SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

An insight into anti-biofilm and anti-quorum sensing activities of the selected anthocyanidins: the case study of Pseudomonas aeruginosa PAO1

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Abstract

Anti-biofilm activity of three anthocyanidins (pelargonidin, cyanidin and delphinidin) was evaluated for the first time at \textit{in vitro} conditions. All the compounds reduced the formation of \textit{Pseudomonas aeruginosa} PAO1 biofilm at low subMIC (0.125 MIC) with delphinidin (c 56.25 μg/mL) being the most active (43%). In comparison, ampicillin (c 93.75 μg/mL) and streptomycin (c 21.25 μg/mL) (used as positive controls) were considerably less effective at the same subMIC (8 and 12%, respectively). Furthermore, at 0.5 MIC (c 225 μg/mL) this anthocyanidin molecule partly reduced the bacterial protrusions. However, no any of the aforementioned compounds inhibited the production of pyocyanin by the bacterial strain \textit{P. aeruginosa} PAO1. Taken all together, the delphinidin scaffold could be taken into consideration for the design of the novel and more effective anti-biofilm agents inspired by the anthocyanidins.

\textbf{Keywords:} flavanone-7-O-glucoside; delphinidin; infectious diseases; bacterial resistance; anti-biofilm activity; low sub-MIC
Experimental

Bacterial strain, growth media and culture conditions

*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* PA01 (ATCC 27853) used in this study originated from the collection of the Mycoteca, Institute for Biological Research "Sinisa Stankovic" (IBISS), Belgrade, Serbia. Bacteria were routinely grown in Luria-Bertani (LB) medium (1% w/v NaCl, 1% w/v Tryptone, 0.5% w/v yeast extract) with shaking (220 rpm) and cultured at 37 °C.

Antibacterial activity

Selected anthocyanidin compounds purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Munich, Germany) were tested. The antibacterial assay was performed as previously described (Tsukatani et al. 2012; Pejin, Iodice et al. 2014). Streptomycin (Sigma-Aldrich, Munich, Germany) and ampicillin (Panfarma, Belgrade, Serbia) (1 mg/mL in sterile physiological saline) were applied as positive controls, while 5% DMSO (Sigma-Aldrich, Munich, Germany) was applied as a negative control. A number of wells were reserved in each plate for control of sterility (no inoculum added), inoculum viability (no compounds added) and 5% DMSO inhibitory effect.

Anti-biofilm activity

The effect of three different subinhibitory concentrations (subMICs) of selected anthocyanidins (ranging from 0.5 to 0.125 of MIC) on biofilm forming ability was tested on polystyrene flat-bottomed microtitre 96 well plates, as described previously with some modifications (Spoering & Lewis 2001; Drenkard & Ausubel 2002; Pejin, Savic et al. 2014). Briefly, 100 µL of overnight culture of *P. aeruginosa* (inoculum size was 1×10⁸ CFU/mL) was added to each well of the plates in the presence of 100 µL subMICs of the compounds tested or 100 µL medium (control). After incubation for 24 h at 37 °C, each well was washed twice with sterile PBS (pH 7.4), dried, stained for 10 min with 0.1% crystal violet in order to determine the biofilm mass. After drying, 200 µL of 95% ethanol (v/v) was added to solubilise the dye that had stained the biofilm cells. The
excess stain was washed off with dH₂O. After 10 min, the content of the wells was homogenised and the absorbance at λ=625 nm was read on a Sunrise™ - Tecan ELISA reader. The experiment was done in triplicate and repeated two times. The values obtained are presented as mean values ± SE.

**Anti-twitching and flagella motility activity**

After growth in the presence or absence of the selected anthocyanidin compounds (subMIC; 0.5 MIC), streptomycin and ampicillin (0.5 MIC), the cells of *P. aeruginosa* PA01 were washed twice with sterile PBS and resuspended in PBS at 1×10⁸ CFU/mL (OD of 0.1 at 660 nm). Briefly, cells were stabbed into a nutrient agar plate with a sterile toothpick and incubated overnight at 37 °C. Plates were then removed from the incubator and incubated at room temperature for two more days. Colony edges and the zone of motility were measured with a light microscope (O'Toole & Kolter 1998a,b). SubMICs of the compounds tested were mixed into 10 mL of molten MH medium and poured immediately over the surface of a solidified LBA plate as an overlay. The plate was point inoculated with an overnight culture of PAO1 once the overlaid agar had solidified and incubated at 37 °C for 3 days. The extent of swimming was determined by measuring the area of the colony (Sandy & Foong-Yee 2012). The colony diameters were measured three times in different direction. The experiment was done in triplicate and repeated two times. The values obtained are presented as mean values ± SE.

**Pyocyanin production inhibitory activity**

Overnight culture of *P. aeruginosa* PA01 was diluted to OD₆₀₀ nm 0.2. Then, the compounds tested (subMIC, 0.5 MIC), was added to *P. aeruginosa* (5 mL) and incubated at 37 °C for 24 h. The treated culture was extracted with chloroform (3 mL) followed by mixing the chloroform layer with 0.2 M HCl (1 mL). Absorbance of the extracted organic layer was measured at 520 nm using a Shimadzu UV1601 spectrophotometer (Kyoto, Japan) (Sandy & Foong-Yee 2012). The values were expressed as ratio (OD₅₂₀/OD₆₀₀) × 100. The experiment was done in triplicate and repeated two times. The values obtained are presented as mean values ± SE.
Statistical analysis

All assays were carried out in triplicate. The results expressed as mean values with standard errors were analysed using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Tukey's HSD test ($\alpha = 0.05$). This analysis was carried out using SPSS v. 18.0 program.

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Table S1. Minimum inhibitory (MIC) and bactericidal (MBC) concentrations of selected anthocyanidins.

| Anthocyanidins | Pseudomonas aeruginosa PAO1 MIC/MBC (mg/mL) |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------|
|                |                                           |
| Delphinidin    | 0.450                                     |
|                | 0.900                                     |
| Pelargonidin   | 0.450                                     |
|                | 0.900                                     |
| Cyanidin       | 1.000                                     |
|                | 1.350                                     |
| Streptomycin   | 0.170                                     |
|                | 0.370                                     |
| Ampicillin     | 0.750                                     |
|                | 1.350                                     |
Table S2. Effects of selected anthocyanidins on twitching and flagella motility activity of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* PAO1.

| Flavonoids       | Colony diameter (mm±SD) | Colony colour | Protrusions diameter (μm) | Colony edge on microscope          |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Delphinidin      | 9.33±0.58               | light green   | 48-120                    | partly reduced protrusions         |
| Pelargonidin     | 8.33±0.93               | light green   | 40-80                     | slightly reduced protrusions       |
| Cyanidin         | 9.00±1.00               | white         | 24-80                     | slightly reduced protrusions       |
| Ampicillin       | 9.33±0.58               | light green   | 40-104                    | partly reduced protrusions         |
| Streptomycin     | 8.33±0.58               | white         | 40-96                     | slightly reduced protrusions       |
| Control (PAO1)   | 10.33±0.58              | green         | 40-160                    | regular protrusions               |
Table S3. Effects of selected anthocyanidins on the production of pyocyanin by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* PAO1.

| Anthocyanidins | Pyocyanin (%±SE) |
|----------------|------------------|
| Delphinidin    | 59.29±1.03       |
| Pelargonidin   | 98.87±1.14       |
| Cyanidin       | 57.68±1.09       |
| Ampicillin     | 40.04±0.98       |
| Streptomycin   | 22.41±1.11       |
| Control (PAO1) | 51.33±1.07       |