



## COMPARISON OF ANTIOXIDANT AND ANTI-INFLAMMATORY EFFECTS OF SOME POLYPHENOLIC COMPOUNDS AND THEIR BIOTRANSFORMATION EXTRACTS

*BAZI POLİFENOLİK BİLEŞİKLERİN VE BİYOTRANSFORMASYON EKSTRELERİNİN ANTİOKSİDAN VE ANTİ-ENFLAMATUVAR AKTİVİTELERİNİN KARŞILAŞTIRILMASI*

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** Microbial transformations are green biotechnological processes where different microorganisms or enzymes are used to produce new metabolites from defined substrates. Hesperidin, quercetin, and their derivatives have been proven in scientific research to have a variety of biological activities, such as antioxidant, antimicrobial, and anticancer activities.

**Material and Method:** This study performed the microbial transformation of hesperidin and quercetin utilizing 13 different microbial strains. The transformation extracts of hesperidin and quercetin were investigated in antioxidant (DPPH and ABTS<sup>+</sup> methods) and anti-inflammatory effects.

**Result and Discussion:** The biotransformation of hesperidin was observed in 5 of 13 strains. There were *Rhizopus stolonifera*, *Saccharomyces pararoseus*, *S. cerevisiae*, *Penicillium claviforme*, and *Fusarium solani* while microbial transformation of quercetin was identified *Aspergillus flavus* and *Penicillium claviforme*. The results of this research show that the extracts obtained with the *Aspergillus* and *Penicillium* strains were more effective in terms of antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects. DPPH: antioxidant activity of *A. flavus* extract (IC<sub>50</sub>: 22.55±0.32 µg/ml) was higher than the other biotransformation extracts. The IC<sub>50</sub> value of *R. stolonifer* from the hesperidin transformation extracts is 25.93±0.36 µg/ml. The microbial transformation of hesperidin by *Penicillium* strain has not been researched previously.

**Keywords:** Anti-inflammatory activity, antioxidant activity, hesperidin, microbial transformation, quercetin

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## ÖZ

**Amaç:** Mikrobiyal transformasyonlar belirlenen substratlardan yeni metabolitler üretmek için farklı mikroorganizmaların veya onların enzimlerinin kullanıldığı yeşil biyoteknolojik süreçlerdir. Hesperidin, kersetin ve türevlerinin antioksidan, antimikrobiyal ve antikanser özellikleri dahil olmak üzere çeşitli biyolojik aktivitelere sahip olduğu bilimsel araştırmalarda kanıtlanmıştır.

**Gereç ve Yöntem:** Bu çalışmada 13 farklı mikrobiyal suş kullanılarak hesperidin ve kersetin mikrobiyal transformasyonu gerçekleştirilmiştir. Hesperidin ve kersetinin mikrobiyal transformasyonundan elde edilen ekstraların antioksidan (DPPH ve ABTS<sup>+</sup> yöntemleri) ve anti-enflamatuvar aktiviteleri araştırılmıştır.

**Sonuç ve Tartışma:** Hesperidin'in biyotransformasyonu 13 suşdan 5'inde gözlenmiştir. *Rhizopus stolonifera*, *Saccharomyces pararoseus*, *S. cerevisiae*, *Penicillium claviforme* ve *Fusarium solani* iken; Kersetinin mikrobiyal transformasyonu *Aspergillus flavus* ve *Penicillium claviforme* suşlarında gözlemlenmiştir.

Bu çalışmanın sonuçları *Aspergillus* ve *Penicillium* suşları ile yapılan çalışmada elde edilen ekstraların antioksidan ve anti-enflamatuvar aktiviteler açısından daha etkili olduğunu göstermektedir. *A. flavus* ekstresi (IC<sub>50</sub>: 22,55±0,32 µg/ml) DPPH antioksidan aktivitesi diğer biyotransformasyon ekstralarından daha yüksek bulunmuştur. Hesperidin transformasyon ekstralarından *R. stolonifer*'in IC<sub>50</sub> değeri 25,93±0,36 µg/ml'dir. Hesperidin'in *Penicillium* suşu tarafından mikrobiyal dönüşümü daha önce çalışılmamıştır.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Anti-enflamatuvar aktivite,, antioksidan aktivite, hesperidin, kersetin, mikrobiyal transformasyon,

