194	Glutaconic acid	C ₅ H ₆ O ₄	1.184	130.0267	87.55	-0.62	2	83,442	392,633	9	100
147.0304	2-Dehydro-3-deoxy-D-xylonate	C ₅ H ₈ O ₅	1.191	148.0377	98.48	-3.31	3	171,593	799,700	10	100
205.0356	Methylisocitric acid	C ₇ H ₁₀ O ₇	1.449	206.043	99.25	-1.48	3	60,622	322,876	5	100
169.0144	2,4,6-Trihydroxybenzoic acid	C ₇ H ₆ O ₅	1.57	170.0216	99.73	-0.74	3	109,566	684,992	3	100
173.0097	Aconitic acid	C ₆ H ₆ O ₆	1.646	174.0169	98.4	-2.67	3	85,017	522,133	4	100
183.0302	4-O-Methyl-gallate	C ₈ H ₈ O ₅	6.614	184.0374	99.46	-1.42	8	156,252	1,430,732	4	100

Table 2. List of compounds detected by UHPLC/MS in dusehri mango pulp extract at ripening stages I-V. (RT Retention time; MFG molecular formula generator; MFE Molecular features extraction).

The analyses show that during the ripening stages (RSI-RSV); the identification of phytochemicals was diverse. Some classes were present at all the stages with varying concentration of metabolites, 4-O-Methyl-gallate, a polyphenol was detected at all stages with maximum value at RSI that gradually decreased in lateral stages. The retention time of 6.6 min indicates the time it took for 4-O-Methyl-gallate to elute from the chromatography column. The observed mass-to-charge ratio (m/z) of 183.03 corresponds to the molecular weight of 4-O-Methyl-gallate 184.037 (Table 2). This value is consistent with the expected mass of the compound, further confirming its presence in the sample. The high value of DB and MFG score reinforces the accurate identification and high match quality of the compound. The presence o ions refer to the different ion fragments detected during the mass spectrometry analysis of 4-O-Methyl-gallate.

Tricarboxylic acid such as aconitic acid and methylisocitric acid were also detected at all stages of mango ripening stages while citric acid was only detected at stage II and stage V (Table 2). The UHPLC results showed aconitic acid and methylisocitric acid with a retention time of 1.6 and 1.5 min, respectively depicted m/z ratio 173.0 and 205.03 and molecular mass of 174.01 and 206.04, respectively and high confidence scores strongly confirm the presence of aconitic acid and methylisocitric acid at all ripening stages. 2,4,6-Hydroxy benzoic acid and beta glucogallin, the component of hydroxyl benzoic acid were also observed at all stages. Theobromine was also detected at all stages that represent xanthines class. 1-Methylxanthine and purine of same class were also detected at RSI and II. 3-Furicacid (carboxylic acid) is also a phytochemicals that occurs during ripening of the mango. The m/s ration 111.008 retained at 0.87–1.65 min with molecular mass 112.06 was predicted as 3-furoic acid that was observed at all ripening stages. Marchantin A, a phenylpropionate also dominate in phytochemicals at all ripening stages of mango. The UHPLC results for (3R,5 S,6E)-rel-7-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1 H-indol-2-yl]-3,5-dihydroxy-6-Heptenoic acid with a retention time of 0.65 min depict m/z ratio 404.108 and molecular mass of 369.138, and high confidence scores strongly confirm the presence of Heptenoic acid derivative at all ripening stages. The compound was significantly at high concentration assumed by height volume ratio. Other than these fatty acids (xylonate derivative), carbohydrates (rhamnose), phenols, phenylpyrroles (heptenoic acid), phenolic glycosides (glucopyranoside), quebrachitol, derivatives and conjugates were also detected at different stages. The presence of different classes of phytochemicals in mango pulp have been reported though type and

concentration of such classes depends on mango variety, cultivation conditions, ripening environment, and others^{7,8,50,51}.

Phenolic acids either alone or conjugated with esters are commonly present in fruits that contribute to taste, color, nutritional value, and health benefits. The bioavailability of phenolic acids depends on the presence of free or conjugated forms⁵². These compounds are well-known for their potent antioxidant properties⁵³, aiding in the prevention of diseases related to oxidative stress, such as cardiovascular and neurodegenerative diseases, and cancer⁵⁴. Additionally, many phenolic acids and their derivatives are recognized for their anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial activities^{53,55}. Xanthines and its derivatives significantly contribute to the prevention of chronic diseases. The improve mood, physical performance, brain efficiency, and overall well being by functioning as antagonists of adenosine receptors^{56–58}.

