

Volume 7, Issue 1, Spring 2018, Pages 49-64  
Document Type: Extended Abstract  
DOI: [10.22101/JRIFST.2018.05.19.714](https://doi.org/10.22101/JRIFST.2018.05.19.714)

## Optimization of Enzymatic Hydrolysis of Bee Pollen Protein by Pepsin Based on Antioxidant and ACE Inhibitory Activity and Comparison with Those of Royal Jelly

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**Received:** 2016.11.21; **Accepted:** 2017.07.05

### Abstract

In this study optimization of the enzymatic hydrolysis condition of bee pollen protein by pepsin and the effect of enzymatic hydrolysis on its antioxidant properties was investigated. Also, the results were compared with antioxidant properties of royal jelly. For this purpose, phenolic compounds, DPPH free radical scavenging activity and ferric ion reducing power of bee pollen and royal jelly were measured. The values of these factors for bee pollen and royal jelly (1000 ppm), were 174 and 1031.71 (mg Gallic acid/ g sample), 67.33% and 95.27% and absorbance of 0.77 and 0.8 at 700 nm, respectively. The highest reducing power of 0.81 was measured in samples which were hydrolyzed by 2% pepsin for 4 h. Also, the highest DPPH radicals scavenging power was 100% which was achieved in hydrolyzed samples by 2% pepsin for 2.5 h. The highest ACE inhibitory activity was 91.49% in hydrolyzed samples by 2% pepsine for 4 h. The results showed that the DPPH radical scavenging power of bee pollen increased from 67.33% to 100% and ACE inhibitory activity increased from 15.54% to 91.49% after enzymatic hydrolysis. The DPPH radical scavenging power and ACE inhibitory activity of bee pollen hydrolysats were comparable to those of royal jelly.

**Keywords:** ACE, Antioxidant Activity, Bee Pollen, Enzymatic hydrolysis, Royal Jelly

### Introduction

Bee pollen, commonly referred as the “life-giving dust”, results from the agglutination of flower pollens with nectar and salivary substances of the honeybees (Almeida *et al.*, 2016). Pollen contains 10 to 40% protein, 1 to 13% lipid, 13 to 55% carbohydrates and 2 to 6% minerals. Royal Jelly is produced by enzymatic digesting of bee pollen by proteases and other natural enzymes. It contains 27-41% protein, 30% carbohydrates, 8-19% lipids, minerals, trace elements and some vitamins based on dry weight (Morais *et al.*, 2011;

Bogdanow, 2014). The antioxidant properties of royal jelly and bee pollen, are related to main proteins and phenolic compounds and flavonoids (Nagai & Inue, 2004). The antioxidant activity of peptides includes DPPH, ABTS and hydroxyl radical scavenging activity, Ferric reducing, Ferrous chelating activity (Khantaphant *et al.*, 2011). Antioxidant activity of pollen and royal jelly were investigated by different researchers (Bogdanov, 2014; Morais *et al.*, 2011; Nagai & Inoue, 2004). Also antioxidant activity and ACE inhibitory of peptides from enzymatic hydrolysates were reported by researchers (Salampessy *et al.*, 2015; Marinova & Tchobanov, 2010; Liu *et al.*, 2008; Nagai *et al.*, 2005; Wiriyaphan *et al.*, 2012; Khantaphant & Benjakul, 2008). The objective of present research is Optimization of enzymatic hydrolysis of bee pollen protein by pepsin based on antioxidant and ACE inhibitory activity and comparison with those of royal jelly.

## Material and methods

### Preparation of extracts

The preparation of the bee pollen extract was performed by mixing the bee pollen using water (1:10) (w/v), on the magnetic stirrer at room temperature for 24 h. The macerates were filtered through filter paper (Whatman) in a Buchner funnel. The obtained extract was centrifuged at 12000 g, then, the obtained supernatant was dried using freeze dryer. The dried bee pollen extract was kept in the dark at room temperature until further analysis (Morais *et al.*, 2011). The royal jelly extract were prepared using method as described by (Liu *et al.*, 2008).

### Determination of total phenolic contents

The total phenolic content of the extracts was recorded using the Folin–Ciocalteu method as described by (Deshpande *et al.*, 1987).

### DPPH radical-scavenging

DPPH radical-scavenging activity was determined as described by Hmited *et al.* (2011).

### Reducing power

The ability of the hydrolysate to reduce iron (III) was determined according to the method of Bougateg *et al.* (2009).

