

Determination of *in vitro* Antioxidant, Anticholinergic, and Antiepileptic Activities of some Medicinal and Aromatic Plant Extracts

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ABSTRACT

Medicinal and aromatic plants such as Crocus cancellatus, and Scilla Siberica subsp. armena, Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus and Anthriscus nemorosa have many different biological activities. While antioxidants are significant in preventing many diseases, inhibition of metabolic enzymes is also effective in preventing many diseases. In this study, antioxidant activities of water, ethanol, and dichloromethane extracts of four different medicinal and aromatic plant species were determined by 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH•) and 2,20-azino-bis-3-ethylbenzthiazoline-6-sulphonic acid $(ABTS \cdot \cdot)$ radical scavenging and Cu²⁺, Fe⁺³, and Fe³⁺-2,4,6-tris(2pyridyl)-S-triazine (TPTZ) reducing assays. Enzyme inhibition studies were performed with metabolic enzymes acetylcholinesterase, butyrylcholinesterase, carbonic anhydrase I and II isoenzymes. The ethanol extract of A. nemorosa showed the highest activity in DPPH and ABTS assays (IC₅₀: 17.36 µg mL⁻¹, IC₅₀: 7.02 µg mL⁻¹). In the Fe³⁺ reducing assay, the dichloromethane extract of A. nemorosa showed the highest activity $(1.96\pm0.060 \,\mu\text{g} \,\text{mL}^{\text{-}1})$. In the Cu²⁺ reducing assay, the dichloromethane extract of J. oxycedrus showed the highest activity $(1.773\pm0.066 \text{ µg} \text{ mL}^{-1})$. In the Fe³⁺-TPTZ reducing assay, the ethanol extract of S. siberica showed the highest activity (1.256 ± 0.011) μ g mL⁻¹). In the enzyme inhibition results, it was determined that all plants and all extracts inhibited the enzymes studied. As a result of this study, it was determined that these four medicinal and aromatic plants have high biological activities.

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Keywords

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Bazı Tıbbi ve Aromatik Bitki Ekstraktlarının in vitro Antioksidan, Antikolinerjik ve Antiepileptik Aktivitelerinin Belirlenmesi

ÖZET

Crocus cancellatus, Scilla siberica subsp. armena, Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus ve Anthriscus nemorosa gibi tıbbi ve aromatik bitkiler birçok farklı biyolojik aktiviteye sahiptir. Antioksidanlar birçok hastalığın önlenmesinde önemli rol oynarken, metabolik enzimlerin inhibisyonu da birçok hastalığın önlenmesinde etkilidir. Bu çalışmada, dört farklı tıbbi ve aromatik bitki türünün su, etanol ve diklorometan ekstraktlarının antioksidan aktiviteleri 1,1 difenil-2-pikrilhidrazil (DPPH•) ve 2,20-azino-bis-3 etilbenzthiazoline-6-sülfonik asit (ABTS•+) radikal giderme ve Cu2+, Fe3+ ve Fe3+-TPTZ indirgeme deneyleri ile belirlenmiştir. Enzim inhibisyon çalışmaları metabolik enzimler olan asetilkolinesteraz, bütirilkolinesteraz, karbonik anhidraz I ve II izoenzimleri ile gerçekleştirilmiştir. A. nemorosa'nın etanol ekstresi DPPH ve ABTS deneylerinde en yüksek aktiviteyi göstermiştir $(IC_{50}: 17.36 \mu g \text{ mL}^{-1})$, IC₅₀: 7.02 µg mL⁻¹). Fe³⁺ indirgeme deneyinde, A. nemorosa'nın

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diklorometan ekstresi en yüksek aktiviteyi göstermiştir (1.96±0.060 μ g mL⁻¹). Cu²⁺ indirgeme deneyinde, *J. oxycedrus*'un diklorometan ekstresi en yüksek aktiviteyi göstermiştir (1.773±0.066 µg mL-1). Fe3+- TPTZ indirgeme deneyinde, S. siberica'nın etanol ekstraktı en yüksek aktiviteyi göstermiştir (1.256±0.011 µg mL-1). Enzim inhibisyon sonuçlarında, tüm bitkilerin çalışılan enzimleri inhibe ettiği belirlenmiştir. Bu çalışma sonucunda tıbbi ve aromatik bitkilerden olan bu dört bitkinin yüksek biyolojik aktiviteye sahip olduğu belirlenmiştir.

INTRODUCTION

Medicinal and aromatic plants are used in many different fields and are the subject of scientific studies. Especially the biological activities they show with their phytochemical contents are very valuable. They act as pioneers in the treatment of many diseases and are the source of drug-active ingredients (Yilmaz et al., 2024; İzol et al., 2023; Yapıcı and İzol, 2023). In this study, the biological activities of four important medicinal and aromatic plants were investigated.

The Crocus has flowers in different colors (Ahouran et al., 2012). Crocus is a significant traditional medicinal herb (Abdullaev et al., 2003; Dimitra G et al., 2007; Fatehi et al., 2003). From Iran, Türkiye, and Jordan, the plant Crocus cancellatus is pretty common. Türkiye is a rich country regarding the Crocus species (Kandemir, 2010). Crocus cancellatus is called "Çiğdem," and grows on rocky slopes at an altitude of 50-2400 in the southeastern regions of Türkiye (Mammadov & Sahranc, 2003; Öntaş et al., 2020). This species' corms are available in local markets and consumed both cooked and raw (Ahouran et al., 2012).

