

Sludge (biosolids), produced in large amounts at sewage treatment plants, is a potentially useful waste material that could find further application if properly treated. However, the presence of potentially dangerous pollutants, such as bacteria/viruses, pharmaceuticals, polychlorinated biphenyls and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons makes this problematic. Within the whole project, we describe a process through which useful tree planting substrates can be produced by i) composting the sludge to reduce pollutant content, ii) using the composted sewage sludge together with peat, bark or wood substrates, and iii) adding granulated glauconite as a significant natural source of potassium and biochar as a sorbent of high levels of atmospheric carbon and other nutrients as well as any remaining pollutants. We also describe methods for testing the safety (toxicity) of the resulting substrates and evaluate the economic costs of production and use. This contribution is objected to the evalutation of pharmaceuticals and industrial substances residues content in substrates based on treated sludge. Also a few examples of practical use are presented, as both forestry and arborist experiments has been set up recently on several research plots.

Occurrence screening was performed for 51 substances in total – three benzotriazoles, one UV filter, 38 pharmaceuticals and nine of their metabolites, these substances were divided into a total of seven groups – 1 collective group for industrial substances and six groups of pharmaceuticals according to their effectiveness on organs, organ systems, pharmacological affect and chemical composition – medicals classification according to WHO (ATC/DDD Index 2023), (Table 2). Before composting, the highest contents were found in the cases of Cpharmaceuticals, M-pharmaceuticals and R-pharmaceuticals (IZ). After the first composting (IK), a significant reduction in the contents of most of the analysed pharmaceuticals and industrial substances was observed (by up to 50% on average), whereas in most cases the content further decreased with the second composting (IIK). However after the second the content reduction was not so significant, especially in the case of M-pharmaceuticals, that sligthly increased backwards. Comparing the mixed substrates developed during the 3rd stage, we can say that substrate with 50,00 -/ added peat contains on average twice as many substances as substrate prepared only as a simple mixture of those premixes from previous stage. Excepting A-■ Industrial substances ■ C-pharmaceuticals ■ N-pharmaceuticals ■ J-pharmaceuticals ■ M-pharmaceuticals pharmaceuticals, the amounts of substances in substrate with peat (5P) are Figure 1: The amount of pharmaceuticals and industrial substances content in premixed substrates comparable with the values after the second composting (IIK). Simple mixed substrate (4P) shows the lowest values of substances content (Table 3, Figure 1). Table 4: The amount of pharmaceuticals and industrial substances content in lettuce biomass Tests in the lettuce biomass detected a significant amount of J-pharmaceuticals 10/21 of the default (column IK) $\ln \alpha \, \alpha^{-1} \, 1$ absorbed from the substrate after the second composting, in the case of industrial substances, R-pharmaceuticals and A-pharmaceuticals the ammount also slightly increased. Compared to that, the amount of C-pharmaceuticals, M-pharmaceuticals and N-pharmaceuticals decreased in lettuce biomass. Interesting issue is that plants grown in the mixed substrates tended to cummulate industrial substances and Jpharmaceuticals in both substrate mixtures, M-pharmaceuticals in the simple mixture (4P) and C-pharmaceuticals, R-pharmaceuticals and A-pharmaceuticals grown in the mixed substrate with added peat (5P).

RESIDUES OF PHARMACEUTICALS AND INDUSTRIAL SUBSTANCES IN SUBSTRATES BASED ON TREATED SEWAGE SLUDGE AND THE SUBSTRATE USE IN FORESTRY NAD ARBORICULTURE

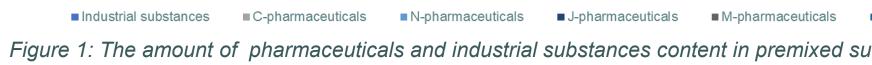
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For the purposes of whole project, three variants of substrates were prepared, when peat or crushed bark was mixed with sewage sludge. In this contribution, the average values of the substances content of all three substrates together are used for the breaf comparison. The average values for comparison are calculated from values of following variants of substrates: (1) sludge highmoor white peat (1:3), (2) sludge + crushed bark (1:3), (3) sludge + transition white peat (1:3). The evaluation is carried out for each project stage and sub-stage, where: IZ – 1st stage, state before composting, IK – 1st stage, first composting, IIK – 2nd stage – pouring with digestate, second composting. As part of the 3rd stage, the obtained substrates from the previous stages were finally mixed - 4P, and this mix was further enriched with peat – 5P (Table 1). The pharmaceuticals content was also detected in the biomass of lettuce (Lactuca sativa L.), which was grown in prepared substrates. Screening was performed according to valid methodologies (Brunetti et al. 2021, Golovko et al. 2016, Kodešová et al. 2023).

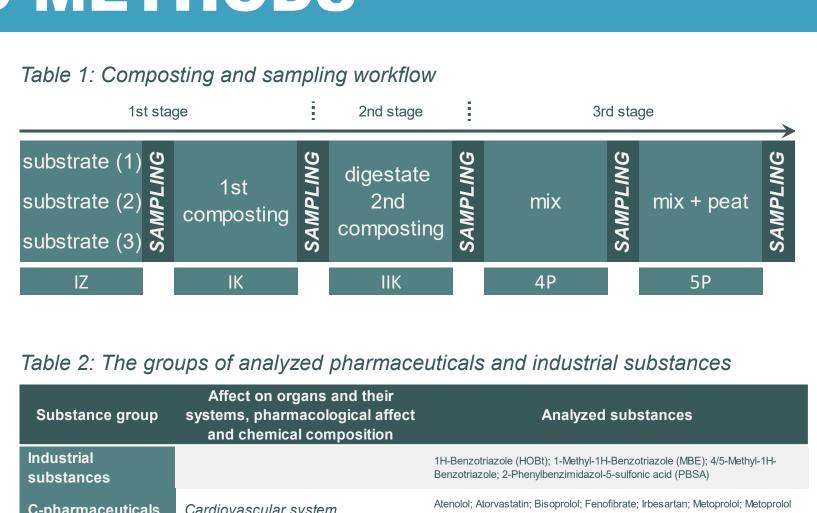
RESULTS

[ng.g ⁻¹] [%] of the default (column IZ)							ılt (column IZ)		
Substrates	IZ	IK	IIK	4P	5P	IK	IIK	4P	5P
ndustrial substances	69,58	39,10	5,50	1,44	5,29	56,20%	7,91%	2,07%	7,60%
C-pharmaceuticals	204,62	12,58	9,12	3,57	8,37	6,15%	4,46%	1,74%	4,09%
N-pharmaceuticals	77,79	19,70	9,54	4,21	8,77	25,32%	12,27%	5,41%	11,27%
J-pharmaceuticals	7,97	4,98	2,56	1,38	2,13	62,51%	32,13%	17,32%	26,74%
M-pharmaceuticals	113,33	5,00	7,63	5,60	8,20	4,41%	6,74%	4,94%	7,24%
R-pharmaceuticals	96,00	25,49	8,71	2,79	8,43	26,55%	9,07%	2,91%	8,78%
A-pharmaceuticals	7,43	3,47	1,38	1,10	1,90	46,64%	18,52%	14,80%	25,56%
		ecrease crease	·						
[ng.g ⁻¹] 250,00									



		[ng.g	1 ']		[%] Of tr	ne default (d
Lettuce biomass	IK	IIK	4P	5P	IIK	4P
Industrial substances	7,79	7,98	12,84	14,00	102,48%	164,83
C-pharmaceuticals	3,04	2,88	2,21	6,68	94,74%	72,70
N-pharmaceuticals	12,21	8,52	10,31	9,40	69,75%	84,44
J-pharmaceuticals	2,00	2,69	2,86	3,17	134,33%	143,00
M-pharmaceuticals	4,33	4,00	5,00	4,00	92,31%	115,38
R-pharmaceuticals	2,41	2,47	2,18	2,63	102,21%	90,33
A-pharmaceuticals	1,67	1,73	1,50	1,80	104,00%	90,00
	de	ecrease				
	in	crease				

MATERIALS AND METHODS



	and chemical composition					
ustrial ostances		1H-Benzotriazole (HOBt); 1-Methyl-1H-Benzotriazole (MBE); 4/5-Methyl-1H- Benzotriazole; 2-Phenylbenzimidazol-5-sulfonic acid (PBSA)				
oharmaceuticals	Cardiovascular system	Atenolol; Atorvastatin; Bisoprolol; Fenofibrate; Irbesartan; Metoprolol; Metoprolol acid; Propranolol; Rosuvastatin; Sotalol; Telmisartan; Valsartan; Verapamil				
harmaceuticals Nervous system		Amitryptyline; Caffeine; Carbamazepine and its metabolits CBZ 10,11-dihydro, CBZ 10,11-epoxide, CBZ_10,11-trans-dihydroxy 10,11-dihydro; Citalopram; Gabapentin; Lamotrigine; Memantine; N-Desmethylcitalopram; Norsertraline; O- desmethyltramadol; O-Desmethylvenlafaxine; Oxazepam; Oxcarbazepine; Sertraline; Tramadol; Trazodone; Venlafaxine				
harmaceuticals	Antibiotics, anti-infectives	Azithromycin; Clarithromycin; Clindamycin and its metabolit Clindamycin sulfoxide; Erythromycin; N4_Acetylsulfamethoxazole; Sulfamethoxazole; Sulfapyridine; Trimethoprim				
oharmaceuticals	Musculoskeletal system	Diclofenac				
harmaceuticals	Respiratory system	Cetirizine; Diphenhydramine; Fexofenadine				
harmaceuticals	Digestive system and metabolism	Loperamide				

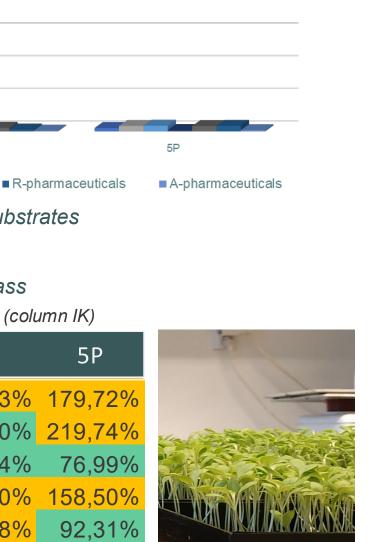
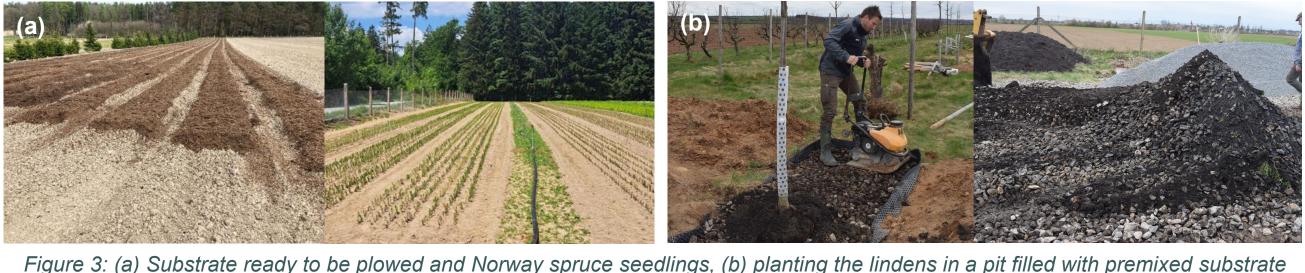


Figure 2: Lactuca sativa L

In conclusion, it can be stated that the most residues of C-pharmaceuticals affecting the cardiovascular system were detected in sewage sludge, which corresponds to the fact that diseases of the heart and blood vessels are the most common diseases in the Czech Republic. With the proposed technology, when treated sewage sludge is added to the substrate and then twice composted, there is a significant reduction of all detected pharmaceuticals and industrial substances. Substrate can further be used as relatively safe for growing non eatable plants (only), as currently most of the stabilized sludge is exported to farmland, and thus potential pollutants enter the food chain. The substrate use for growing seedlings in forest nurseries and for arboricultural plantings is currently being tested on several research plots (Figure 3).



