Antibacterial and Antioxidant Activities of Banana (Musa, AAA cv. Cavendish) Fruits Peel

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Abstract: The fresh green and yellow banana peel of, (Musa, cv. Cavendish) fruits were treated with 70% acetone, which were partitioned with chloroform (CHCl₃) and ethyl acetate (EtOAc), sequentially. The antioxidant activities of the extracts were evaluated by using the thiocyanate method, β-carotene bleaching method and 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) free radical elimination. While, antimicrobial activities of the extracts and isolated components were evaluated using paper disc methods and Minimum Inhibition Concentration (MIC). The EtOAc and water soluble fractions of green peel displayed high antimicrobial and antioxidant activity, respectively. Antioxidant activity of water extracts was comparable to those of synthetic antioxidants such as butylated hydroxyanisole and butylated hydroxytoluene. Among all isolated components β-sitosterol, malic acid, succinic acid, palmatic acid, 12-hydroxystearic acid, glycoside, the d-malic and 12-hydroxystearic acid were the most active against all the Gram-negative and positive bacterial species tested. The MIC of d-malic and succinic acid was varying between 140-750 ppm, respectively.

Key words: Banana, β-sitosterol, malic acid, succinic acid, palmatic acid, 12-hydroxystearic acid, glycoside

INTRODUCTION

Free sugars, organic acids and amino acids are natural components of many fruits and vegetables and they play important roles in maintaining fruit quality and determining nutritive value[1]. During banana repining, the starch converted into reducing sugars and sucrose increasing with ripeness[2]. Banana a tropical plant may protect itself from the oxidative stress caused by strong sunshine and high temperature by producing large amounts of antioxidant[3]. Banana should be considered to be a good source of natural antioxidant for foods and functional food source against cancer and heart disease[4]. Therefore, attention in recent times has been focused on the isolation, characterization and utilization of natural antioxidants, especially growing interest in polyphenols as potential disease preventing agents. As these compounds are predominantly found in most of fruit tissues, it would be worthwhile investigating the nature of polyphenols that are present in banana peel. Fruits and vegetables however, contain many different antioxidant and antimicrobial components. The majority of the antioxidant capacity of a fruit or vegetable may be from compounds such as other vitamin C, vitamin E or β-carotene. Bananas are one of the most popular fruits on the world and it well be known that fruits contain various antioxidants compounds such as gallo catechin[4] and dopamine[3]. Since the banana fruits are widely available, they been used as food without apparent toxic effect. The peel could be a potential source of antioxidant and antimicrobial activities.

The present investigation was undertaken to evaluate the antioxidant and antibacterial power of banana fruit peel and to identify the responsible compounds for those activities. Also, in the present communication we studied the components isolated from green peel and determined their activities.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant material and extraction methods: Banana (Musa, AAA cv. Cavendish) fruits were purchased in Kagoshima city at green stage without any ethylene treatment and stored at 20°C for 24hr before being extracted. Color (a value) was measured by Chroma meter (model CR-200; Minolta, Japan) as described in previous studies[5].

Extraction procedures: The peel tissues of fresh banana fruit (300 g) at green with a trace of yellow stage were heated in 1L of distilled water for 2 min. The peel was homogenized with 70% acetone twice at room temperature in an electric blender. The combined extracts of 70% acetone extracts were then filtered and concentrated to 200 mL. This aqueous extract was partitioned into a CHCl₃ and water, using electric shaker and then extracted with aqueous saturated ethyl
acetate. The dry matters were 0.73, 1.2 g and 9 g, respectively. The antimicrobial and antioxidant activity of CHCl₃, EtOAc and water extracts were measured. The yellow banana peel was treated similarly. The active 70% acetone extracts were subjected to silica gel 60 eluting by step wire with mixtures of different solvents (hexane:EtOAc:MeOH) respectively. The resulting fractions were examined by silica gel 60 thin-layer chromatography (TLC) and those fractions with similar TLC profiles were combined to give total fractions.