## INTRODUCTION

Biotransformation is an alternate technique for producing new bioactive secondary metabolites with much promise. Microbial factories show benefits, for example, multiplying, ease of large-scale production, environment-friendly, and solvent-free. Also, microbial transformation improves the selectivity of natural products without any toxic chemicals. Microbial biotransformation, enzyme engineering, and plant cell co-transformation are some biological techniques for producing bioactive flavonoids. Biotechnological processes for flavonoid production have attracted interest since they allow the production of new flavonoids that do not exist in nature. The utilization of microorganisms to carry out reactions in the asymmetric synthesis of bioactive flavonoids is noteworthy.

The significant reactions during microbial biotransformation are dihydroxylation, hydroxylation, *O*-demethylation, *O*-methylation, deglycosylation, C ring cleavage of the benzo- $\gamma$ -pyrone system, cyclization [1,2].

*Citrus* species have significant levels of flavonoids, which have antioxidant properties; additionally, nutritional citrus has no adverse effects or cytotoxicity in healthy individuals [3]. Hesperidin (hesperetin-7-*O*-rutinoside) belongs to the flavanone group of glycoside flavonoids composed of disaccharide (rutinose) and aglycone unit (hesperetin) [4].

Hesperidin contains a broad spectrum of biological activities, including antioxidant and anti-inflammatory effects, antibacterial and antifungal properties, antidiabetic, Alzheimer's anticancer, anti-HIV, anticoagulant, antiplatelet, and immunomodulatory effects [3,5-8].

Quercetin is a flavonoid and, more specifically, a flavanol, which is a potent antioxidant flavonoid. Onions, grapes, berries, cherries, broccoli, and citrus fruits are high in this plant pigment. Quercetin has been associated to a number of health benefits, such as anti-inflammatory, antiviral, and anticancer effects, and the ability to treat a variety of cardiac diseases. [9,10].

Hesperidin and quercetin have all been found to be limited by its water solubility, particularly following oral administration. In this situation, hesperidin causes significant changes in the physiological effects *in-vitro* and *in-vivo* [9,11,12].

Within the scope of the study, hesperidin and quercetin have been subjected to microbial transformation via different microorganisms and conversion took place. The metabolites have detected with Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) plate in 12 days. The substrates (hesperidin and quercetin) and

the transformation extracts have been evaluated for their *in vitro* antioxidant activity (DPPH $\cdot$  and ABTS $\cdot^+$  methods) and *in vitro* anti-inflammatory effects.

## MATERIAL AND METHOD

### Chemicals and Microorganism

Hesperidin and Quercetin were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Germany.

The following microorganisms are utilized in microbial transformation reactions: *Rhizopus stolonifer* (MF461023), *Aspergillus parasiticus* (NRRL 2999), *A. terreus* var. *africanus* (isolate), *A. alliaceus* (NRRL 317), *A. flavus* (ATCC 9807), *Penicillium valentinum* (Isolate), *P. chrysogenum* (NRRL 792), *P. claviforme* (MR 376), *Fusarium solani* (ATCC 1284), *F. culmorum* (Isolate), *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (ATCC 9763), *S. pararoseus* (ATCC 11385), and *Phanerochaete chrysosporium* (E 446).

### Cultivation and Transformational Conditions

At 5°C and 25°C, the culture was maintained and precultured on potato dextrose agar (PDA) slants, respectively.  $\alpha$ -Medium was used in the microbial transformation assay with fungi prepared, whereas Mueller Hinton Broth was used for the yeast and bacteria. Microorganisms were grown aerobically at 150 rpm on a shaker incubator at 24°C. After two days of growth, hesperidin and quercetin were added, and the fermentations were maintained for another 12 days [13]. Samples were collected from the fermentation medium in the 12<sup>th</sup> day and the samples were extracted with ethyl acetate three times. The ethyl acetate phases were concentrated with a rotary evaporator to dryness under reduced pressure at 40°C. The dried extracts were kept at -20°C until there were tested for antioxidant and enzyme inhibition properties.