The geographical range of Scilla Siberica subsp. armena, an Iranian-Turanian species, includes Georgia and Türkiye (Aydın et al., 2023). Scilla Siberica subsp. armena, (Grossh.) Mordak, known as "camışkıran" in Türkiye (Guner et al., 2012). The bulbs of S. siberica subsp. armena are sold in Turkish markets and are used mainly as a garden herb (Aydın et al., 2023; Özdemir et al., 2016). This plant grows in rocky slopes at an altitude of 50-2400 in the southeastern regions of Türkiye (Özdemir & Yildirim 2016).

Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus is a variable species, particularly in the distribution range's western and central parts (Klimko et al., 2007). Folk medicine uses of Juniperus (Cupressaceae) species are widespread in developing nations (Orhan et al., 2012). It is growing on a variety of rocky sites from sea level up to 1600 m altitude (Orhan et al., 2011). In Türkiye, J. oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus L. leaf decoction is used to reduce blood sugar levels (Orhan et al., 2012).

Anthriscus, a member of the Apiaceae family and one of the fragrant herbs, is used therapeutically throughout the world in traditional medicine (Karakaya et al., 2019). Anthriscus nemorosa is called as 'gimigimi, peçek' in Türkiye. Fruits from the A. nemorosa plant have been used to treat inflammation, gastrointestinal disorders, and rheumatism (Bagci et al., 2016; Karakaya et al., 2019; Menemen, 2012). It grows in groves, rocky slopes, and watery meadows at an altitude of 500-3200 in all regions of Türkiye (Kiliç, 2017).

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a progressive neurological condition marked by abnormal patient behavior and cognitive deficits (Güleç et al., 2022; Yaşar et al., 2021; Inci et al., 2023). Reactive oxygen species (ROS) have reportedly been linked to neuronal damage and cellular aging. Antioxidants may thereby slow the development of AD and prevent neuronal damage (Karageçili et al., 2023a; Demir et al., 2023; Osmaniye et al., 2022; Çelik et al., 2024). The ability of an antioxidant meal to suppress the main enzymes involved in the pathogenesis of AD, butyrylcholinesterase (BChE) and acetylcholinesterase (AChE), is advantageous (Izol et al., 2021; Oztaskin et al., 2022; İzol, 2024; Bursal et al., 2021).

Carbonic anhydrases (CAs) are metalloenzymes that help a variety of biological systems produce bicarbonate and proton from carbon dioxide through a very straightforward hydration reaction (Karageçili et al., 2023b; Kaya et al., 2022). They control several pathological and physiological processes, including the transfer of CO2 and bicarbonate ions between tissues involved in metabolism and the lungs, which helps keep the blood's pH and homeostasis in check (Ağgül et al., 2020; Buza et al., 2023; Yılmaz et al., 2023). Also, they are essential for the release of electrolytes from different tissues, bone resorption, and a few other biosynthetic processes like ureagenesis, lipogenesis, and gluconeogenesis (Bayindir et al., 2019; Caglayan

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& Gulcin 2018; Taslimi et al., 2017). The inhibition of CA isozymes may be responsible for several important physiological advantages against osteoporosis, epilepsy, hypertension, oedema, obesity, glaucoma, and cardiac hypertrophy (Ağgül et al., 2020; Anil et al., 2022; Ozer et al., 2022).

Oxygen is an oxidizing agent that is highly reactive and non-metal and easily forms oxides, unlike other compounds. It exists in the atmosphere as a more stable biradical $(3O_2)$ and undergoes a gradual reduction process (Leyla & Gülçin, 2024; Gulcin, 2020). ROS are short-lived, active structures that contain oxygen atoms. Among them, singlet oxygen $(1O₂)$, superoxide anion radicals $(O_2 \cdot)$, hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2) , hypochlorite ions (CIO) , and hydroperoxyl radicals (HOO·) are the most abundant. These molecules are natural byproducts of the known methanolysis of oxygen and significantly affect the transmission of cell signals and homeostasis (Apak et al., 2022; Gulcin, 2020). These molecules have different half-lives. They are formed as radicals, molecules, and ions in various biological and chemical processes, including photosynthesis and the electron transport chain. ROS and free radicals are formed not only during metabolism but also due to the effects of various environmental sources such as exercise, exposure to chemicals, and sunlight (Durmaz et al., 2022; Kiziltas et al., 2021). Excessive levels of ROS in tissues and cells cause various disorders known as oxidative stress, including neurological and cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and lung diseases (Erdoğan et al., 2021; Polat Kose & Gulcin 2021). Antioxidants play a vital role in the human body and food systems, reducing ROS harmful effects and oxidative processes (Çakmakçı et al., 2015; Gulcin, 2020). Aerobic organisms have defense systems, including antioxidant compounds and enzymes to remove and repair damaged molecules. Cells are protected against oxidative stress by antioxidant enzyme networks (Davies, 1995; Gulcin, 2020).

The biological research done on plant extracts supports most species' traditional applications, but it falls short of fully supporting rational phytotherapy. Because there are so many species, physiotherapists continue looking for fresh sources of biologically active substances and assessing their pharmacological activity profiles, primarily based on in vivo and/or in vitro studies. All these studies must be performed in conjunction with a multicomponent pattern analysis of the extracts to evaluate the primary components. So, in the present study, tri extracts prepared from the leaves of Crocus cancellatus, Scilla Siberica subsp. armena, Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus and Anthriscus nemorosa (M.bieb.) sprengel were investigated for their AChE, BChE, hCA I, hCA II, and antioxidant potential.

MATERIAL and METHOD Chemicals

Butyrylthiocholine, acetylthiocholine, ethanol, dichloromethane, BHT, BHA, DPPH, ABTS, trolox, and α-tocopherol were commercially obtained from Sigma-Aldrich. The other chemicals were used as analytical grades.

