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1 **Identification of Angiotensin Converting Enzyme and Dipeptidyl Peptidase-IV**
2 **inhibitory peptides derived from oilseed proteins using two integrated**
3 **bioinformatic approaches**

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18 Running title: Bioactive peptide prediction from oilseed protein

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21 Abbreviations: ACE, Angiotensin-converting enzyme; DPP-IV, and dipeptidyl

22 peptidase-IV

23

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25

26 **Abstract**

27 Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) and dipeptidyl peptidase-IV (DPP-IV) play
28 critical roles in the development of hypertension and type 2 diabetes, respectively.
29 Inhibiting the ACE and DPP-IV activity using peptides has become part of new
30 therapeutic strategies for supporting medicinal treatment of both diseases. In this study,
31 oilseed proteins, including soybean, flaxseed, rapeseed, sunflower and sesame are
32 evaluated for the possibility of generating ACE and DPP-IV inhibitory peptides using
33 different integrated bioinformatic approaches (UniProt knowledgebase, ProtParam,
34 BLAST, BIOPEP, PeptideRanker, Pepsite2 and ToxinPred), and three bovine proteins
35 (β -lactoglobulin, β -casein and κ -casein) as comparisons. Compared with bovine
36 proteins, the potency indices of ACE and DPP-IV inhibitory peptides, calculated using
37 the BIOPEP database, suggest that oilseed proteins may be considered as good
38 precursors of ACE inhibitory peptides but generate a relative lower yield of DPP-IV
39 inhibitory peptides following subtilisin, pepsin (pH=1.3) or pepsin (pH>2) hydrolysis.
40 Average scores aligned using PeptideRanker confirmed oilseeds proteins as significant
41 potential sources of bioactive peptides: over 105 peptides scored over 0.8. Pepsite2
42 predicted that these peptides would largely bind via Gln281, His353, Lys511, His513,
43 Tyr520 and Tyr523 of ACE to give the inhibition, while Trp629 is the predominant
44 binding site of peptides in reducing DPP-IV activity. All peptides were capable of
45 inhibiting ACE and DPP-IV whilst 65 of these 105 peptides are not currently recorded
46 in BIOPEP database. In conclusion, our *in silico* study demonstrates that oilseed
47 proteins could be considered as good precursors of ACE and DPP-IV inhibitory
48 peptides as well as so far unexplored peptides that potentially have roles in ACE and
49 DPP-IV inhibition and beyond.

50

51 **Keywords:** Angiotensin-converting enzyme, dipeptidyl peptidase-IV, bioactive
52 peptides, hypertension, diabetes, bioinformatics, *in silico* analysis, oilseed proteins

53

54 **1. Introduction**

55 Defatted oilseeds, such as flaxseed, rapeseed, sunflower and sesame, are by-products
56 from the food industry and currently used as livestock feed or waste. In the last two
57 decades these under-utilised materials have gained growing interest, due to their high
58 protein content, which in turn makes them a potential low-cost source of bioactive
59 peptides. Peptides derived from some oilseed proteins have demonstrated a wide range
60 of bioactive properties including: antioxidative (He, Girgih, Malomo, Ju, & Aluko,
61 2013), mineral chelating (Megías et al., 2008), anti-inflammatory (Udenigwe, Lu, Han,
62 Hou, & Aluko, 2009) and cholesterol lowering (Cho, Juillerat, & Lee, 2007) activities.
63 These activities have been linked to beneficial health outcomes and peptides could be
64 applied as value-added components in functional foods, nutraceuticals and
65 pharmaceuticals (Hartmann & Meisel, 2007; Korhonen & Pihlanto, 2003; Li-Chan,
66 2015; Udenigwe & Aluko, 2012).

67 Among several health benefits of bioactive peptides, inhibition of Angiotensin-
68 Converting Enzyme (ACE) and Dipeptidyl Peptidase-IV (DPP-IV) have been well
69 documented, as well as their synergistic effects in combination with synthetic drugs
70 (Guang & Phillips, 2009; Marczak et al., 2003; Nongonierma & FitzGerald, 2015; Patil,
71 Mandal, Tomar, & Anand, 2015). In the human body, ACE, is associated with elevated
72 blood pressure, by cleaving a dipeptide (HL) from the decapeptide angiotensin I to form
73 a potent vasoconstrictor, angiotensin II. Further, ACE inhibits and degrades bradykinin,
74 a potent vasodilator (Bénéteau-Burnat & Baudin, 1991). DPP-IV is a metabolic serine
75 peptidase which is widely distributed in almost all human tissues, causing the
76 degradation and inactivation of glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) and glucose-
77 dependent insulintropic polypeptide (GIP), both are incretin hormones and responsible
78 for stimulating the secretion of insulin (Lambeir, Durinx, Scharpé, & De Meester, 2003).
79 Therefore, inhibiting ACE and DPP-IV activities have become two major therapeutic
80 targets for the management of hypertension and type 2 diabetes mellitus, directly
81 leading to significant reduction in blood pressure and blood glucose levels (Hansson et
82 al., 1999; Kieffer, McIntosh, & Pederson, 1995), respectively.