### DPPH $\cdot$ Radical Scavenging Antioxidant Activity

The capacity of different fractions to scavenge the stable DPPH $\cdot$  free radicals was measured in the method of Clarke et al. [14]. Following the incubation period and at 517 nm, the absorbance was measured. The control was made by replacing distilled water with the extract, and the standard was ascorbic acid. The percentage of the extract that scavenges DPPH radicals was measured using the formula:

$$\text{DPPH}\cdot \text{ scavenging activity (\%)} = (\text{Ac}-\text{As})/\text{Ac} \times 100$$

Ac: the absorbance of control

As: the absorbance of sample/standard

### ABTS $\cdot^+$ Radical Scavenging Antioxidant Activity

The activity determination was performed via the ABTS $\cdot^+$  cation radical decolorization with minor modifications [15]. The ABTS $\cdot^+$  was prepared by reacting 15 ml of 7 mM aqueous solution of ABTS $\cdot^+$  with 264  $\mu$ l of 140 mM potassium persulphate. Before using the mixture was allowed to rest for 12 hours in the dark at room temperature. The ABTS $\cdot^+$  working solution was diluted with methanol to give an absorbance of 0.70 $\pm$ 0.02 at 734 nm before the test. In a 96-well plate. The reaction mixtures consisted of 50  $\mu$ l sample and 100  $\mu$ L ABTS $\cdot^+$  working solution. After allowing the mixture to sit in the dark for 10 min. the absorbance was estimated at 734 nm. All tests were carried out in triplicate. The percentage scavenging effect was calculated same as the DPPH $\cdot$  assay.

### *In vitro* Anti-inflammatory Activity

According to previous research, inhibition levels of Lipoxygenase (1.13.11.12, Type I-B, 7.9 Unit/mg) enzyme activity were measured spectrophotometrically on a 96-well quartz plate [16]. For 10 minutes at 25°C, potassium phosphate buffer (pH: 8.80), 40  $\mu$ l test compounds, and 20  $\mu$ l lipoxygenase enzyme were incubated. Each well received 300  $\mu$ l of this mixture. The reaction was then started by adding linoleic acid solution and measuring the change in absorbance at 234 nm for 10 minutes. The assays were repeated four times. As a positive control, Nordihydroguaiatic acid (NDGA) was used.

Calculation of the % inhibition was shown below:

$$\% \text{ Inhibition} = (E - S) / E * 100$$

E: The absorbance of the enzyme without a sample

S: The absorbance of the enzyme with the test sample

### Statistical Analysis

GraphPad Prism Software Version 8.0 was used to perform statistical analysis to compare differences in data between the standard and experimental groups. The average and standard deviation were used to express the findings (S.D.). Statistically significant results were compared using a two-way ANOVA with Tukey Multiple Comparison Test, and IBM SPSS Statistics 22 assessed *p*-values of less than 0.05 to be statistically meaningful.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Microbial transformation of Hesperidin and quercetin were carried out using 13 microorganisms. The metabolites were detected using thin-layer chromatography (TLC).

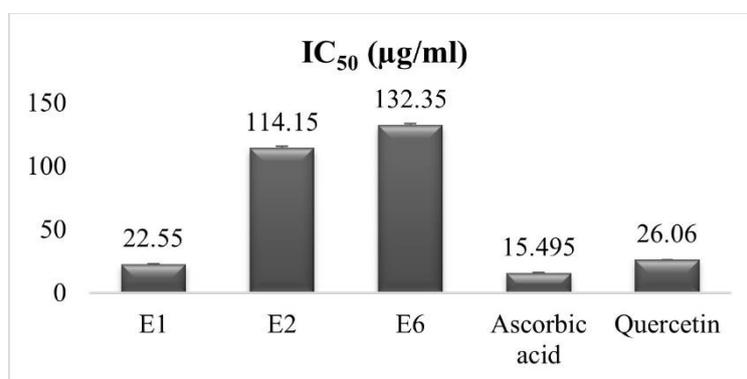
The biotransformation of Hesperidin was observed in 2 of 13 strains. Extracts obtained from biotransformation of quercetin with *Aspergillus flavus* (E1) and *Penicillium claviforme* were shown to be effective (E2). While the metabolite of *P. claviforme* is more polar than quercetin; the metabolite of *A. flavus* are more nonpolar than quercetin.

