



Chemical Composition and Antioxidant Properties of Wild Tunisian Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms

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Abstract: Wild medicinal mushrooms have been considered as therapeutic agents since long in Asian countries, but their use in Tunisia has been slightly increased only since the last few years. This study is, to our knowledge, the first to investigate the richness of four wild Tunisian edible and medicinal species of basidiomycetes (*Tricholoma terreum*, *Tricholoma equestre*, *Ganoderma lucidum* and *Agaricus campestris*) on phenolics, fatty acids and to evaluate their antioxidant properties via 5 *in vitro* tests. Significant differences were observed in phenolic contents and antioxidant capacities between species. *G. lucidum* extract exhibited the highest phenolic and flavonoid contents (18.7 mg EAG/g DW and 5.3 mg CE/g DW) related to the important total antioxidant capacity (5.4 mg EAG/g DW), DPPH ($IC_{50}=0.14$ mg/mL), ABTS ($IC_{50}=0.98$ mg/mL) and β -carotene bleaching tests ($IC_{50}=0.26$ mg/mL), respectively. Fatty acids profiles of these species were carried out by chromatography. High levels of unsaturated fatty acids (79.5-84.2 %) were observed in all species, which gives them an important nutritional value. The dominant fatty acid was linoleic acid followed by the oleic acid. Percentage of these two compounds varied from 40% to 60.2% and 16.65% to 37.17 % respectively.

Keywords : antioxidant activities, wild edible mushrooms, GC-MS, fatty acids, chemical composition.

1. INTRODUCTION

Edible and medicinal higher fungi have been used by humankind for millennia. They are collected and used directly not only for their nutritional values as a main source of food or as a part of regular diet but also for their medicinal purpose as source of powerful new bioactive compounds. Many, if not all, Basidiomycetes mushrooms (BMs) contain biologically active compounds in fruit bodies, cultured mycelium and culture broth (Wasser, 2011). They had long been used as a folk remedy for promotion of health and longevity in many oriental countries for their important chemical and nutritional characteristics (Kalac, 2012). Actually, BMs are clinically confirmed and constitute a strong base for intensive research and development of basidiomycetes biologically active metabolites (BAMs) such as organic acids, alkaloids, terpenoids, steroids and phenolics (Kim and Kim, 1999; Prasad et al., 2015). BMs are also valuable health food, high in vitamins, minerals, fibers, and nutritive compounds such as protein, essential amino acids and polyunsaturated fatty acids. Numerous species of wild growing mushrooms are widely consumed as a delicacy in Tunisia. For instance, *Ganoderma lucidum* (Reishi), *Agaricus campestris* (Agaricaceae), *Tricholoma terreum* and *Tricholoma equestre* are appreciated mushrooms due to their organoleptic, nutritional and pharmacological properties (Yilmaz et al., 2006). Several studies have reported a number health benefits of these species, such as antioxidant, anti-aging (Cherian et al., 2009; Kosanić et al., 2017), antimicrobial (Karwa et al., 2012), hypoglycemic (Xiao et al., 2012), antiulcer (Gao et al., 2004) and anti-inflammatory (Muszyńska et al., 2018) effects. Polysaccharides, essential fatty acids and secondary bioactive compounds are the best known and potent mushroom-derived substances with high values (Chen et al., 2012; Gąsecka et al. 2017). These properties, along with low cytotoxicity, raise the possibility that it could be effective in the cancer patients receiving conventional chemotherapy and/or radiation treatment, to build up immune resistance and decrease toxicity (Bishop et al., 2015). For instance, previous data have demonstrated that *G. lucidum* polysaccharides stimulated immune function both *in vivo* and *in vitro* (Wang et al., 2000). *A. campestris* extracts were

also found to possess good antitumor activities (Li *et al.*, 2005; Kosanić *et al.*, 2017). Water extract of this specie enhances the secretion of insulin and have insulin like effects on glucose metabolism (Gray and Flott, 1998).

In Tunisia, few chemical investigations were reported concerning *T. terreum*, *T. equestre*, *G. lucidum* and *A. campestris*. Therefore, the aim of this study was to provide some insight into the chemical composition as well as the antioxidant capability of extracts obtained from these wild mushrooms.