It has been reported that phenolic acid and its derivatives are present in different varieties of mango at varying concentrations^{43,59}. These components have different health benefits and have the capability to overcome oxidative stress by neutralizing oxidants produced inside the cell^{60,61}. Furthermore, the synergistic effects of complex phytochemicals present in mango pulp are more beneficial. Polyphenolic compounds are important anti-radical, anti-mutagenic, and anti-carcinogenic agents^{62–64}. These compounds also reduce the risk of chronic diseases where hydroxyl groups have integrative role in biological activities. Phenolic as antioxidative molecules i.e. hydroxyl benzoic acid and its derivatives prevent DNA damage and tumor promotion due to quenching of free radicals. Phenolic acids are predominant compounds in mango pulp^{62,65}. Consuming ripened mango contains significant amount of phenolic acids that play a significant role in neutralizing free radicals and improving consumer health.

Ferulic acid, an important phenolic compound produced from the metabolism of phenylalanine and tyrosine, effectively scavenges free radicals and suppresses radiation-induced oxidative reactions. It maintains physiological integrity of the cell and inhibits inflammatory diseases^{66,67}. Chlorogenic acid is also an abundant polyphenols in the human diet. Chlorogenic acid has anti-nociceptive, anti-carcinogenic, anti-edematogenic, antioxidative properties⁶⁸.

The output of a PCA is a combination of two plots, a loading plot and a score (scree) plot. The loading plot identifies key variables responsible for variances. While the score plot shows relationship of samples and gives a quantitative value for variance among the samples. The plot shows how the phytochemicals are distributed onto the calculated PCs. This shows that there is diversity of phytochemicals and there is variation in correlation in between the stages and concentration (volume) of phytochemicals (Fig. 3). A number of components that were not detected in between the stages or they are scattered according to the positive or negative relation. Figure also depicts that concentration of compounds mostly downregulate or upregulate during the ripening process. Principal component analysis (PCA) is often the first choice in analyses for exploring grouping relationships in samples^{69,70}. The plot describes there is change of phytochemicals during the ripening stages of dusehri mangoes. The stage I (RSI) and stage II (RSII) have strong interaction while RS III, IV, and V interact with each other (Fig. 4). A number of components are present at all ripening stages however the correlation among them varies. Negative correlation describes that the components have difference in concentration as the ripening stage varies. This shows that although numbers of phytochemicals are present in mango, their correlation with the stage varies depending upon the concentration/presence of that component. The hierachal analysis between antioxidative response (Fig. 5A) and distribution of phytochemical in between the ripening stages (Fig. 5B) also shows that there are step by step variations in both antioxidative response and phytochemicals in between the ripening stages. Antioxidative bioassays (TAC, TRP, DPPH, FRSP, and MC) along with total phenolics and flavonoids also support the hierachal clustering analysis that there are variations in metabolites at ripening stages. Furthermore the presence of compounds and their characteristics also favor clustering of the ripening stages in coordinated groups.

Conclusion

The present study shows that the levels of total phenolic and flavonoid content, and antioxidant activities are significantly affected by ripening stage of mango cultivar dusehri. Dusehri exhibited relatively higher levels of total phenols and flavonoids, and antioxidant activities, which may offer potential health benefits of respective cultivar. The antioxidant activities such as DPPH free radical scavenging activity, total antioxidant capacity and total reducing power were also higher at ripening stage. The variations in the activities are due to change of composition of phytochemicals in the mango pulp. Different classes of phytochemicals at different ripening stages show that the nutritional and nutraceutical value of mango are due to presence of phytochemicals. Hierachal analysis also shows that there is gradual variation in the activities of mango with the ripening stages.

