Evaluation of twenty traditional rice varieties grown in Karnataka, as a dehusked grain was performed with respect to Phytochemical and Antioxidant capacity. Traditional rice varieties varied significantly (p<0.05) for all the parameters studied. Phytochemicals namely, phytic acid, tannic acid and total polyphenol content were studied in twenty traditional rice varieties varied significantly (p<0.05) from 236.94 to 558.67 mg, 25.74 to 56.88 mgGAE, and 47.82 to 160.71 mg per 100 g respectively. Total antioxidant capacity varied significantly from 257.93 µM to 800.25 µM ascorbic acid equivalent per 100 g. Traditional rice varieties contained good amount of phytochemicals and antioxidant activity which are helpful in maintaining good health and wellness.

**Keywords**
Traditional rice varieties, phytochemical, antioxidant

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**Introduction**

Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) is one of the major food crops in the world and more than 50 per cent of the world’s population depend on rice as their primary calorie source (FAO, 2001) and increasingly becoming popular because of its nutritional and beneficial health properties (Saikia *et al.*, 2012). Commonly, rice is consumed as polished white rice with the husk, bran, and germ fractions removed. However, consumption of brown rice (hulled rice) is increasing in recent years, due to the increased awareness about its health benefits and good nutritional properties due to higher amounts of proteins, ash, dietary fibre and minerals than white rice (Tan *et al.*, 2009; Mohan *et al.*, 2010; USDA, 2010).

Rice bran contains high amounts of protein, fiber, minerals, vitamins, phytochemicals, bioactive molecules, tocopherols, tocotrienols, oryzanols and other phenolic compounds (Yokoyama, 2004; Wanyo *et al.*, 2009; Mohan *et al.*, 2010; Zhu *et al.*, 2010; Min *et al.*, 2011). Phytochemical’s functions
include free radical scavenging, antioxidant activity, enhancement of immune systems, and reduction of the risk of developing heart disease and cancer (Qureshi et al., 2000; Xu et al., 2001). Through the introduction of modern high yielding varieties, along with new management practices and green revolution has led to a considerable increase in rice production in India as in other Asian countries. This development has led to a gradual erosion of the rice genetic diversity, since thousands of traditional rice varieties were replaced by relatively few high yielding rice varieties (Rahman et al., 2006).

Traditional rice varieties have long been consumed in Asian countries e.g., India, Sri Lanka, China, Japan, etc. (Ahuja et al., 2007; Finocchiaro et al., 2007; Finocchiaro et al., 2010). Being a major cereal grain, evaluating the nutritional composition of rice has been given highest priority (Dong et al., 2007). Rice grain quality is reported to be influenced by various physico-chemical and cooking characteristics (Bocevska et al., 2009; Moongngarm, 2010). Providing adequate information on the quality of rice consumed by local population is important for health conscious consumer. Variety with best grain properties remain the most important determinant of market grading and end use qualities. However, studies have not been carried out comprehensively on phytochemical and antioxidant capacity of the traditional rice varieties in Karnataka, India.

To encourage traditional rice cultivation in India, there is need for a systematic study that would reveal nutritional qualities from traditional rice varieties and would stand the world market competitiveness. Thus keeping in view of above facts the present research work was undertaken with the objective to analyse phytochemical and antioxidant capacity of traditional rice varieties of Karnataka.

Materials and Methods

Procurement of traditional paddy rice varieties

Twenty traditional rice varieties procured from All India Coordinated Research Project on Rice, ZARS, V. C. Farm, Mandya, Karnataka were included in this study. The different genotypes used for the study are, Gamnad batta, Anandi, Krishnaleela, Kagisaale, Murakan sanna, Mysore mallige, Nagabatta, Gajagunda, Doddabyranellu, Ratnachoodi, Malgudi sanna, Gowrisanna, Chima ponni, Salem sanna, Karimundaga, Rajmudi, Rajakaine, Jeerige sanna, Gandhasaale, Kalajeera.

Milling of paddy varieties

Paddy samples were cleaned thoroughly using winnower to remove the chaff and other foreign matters and dried in hot air oven up to 12-14 % moisture content and de-husked using a rubber roll paddy sheller at the Department of Post-harvest Technology, UAS, GVKV, Bengaluru. Milling fractions include husk, head rice, bran, and broken rice.