83 Proteomic approaches are widely applied for exploring and evaluating the biological
84 activities of bioactive peptides and are traditionally comprised of several steps: 1)
85 manually quantifying the protein content; 2) extracting the protein isolate; 3)
86 hydrolysing protein with the aid of one or more proteases to release the bioactive
87 peptides; 4) fractionating and purifying the protein hydrolysates; 5) identifying the
88 amino acid sequences of peptides; 6) synthesizing the identified peptides and
89 confirming the bioactive properties (Carrasco-Castilla, Hernández-Álvarez, Jiménez-
90 Martínez, Gutiérrez-López, & Dávila-Ortiz, 2012; Dupont, 2017; Sánchez-Rivera,
91 Martínez-Maqueda, Cruz-Huerta, Miralles, & Recio, 2014). These methods are time-
92 consuming and expensive, and yield low amounts of targeted peptides, which limits
93 their further appraisal with respect to *in vivo* studies.

94 Complementary to traditional proteomic approaches, database-aided bioinformatic
95 evaluations (*in silico*) are suggested as a potential cost-effective tool to screen and
96 theoretically predict the potency of specific protein sequences as precursors for ACE
97 and DPP-IV inhibitors. The release of peptide fractions can be predicted through
98 simulation of enzymatic hydrolysis of identified protein sequences based on protease
99 cleavage specificities, which allow evaluation of the hydrolysis capability of enzymes
100 and gastrointestinal digestive tolerance of the peptides. Such screening delivers
101 information on the potential production of potent bioactive peptides and can highlight
102 novel bioactive peptides for further chemical or recombinant DNA synthesis
103 (Udenigwe, 2014). Peptide sequences with ACE and DPP-IV inhibiting activities have
104 already been extensively explored and identified in the literature, as well being included
105 in appropriate databases; this therefore greatly improves the accuracy and reliability of
106 *in silico* screening for these particular peptide activities. In addition, a number of *in*
107 *silico* studies have already been published with the purpose of predicting other
108 biological activities of peptides derived from food material including milk (Vukic et al.,
109 2017), deer skin (Jin, Yan, Yu, & Qi, 2015), rice (Pooja, Rani, & Prakash, 2017), crude
110 barley (Gangopadhyay et al., 2016), green algae *Caulerpa* (Agirbasli & Cavas, 2017)
111 and cumin (Siow & Gan, 2016). These studies suggest that integrated bioinformatic

112 evaluations are effective in predicting the peptides released from the parent proteins.
113 However, to the best of our knowledge, the comparison of two *in silico* predicting
114 approaches for potency of precursor proteins generating ACE and DPP-IV inhibitors is
115 missing. Thus, the aims of this study are: (a) to screen peptides released from precursor
116 proteins using BIOPEP and (b) to rank the peptides using PeptideRanker, together with
117 predicting the binding sites of promising peptides to ACE and DPP-IV using Pepsite2.

118

119 **2. Methods**

120 2.1 Protein sequences

121 In this study, ten storage proteins from five oilseeds sources, flaxseed (*Linum*
122 *usitatissimum* Q8LPD4), rapeseed (*Brassica napus* P17333, P11090), sunflower
123 (*Helianthus annuus* P19084, P15461), sesame (*Sesamum indicum* Q9XHP1, Q9XHP0)
124 and soybean (*Glycine max* P04347, P11827, P13916), were selected and assessed,
125 together with three bovine proteins (*BOS Taurus* P02754, P02666, P02666) for
126 comparison, to investigate their potency as precursors of ACE and DPP-IV inhibitory
127 peptides. An overview of the integrated bioinformatic approach is presented in Figure
128 1.