The biotransformation of Hesperidin was observed in 5 of 13 strains. There are *Rhizopus stolonifera* (E3), *Saccharomyces pararoseus* (E4), *Penicillium claviforme* (E5), *S. cerevisiae* (E6), and *Fusarium solani* (E7). According to the TLC plate, the metabolites of *F. solani*, *S. pararoseus*, *R. stolonifera* and *S. cerevisiae* are more nonpolar than hesperidin. One of the *P. claviforme* metabolites is more polar than hesperidin.

### *In vitro* Antioxidant Activity

The substrates (hesperidin and quercetin) and the transformation extracts were tested for their *in vitro* antioxidant activity by DPPH $\cdot$  and ABTS $^{\cdot+}$  methods.

The antioxidant activity involves different mechanisms such as radical scavenging, iron chelation, and peroxidation delay. In this research, antioxidant mechanisms of quercetin, hesperidin and the transformation extracts were elucidated by DPPH $\cdot$ , and ABTS $^{\cdot+}$  methods. *In vitro* antioxidant activities results (%) of the DPPH $\cdot$ , and ABTS $^{\cdot+}$  methods were given in Tables 1 and 2, respectively. The IC<sub>50</sub> value of the DPPH $\cdot$ , and ABTS $^{\cdot+}$  methods of transformation extracts, positive control and quercetin are illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, respectively.



**Figure 1.** DPPH IC<sub>50</sub> values of the extracts, ascorbic acid and quercetin  
**E1:** *Aspergillus flavus*; **E2:** *Penicillium claviforme*; **E6:** *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

The transformation extracts of quercetin were observed the highest antioxidant activity in both methods. The biotransformation extract of *Fusarium solani* (E7) ( $18.681 \pm 0.14\%$ , 200  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ) was quite low. The transformation extract of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (E6) ( $58.93 \pm 2.81\%$ , 200  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ) has more antioxidant potential than other transformation extracts of hesperidin. In this study, the DPPH antioxidant activity of *Aspergillus flavus* extract (E1) ( $\text{IC}_{50}$ :  $22.55 \pm 0.32 \mu\text{g/ml}$ ) was higher than the other biotransformation extracts and their substrate. The positive control of the method is ascorbic acid ( $\text{IC}_{50}$ :  $15.50 \pm 0.62 \mu\text{g/ml}$ ). As a result, the polar components of transformation extracts of quercetin may be mainly responsible for their free radical scavenging capability.

**Table 1.** DPPH Antioxidant activity (%) of the substrates and transformation extracts

|                   | Concentration       |                       |                        |                      | F       | P      |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|---------|--------|
|                   | 25 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ | 50 $\mu\text{g/ml}$   | 100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$   | 200 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ |         |        |
| <b>Quercetin</b>  | $45.207 \pm 1.89^b$ | $61.877 \pm 0.29^a$   | $62.312 \pm 0.14^a$    | $63.085 \pm 0.59^a$  | 6.296   | 0.017  |
| <b>E1</b>         | $48.88 \pm 2.18^c$  | $57.432 \pm 0.8^b$    | $61.829 \pm 3.94^{ab}$ | $67.289 \pm 1.27^a$  | 32.313  | <0.001 |
| <b>E2</b>         | $8.027 \pm 0.36^d$  | $22.885 \pm 2.32^c$   | $52.745 \pm 1.45^b$    | $61.152 \pm 1.67^a$  | 717.813 | <0.001 |
| <b>Hesperidin</b> | $11.796 \pm 1.09^a$ | $15.782 \pm 3.23^a$   | $25.639 \pm 3.62^a$    | $31.437 \pm 4.41^a$  | 13.789  | 0.017  |
| <b>E3</b>         | $11.94 \pm 1.23^c$  | $18.83 \pm 2.32^b$    | $24.407 \pm 3.99^b$    | $34.92 \pm 1.16^a$   | 46.909  | <0.001 |
| <b>E4</b>         | $8.433 \pm 1.89^c$  | $10.49 \pm 0.36^{bc}$ | $14.817 \pm 1.48^b$    | $23.573 \pm 4.03^a$  | 24.478  | <0.001 |
| <b>E5</b>         | $9.041 \pm 1.38^c$  | $15.782 \pm 0.72^b$   | $16.362 \pm 4.49^b$    | $28.683 \pm 0.58^a$  | 35.005  | <0.001 |
| <b>E6</b>         | $18.391 \pm 1.38^d$ | $30.76 \pm 0.73^c$    | $46.077 \pm 0.38^b$    | $58.93 \pm 2.81^a$   | 357.776 | <0.001 |
| <b>E7</b>         | $7.519 \pm 2.75^c$  | $11.433 \pm 0.29^b$   | $11.796 \pm 0.07^b$    | $18.681 \pm 0.14^a$  | 33.558  | <0.001 |

