

Variation of Physico-Chemical Attributes of Seed Oil Between Two Developing Cultivars of Sesame Grown Under Similar Agroclimatic Conditions in Pakistan

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The present work appraises variation of physico-chemical attributes of seed oils between two cultivars (V-96006 & V-90005) of sesame (*Sesamum indicum L.*) grown under similar agroclimatic conditions. Sesame seeds of cultivar V-96006 & V-90005 had oil, 41.20 and 46.95 %; moisture, 8.09 and 9.54 %; protein, 32.05 and 30.19 %; fiber, 2.41 and 2.10 % while ash 4.39 and 4.78 %, respectively. The extracted sesame seed oils had iodine value between 107 and 110 (g of I/100 g of oil), refractive index (40 °C) 1.4624 and 1.4638, density (24 °C) 0.87 and 0.88 mg/mL, free fatty acids 0.49 and 0.54 %, saponification value 190.24 and 190.95 mg of KOH/g of oil and unsaponifiable matter 2 and 2.60 %, respectively. The tested oils, in terms of measurements of peroxide value (1.96-2.20 meq/kg), conjugated dienes (2.01-2.38) and conjugated trienes (0.64-0.66) exhibited good oxidative state. The amounts of total tocopherols (α , γ and δ) in the tested sesame oils of V-96006 & V-90005 cultivars were found to be 619.5 and 644.6 mg/kg, respectively with γ -tocopherol as the principal compound. GLC analysis of the oils revealed the occurrence of mainly linoleic acid (C_{18:0}) 44.52, 44.27 %; oleic acid (C_{18:0}) 5.21, 4.98 %, respectively. Small amount of linolenic acid (C_{18:3}) < 1.0 % was also detected. The results of the present study showed that both of these sesame cultivars, except tocopherols, have comparable physico-chemical attributes and thus advocate selection of this potential oil seed crop for cultivation under the local agroclimatic conditions to produce good quality high-linoleic oil.

Keywords: Sesame, Oil extraction, Fatty acids, Tocopherols, HPLC, GLC, Oxidative stability.

INTRODUCTION

Sesame (Sesamum indicum L.) is one of the most ancient oilseed crops well known for its food, feed and health benefits due to high amount of antioxidant compounds¹⁻³. Extensive cultivation of sesame in Asia and Africa has been reported for centuries due to its high content of good quality oil⁴. Its seed oil is valued commercially because of its high stability, nutritional value and therapeutic potential, while its meal, left after oil extraction, can be used as animal feed⁵. Besides their importance as a good source of edible oil, sesame seeds are reported to be used in baked and confectionery products^{6,7}. The presence of neutraceutical compounds such as antioxidant phenolics and tocopherols in sesame seeds can be linked to the physiological functions such as anti-inflammatory activity and decreased incidence of blood pressure, aging and cardiovascular diseases, of this potential oil seed crop⁸⁻¹¹. Sesame lignin compounds have potential to exhibit antioxidant activity¹²⁻¹⁴ and anti-carcinogenic effects¹⁵, as well as lowering of blood pressure^{16,17} and serum lipids^{18,19}.

The oil yield and the physico-chemical properties of the oils produced not only vary among crop cultivars nevertheless these depend upon the agroclimatic conditions employed for their harvesting. The present comprehensive research work was aimed to investigate and compare the physico-chemical characteristics as well as the oxidative state, fatty acids and tocopherols profile of sesame oils between two cultivars of this potential oilseed crop grown under identical agroclimatic conditions.

EXPERIMENTAL

The seeds of two newly developed cultivars (V-96006 and V-90005) of sesame were harvested from different locations of the experimental fields of Ayub Agriculture Research Institute (AARI), Faisalabad, Pakistan. Three different seed samples for each of the cultivar/line were harvested.

All the chemicals/reagents both analytical grade and HPLC grade used in the present work, were got from Merck (Darmstadt, Germany) or Sigma Aldrich (Buchs, Switzerland). The standards including that of tocopherols [DL- α -tocopherol, (+) δ -tocopherol, (+) γ -tocopherol] and the fatty acids methyl esters (FAMEs) were obtained from Sigma Chemical Co.