**Determination of antioxidant activity using free radical scavenging activity (DPPH):** The inhibition of free radical scavenging activity by dry matters of banana fruit tissues was measured as following: A 0.5 mM solution of DPPH (1,1-diphenyl-2- picrylhydrazol) in methanol and 0.05 M acetal buffer (5.5) pH was prepared. An aliquot of 0.1 mL (at concentrations 0.5-1 mg mL⁻¹) of the extract was added to 2 mL acetate buffer and 1.9 mL methanol + 1 mL DPPH solution. Blank contains 2 mL acetate buffers, 1.9 mL methanol and 0.1 mL of the extract. While the control contained 2 mL acetate buffer, 1 mL DPPH and 2 mL methanol. The mixture was shaken immediately after adding DPPH and allowed to stand at room temperature in a dark and the decrease in absorbance at 517 nm was measured after 30 min until the reaction reached a plateau. These experiments were run in duplicate. The inhibitory percentage of DPPH was calculated according to Shyu et al. [6] as following: Scavenging effect (%) = [(Aₒ-A)/Aₒ] x 100%, where: Aₒ: A₅₁₇ of DPPH without sample (control); A: A₅₁₇ of sample and DPPH; and A₀: A₅₁₇ of sample without DPPH (blank).

**Determination of antioxidant activity using β-carotene linolate model system:** Antioxidant activity was measured using the methods of Jayaprakasha et al. [7] with slight modification. A 3.34 mg of β-carotene in chloroform solution (1 mL) and the chloroform was removed at 40°C under vacuum using a rotary evaporator. Thereafter, 40 mg of linoleic acid and 400 mg of Tween-20 were added and mixed well. The resulting mixture was immediately diluted with 5-10 mL of triple distilled water and was mixed well. The emulsion was further made up to 100 mL with 0.01M hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂). Aliquots (2 mL) of this emulsion were transferred into different test tubes containing 0.1 mL of test samples in methanol. In this experiment BHA was used for comparative purposes. A control containing 0.2 mL of ethanol and 4 mL of the above emulsion was prepared. The tubes were placed in a water bath at 50°C. Absorbances of all the samples at 470 nm were taken at zero time and every 20 min until the color of β-carotene disappeared in the control reaction. The blank prepared as above mentioned, but without β-carotene.

**Antioxidant assay using ferric thiocyanate methods:** A mixture of a 2 mL sample in 99.5% ethanol, 2.052 mL of 2.51% linoleic acid in 99.5% ethanol, 4 mL of 0.05M phosphate buffer (PH 7.0) and 1.948 mL of water was placed in a vial with a screw cap and placed in an oven at 60°C in the dark. To 0.1 mL of this sample solution 9.7 mL of 75% ethanol and 0.1 mL of 30% ammonium thiocyanate was added. After the addition of 0.1 mL of 2 x10⁻² M ferrous chloride in 3.5% hydrochloric acid to the reaction mixture, the absorbance of the red color developed was measured in 3 min at 500 nm [8].

**Antimicrobial assay:** Antimicrobial assay was measured using the methods of Mokbel and Hashinaga [9]. Five species of bacteria were used: *Bacillus cereus* IFO 13597, *Salmonella enteritidis* IFO 3313, *Escherichia coli* IFO 13168, *Bacillus subtilis* IFO 3009, *Staphylococcus aureus* IFO 3761.

The bacteria stock culture media were maintained on nutrient hard agar (peptone 1g, meat extract 0.5 g, sodium chloride 0.25 g and agar 1 g 100 mL⁻¹ H₂O) at 4°C. The bacterial culture medium was prepared as following, nutrient broth (peptone 0.5 g, meat extracts 0.25 g, sodium and chloride 0.25 g 50 mL⁻¹ H₂O) and soft agar medium (peptone 0.5 g, meat extracts 0.25 g, sodium chloride 0.125 g and agar 0.2 g 50 mL⁻¹ H₂O) adjusted to pH 6.6 and autoclaved at 121°C for 20min.