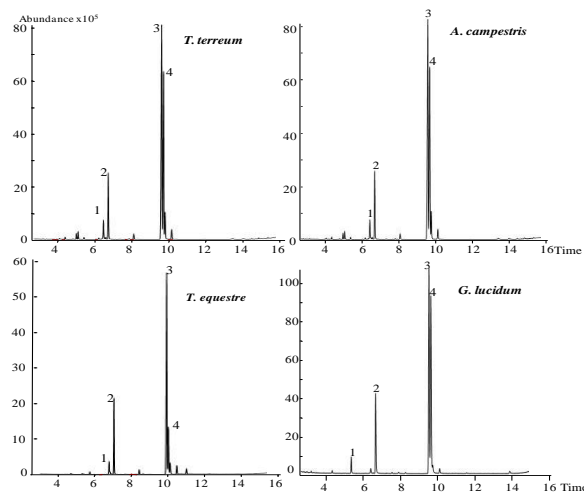


Fig1. Profils of the major fatty acid composition of mushroom species: 1. palmitoleic acid, 2. palmitic acid, 3. linoleic acid 4. oleic acid.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Fungal Materials and Extraction

Specimens of *Tricholoma terreum*, *Tricholoma equestre*, *Ganoderma lucidum* and *Agaricus campestris* L, were collected from Tunisian mountainous Kroumerie region (36°34'60" N, 8°25'0" E; 600 km west Tunis; humid bioclimatic stage; mean annual rainfall >1000 mm) in December 2016 and identified at the Sylvo-Pastoral Institute of Tabarka. The harvested specimens were rinsed with distilled water, then oven-dried at 37°C, and grinded to a fine powder. Extracts were obtained by magnetic stirring of 3 g of dry powder with 30 ml of methanol at 80% for 2 hours. The obtained filtrate is evaporated using a rotary evaporator. Dry residue was then stored at 4°C until analysis.

2.2. Total Phenol Content (TPC) Analysis

Colorimetric quantification of total polyphenol was determined as described by Dewanto *et al.*, (2002). Briefly, 125 µL of suitable diluted sample extract was dissolved in 500 µL of distilled water and 125 µL of the Folin-Ciocalteu reagent. The mixture was shaken before adding 1250 µL sodium carbonate anhydrous (Na₂CO₃) (70 g L⁻¹), then adjusted with distilled water to a final volume of 3 ml, and mixed thoroughly. After incubation for 90 min at 23°C in the dark, the absorbance versus prepared blank was read at 760 nm (LABOMED, INC. UV/Vis apparatus). TPC of mushroom was expressed as mg gallic acid equivalents per gram of dry weight (mg GAE g⁻¹ DW) through the calibration curve with gallic acid ranging from 0 to 400 µg mL⁻¹ (r² = 0.99).

2.3. Total Flavonoid Content (TFC) Analysis

Total flavonoids were measured by colorimetric assay according to Dewanto *et al.* (2002). An aliquot of diluted sample or standard solution of (+)-catechin was added to a 75 µL of sodium nitrite solution (NaNO₂), and mixed for 6 min before adding 0.15 ml of aluminum chloride hexahydrate solution (AlCl₃, 6H₂O) (100 g L⁻¹). After 5 min, 0.5 mL of sodium hydroxide NaOH (1M) was added and the final volume was adjusted to 2.5 mL with distilled water and then mixed. Absorbance was determined at 510 nm against the same mixture, without the sample, as a blank. Total flavonoid content was expressed as milligram catechin equivalent per gram dry weight (mg CE.g⁻¹ DW), through the calibration curve of (+)-catechin ranging from 0 to 400 µg mL⁻¹ (r² = 0.99).

2.4. Total Soluble Carbohydrate Contents

The content of total soluble carbohydrates in the studied samples was determined according to Staub (1963), using glucose as a standard. Briefly, 25 mg of sample was homogenized with 5 ml methanol 80% and boiled while shaking at 70°C for 30 min and then centrifuged. An aliquot of 250 µl was added to 5 ml of anthrone–sulfuric acid solution. The mixture was shaken, heated in a boiling water-

bath for 10 min and cooled at 4°C. The absorption was determined by spectrophotometry (Anthelie Advanced 2, SECOMAN) at 640 nm. A standard curve was prepared using different concentration of glucose (0-100 µg, from MERCK KGaA). From the standard curve, the concentrations of soluble carbohydrates in the test samples were calculated ($y = 0.0095x - 0.0299$, $R^2 = 0.979$).