Plant Material

In this research, four plants (*Crocus cancellatus, Scilla*) Siberica subsp. armena, Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. Oxycedrus, and Anthriscus nemorosa (M.bieb.) sprenge) were obtained from Bingöl region, Türkiye. The collected plants were identified in the Herbarium laboratory of Bingöl University, Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, and added to the herbarium library.

Preparation of Extracts

Three different extracts from dried and ground plants were prepared separately. Extracts were prepared using dried herbs (2.5 g) and solvent (50 mL). The water extract was prepared using the boiling method, and the other extracts were prepared using the maceration method. Volatiles were extracted with a rotary evaporator and stored in the refrigerator until the study was carried out.

Enzyme Inhibition Assay

AChE and BChE enzyme inhibition studies were performed using Ellman's colorimetric method (Ellman et al., 1961). Based on this method, cholinesterases catalyze the breakdown reaction of ACh or BCh to thiocholine and acetate or butyrate. DTNB, which is used during inhibition studies, is formed as a result of the reaction with thiocholine, which is one of these degradation products, as a yellow compound, 5-thio-2-nitrobenzoic acid. An inhibition study was performed by measuring the color intensity of the colored compound formed at 412 nm.

The study purified both hCA I and II isoenzymes by Sepharose-4B-L-Tyrosine-sulfanilamide affinity chromatography. Here, Sepharose-4B-L-Tyrosinesulfanilamide is used as an affinity matrix for hCA isoenzymes. The activity of these isoenzymes is determined spectrophotometrically as in previous studies (Caglayan & Gulcin 2018; Gocer & Gulcin 2013). CA isoenzymes are considered to be the units in which they convert PNP from 348 nm PNA over 3 minutes at 25 °C (Verpoorte et al., 1967).

IC⁵⁰ values were calculated by examining the three extracts (water WE, ethanol EE, and dichloromethane DME) prepared leaves of *Crocus cancellatus, Scilla* Siberica subsp. armena, Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus and Anthriscus nemorosa (M.bieb.) sprengel were investigated for their AChE, BChE, hCA I, hCA

II enzyme activities. For this purpose, enzyme activities at five different concentrations were measured spectrophotometrically for all extracts. The obtained data was drawn using the % activity [extract] graph. IC⁵⁰ values were calculated using the graph.

Antioxidant Activities Assays

DPPH solution was prepared daily and kept in a glass bottle in the dark (4°C). Plant extracts (1.5 mL) were dissolved in ethanol and transferred to fresh 500 μL of $DPPH·$ solution (0.1 M) . These mixtures were mixed vigorously and incubated in the dark for 30 minutes. Then, their absorbance was recorded spectrophotometrically at 517 nm (Aras et al., 2016; Köksal et al., 2009). ABTS⁺ was obtained by reacting ABTS (7.0 mM) with $K_2S_2O_8$ (2.5 mM) . ABTS⁺ scavenging ability of extracts prepared using different solvents was determined according to the previously described spectroscopic method (Erdoğan et al., 2021).

Fe3+-reducing effects of plant extracts were done in accordance with Oyaizu's method (Oyaizu, 1986). Cu2+ reducing effects of plant extracts were measured according to a minor modification of Apak et al. (2006) method (Bursal et al., 2019). The last reduction method we used, the FRAP method, is based on the complicated degradation of Fe3+-TPTZ. The increased absorbance of Fe2+-TPTZ was measured spectrometrically at 593 nm as described in previous studies (Gulcin et al., 2019; Polat Kose et al., 2020).

Statistical Analyses

Statistical analyses were performed with SPSS, and pvalues less than 0.05 were considered statistically significant at a 95% confidence interval. P values for differences were obtained as a result of a two-way $(2x2)$ ANOVA analysis. Post-hoc Tukey test was used for pairwise comparisons.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION

Enzyme Inhibition Studies

Memory loss and other cognitive impairments are the earliest symptoms of AD, which are thought to be linked to acetylcholine (ACh) depletion, inflammation, and oxidative stress. Hence, consumption of antioxidant-rich vegetables can halt the onset of AD and neurodegeneration. Inhibiting AChE and BChE can be significant because it is a cutting-edge therapeutic strategy for treating neurodegenerative diseases. In the current study, the activities of the three extracts (water WE, ethanol EE, and dichloromethane DME) were prepared from C. cancellatus and S. Siberica Subsp. Armena, J. oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus and A. nemorosa were investigated against AChE and BChE. All extracts inhibited BChE and AChE in a dose-dependent manner. IC_{50} values, which represent the inhibition effect of the tested extracts, were determined and are shown in Table 1.

- Çizelge 1. Crocus cancellatus, Scilla Siberica subsp. armena, Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus ve Anthriscus nemorosa (M.bieb.) spreng yapraklarının su, etanol ve diklorometan ekstraktlarının AChE ve BChE için IC⁵⁰ değerleri
- Table 1. IC_{50} values of water, ethanol, and dichloromethane extracts leaves of Crocus cancellatus, Scilla Siberica subsp. Armena, Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus and Anthriscus nemorosa (M.bieb.) spreng for AChE and BChE

The studied plant extract demonstrated concentrationdependent inhibition of AChE, with activity ranging from 15.40 mg mL⁻¹ to 74.52 mg mL⁻¹. The AChEinhibitory capacity of studied plant extracts is in the following order: A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) Spreng. EE (IC₅₀, 15.40 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9888)> *J. oxycedrus* subsp. oxycedrus WE (IC₅₀, 31.50 mg mL⁻¹, r²: 0.9315) > A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) Spreng. DME (IC_{50} , 35.72 mg mL-¹, r²: 0.9649) > *S. Siberica* Subsp. *armena* WE (IC₅₀, 40.53 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9601) > *S. Siberica* Subsp. *armena* EE (IC₅₀, 41.50 mg mL⁻¹, r²: 0.9314) > *A. nemorosa* (M.bieb.) Spreng WE (IC₅₀, 47.47 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9719) $> C.$ cancellatus WE (IC₅₀, 51.72 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9911) $>$ S. Siberica Subsp. armena DME $(IC_{50}, 54.14 \text{ mg } \text{mL}^1)$, r^2 : 0.9392) > *C. cancellatus* DME (IC₅₀, 63.58 mg mL⁻¹, r^2 : 0.9633) > *J. oxycedrus* subsp. *oxycedrus* DME (IC₅₀, 66.63 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9715) > *J. oxycedrus* subsp. oxycedrus EE (IC₅₀, 72.19 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9943) > C. cancellatus EE (IC₅₀, 74.52 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9852).