Only whole rice grains without any physical damage or insect infestation were selected for study purpose. Further, rice samples (head rice without polishing) were individually ground to a fine powder (60 mesh size), packed in air tight polyethylene plastic bags and were stored at 4 °C until further analysis.

Rice grain classification

Milled rice was first classified into three categories based on length, long (>6 mm), medium (5-6 mm), and short (<5 mm). They were again classified into three groups based on the length/breadth ratio; slender (>3); bold (2-3); round (<2) to determine size and shape (IRRI, 1993).
Estimation of phytochemical and antioxidant capacity

The phytochemicals such as phytic acid, tannin, total polyphenol content, and antioxidant activity were estimated. The methods adopted for phytochemicals analysis are as follows.

Estimation of phytic acid

The estimation of phytic acid was based on the principle that the phytate is extracted with trichloroacetic acid and precipitated as ferric salt. The iron content of the precipitate was determined colorimetrically and the phytate phosphorous content calculated from this value assuming a constant 4 Fe: 6 molecular ratios in the precipitate. Phytates were estimated as phytic acid (Sadashivam and Manickam, 1991).

Estimation of tannin (AOAC, 1980)

Tannin was estimated colorimetrically based on the measurement of blue colour formed by the reaction of phosphotungstomolybdate acid in alkali solution.

Estimation of total polyphenols

Blue colour developed by polyphenols with FCR reagent in alkaline condition was measured at 650 nm (Sadasivam and Manickam, 1991).

\[
\text{Total polyphenol (mg/100g)} = \frac{\text{Concentration of polyphenol from graph}}{\text{Aliquot taken for estimation}} \times \frac{5}{\text{Wt. of sample}}
\]

Estimation of antioxidant activity by DPPH method

The antioxidant activity was expressed in terms of ascorbic acid equivalents, so ascorbic acid was taken as substrate. Various concentrations of ascorbic acid were prepared and added to DPPH solution. The decrease in O.D is plotted against concentration of ascorbic acid. The concentration of sample was calculated using the standard curve (Brand-Williams et al., 1995).

Results and Discussion

Phytochemical composition and antioxidant capacity

Phytochemicals viz., phytic acid, tannic acid and total polyphenol content that were studied in twenty traditional rice varieties are reported in Table 1. Total antioxidant capacity (TAC) expressed by ascorbic acid equivalent (AAE) in long, medium and short grain rice varieties are also presented in Fig. 1. The relationship between TAC and TPC is depicted in Fig 2.

Phytic acid (per 100g)

The twenty rice varieties tested had a large variation in contents of phytic acid and statistically significant differences (p<0.05) were observed between the rice varieties. Irrespective of grain category, the amount of phytic acid content ranged between 236.94 and 558.67 mg per 100g. Among long grain rice varieties Krishnaleela (540.62 mg) reported the highest phytic acid followed by Gajagunda (543.42) with no significant difference while least value was recorded in Anandi (250.50 mg).

Among medium and short grain rice varieties, Doddabyranellu (558.67 mg) and Kalajeera (348.78 mg) recorded higher level of phytic acid while least was observed in Chinna ponni (236.94 mg) and Rajakaima (264.90 mg) respectively. Overall, Doddabyranellu (558.67 mg) had highest phytic acid content and least was in Chinna ponni (236.94 mg).
The variation in phytic acid among traditional rice varieties probably due to differences of cultivating environments and agricultural practices (Liu, 2004). In this study, Doddabaryanellu (558.67 mg) had highest phytic acid content and least was in Chinna ponni (236.94 mg) among all the traditional rice varieties. Liang et al., (2008) reported that phytic acid levels in brown rice ranged from 7.8 and 11.1 g per kg and decreased with prolonged milling.

However, phytic acid levels in milled rice ranged from 0.2 to 9.0 g per kg. These results are in agreement with Almana (2000) who reported that, the lower phytate content of milled rice was due to the separation of bran layer and aleurone layer of the kernel. In this study, lower values of phytic acid were observed. However phytic acid values are comparable with the values reported by Shalla et al., (2010).

