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Nutritional Composition, Mineral Content and Antioxidant Properties of Unpolished Red Rice Cultivars of Assam, India

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ABSTRACT

Background: Assam is a rich source of different types of colored rice cultivars. Very few colored rice cultivars are studied regarding nutritional and phytochemical properties. The objective of present study was to assess the nutritional composition and antioxidant properties of traditional red rice cultivars of Assam.

Methods: Ten different red rice cultivars were collected for the study. The unpolished rice grains were analysed for proximate composition, mineral content, total phenolic, flavonoid content and DPPH free radical scavenging activity.

Result: Amylose content was found to be low in the red rice cultivars. The carbohydrate and crude protein content varied significantly among the red rice cultivars. The studied cultivars were found to be good source of Fe, Mn and Zn. Highest total phenolic (1357.22 mg/100 g) and flavonoid content (896.37 mg/100 g) were found in the Hal aus, whereas the lowest value for total phenolic (336.49 mg/100 g) and flavonoid content (127.51 mg/100 g) were observed in Basanta bahar. Antioxidant capacity of colored rice varieties ranged from 33.33 to 84.24% for DPPH radical scavenging activity. The red rice cultivars contain a significant amount of nutrients and antioxidants including phenolic and flavonoids.

Key words: Antioxidant activity, Minerals, Red rice cultivar, Total flavonoids, Total phenols.

INTRODUCTION

Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) is the staple food of Assam, North-eastern state of India. Rice plays a pivotal role in the socio-cultural life of people of Assam and also state economy. Although widely consumed as white rice, there are many special cultivars of colored rice that is characterized by its grain with red, black or dark purple color covering in different layers of the pericarp, seedcoat and aleurone. These cultivars are grown in upland, lowland and deep-water conditions of Assam (Chaudhary, 2003). Anthocynain compounds, a subclass of flavonoids are responsible for the color of grain (Abdel-Aal *et al*., 2006, Yawadio *et al*., 2007). Colored rice contains higher amounts of proteins, fiber, vitamins and other micro nutrients like iron, zinc (Itani *et al*., 2002, Suzuki *et al*., 2004).

Phenolic compounds play an important role in decreasing the oxidative stress by scavenging free radicals (Ti *et al*., 2014). The phenolic compounds in rice are found in the soluble and insoluble (bound) form, with the soluble form representing 38% to 60% of the total polyphenols content in light brown rice grains and around 81% in red and black pericarp color grains (Mira *et al*., 2009). The type and concentration of polyphenols in the rice grain vary according to different genotypes and to the pericarp color. Colored rice varieties contains higher amount of total phenolics, flavonoids and antioxidant activity than those of light colored varieties, such as white varieties (Walter *et al*., 2013 and Shao *et al*., 2014).

Very few studies were reported on the colored rice cultivars of Assam, India (Saikia *et al*., 2012, Mudoi and Das, 2018, 2019). In this regard, different cultivars of red rice of Assam were investigated to determine the nutritional and antioxidant properties.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

Collection of samples

Ten different red pigmented rice cultivars were collected from Regional Agricultural Research station, Karimganj, Assam in the year 2015. Rata Boro, Koujapuri, Makhan Boro, Kaya Boro, Kolaboro are grouped as spring or summer rice and Basantabahar, Dadratai, Binnapali, Buriamakra, Hal aus are grouped as autumn rice.

Processing of rice grains

Rice grains were de-husked using a de-husker (Satake Corporation, Hiroshima, Japan). The unpolished rice grains were ground to flour and used for further analysis.

Amylose content

The amylose content was estimated according to Sowbhagya and Bhattacharya, 1979.

Proximate composition analysis

Moisture content, carbohydrate content, crude protein, crude

fat and ash content were estimated as per AOAC method, 1995 on dry weight basis.

Calorific value

Calorific value was estimated according to Osborn and Voogt, 1978 using following equation.

Calorific value (kCal/100 g) = (CP × 4) + (F × 9) + (CHO × 4)

Where
CP means crude protein (%); F means fat (%) and CHO means carbohydrate content (%).