The concentration-dependent AChE inhibition effect of the WE of C. cancellatus, S. Siberica Subsp. Armena, and J. oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus leaves were shown, to be higher than that of EE and DME. On the other hand, the AChE inhibition effect of the EE A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) Spreng. was shown, to be higher than that of WE and DME. The EE and WE AChE inhibition effects of S. Siberica Subsp. Armena plants were almost close to each other.

The studied plant extract demonstrated concentrationdependent inhibition of BChE, with activity ranging from 7.71 mg m $L⁻¹$ to 97.61 mg m $L⁻¹$. The BChEinhibitory capacity of studied plant extracts is in the following order: A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) Spreng. EE $(IC₅₀, 7.71 mg mL¹, r²: 0.9139) > A. nemorosa (M.bieb.)$ Spreng. DME (IC₅₀, 17.46 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9900) > C. cancellatus DME (IC₅₀, 18.05 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9957) > A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) Spreng. WE (IC_{50} , 38.72 mg mL⁻¹, r^2 : 0.9303) > *S. Siberica* Subsp. *armena* EE (IC₅₀, 60.26) mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9839) = *J. oxycedrus* subsp. *oxycedrus* EE (IC₅₀, 60.79 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9884) > *J. oxycedrus* subsp. oxycedrus DME (IC₅₀, 62.43 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9950) $> C.$ cancellatus EE (IC₅₀, 64.77 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9544) $>$ J. oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus WE (IC_{50} , 72.95 mg mL-¹, r^{2:} 0.9819) > *C. cancellatus* WE (IC₅₀, 83.49 mg mL ¹, r^{2:} 0.9815) > *S. Siberica* Subsp. *armena* WE (IC₅₀, 91.18 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9282) > S. Siberica Subsp. armena DME (IC₅₀, 97.61 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9679). The concentration-dependent BChE inhibition effect of the EE of studied all plant leaves was shown, to be higher than that of WE and DME. When the results of this study were compared, C. cancellatus DME inhibited BChE enzyme 3.52 times more than AChE enzyme and A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) Spreng. DME inhibited 2.04 more. A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) Spreng. EE showed the best inhibition effect on the activity of both AChE and BChE enzymes. J. oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus DME inhibited the two cholinesterase enzymes studied at close values.

As this is the first study to examine four plants using AChE and BChE enzymes, the data provided here cannot be compared to the literature currently in use. Studies on other species of these plants for AChE and BChE enzymes are available in the literature. For instance, Menghini et al. (2018) studied the effect of C. sativus L. Stigmas extract on AChE and BChE enzymes. This plant inhibited AChE and BChE enzymes with 2.51 ± 0.18 for AChE and 3.44 ± 0.13 galantamine equivalents g^{-1} extract for BChE. Linardaki et al. (2017) investigated the neurotoxic effects of aflatoxin B1 and the preventive effects of C. sativus. They tested the activity of AChE and BChE in the liver, cerebellum, and whole brain. They showed that pretreatment of aflatoxin B1-exposed mice with C. sativus infusion resulted in even lower activity in brain, cerebellar and liver AChE, while higher activity in brain BChE enzyme compared to aflatoxin B1 exposed mice. A. nemorosa essential oil was tested by Bagci et al. (2016) on rats given scopolamine to see how it affected their memory functions, anxiety levels, and depressive-like behaviours. Öztürk et al. (2011) looked at AChE and BChE enzyme inhibition effects by preparing acetone methanol and hexane extract of J. oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus plant. It was found to be the hexane extract of this plant, having 81.40% inhibition at 200 mg $mL⁻¹$ against AChE. Hexane extract of this plant showed 95.75% inhibition against BChE.

One of the most popular and effective mechanisms for regulating pH in all biological systems is the CAs. (Aktaş et al., 2022). These enzymes are involved in numerous other biochemical and physiological processes; therefore, they are not just pH regulators. In clinical practice or as pharmacological tools, most CA inhibitors and activators are synthetic derivatives developed over time through conventional drug design campaigns from synthetic lead molecules (Hamide et al., 2022; Zengin et al., 2023). Yet, research into several natural items' CA inhibitory effects has also begun over the past ten years. This has resulted in substantial advancements in the field (Tugrak et al., 2021). All extracts inhibited hCA I and hCA II in a dose-dependent manner. IC₅₀ values, which represent the inhibition effect of the tested extracts, were determined and are shown in Table 2.