To determine the antibacterial activity the microorganisms were cultured in nutrient broth at 36°C overnight. Three-five µL of the inocula (spores) was added to 3.5 mL soft nutrient agar and well shaken. The soft nutrient agar was then added on a Petri dish containing 15 mL hard agar. Filter paper discs (6 mm in diameter), were impregnated with different concentrations (0.1 to 1 mg discs⁻¹) and allowed to dry completely for 10-15 min and then evenly placed on the surface of previously inoculated agar. The Petri dishes were incubated at 36°C for 24 hr. Chloramphenicol was used as a positive control.

**Determination of MIC:** The minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) were defined as the lowest concentration (ppm) of the extract in agar plates showing no visible bacterial growth. The soft nutrient agar was then added onto a Petri dish containing 15 mL hard agar as mentioned above. The samples were dissolved in chloroform and/or methanol. The solutions were then individually added at different concentrations from (0 (control) to 1 mg mL⁻¹) to soft agar and mixed
Fig. 1: Separation scheme of the antioxidant and antimicrobial substance from green banana peel well before being poured into sterile Petri dishes containing 15 mL hard agar. The cultures (5 µL) were taken from nutrient broth and added to three places on the medium surface and incubated at 37°C.

**Thin-layer chromatography analysis (TLC) analysis:** TLC analysis for crude extracts or silica gel column chromatography fractions was performed on aluminium sheets (20x20 cm) of silica gel 60 F254 plate which were developed with appropriate solvents for each sample such as (CHCl₃:MeOH:hexane (5:1:0.5), CHCl₃:MeOH:H₂O (5:1:0.5), CHCl₃:acetone:MeOH: H₂O (5:3:4:1) or 1-butanol:acetic acid:MeOH:H₂O (2:1:0.5:1)). The resulting bands were located using UV-light and 10% sulfuric acid spray followed by heating in the oven for 5-10 min at 120°C.

**General procedures:** Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectra were recorded on a JEOL FX-400 spectrometer operated at 400 MHz for ¹H-NMR and at 100 MHz for ¹³C-NMR. The spectra were observed on CDCl₃ for low polarity compounds and deuterium oxide (D₂O) for high polarity compounds containing TMS as an internal standard.

**Gas chromatography/ mass spectrometry:** Molecular weight was determined using gas chromatography (Thermo Finnig Polaris Q) equipped with an EI ion source coupled to an MS (Polaris Q). Helium was used as gas carrier, and the injector temperature was kept at 250°C.
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Chromatographic separation: Isolation and identifications of ethyl acetate extract (1.2 g) of green banana peel was carried out on a silica gel column. The column chromatography was eluted with hexane:EtOAc:MeOH (Fig. 1) with an increasing amount of EtOAc:MeOH gradually to yield three frs. 5:1:0, 1:1:0 and 0:9:0.5 (A, B and C). Among them, Fr. C was recorded high antimicrobial activities and was further chromatographed on silica gel column and eluted with hexane:EtOAc:MeOH, yielding two active frs. 1:1:0 and 0:1:0.5 (C.1 and C.3). Fr. (C.1) was developed with CHCl₃:MeOH (1:1) to yield (2.3 mg, 191 mg 100 g⁻¹ dry wt) β-sitosterol (known compound 1). Fr. (C.3) was further chromatographed on silica gel column and eluted with EtOAc:MeOH, yielding two active fractions 9:1 and 1:1 (C.6 and C.8). Fr. (C.8) was further subjected to preparative TLC (PTLC) plates (20x20 cm) of silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ Merck Ltd. Japan using CHCl₃:MeOH:H₂O (7:1:0.1) as a solvent system to yield (2.2 mg, 183 mg 100 g⁻¹ dry wt) Palmitic acid and (1.7 mg, 141 mg 100 g⁻¹ dry wt) 12-hydroxystearic acid (known compounds 2 and 3), respectively. Fr. (C.6) was further subjected to preparative TLC using CHCl₃:MeOH:H₂O (5:1:0.1) to yield two active compounds (2.5 mg, 208 mg 100 g⁻¹ dry wt) malic acid and (1.2 mg, 100 mg 100 g⁻¹ dry wt) succinic acid (known compounds 4 and 5), respectively. Other fractions produced spots containing either weak antimicrobial and antioxidative compounds or low concentration. Those compounds were identified by comparison of TLC behavior, ¹H-NMR and ¹³C-NMR spectra with those of authentic samples.