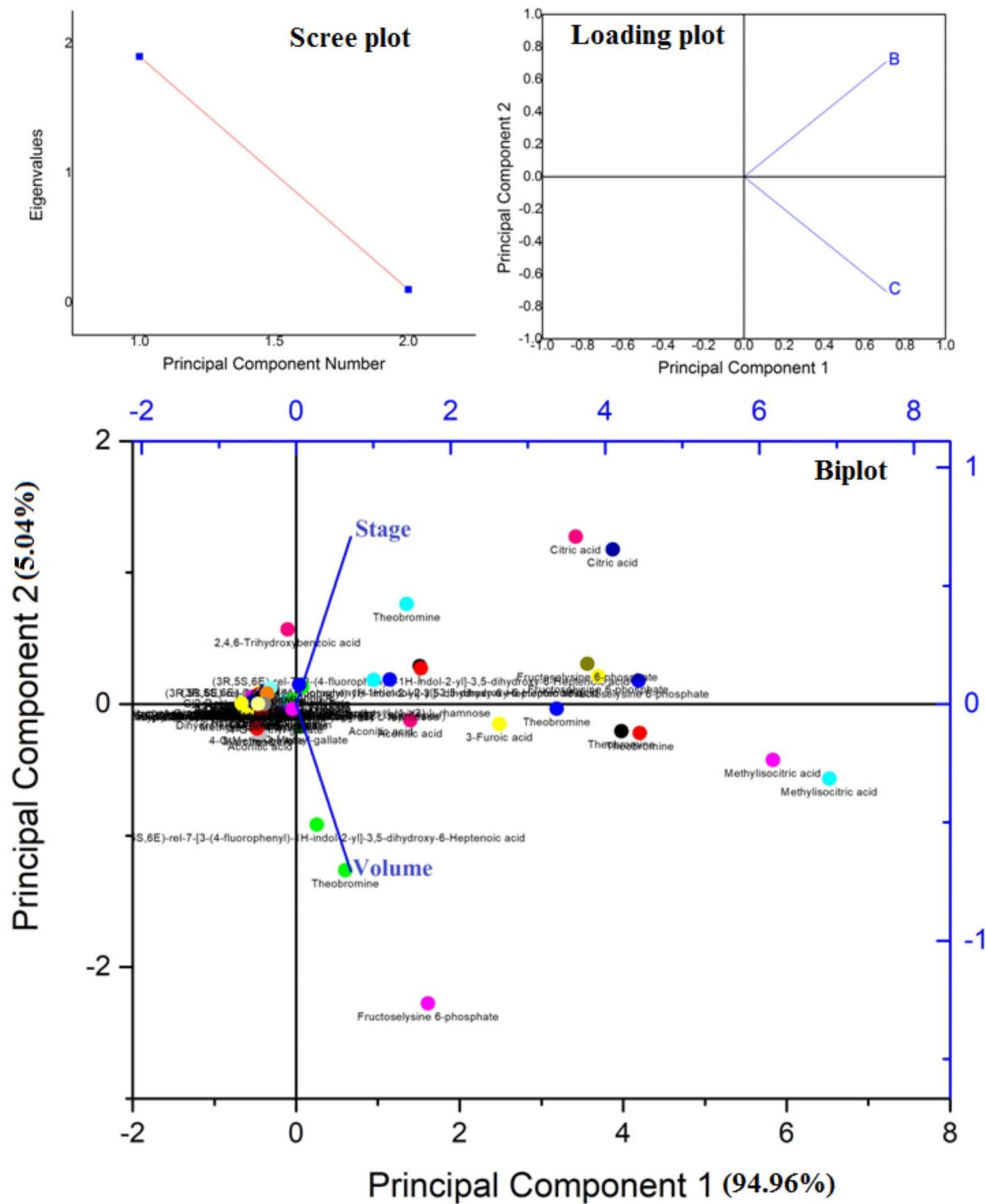


Fig. 3. PCA scatter plot of the main sources of variability between the phytochemicals of different ripening stages of dusehri mango. There is variability in correlation of phytochemicals in both cases stages and concentrations.