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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OBJECTIVE

objective of main The contribution is to present the overall results of pharmaceuticals and industrial substances content in the substrates based on treated sewage sludge and to evaluate the gradual effect of composting on reducing the pharmaceutical content from a broader perspective, as this study was performed as a crucial part of the whole project to describe the toxicity and safety of resulting substrates.

Finally we would like to present a two examples of substrate use in forest nurseries and for the arboricultural plantings.

CONCLUSIONS



During commercial seed production, vegetable seeds may became infected with various bacterial phytopathogens after systemic colonization of plants upon leaf infection. The species Brassica oleracea included plants grown and consumed worldwide. Black rot is one of the most important diseases that affect B. oleracea, reducing the quality of crops and causing great economic losses. This disease is caused by Gram-negative bacteria Xanthomonas campestris pv. campestris (Xcc). Moreover, other representatives of the genus Xanthomonas can incited leaf-spot disease.

- All tested samples were positive in PCR with bacterial 16S rRNA.
- Among the 5 tested specific primers, we confirmed only the presence of *X. euvesicatoria* in all vegetable samples.

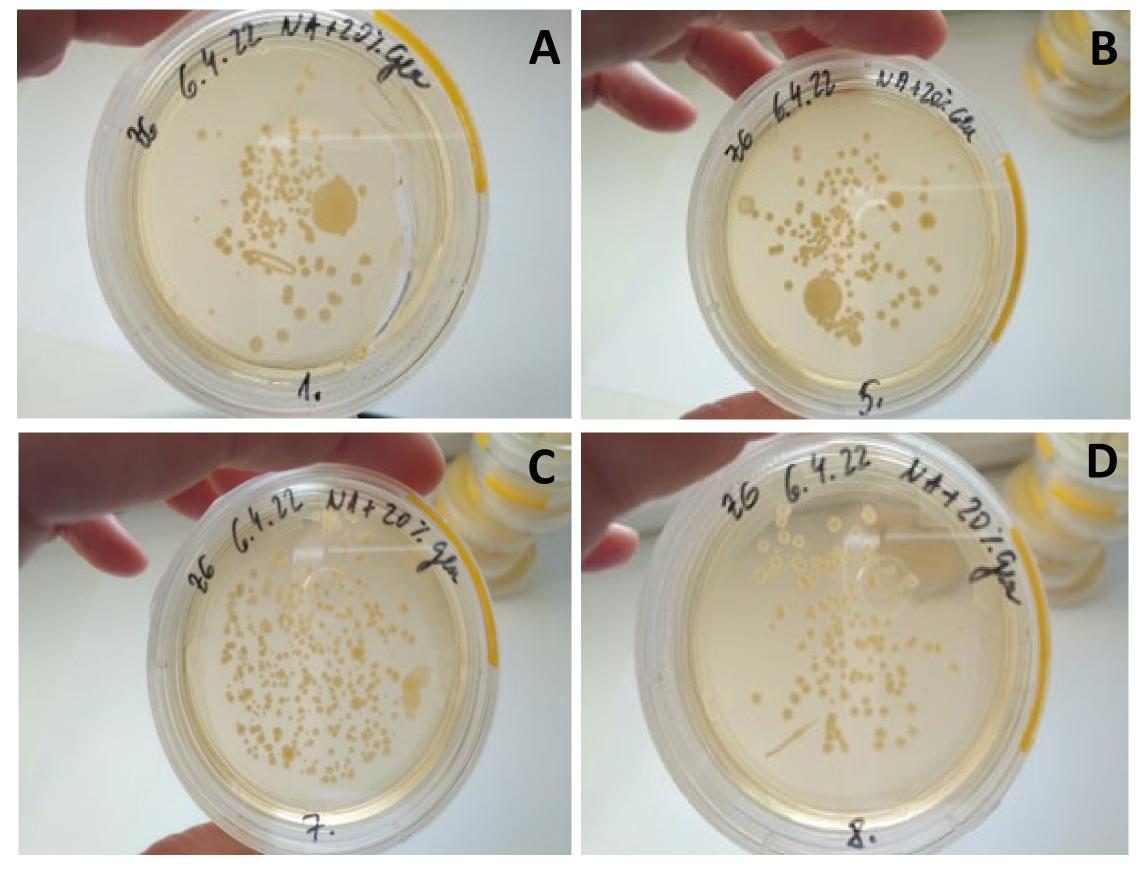


Fig. 1. Bacteria colonies grown on nutrition agar media with 20% glucose at 30 °C for 48 h (A – cabbage , B – kale, C – kohlrabi, D – broccoli).

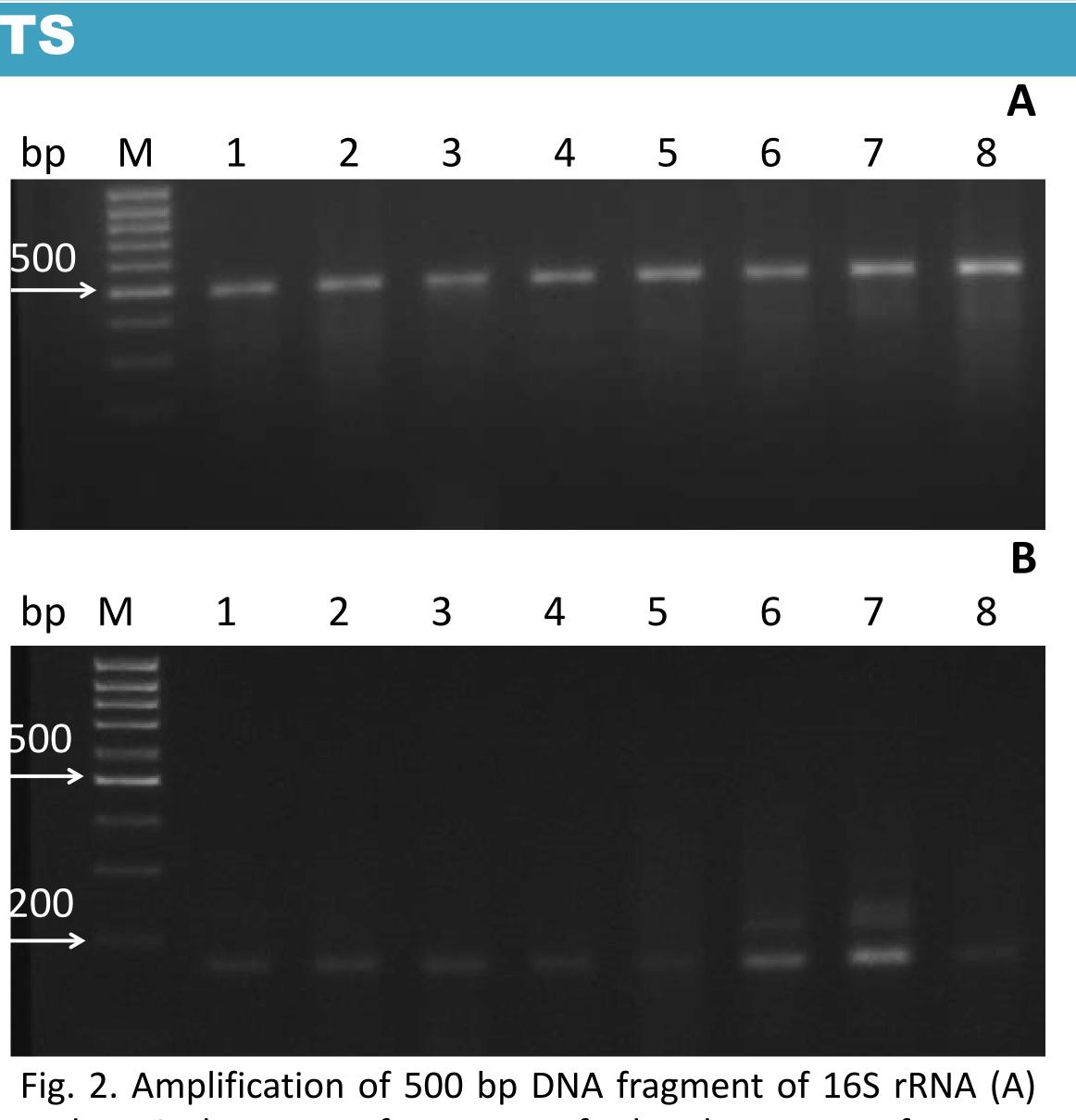
Detection of Xanthomonads on the commercially available seeds of Brassica species

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> Quick detection of potentially presented bacteria pathogens on seed surface of four Brassica species cabbage, kale, kohlrabi and broccoli.

RESULTS



and 173 bp DNA fragment of the hrp gene from X. euvesicatoria (B) detected on the seeds surface of cabbage (1cv. Madison, 2 – cv. Capitol, 3 – cv. Kalibos, 4 – cv. Avak F1), kale (5,6 – cv. Scarlet), kohlrabi (7 – cv. Kref F1) and broccoli (8 – cv. Limba).