Mineral content

The mineral contents of rice samples were determined following the method of AOAC (1995). The ash obtained as per method was dissolved in diluted HCl (1:1), kept on a water bath at 100°C and the mixture was evaporated to dryness. 4 ml of HCl and 2 ml of glass distilled water were added, warmed and the acid soluble portion obtained after filtration was made up to 100 ml with glass distilled water. This solution was used for estimation of Fe, Zn and Mn by atomic absorption spectrometer.

Extraction of rice samples for total phenols, total flavonoid content and antioxidant activity

The rice flour (1.5 g) was extracted (1:20 w/v) at room temperature with 85% aqueous methanol for 30 min using a magnetic stirrer. The mixtures were centrifuged at 2500 g for 10 min and the supernatants were collected. The residues were re-extracted twice under the same conditions, resulting finally in 50 ml crude extract.

Determination of total phenolic content (TPC)

The TPC of extracts was determined using the Folin-Ciocalteu reagent (Singleton *et al*., 1999). Extract (120 µl) was added to 600 µl of freshly diluted (10-fold) Folin-Ciocalteu reagent. 7.5% Sodium carbonate solution (980 µl) was added to the mixture after 2 min reaction time. The absorbance of the resulting blue colour was measured at 760 nm against a blank after 5 min of reaction time at 50°C. TPC was expressed as mg catechol equivalents per 100 g dry sample.

Determination of total flavonoid content (TFC)

The total flavonoid content was measured by colorimetric method as described previously (Wu and Ng, 2008). Briefly, 0.5 ml of sample extract was mixed with 2 ml of distilled water, 0.15 ml of 5% sodium nitrite and 0.15 ml of 10% aluminium chloride, followed by reaction time of 6 min. Then, 4% NaOH (2 ml) was added to the mixture. After 15 min of incubation at room temperature, the absorbance of the mixture was measured at 510 nm. All values were expressed as mg quercetin equivalents per 100 g dry sample.

Determination of 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) radical scavenging activity

The DPPH free radical scavenging activity was determined following the procedure of (Brand-williams *et al*., 1995). An aliquot of 0.3 ml of diluted methanolic extract (2 times) was vigorously mixed with 1.5 ml of freshly prepared 0.004% DPPH in methanol and held in the dark for 30 min at room temperature. The absorbance was then read at 517 nm against blank (only methanol). An equal mixture of methanol and 0.004% DPPH in methanol was used as control. DPPH free radical scavenging ability was calculated by using the following formula:

$$\text{Scavenging activity (\%)} = \frac{\text{Absorbance of control - Absorbance of sample}}{\text{Absorbance of control}} \times 100$$

Statistical analysis

All measurements were carried out in triplicate for each of the sample. All statistical analyses were carried out for the analysis of variance (ANOVA). Significance of the differences was ascribed at the 0.05 level for ANOVA.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Amylose content

The amylose content (Table 1) in unpolished red rice cultivars of Assam varied significantly from 6.31-11.93%. According to rice classification system of International Rice Research Institute (IRRI, 2009), most of the studied varieties were

Table 1: Biochemical composition of red rice cultivars.

Name of cultivars	Amylose content (%)	Crude fat (%)	Crude protein (%)	Ash (%)	Total carbohydrates (%)	Calorific value (kCal/100 g)
Rata boro	8.99±0.52	2.81±0.12	11.34±0.32	1.87±0.05	83.99±0.49	406.57±0.41
Koujapuri	9.05±0.03	2.59±0.22	4.36±0.17	1.60±0.07	91.45±0.46	406.53±0.80
Makhan boro	6.58±0.21	3.01±0.09	3.96±0.05	1.65±0.15	91.38±0.29	408.44±0.18
Kaya boro	9.07±0.04	2.61±0.18	10.87±0.02	1.56±0.25	84.96±0.45	406.83±0.09
Kola boro	11.93±0.67	2.69±0.21	4.72±0.11	1.49±0.15	91.10±0.04	407.49±1.63
Basanta bahar	8.04±0.12	2.68±0.14	12.31±0.21	1.64±0.19	83.37±0.26	406.84±1.48
Dadratai	6.31±0.14	2.71±0.12	13.23±0.09	1.73±0.11	82.33±0.33	406.61±0.17
Binnapali	9.68±0.15	2.61±0.19	4.77±0.08	1.63±0.18	90.99±0.07	406.51±1.65
Buria makra	9.23±0.07	2.72±0.14	4.97±0.06	1.53±0.23	90.78±0.15	407.45±1.61
Hal aus	7.58±0.22	3.09±0.02	9.35±0.18	1.46±0.04	86.1±0.20	409.63±0.23