In this study, the plant extract demonstrated concentration-dependent inhibition of hCA I, with activity ranging from 14.59 mg mL⁻¹ to 68.61 mg mL⁻¹, The hCA I inhibitory capacity of studied plant extracts in the following order: C. cancellatus DME $(IC_{50}, 14.59)$ mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9752)> *J. oxycedrus* subsp. *oxycedrus* DME $(IC_{50}, 22.79 \text{ mg } mL^{-1}, r^2: 0.9671) > A$. nemorosa $(M.bieb.)$ Spreng. EE $(IC_{50}, 26.55$ mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:}0.9304) = C. cancellatus EE (IC₅₀, 26.55 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9808)> A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) Spreng. WE (IC₅₀, 27.50 mg mL⁻¹, r^2 : 0.9698)> *S. Siberica* subsp. *armena* DME (IC₅₀, 34.85 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9543) > *S. Siberica* subsp. *armena* WE $(IC_{50}, 36.09 \text{ mg } mL^{-1}, r^2: 0.9420) > S.$ Siberica subsp. armena EE (IC₅₀, 41.75 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9343) > *J*. oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus EE $(IC_{50}, 52.90 \text{ mg} \text{ mL}^{-1})$, r^2 : 0.9247) > A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) Spreng. DME (IC₅₀, 53.31 mg mL⁻¹, r^2 : 0.9443) > *J. oxycedrus* subsp. oxycedrus WE (IC₅₀, 61.87 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9244) > C. cancellatus WE $(IC_{50}, 68.61 \text{ mg} \text{ mL}^{-1}, r^2$: 0.9609). The concentration-dependent hCA I inhibition effect of the DME of *C. cancellatus, S. Siberica* subsp. armena and J. oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus leaves were shown, to be

higher than that of WE and EE. On the other hand, the order of inhibition in the leaves of A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) spreng. Is in the form of EE >WE > DME. DME extract of C. cancellatus inhibited hCA I enzyme 4.7 times more than WE. C. cancellatus and A. nemorosa EE inhibited the hCA I enzyme at the same rate. DME extract J. oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus inhibited hCA I enzyme 2.71 times more than WE.

In the current study, the studied plant extract demonstrated concentration-dependent inhibition of hCA II, with activity ranging from 8.14 mg mL⁻¹ to 48.80 mg mL-1. The HCA II inhibitory effect of studied plant extracts in the following order: S. Siberica Subsp. armena WE $(IC_{50}, 8.14 \text{ mg } mL^{-1}, r^2$: 0.9557) > S. Siberica Subsp. armena EE $(IC_{50}, 12.63 \text{ mg} \text{ mL}^{-1}, r^2)$: 0.9215) > *C. cancellatus* WE (IC₅₀, 14.23 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9468) > *S. Siberica* Subsp. *armena* DME (IC₅₀, 14.53 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9716) > *J. oxycedrus* subsp. *oxycedrus* EE (IC₅₀, 14.78 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9631) > *C. cancellatus* EE (IC₅₀, 18.53 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9936) > *J. oxycedrus* subsp. oxycedrus DME $(IC_{50}, 19.41 \text{ mg } mL^{-1}, r^2$: 0.9708)> A. nemorosa (M. bieb.) Spreng. EE (IC $_{50}$, 27.18 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:}0.9341)> A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) Spreng. WE (IC₅₀, 30.26 mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9859)> *C. cancellatus* DME $(IC_{50}, 30.80$ mg mL⁻¹, r^{2:} 0.9346)> A. nemorosa $(M.bieb.)$ Spreng. DME $(IC_{50}, 35.18 \text{ mg } mL^{-1}, r^2$: 0.9887)> J. oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus WE $(IC_{50}$, 48.80 mg mL-1, r2: 0.9139).

Çizelge 2. Crocus cancellatus, Scilla siberica subsp. armena, Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus ve Anthriscus nemorosa (M.bieb.) spreng yapraklarının su, etanol ve diklorometan ekstraktlarının hCA I ve hCA II için IC⁵⁰ değerleri

Table 2. IC₅₀ values of water, ethanol, and dichloromethane extracts leaves of Crocus cancellatus, Scilla siberica subsp. armena, Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus and Anthriscus nemorosa (M.bieb.) spreng for hCA I and hCA II

Samples	IC_{50} (mg mL ⁻¹⁾			
	hCA I	r^2	hCA II	r ²
<i>C. cancellatus</i> DME	14.59	0.9752	30.8	0.9346
C. cancellatus EE	26.55	0.9808	18.53	0.9936
C. cancellatus WE	68.61	0.9609	14.23	0.9468
S. Siberica subsp. armena DME	34.85	0.9543	14.53	0.9716
S. Siberica subsp. armena EE	41.75	0.9343	12.63	0.9215
S. Siberica subsp. armena WE	36.09	0.9420	8.14	0.9557
J. oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus DME	22.79	0.9671	19.41	0.9708
J. oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus EE	52.90	0.9247	14.78	0.9631
J. oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus WE	61.87	0.9244	48.80	0.9139
A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) spreng DME	53.31	0.9443	35.18	0.9887
A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) spreng EE	26.55	0.9304	27.18	0.9341
A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) spreng WE	27.5	0.9698	30.26	0.9859

Some studies in the literature include the effects of the plants studied in this study on the activities of other enzymes. Loizzo et al. (2016) studied C. cancellatus subsp. damascenus extract inhibited α-glycosidase and α-amylase. The IC⁵⁰ values of 68.6 for α-glycosidase and 57.1 µg/mL for α-amylase were determined. Another study examined the α-glycosidase and α-amylase inhibitory effect of Scilla siberica subsp. armena corm, flower, and leaf methanolic extracts. The flower extract displayed no inhibition against αamylase as well as α-glycosidase inhibitory effect with an IC_{50} value of 5239 µg mL⁻¹. Blue pollen, leaf, and Corm extracts showed no inhibition against αglycosidase and α-amylase enzymes (Aydın et al., 2023).