AIM

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The eluat form seeds surface by Tris-EDTA buffer was cultivated on nutrition agar medium (0.5% peptone, 0.3% beef extract, 1.5% agar and 20% glucose) in Petri dishes at 30 °C for 48 hours. Bacteria cell suspension (diluted bacteria colony in Tris-EDTA buffer) we used directly as template in PCR detection. We tested universal 16S rRNA primers as well as specific primers for identification of *X. campestris* pv. campestris (Xcc), X. perforans (Xp), X. euvesicatoria (Xe), X. gardneri (Xg) and X. vesicatoria (Xv). The PCR was performed using KAPA2G Fast HotStart Ready Mix (2x), forward and reverse primers (each 10 μ M), template DNA. PCR assays were performed with BioRad thermocycler. Reactions were run for 35 cycles, each consisting of 15 s at 95 °C, 15 s at 54-75 °C (different annealing temperature for each primer pair), and 15 s at 72 °C, with initial denaturation of 3 min at 95 °C and final extension of 15 min at 72 °C. PCR products were separated using horizontal electrophoresis system (Major Science) on a 1% agarose gel and visualised by UV-transiluminator (SmartView Pro 1100).

CONCLUSIONS

We confirmed the presence of bacterial microorganisms on the seed surface of all tested Brassica species using 16S rRNA primers. Among tested Xanthomonads, we found the presence of only X. euvesicatoria on seeds of kale, kohlrabi, broccoli as well as cabbage.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Ganoderma (Basidiomycota) is a cosmopolitan wood-decay polypore causing white rot of a wide range of woody plants (1,2). It plays an important role in the process of wood decomposition in forest ecosystems, but it is also known as a dangerous phytopathogen (3). Ganoderma species were classified primarily on the basis of morphological features, such as an appearance of pileus surface (dull or laccate, resinous deposits), colour of the context, presence of the stipe, and shape, size and ornamentation of the basidiospores (2, 4-7). However, many taxonomy confusions have resulted from the great variability in the macroscopic characters of the *Ganoderma* basidiomata (3). As a consequence of several molecular phylogenetic studies, an unexpectedly high level of species diversity in *Ganoderma* has been uncovered worldwide (3) and molecular analyses have been shown to be a valuable tool in their current taxonomy (8). Currently, there are 492 names in the Index Fungorum (9) and 535 records of taxa (482 with status legitimate) in MycoBank (10). Up to now, 181 species are taxonomically accepted in Ganoderma (3), most of them originate from the tropics (11, 12). Only 7 species naturally occur in Central Europe: Ganoderma applanatum (Pers.) Pat., G. adspersum (Schulzer) Donk, G. pfeifferi Bres., G. resinaceum Boud., G. carnosum Pat., G. lucidum (Curtis) P. Karst., G. valesiacum Boud. (2, 6, 13, 14). Although many molecular studies have been conducted within the genus, especially within G. lucidum complex (15, 16), available data from Central Europe are rare.

AIM

The aim of the present study was to analyze both interspecific and intraspecific genetic variability in Ganoderma genus using molecular methods based on European ITS transcribed spacer (interna sequences. In order to analyze the genetic diversity observed at the ITS level in more detail, partial translation factor (tef1-α) 1-α elongation obtained were sequences and analyzed.

Ganoderma adspersum

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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GENETIC DIVERSITY OF THE GANODERMA SPECIES IN CENTRAL EUROPE

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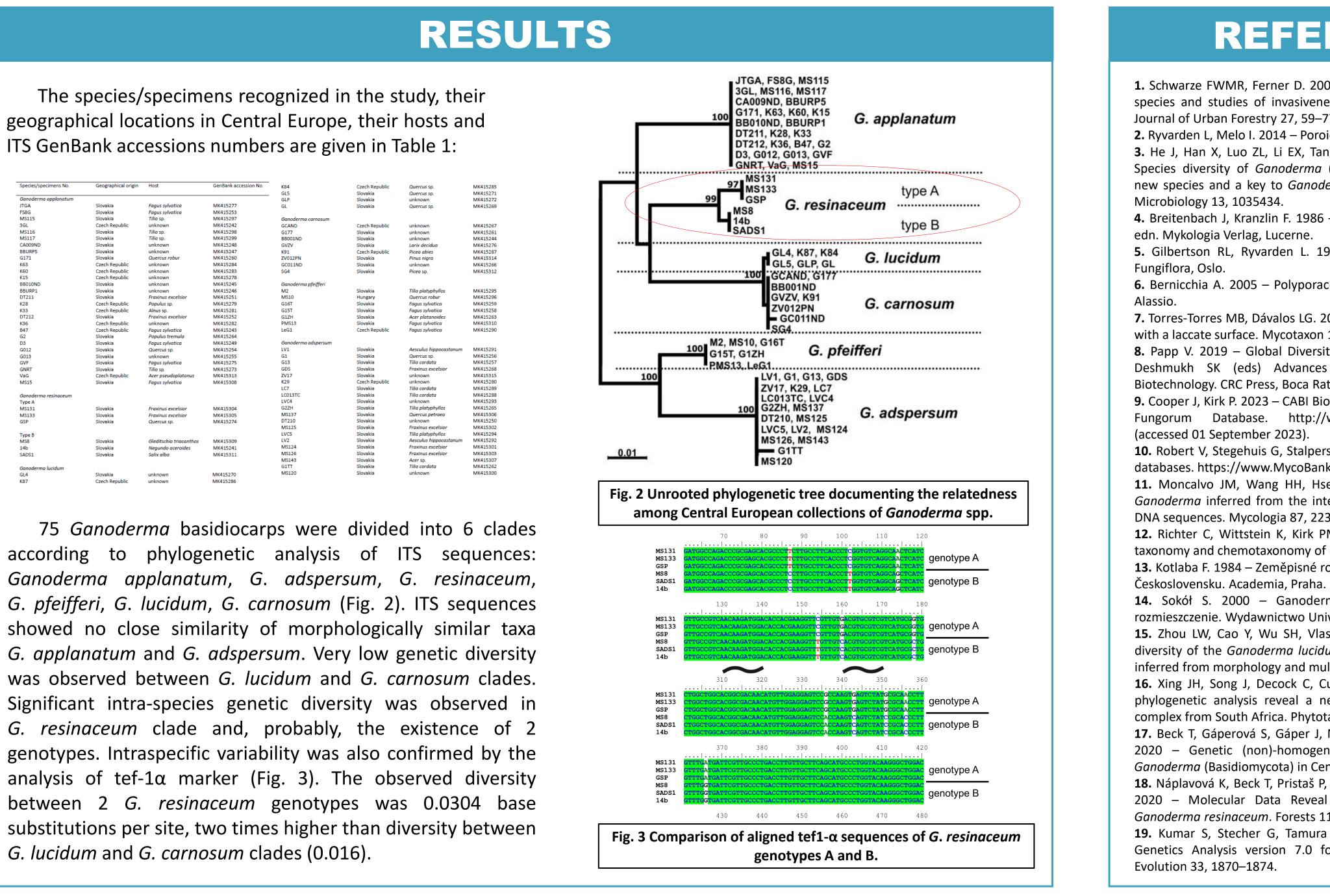
Fungal Collections

• 75 Ganoderma basidiocarps were collected during the years 2015-2018 in Slovakia, Czech Republic (Moravia) and in one place in northern Hungary (Fig. 1)

DNA Isolation

• 2X CTAB lysis solution (2 % w/v CTAB, 100 mM Tris–HCl, the assembled sequences were aligned using clustalw 20 mM EDTA, 1.4 M NaCl, pH 8.0) was used, the DNA algorithm and phylogenetic tree was constructed using was extracted using chloroform and precipitated with a Neighbor-Joining method. The reliability of estimated 0.7-volume of isopropyl alcohol phylogenetic tree was evaluated using bootstrapping with 1000 repetition. For all phylogenetic analysis MEGA software version 7 was used (19). The similarity of aligned sequences was visualized using Bioedit PCR primers and conditions were used as already software.

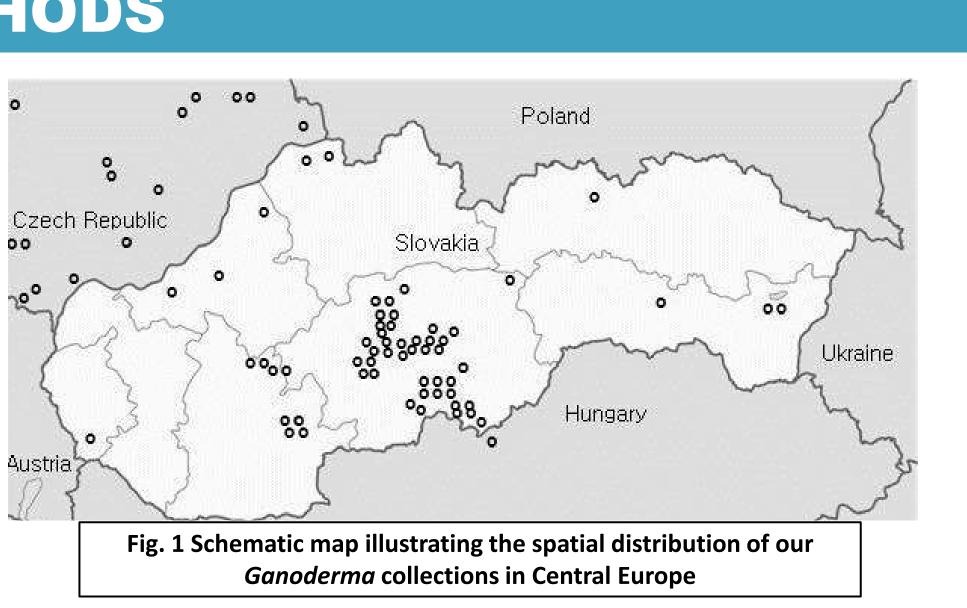
PCR amplification and Sanger Sequencing • for amplification of ITS and tef1- α molecular markers described Beck et al. 2020 (17) and Náplavová et al 2020 (18)



MATERIALS AND METHODS

• the PCR products were purified using ExoSAP-IT (Affymetrix, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio USA), then sequenced in both directions using the same primers as for PCR at SEQme s.r.o. (Dobříš, Czech Republic).

Phylogenetic analyses



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INTRODUCTION

Terpenes have antimicrobial, antioxidant, and other biological effects, which influence the use of many plants in traditional medicine, in the food and cosmetic industry. Plants produce terpenes that occur in essential oils produced in glandular secretory cells.

A unique terpene is caryophyllene, which occurs in four structural forms such as α -humulene, β caryophyllene, isocaryophyllene and caryophyllene oxide. Plants mostly contain all structural forms, mainly β -caryophyllene and α -humulene dominate.