Oil extraction: The clean seeds were conditioned at 65 °C for 0.5 h by placing in a hot air oven. The conditioned seed material, after grinding, was placed in a paper thimble and fed into a Soxhlet apparatus. The oil extraction was carried out for 6 h with *n*-hexane (b.p 65-68 °C). After oil recovery, the excess of the solvent was removed under vacuum using a rotary evaporator (EYELA, N.N. Series, Rikakikai Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan).

Analysis of oilseed residues: After the removal/recovery of oil, sesame oilseed residue (meal), was analyzed for protein, fiber and ash contents following AOAC method²⁰, ISO method²¹ and ISO method²², respectively.

Analysis of extracted oils: Density, iodine value, peroxide value, refractive index, acidity, saponification value and unsaponifiable matter of the recovered sesame seed oils were determined according to AOCS standard method²³. Color intensity was measured using a Lovibond Tintometer (Tintometer Ltd., Salisbury, Wiltshire, United Kingdom). The tested seed oils were analyzed by a spectrophotometer (U-2001, Hitachi Instrument Inc. Tokyo, Japan) for the estimation of specific extinctions (conjugated dienes and conjugated trienes) after taking the absorbance at 232 nm and 270 nm, respectively. The samples of oils were diluted with iso-octane to bring the absorbance of the sample solution within the appropriate range and $(\epsilon_1^{1\%} \text{ cm} (\lambda))$ was determined according to IUPAC method after taking the absorbance²⁴. The extracted oils were also analyzed for *p*-anisidine value using IUPAC protocol²⁴. For this measurement, the oils were diluted in iso-octane and reacted with *p*-anisidine reagent to produce colored complex, the intensity of which was measured at 350 nm using the specified spectrophotometer.

Tocopherol content: The qualitative and quantitative measurement of the oil tocopherols (α , γ and δ) was made using high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) following the CPFA (Current Protocols in Food Analytical Chemistry) method²⁵. Accurately weighed amount (0.1 g) of the oil was mixed with 0.05 g ascorbic acid (AA) to protect from oxidation during sample preparation using protocol as described in one of our recent article²⁶ and afterward analyzing it by normal phase HPLC. A 20-µL of the prepared sample was injected into a Supelcosil LC-Si column (250 × 4.6 mm, Supelco Inc., Supelco Park, Bellefonte, USA) and eluted with a mobile phase mixture (ethyl acetate/acetic acid/hexane; 1:1:98 v/v/v) at a flow rate of 1.5 mL/min. Identification of tocopherols (α , γ and δ) was done at wavelength of 295 nm. The peaks of unknown tocopherols were identified by comparing their retention times with those of pure standards while the quantification of these was made based upon comparison of peak areas with those of pure (authentic) standards.

Gas chromatographic fatty acid analysis: The seed oils under testing were converted into the respective fatty acid methyl esters (FAMEs) following the standard IUPAC method²⁴ and then analyzed on a SHIMADZU gas chromatograph model 17-A, fitted with a SP-2330 (SUPLECO, Inc., Bellefonte, PA) methyl lignoserate coated polar capillary column (30 m × 0.25 mm) and a flame ionization detector. Pure nitrogen gas (99.999 %) was used as a mobile phase at 5 mL/min flow rate. The other analysis parameters were: split injector temperature 230 °C; initial column oven temperature 180 °C was increased with ramp rate 5 °C/min to final temperature 220 °C; detector temperature 240 °C. FAMEs were identified based upon comparison of their retention times with those of authentic standards and were quantified by a data handling software (CSW) giving the composition as relative percentage of the total peak areas.

Statistical analysis: Three replicates were performed for each analysis and the data thus generated was statistical analyzed by STATISTICA 5.5 (Stat Soft Inc., Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA) software. Statistically significant differences of means between the lines were considered at p < 0.05.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The oil content yielded (recovered) from the seeds of two sesame cultivars was found to be as high as 46.95 % (Table-1). The oil yield (46.95 %) of V-90005 was found to be significantly higher (p < 0.05) than that of V-96006 (41.20 %). Sesame seed oil content (41.20-46.95 %) obtained in the present research work was noted to be higher than the findings of Gul *et al.*²⁷ while it was lower than the value investigated by El-Kheir *et al.*²⁸, Mohammed and Hamza²⁹, Unal and Yalcin³⁰ and Nzikou *et al.*³¹. This difference in the oil yield across the regions might be attributed to varied genetic make up of the varieties as well differing agroclimatic conditions of the harvesting³².

