

Extraction, Physico-Chemical Characterization and Antimicrobial Screening of the Muscle Lipid of Cuttle Fish (*Sepia esculenta*) of the Bay of Bengal

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ABSTRACT

Lipid was extracted from the muscle of Cuttle fish by solvent extraction method and then purified by suitable conventional method. Various physical constants e.g. refractive index, viscosity, specific gravity, crude fat, crude fibre and ash contents and chemical parameters e.g. saponification value, saponification equivalent value, acid value, iodine value, acetyl value, peroxide value, thiocyanogen value, Reichert-Meissl value, Polenske value, Henher value, cholesterol content etc. of the lipid sample have been determined and compared with those of different standard oils. Fatty acids composition of the sample was investigated by Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) method. The muscle lipid of Cuttle fish was found to contain palmitic acid, stearic acid, linolenic acid and erucic acid respectively with some other unknown fatty acids. Antimicrobial activities of the lipid were tested by standard method and found moderate to potential antibiotic and antifungal property in this lipid. The lipid containing muscle of Cuttle fish was analyzed quantitatively for the determination of percentages of protein and minerals (N, P, K, Ca) contents by modified Kjeldahl method.

Keywords: Cuttle fish, Antibacterial, Antifungal, Thin Layer Chromatography, PUFA

1. INTRODUCTION

Cuttle fish (*Sepia esculenta*) is found plenty in the Bay of Bengal but local people are not aware about the importance of this fish and sufficient data on the food value and pharmaceutical aspects are also not available. Many marine fishes are rich in lipids (oil) which provide mainly 16:0 and 18:1 fatty acids including pharmaceutically important ω -3

polyunsaturated fatty acids (ω -3, PUFA)¹. Lipid is important dietary constituents because it has high energy value and contains fat soluble vitamins and essential fatty acids². Fats and oils are the most important lipids found in nature. They are one of the three major food factors needed for human body. Important influence of the fish oil on the serum lipid and lipoprotein profiles in human beings was found³. They provide concentrated reserve of energy in animal body for maintaining optimum body temperature. One gram of metabolized fat or oil yield 9 kcal of heat^{4,5}. Fish fat is characteristically rich in ω -3 long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFA) making it an important and beneficial diet for mankind in keeping low levels of cholesterol in blood. The ω -3 fatty acid series are abundantly found in marine algae and phytoplankton and also in the marine fishes which eat these marine plants^{6,7,8}. Marine fish oils are generally characterized by rather large group of saturated and unsaturated fatty acids, which are commonly associated with triglycerides. Its effect on the lipid profile in normotensive subjects⁹, hypertensive subjects¹⁰ and patients with nephritic syndrome¹¹ have been also mentioned. Present study is about the physico-chemical characterization of the solvent-extracted oil from the muscle of Cuttle fish (*Sepia esculenta*) of the Bay of Bengal and comparing the results with the data available in literature about pharmacological aspects of Cuttle fish. Performance of the muscle lipid of Cuttle fish against some common microbial species is also reported.

2. EXPERIMENTAL

2. 1. Collection of the marine species

The export quality Cuttle fish was collected from the fish market, Sadarghat, Chittagong and preserved in deep freezer for a few days. The muscle was then separated and preserved until extraction. Only the muscle was kept aside separately for extraction and chemical investigation.

2. 2. Extraction of Lipid

Oil extraction from muscle of species was carried out by solvent extraction method using acetone and ethyl acetate as solvent. Combined solvent extracted oils were recovered with a rotary evaporator at 45 °C and dried under flushing with a slow stream of nitrogen gas for the removal of residual solvent.

2. 3. Physical Characterization of the Lipid

Extracted lipid was used for physico-chemical characterization, microbial studies and for analysis of fatty acids pattern by TLC. The amount of total lipid was determined gravimetrically. Crude fat, crude fibre and ash contents of the muscle of Cuttle fish were determined by standard methods¹². A weight portion of muscle of Cuttle fish was first dried in an oven at about 100-105 °C for 4-5 hours to remove moisture and then burnt into ash in a muffle furnace at about 600 °C for 4 hours¹³.