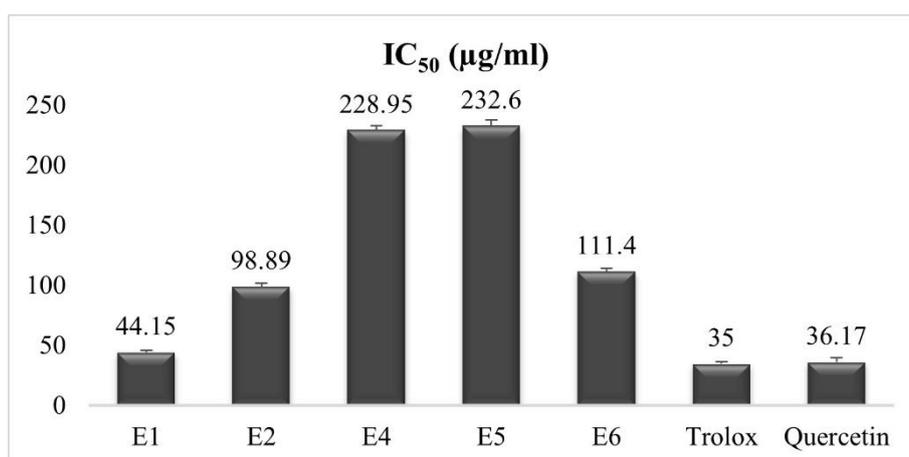
<sup>a-d</sup>: There is no difference between groups with the same letter for each measurement value. There was analyzed by ANOVA Tukey HSD. **E1**: *Aspergillus flavus*; **E2**: *Penicillium claviforme*; **E3**: *Rhizopus stolonifer*; **E4**: *Sporobolomyces pararoseus*; **E5**: *Penicillium claviforme*; **E6**: *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*; **E7**: *Fusarium solani*

**Table 2.** ABTS<sup>++</sup> Antioxidant activity (%) of the substrates and transformation extracts

|                   | Final Concentration  |                      |                        |                     | F       | p      |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------|--------|
|                   | 250 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ | 500 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ | 1 mg/ml                | 2 mg/ml             |         |        |
| <b>Quercetin</b>  | $71.006 \pm 2.25^a$  | $71.227 \pm 2.86^a$  | $74.492 \pm 1.92^a$    | $76.169 \pm 0.79^a$ | 5.242   | 0.074  |
| <b>E1</b>         | $59.146 \pm 5.14^a$  | $59.611 \pm 4.44^a$  | $61.612 \pm 0.28^a$    | $63.985 \pm 1.35^a$ | 1.217   | 0.365  |
| <b>E2</b>         | $21.941 \pm 1.55^c$  | $55.267 \pm 2.95^b$  | $63.111 \pm 3.58^b$    | $72.389 \pm 4.05^a$ | 143.611 | <0.001 |
| <b>Hesperidin</b> | $11.796 \pm 1.09^a$  | $15.782 \pm 3.23^a$  | $25.639 \pm 3.62^a$    | $31.437 \pm 4.41^a$ | 13.789  | 0.017  |
| <b>E3</b>         | $20.193 \pm 3.56^b$  | $22.68 \pm 4.41^b$   | $44.33 \pm 1.35^a$     | $45.002 \pm 1.08^a$ | 38.307  | <0.001 |
| <b>E4</b>         | $17.167 \pm 1.08^d$  | $24.608 \pm 2.98^c$  | $41.372 \pm 2.97^b$    | $58.92 \pm 0.47^a$  | 217.879 | <0.001 |
| <b>E5</b>         | $26.177 \pm 1.08^d$  | $21.112 \pm 1.62^c$  | $41.909 \pm 1.61^b$    | $58.247 \pm 1.01^a$ | 457.548 | <0.001 |
| <b>E6</b>         | $29.269 \pm 0.40^c$  | $42.649 \pm 2.62^b$  | $65.105 \pm 1.55^a$    | $66.428 \pm 2.95^a$ | 215.928 | <0.001 |
| <b>E7</b>         | $12.267 \pm 3.00^b$  | $15.268 \pm 2.37^b$  | $18.758 \pm 3.35^{ab}$ | $26.11 \pm 2.72^a$  | 12.818  | 0.002  |