2.5. Fatty Acid Methyl Ester Analysis (FAMES)

Mushroom powder (1g) was mixed with 6 ml of hexane and 0.5 mL of NaOH (0.2 N) dissolved in ethanol. After shaking, the lower phase was removed and the fatty acids (FA) present in the upper fraction were converted to methyl esters with 3 mL of a Boron trifluoride-methanol complex (14%) reagent, and incubated at 60°C for 15 min. The fatty acid methyl ester was washed with 2 ml of water and extracted with 10 mL of petroleum ether. The identification of FAMES was performed by GC-MS using an HP-5980 Series II instrument, equipped with HP-5MS capillary column (30 m x 0.25 mm; 0.25 µm film thickness), split/splitless injector (220°C). The oven temperature was held at 150°C, then programmed at 15°C/ min up to 220°C, and held isothermally at 220°C for 5 min. Helium was the carrier gas at an initial flow rate of 1 ml/min. Split ratio was 20:1. Injection volume was 2 µl. Quantification of FA methyl esters, expressed as percentage, was obtained directly from GC-MS peak area integration. The components were identified by comparing their relative retention times and mass spectra with the data from the Wiley library, Mass-Finder and Adams GC/MS library.

2.6. Evaluation of Total Antioxidant Capacity (TAC)

The assay is based on the reduction of Mo (VI) to Mo (V) by the extract and subsequent formation of a green phosphate/Mo (V) complex at acid pH. An aliquot (0.1 mL) of mushroom extract was combined to 1 mL of reagent solution (0.6 M sulfuric acid, 28 mM sodium phosphate and 4 mM ammonium molybdate), then incubated in a thermal block at 95°C for 90 min. After the mixture had cooled to room temperature, the absorbance of each solution was measured at 695 nm against a blank. The antioxidant capacity was expressed as mg GAE.g⁻¹ DW (Koleva et al., 2002). The calibration curve range was 0–500 µg mL⁻¹.

2.7. Scavenging Effect on DPPH and ABTS Radicals

DPPH quenching ability of extracts was measured according to Hanato *et al.* (1988). 1 mL of the samples was added to 250 µL of 0.2 mM solution of DPPH. After 30 min of incubation at room temperature, the absorbance was read against a blank at 517 nm.

The ABTS radical-scavenging activity of extracts was determined according to Re et al. (1999). ABTS⁺ cation radical was produced by the reaction between 5 µL of 14 mM ABTS⁺ solution and 5 µL of 4.9 mM potassium persulfate solution, and stored in the dark at room temperature for 16 hours. Prior to use, this solution was diluted with ethanol to get an absorbance of 0.700 ± 0.020 at 734 nm. In a final volume of 1 mL, the reaction mixture comprised 950 µL of ABTS⁺ solution and 50 mL of the mushroom extract at various concentrations (20 - 200 mg mL⁻¹). The reaction mixture was homogenized and its absorbance was recorded at 734 nm. Methanol blanks were run in each assay, and all measurements were done after a minimum of 6 minutes. Similarly, the reaction mixture of the standard group was obtained by mixing 950 µL of ABTS⁺ solution and 50 µL of BHT.

DPPH and ABTS⁺ scavenging ability were expressed as IC₅₀ (mg mL⁻¹) which is the Inhibiting Concentration of 50% of the synthetic radical. The inhibition percentage (IP %) of DPPH and ABTS⁺ radicals was calculated using the following formula:

$$IP (\%) = [(A_0 - A_1)/A_0] \times 100 \quad (1)$$

where A₀ and A₁ are the absorbance of the control and the sample, respectively.

2.8. B-Carotene Bleaching Test (BCBT)

A modification of the method described by Koleva et al. (2002) was employed. β-Carotene (2 mg) was dissolved in 20 mL chloroform. 4 ml of this solution was mixed with 40 mg linoleic acid and 400 mg Tween 40. Chloroform was evaporated under vacuum at 40°C and 100 ml of oxygenated ultra-pure water was added, then the emulsion was vigorously shaken. An aliquot of 150 µL of the β-carotene/linoleic acid emulsion was distributed in the 96 wells of the microtitre plates and solutions of the test samples (10 µL) were added. Three replicates were prepared for each sample. The microtitre plates were incubated at 50°C for 120 min, and the absorbance was measured using a model EAR 400 microtitre reader (Labsystems Multiskan MS) at 470 nm. Readings of all samples were performed immediately (t = 0 min) and after 120 min of incubation. The antioxidant activity of the extracts was evaluated in terms of blanching inhibition of the β-carotene the following formula

$$\beta\text{-Carotene bleaching inhibition (\%)} = [(S-C120)/(C0-C120)] / 100 \quad (2)$$

Where C0 and C120 are the absorbance values of the control at 0 and 120 min, respectively, and S is the sample absorbance at 120 min. The results were expressed as IC50 values ($\mu\text{g/ml}$).

