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## Phytochemicals and Vitamin Properties of Smoothie Flavoured with Mint Leaves Extract

A. T. Victor-Aduloju<sup>1\*</sup>, N. M. Nwanja<sup>1</sup>, C. C. Ezegbe<sup>1</sup>, K. S. Okocha<sup>1</sup> and T. A. Aduloju<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Food Science and Technology, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria. <sup>2</sup>Department of Applied Science, Federal College of Dental Technology and Therapy, Trans-Ekulu, Enugu, Nigeria.

## Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. Author ATVA designed the study, performed the statistical analysis, wrote the protocol and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Authors NMN and CCE managed the analyses of the study. Authors KSO and TAA managed the literature searches. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

## Article Information

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## ABSTRACT

This study was undertaken to assess the phytochemicals, vitamin A and vitamin C properties of different samples of smoothie produced from mixed tropical fruits flavoured with mint leaves extract. The smoothie was produced from three different fruits, (watermelon, apple and banana) then flavoured with mint leaf extract. The concentration of mint extract differs in each smoothie samples, ranging from 0-8% concentrate. The sample devoid of mint leaf extract served as control. The nine smoothie samples were examined for their phytochemical properties, vitamin A and vitamin C content. The study revealed that, the phytochemical content of different samples of smoothie gave these ranges: alkaloids (0.62-1.34%), saponin (1.07-1.46%), tannin (1.87-2.41%), phenol (0.02-0.41 mg/ml), flavonoid (1.62-3.33%), cyanogenic glycosides (0.00-0.05%). From the result, it was discovered that the phytochemical properties of the smoothie increases with increased mint leaf concentrate. The vitamins content of the samples ranges from; vitamin A (466-642 IU), vitamin C (9.30-10.83 mg/100 ml). The smoothie sample with high contents of mint extract are potentially good source of phytochemicals and vitamins.

\*Corresponding author: E-mail: at.victoraduloju@unizik.edu.ng, yemtop2013@gmail.com;

Keywords: Fruit smoothie; extract; vitamins; mint leaves; properties.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The nutritional and health benefits of continuous consumption of adequate amount of fruits and vegetables are generally well recognized. Due to seasonal gluts and postharvest losses, fruits are vet to become readily available throughout the especially in developing vear countries. Countries with less attention to effective postharvest handling and storage facilities can record as high as 65% loss of fruits produced [1]. Fruits with high acidic content have a limited scope for table consumption though they are rich in functional ingredients. Nevertheless, the desires for freshness, health consciousness and diversity in consumer taste have recently led to the emergence of "fruit smoothie" [2]. Fruits and vegetables are essential nutrients that promote the body growth. They are great source of vitamins, minerals and fiber [3]. A diet rich in fruits and vegetables can promote eye health, lower blood pressure, prevent the risk of heart diseases, stroke, cancer, and digestive problems [4,5 and 6]. Eating fruits like banana, apples and watermelon may even promote weight loss [7]. Good consumption of smoothie could contribute to healthy diets in this face of Corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic by boosting the immune system.

A variety of smoothie can be prepared depending on availability of seasonal fruits and the taste of the consumers. For example there is Dennis Goodman's spinach and mango smoothie. Matt Fitzgerald's spiced sweet potato and almond Redzikowski's smoothie. Steve coconut smoothie, Curtis Stones's mango-pineapple smoothie, Jason Adams's green tea, banana and blueberry smoothie and banana-chard smoothie. Smoothie are thick in consistency and are normally consumed fresh or preserved for short periods by storing in refrigerator or freezing. It can be prepared without adding any sweetener, acidulant and preservatives [8].

