



Short Communication

The antioxidative effects of bioactive products from *Sargassum polycystum* C. Agardh and *Sargassum duplicatum* J. Agardh against inflammation and other pathological issues

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ABSTRACT

The present study was aimed to determine the phenol, total flavonoids and antioxidant potentials of *Sargassum polycystum* C. Agardh and *Sargassum duplicatum* J. Agardh from south east coast of Tamil Nadu and India using DPPH, phosphomolybdenum and hydrogen peroxide scavenging activity. The total phenols, total flavonoids and antioxidant activities of *S. polycystum* and *S. duplicatum* were determined. Highest phenols (33.49 and 149.52 mg GAE/g) were observed in chloroform extracts of *S. polycystum* and methanolic extracts of *S. duplicatum*. The acetone extracts of *S. polycystum* and *S. duplicatum* demonstrated maximum amount of flavonoids compared to other studied extracts. Maximum amount of phosphomolybdenum reduction was observed in acetone extracts of *S. polycystum* and methanolic extracts of *S. duplicatum*. The DPPH radical scavenging activity of different extracts of *S. polycystum* and *S. duplicatum* were as follows acetone > chloroform > Petroleum ether > methanol and acetone > chloroform > methanol > Petroleum ether respectively. The H₂O₂ scavenging activity of *S. polycystum* extracts were as follows Petroleum ether extracts of *S. polycystum* (67.9%) > acetone (67.3%) > chloroform (58.6%) > methanol (51.78%). Acetone extracts of *S. duplicatum* showed maximum inhibition (90.39%) followed by petroleum ether, chloroform and methanolic extracts (75.11, 72.37 and 54.59%) respectively. The present study results confirmed the antioxidant properties of the two selected brown seaweeds viz., *S. polycystum* and *S. duplicatum*. The total phenols, flavonoids and alkaloids may be responsible for the antioxidant activities.

1. Introduction

The genus *Sargassum* belongs to the family Sargassaceae, order Fucales, subclass Cyclosporeae, class Phaeophyceae and generally recognized as gulf-weed or sea holly. The genus *Sargassum* contains approximately 400 species distributed in the tropical and subtropical areas of the world. Phytochemical analysis confirmed the occurrence of terpenoids, polysaccharides, polyphenols, sargaquinic acids, sargachromenol, plastoquinones, steroids, glycerides etc. Due to their therapeutic and nutritional values they are considered as a medicinal food of the twenty-first century. Among the various natural antioxidants, marine seaweeds are now being considered to be a rich source of antioxidants. Various methods viz., 1-diphenyl-2-picryl hydrazyl (DPPH) radical scavenging, 2,2'-azinobis-3-ethylbenzo thiazoline-6-sulfonate (ABTS) radical scavenging, NO scavenging, lipid peroxide inhibition,

superoxide and hydroxyl radical scavenging assays are adopted to examine the antioxidant activities of *Sargassum*. A number of studies were carried out on the antioxidant potentials of the *Sargassum* viz., viz¹, *Sargassum boveanum*,² *Sargassum fulvellum*,³ *Sargassum tenerrimum*,^{4,5} *Sargassum siliquastrum*,⁶ *Sargassum polycystum*,⁷ *Sargassum vulgare* and *Sargassum angustifolium*,⁸ *Sargassum vulgare*,⁹ *Sargassum micracanthum*,¹⁰ *Sargassum myriocystum*, *S. plagiophyllum* and *S. ilicifolium*,¹¹ *Sargassum ringgoldianum* subsp. subsp.,¹² *Sargassum vulgare*,¹³ *Sargassum baccularia*,¹⁴ *Sargassum baccularia* and *Sargassum binderi*,¹⁵ *Sargassum coreanum*,¹⁶ *Sargassum dentifolium*,¹⁷ *Sargassum filipendula*, *S. crassifolium* and *S. binderi*,¹⁸ *Sargassum graminifolium*,¹⁹ *S. horneri*,²⁰ *Sargassum plagiophyllum*,²¹ *Sargassum siliquastrum*,²² *Sargassum swartzii* and *S. variegatum*²³ and *Sargassum wightii*.^{24,25,11,26} The cold ethyl acetate extracts of *S. echinocarpum*, *S. duplicatum* and *S. polycystum* from Java Island,²⁷ *S. duplicatum* from Java Tengah also showed antioxidant