The refractive index of the lipid sample was determined by refractometer (Model; DTM-1 Atago Co. Ltd). The specific gravity of the lipid sample was determined by S.G. bottle. The viscosity of the lipid sample was determined by Ostwald's viscometer at 30 °C. Analytical grade chemicals were used and solutions were prepared according to the standard procedure¹⁴⁻¹⁶.

2. 4. Chemical Characterization

Many chemical properties of the lipid sample were determined under the specific condition of the standard methods. Saponification value, saponification equivalent value, acid value and percentage of free fatty acid, iodine value, acetyl value¹⁷, peroxide value¹⁸, thiocyanogen value, Richert-Meixl value and Polenske value¹⁹, Henher value, Kirschner value, marine oil test, Elaiden test, cholesterol content and quantity of unsaponifiable matter²⁰ of the lipid were determined by standard methods.

2. 5. Antimicrobial Screening

The antimicrobial activity of muscle lipid of Cuttle fish was studied against four bacteria and four fungi. For the detection of antibacterial activities the disc diffusion method²¹ was followed. The antifungal activity was assessed by food poison technique²¹. Nutrient agar (NA) and potato dextrose agar (PDA) were used as basal medium for the test of bacteria and fungi respectively. Chloroform was used as a solvent to prepare desired solution (10 %) of the lipid sample. Proper control was maintained with chloroform.

2. 6. Estimation of Minerals

By applying the standard methods, minerals (N, P, K and Ca) of lipid containing muscle were determined.

2. 7. Chromatographic Examinations

The muscle lipid of Cuttle fish was subjected to TLC examination and its fatty acid composition was identified by comparing the R_f values of different spots of chromatograms with those of standard fatty acids reported earlier in different solvent systems^{22,23}.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3. 1. Physical Properties

The amount of total lipid content of Cuttle fish was 20.98 mg/g of muscle. This may claim valuable demand of Cuttle fish for edible purpose due to their higher lipid level.

The refractive index of muscle lipid of Cuttle fish was found to be 1.4731 at 24 °C (Table 1). The refractive power of oils or fats varies widely and chiefly governed by the proportion and degree of unsaturation present. It is also an intensive property of any substance. The present result indicates that the muscle lipid from the specimen contained moderate amount of unsaturated fatty acids. This was also supported by its iodine value.

The specific gravity of the lipid solution was determined and was found to be 0.9735 at 30 °C (Table 1). This sample was found in semisolid condition. From the result of this experiment, we got an idea about the specific gravity of the original lipid.

The viscosity of the lipid solution of the sample was found to be 320.325 milipoise at 30 °C (Table 1). From the result of viscosity we got an idea about the intermolecular hydrogen bonding in the lipid sample. The present result suggested that there is a few hydroxyl group and few free acid molecules may present in the lipid sample. This observation is supported by low acetyl value and low acid value of the lipid sample.

Table 1. Physical constants of the muscle lipid of Cuttle fish and other lipid samples.

Name of the sample	Refractive index	Specific gravity	Viscosity (mp)
Linseed oil	1.4790-1.4800	0.931-0.938	296.084
Sunflower oil	1.4655-1.4721	0.924-0.926	331.125
Brain lipid of Kerani Chingri	1.4748	0.9180	287.060
Brain lipid of Baghda Chingri	1.4736	0.941	303.260
Liver lipid of Blue Spotted Fantail Ray	1.4760	0.9575	325.325
Muscle lipid of Hilsha	1.4637
Muscle lipid of Cuttle fish	1.4731	0.9735	320.325

Crude fat, Crude fibre and ash content of the muscle of Cuttle fish were determined as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Crude fat, fibre content and ash content of the muscle of Cuttle fish.