Mentha spicata L. (Mint leaves) are common name for member of the Labiate (Laminaceae family). It is a large family of annual or perennial herbs and widely grown all over the world to reap its herbal characteristics [9]. It is generally refers to as spearmint leaves. Mint leaf is cultivated globally for its use as flavoring in foods and also as fragrance in soap production [10]. It is one of the most important and common in the world coming after vanilla and citrus flavours [11]. Mint leaves are more popular in India and mainly cultivated in the southern parts of Himalaya and Northern parts of Nigeria. This leaf is very beneficial to man's health as it contains significant amount of micronutrients, vitamins, antioxidants, phytochemicals and fiber content that may help protect the body against degenerative diseases and micronutrients malnutrition [12].

In Nigeria, mint leaves on visual inspection look so much like scent leaves. Igbo tribes called it Nchanwu while Yoruba called it Ewe mint. The leaves are arranged in opposite pairs on the main stalk and the leaves from these two herbs look very much alike. But scents and tastes of mint and scent leaves are not the same at all. In Northern part of Nigeria, mint leaves is locally called "Naa na a". Mint leaves are a popular herb that people can use fresh or dried in many dishes and infusions. Manufacturers of toothpaste, chewing gum, candy, biscuit and beauty products often use mint leaf or oil [13]. Using fresh mint in smoothie can help to add flavour while reducing the sodium and sugar intake. Mint leaves contain a complex mixture of bioactive compounds covering exhibiting different biological properties and activities. It is used for various diseases such as allergies, stomach upset, indigestion, muscle and nerves pain, flatulence, depressionrelated anxiety and common cold [14].

There is no single fruit or vegetable that can provides all the nutrients that we need to be healthy so there is a need to have smoothie made of different fruits and vegetables. This study aimed at accessing the phytochemicals and vitamins properties of smoothie production flavoured with mint leaves extract.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### 2.1 Source of Raw Materials

The raw materials used for the production of smoothie are fresh ripe fruit of *Citrullus lanatus* (Watermelon), *Malus domestica* (Apple) and *Musa acuminate* (Banana). The fruits and fresh leaves of *Mentha spicata L*. (mint leaves) were purchased from Stanel Farmer's market in Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra state, Nigeria.

## 2.2 Smoothie Production

The fresh fruits of watermelon, apple and banana were sorted, thoroughly washed under tap water

and peeled with knife and diced. The diced fruits and vegetables were weighed and combined using the blending ratio shown in Table 1 on an electronic weighing scale and blended together with mint leaves extract using an electric smoothie maker Binatone BLS-330. All smoothie samples were prepared without addition of water, sugar and citric acid.

## 2.3 Preparation of Mint Leaf Extract

Exactly, 90 g of the dried mint leave sample was extracted with 900 ml of distilled water in 1L capacity conical flask. The mixture was stirred vigorously with a magnetic stirrer and then allowed to stand for 48 h. It was filtered using Whatman filter paper lined funnel into a conical flask and the filtrate was concentrated using a rotary evaporator, freeze-dried and kept refrigerated.

## 2.4 Phytochemical Analysis

Briefly, approximately 12.5 g of the edible portions of each sample were added to 50 mL of the solvent (water or 100% ethyl acetate) and homogenized in a shaker (125 rpm) at 30°C for 1 h. The extracts were filtered under vacuum through JP41 filter paper for the removal of remaining particles and the residues were reextracted with 50 mL of the same solvent and filtered under the same conditions. The extracts were pooled and when necessary, they were concentrated under vacuum at 40°C and stored at 70°C. The extractions were done in triplicate. The entire procedure was conducted in the dark.

The extracts of different samples of smoothie were screened for their phytochemical contents according to standard methods of [15,16,17 and 18].

## 2.5 Determination of Vitamins

#### 2.5.1 Vitamin A determination

The amount of vitamin A in the sample was determined using the method described by [19]. A quantity, one gram, of the sample was weighed and macerated with 20 mls of n-hexane in a test tube for 10 minutes. Then 3mls of the upper hexane extract was transferred into a dry test tube in triplicates and evaporated to dryness.