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properties using DPPH.²⁷ Revealed the phytochemical composition of *S. polycystum* and *S. duplicatum*.²⁸ But there is no report on the total phenol, total flavonoids and antioxidant activities of *Sargassum polycystum* and *Sargassum duplicatum* from Manapad / Rasthkadu / Hare Island of Tamil Nadu and India. Hence, the present study was aimed to determine the phenol, total flavonoids and antioxidant potentials of *Sargassum polycystum* C. Agardh and *Sargassum duplicatum* J. Agardh from Manapad / Rasthkadu / Hare Island of Tamil Nadu and India using DPPH, phosphomolybdenum and hydrogen peroxide scavenging activity.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Collection of plant materials

Seaweeds *Sargassum polycystum* C. Agardh and *Sargassum duplicatum* J. Agardh were collected from the South East Coast of Tamil Nadu, India by handpicking method. The collected samples were cleaned well with seawater to remove all the extraneous matter such as epiphytes, sand particles, pebbles and shells and brought to the laboratory in plastic bags. It was then thoroughly washed with tap water followed by distilled water to remove the unwanted debris. Seaweeds were blotted on the blotting paper and spread out at room temperature in shade for 20 days. The shade dried samples were grounded to fine powder using tissue blender. The powdered samples were then stored in refrigerator for further analysis.

2.2. Preparation of extracts

The dried and powdered materials (10 g) of *S. polycystum* and *S. duplicatum* were extracted with 60 ml of solvents viz., petroleum ether, chloroform, acetone, methanol and aqueous. The sample was kept in dark for 72 h with intermittent shaking. After incubation, the solution was filtered through filter paper and the filtrate was collected (crude extracts).

2.3. Determination of total phenolics

The total phenolic content was determined according to the method described.³⁰ 100–200 μ L aliquots were taken in the test tubes and made up to the volume of 1 mL with distilled water. Then 0.5 mL of Folin-Ciocalteu reagent (1:1 with water) and 2.5 mL of sodium carbonate solution (20%) were added sequentially in each tube. Soon after vortexing the reaction mixture, the test tubes were placed in dark for 40 min, and the absorbance was recorded at 725 nm against blank. The analysis was performed in triplicates and the results were expressed as GAE.

2.4. Estimation of total flavonoids

The flavonoid contents of all the extracts were quantified as it acts as a major antioxidant in plants, reducing oxidative stress, estimated as per described.³¹ Initially, 500 μ L of extracts was taken in different test tubes. To each extract, 2 mL of distilled water was added. Then 150 μ L of 5% NaNO₂ was added to all the test tubes followed by incubation at room temperature for 6 min. After incubation, 150 μ L of AlCl₃ (10%) was added to all the test tubes including the blank. All the test tubes were incubated for 6 min at room temperature. Then 2 mL of 8% NaOH was added, which was made up to 5 mL using distilled water. The contents in all the test tubes were vortexed well and they were allowed to stand for 15 min at room temperature. The pink color developed was read spectrophotometrically at 510 nm. The amount of flavonoids was calculated in GAE.

2.5. Antioxidant activity

2.5.1. DPPH radical scavenging activity

The antioxidant activity of the extract was determined in terms of hydrogen donating of radical scavenging ability using the stable radical DPPH, according to the method.³² Sample extracts at various concentrations were taken and the volume was adjusted to 10 μ L with methanol. About 5 ml of 0.1 mM methanolic solution of DPPH was added to the aliquots of samples and standards (BHA, BHT, Rutin and Vitamin E) and shaken vigorously. Negative control was prepared by adding 100 μ L of methanol in 5 ml of 0.1 mM methanolic solution DPPH. The tubes were allowed to stand for 20 min at 27 °C. The absorbance of the sample was measured at 514 nm against the blank (Methanol). Radical scavenging activity of the samples was expressed as IC₅₀ which is the concentration of the sample required to inhibit 50% of DPPH concentration.

