

(Research Article)

Extraction of Saffron Crocin as a Natural Pharmaceutical Source with Solidification Method

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ABSTRACT: In this research with crystallization method, saffron Crocin was extracted. Ethanol 80% and acetone was chosen as the best extraction solvent. Crystallization and purification process was performed in two steps in zero and -5°C degree. In first step, saffron Crocin was extracted with ethanol and after keeping in -5°C for 23 days obtained Crystals were separated. Obtained Crocin crystals from the first step had low purity and the pure crystals were yielded during the second crystallization. Extraction and purity of Crocin crystals were studied by UV-visible spectrophotometry and Fourier transform spectrometry and HPLC analysis compared to Crocin Sigma-Aldrich. Results show that the extraction intensity and purity of the obtained Crocins were significantly higher than Sigma Aldrich crocin. The results of this research showed that purchased Crocin according to the chromatograms is not pure and some unknown impurity was seen.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Saffron with Scientific name (*Crocus Sativus*), is one of the most expensive spice in the world. Saffron plant is mainly cultivation in countries such as Iran, Egypt, France, Turkey, Italy and Spain. In average annually 205 ton saffron is producing and Iran with 47000 cultivate Hectares of saffron plant is allocated about 80% of this product to itself. Saffron is using in various industries such as food, pharmaceutical and textile. In food industry mainly use as food additive for tasting, flavoring and coloring. In textile industry for creating red color in silk fabrics and in pharmaceutical industry, it is used to prevent, control and treatment of diseases. Saffron main component is Crocin (C₄₄H₆₄O₂₄), color factor, Picrocrocine (C₁₆H₂₆O₇), the bitter taste of saffron factor and Safranal (C₁₀H₁₄O), Flavor factor that shown in table 1. (Alizadeh- 2014)

In fact Crocins are a group of water soluble carbohydrate compounds in saffron stigmas that they composed of mono and diglycosylic esters of polyenedicarboxylic acid. (F.Hadizadeh-2010) Crocin and Crocetin esters has multiple biological properties. It has been reported that crocin has many medical properties such as antioxidant, anticancer, anticoagulant, lipid regulator, neuronal protector, anti-tumor, and so on. (Abdullaev-2007) (Liakopoulou-Kyriakides M 1990; Liang Xi, 2007).

Crocin has several glycosylic esters that on which about 6 of them detected in saffron. Crocin Analogues that include Crocin 1 to 4 is mainly from saffron Trance-Crocetin glycosides that from them Trance- Crocetin 3 and 4 has the greatest abundant in saffron. (Hossein Hosseinzadeh-2018) For Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis of Derivatives Extracted from Saffron we can use various methods such as Ultraviolet/Visible (UV/visible) Spectrophotometry, Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR), TLC, GC-MS and HPLC. (F. Hadizadeh, 2010) Besides

there are different analytical methods for extracting and purifying Crocin and its derivatives like Extraction with Ultrasound Waves, Supercritical CO₂ and Extraction by Crystallization. (F.Hadizadeh-2010)The quantity and quantity of the extracted crystals are depends on the extraction method, drying method and the storage condition. The Methods of extracting saffron metabolites can be optimized by Solvent type, temperature, light and stirring time process. (N. Sakellaridis, 2008) Different solvents such as ethanol, water, diethyl ether and acetone are used for extracting Crocin.(F. Hadizadeh, 2010)Extensive studies have been conducted on chemical and quantitative analysis of Crocin but focus on Crocin extraction and purification methods has been studied less. Extraction with solvent is one of the simplest and affordable ways of obtaining Crocin with higher purity. The purpose of this research is to focus on the production, extraction and purification of saffron Crocin with crystallization method.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

All the studies was carried out at Bahraman Saffron CO. (Mashhad-Iran).

Crocin sample with batch number17304 was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Company (Zwijndrecht-Netherlands). Saffron stigmas were provided from Bahraman Saffron CO. (Mashhad-Iran). Ethanol and acetone 96% obtained from Pars Alcohol CO. (Tehran- Iran). All the other solvents used in chromatography analysis has HPLC grade and purchased from Merck CO. (Germany).