Antioxidant Results

In this section, water, ethanol, and dichloromethane extracts of the leaves of Crocus cancellatus, Scilla Siberica subsp. armena, Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus and Anthriscus nemorosa (M.bieb.) Sprengel was prepared, and studies to determine the antioxidant capacities of these extracts were included. The ABTS^{*+} and DPPH^{*} methods were used to determine how antioxidant plant extracts work and measure their ability to eliminate free radicals. In addition, the reduction capacity of copper ions (Cu^{2+}) to copper ions (Cu+), the reduction capacity of ferric ions (Fe^{3+}) to iron ions (Fe^{2+}) , and the reduction capacity of Fe3+-TPTZ by the FRAP method were determined by different methods. Comparisons were made with synthetic and standard antioxidants such as BHA, BHT, α-tocopherol, and the α-tocopherol analogue Trolox.

Determination of Radical Scavenging Effects

The ABTS • + and DPPH • scavenging procedures are remarkable due to their rapidity, simplicity, sensitivity, and reproducibility (Aras et al 2016; Gulcin 2020). The DPPH \cdot method is based on the DPPH \cdot scavenging percentage of antioxidants in the plant extract. DPPH \cdot has a dark blue colour and is a longlived nitrogen radical species capable of dimerization (Gulcin, 2020). This method was first reported as a decolourization assay by Blois (1958). Today, DPPH• is generally known as a reagent used to determine antioxidants' free radical scavenging activity. This molecule shows maximum absorbance at 517 nm (Bursal et al., 2020; Gulcin, 2020; Türkan et al., 2020). The difference between control values and different concentrations (10-30 μ g mL⁻¹) of plant extracts was found to be statistically significant ($p \le 0.01$). The IC₅₀ values of the extracts were between 19.86 and 38.93 µg $mL⁻¹$, and the values of the water extracts were higher than the others. The IC_{50} values of the standards were calculated as 7.3 (r^2 : 0.9733) for Trolox and 8.35 (r^2 : 0.9823) for α-tocopherol (Table 3, Figure 1). The DPPH radical scavenging capacities of the studied plant extracts are in the following order: A. nemorosa $(M.bieb.)$ Spreng $EE({\rm IC}_{50}:17.36, r^2:0.9513)$ > S. Siberica Subsp. *armena* DME $(IC_{50}:19.86, r^2:0.9555) > A$. nemorosa (M.bieb.) Spreng DME $(IC_{50}:20.2, ...)$ $r^2:0.9053$ > J. oxycedrus subsp. Oxycedrus DME $(IC_{50}:27.18, r^2:0.9247) > S.$ Siberica Subsp. armena EE $(IC_{50}:28.17, r^2:0.9107) > S.$ Siberica Subsp. armena WE $(IC_{50}:29.12, r^2:0.9549) > C.$ cancellatus EE $(IC_{50}:30.13, r^2:0.9549)$ r^2 (0.9417) > J. oxycedrus subsp. Oxycedrus EE $(IC_{50}:32.54, r^2:0.9420) > C.$ cancellatus DME $(EC_{50}:33.31, r^2:0.9552) \sim C.$ cancellatus $WE(IC_{50}:33.97, r^2:0.9552) \sim C.$ r^2 (0.9631) > A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) spreng WE (IC₅₀:34.48, r^{2:}0.9366)> *J. oxycedrus* subsp. Oxycedrus

WE $(IC_{50}:38.93, r^2:0.9556)$. The current study determined that extracts obtained from C. cancellatus had relatively higher IC₅₀ values than other plants.

ABTS radical scavenging method is one of the different radical scavenging methods used to measure the antioxidant activities of extracts, pure substances, and food products (Gulcin, 2020). It can be easily applied as a spectrophotometric analysis method. It facilitates its use for routine screening and detection. ABTS \cdot is generally obtained by the oxidation of ABTS with $K_2S_2O_8$ (Gülçin, 2012). The ABTS \cdot radical can react rapidly with antioxidants and is easily used to determine the antioxidant effects of various food products and plant extracts, where it is effective over a wide pH range (Gulcin, 2020; Güven et al., 2023). For the ABTS radical scavenging method, control values and different concentrations of plant extracts (10-30 µg mL-1) were studied, and the difference between the plant extracts was found to be statistically significant $(p<0.01)$. The IC₅₀ values of the extracts were between 7.02-84.51 μ g mL⁻¹, and the values of the water extracts were higher than the other extracts in this method, as in the DPPH radical scavenging method. The IC⁵⁰ values of the standards were calculated as 7.06 (r2: 0.9420) for Trolox, 9.62 (r2: 0.9683) for αtocopherol, 5.2 (r^2 : 0.9869) for BHA, and 9.68 (r^2) 0.9465) for BHT (Table 3, Figure 2).

Çizelge 3. Crocus cancellatus, Scilla Siberica subsp. armena, Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus ve Anthriscus nemorosa (M.bieb.) spreng yapraklarının su, etanol ve diklorometan ekstraktlarının DPPH \cdot , ABTS \cdot + süpürme aktiviteleri ve standart antioksidanlar için IC_{50} (µg mL⁻¹⁾ değerleri.

Table 3. IC₅₀ (μ g mL⁻¹) values for DPPH \cdot , ABTS \cdot scavenging activities of water, ethanol, and dichloromethane extracts leaves of Crocus cancellatus, Scilla siberica subsp. armena, Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus and Anthriscus nemorosa (M.bieb.) spring and of standard antioxidants.

The results show significant differences $(p<0.05)$ in post-hoc comparisons between different groups.