Following this, 0.2 ml of acetic anhydride chloroform reagent was added and 2 ml of 50% trichloroacetic acid (TCA) in chloroform was also added. The absorbance was taken at 15 seconds and 30 seconds intervals at 620 nm.



# Fig. 1. Flowchart of smoothie production flavoured with mint leaf extract

#### 2.5.2 Vitamin C determination

The vitamin C content of each fresh juice, obtained by pressing well-pulped fruit and filtering, was determined using the 2, 6-dichlorophenol-indophenol (DCIP) titration method [20]. The ascorbic c acid concentration was calculated by comparison with the standard solution of ascorbic acid (1 mg/100 ml) and the results were expressed as mg ascorbic/100 ml of fresh weight.

## 2.6 Statistical Analysis

The data obtained were analyzed according to a completely randomized design with three replicates. Data was subjected to one way analyses of variance and the differences between means was computed by Duncan's multiple range tests using Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23. Significant differences were accepted at *P*<0.05.

Samples	Watermelon(g)	Apple(g)	Banana(g)	Mint extract (%)	Total(%)
SM	50	25	25	0	100
SM1	25	50	24	1	100
SM2	25	23	50	2	100
SM3	47	25	25	3	100
SM4	25	25	46	4	100
SM5	25	45	25	5	100
SM6	44	25	25	6	100
SM7	25	25	43	7	100
SM8	25	42	25	8	100

Table 1. Blending ratio of fruits (g)

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## 3.1 Phytochemicals

The effect of mint leaves extract on the phytochemical content of smoothie produced from the blends of watermelon, apple and banana is shown in Table 2. The result showed a significant increase (P<0.05) in the tannin and saponin content of the smoothie as the level of concentration of leaves extract in the smoothie increased. The sample prepared with 5% mint leaves extract had the highest tannin of 2.41±0.01. The smoothie samples prepared with 4% and 5% of leaf extract had the same saponin content of 1.31±0.01. Tannin is one of the major active compound found in plant based medicine. It is used for wine, fruit juice and beer clarification in food in industries. They also serve as antioxidants in beverages as well as possessing antiviral, antibacterial and anti-tumor activity [21].

Similar increase was observed in the flavonoid and alkaloid content of the formulated smoothie. They significantly (P < 0.05) increased with increasing concentration of mint leaves extract. The sample devoid of mint extract (SM) had the lowest value of  $0.62\pm0.01$  for alkaloid. The highest quantities of flavonoid were obtained in SM8 ( $3.33\pm0.01$ ) while there was no significant different in the value obtained for sample SM4 and SM5 (Table 2). According to literature, alkaloids have a wide range of pharmacological activities including anti-malarial, anti-cancer, anti-bacterial, anti-hyperglycemic activities [22].

The phenol and cyanogenic glycoside content of the developed product was generally low with values varying from 0.02-0.41 mg/mL and 0.00-0.05% respectively. The phenolic content of SM8 was high (0.41±0.01) and significantly different (P<0.05) from all the samples. The result also showed that these phytochemical significantly (P<0.05) increased with the increasing level of addition of mint leaves extract. Cyanogenic glycoside value of sample SM6 and SM7 are not significantly different also SM2 and SM3 are of the same value of 0.02. The control had no value for cardiac glycoside. The presence of cardiac glycosides evaluate the use of smoothie in the management of heart related diseases. Cardiac glycosides as natural cardio active drugs used in the treatment of congestive heart failure and cardiac arrhythmia [23]. Other study reported the trend of increase in phenolic content of smoothie with increase in addition of Moringa leaves [24]. Phytochemicals are known to confer certain Polyphenolic health benefits. compounds including phenolic and flavonoid compounds are parts of bioactive components in food which promoting properties such as anti-inflammatory, antidiabetic and antihypertensive properties [25].

The secondary metabolites and other chemical constituents of medicinal plants account for their medicinal value. Cardiac glycosides are naturally cardio active drugs used in the treatment of congestive heart failure and cardiac arrhythmia. The phytochemical are naturally found in plants and are responsible for providing colour, aroma, and flavour to fruits and vegetables [26].