TABLE-1			
PROXIMATE ANALYSIS OF SESAME			
SEED OF TWO CULTIVARS			
	V-96006	V-90005	
Oil Content (%)	41.20 ± 0.91^{b}	46.95 ± 1.50^{a}	
Moisture (%)	8.09 ± 0.29^{b}	9.54 ± 0.31^{a}	
Protein content (%)	32.05 ± 1.23^{a}	30.19 ± 1.10^{a}	
Fiber Content (%)	2.41 ± 0.24^{a}	2.10 ± 0.16^{a}	
Ash Content (%)	4.39 ± 0.25^{a}	4.78 ± 0.21^{a}	
Values are mean \pm SD for three different samples of each cultivar			
analyzed individually in triplicate. Different superscript letters within			
the same row indicate	significant $(n < 0.05)$	differences of means	

the same row indicate significant (p < 0.05) differences of means between the investigated cultivars

Analysis of the meal (oilseed residue left after oil removal) revealed that seed of V-96006 contained slightly higher protein (32.05 %) than that of V-90005 (30.19 %). This protein content (30.19-32.05 %) of sesame seed is comparable with the findings of El-Kheir *et al.*²⁸ but higher than that investigated by Unal and Yalcin³⁰ and Nzikou *et al.*³¹. The present study revealed that sesame seed meal could be a good source of vegetable protein for uses as animal or poultry feed. Fiber content (2.10-2.41 %) in the sesame seed was found to be lower than the values reported by Gul *et al.*²⁷, El-Kheir *et al.*²⁸ and Nzikou *et al.*³¹. The fiber content indicates the indigestibility of food stuff. There was no significant difference (p > 0.05) for protein, ash and crude fiber contents between the two sesame seed cultivars/lines (V-96006 and V-90005) used.

The seed oils obtained were evaluated for quality-related and routine physico-chemical parameters (Table-2). The oil from both the cultivars (V-96006 & V-90005) was found to have color index of 4 R + 40 Y, 3.6 R + 36 Y and density 0.88, 0.87 mg/mL, respectively. The color index of oil is linked with the presence of different coloring pigments. Lower color index of oil makes it appropriate for edible and domestic applications while high color intensity may adversely affect commercial value of oil. The present saponification value (190.24-190.59 mg of KOH /g of oil) was slightly higher than the findings of Gul et al.²⁷, El-Kheir et al.²⁸, Latif and Anwar³³ and comparable with the data of Mohammed and Hamza²⁹. A higher saponification value of the oil supports their uses for production of liquid soap, shampoos and shaving creams. The unsaponifiable matter (2.0-2.60 %) of sesame seed oils was higher than that findings of Gul et al.²⁷, Nzikou et al.³¹, Latif and Anwar³². The refractive index (1.4624-1.4638) of tested oils was comparable to the values reported by Gul et al.27, El-Kheir et al.28, Latif and Anwar³³.

TABLE-2 PHYSICOCHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF SESAME SEED OIL OF TWO CULTIVARS		
	V-96006	V-90005
Refractive Index (40°C)	1.4638 ± 0.003 ^a	1.4624 ± 0.004 ^a
Color Unit (Red Unit)	4.00 ± 0.12^{a}	3.60 ± 0.09^{b}
Color Unit (Yellow Unit)	40.00 ± 1.80^{a}	36.00 ± 1.48^{a}
Density (mg/mL) (24°C)	0.88 ± 0.01 ^a	0.87 ± 0.02^{a}
Saponification Value (mg of KOH/g of oil)	190.95 ± 2.50 ª	190.24 ± 3.46^{a}
Unsaponifiable matter (%)	2.00 ± 0.06 ^b	2.60 ± 0.09^{a}
Iodine value (g of $I_2/100$ g of oil)	110.00 ± 2.16 ^a	107.00 ± 2.91 ^a
Free Fatty Acid (% as oleic acid)	0.54 ± 0.04 ^a	0.49 ± 0.05 ^a
Values are mean \pm SD for three different samples of each cultivar analyzed		

individually in triplicate. Different superscript letters within the same row indicate significant (p < 0.05) differences of means between the investigated cultivars