categorized into very low (2-9%) and low amylose (10-20%) content. Similar results were also reported by (Reddy *et al*., 2016). The cooking quality of rice is dependent on amylose content (Yadav *et al*., 2007). Cooked rice with low amylose content is soft and sticky.

Proximate composition

Fat content

Crude fat contents were found between 2.59-3.09% (Table 1). Fat content in this study were of comparatively somewhat similar and in the range values reported by Sompong *et al*. (2011); Gunaratne *et al*. (2013); Kariyawasama *et al*. (2016); Reddy *et al*. (2017). Fat content influences the taste of cooked rice as rice with high fat content tends to be tastier (Hirokadzu *et al*., 1979).

Protein content

Crude protein content varied significantly (3.96-13.23%) among the different red rice cultivars whereas Dadratai exhibited the highest protein content. Protein content influences the nutritional quality of rice (Sompong *et al*., 2011). Rice having more than 10% total crude protein is considered to be of high protein type (Resurrection *et al*., 1979). The protein content of cultivars Rata boro, Kaya boro, Basanta bahar, Dadratai was appreciably high (>10%). Protein content in this study was comparable to the values found by Kariyawasama *et al*. (2016); Reddy *et al*. (2017), but higher than the reports of (Samyor *et al*., 2010).

Ash content

Ash value ranged from 1.46-1.87% in the cultivars (Table 1). The results were similar to those reported values of (Sompong *et al*., 2011; Kariyawasama *et al*., 2016; Reddy *et al*., 2017) and higher than the values reported by Samyor *et al*. (2015). Ash content gives an idea about the mineral contents of a food sample (Mbatchou and Dawda, 2013) and also high percentage of ash content may affect the sensory quality of the rice (Julliano, 1985).

Carbohydrate content

The carbohydrate content of all the cultivars ranged significantly from 82.33-91.38% (Table 1). All the rice cultivars exhibited higher amount of carbohydrate than the reports of (Reddy *et al*., 2017; Sompong *et al*., 2011). However, the carbohydrate content of all the rice cultivars was more than 80% and thus all of them are considered as good source of carbohydrates.

Calorific value

Calorific value measures the available amount of energy obtained from food via cellular respiration (Thomas *et al*., 2013). Calorific values of rice cultivars obtained in the study found higher than the values of calorie contents reported by Kariyawasama *et al*. (2016). All the studied cultivars showed high energy values. Therefore, consumption of these nutrient rich rice cultivars may play a vital role in decreasing nutritional deficiencies.

Mineral compositions

Fe content

Red rice cultivars had Fe content in the range of 0.72-3.37 mg/100 g (Table 2). The Fe content of red rice cultivars was significantly different among all the selected rice varieties. Binnapali had the highest iron content. Fe content in all red rice cultivars is higher than the reported values of (Yodmanee *et al*., 2011). Grain color is related to iron content and Iron content tends to be higher in colored (red and black) rice varieties than in white rice varieties (Meng *et al*., 2005).

Zn content

Zn content varied significantly among the selected red rice cultivars. Koujapuri had the highest Zn content of 5.85 mg/100 g and the lowest Zn content was found in Hal aus (1.84 mg/100 g). Similar range of values were also reported by Anuradha *et al*. (2012); Reddy *et al*. (2017). Zn have been found to be involved in free radicals scavenging enzyme systems in rice, as components of the superoxide dismutase (Dehury *et al*., 2013).