2.5.2. Phosphomolybdenum assay

The antioxidant activity was evaluated by the green phosphomolybdenum complex formation according to the method described.³³ An aliquot of 100 μ L of sample solution (in 1 mM dimethyl sulfoxide) was combined with 1 mL of reagent solution (0.6 M sulphuric acid, 28 mM sodium phosphate and 4 mM ammonium molybdate) in a 4 mL vial. The vials were capped and incubated in a water bath at 95 °C for 90 min. After the samples had cooled to room temperature, the absorbance of the mixture was measured at 695 nm against a blank. The results are mean values expressed as g of ascorbic acid (AA) equivalents/100 g extract.

2.5.3. Scavenging of hydrogen peroxide

The ability of extracts to scavenge hydrogen peroxide was determined according to the method.³⁴ A solution of hydrogen peroxide (2 mmol/L) was prepared in phosphate buffer (pH 7.4). Hydrogen peroxide concentration was determined from absorption spectra at 230 nm with molar absorptivity 81 (mol/L)/cm. Extracts (100–200 mg/mL) were added to hydrogen peroxide solution (0.6 mL). Absorbance of hydrogen peroxide at 230 nm was determined after 10 min against a blank solution containing phosphate buffer without hydrogen peroxide. For each concentration, a separate blank sample was used for background subtraction. The percentage inhibition activity was calculated using the formula

$$\% \text{ scavenging activity} = [(\text{Control OD} - \text{Sample OD}) / \text{Control OD}] \times 100$$

3. Results

In the present study, the total phenols obtained from *S. polycystum* and *S. duplicatum* using different solvent systems were represented in Table 1. The maximum extractable value of total phenols (33.49 mg GAE/g) was recorded in chloroform extracts followed by acetone and methanolic extracts in *S. polycystum*. The petroleum ether extracts of *S. polycystum* showed the lowest level of total phenolics (17.46 mg GAE/g). In *S. duplicatum* the higher amount of phenols was observed in methanolic extracts (149.52 mg GAE/g) whereas acetone and chloroform extracts demonstrated moderate level of phenolics. Petroleum ether extracts of *S. duplicatum* showed the minimum amount of phenols (8.41 mg GAE/g).

The flavonoid content of different extracts of *S. polycystum* varied considerably from 865.55 to 340 mg GAE/g extract. Highest amount of flavonoids was present in acetone extracts (865.55 mg GAE/g) followed by methanolic and petroleum ether extracts. Chloroform extracts gave the lowest level of total flavonoids (340 mg GAE/g) compared to other extracts. In *S. duplicatum* the highest amount of total flavonoids was observed in methanolic extracts (149.52 mg GAE/g) whereas the other

Table 1
Total flavonoids and phenols of various extracts of *S. polycystum* and *S. duplicatum*.

Extracts	Phenols in mg GAE/g extract		Flavonoids in mg GAE/g extract	
	<i>S. polycystum</i>	<i>S. duplicatum</i>	<i>S. polycystum</i>	<i>S. duplicatum</i>
Pet.Ether	17.46 ± 0.99	511.11 ± 19.24	429.0 ± 13.33	8.41 ± 0.99
Chloroform	33.49 ± 4.42	340 ± 3.33	455.5 ± 7.69	18.41 ± 3.09
Acetone	18.09 ± 3.33	865.55 ± 19.24	953.33 ± 11.54	28.57 ± 3.77
Methanol	18.88 ± 3.34	700 ± 33.33	691.11 ± 10.18	149.52 ± 2.07

Table 2
Phosphomolybdenum reduction of different extracts of *S. polycystum* and *S. duplicatum*.

Extracts	TAC-mg AA/g extract	
	<i>S. polycystum</i>	<i>S. duplicatum</i>
Petroleum Ether	126.21 ± 1.41	41.57 ± 0.56
Chloroform	98.68 ± 1.16	75.84 ± 30.24
Acetone	240.26 ± 36.41	165.91 ± 2.12
Methanol	127.90 ± 0.85	688.98 ± 8.33

extracts showed moderate level of flavonoids (Table 1).