3. EXTRACTION OF CROCINS FROM SAFFRON STIGMAS

10 gr of top Bahraman saffron grade 1 was grinded with Laboratory mill(Germany-No. A10 IKA)in to powder and sievedwith mesh no 60. Suspended saffron powder with ethanol 80% in 0°C and stirring for 2 min. after centrifugation at 3000 RPM for 10 min solution of centrifugal suspension was extracted. Then, 25 milliliter of ethanol 80% was added to sediment in the same situation (0°C and stirring for 2 min) and centrifuged. This process was repeated 8 time and 200 milliliter ethanol 80% was used in total for extracting Crocin from 10 gr saffron. Eventually, sediments color was changed to orange to yellow. Extracted liquid from above steps were kept in -5°C for 24 days in sealed dark containers. Obtained Crocin crystals were washed with acetone several times for separating from solution. The obtained crystals were dissolved in 120 milliliter ethanol 80% for the second time and kept in the same situation for extra days for recrystallization. The final amount of yielded crystals were separated and its efficiency was calculated (1 gr).

Preparation Sample for analysis:

Extracted samples were stored in a sealed dark container in 2 to 5 °c before testing.

Spectrophotometry:

The absorbance rank of produced Crocin in Bahraman saffron laboratory and sigma Crocin was measured under the 52-59-1standard at 440 nm wavelength.

Color strength was calculated by following formula:

$$CS = (A/W) * h * 100$$

CS: Sample Color strength A: Absorbance Rank

W: Sample Weight

H: Sample moisture that calculated with following formula $X=100 - \text{moisture}$

HPLC Analysis:

All the chromatogram analysis were done under the RP-HPLC with methanol-water solvent, with 1ml/min at 440 nm and 250 nm wavelengths.

4. CONCLUSION

The samples UV-VIS absorbance rank was measured and the color strength was calculated. (Table1). results shows that, color strength of the produced samples were much higher than the market samples.

Results shows that the UV absorbance ranks of the produced Crocin crystals in 440nm wavelength were 7.5 times higher than the sigma samples. Since absorption at this wavelength represents the density and intensity of the samples, it can be concluded that the produced crystals had a higher intensity.

Absorbance rank in 250nm wavelength that showed the Picrocrocin rank, was 3.4 time higher than sigma sample. This result showed that the amount of extracted material in the crystals were higher than the sigma sample.

sample	440nm		250nm	
	Absorbance rank	Color measuring	Absorbance rank	Color measuring
Sigma crocin	0.062	134.664	0.032	69.504
Crystal produced crocin	0.470	1020.89	0.109	236.748

Tablet.1: Absorbance rank and the samples color measuring in 440, 250nm.

High performance liquid chromatogram

Both samples chromatogram in 440nm wavelength was shown (Fig.1). The results of this chromatogram showed the presence of some types of Crocin in both samples. The total amount of Crocin in produced crystals were 32.28 times higher than themarket ones.The calibration curve of the test was also shown in (Fig2). These results indicated that the total amount of contained Crocin in the purchased sampleswas less purified than the total contained Crocin in the produced crystals.

The infrared test is used to determine the functional groups and the intensity of its presence in the substance. The spectroscopic studies were shown in Fig3. The intensity of the Crocin Crystalsfactors were much higher than themarket Crocins.These results showed that the intensity of Crocin, in other words, the purity of the sample was higher than the Sigma.

5. CONCLUSION:

All the obtained datas were showed that the amount of Crocin present in the samples were significantly higher than the Sigma Crosin, which could be used as a reliable standard.In this study, we achieve to develop a high purity Crocin with a simple and inexpensive method.Now a days due to its unique properties, advanced countries were using from this healing substance for treating diseases such as MS, Cancer, Tumors, and Depression. It is hoped that according to Density and purity of preparedsubstance, this material could be used in various pharmaceutical and food industries.

6. REFRENCES

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