2.9. Chelating Effects on Ferrous Ions

The ferrous ion chelating activity of wild mushroom extracts was assessed as described by Zhao et al. (2006). Different concentrations of mushroom extracts were added to a solution of 2 mM FeCl₂ (0.05 ml). The reaction was initiated by adding 100 μl of ferrozine (5 mM) and adjusted to 3 ml with distilled water, shaken vigorously, and left standing at room temperature for 10 min. Absorbance of the solution was then measured spectrophotometrically at 562 nm. The percentage of inhibition of ferrozine-Fe²⁺ complex was calculated using the formula (1). Results were expressed as EC50: efficient concentration corresponding to 50% ferrous iron chelating.

2.10. Statistical Analysis

The statistical analysis was carried out using the IBM SPSS Statistics 22 software. Each mean value is accompanied by the standard error (mean \pm SE). The results were compared using the ANOVA (single-criterion) analysis, based on the smallest significant difference at the 5% threshold. Multiple comparisons were made using the Tukey HSD test (Honestly Significantly Difference).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Chemical Composition and Analysis

Phenolic acids and flavonoids are important compounds with scavenging ability due to their hydroxyl groups and hence may contribute directly to the antioxidative action. The amount of total phenolics (TP) and flavonoids (TF) in wild BMs varied significantly from 0.84 to 18.68 mg GAE/g DW and 0.08 to 5.29 CE/g DW, respectively (Table 1). The highest amount of TP and TF was found in *G. lucidum* with a value of 18.7 mg EAG/g DW and 5.3 mg CE/g DW respectively. *T. terreum* and *A. campestris* showed the lowest TP (0.84 mg EAG/g DW) and flavonoids (0.09 mg CE/g DW) contents, respectively. The level of phenolics in wild BMs are somewhat comparable with the other reports. Numerous studies on mushrooms reported total phenolics ranging from 0.83 to 42.21 mg GAE/g of extract (Wong and Chye, 2009), 2.09 to 10.51 mg GAE/g of extract (Gursoy et al., 2010) and 3.39-14.6 mg GAE/g of extract (Woldegiorgis et al., 2014). Besides, BMs flavonoids contents are in agreement with total phenolic ones. Several works reported that the chemical composition and antioxidant activity varied in BMs (Mishra et al., 2013). This diversity is depending on the strain, to the environmental factors and the geographic origin.

Total sugars are a flavor compounds contained in the mushroom contributing to the sweet taste (Litchfield, 1967). Therefore, the high content of sugars would adduce rise the moderate sweet taste perception (Beluhan and Ranogajec, 2011). The sugar content of studied wild edible mushroom species in this work are shown in Table 1. Values were ranged from 39 to 58 mg/100 g DW. The highest total sugar content was found in *G. lucidum* (58 mg/100 g) which is in agreement with results found by Colak et al. (2007) who found 50.10 g/100 g of proteins. Jedidi et al (2016) reported level of total sugar in Tunisian *A. campestris* was 47.7 \pm 0.29 g kg⁻¹ DW which is also similar to our results. In the same context, Barros et al. (2008a) reported a higher protein content ranged between 47 and 80g/100 g for some mushroom species.

Table1.

Samples of mushrooms	Total phenolics (mg GAE/g DW)	Total flavonoids (mg CE/g DW)	Total soluble sugar (mg/100 g DW)
<i>Tricholoma terreum</i>	0.840 \pm 0.2c	0.264 \pm 0.03b	50.05 \pm 0.7b
<i>Agaricus campestris</i>	1.698 \pm 0.4b	0.088 \pm 0.01c	39.21 \pm 0.4cd
<i>Tricholoma equestre</i>	1.457 \pm 0.4b	0.125 \pm 0.01b	40.88 \pm 0.5c
<i>Ganoderma lucidum</i>	18.688 \pm 1.1a	5.297 \pm 1.1a	58.25 \pm 1.1a

3.2. Antioxidant Activity of Extracts

The extracts of tested mushrooms showed high total antioxidant capacity (Table 2). Overall the assays, *G. lucidum* had better antioxidant properties with high TAC and lower IC₅₀ values.