Antioxidant activities: The antioxidant effects of crude extracts from green banana and yellow peel were investigated and the results indicated that the extract of green peel recorded more significant activities than that of yellow peel at other solvents extracts. However, our investigations for antimicrobial and antioxidant activities were focused in water and ethyl acetate extracts of green peel. Green banana peel displayed high antioxidant activity as measured by β-carotene bleaching method, DPPH free radical and linoleic acid emulsion. The oxidative activity of linoleic acid was markedly inhibited by extracts as shown in Fig. 2. The BHA at 0.1 mg mL⁻¹ as same as green banana extracts.
Table 1: DPPH scavenging activity and yield of antioxidant constituents of banana peel tissues

| Banana fruit tissues | Crude extract | Chromatograph of water extracts of green peel |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------|
|                      | Solvent       | Yield (g) | Activities | Silica gel | Yield (g) | Activities |
|                      |               |          | DPPH (%)   | Frs. No. |          | DPPH (%)   |
| Green peel           | CHCl<sub>3</sub> | 0.73     | 26.2 ±0.4 |          | EtOAc:MeOH (9:1) | 0.47 | 18.2 ±0.5 |
|                      | EtOAc         | 1.2      | 52.1 ±0.2 |          | EtOAc:MeOH (5:1) | 0.75 | 72.6 ±0.4 |
|                      | H<sub>2</sub>O | 9.2      | 75.3 ±0.6 |          | EtOAc:MeOH (1:1) | 0.97 | 81.4 ±0.1 |
| Yellow peel          | CHCl<sub>3</sub> | 0.09     | 8.7 ±0.3 |          | EtOAc:MeOH (0:1) | 1.8  | 80.6 ±0.3 |
|                      | EtOAc         | 0.12     | 43.7 ±0.5 |          | MeOH:H<sub>2</sub>O (9:1) | 2.4  | 73.5 ±0.6 |
|                      | H<sub>2</sub>O | 10.3     | 9.8 ±0.2 |          |          |          |
| BHA                  |               | 82.3 ±0.1|          |          | 82.3 ±0.1|          |
| BHT                  |               | 81.8 ±0.3|          |          | 81.8 ±0.3|          |

Homogenized 300 g banana green and yellow peel in 1L 70% acetone, filtrated, concentrated and partitioned with EtOAc-water (1:1). *Water extracts 9 g was fractionated using silica gel column chromatography and eluted with EtOAc:MeOH.

Table 2: Antibacterial activity of the various extracts of banana fruit tissues using disc diffusion assay

| Fruit tissue extracts/mean length of inhibition zones (mm) ± S.D |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Green peel                                                    |
| Bacteria                        | CHCl<sub>3</sub> | EtOAc | Water extracts |
| Staphylococcus aureus          | 0               | 12 ±0.4 | 0               |
| Bacillus subtilis              | 0               | 10 ±0.3 | 0               |
| Bacillus cereus                | 0               | 11 ±0.1 | 0               |
| Gram negative bacteria         |                 |        |                 |
| Salmonella enteritidis         | 0               | 10 ±0.2 | 0               |
| Escherichia coli               | 0               | 9 ±0.2  | 0               |

| Yellow peel                                                    |
| Bacteria                        | CHCl<sub>3</sub> | EtOAc | Water extracts |
| Staphylococcus aureus          | 0               | 0      | 3 ±0.1         |
| Bacillus subtilis              | 0               | 0      | 3 ±0.2         |
| Bacillus cereus                | 0               | 0      | 2 ±0.4         |
| Salmonella enteritidis         | 0               | 0      | ±0.0           |
| Escherichia coli               | 0               | 0      | 2 ±0.2         |