Name of the Sample	Crude fat (%)	Crude Fibre (%)	Ash content (%)
Muscle of Hilsha	2.25	1.35	0.96
Muscle of Cuttle fish	4.75	2.31	1.992

3. 2. Chemical Properties

The saponification value of the muscle lipid of Cuttle fish was found to be 260.87 (Table 3). The Saponification equivalent value of the muscle lipid of Cuttle fish was found to be 215.05 (Table 3). It is a measure of the average molecular weight (chain length) of all the fatty acids present. It allows for comparison of the average fatty acid chain length. The long chain fatty acids found in fats have low saponification value because they have a relatively fewer number of carboxylic functional groups per unit mass of the fat as compared to short chain fatty acids. Saponification equivalent is inversely proportional to the average molecular weight or chain length of the fatty acids present in the fat or oil. The result clearly indicates that the lipid sample contains higher proportion of high molecular weight fatty acids.

The acid value of the muscle lipid of Cuttle fish was found to be 1.78 (Table 3). The percentage of free fatty acid (FFA), as oleic, was calculated from acid value and was found to be 0.89 for the muscle lipid of Cuttle fish (Table 3). Low acid value is an indication of freshness of the oil or fat and suitability of the lipid for edible purpose. The free fatty acid is produced by the hydrolytic decomposition of the oil or fat. The ester value of the sample was found to be 258.77 (Table 3). This value indicates the amount of ester present in the lipid sample. Iodine value (Table 3) gives an estimation of the degree of unsaturation and so, of the relative amounts of unsaturated fatty acids in the triglyceride molecules of the fat or oil.

Iodine value of the lipid sample was found to be 106.82 (Table 3). This value indicates that the lipid sample contains moderate proportion of unsaturated fatty acids which also maintain the criteria of edible oil and PUFA containing oil which is beneficial for cardiac health²⁴.

The Peroxide value of an oil or fat is used as a measurement of the extent to which rancidity reactions have occurred during storage. The double bonds found on fats and oils play a role in autoxidation. Peroxide value of the lipid sample was found to be 109.45 (Table 3) which indicating fair amounts of unsaturated fatty acid content.

The Acetyl value (12.95) of the fish oil (Table 3) indicates low content of free hydroxyl groups in the lipid sample. The Thiocyanogen value of the lipid sample was found to be 54.82 (Table 3). This observation also supports its moderate iodine and peroxide value.

The Titre value (27.5) of the sample (Table 3) indicates that the sample is of fat types which support their semisolid condition at room temperature. The Henher value was found to be 77.98 (Table 3).

This result indicates the higher percentage of water insoluble nonvolatile fatty acids present in the lipid sample. The unsaponifiable matter (1.10) indicates (Table 3) that the lipid contains a good amount of unsaponifiable sterols, tocopherols, vitamins A & D, hydrocarbons and so on²⁵. Polenske value (0.72) and Richert-Meissl value (0.91) of the muscle lipid of Cuttle fish (Table 3) were determined. The result of Polenske value indicates a small content of volatile water but alcohol soluble fatty acids in the lipid sample. Richert-Meissel value indicates low content of volatile water soluble fatty acids.

The Kirschner value of the muscle lipid of Cuttle fish as determined was found to be 0.424. These indicate the presence of trace amount of fatty acids in the Reichert-Meissl distillate which form soluble silver salt. The muscle lipid of Cuttle fish was found to form cloudy solution with bromine and a precipitate appeared due to the insoluble bromide during the experiment. Hence, the lipid is of marine oil (fish oil).

The muscle lipid of Cuttle fish was found to form treacle-like consistency with mercuric nitrate, $Hg(NO_3)_2$ solution after 24 hours during the experiment. Hence, the lipid is of semi-drying type. The amount of cholesterol in the muscle lipid of Cuttle fish was found to be 23.71 mg/100 g. It can be suggested that the muscle lipid of Cuttle fish is more suitable for edible purpose with respect to its cholesterol level.

The effect of storage time on the lipid sample showed a significant variation in different values. Acid value, Peroxide value increased with increasing time of storage and Richert-Meissl value, Thiocyaogen value, Titre value, Iodine value decreased with increasing time of storage. That means, the quality of the lipid deteriorated with increasing time of storage.