The phosphomolybdenum method is based on the reduction of Mo (VI) to Mo (V) by the antioxidant compounds and the formation of green phosphate / Mo (V) complex with the absorption at 695 nm. The results of phosphomolybdenum assay of different extracts of *S. polycystum* and *S. duplicatum* were illustrated in Table 2. Among the various extracts of *S. polycystum* acetone extracts showed the strongest phosphomolybdenum reduction (240.26 g AA/100) followed by methanolic extracts (127.90 g AA/100 g). Petroleum ether and chloroform extracts showed the lowest level of phosphomolybdenum reduction in *S. polycystum*. In *S. duplicatum* the methanolic extracts had highest phosphomolybdenum reduction (688.98 g AA/100 g) activity followed by moderate reduction was noticed in acetone extract (165.91 g AA/100 g). Petroleum ether and chloroform extracts demonstrated the lowest level of phosphomolybdenum reduction.

The DPPH is a stable free radical which is commonly used for assessing antioxidant activity in plant samples. The DPPH assays were expressed in IC₅₀ values. Concentration of the sample necessary to decrease initial concentration of DPPH by 50% (IC₅₀) under the experimental condition was determined. Therefore, the lower value of IC₅₀ indicates a higher antioxidant activity.³⁵ The best DPPH activity was exerted by acetone extracts of *S. polycystum* (IC₅₀ 183.82 µg/ml) and acetone extracts of *S. duplicatum* (IC₅₀ 225.22 µg/ml). The DPPH radical scavenging activity of different extracts of *S. polycystum* and *S. duplicatum* were as follows acetone (183.82 µg/ml) > chloroform (192.3 µg/ml) > Petroleum ether (211.86 µg/ml) > methanol (214.59 µg/ml) and acetone (225.22 µg/ml) > chloroform (231.48 µg/ml) > methanol (251.25 µg/ml) > Petroleum ether (287.35 µg/ml) respectively.

The extracts of *S. polycystum* and *S. duplicatum* showed an efficient H₂O₂ scavenging activity in concentration-dependent manner. The H₂O₂ scavenging activity of *S. polycystum* extracts were as follows Petroleum ether extracts of *S. polycystum* (67.9%) > acetone (67.3%) > chloroform (58.6%) > methanol (51.78%). Acetone extracts of *S. duplicatum* showed maximum inhibition (90.39%) followed by petroleum ether, chloroform and methanolic extracts (75.11, 72.37 and 54.59%) respectively.

4. Discussion

Biopotency of seaweeds were proven by number of biological and pharamcological studies. The seaweeds possess various biological activities viz., antibacterial, antiviral, antitumour, antifungal, antiprotozoal, antioxidant and mosquito and larva control.^{36–39} Among the

seaweeds, *Sargassum* possesses various therapeutic potentials. Listed out the therapeutic potential and health benefits of *Sargassum* species.⁴⁰ To strengthen the therapeutic value of *Sargassum*, in the present study the antioxidant potentials of *S. polycystum* and *S. duplicatum* are documented.

The maximum extractable value of total phenols (33.49 mg GAE/g) was recorded in chloroform extracts of *S. polycystum*. In *S. duplicatum* the higher amount of phenols was observed in methanolic extracts (149.52 mg GAE/g). Highest amount of flavonoids was present in acetone extracts (865.55 mg GAE/g) of *S. polycystum* and *S. duplicatum* (953.33 mg GAE/g).

The best DPPH activity was exerted by acetone extracts of *S. polycystum* (IC₅₀ 183.82 µg/ml) followed by acetone extract of *S. duplicatum* (IC₅₀ 225.22 µg/ml). The petroleum ether extracts of *S. polycystum* showed an efficient H₂O₂ scavenging activity. Among the various extracts of *S. polycystum* acetone extracts showed the strongest phosphomolybdenum reduction (240.26 g AA/100).