Table 2 showed the strong TAC was found in *G. lucidum* extract (5.4 mg EAG/g DW) than *T. equestre* (131.77 mg EAG/g DW) followed by *A. campestris* (0.95 mg EAG/g DW) and at the end *T. terreum* (59.83 mg EAG/g DW).

For the scavenging DPPH and ABTS radicals, *G. lucidum* presented the strongest DPPH and ABTS radical-scavenging activities ($IC_{50}=0,14$ and $0,98$ mg/mL respectively), while *A. campestris* presented the lowest $IC_{50}= 3.33$ for the DPPH test and *T. equestre* the lowest IC_{50} value 2.58 mg/mL for the ABTS test. Kosanic et al. (2017) showed *A. campestris* extract had moderate free radical scavenging activity ($IC_{50}=179.65$ μ g/mL). A study conducted by Barros et al. (2008b), showed *Agaricus* sp. mushrooms proved to have antioxidant activity, namely radical scavenging activity with IC_{50} ranged between 5.37 and 15.85 mg/ml. Smina et al. (2011), revealed the potent antioxidant power of *Ganoderma* triterpenes, which were highly effective in scavenging most of the free radicals *in vitro* including DPPH⁺ and ABTS⁺. That's why, Boonsong et al. (2016) reported that from many reasons, mushrooms are advised to be a natural and good source of antioxidants which play a crucial role for chemoprevention of many diseases caused by free radicals (Kamra and Bhatt, 2012). Besides, mushrooms contain various polyphenolic compounds recognized as an excellent antioxidant due to their ability to scavenge free radicals by single-electron transfer (Hirano et al., 2001).

The effect of mushroom extracts on the auto-oxidation of polyunsaturated fatty acids was evaluated using the β -carotene bleaching test. In that system, β -carotene as a target molecule was exposed to free radicals formed by linoleic acid oxidation in the presence of a free radical scavenger mushroom extract constituents. Results concerning β -carotene bleaching test, showed similar interpretation as previous tests (Table 2). *G. lucidum* extract exhibited high inhibition of linoleic acid oxidation ($IC_{50} = 0.26$ mg mL⁻¹). While, *A. campestris* and *T. equestre* showed an $IC_{50} = 2.04$ and 1.2 mg mL⁻¹ respectively. In this research, IC_{50} values of the β -carotene bleaching test were comprised between 0.26 and 2.4 mg ml⁻¹, thus reflecting humble antioxidant effects when compared with other medicinal mushrooms (Smina et al., 2011; Yang et al., 2002; Cheung et al., 2003). Also, the bleaching power may indicate potential antioxidant properties of tested mushrooms. Based on these results, the tested mushrooms appear to be good natural antioxidant, antimicrobial and anticancer agents. The identification of the active antioxidant, antimicrobial and anticancer compounds of these mushroom species can lead to their potential commercial usage in medicine, food production and the cosmetic industry. The presence of different antioxidants can hinder the extent of β -carotene-bleaching by neutralizing the linoleate-free radical and other free radicals formed in the system (Jayaprakasha et al., 2001).

On the other hand, the chelating power of *T. equestre*, *A. campestris* and *T. terreum* extracts were weak ($IC_{50}=7, 2.01$ and 1.4 mg/ml respectively), while *G. lucidum* extract registered no activity (Table 2). Testing chelating ability on ferrous ions, extract from *G. lucidum* showed no chelating ability which is on the contrary with regard to other reports, Kozarski et al. (2011), showed EC_{50} value of the chelating ability on ferrous ions for *G. lucidum* extract was 0.59 mg/mL. The absence of the chelating power test in *G. lucidum* extract can be explained by the relationship between the test specificity and the kind of antioxidants needed. This is why we can suggest that the chelating activity against the ferrous ion in *G. lucidum* can be related to specific phenolic compounds rather than their whole concentration (Jallali et al., 2014).