Values are means ± S.D of 9 paper disc for each three replication were used.
Sterile paper disc (6 mm diameter) was impregnated with fruit tissue extracts (1 mg disc<sup>-1</sup>). was included as positive control for the hydrophilic antioxidant. The results showed that the inhibitory activity of 70% acetone extracts of green banana peel using thiocyanate method at concentration of 0.5 mg mL<sup>-1</sup> closed to the synthetic antioxidant reagent of BHA at 0.1 mg mL<sup>-1</sup>. The absorbance of control has increased in 6 days and decreased thereafter due to oxidation of linoleic acid generating linoleic acid hydroperoxides, which decompose to many secondary oxidation products in agreement with Jayaprakasha et al. In the linoleic acid system β-carotene bleaching method, oxidation of linoleic acid was significantly inhibited by polar fraction of 70% acetone extract (Fig. 3). Increasing the polarity throughout the extracts exhibited stronger activity, indicating that polyphenols or flavonanes and flavonoids may also play important roles in the activities. These results were in agreement with Tepe et al. In all cases, the control without addition of antioxidant oxidized more rapidly, while the sample elicited inhibition of bleaching of β-carotene. Free radical scavenging capacities of the extracts, measured by DPPH assay, are shown in Table 1. The free radical scavenging activity of aqueous acetone extract was superior to all other extracts, followed by EtOAc extracts and yellow banana peel showed low antioxidant activity. The water extracts were eluted in silica gel column for fractionation and those fractions displayed significant antioxidant activity as measured by DPPH free radical.

Anti-oxidant activities: EtOAc extract of green banana peel recorded significant antioxidative activities, while yellow peel extracts recorded low activity and no activity was recorded to CHCl<sub>3</sub> and water extracts as measured by paper disk methods (Table 2). The MIC was measured after 48h of incubation at 36°C.

As shown in Table 3, the MIC of β-sitosterol, palmitic acid, malic acid and succinic acid was tested against <i>S. aureus</i>, <i>B. subtilis</i>, <i>B. cereus</i>, <i>S. enteritidis</i> and <i>E. coli</i>. β-sitosterol, malic acid and succinic acid were active against all tested the Gram-negative and Gram-positive bacterial species, while palmitic acid was insignificant against all tested the bacteria species. The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of β-sitosterol, Malic acid and succinic acid varying between 140-750 ppm, respectively. These data indicated that malic acid exhibited strong antibacterial activity compared to β-sitosterol, succinic acid and palmitic acid. While, 12-hydroxystearic acid recorded antimicrobial activity as measured by paper disk methods but didn’t measure for MIC. This study clearly indicated that isolated compound inhibited the growth of food poisoning bacteria <i>in vivo</i>.
**Table 3: Antibacterial activity of the compounds isolated from green banana peel using agar disc diffusion and MIC methods**

| Microorganisms | Isolated compounds | Standard antibiotics |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Gram positive bacteria | | |
| *Staphylococcus aureus* | | |
| Bacillus subtilis | | |
| Bacillus cereus | | |
| Gram negative bacteria | | |
| *Escherichia coli* | | |

| Microorganisms | Isolated compounds | Standard antibiotics |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| β-sitosterol | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC |
| 12-hydroxystearic acid | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC |
| Palmitic acid | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC |
| d-Malic acid | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC |
| Succinic acid | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC |
| Chloramphenicol | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC |

| Microorganisms | Isolated compounds | Standard antibiotics |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| α-tocopherol | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC |
| β-sitosterol | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC |
| 12-hydroxystearic acid | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC |
| Palmitic acid | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC |
| d-Malic acid | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC |
| Succinic acid | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC |
| Chloramphenicol | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC |

| Microorganisms | Isolated compounds | Standard antibiotics |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| β-sitosterol | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC |
| 12-hydroxystearic acid | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC |
| Palmitic acid | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC |
| d-Malic acid | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC |
| Succinic acid | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC |
| Chloramphenicol | DD | MIC | DD | MIC | DD | MIC |