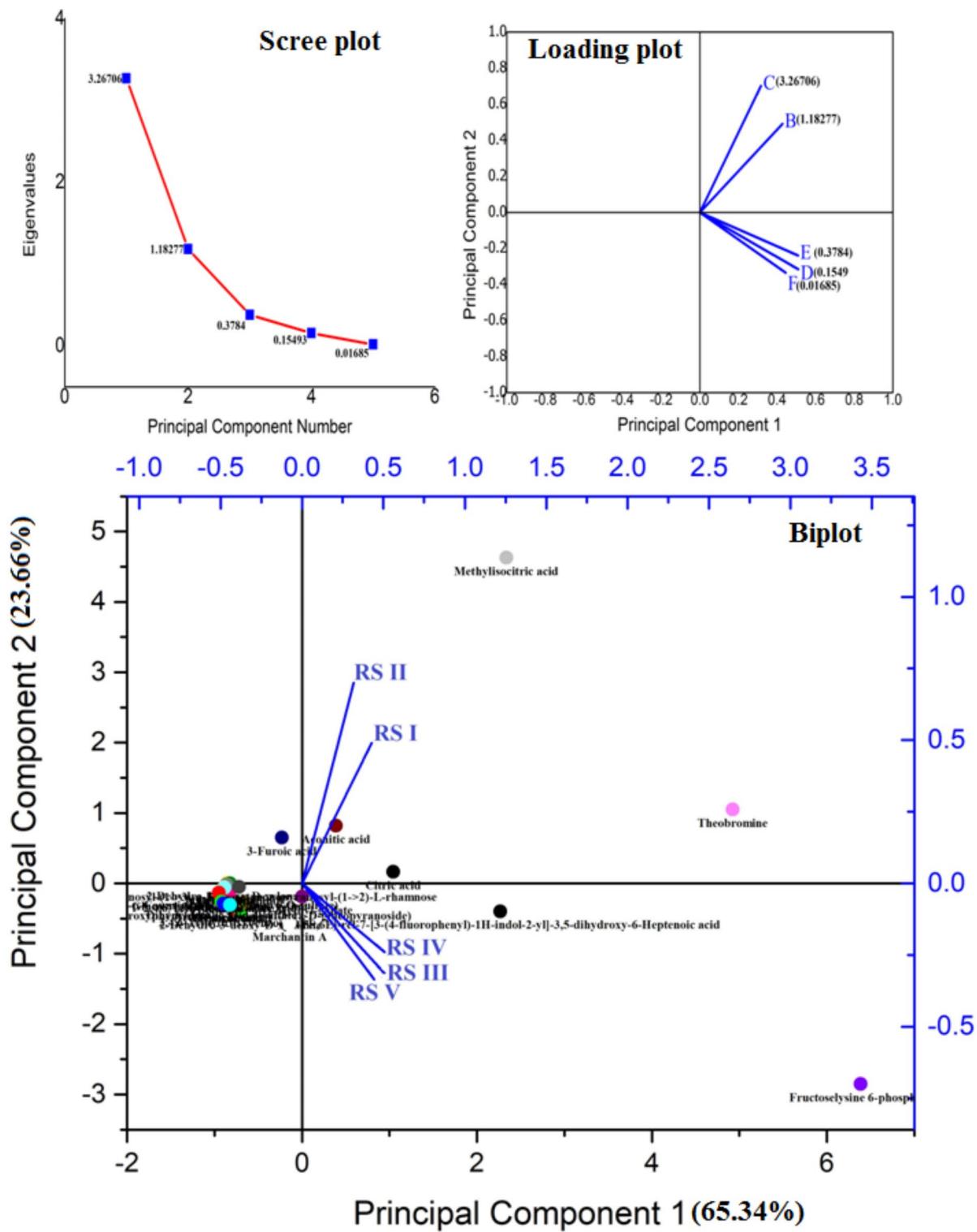


Fig. 4. PCA scatter plot of the main sources of variability between the phytochemicals of different ripening stages of dusehri mango.

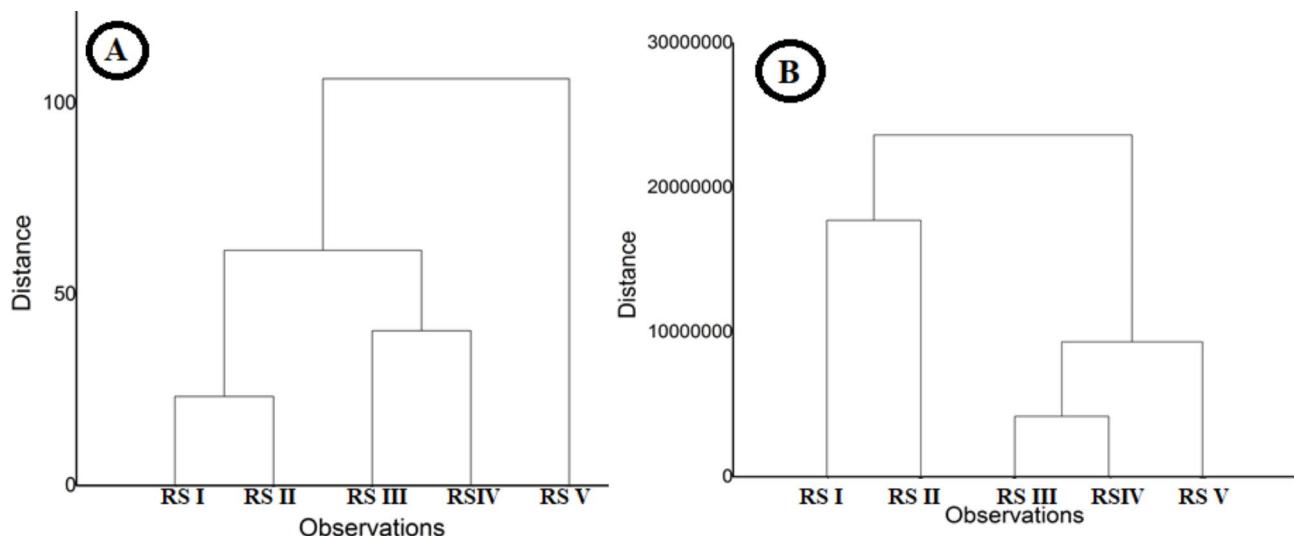


Fig. 5. Hierarchical analysis based on the antioxidative response (A) and distribution of phytochemicals (B) in between the ripening stages of dusehri mango pulp.

Data availability

All the relevant data are reported in the manuscript.

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Aniqa performed the experiments, wrote the manuscript. ZFR supervised the work, and proofread the manuscript.

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Declarations

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The authors declare no competing interests.

Consent to participate

Manuscript does not contain human-related data therefore consent to participate is not required.

Additional information

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