<sup>a-d</sup>: There is no difference between groups with the same letter for each measurement value.

There was analyzed by ANOVA Tukey HSD. **E1**: *Aspergillus flavus*; **E2**: *Penicillium claviforme*; **E3**: *Rhizopus stolonifer*; **E4**: *Sporobolomyces pararoseus*; **E5**: *Penicillium claviforme*; **E6**: *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*; **E7**: *Fusarium solani*



**Figure 2.** ABTS<sup>+</sup> IC<sub>50</sub> values of the extracts, trolox and quercetin

**E1:** *Aspergillus flavus*; **E2:** *Penicillium claviforme*; **E4:** *Sporobolomyces pararoseus*; **E5:** *Penicillium claviforme*; **E6:** *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

### In vitro Anti-inflammatory Activity

As for the enzyme inhibitory activity in this work, the inhibitory effects of hesperidin, quercetin and the biotransformation extracts on 5-Lipoxygenase (5-LOX). The results of 5-LOX enzyme inhibition were given in Table 3. In this method, the extracts, hesperidin and quercetin were tested three different doses. % inhibitions, and IC<sub>50</sub> values were calculated.

In our study, while the extracts of *Aspergillus flavus* (E1) and *Penicillium claviforme* (E2) had strong inhibitory activity against 5-LOX, the extract of *Rhizopus stolonifer* (E3) had no activity. The IC<sub>50</sub> value of E3 from the hesperidin transformation extracts is 25.93±0.36 µg/ml. NDGA was used as a positive control and the IC<sub>50</sub> value was found to be 3.63±0.29 µg/ml.

**Table 3.** Anti-inflammatory effect (%) of the substrates and transformation extracts

|                   | Concentration              |                             |                            | F       | p      |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------|--------|
|                   | 10 µg/ml                   | 20 µg/ml                    | 40 µg/ml                   |         |        |
| <b>Quercetin</b>  | 41.603 ± 3.7 <sup>c</sup>  | 63.194 ± 1.09 <sup>b</sup>  | 70.139 ± 1.29 <sup>a</sup> | 120.676 | <0.001 |
| <b>E1</b>         | 26.092 ± 0.95 <sup>c</sup> | 41.921 ± 4.27 <sup>b</sup>  | 64.52 ± 1.24 <sup>a</sup>  | 162.125 | <0.001 |
| <b>E2</b>         | 32.205 ± 2.56 <sup>b</sup> | 34.989 ± 5.08 <sup>b</sup>  | 47.38 ± 2.86 <sup>a</sup>  | 14.502  | 0.005  |
| <b>Hesperidin</b> | 43.584 ± 4.53 <sup>b</sup> | 51.587 ± 3.34 <sup>ab</sup> | 61.508 ± 4.01 <sup>a</sup> | 15.202  | 0.004  |
| <b>E3</b>         | 3.363 ± 1.74 <sup>b</sup>  | 5.714 ± 0.71 <sup>b</sup>   | 33.75 ± 5.04 <sup>a</sup>  | 37.765  | <0.001 |
| <b>E4</b>         | 12.143 ± 1.24 <sup>c</sup> | 22.857 ± 1.43 <sup>b</sup>  | 32.262 ± 1.8 <sup>a</sup>  | 134.069 | <0.001 |
| <b>E5</b>         | 21.786 ± 1.79 <sup>b</sup> | 25.893 ± 1.61 <sup>b</sup>  | 35.00 ± 2.14 <sup>a</sup>  | 39.720  | <0.001 |
| <b>E6</b>         | 22.857 ± 2.5 <sup>b</sup>  | 25.476 ± 2.32 <sup>b</sup>  | 35.238 ± 2.86 <sup>a</sup> | 19.298  | 0.002  |
| <b>E7</b>         | 22.262 ± 0.74 <sup>c</sup> | 32.679 ± 0.18 <sup>b</sup>  | 41.25 ± 1.61 <sup>a</sup>  | 256.916 | <0.001 |