**Tannic acid (per 100g)**

Tannic acid is a type of polyphenol. The means of tannic acid differed significantly (p<0.05) among long grain rice varieties, the lowest values being found in the Gamnad batta (25.74 mg) and the highest in Gajagunda (54.13 mg). Medium grain rice varieties ranged from 29.98 mg (Chinna ponni) to 56.88 mg (Karimundaga) for tannic acid and 28.65 mg (Kalajeera) to 42.29 mg (Rajakaime) in short grain rice varieties.

Irrespective of grain type, Karimundaga (56.88 mg) recorded maximum tannic acid, whereas Gamnad batta (25.74 mg) recorded minimum. The results obtained in the present study are in accordance with the values reported by Trinidad et al., (2009). In their study, tannic acid contents in brown rice (56.9 ± 3.2 mg/100 g) was significantly higher than milled rice (21.3 ± 2.3 mg/100 g, P<0.05).

**Total polyphenol content (GAE per 100g)**

Phenolic compounds are one of the major and most complex groups of phytochemicals in cereal grain. Great interest has been shown in the polyphenols in rice for their multiple biological activities. Total polyphenol content (TPC) expressed in terms of gallic acid equivalent (GAE) per 100g of rice was found significantly (p<0.05) highest in Gajagunda (152.33 mg) and lowest was observed in Nagabatta (47.82 mg) among long grain rice varieties.

Karimundaga (160.71 mg) a medium grain rice variety showed significantly highest TPC among all the varieties tested. TPC ranged between 55.27 and 82.79 mg in short grain rice varieties. The total phenolics reported by Shao et al., (2014) in fully matured white, red and black rice ranged between 30.69 to 156.83 mg GAE per 100 g rice.

**Total antioxidant capacity (AAE per 100g)**

The beneficial effects originating from phenolic compounds can be a major determinant of antioxidant activities in many edible sources (Lee et al., 2005). The results clearly showed that traditional rice varieties possessed significantly (p<0.05) higher antioxidant capacity and great variations in all the tested rice varieties (Fig 1). Among long grain rice varieties, it ranged between 257.93 µM (Nagabatta) and 703.76 µM (Gajagunda).

Irrespective of grain type, total antioxidant capacity recorded highest in Karimundaga (800.25 µM) and least was in Nagabatta (257.93 µM).
Table 1: Phytochemical composition and antioxidant capacity of traditional rice varieties

| Category         | No. | Varieties               | Phytic acid (mg/100g) | Tannic acid (mg/100g) | Total polyphenol content (mg GAE/100g) | Total antioxidant capacity (µM AAE/100g) |
|------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| **Long grain**   | 1   | Gammad batta           | 380.24i               | 25.744                 | 57.71i                                  | 298.05f                                  |
|                  | 2   | Anandi                  | 250.50b               | 28.63i                 | 78.16m                                  | 361.80m                                  |
|                  | 3   | Krishnaleela            | 540.62b               | 43.20bcd               | 147.45d                                 | 653.98d                                  |
|                  | 4   | Kagisaale               | 324.95l               | 37.44def               | 98.16f                                  | 622.55e                                  |
|                  | 5   | Murakan sanna           | 430.13h               | 36.39ef                | 84.26i                                  | 459.07i                                  |
|                  | 6   | Mysore mango            | 468.66g               | 29.09ghi               | 90.16h                                  | 485.71h                                  |
|                  | 7   | Nagabatta               | 290.74a               | 33.58fgh               | 47.82s                                  | 257.93c                                  |
|                  | 8   | Gajagunda               | 543.42b               | 54.13a                 | 152.33c                                  | 703.76c                                  |
| **Medium grain** | 9   | Doddabiryanelu          | 558.67a               | 55.26a                 | 156.72b                                  | 750.06b                                  |
|                  | 10  | Ratnachoodi             | 500.50d               | 44.33bc                | 91.87g                                  | 514.99g                                  |
|                  | 11  | Malgudi sanna           | 500.37d               | 47.57b                 | 77.68m                                  | 342.58o                                  |
|                  | 12  | Govrisanna              | 490.35e               | 33.26fgh               | 80.32l                                  | 398.38l                                  |
|                  | 13  | Chinna ponni            | 236.94d               | 29.98ghi               | 112.65e                                 | 574.45f                                  |
|                  | 14  | Salem sanna             | 288.12a               | 37.12def               | 71.57o                                  | 354.75n                                  |
|                  | 15  | Karimundaga             | 507.49c               | 56.88a                 | 160.71a                                 | 800.25a                                  |
|                  | 16  | Rajmudi                 | 478.30f               | 38.30cdef              | 81.41k                                  | 415.39k                                  |
| **Short grain**  | 17  | Rajakaiime              | 264.90p               | 42.29bcde              | 55.27r                                  | 275.44s                                  |
|                  | 18  | Jeerige sanna           | 319.60m               | 35.31fg                | 82.79j                                  | 431.83j                                  |
|                  | 19  | Gandhasaale             | 329.94k               | 34.17fgi               | 62.52p                                  | 313.13q                                  |
|                  | 20  | Kalajeera               | 348.78l               | 28.65hi                | 73.52n                                  | 332.18p                                  |