The free fatty acid (FFA) value (0.49-0.52 % as oleic acid) of extracted seed oils was comparable to the findings of Gul et al.²⁷, Mohammed and Hamza²⁹, Latif and Anwar³³ but lower than the values reported by El-Kheir et al.²⁸ and Nzikou et al.³¹. Free fatty acid index is directly correlated with the deterioration of the oils and provides favorable conditions for the development of objectionable flavor and odor. A low free fatty acid value for sesame oil in the present study showed good resistance to hydrolysis. Iodine value is used to measure the degree of unsaturation of the oils³⁴. The iodine value (107-110 g of I/100 g of oil) of the tested oils was found to be in line with the values investigated by Gul et al.27, El-Kheir et al.28, Mohammed and Hamza²⁹, Latif and Anwar³². No significant (p > 0.05) difference was observed for routine physico-chemical parameters between the oils extracted from both the tested sesame cultivars except unsaponifiable matter.

Sesame seed oils exhibited good oxidation stability as evident by the data presented in Table-3. Somali *et al.*³⁵ reported that the oxidative deterioration and purity of the oil can be appraised by measuring the specific extinctions (conjugated dienes and conjugated trienes) at 232 nm and 270 nm, respectively. The tested oils (V-96006 & V-90005) showed specific extinctions as high as 2.38, 2.01 at 232 nm while 0.64, 0.66 at

270 nm, respectively, revealing non significant (p > 0.05) variation between the two cultivars tested. Peroxide value of sesame seed oil (V-96006 and V-90005) was found to be 1.96 and 2.2 meq/kg, respectively, showing significant (p < 0.05) difference between the two tested sesame oils. The peroxide value of the analyzed oil (1.96-2.2 meq/kg of oil) was higher than the findings of Nzikou *et al.*³¹ and Latif and Anwar³³. *p*-Anisidine value measures hydro-peroxides and aldehydic secondary oxidation products of the oils³⁵. Sesame seed oil exhibited *p*-anisidine value (0.28-0.57) showing its good resistance to oxidation. It was found that V-90005 have significantly (p < 0.05) higher *p*-anisidine value (0.28) than that of V-96006 (0.57).

TABLE-3 OXIDATIVE STATE OF SESAME SEED OIL OF TWO CULTIVARS

	V-96006	V-90005
Conjugated dienes $\varepsilon_1^{1\%}_{cm}(\lambda)$ ($\lambda = 232$)	2.38 ± 0.04^{a}	2.01 ± 0.05^{b}
Conjugated trienes $\varepsilon_1^{1\%}_{cm}(\lambda) (\lambda = 68)$	0.64 ± 0.04^{a}	0.66 ± 0.05^{a}
P-Anisidine value	0.57 ± 0.01 ^a	0.28 ± 0.01 ^b
Peroxide Value (meq/Kg)	2.2 ± 0.05^{a}	1.96 ± 0.06^{b}
Values are mean ± SD for three diffe analyzed individually in triplicate. Diff	-	
the same row indicate significant (p)		
between the investigated cultivars		lees of means

The amounts of tocopherols (α , γ and δ) in the seeds oils recovered from two sesame cultivars (V-96006 & V-90005) are given in Table-4. The tested oils had small amount of α tocopherol (3.6 mg/kg & 4.1 mg/kg) and γ -tocopherol (2.9 mg/kg & 3.5 mg/kg) while a very high amount of γ -tocopherol (613 mg/kg & 637 mg/kg), respectively. Meanwhile, the concentration of γ -tocopherol was noted to be varied insignificantly (p > 0.05) between the varieties tested. γ -tocopherol (3.6 & 4.1 mg/kg) in sesame seed oil, which has the greatest vitamin E potency³⁶, was lower than the findings of Gul *et al.*²⁷ and higher than the values reported by Latif and Anwar³³. The amount of δ -tocopherol (2.9 & 3.5 mg/kg) in extracted oils was comparable to the findings of Latif and Anwar³³ but lower than the value published by Gul *et al.*²⁷. The level of γ -tocopherol (613-637 mg/kg) in tested oils was found to be higher than the values reported by Latif and Anwar³³.