At the whole, our results displayed that phenolic contents are positively concomitant with the assessed antioxidant tests, except the chelating power test in mushroom extracts, suggesting this way that phenolic compounds are responsible for their antioxidant activity. In many reports has been found a high correlation between phenolic content and antioxidative activities. Phenolics are potential antioxidants which can donate hydrogen to free radicals and thereby stop the chain reaction of lipid oxidation at the initial stage, due to the presence of their phenolic hydroxyl groups (Kosanić et al., 2017).

Although, it is difficult to compare all obtained results with those reported in literature because the few information related *T. equestre* and *T. terreum*.

Table2. Antioxidant activities of mushroom methanolic extracts.

	Samples of mushrooms			
	<i>G. lucidum</i>	<i>A. campestris</i>	<i>T. terreum</i>	<i>T. equestre</i>
TAC (mg AGE/g DW)	540 ±0.05 a	95.55 ± 0.05b	59.83±0.004c	131.77±0.004b
Antiradical activity DPPH (mg/ml)	0.14 ± 0.01a	3.33 ± 0.09c	1.42±0.01b	1.53±0.01b

Antiradical activity ABTS (mg/ml)	0.98 ±0.04b	2.58 ±0.07a b	1.66±0.01c	4±0.01c
Chelating power (mg/ml)	Nd	2.01 ±1.14	1.4±0.06c	7±1.25
β-carotene bleaching (mg/ml)	0.26 ±0.005b	2.04 ±0.015a	Nd	1.2±0.011a

3.3. Fatty Acids Analysis

The fatty acid profiles of mushrooms are shown in Table 3. Ten saturated (SFA), monounsaturated (MUFA) and polyunsaturated (PUFA) fatty acids were identified. The main saturated fatty acid of mushroom lipids was found to be palmitic acid (C16:0), the main monounsaturated was oleic acid (C18:1 ω -9) and the main polyunsaturated fatty acid was linoleic acid (C18:2 ω -6). Percentages of palmitic (C16:0), oleic (C18:1 ω -9) and linoleic (C18:2 ω -6) acid varied greatly depending on the mushroom type (Kavishree *et al.*, 2008).

The major fatty acids identified for *G. lucidum* were the linoleic (40.05%) and oleic (36.35%) acids, for *A. campestris*, linoleic (42.58 %) and oleic (37.17%) acids, for *T. equestre*, linoleic (60.2%) and palmitic (17.68%) acids, for *T. terreum*, linoleic (41.3%) and oleic (36.92%) acids. In mushrooms, the fat content is interesting, thus, our results were comparable to those of Bilal *et al.* (2010) who reported the fats present in mushroom are dominated by unsaturated fatty acids. The above findings were in agreement with the results reported for other basidiomycetes, Yilmaz *et al.* (2006) and Pedneault *et al.* (2006) reported that fat fraction in mushrooms is mainly composed of UFA. Linoleic acid which is found as major fatty acid in *A. campestris* (42%) was previously found in other *Agaricus* species from many countries (Yilmaz *et al.*, 2006). Hugaes (1962) observed that mushrooms are rich in linoleic acid which is an essential FA. The main fatty acids found in the studied mushrooms, linoleic and oleic acids, are common in eukaryotic organisms such as fungi. Otherwise, palmitic acid is common to different organisms. Linoleic acid is an essential fatty acid to mammals, and therefore, could be supplied in their diet through mushrooms. It is precursor of arachidonic acid and of prostaglandins biosynthesis, which play important physiologic activities. Oleic and linoleic acids were also reported as main fatty acids in *A. campestris* from Turkey (Yilmaz *et al.*, 2006).

In this study, other fatty acids are present at only low levels such palmitic and stearic acids. These acids may exist in their free form or be conjugated to other lipid constituents. Byrne and Byrne (1975) have reported on levels of palmitic, stearic and oleic acids in the free form, and Stancher *et al.* (1992) expanded the observed range of free and bound fatty acids to include C₈ and C₁₃–C₁₇ odd-numbered acids.