F test  
SEm±  
CD at 5 %  

* Significant at 5 % level  
Note: Means in the same column followed by different superscript letters differ significantly.
Fig. 1 Total polyphenol content (TPC) and total antioxidant capacity (TAC) of traditional rice varieties

Fig. 2 Relationship between total polyphenol content (TPC) and total antioxidant capacity (TAC) of traditional rice varieties
Dutta et al., (2012) reported total antioxidant capacity in methanolic extracts of ten high yielding rice varieties of Bangladesh ranged from 297.04 to 701.16 µM AAE per 100 g of dry weight of rice flour. Similar results were obtained in the present study and clearly showed that traditional rice varieties possessed significantly (p<0.05) higher antioxidant capacity expressed in terms of ascorbic acid equivalent (AAE). This may be due to minimal processing and polishing followed for these rice samples and also genetic inheritance of quality of traditional rice varieties making them more preferred over high yielding varieties among the populations.

**Relationship between total polyphenol content (TPC) and total antioxidant capacity (TAC)**

The regression analysis was done to quantify the relationship between TPC and TAC by plotting scatter diagram and linear regression line (Fig. 2). The regression equation for the linear model was \( y = 4.588x + 39.85 \). The final model has used ‘x’ (TPC) as the predictor variable and ‘y’ (TAC) as explained variable. The coefficient or slope is 4.588, which indicates that, for every unit of TPC, the TAC increases on average by 4.588 points. The value of \( R^2 = 0.931 \) which means the model is adequate. It is evident from the findings that 93.1 per cent of the variation in TAC is explained by TPC.

The correlative analysis was also done in this study and a highly positive correlation (\( r = 0.965**, p<0.01 \)) between TPC and TAC values of the tested traditional rice varieties was established, clearly indicating that the higher TPC value resulted in higher TAC value. This suggested that, the phenolic compounds in the tested rice varieties were largely responsible for their total antioxidant capacity. Similar association between TPC and TAC was observed by Gunaratne et al., (2013) in traditional red grained rice varieties of Sri Lanka. Many previous reports also showed that phenolic compounds were major antioxidant constituents in cereals, medicinal herbs, vegetables, fruits, and spices (Liu, 2004; Shan et al., 2005; Cai et al., 2006; Shen et al., 2009).

The results of this study demonstrated a wide range of phytochemical composition and antioxidant activity among traditional rice varieties, which provided the basic information for future development of food applications using these varieties. Traditional rice varieties are better source of phytochemicals and antioxidants. Phytochemicals namely, phytic acid, tannic acid and total polyphenol content were studied in twenty traditional rice varieties and varied significantly (p<0.05) from 236.94 to 558.67 mg, 25.74 to 56.88 mgGAE, and 47.82 to 160.71 mg per 100 g respectively. The results in this study clearly showed that traditional rice varieties possessed significantly (p<0.05) higher antioxidant capacity expressed in terms of ascorbic acid equivalent (AAE). Hence there is a need to popularize these varieties through enhanced production and processing, so that common man can consume phytochemical rich food to get better nutrition.

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