## 3.2 Vitamins

The effect of mint leaves extract addition on the vitamin content of smoothie produced from the blends of banana, apple and watermelon is shown in Table 3.

## 3.2.1 Vitamin A

A significant (P<0.05) increase was observed in the vitamin A content of the formulated smoothie as the level of addition of mint extract increased. The vitamin A content ranged from 466.00 to 584.67IU. The smoothie sample flavoured with 3% mint leaves extract (SM3) had the highest vitamin A value of 642.00±1.73IU while the

Sample	Tannin	Saponin	Alkaloid	Flavonoid	Phenol	C. Glycoside
SM	1.87 <sup>9</sup> ± 0.01	1.07 <sup>n</sup> ± 0.01	0.62 <sup>'</sup> ± 0.01	1.62 <sup>n</sup> ± 0.01	0.02 <sup>n</sup> ± 0.00	0.00 <sup>g</sup> ± 0.00
SM1	2.12 <sup>e</sup> ± 0.00	1.14 <sup>9</sup> ± 0.00	0.74 <sup>n</sup> ± 0.01	2.41 <sup>g</sup> ± 0.00	0.06 <sup>g</sup> ± 0.01	$0.01^{f} \pm 0.00$
SM2	2.12 <sup>e</sup> ± 0.00	1.21 <sup>†</sup> ± 0.00	0.80 <sup>9</sup> ± 0.01	2.48 <sup>†</sup> ± 0.01	0.09 <sup>f</sup> ± 0.00	0.02 <sup>e</sup> ± 0.00
SM3	2.02 <sup>f</sup> ±0.01	1.27 <sup>e</sup> ± 0.04	0.90 <sup>f</sup> ± 0.03	2.53 <sup>e</sup> ± 0.05	0.14 <sup>e</sup> ± 0.02	0.02 <sup>e</sup> ± 0.00
SM4	$2.00^{t} \pm 0.00$	1.31 <sup>d</sup> ± 0.01	0.94 <sup>e</sup> ± 0.01	2.61 <sup>d</sup> ±0.11	0.16 <sup>de</sup> ± 0.01	0.03 <sup>d</sup> ± 0.00
SM5	2.41 <sup>ª</sup> ± 0.01	1.31 <sup>d</sup> ± 0.01	$0.99^{d} \pm 0.00$	2.63 <sup>d</sup> ± 0.00	0.18 <sup>d</sup> ± 0.01	0.34 <sup>c</sup> ± 0.00
SM6	2.35 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.00	1.36 <sup>c</sup> ± 0.01	1.07 <sup>c</sup> ± 0.01	2.87 <sup>c</sup> ± 0.01	0.28 <sup>c</sup> ± 0.02	0.04 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.00
SM7	2.23 <sup>c</sup> ± 0.01	1.41 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.01	1.12 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.01	2.96 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.01	0.32 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.00	0.04 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.00
SM8	2.20 <sup>d</sup> ± 0.00	1.46 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.01	1.34 <sup>a</sup> ± 0.00	3.33 <sup>ª</sup> ± 0.01	0.41 <sup>ª</sup> ± 0.01	0.05 <sup>ª</sup> ± 0.00

Table 2. Phytochemical properties of smoothie

Values are represented as means ± standard deviation of three replicates. Data in the same column bearing different superscript differed significantly (P<0.05).