Concerning the sums of the fatty acids Σ PUFA occurred in the highest percentage followed by Σ SFA and Σ MUFA. Mushrooms total lipids characterized by high unsaturated/saturated (UFA/SFA), ω -6/ ω -3 and linoleic:oleic acids ratios (Table 3). Thus, UFA accounted from 79.43 to 84.26% of total FA, depending on the solvent and the method of extraction used, corresponding to ratio of UFA/SFA accounted from 3.89 to 5.52. This result was in agreement with the observations reported for many species of basidiomycetes belonging to the families Agaricaceae, Amanitaceae, Boletaceae, Coprinaceae, Ganodermataceae and Tricholomataceae, stating that UFA predominated over SFA in total FA content (Yilmaz *et al.* 2006; Pedneault *et al.* 2007; Kavishree *et al.* 2008; Ribeiro *et al.* 2009; Papaspyridi *et al.* 2013; Sinanoglou *et al.*, 2015).

The linoleic:oleic acid ratio accounted from 1.10 to 3.61 (Table 3) was lower than those reported by Sinanoglou *et al.* (2015) for *L. sulphureus*, lower also than those reported by Kavishree *et al.* (2008) for *C. cibarius*, *C. clavatus*, *G. arinarius*, *R. brevepis*, *S. crispa*, *T. microcarpus* and *T. tylerance*, by Barros *et al.* (2007) for *L. deliciosus*, *L. giganteus*, *S. imbricatus* and *T. portentosum* and by Barros *et al.* (2008a) for *B. edulis*, *C. cornucopioides* and *M. oreades* and higher than those reported by Kavishree *et al.* (2008) for *L. squarulosus* and by Barros *et al.* (2008a) for *A. bisporus*, *A. Silvaticus*, *A. Silvicola*, *C. gambosa* and *C. cibarius*. Kavishree *et al.* (2008) reported that the linoleic:oleic acid ratio could be considered as a marker for the discrimination between species of the same mushroom genus. Indeed, Erkkil *et al.* (2008) reported that replacement of SFA with PUFA and MUFA in the diet can decrease cardiovascular risk, the high MUFA:SFA (≥ 0.98) and PUFA:SFA (≥ 2.22) ratios presented in mushrooms could make these mushrooms desirables from consumers, as far as nutrition is concerned.

Table 3. Compounds detected by GC-MS in Mushroom species

Compounds	Mushroom species (Peak area %)			
	<i>T. terreum</i>	<i>A. campestris</i>	<i>T. equestre</i>	<i>G. lucidum</i>
Saturated fatty acid				
Tridecanoic acid (C ₁₃ H ₂₆ O ₂)	0.28	0.18	-	0.52
Myristic acid (C ₁₄ H ₂₈ O ₂)	-	2.37	-	-
Pentadecanoic acid (C ₁₅ H ₃₀ O ₂)	1.97	0.28	0.78	2.65
Palmitic acid (C ₁₆ H ₃₂ O ₂)	12.36	10.35	17.68	13.77
Stearic acid (C ₁₈ H ₃₆ O ₂)	2.63	1.95	2.19	1.04
Arachidic acid (C ₂₀ H ₄₀ O ₂)	0.19	0.12	0.04	-
Unsaturated fatty acid				
Palmitoleic acid (C ₁₆ H ₃₀ O ₂)	4.13	4.51	3.8	1.0
Linoleic acid (C ₁₈ H ₃₂ O ₂)	41.3	42.58	60.2	40.05
Oleic acid (C ₁₈ H ₃₄ O ₂)	36.92	37.17	16.65	36.35
Petroselinic acid (C ₁₈ H ₃₄ O ₂)	-	-	-	2.03
Alcanes				
Tetracosane (C ₂₄ H ₅₀)	-	-	-	2.55
Cyclohexane (C ₁₄ H ₂₆)	0.13	0.26	-	-
Σ SFA	17.43	15.25	20.69	17.98
Σ MUFA	41.05	41.68	20.45	39.38
Σ PUFA	41.3	42.58	60.2	40.05
PUFA/SFA	2.36	2.79	2.9	2.22
MUFA/SFA	2.35	2.73	0.98	2.19
UFA/SFA	4.72	5.52	3.89	4.41
C18:2ω-6/C18:1ω-9	1.11	1.14	3.61	1.10

4. CONCLUSION

The aim of our study was to investigate the antioxidant activities of wild medicinal Tunisian mushroom extracts. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report evaluating the biological activity of extracts from Tunisian mushrooms. The total phenol content is higher in *G. lucidum* extract. The results indicate that mushrooms are rich in total phenolic compounds with strong DPPH and ABTS free radicals scavenging activities. They present a novel potential source of innovative biomedical molecules.

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