129 All sequence information was retrieved from UniProt Knowledgebase
130 (<http://www.uniprot.org/>) (Table 1). The specific oilseed crops chosen were selected
131 based on the protein levels in their seeds as well as the availability of their amino acid
132 sequences in databases. The bovine caseins β -casein and κ -casein, plus the principal
133 bovine whey protein β -lactoglobulin, are all well-documented as abundant resources of
134 ACE and DPP-IV inhibitory peptides (Maruyama & Suzuki, 1982; Nongonierma &
135 FitzGerald, 2013; Pihlanto-Leppälä, Koskinen, Piilola, Tupasela, & KORHONEN,
136 2000; Silveira, Martínez-Maqueda, Recio, & Hernández-Ledesma, 2013). ProtParam
137 (<https://web.expasy.org/protparam/>) was used to count the amino acid percentage in the
138 selected proteins (Gasteiger et al., 2005). In addition, BLAST server
139 (<https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi>) was used to evaluate significant similarities
140 (homologies) of the 13 protein sequences (Papadopoulos & Agarwala, 2007).

141

142 2.2 *In silico* hydrolysis

143 The peptide bond cleavage was simulated according to the specificity of the enzymes
144 subtilisin (EC 3.4.21.62), pepsin (pH = 1.3) (EC 3.4.23.1) and pepsin (pH >2) (EC
145 3.4.23.1) using the BIOPEP ‘Enzyme(s) action’ tool. The peptide profiles generated
146 were identified based on the information recorded in BIOPEP database (currently 3669
147 peptides). Two parameters, frequency index (A) and potency index (B) for generating
148 ACE and DPP-IV inhibitory peptides were calculated using Eq (A.1) and Eq (A.2),
149 respectively (Minkiewicz, Dziuba, Iwaniak, Dziuba, & Darewicz, 2008).

150

151 2.3 The potential of peptide profiles exerting biological activities

152 All the peptide profiles generated via *in silico* digestion were evaluated for their
153 likelihood of being bioactive using PeptideRanker. This tool assigns a score to each
154 peptide, within the range 0 (poorest activity) to 1 (most promising activity). The
155 peptides with score > 0.8 were described as ‘promising bioactive peptides ’ and
156 subsequently subjected to toxicity prediction using ToxinPred
157 (<http://crdd.osdd.net/raghava/toxinpred/>) and further binding site prediction (Gupta et
158 al., 2013; Mooney, Haslam, Pollastri, & Shields, 2012). In addition, an average score
159 of all the predicted peptides generated from oilseed and bovine proteins was calculated
160 via Eq (A.3) to assess overall protein promise of releasing bioactive peptides.

161

162 2.4 Predicting ACE and DPP-IV binding sites within the generated peptides

163 The interactions between the peptides and the targeted enzyme were predicted using
164 Pepsite2 (<http://pepsite2.russelllab.org/>) (Trabuco, Lise, Petsalaki, & Russell, 2012).
165 The three-dimensional structures of human DPP-IV (PDB code: 1NU6) and ACE (PDB
166 code: 1O8A) were obtained from Protein Data Bank (PDB) (<https://www.rcsb.org/>).
167 Colour scales were applied in this study to evaluate the predictions, which are 1) Red
168 colour refers to highly significant; 2) Yellow colour means moderately significant; 3)
169 White colour is considered as no significance (Trabuco et al., 2012). For each peptide,

170 only the prediction with the lowest p-value was selected. In addition, sequences
171 comprising more than ten amino acid residues were ignored (the maximum length
172 accepted by this database).

173

174 2.5 Potential gastrointestinal digestive tolerance of peptides

175 The bioavailability of peptides *in vivo* is also determined by their survival during
176 digestion. Peptide profiles with a score over 0.8 (aligned by PeptideRanker) were
177 evaluated for their tolerance against the cleavage of pepsin (pH > 2.0, EC 3.4.23.1),
178 trypsin (EC 3.4.21.4) and chymotrypsin (3.4.21.2), using the ‘Enzyme(s) action’ tool
179 obtained from BIOPEP database
180 (<http://www.uwm.edu.pl/biochemia/index.php/en/biopep>).

181

182 3. Results and Discussion

183 3.1 Amino acid compositions and homology of the oilseed proteins

184 All sequences underwent homology analysis using BLAST with the method
185 ‘compositional matrix adjustment’. The distributions of alignment scores among
186 selected proteins conducted in pairs are shown in Table 2. Out of 78 pairs, 7 gave high
187 scores (> 200), meaning that these pairs show similar molecular features and therefore
188 the peptides derived from them might also be expected to have similar sequences and
189 biological activities (Pooja et al., 2017). Table 3 summarises the details, including the
190 identities, positives, gaps, and bit scores, of protein sequences with alignment scores
191 over 200. 76% identities and 83% positives were found between the α -chain and α' -
192 chain of β -conglycinin, both from soybean. In addition, 11S globulin (sunflower),
193 cruciferin (rapeseed), 11S globulin (sesame) and glycinin (soybean) displayed
194 similarity. This finding agrees with the previous research on related proteins - for
195 example, Chang and Alli (2012) suggested there are approximately 30% similar amino
196 acid residues between legumin (chickpea) and 12S globulin (oat).
197 Quantitative structure-activity relationship (QSAR) studies, e.g., Lafarga, O’Connor,
198 and Hayes (2014) have shown how 7 amino acid residues - Gly, Ile, Leu, Phe, Pro, Trp