Table 3. Chemical constants of the muscle lipid of Cuttle fish and some other fats and oils.

Name of the Sample	S.V.	S.E.V.	A.V.	F.F.A. (%)	E.V.	I.V.	P.O.V.	Acetyl Value (%)	T.V.	Titre value °C	H.V.	U.S.M.	P.V.	R.M.V.
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Whale oil	Sardine oil	Palm kernel oil	Coconut oil	Soyabean oil	Linseed oil	Cotton seed oil	Sunflower oil	olive oil
184-200	189.8- 193.8	248	255-260	190-195	189-195	192-198	190-194	190-195
---	---	220-250	210-250	287-295	287-296	283-292	287-295	287-295
0.3-51	2.2-21.7	220-250	2.5-10.0	1.2-1.5	4.0	1.0-5.0	0.6-2.4	0.6-1.5
--	--	--	--	0.35-0.85	0.5-0.75	0.4-0.9	0.15-0.45	0.25-0.60
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
126.9	138-177	15-18	8.2-9.6	129-137	175-200	103-111	125-140	80-88
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
--	--	--	--	--	--	0.7-12.2	--	10.4
--	--	--	6.1-7.0	77-85	--	61-69	78.4-81.3	75-83
--	--	--	20-24	22.27	--	30.37	17	17.26
--	--	94.2	82	--	94.8	94.2	--	0.6
--	--	--	0.15-0.7	0.7-1.6	1.0-1.5	0.8-1.8	0.3-0.9	0.5-1.2
--	--	--	15-17	0.2-1	--	--	--	0.5
--	--	28	7.8-8.0	0.5-2.55	--	0.95	0.5	0.6-1.5

Muscle lipid of Cuttle fish	Brain lipid of Kerani Chingri	Brain lipid of Baghda Chingri	Muscle Lipid of Hilsa
260.87	214.11	229.255	203.25
215.05	262.06	244.71	276.01
1.78	1.04	1.11	3.108
0.89	0.52	0.56	1.56
258.77	13.07	28.14	--
106.82	100.38	95.83	92.55
109.45	192.26	194.95	55.05
12.95	10.82	10.58	10.255
54.82	45.29	43.63	52.54
27.5	26.7	27.2	--
77.98	92.19	95.32	93.27
1.10	0.641	0.566	0.74
0.72	0.694	0.796	0.761
0.91	0.95	1.04	0.965

Abbreviations: S.V. = Saponification Value; S.E.V. = Saponification Equivalent Value; A.V. = Acid Value; F.F.A. = Free fatty acid; E.V. = ester value; I.V. = Iodine Value; P.O.V. = peroxide Value; T.V. = Thiocyanogen Value; H.V. = Henher Value; U.S.M. = Unsaponifiable Matter; P.V. = Polenske Value; R.M.V. = Reichert-Meissl Value.

3. 3. Antimicrobial Activities

In the present study, the lipid sample was selected and screened for antibacterial activities against four human pathogenic bacteria and antifungal activities against four phyto pathogenic fungi. It is evident from the Table 4 that, the lipid sample was found to be active against *Salmonella typhi*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli* and *Bacillus cereus*. Paper discs while soaked in lipid solution (10 %) was used, *Salmonella typhi* showed highest zone of inhibition for lipid sample (21 mm).

It is also evident from the Table 5 that the lipid sample did not show any inhibition on mycelial growth of *Alternaria alternata*. Except these mycelial growth of almost all test fungi was inhibited by the lipid sample. *Fusarium equiseti* showed highest zone of inhibition for the lipid sample (15.11 mm).

Table 4. Antibacterial activities of the muscle lipid of Cuttle fish.