Keywords: SM= 50%Watermelon, 25%Apple, 25%Banana(Control), SM1= 25%Watermelon, 50%Apple, 24%Banana with 1% Mint Leaf Extract, SM2= 25%Watermelon, 23%Apple, 50%Banana with 2% Mint Leaf Extract, SM3= 47%Watermelon, 25%Apple, 25%Banana with 3% Mint Leaf Extract, SM4= 25%Watermelon, 25%Apple, 46%Banana with 4% Mint Leaf Extract, SM5= 25%Watermelon, 45%Apple, 25%Banana with 5% Mint Leaf Extract, SM6= 44%Watermelon, 25%Apple, 25%Banana with 6% Mint Leaf Extract, SM7= 25%Watermelon, 25%Apple, 43%Banana with 7% Mint Leaf Extract, SM8= 25%Watermelon, 42%Apple, 25%Banana with 8% Mint Leaf Extract

control (SM) had the lowest value of 466.00±1.73 IU. The RDA for vitamin A is within the range of 300-1300 IU [27]. Vitamin A helps with healthy mucous membranes, skin, vision, and bone growth.

#### 3.2.2 Vitamin C

The vitamin C content of the samples ranged from 9.30-10.83 mg/100 ml with sample SM3 having the highest value of  $10.83 \pm 0.01 \text{ mg}/100 \text{ ml}$  while sample devoid of mint leaves extract (SM) had the least value of  $9.30 \pm 0.00 \text{ mg}/100 \text{ ml}$ .

The result showed that a significant difference (P<0.05) existed among all the samples. Other study reported that the vitamin C content of freshly prepared orange juice was 41.4 mg/100 ml [28]. The vitamin C content obtained in this study was higher than 0.21- 0.68 mg/100 ml for smoothie produced from banana pulp and orange juice [29]. The Vitamin C is an important antioxidant that boost immune system. It also help with iron absorption for health and the proper formation of collagen. Its deficiency includes fragility to blood capillaries gum decay, scurvy [30].

Samples	Vitamin A(IU)	Vitamin C(mg/100 ml)	
SM	466.00 <sup>'</sup> ± 1.73	9.30 <sup>1</sup> ± 0.00	
SM1	491.00 <sup>h</sup> ± 0.00	9.41 <sup>h</sup> ± 0.01	
SM2	508.00 <sup>9</sup> ± 1.73	9.60 <sup>9</sup> ± 0.01	
SM3	642.00 <sup>a</sup> ± 1.73	10.83 <sup>ª</sup> ± 0.01	
SM4	527.30 <sup>f</sup> ± 1.15	$9.72^{t} \pm 0.01$	
SM5	541.00 <sup>e</sup> ± 1.73	9.86 <sup>e</sup> ± 0.01	
SM6	565.00 <sup>d</sup> ± 1.73	10.02 <sup>d</sup> ± 0.01	
SM7	601.67 <sup>b</sup> ± 1.15	10.67 <sup>b</sup> ± 0.02	
SM8	584.67 <sup>c</sup> ± 0.58	10.28 <sup>c</sup> ± 0.01	

#### Table 3. Vitamin A and vitamin C properties of smoothie samples

Values are represented as means ± standard deviation of three (3) replicates. Data in the same column bearing different superscript differed significantly (P<0.05).

Keywords: SM= 50%Watermelon, 25%Apple, 25%Banana(Control), SM1= 25%Watermelon, 50%Apple, 24%Banana with 1% Mint Leaf Extract, SM2= 25%Watermelon, 23%Apple, 50%Banana with 2% Mint Leaf Extract, SM3= 47%Watermelon, 25%Apple, 25%Banana with 3% Mint Leaf Extract, SM4= 25%Watermelon, 25%Apple, 46%Banana with 4% Mint Leaf Extract, SM5= 25%Watermelon, 45%Apple, 25%Banana with 5% Mint Leaf Extract, SM6= 44%Watermelon, 25%Apple, 25%Banana with 6% Mint Leaf Extract, SM7= 25%Watermelon, 25%Apple, 43%Banana with 7% Mint Leaf Extract, SM8= 25%Watermelon, 42%Apple, 25%Banana with 8% Mint Leaf Extract

## 4. CONCLUSION

The study concluded that smoothie prepared with watermelon, apple, banana and mint leaves extract led to the production of highly nutritious juices. Also, the smoothie prepared with the highest mint leaves extract have highest phytochemicals.

## COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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