Tab 1. Results of microd	ilution m	nethod				
Essential oils	<i>E. M. S.</i>					
and pure	coli	aur				
substances		MIC [µl/ml]				
clove	≤ 1	< 1	<			
lavender	2	4	<			
oregano	≤ 1	≤ 1	<			
sage	4	8	<			
β-caryophyllene	512	512	2			
α-humulene	512	512	3			
caryophyllene oxide	>512 >512 >					

Tab 2. Content of structural forms of caryophyllene

Essential oil	clove	lavender	oregano	
β-caryophyllene	6,67 %	1,33 %	1,89 %	3
α-humulene	0,75 %	0,15 %	1,06 %	С

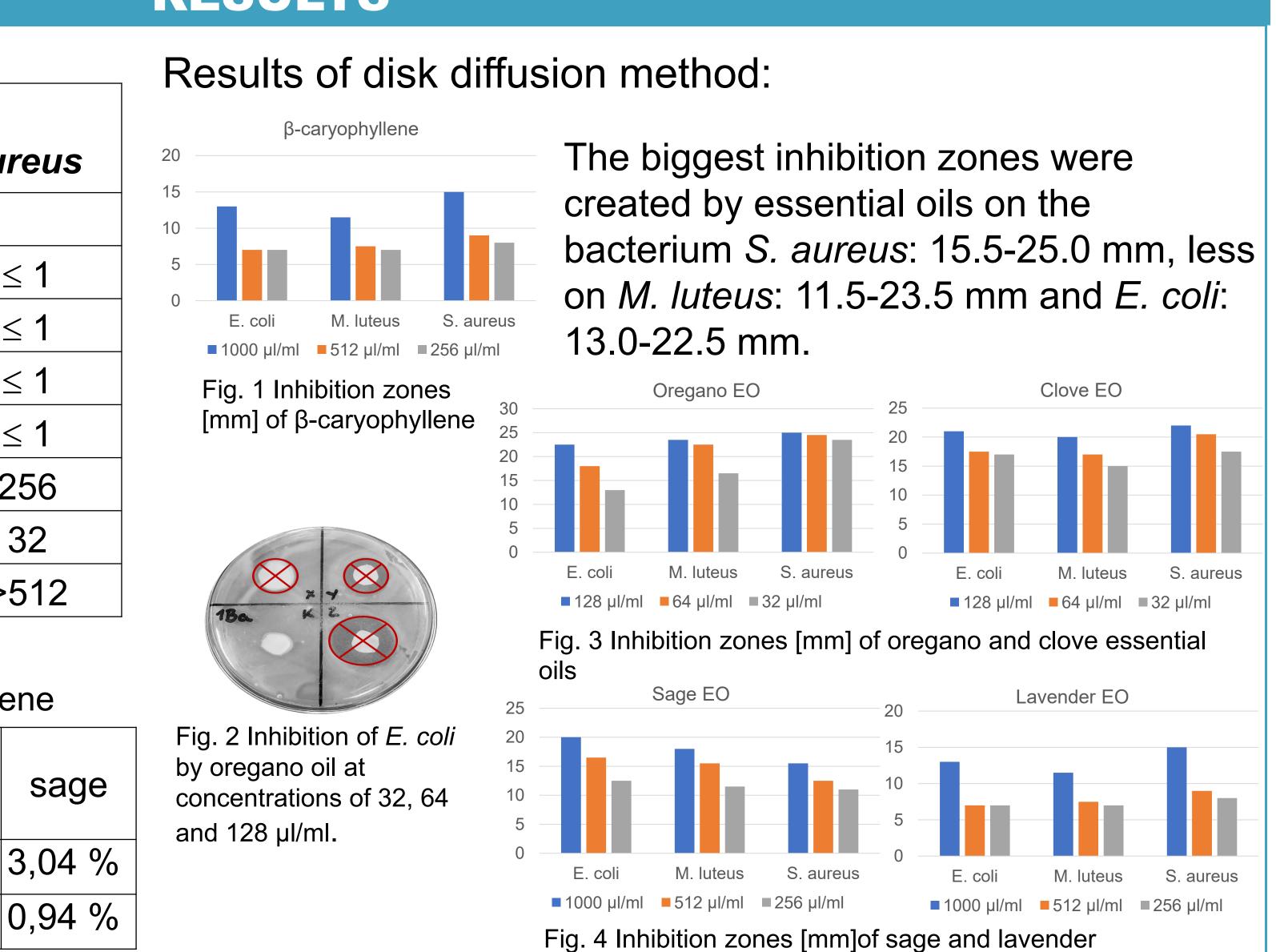
ESSENTIAL OILS CONTAINING CARYOPHYLLENE AND THEIR ANTIBACTERIAL EFFECTS

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Bacterial strains: Escherichia coli CCM 3954, Micrococcus luteus DSM 1790 and Staphylococcus aureus CCM 4223

Essential oils: Clove, lavender, oregano and sage **Pure substances**: α -Humulene, β -caryophyllene, caryophyllene oxide

Preparation of the inoculum: The overnight cultures were diluted in culture medium and adjusted to a final concentration of 5 \times 10⁵ CFU/ml. **Methodology**: Microdilution method; disk diffusion method



essential oils

RESULTS

aim The this of work was to antibacterial characterize the potential of selected essential oils, clove, lavender, oregano and sage, containing caryophyllene and its structural forms against Escherichia coli CCM 3954, Micrococcus luteus DSM 1790 and Staphylococcus aureus CCM 4223.

CONCLUSIONS

The most significant effects were observed with oregano and clove oil. Lavender oil also had significant antimicrobial potential, as well as sage oil. The most sensitive was the gram-positive bacterium S. aureus CCM 4223 with MIC \leq 1 µl/ml for all tested essential oils.

Among the tested pure substances, β -caryophyllene caryophyllene oxide and α -humulene showed weak antimicrobial activity.

In our work, we confirmed that essential oils with β caryophyllene as one component were more effective than pure substances.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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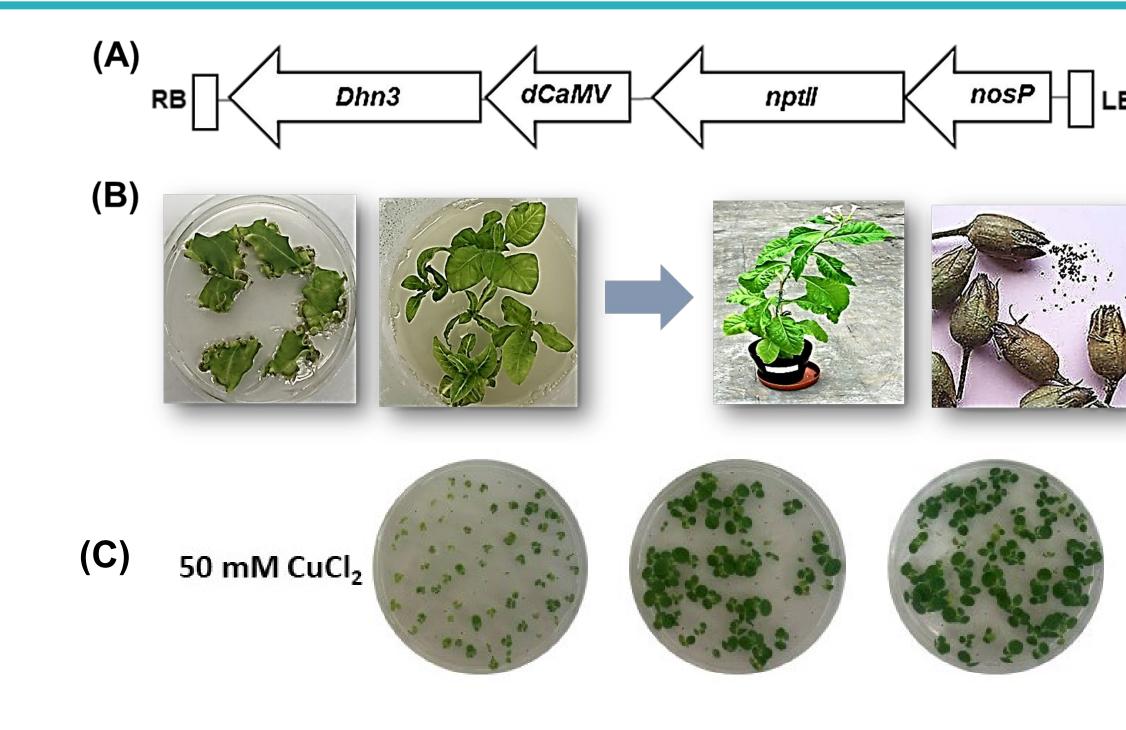
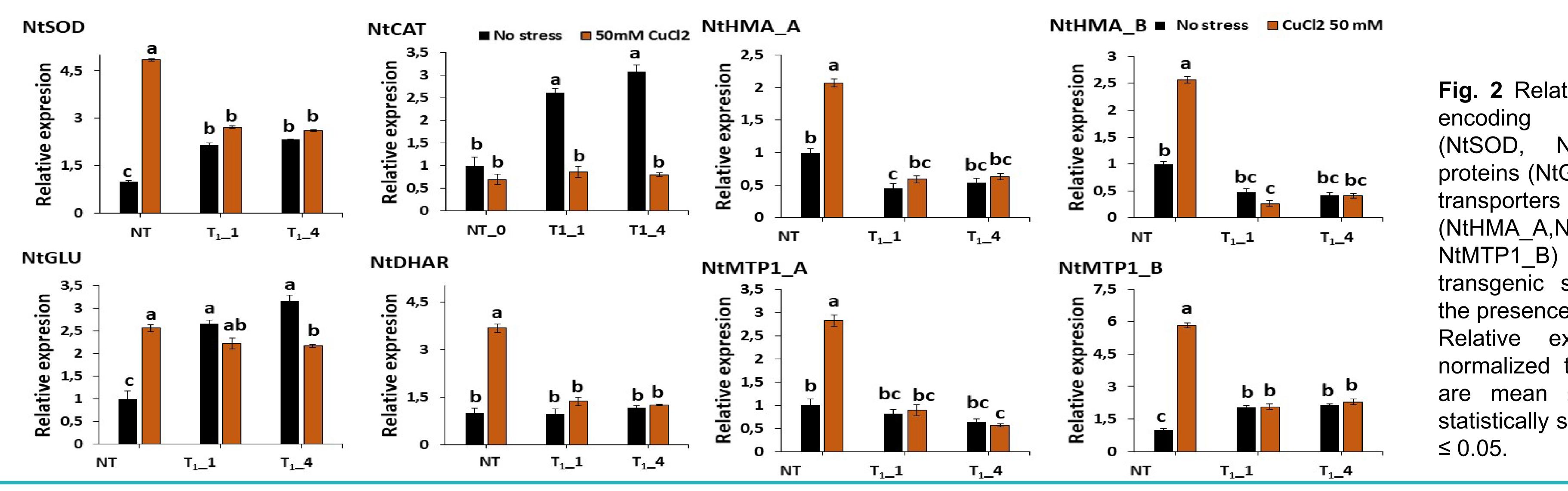


Fig.1 An expression cassette consisting of the gene Dhn3 under control of dCaMV 35S promoter (A) was introduced into tobacco (Nicotiana tabacum L.) via A. tumefaciens LBA 4404 (B) Transgenic (T_1_1 and T_1_4) and non-transgenic (NT) tobacco seedlings were germinated in the presence of 50mM CuCl₂ for 3 weeks (**C**).