Name of Bacteria	Type of Sample	Zone of inhibition (diameter in mm) after 48 hours		
		Treatment	Control	Differences
<i>Salmonella typhi</i>	10 %	21	0	21
	5 %	10	0	10
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	10 %	17	0	17
	5 %	8	0	8
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	10 %	20	0	20
	5 %	9	0	9
<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	10 %	16	0	16
	5 %	7.5	0	7.5

Table 5. Percent growth inhibition of test fungi by the muscle lipid of Cuttle fish.

Name of the Fungi	Type of Sample	Zone of inhibition (diameter in mm) after 5 days
		Muscle lipid of Cuttle fish
<i>Fusarium equiseti</i>	10 %	15.11
<i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i>	10 %	6.10
<i>Alternaria alternata</i>	10 %	-10.76
<i>Curvularia lunata</i>	10 %	3.45

(-) means no inhibition.

3. 4. Estimation of N, P, K and Ca in muscle of Cuttle fish

Most of the people of our country have been suffering to a great extent from protein malnutrition. From the Table 6, it is evident that Cuttle fish contains a good amount (6.533%) of nitrogen as well as protein (proteineous nitrogen) which is well balance in respect of essential amino acids. The percentage of phosphorus (1.237) indicates that phospholipid may present in the lipid sample.

The percentage of potassium (1.118) in the lipid sample may be helpful to increase blood pressure for those people having low blood pressure. The percentage of calcium (0.450) may help formation of rigid bone structure of the community children in their growing age who eat this marine species.

Above all, the maximum catch and use of Cuttle fish should be encouraged for ready supply to different remote regions of Bangladesh as well all over the world under careful processing to avoid putrefaction.

Table 6. Percent of N, P, K and Ca in muscle of Cuttle fish.

Name of the sample	N (%)	P (%)	K (%)	Ca (%)
Brain lipid of Kerani Chingri	3.090	0.5506	1.061	0.798
Brain lipid of Baghda Chingri	3.540	0.7262	1.123	0.914
Liver lipid of Blue Spotted Fantail ray	4.099	2.7500	1.180	0.641
Muscle of Cuttle fish	6.533	1.237	1.118	0.450

3. 5. Chromatographic Analysis

The muscle lipid of Cuttle fish was subjected to TLC examination and their fatty acid composition were identified by comparing the R_f values of different spots of chromatograms with those standard fatty acids as reported (Table 7) in different solvent systems. It was found from the chromatograms that the lipids produced about 3-5 spots. Among the spots, four spots were identified as palmitic acid, stearic acid, linolenic acid and erucic acid in the muscle lipid of Cuttle fish.

Table 7. The R_f values of thin layer chromatographic examination of the muscle lipid of Cuttle fish.

Solvent System	R_f values of standard fatty acids				R_f values obtained from the chromatograms of lipid sample			
	PA	SA	LA	EA				
P:E (80:20)	0.941	0.943	0.933	0.361	0.940	0.942	0.933	0.365
P:E:A (80:20:1)	0.822	0.839	0.893	0.479	0.824	0.882	0.478	0.365
P:H (80:20)	0.823	0.812	0.641	0.201	0.823	0.811	0.639	0.201

PA-Palmitic Acid, SA-Stearic Acid, LA-Linoleic Acid, EA-Erucic Acid

4. CONCLUSIONS

Physico-chemical characterization and antimicrobial studies of muscle lipid of Cuttle fish (*Sepia esculenta*) have been done in this investigation. Large amount of unsaturated fatty acid presence in the lipid sample was confirmed by R.I., S.V., I.V. and T.V. Presence of sterols, tocopherols, vitamins A and D, is considered on the basis of U.S.M % and low hydroxyl group content was confirmed by acetyl value of the sample. Percentage of F.F.A validated suitability of the oil for edible purpose. Chromatographic examinations substantiated the presence of some important ω -3 PUFA in the muscle lipid. From antibacterial studies we can conclude that this work will provide valuable information about the prospect of derivation of antibiotics, pesticides and pharmaceutical components from the muscle lipid of Cuttle fish with further research. Protein and other important minerals (Ca, P and K) also found with significant values in the muscle of Cuttle fish.

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