TABLE-4 TOCOPHEROL CONTENTS OF SESAME SEED OIL OF TWO CULTIVARS		
	V-96006	V-90005
α-Tocopherol (mg/kg)	3.60 ± 0.08 ^b	4.10 ± 0.14^{a}
γ-Tocopherol (mg/kg)	613 ± 7^{a}	637 ± 5 ^a
δ-Tocopherol (mg/kg)	2.90 ± 0.09^{b}	3.50 ± 0.10^{a}
Values are mean \pm SD for three different samples of each cultivar		

analyzed individually in triplicate. Different superscript letters within the same row indicate significant (p < 0.05) differences of means between the investigated cultivars

The fatty acid composition of sesame seed oils analyzed is given in Table-5. The contents of total saturated fatty acids in the extracted oils from the tested cultivars namely V-96006 & V-90005 were found to be 14.52-15.38 % followed by mono unsaturated fatty acids³⁹. 34-40.07 % and poly unsaturated fatty acids 45.16-45.86 %. The amount of the total saturated fatty

TABLE-5 FATTY ACID COMPOSITION OF SESAME SEED OIL OF TWO CULTIVARS		
Fatty acids	V-96006	V-90005
C16:0	9.82 ± 0.29^{a}	9.23 ± 0.18^{a}
C18:0	5.21 ± 0.10^{a}	4.98 ± 0.15^{a}
C18:1	39.34 ± 0.71^{a}	40.07 ± 0.79^{a}
C18:2	44.52 ± 1.21^{a}	44.27 ± 0.95^{a}
C18:3	0.59 ± 0.01^{a}	0.64 ± 0.02^{a}
C20:0	0.35 ± 0.02^{a}	0.31 ± 0.01^{a}
Values are mean \pm SD for three different samples of each cultivar		
analyzed individually in triplicate. Different superscript letters within		
the same row indicate significant $(p < 0.05)$ differences of means		
between the investigated cultivars		

acid (14.52-15.38 %) in the presently examined seed oils was lower than the findings of Gul and Zreen²⁷ and comparable to the values reported by El-Kheir et al.28, Unal and Yalcin30, Nzikou *et al.*³¹, Latif and Anwar³². Linoleic acid is one of the most important polyunsaturated fatty acids which provide protection against vascular heart diseases³⁷.

The tested oils contained linoleic acid ($C_{18:2}$, n-6) as a dominant poly unsaturated fatty acid (44.27-44.52 %) followed by oleic acid (C_{18:1}; n-9) as mono unsaturated fatty acid (39.34-40.07 %) and palmitic ($C_{16:0}$) as a dominant saturated fatty acid (9.23-9.82 %). A small amount (0.59-0.64 %) of linolenic acid (C18:3, n-3) was also detected in the tested oils. The content of oleic acid (C18:1) (39.34-40.07 %) in the present study was comparable to the findings of Gul et al.²⁷, Nzikou et al.³¹, Latif and Anwar³³ but lower than the values reported by El-Kheir *et al.*²⁸, Unal and Yalcin³⁰. The amount of linoleic acid ($C_{18:2}$) (44.27-44.52 %) was comparable to the findings of Latif and Anwar³³, while higher than the values reported by El-Kheir et al.²⁸, Unal and Yalcin³⁰ and lower than the value published by Nzikou et al.³¹.

Conclusion

It could be concluded from the results of this study that most of the physico-chemical characteristics of the oils produced under similar trial fields and conditions were varied insignificantly (p > 0.05) between the two tested sesame cultivars indicating that both of the cultivars have close resemblance for the genetic make up. Overall, the seed oils investigated contained predominant amount of linoleic acid and oleic acid, reasonable oxidative stability along with appreciable level of tocopherols. It would be valuable to cultivate these lines of sesame locally to produce oil with consistent quality. Production of oils from such non-conventional oilseed crops such in Pakistan can be helpful to bridge the gap between domestic demand (3.5 million tons) and local supply/production (around 1 million tons) of vegetable oils thus a step forward towards saving of huge amount of foreign exchange.

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