 T_1_1

 T_1_4

NT



Acknowledgements: This work was supported by the grants VEGA 1/0525/20, KEGA 001UCM-4/2022 and APVV 20-0413. 8th International Conference Applied Natural Sciences 2023 | 18th - 20th of September 2023 | Residence Hotel & Club, Donovaly | Slovak Republic



Dehydrins (PF00257) are thermostable and highly hydrophilic proteins that are associated mainly with later stages of plant embryogenesis. Besides that, many studied indicate their role in plant stress tolerance. The work is aimed to study the effect of an overexpression of the dehydrin gene (Dhn3) from Quercus robur L. (AY607707.1) in transgenic tobacco plants on alleviation of copper stress during seed germination. Transgenic plants overexpressing the gene Dhn3 (Fig. 1A, B) were germinated under 50 mM CuCl₂ (Fig. 1C) and analysed. The espression of the genes involved in plant antioxidant system (superoxid dismutase SOD, catalase CAT dehydroascorbate reductase DHAR), defence response (beta-1,3 glucanase GLU), metal transporters (heavy metal ATPases HMA_A and HMA_B, metal transport proteins MTP1_A, MTP1_B) were quantified using qPCR (Fig. 2).

Conclusions An overexpression of the geneDhn3 altered the expression of antioxidant enzymes (SOD, CAT) and PR proteins (GLU), compared to non-trasgenic NT seedlings. In non-transgenic (NT) tobacco seedlings, applied stress significantly increased the expression of the genes encoding antioxidant enzymes SOD (4.5 fold), DHAR (4 fold), GLU (2.5 fold), (HMA _A and HMA _B ((2 and 2.5 folds), NtMTP1_A, NtMTP1_B (3 and 6 folds); while in stressed (T_1) transgenic seedlings the expression of the genes SOD, DHAR, GLU, NtHMA A, NtHMA B, NtMTP1 A, NtMTP1 B did not significantly change, compared to their non-stressed counterparts. An overexpression of the dehydrin Dhn3 in transgenic tobacco plants contributed to the alleviation of copper stress during seed germination.

Overexpresion of oak dehydrin gene in tobacco enhances tolerance to copper stress

MILAN KARAS¹, EVA BOSZORÁDOVÁ², ZUZANA GERSI¹, JANA MORAVČÍKOVÁ¹ ¹ University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava ² Plant Science and Biodiversity Centre SAS



Fig. 2 Relative expression of genes antioxidant enzymes NtDHAR). NtCAT, PR proteins (NtGLU) and selected metal-

(NtHMA A, NtHMA B, NtMTP1 A,

NtMTP1 B) in transgenic and nontransgenic seedlings germinated in the presence of 50 mM $CuCl_2$.

Relative expression levels were normalized to the actin gene. Data mean ± SE. Letters indicate statistically significant differences at p

ANS 2023

TWO NOVEL CLOSELY RELATED SUBFAMILIES OF THE ALPHA-AMYLASE FAMILY GH13

INTRODUCTION

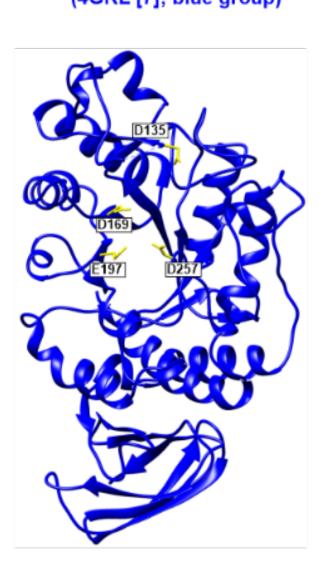
The CAZy database classifies glycoside hydrolases and other enzyme classes involved in the starch degradation are referred to as amylolytic and \alpha-amylase is an integral part of this process. \alpha-Amylases catalyze endohydrolysis of \alpha-1,4-glucosidic linkages in polysaccharides that consist of at least three a-1,4-linked glucose units [2]. The main a-amylase are represented by the CAZy clan GH-H consisting of three families, i.e., the families GH70 and GH77 in addition to the main family GH13 [2]. At a lower level of the hierarchy, the family GH13 is divided into 47 subfamilies, reflecting the closer sequences that, due to their structure-sequence features, have not yet been assigned to any of the established GH13 subfamilies. This is the case of the maltogenic amylase from *Haloarcula japonica* [8]. The presented by the above-mentioned enzymes to indicate their position in the context of the main α-amylase family GH13.

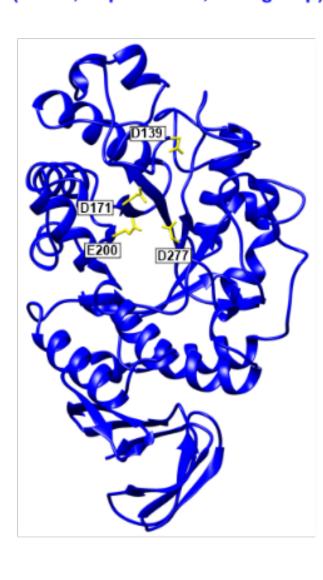
AIM OF THE STUDY

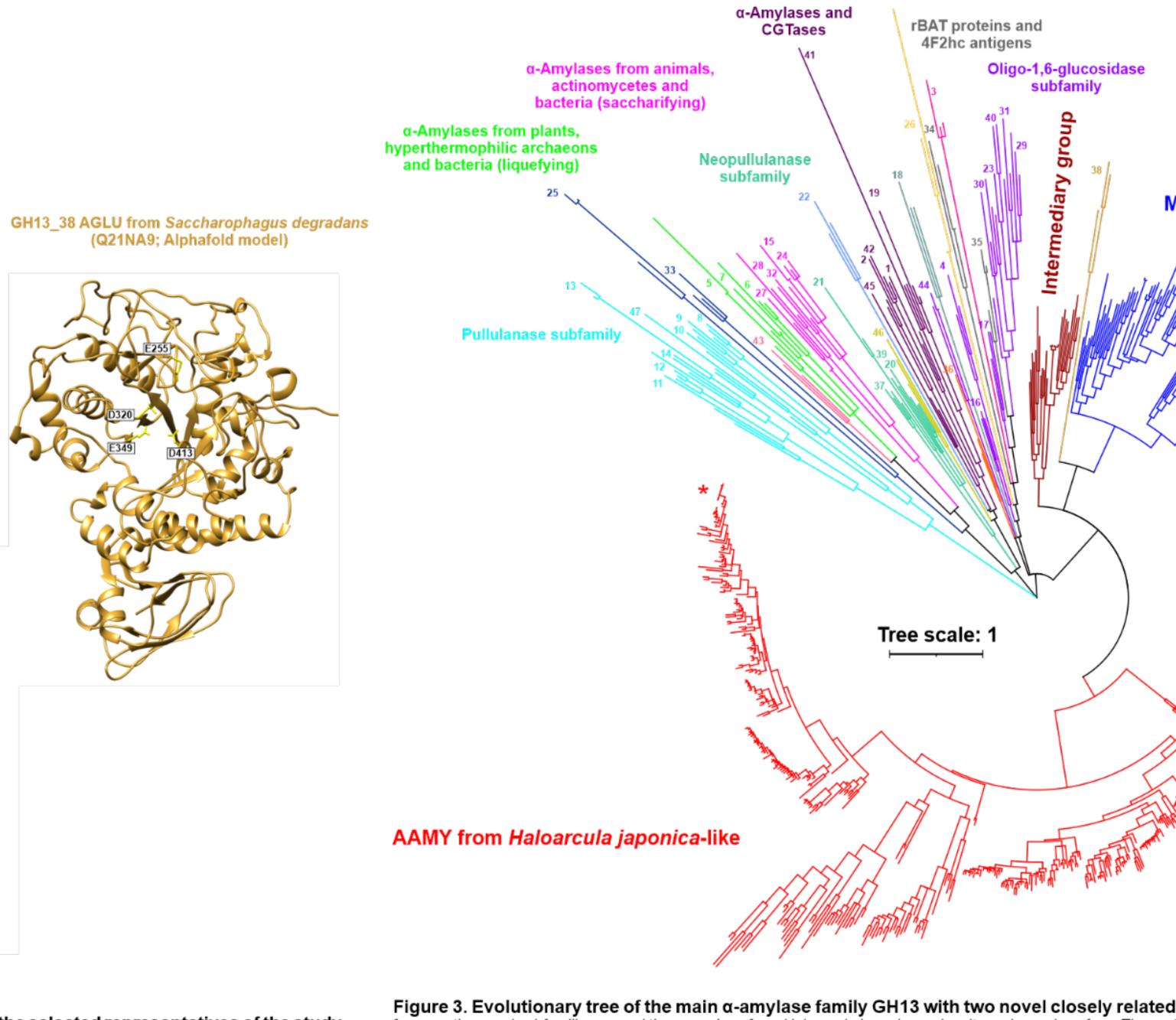
The main objectives of the presented *in silico* study are to: (i) indicate whether or not are within the main α -amylase family GH13 two related groups of enzymes that are worthy of creating new official subfamilies within the CAZy database. The first group could be represented by the α -amylase from Haloarcula japonica, while the latter one by maltogenic amylase from Thermotoga neapolitana; (ii) identify sequence-structural features of these two groups of enzymes and hypothetical proteins that could clearly demonstrate their mutual evolutionary relatedness, but on the other hand, confirm that these two groups represent two independent subfamilies of the main α -amylase family GH13.

