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- PC1** | Monitoring of 17 β -Estradiol in raw and treated waters of wastewater treatment plants
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- PC3** | Studies of enantioseparation of promethazine and its metabolites using LC-UV/Vis
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- PC4** | Relevance of iron content for *Escherichia coli* growth in drinking water
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- PC5** | Fundamental understanding of physic-chemical proprieties of deep eutectic solvents
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- PC6** | Antioxidant properties and protective effect of *Pistacia atlantica* Desf leaves on mercury-induced acute nephro-hepatotoxicity in rats
Benahmed Fatiha

Chemistry of Natural Products

- PC7** | Characterization of Algerian honeys by phenolic compounds LC-DAD-ESI/msn analysis: eucalyptus, jujube, spurge and multifloral
Seloua Kaid
- PC8** | Development of semi-solid formulations containing extracts of *Juglans regia* L. leaves for topical application
Nermine Besrour
- PC9** | Generation of a library of andrographolide derivatives as antibacterial agents
Bernardo Vieira
- PC10** | Phenolic profiles of horse chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum* L.) seed extracts obtained by ultrasound-assisted extraction
Carly Albiston
- PC11** | New semisynthetic derivatives of natural terpenoids extracted from *Euphorbia piscatoria*
Joana Ribeiro
- PC12** | Generation of small library of Amaryllidaceae-type alkaloids through isolation and molecular derivatization
Shirley Sancha

DEVELOPMENT OF SEMI-SOLID FORMULATIONS CONTAINING EXTRACTS OF *JUGLANS REGIA* L. LEAVES FOR TOPICAL APPLICATION

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Nowadays, cosmetic brands are urged to follow sustainable development strategies via circular economy and low carbon footprint processes. Using ingredients from agri-food waste to generate new cosmetic products and environmentally friendly solvents are one of the paths to meet those challenges [1]. In this regard, glycerol and alkanediols can be seen as alternative solvents to extract phytochemicals from plant material due to their potential application in the cosmetics area. In this work, the leaves of walnut trees (*Juglans regia* L.) were studied as a source of bioactive compounds. Their extracts are already used in traditional herbal medicine but can be further valorised as potential bioactive ingredients in the cosmeceutical area. The extracts were obtained using aqueous solutions of ethanol or 1,2-propanediol, and diverse bioactivity studies (antioxidant, cytotoxic, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, anti-tyrosinase, and photostability) were carried out. Better results were obtained with the hydroethanolic extracts in the anti-tyrosinase, antioxidant, and anti-inflammatory dimensions. In the antimicrobial assay, both extracts showed similar microbial properties. The main phytochemicals identified in both extracts were 3-*O*-caffeoylquinic acid, quercetin-*O*-pentoside, taxifolin-*O*-pentoside isomer, quercetin 3-*O*-glucoside, and 3-*p*-coumaroylquinic acid.

After, the propanediol and hydroethanolic extracts were incorporated in a commercial base cream, aiming to design a formulation for topical application. The following parameters were studied to evaluate the stability of the final formulation: pH, colour, phenolic compounds content, and antioxidant activity. The formulation containing the hydroethanolic extract was the best to conserve the identified phenolic compounds for 30 days, at different temperature conditions (5 °C, 20 °C, and 40 °C). The formulation containing the propanediol extract should be redesigned by incorporating higher amounts of extract. Both formulations presented relevant antioxidant activity and a favourable pH range of 3.8 to 4.7. These preliminary results suggest the potential application of *J. regia* extracts as an ingredient for incorporation into skin care products as they showed a very satisfactory chemical and physical stability at the studied time and temperature storage conditions. Nevertheless, additional studies will be performed not only to evaluate their stability over longer periods of time, but also their safety and toxicity.

References

[1] F. Chemat, M.A. Vian, H.K. Ravi, B. Khadhraoui, et al. *Molecules*, 24 (2019), 3007.

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