<sup>a-c</sup>: There is no difference between groups with the same letter for each measurement value. There was analyzed by ANOVA Tukey HSD. **E1:** *Aspergillus flavus*; **E2:** *Penicillium claviforme*; **E3:** *Rhizopus stolonifer*; **E4:** *Sporobolomyces pararoseus*; **E5:** *Penicillium claviforme*; **E6:** *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*; **E7:** *Fusarium solani*

In a previous study, biotransformation was performed in an industrial citrus residue extract by *Paecilomyces variotii*. The anti-inflammatory activity in the cell line was investigated without the structure determination of the extract. It was shown further to increase the efficiency of the biotransformation extract through fermentation. It has been shown to further increase the efficiency of the biotransformation extract through fermentation [17].

The previous research was on the biotransformation of the lime peel by *Aspergillus saitoi* in solid medium. The ABTS<sup>+</sup> and DPPH radical scavenging activity of the biotransformation extract was increased compared with unfermented lime peel [18].

On the other hand, the microbial transformation of hesperidin was shown by Dodda et al. There was used for *Cunninghamella elegans*, *C. echinulata*, *C. blakesleeana*, *Aspergillus terreus*, *A. ochraceus*, *A. flavus*, *Gliocladium roseum* and *Rhizopus stolonifer*. *Cunninghamella elegans* was observed to convert hesperidin to hesperetin through hydrolysis, demonstrating a similarity to human metabolism of hesperidin [19]. Also, the microbial transformation was converted from hesperidin to hesperetin (aglycone) by *Streptomyces griseus* and *Pichia kluyveri* [20,21]. Previously the other study, hesperidin was transformed cartamidin and isocartamidin by *Rhodotorula* species [22].

Microbial transformation studies have been carried out with quercetin by *Gliocladium deliquescens* (NRRL 1086) and *Cunninghamella elegant* (ATCC 9245) in the literature [23,24]. 2-Protocatechuic-phloroglucinol carboxylic acid, quercetin 3-*O*- $\beta$ -*D*-glucoside, 2,4,6-trihydroxy benzoic acid, and protocatechuic acid were transformed from quercetin by *G. deliquescens*.

Microbial transformation of quercetin with *C. elegans* converted to isorhamnetin 3-*O*- $\beta$ -*D*-glucopyranoside, kaempferol 3-*O*- $\beta$ -*D*-glucopyranoside, and quercetin 3-*O*- $\beta$ -*D*-glucopyranoside. Quercetin was first glycosylated, then modified by dehydroxylation and methylation to its metabolites.

The results of this study show us that the extracts obtained with the *Aspergillus* and *Penicillium* strains are more effective in terms of antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities. The microbial transformation of hesperidin by *Penicillium* strain has not been researched previously.

The high activity of the extracts in this study suggests a synergistic effect between the compounds. In this context, future studies can explain the chemical compositions of the extracts. In addition, our research suggests that the microbial transformation extracts of hesperidin and quercetin can be used as natural antioxidants and anti-inflammatory in the food and pharmaceutical industries.

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## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Concept: D.K., B.D.; Design: D.K., B.D.; Control: B.D.; Sources: D.K., B.D.; Materials: D.K., B.D.; Data Collection and/or Processing: D.K.; Analysis and/or Interpretation: D.K., B.D.; Literature Review: D.K.; Manuscript Writing: D.K., B.D.; Critical Review: D.K., B.D.; Other: D.K., B.D.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no real, potential, or perceived conflict of interest for this article.

## ETHICS COMMITTEE APPROVAL

The authors declare that the ethics committee approval is not required for this study.

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