### Enzymatic hydrolysis of pollen

Bee pollen was added and homogenized with 5 volumes of distilled water. pH and temperature of the solution were adjusted to pH=3 and 37°C. Enzymes in the concentration range of 1 to 2% w/w were added to the pollen protein solution. Enzymatic hydrolysis lasted 2 to 5 h. Hydrolysis was stopped by boiling for 10 min. The hydrolysates were centrifuged at 4000x g for 30 min to remove the residue. The supernatants were pooled and then lyophilized (Villanueva *et al.*, 1999; Matsuoka *et al.*, 2012; Guo *et al.*, 2005).

### Antioxidant activity and ACE inhibitory of hydrolysates

DPPH radical scavenging ability and reducing power of pollen hydrolysates of pollen hydrolysates were measured. Also ACE-inhibitory activity of pollen hydrolysates was measured that was assayed as reported by Nasri *et al.* (2004).

### Statistical analysis:

Statistical analysis of results before hydrolysis was done by SPSS. Optimization of enzymatic hydrolysis was done by Response Surface Methodology (RSM) in Design Expert software.

## Results and discussion

### Phenolic compounds

Total phenol value recorded for pollen ranged from 48.15 to 174 mg Gallic acid/g for royal jelly ranged from 9.24 to 87.261 mg Gallic acid/g. Considering that royal jelly is obtained by direct digestion of pollen, the amounts of their phenolic compounds were comparable (Bogdanov, 2014). Phenolic compounds increased by increasing concentration of extract of royal jelly and pollen. Increasing in royal jelly was more than pollen in concentrations of 300 to 1000 mg/L ( $P<0.05$ ).

### Determination of ferric reducing/antioxidant power

Different concentrations of pollen and royal jelly extracts showed various reducing power respectively between 0.29 to 0.8 and 0.74 and 0.77.

### DPPH radical scavenging

The lowest and highest DPPH radical scavenging were 1.05 and 67.33 in pollen and 3.75 and 95.27 in royal jelly. DPPH radical scavenging of pollen and royal jelly increased significantly by increasing concentration of extracts ( $P<0.05$ ). There was significant difference in DPPH radical scavenging of extracts with the highest concentrations ( $P<0.05$ ). DPPH radical scavenging of phenolic extracts was increased by increasing of their concentration. Royal jelly demonstrated more DPPH radical scavenging activity than pollen that was attributed to its proteins and peptides and their side chains.

### Optimization of enzymatic hydrolysis of pollen and anti-oxidant test

The results of the antioxidant activity tests of hydrolysed pollen in the points determined with the central composite design in the RSM are given in Table (1).

**Table 1.** Results of the antioxidant activity tests of hydrolysed pollen in the points determined with the central composite design in the RSM

Treatment	Enzyme concentration (%)	Time (hr)	DPPH radical scavenging (%)	Reducing power (Absorbance at 700 nm)	ACE inhibitory activity (%)
1	2	1	34.09	0.68	34.09
2	1.5	1	96.51	0.65	35.58
3	1	1	88.58	0.75	67.74
4	2	2.5	100	0.68	44.3
5	1.5	2.5	91.71	0.61	27.93
6	1.5	2.5	93.64	0.57	28.93
7	1.5	2.5	92.71	0.61	27.93
8	1.5	2.5	94.64	0.57	27.93
9	1.5	2.5	95.71	0.61	27.93
10	1	2.5	91.02	0.57	44.22
11	2	4	71.88	0.81	91.49
12	1.5	4	66.69	0.74	58.24
13	1	4	67.24	0.73	57.67

When increasing enzyme concentration and hydrolysis time, the reducing power of hydrolysate was fixed then it was increased, the DPPH radical scavenging of hydrolysate was increased then it was decreased, the ACE inhibitory activity of hydrolysate was decreased then it was increased. Hydrolysate using 2% enzyme concentration in the time of 4 h gave the highest reducing power of absorbance (0.81) and the highest DPPH radical scavenging

(91.49%). Hydrolysate using 2% enzyme concentration in the time of 2.5 h gave the highest DPPH radical scavenging (100%).

### Optimization of hydrolysis condition based on antioxidant activity and ACE inhibitory of hydrolysates by RSM

Predicted amounts by RSM and measured amounts are summarized in Table (2).

**Table 2.** Predicted amounts by RSM and measured amounts

Measured Factors	Predicted Amounts	Measured Amounts	P value
DPPH radical scavenging (%)	71.51	73.71	0.178
Reducing power (Absorbance)	0.8	0.71	0.362
ACE inhibitory activity (%)	91.316	92.793	0.188

### Conclusion

In generally it was clear that antioxidant activity and ACE inhibitory of pollen increased by hydrolysis. After hydrolysis DPPH radical scavenging power and ACE inhibitory activity of bee pollen hydrolysates were comparable to those of royal jelly.

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