MGA from Thermotoga neapolitana (4GKL [7]; blue group)

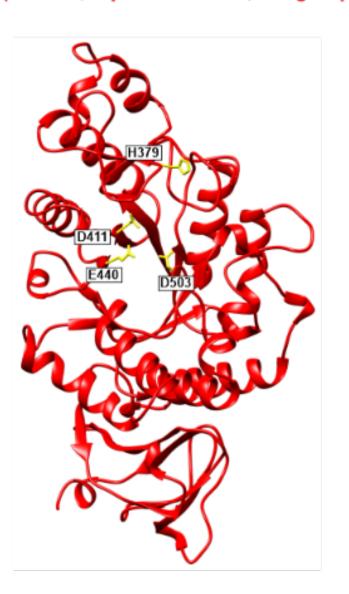
"AAMY" from *Lactoplantibacillus plantarum* (3DHU, unpublished; blue group)

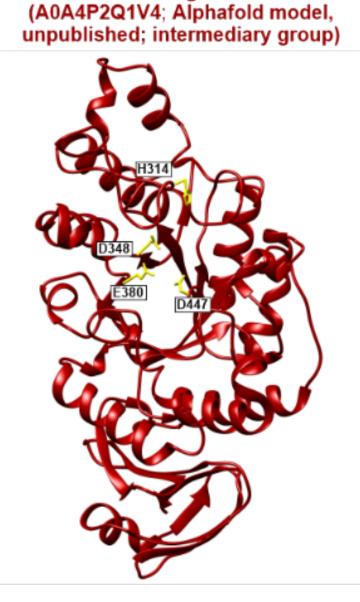






AAMY from Haloarcula japonica (L8B068; Alphafold model; red group)





HYPO from Sorangium cellulosun

Figure 4. 3D structures and Alphafold models of the 3D structures of the selected representatives of the study Side chains of the catalytic residues or predicted catalytic residues, respectively are displayed (yellow). The residue that is involved in nonreducing end sugar-binding site of the MGA from T. neapolitana - D135 and corresponding residues in other structures/models are also shown. The models were obtained by the DeepMind software Alphafold (https://alphafold.ebi.ac.uk/).

Laboratory of Protein Evolution

Filip Mareček¹ & Štefan Janeček^{1,2}

HYPO from Natronoarchaeum philippinense (SNZ12383.1)	H
48 162 178 264 277 780 790 1011 	_
HYPO from Marinimicrobia bacterium (PIS27281.1)	
34 169 179 609 Galactose-bindingGH13_??	
HYPO from Sorangium cellulosum (AUX23224.1)	H
1 79 86 171 181 611 N3 - N4 - GH13_??	_
	$HYPO \text{ from Marinimicrobia bacterium (PIS27281.1)}$ $\frac{46 169 179 \qquad 609}{\text{Galactose-binding} GH13_??}$ $HYPO \text{ from Sorangium cellulosum (AUX23224.1)}$ $1 79 86 171 181 \qquad 611$

Figure 1. Domain arrangement of selected representatives of the study. The eight representatives were chosen to best represent the situation within the two novel closely related GH13 subfamilies (first two rows) as well as in the intermediary group (last row). The individual domains are colored as follows: catalytic domain - red/blue/burgundy (depending on the group to which the enzyme or hypothetical protein belongs) Polycystic kidney disease domain (PKD) - magenta; N1 - cyan; N2 - martian green; N3 - gold; N4 - grey; N5 - purple; C1 - yellow-green; C2 - plum; CBM48 - orange; CBM4 - navy blue; glucodextranase-like binding domain green; galactose-binding domain - grey-green.

Figure 3. Evolutionary tree of the main α-amylase family GH13 with two novel closely related subfamilies. The tree covers 833 sequences with a focus on the novel subfamilies around the α-amylase from Haloarcula japonica and maltogenic amylase from Thermotoga neapolitana, respectively. The tree is based on the alignment, spanning the sequence segment from the beginning of the strand \beta2 (CSR-VI) to the end of the strand \beta8 (CSR-VII), i.e. the substantial part of the catalytic TIM-barrel including the domain B. For the sake of simplicity, only the branches leading to the individual GH13 subfamilies, marked by their numbers, are shown. Characterized members of the individual groups are labeled by an asterisk.

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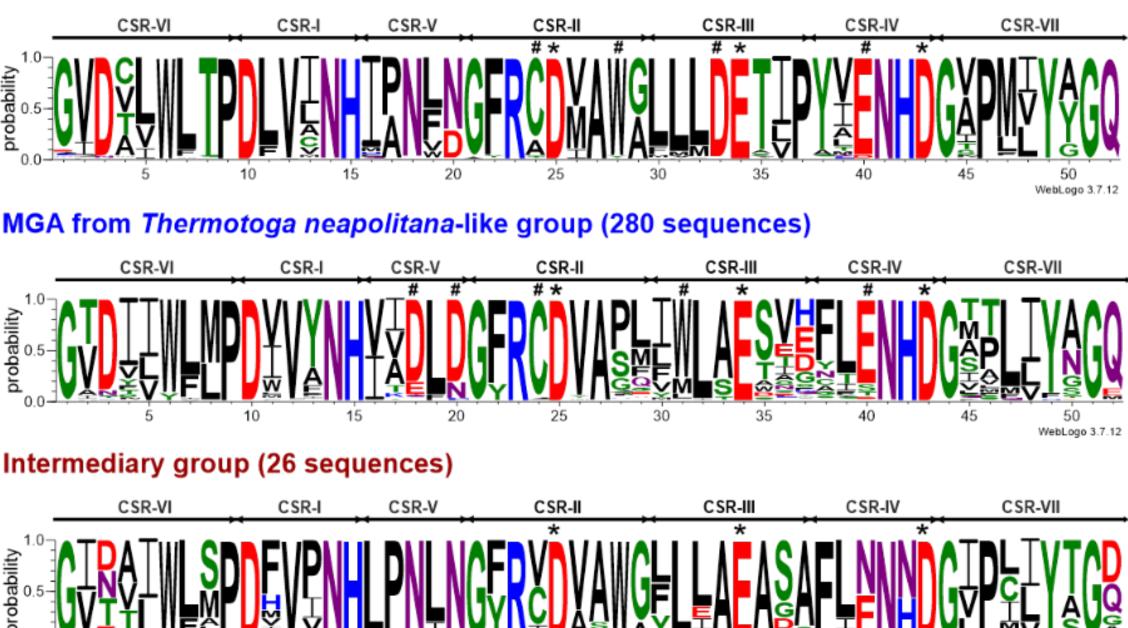
¹ Laboratory of Protein Evolution, Institute of Molecular Biology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Slovakia ² Institute of Biology and Biotechnology, Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of SS. Cyril and Methodius, Trnava, Slovakia

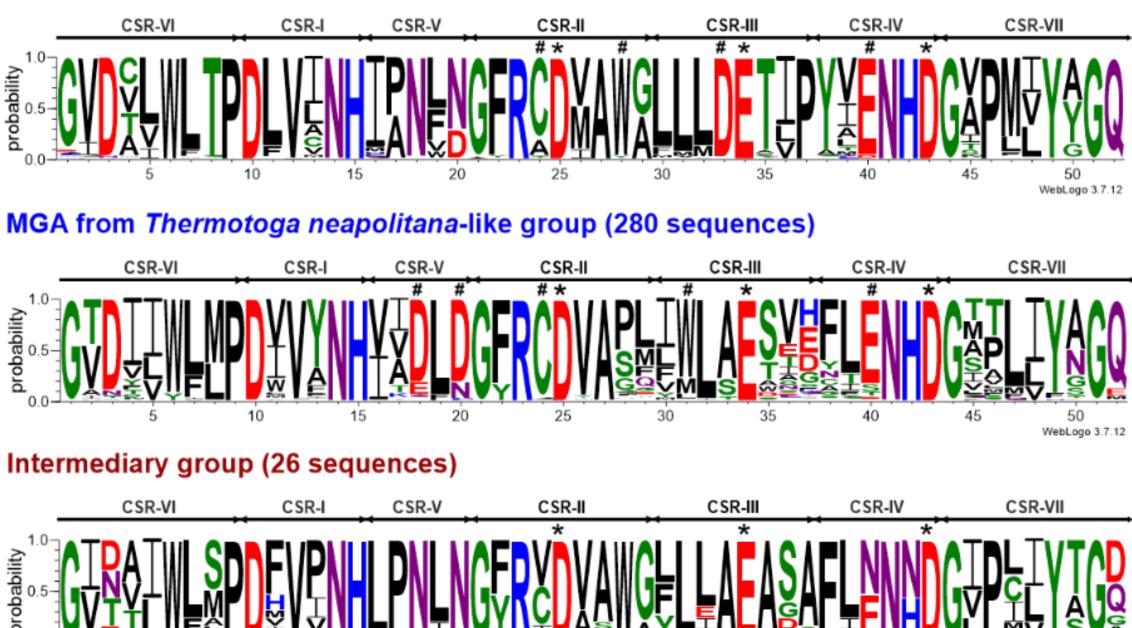
YPO from Caldithrix abyssi (APF20939.1)

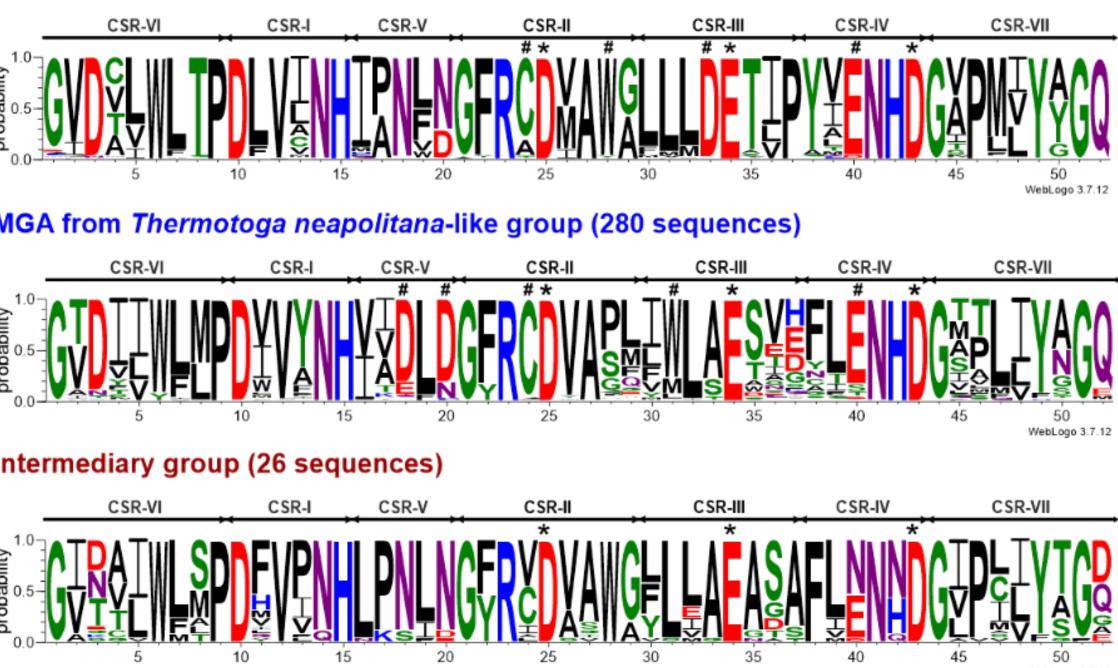
26 113 117 210 225 304 310 402 404 492 501 - CBM48 N3 - PKD - CBM48 N1 -GH13_??