Flavonoids, the largest groups of phenolic compounds are known to contain a broad spectrum of chemical and biological activities including antioxidant and free radical scavenging properties.⁴¹ Flavonoids include flavonols, flavones, catechins, proanthocyanidins, anthocyanidins and isoflavonoids.⁴² The phosphomolybdenum method of activity is directly correlated with flavonoids concentrations of *S. duplicatum*. The concentration of flavonoids and antioxidant activity of *S. duplicatum* were as follows methanol > acetone > chloroform > petroleum ether. The observed results explained the significance of the solvent polarity and solubility for the extraction. Phenolic compounds are important in plant defence mechanisms against invading bacteria and other types of environmental stress, such as wounding and excessive light or ultraviolet (UV) radiation.^{43–45} Many marine plants, including seaweeds, often carry significantly less macro and microepibionts on their thalli compared to co-occurring biofilms on inanimate substrata.^{46,47} Therefore it has been assumed that seaweeds defend themselves against bacterial fouling by production of secondary metabolites that prevent attachment and growth of bacterial colonizers.⁴⁸ Recently, consumers are demanding foods which are fresh, natural and minimally processed along with the requirement for enhanced safety and quality. This perspective has put pressure on the food industry for progressive removal of chemical preservatives, and has fuelled research into alternative natural antimicrobials. Plant products with antimicrobial properties have obtained emphasis for possible application in food production in order to prevent bacterial and fungal growth.⁴⁹ In the present study, the presence of flavonoid was observed in acetone and methanolic extracts of *Sargassum* species. In *S. duplicatum*, flavonoid showed its presence in all the extracts except in petroleum ether and acetone extract. Highest amount of flavonoids was present in acetone extracts (865.55 mg GAE/g) followed by methanolic and petroleum ether extracts. Chloroform extracts gave the lowest level of total flavonoids (340 mg GAE/g) compared to other extracts. In *S. duplicatum* the highest amount of total flavonoids was observed in acetone extracts (953.33 mg GAE/g).

Seaweeds are of applications in several industries due to the presence of polyphenols such as phenolic acids, flavonoids, anthocyanidins, lignin, tannins, catechin, epicatechin, epigallocatechin and gallic acid.^{50,51} The polyphenolic compounds have much health benefits such

as antioxidant, anticancer, antiviral, anti-inflammatory and an ability to inhibit human platelet aggregation.⁵² However, polyphenol from brown seaweeds and their relationship with antioxidant activities are poorly validated. Have revealed that polyphenolic compounds are one of the most effective antioxidants in brown algae.⁵³ the total antioxidant activity in the methanolic extract of *Sargassum muticum* are estimated previously.⁵⁴ Revealed the phytochemical composition of *S. polycyctum* and *S. duplicatum*.²⁹ In the present study also the total phenolics of *S. polycyctum* and *S. duplicatum* is quantified. The existence of phenol quantity and antioxidant activities of *S. polycyctum* and *S. duplicatum* are coincided. The total phenolics was maximum in acetone and methanolic extracts of *S. polycyctum* and *S. duplicatum*, both extracts showed maximum antioxidant activity. The observed results of metabolites quantification and antioxidant activity clearly explained the relationship between the metabolites existence and activity. The acetone and methanolic extracts of *S. polycyctum* and *S. duplicatum* showed higher activity than the other tested extracts (chloroform and petroleum ether). The *t*-test between phenol concentration and antioxidant activity showed the significance with *t* = 0.011. The correlation coefficient *r* = 0.867 was observed between the flavonoids concentration of *S. polycyctum* and antioxidant activity (phosphomolybdenum assay). The correlation coefficient *r* = 0.800 was observed between the flavonoids concentration of *S. duplicatum* and antioxidant activity (phosphomolybdenum assay). The preliminary phytochemical analysis confirmed the existence of steroids, flavonoids, phenols, cardiac glycosides, saponins, alkaloids from *S. polycyctum* and *S. duplicatum* etc.

5. Conclusion

The present study results confirmed the antioxidant properties of the two selected brown seaweeds viz., *S. polycyctum* and *S. duplicatum* and noted that the highest antioxidant activity was expressed in methanolic extract of the selected *Sargassum* species. The total phenols, flavonoids, alkaloids may be responsible for the antioxidant activities. The results of the present study provided a clue for the antioxidant properties of *S. polycyctum* and *S. duplicatum*. The studied macroalgae *S. polycyctum* and *S. duplicatum* extracts showed good antioxidant properties, showed the potential health ingredient for human nutrition. Further research is required to isolate active fractions may bring out a natural antioxidant with nutritive value.

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