Şekil 1. Ekstraktların radikal giderici etkileri (DPPH giderici etkileri) Figure 1. Radical scavenging effects of extracts (DPPH· scavenging effects)

Şekil 2. Ekstraktların radikal giderici etkileri (ABTS giderici etkileri) Figure 2. Radical scavenging effects of extracts (ABTS• scavenging effects)

The ABTS radical scavenging capacities of the studied plant extracts are in the following order: A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) spring

EE (IC₅₀:7.02, r^{2:}0,9898)> *S. Siberica* subsp. *armena* EE (IC₅₀:12.07, r^{2:}0.9942)> *S. Siberica* subsp. armena

DME $(IC₅₀:15.0, r²:0.9650) > S.$ Siberica subsp. armena WE (IC₅₀:18.33, r^{2:}0.9742)~ A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) spreng DME $(IC_{50}:18.93, r^2:0.9671) > A.$ nemorosa (M.bieb.) spreng WE $(IC_{50}:26.86, r^2:0.9543) > C$. cancellatus EE $(IC_{50}:31.94, r^2:0.9707) > C.$ cancellatus DME $(IC_{50}:35.18, r^2:0.9710) > C$. cancellatus WE

 $(IC_{50} : 52.5, r^2 : 0.9939) > J.$ oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus DME $(IC_{50}:64.17, r^2:0.9530) > J.$ oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus EE $(IC_{50}:77, r^2:0.9170)$ > J. oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus WE $(IC_{50}:84.51, r^2:0.9997)$. The current study determined that extracts obtained from J. $ox \vee c$ *oxycedrus* had higher IC_{50} values than extracts from other plants. In the ABTS radical scavenging method, as in the DPPH method, it was determined that the extracts of the A. nemorosa $(M.bieb.)$ spring plant had the lowest IC_{50} value.

A previous study reported that the root $CH₂Cl₂$ fraction of Anthriscus nemorosa, root essential oil, and the main compound α-pinene found in the root essential oil have antioxidant capacity (Karakaya et al., 2019). Another study on the branches and fruits of different Juniperus species reported that different extracts had DPPH and ABTS radical scavenging properties, and their total antioxidant capacity was relatively high (Gök et al., 2021). Taviano et al. (2011) examined the antioxidant potential of water and methanol extracts of branches of Juniperus species (J. oxycedrus subsp. macrocarpa, J. communis var. communis, J. drupacea, J. communis var. saxatilis and J. oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus). They reported that J. oxycedrus subsp. Extracts had high DPHH scavenging activity.

Determination of Reducing Capacities

The reducing activity of water, ethanol, and dichloromethane extracts leaves of Crocus cancellatus, Scilla siberica subsp. armena, Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus and Anthriscus nemorosa (M.bieb.) spring was evaluated by measuring their ability to reduce Fe^{3+} to Fe^{2+} . Compounds with functional groups such as -OH, -SH, and -COOH, essential electron donor groups found in plant extracts, are greatly important in reducing capacity. Fe3+ reduction abilities prepared with different solvents were determined. Plant extracts made with various solvents have been shown to have beneficial reducing effects by lowering ferric ions when categorized using standard criteria like BHT, Trolox, BHA, and α-Tocopherol. As seen in Table 4 and Figure 3, the Fe3+ reducing the ability of the extracts at 30μg/mL concentration showed absorbance in the range of 0.863-1.960 at 700 nm. Compared to standard antioxidants, the results obtained from this test showed that A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) spring DME, A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) spring EE, and J. oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus DME, S. Siberica subsp. armena EE, A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) spreng WE, J. oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus EE was found to have a very effective Fe3+ reducing ability, and other extracts were found to have a close to moderate effect on α-Tocopherol and Trolox values.

The copper ions (Cu^{2+}) reducing capacity $(CUPRAC)$ method was first developed and used by Apak's working group (Apak et al., 2006), and this CUPRAC reagent is stable and easily accessible compared to chromogenic radical reagents. The method has been applied to various matrices containing both hydrophilic and lipophilic antioxidants, and positive results have been obtained. The method is based on the reduction of Cu^{2+} to Cu^{+} or neocuproine $(2,9$ -dimethyl-1,10-phenanthroline) via polyphenols in the aqueous ethanolic medium (Gulcin, 2020). In this method, the copper-reducing capacities of water, ethanol, and dichloromethane extracts of the leaves of Crocus cancellatus, Scilla Siberica subsp. armena, Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus and Anthriscus nemorosa (M.bieb.) spring were determined to be between 1.02 and 1.773 absorbances at 30 µg mL-1 concentration. CUPRAC of the examined plant extracts and standard antioxidants are as follows: BHA $(\lambda_{450}: 2.459 \pm 0.027,$ r^2 :0.9904)>BHT $(\lambda_{450}$: 1.975 \pm 0.091, r^2 :0.9422)> J. oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus DME $(\lambda_{450}: 1.773 \pm 0.066,$ r^{2:}0.9084)> *S. Siberica* subsp. *armena* DME $(\lambda_{450}$. 1.74 \pm 0.003, r^{2:}0.9354)> *J. oxycedrus* subsp. oxycedrus EE (λ_{450} : 1.598±0.095, r^{2:}0.9221)> C. cancellatus DME $(\lambda_{450}: 1.481 \pm 0.016, r^2:0.9188) > A.$ nemorosa (M.bieb.) spreng EE $(\lambda_{450}:1.436\pm0.032, r^2:0.9457)$ A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) spreng DME $(\lambda_{450}:1.31\pm0.036, r^2:0.9706) > S$. siberica subsp. armena EE $(\lambda_{450}:1.303\pm0.055, r^2:9962)$ A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) spreng WE $(\lambda_{450}:1.133\pm0.028,$ r^2 (0.9543) > S. siberica subsp. armena WE $(\lambda_{450}:1.204\pm0.020, r^2:0.9739)$ C. cancellatus EE $(\lambda_{450}:1.195\pm0.015, r^2:0.9245) > J.$ oxycedrus subsp. $ox \text{y}$ cedrus WE (λ₄₅₀:1.037±0.003, r²:0.9653)~ C. cancellatus WE $(\lambda_{450}:1.020\pm0.03, r^2:0.9479) > \alpha$ Tocopherol $(\lambda_{450}:1.014\pm0.054, r^2:0.9287)$ Trolox(λ_{450} :0.987±0.007, r^{2:}0.9663). When the results were examined, it was determined that plant extracts had better results than standard antioxidants, α-Tocopherol and Trolox.