Mn content

Mn content ranged from 0.64-2.52 mg/100 g and varied significantly among the red rice cultivars. Rata boro contained the highest Mn content. Mn content of present

Table 2: Mineral content of red rice cultivars.

Cultivars	Fe content (mg/100 g)	Zn content (mg/100 g)	Mncontent (mg/100 g)
Rata boro	2.29±0.12	2.53±0.24	2.52±0.25
Koujapuri	1.47±0.25	5.85±0.28	2.10±0.22
Makhan boro	1.17±0.12	2.87±0.21	1.85±0.22
Kaya boro	2.00±0.14	2.17±0.11	1.62±0.18
Kola boro	0.95±0.02	5.34±0.20	1.97±0.28
Basanta bahar	1.62±0.18	2.33±0.22	1.79±0.14
Dadratai	0.81±0.07	4.33±0.15	0.78±0.10
Buriamakra	0.72±0.11	3.47±0.21	2.12±0.13
Binnapali	3.37±0.14	5.67±0.16	1.27±0.17
Hal aus	1.55±0.23	1.84±0.34	0.64±0.10

Table 3: Total polyphenol, flavonoid content and antioxidant activity of red rice cultivars.

Name of cultivars	Total Polyphenol content (mg/100 g)	Total flavonoid content (mg/100 g)	DPPH free radical scavenging activity (%)
Rata Boro	905.57±30.81	862.99±2.36	82.27±0.26
Koujapuri	863.49±32.78	732.95±7.54	81.81±0.69
Makhan boro	884.56±63.98	691.49±16.65	83.12±0.22
Kaya boro	1021.04±7.11	639.68±4.58	82.71±0.10
Kola Boro	920.63±13.69	565.06±31.33	81.39±0.43
Basanta bahar	336.49±46.55	127.51±7.03	33.33±0.82
Dadratai	806.80±21.73	723.31±52.02	84.24±0.08
Binnapali	520.66±23.87	252.26±4.40	54.91±0.82
Hal aus	1357.22±77.51	896.37±29.91	80.60±0.27

study was comparable to the reported values of (Reddy *et al*., 2017; Mudoi and Das, 2019).

TPC content

TPC of red rice cultivars is presented in Table 3. Significant differences in TPC were observed within the red rice cultivars. Hal aus (1357.22 mg/100 g) showed the highest TPC, whereas the lowest value was noted for Basanta bahar (336.49 mg/100 g). TPC values of selected red rice cultivars were higher than the reported values of (Yodmanee *et al*., 2011; Gunaratne *et al*., 2013; Samyor *et al*., 2015).

TFC content

TFC in red rice cultivars ranged from 127.51 to 896.37 mg/100 g (Table 3). The highest TFC was noted in Hal aus while the lowest TFC was observed for Basanta bahar. All the cultivars exhibited higher levels of TFC than those of previous studies of red rice varieties reported by Huang and Ng, (2012) and (Reddy *et al*., 2017).

Antioxidant properties

The antioxidant activities of red rice cultivars were analyzed by DPPH assay. All the red rice cultivars showed significant scavenging activity towards the free radical. Dadratai exhibited the highest activity (84.24%), while the lowest was observed for Basanta bahar (33.33%). Higher antioxidant properties are due to higher phenolic compounds in the Rice bran (Zhang *et al*., 2010). Several authors reported that red rice cultivars have higher free radical scavenging activity than black- and white-hulled rice cultivars (Finocchiaro *et al*., 2010; Walter *et al*., 2013).

CONCLUSION

The red rice cultivars in the present study contain a significant amount of antioxidants including phenolic and flavonoids. Therefore, the present results suggest that red rice cultivars may be utilized as an effective antioxidant source due to its radical scavenging activities and phenolic compounds. The studied red rice cultivars are good source of Fe, Zn and Mn. The traditional red rice cutivars containing high proximate composition can be used for developing functional foods and also may be used as important genetic sources for breeding the excellent varieties for high quality of rice production.

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Conflict of interest

All authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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