YPO from Tangfeifania diversioriginum (SHJ39314.1)

5 785 911 917 1009 1102 1116 1198 CBM4 C1 C1 C1 C2 CBM48 N5 PKD







MGA from Thermotoga neapolitana-like



(1) The presented study delivers a detailed in silico analysis of 692 sequences from two closely related groups of GH13 enzymes and hypothetical proteins. The first group could be represented by the α -amylase from Haloarcula japonica, while the latter one by maltogenic amylase from Thermotoga neapolitana (Fig. 1).

(2) Comparison of amino acid sequences of the aforementioned two related groups of enzymes and hypothetical proteins was focused mainly on 7 well-established CSRs of the family GH13. Both of the groups share some common sequence features e.g. well-conserved cysteine before the catalytic nucleophile (Fig. 2; position 24); or well-conserved glutamic acid in the CSR -IV (Fig. 2; position 40), but at the same time also bearing their own characteristics (Fig. 2).

(3) The maximum-likelihood evolutionary tree of the whole family GH13 (Fig. 3) was calculated based on a substantial stretch of the catalytic domain extending from the β2 strand up to the β8 strand i.e. the segment covering all seven CSRs. Phylogenetic analysis supports the hypothesis that the two above-mentioned groups represent two related but at the same time independent GH13 subfamilies. Moreover, results suggest that the representatives of α -glucosidases from the subfamily GH13 38 are most closely related to the novel subfamilies (Fig. 3).

(4) Structural analysis of the maltogenic amylase from *Thermotoga neapolitana* with the 3D structures/models of selected representatives of the study revealed the highest degree of similarity with the 3D structure of "α-amylase" from Lactoplantibacillus plantarum (Fig. 4). The 3D structure of this enzyme was solved in 2008, and the enzyme was without further biochemical characterization designated as an α-amylase. Nevertheless, our analysis indicated the conservation of important non-reducing end sugar-binding site residue - D135 (MGA from *T. neapolitana*) in the structure of "α-amylase" from Lactoplantibacillus plantarum (Fig. 4). This suggests possible similar mode of action of these enzymes.

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AAMY from Haloarcula japonica TR-1-like group (386 sequences)

Figure 2. Sequence logos of the seven well-established GH13 CSRs of three following groups (in accordance with the evolutionary tree): (a) Group represented by the a-amylase from Haloarcula japonica (red; 386 sequences); (b) Group represented by the maltogenic amylase from Thermotoga maritima (blue; 280 sequences); (c) Group represented by the hypothetical protein from Sorangium celullosum (burgundy; 26 sequences). CSR-I, residues 10-15; CSR-II residues 23-31; CSR-III, residues 32-39; CSR-IV, residues 40-45; CSR-V, residues 16-20; CSR-VI, residues 1-9; CSR-VII, residues 46-54. The catalytic triad, i.e. the catalytic nucleophile (No. 25, aspartic acid), the proton donor (No. 34, glutamic acid) and the transition-state stabiliser (No. 43, aspartic acid) are indicated by asterisks. The well-conserved residues, which could represent specific features of the two novel GH13 subfamilies identified by the analysis are indicated by hashtag.

- Calpains (EC 3.4.22.17), calcium-activated cysteine proteases participate in many cellular processes and are well-characterised in many animals and plants, but not in the protist (taxon Euglenida).
- The mitochondrion of Euglena gracilis is a single, large and reticulated organelle, a trait that is by no means unique among protists. Recently, the sequence of mitochondrial calpain was identified in the transcriptome of E. gracilis using in silico methods.
- Mitochondrial calpain consists of conservative CysPC and Calpain III domain.
- The expression comparison of mutant W10BSmL and *E. gracilis* wild-type revealed significant differences.
- The analysis showed higher (2,57 expression of selected times) mitochondrial gene in W10BSmL in comparison with wild-type cells.

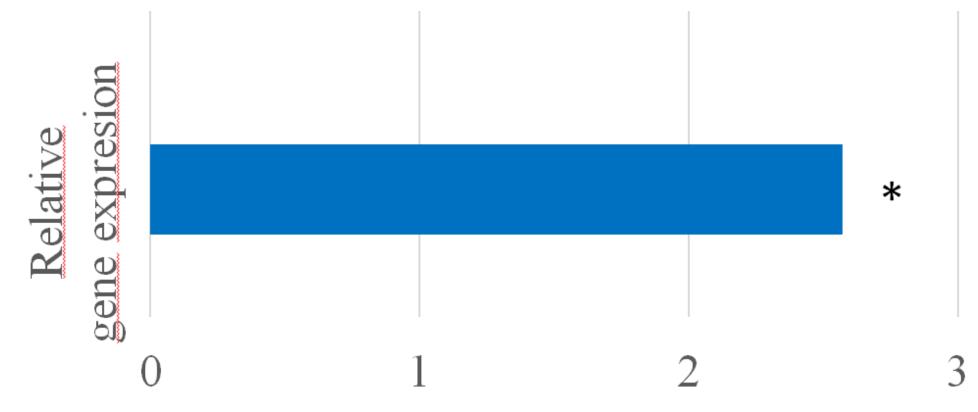


Fig. 2. Relative expression of the CysPC domain of mitochondrial calpain gene Fig. 3. Amplification of 191 bp DNA fragment of reference gene (cox1) (A) and 142 bp DNA fragment of the mitochondrial calpain (eugra1980.p1.) in white mutant W10BSmL gene (CysPC domain of eugra1980.p1) (B) detected by RT-qPCR in of Euglena gracilis. Expression level was Euglena gracilis strain Z and W10BSmL bleached mutant. NTC – analyzed by RT-qPCR and normalized over negative control. the *cox1* gene.

ANS 2023 The expression level of the CysPC domain of mitochondrial calpain in W10BSmL white mutant compared to wild type *Euglena gracilis* strain Z

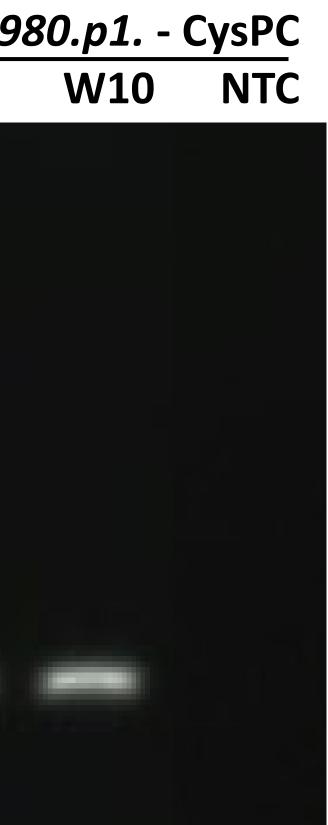
University of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Trnava, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Nám. J. Herdu 2, 917 01 Trnava, Slovak Republic

То detect and the compare gene expression level of mitochondrial calpain of the wild-type *E*. gracilis and its stable bleached mutant W10BSmL.

A B	
cox1 genebp MEgZW10NTCbp M	eugra19 EgZ
$\frac{200}{100}$	

Dominika Vešelényiová, Juraj Krajčovič, <u>Zuzana Gerši</u>

AIM



MATERIALS AND METHODS

Cell cultures of wild-type *Euglena gracilis* strain Z (EgZ) and *E. gracilis* W10BSmL (W10) white mutant grown in CM medium for 24 h at light and a temperature of 23 °C.

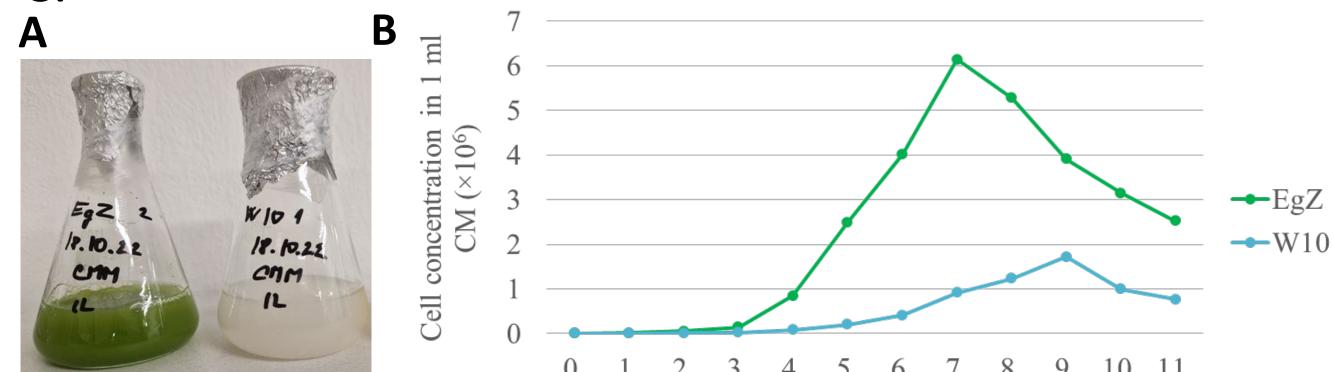


Fig. 1. A - cell cultures of *Euglena gracilis* strain Z (left) and W10BSmL mutant (right) in CM medium after 10 day of cultivation. B - Growth profiles of EgZ and W10 cells.

- cDNA was prepared by reverse transcription from total RNA
- Using quantitative RT-PCR analysis was amplified a segment of the CysPC domain of the mitochondrial calpain and *cox1* gene (reference gene).
- The relative expression was interpreted according to the Livak method.