Ferric reducing antioxidant power (FRAP assay) is known as a method based on measuring the reduction of ferric ions (Fe3+)-ligand complex by antioxidants in an acidic environment to intense, blue-coloured iron ions (Fe2+) complex (Gulcin, 2020). This method was first used to analyze plasma assays and then began to be used in various places, including various biological fluids, plant extracts, foods, and beverages (Elmastas et al., 2006; Gülçin, 2012). In this method, Ferric reduced antioxidant power capacities (FRAP) of water, ethanol, and dichloromethane extracts of the leaves of Crocus cancellatus, Scilla Siberica subsp. armena, Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus and Anthriscus nemorosa (M.bieb.) Sprengel was determined to be between 0.529 and 1.256 absorbances at 30 μ g mL⁻¹ concentration (Table 4, Figure 5). FRAP of the examined plant extracts and standard antioxidants are as follows: BHA $(\lambda_{593}: 1.635 \pm 0.038, r^2:0.9227)$ > Trolox $(\lambda_{593}:1.443\pm0.020, r^2:0.9603)$ ~ BHT $(\lambda_{593}:1.441\pm0.006, r^2:0.9202)$ > α Tocopherol $(\lambda_{593}:1.380\pm0.072, r^2:0.9784) > S.$ Siberica subsp. armena EE $(\lambda_{593}:1.256\pm0.011, r^2:0.9554)$ J. oxycedrus subsp. *oxycedrus* DME $(\lambda_{593}:1.217\pm0.030, r^2:0.9623)$ > A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) spreng DME $(\lambda_{593}:1.185\pm0.012,$ r ²:0.9884)> A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) spreng EE $(\lambda_{593}:1.163\pm0.015, r^2:0.9912)$ S. siberica subsp.

armena DME $(\lambda_{593}:1.040\pm0.014, r^2:0.9059) > J.$ oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus EE $(\lambda_{593}:0.956\pm0.041,$ r ²:0.9533)> S. Siberica Subsp. armena WE

- Çizelge 4. Crocus cancellatus, Scilla siberica subsp. armena, Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus ve Anthriscus nemorosa (M.bieb.) spreng yapraklarının su, etanol ve diklorometan ekstraktlarının ve standart antioksidanların (30 µg mL⁻¹⁾ Fe³⁺, Cu²⁺ indirgeme ve FRAP aktiviteleri
- Table 4. Fe³⁺, Cu²⁺-reducing, and FRAP activities of water, ethanol, and dichloromethane extracts leaves of Crocus cancellatus, Scilla siberica subsp. armena, Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus and Anthriscus nemorosa (M.bieb.) spring and of standard antioxidants (30 μ g mL⁻¹⁾

The results show significant differences $(p<0.05)$ in post-hoc comparisons between different groups.

Şekil 3. Ekstraktların antioksidan aktiviteleri (Fe3+ indirgeme aktivitesi) Figure 3. Antioxidant activities of extracts (Fe^{3+} reducing activity)

Şekil 4. Ekstraktların antioksidan aktiviteleri Ekstraktların antioksidan aktiviteleri (Cu2+ indirgeme aktivitesi) Figure 4. Antioxidant activities of extracts $(Cu^{2+}$ reducing activity)

Şekil 5. Ekstraktların antioksidan aktiviteleri (Fe3+-TPTZ indirgeyici) Figure 5. Antioxidant activities of extracts (Fe 3+-TPTZ reducing)

(λ593:0.915±0.005, r2:0.9525)> A. nemorosa (M.bieb.) spreng WE $(\lambda_{593} : 0.867 \pm 0.028, r^2 : 0.9500)$ J. oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus WE $(\lambda_{593}:0.854\pm0.033, r^2:0.9693) > C.$ cancellatus EE $(\lambda_{593}:0.622 \pm 0.005, r^2:0.9333) > C.$ cancellatus DME $(\lambda_{593}:0.564\pm0.022, r^2:0.9607) > C$. cancellatus WE $(\lambda_{593} \cdot 0.529 \pm 0.018, r^2 \cdot 0.95)$.

CONCLUSION

This study was designed to reveal the health benefits of plants. In the study, four plants (*Crocus cancellatus*, Scilla siberica subsp. armena, Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus and Anthriscus nemorosa (M.bieb.) sprenge) used in different ways in our country and

many regions were used, and water, ethanol, and dichloromethane extracts of these plants were prepared. It was decided that the phenolics and flavonoids in the ethanol and dichloromethane extracts were what made them so good at reducing and scavenging radicals. It was also observed that the prepared extracts exhibited significant biological effects on critical metabolic enzymes, and in general, DME and EE fractions had significant inhibitory effects on enzyme activity. However, further research is needed to identify the phenolic active constituents that are among the main drivers of antioxidant activity and to evaluate their mechanisms of action in vivo.

Author's Contributions

Bayram Yurt, investigation, methodology Rüya Sağlamtaş, methodology, data curation, formal analysis, writing – original draft. Yeliz Demir, investigation, formal analysis, writing - review & editing, supervision. Cuneyt Caglayan, investigation, writing - review & editing, supervision. Halit Diril, methodology, writing – original draft. Ebubekir İzol, investigation, writing - review & editing, supervision. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Statement of Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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