1DD, agar disc diffusion method. Sterile paper (6 mm diameter) were impregnated with fruit tissues 0.1mg/disc. Diameter of inhibition zone (mm) (unincluding disk diameter of 6 mm). NT, not tested. 2MIC, minimum inhibitory concentration; values given as ppm for the isolated compounds and chloramphenicol antibiotics as a standard. Values are means ± S.D of 9 paper disc for each three replication were used.

**Fruit ripening:** It has been reported by Mokbel and Hashinaga\(^5\) that the decay and rotting during banana ripening increased, especially when these fruits were stored in plastic film due to decrease malic acid and succinic acid with degree of banana fruit ripening. While those fruits stored under high carbon dioxide extended the shelf life of banana fruits, which may be related to increasing of malic acid and succinic acid. The banana fruit at green stage less decay also may due to high concentrations of malic acid, succinic acid and others compounds and the decay increased with decreasing those compounds during ripening. According to previous study a climacteric fruit like peach, has been shown that there is an accumulation of malic acid in the fruit during growth and ripening and that fruit maturity is more advanced when the malic acid concentration is higher\(^11\). According to our previous studies (Mokbel and Hashinaga\(^5\)) the climacteric peak of banana fruits stored at 20°C happened between 5-7 days of storage, thereafter the respirations, ethanol productions and the conversion of total sugar content increased immediately. Holcroft and Kader\(^15\) found that, the concentration of malic acid in strawberry fruit decreased, increasing succinic acid during fruits ripening and also reported that succinic acid concentrations increased during storage under 20 kPa CO₂. Increasing CO₂ may connect to increasing succinic acid, which extend the shelf life of banana fruits during storage due to inhibition of fungal growth in vivo\(^13\). Beaudry *et al.*\(^14\) reported that sucrose increased very rapidly after the peak in ethylene synthesis. The amount of reducing sugars and sucrose increased and the amount of starch decreased drastically with ripening.

Fructose, glucose and sucrose were the major soluble sugars in water fractions of green banana peel as determined using NMR. The doublet at 5.42 ppm is due to H-3’ of sucrose; the triplet at 4.05 ppm is due to H-4’ of sucrose; the resonance signals at 3.89, 3.82, 3.77, 3.68 and 3.56 ppm have been assigned to sucrose too. The doublets at 5.24 and 4.65 ppm are due to the anomeric protons of glucose, α-glucose H-1 and beta-glucose H-1, respectively; the triplet at 3.25 ppm is due to the β-glucose H-2. The doublet at 4.12 ppm is the only resonance signal clearly assigned to fructose. The resonance signals in the region from 3.98 ppm are mainly due to overlapping resonances of ring protons of sucrose, fructose and glucose. This results corresponding with \(^1\)H-NMR data of Raffo *et al.*\(^15\). However, sucrose, fructose and glucose recorded low antioxidant activities as measured by DPPH free radical. Glycoside and monosaccharide components isolated (compound 6 and 7) had a higher antioxidant activity than sucrose, glucose, fructose or control at concentration 100 mg mL\(^{-1}\).

**CONCLUSION**

Ethyl acetate and water soluble fractions of green banana peel displayed high antimicrobial and antioxidant activity. Most of the compounds isolated from green peel β-sitosterol, malic acid, 12-hydroxystearic acid and succinic acid, which showed significant antibacterial activities and low antioxidant activities. While, those compounds isolated from water soluble extracts glycoside and monosaccharide components displayed important antioxidant and low antimicrobial activity.

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