CONCLUSIONS

The activity of the mitochondrial calpain gene is 2.5 times higher in the white mutant W10BSmL.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

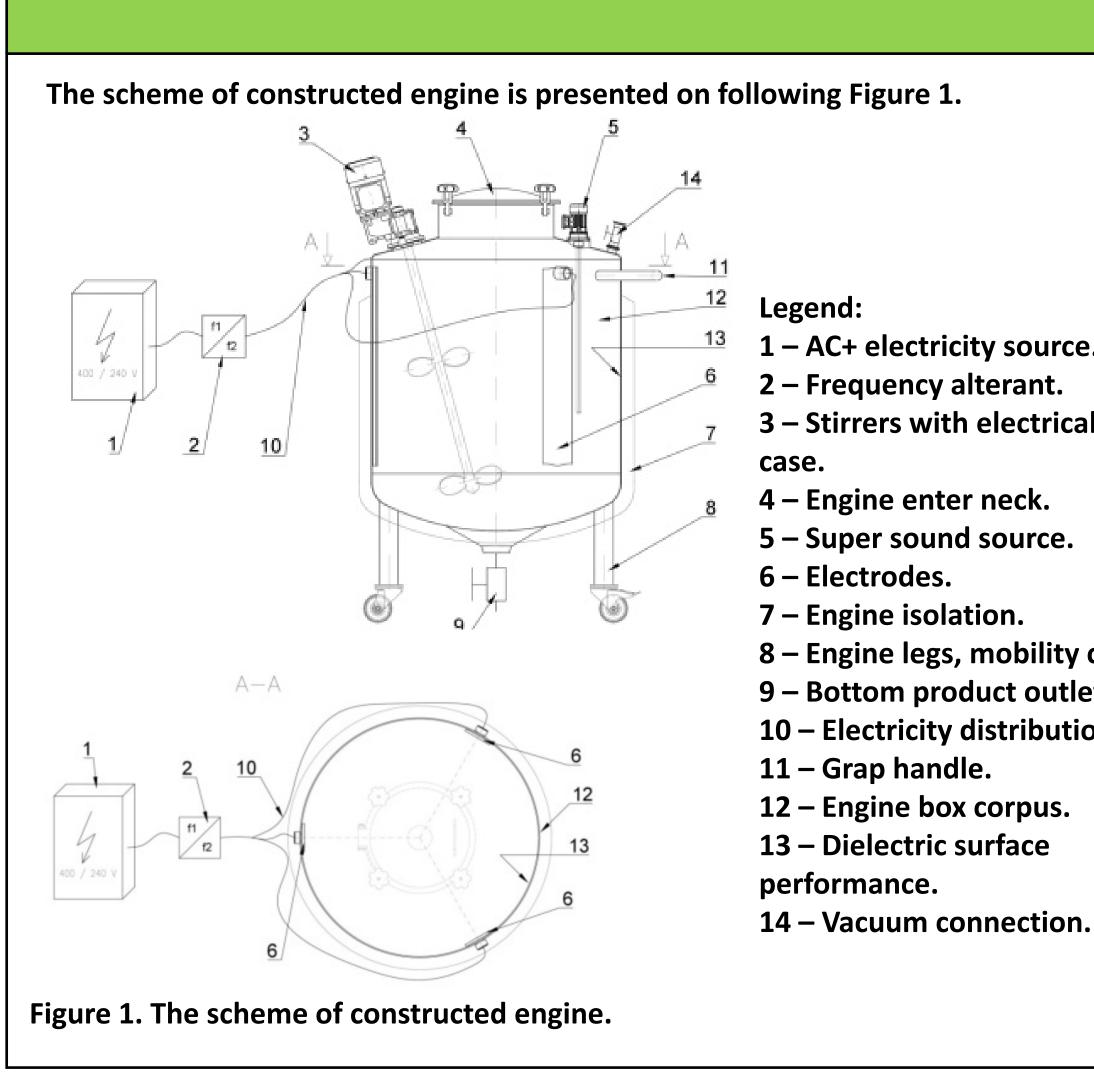
This work was supported by the grant VEGA 1/0694/21.

Cultivation time (days)



ABSTRACT

It has been developed original engine for frugal extraction of plant extractive compounds with accelerating effect, worked upon the principle of the simultaneous combination of several physical factors (sonication, temperature, by electrical field promoting extraction device). By application of this engine, it was obtained plant extract samples with several times enhanced dry matter content as well as bio-activity, particularly antioxidant activity, antibacterial activity, inhibition activity on pathophysiological important enzymes, anti-inflammatory activity etc. This device was utilize in the process of the extract samples preparation. prepared samples expressed significant simultaneous Several antibacterial effect, inhibition activity on Main protease of SARS-CoV-2, antioxidant activity as well as anti-inflammatory activity. Especially extract samples from bark of oak (Quercus robur, L.), silver birch (Betula pendula, L.) or leaves of horse chestnut (Aesculus hippostanum, L.) and others. The enhancement factor (coefficient) warried in interval (2,8 -6,2). The extraction products was prepared for development of new food supplements for pandemic situation, aimed to enhance defensiveness of human body.



Preparation of the plant extracts with significant enhanced bioactivity, by application of innovative engine, worked on simultaneous application of several physical factors for new food supplements generation.

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INTRODUCTION

The necessity of bio-active compounds as perspective drugs or agents with preventive/therapeutic effect for food supplements it is really evident [1]. The basic screening of bio-activity of compounds/medical plant extracts consist of several basic assays – for antioxidant activity, anti-microbial activity, anti-inflammatory activity and basic enzyme inhibition activity included anti-proteinase activity [2]. In this authors team is currently studied modern and perspective determination of antioxidant/pro-oxidant activity in simultaneous tests on one microplate [3, 4]. The commercial database Scifinder, one of the most widely utilized databases, reveals a significant lack of scientific papers about pro-oxidants, especially papers describing the results of simultaneously tested antioxidant/pro-oxidant activity. Previous COVID pandemic period created a focus on papers about perspective entities with antiviral activity (especially SARS-CoV-2 3CLproteinase inhibitors) antibacterial activity and anti-inflammatory activity [5 - 7]. The bioactivity enhancement of medical plant extracts could be carried out beside reactive extraction or by realized by physical treatment [8 - 10]

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RESULTS

The example of the best results with enhanced extractivity, expressed as increasing of dried matter of extracts, as well as enhancing of bioactivity, expressed by enhancing factor for chosen medical plant matter /extracts/ is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. The increasing of extractivity, bioactivity for selected (medical) plant extracts, expressed as Enhancement Factor /EF/.

alterant. h electrical gear er neck. d source.	Dried matter of plant	EF for /DM/ (dried matter) in extracts	EF for /AVA/ Inhibition of 3CLpro SARS- Cov-2	EF for /AFA/ Inhibition of PMA stimulated leucocytes	EF for /AOXA/ scavenging of DPPH ^o radical	EF for /PROOXA/ the measure of conversion of Fe ³⁺ to Fe ²⁺	EF for /ABA/ MIC _{AVG} on 8 bacterial strains
ition.	Oregano, <i>Origanum vulgare,</i> flower	3,1	3,1	3,5	5,1	4,5	3,6
, mobility concept.	Sessile oak, <i>Quercus petraea</i> , bark	4,2	4,3	4,4	6,0	6,2	4,3
duct outlet. distribution.	Rapeseed, <i>Brassica napus</i> , grains	2,8	3,1	3,0	4,0	4,5	3,6
lle. k corpus.	Oat, <i>Avena sativa</i> , grains	2,9	3,5	3,5	4,5	5,0	3,9

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- > The original engine for frugal extraction of plant extractive compounds with accelerating effect consist of following applications: heating by AC electrode heating, fixed in non- conductor wall of engine, equipped by ultrasonic moduli, either stirrer device, with the possibility of air evaporation (oxygen removing). This engine is equipped for normal/reactive extraction promoted by heating, AC electric field and sonication.
- > The subject of extraction it is dried medical plant matter, fragment to pieces less than 5 mm in diameter, suspended in distilled water or water/ethanol mixture in ration 9:1 to 1:1.
- > Antiviral activity of the extracts was expressed as inhibition activity on main 3CLproteinase of SARS-CoV-2 virus, determined by adapted method using gold nano-particles, derivatized by pentaoligeppetide H₂N-EEEETSAVLQSGFRC-COOH, the releasing of gold nanoparticles aggregation blocking is measured by significant color increasing at 630 nm, output parameter is IC_{50} value expressed in mg of dried matter/ml.
- > Anti-inflammatory activity was determined on PMA stimulated leucocytes, isolated from peripheral blood of lab animal, measured as fluorescence detection of radical production in percentual expression.
- Antibacterial activity was tested on following bacterial strains: (carbapenemase producing Klebsiella ssp., ESBL Enetrococcus aerogenes, MDR Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Acinetobacter baumannii, VRE Enterococcus faecium and MRSA Staphylococcus aureus) on microplates using convenient dilution mode in MHB, output parameter is MIC expressed in mg of dried matter /ml.
- Antioxidant activity was measured by scavenging of model DPPH° radical, measured as decrease at 520 nm, output parameter is IC_{50} value expressed in mg of dried matter per mililiter.
- Pro-oxidant activity was measured by percentual measure of ion Fe³⁺ conversion to more pro-oxdant Fe²⁺ ion, measured as increase at 630 nm, output parameter is IC_{50} value expressed in mg of dried matter /ml.

CONCLUSIONS

- The natural extracts are still a very perspective subject of the research, aimed to discover and offer new skeletal types for drug generations.
- 2. Currently there are interesting a plant extracts with dual/multimodal therapeutic potency, in this paper are desired medical plant extracts with simultaneous antioxidant, antibacterial, antiviral and anti-inflammatory activity.
- Flower extract of oregano, Origanum vulgare, bark extract of sessile oak, Quercus petraea, and grain extract of rapeseed, Brassica napus and oat, Avena sativa were selected for their multimodal bioactivity effect.
- 4. Mentioned extract were subjected to the study of enhancement of bioactivity by the original engine, able to realize frugal extraction of plant extractive compounds with accelerating effect.
- 5. The value of dry matter in extracts was increased by factor 2,8 4,2; antiviral activity measured by inhibition of 3CLpro SARS-Cov-2 by factor 3,1 – 4,3; anti-inflammatory activity, measured as suppression of PMA stimulated leucocytes by factor 3,0 – 4,4; antioxidant activity measured by scavenging of model DPPH° radical by factor 4,0 – 6,0; pro-oxidant activity measured as degree of conversion Fe3+ to Fe2+ by factor 4,0 -6,2 and finally antibacterial activity by factor 3,6 -4,3.
- 6. Simultaneous effect of temperature, ultrasonic, extract promotion by electric field under oxygen content low conditions leads to increase desiring bioactivity by factor 3 - 6,2.
- 7. The next future HPLC analysis would reveal if the content of the extraction sample is different, thus if the extraction accelerating factors promote the extraction of the same or different compounds.
- 8. The medical plant extracts prepared by describing methodology are very perspective for new food supplements generation.

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