199 and Tyr, are present at high frequencies in ACE inhibitory peptides. In addition, Ala,
200 Gly, Pro and Tyr play key roles in the composition of DPP-IV inhibitory peptides (Jin
201 et al., 2015; Lacroix & Li-Chan, 2012). Therefore, protein sequences containing high
202 concentrations of the above amino acid residues are expected to be promising sources
203 of ACE or DPP-IV inhibitory peptides. The number and percentage of specific amino
204 acid residues were counted via ProtParam (Table 4). The α chain and α' chain of β -
205 conglycinin (soybean) demonstrated similar percentages of these specific amino acids.
206 In addition, cruciferin (rapeseed) has a similar amino acid composition to 11S globulin
207 storage protein (sunflower) and 11S Globulin Seed storage protein (sesame), but
208 differences could be found in their Ala, Ile and Pro contents when compared with
209 glycinin (soybean). Other sequences showed major differences when compared with
210 each other.

211 Obviously, the variations in amino acid content and sequence between oilseed and milk
212 proteins contributes to the differences in bioactive properties of peptides generated.

213

214 3.2 Stage I: Screening the ACE and DPP-IV inhibitory peptides

215 Oilseed and bovine protein sequences were analysed using BIOPEP database.
216 Meanwhile, the bacterial protease subtilisin and the human gastric enzyme pepsin, were
217 selected as enzymes for protein hydrolysis. Udenigwe (2016) suggested that pepsin
218 exerts a narrower specificity when the pH of the medium is below 2. Therefore, two pH
219 conditions, pH = 1.3 and pH > 2, were selected for pepsin hydrolysis. Only peptides
220 with short amino acid sequences, such as di- and tri-peptides, contribute to the major
221 part of peptide bioactivity (Iwaniak & Dziuba, 2009), exerting antithrombotic,
222 antiemetic, antioxidative, hypotensive and ubiquitin-mediated proteolysis
223 (Supplementary Table 1S). However, here only ACE and DPP-IV inhibitory activity
224 were investigated.

225 Table 5 presents the frequency index of ACE and DPP-IV inhibitory peptides generated
226 from 13 protein sequences. Apart from pepsin (pH = 1.3)-treated napin (rapeseed),
227 pepsin (pH = 1.3)-treated 2S storage protein (sunflower), pepsin (pH = 1.3)-treated 2S

228 storage protein (sesame) and pepsin (pH > 2)-treated napin (rapeseed), the frequency
229 index of ACE inhibitory peptide was lower than that of DPP-IV inhibitory peptides
230 generated from the same sequences. In addition, pepsin (pH > 2) gave the highest
231 frequency index among the three enzymes, followed by subtilisin, with pepsin at pH
232 1.3 being lowest. Among all the pepsin (pH > 2)-treated oilseed proteins, napin, derived
233 from rapeseed (A 0.0883), exerted the highest frequency index of ACE inhibition, only
234 κ -casein being higher (A 0.0947) when compared with the three milk proteins.
235 Regarding the frequency index of DPP-IV inhibition, cruciferin (rapeseed) gave the
236 highest value (A 0.1127) amongst the oilseed proteins, but this was lower than for all 3
237 milk proteins (A between 0.1180 and 0.1518).

238 High predicted frequency values of ACE and DPP-IV inhibition do not directly translate
239 from the precursor protein to a good source of ACE and DPP-IV inhibitors. The value
240 of IC_{50} of each active peptide should be used to adjust the frequency to get the potency
241 index (μM^{-1}).

242 Pepsin (pH > 2)-treated napin showed the highest potency index (B 0.00622135 μM^{-1})
243 of ACE inhibitor amongst all the proteins investigated (Table 6). With regards to DPP-
244 IV inhibition, pepsin (pH > 2)- treated milk proteins gave more promising values than
245 oilseed proteins: 0.00032434 μM^{-1} (β -lactoglobulin), 0.00030789 μM^{-1} (β -casein) and
246 0.00026140 μM^{-1} (κ -casein), whilst the most promising amongst the oilseed proteins
247 was pepsin (pH > 2)-treated napin (B 0.00023281 μM^{-1}). Thus, bovine milk proteins
248 might be a more promising source of DPP-IV inhibitors than oilseed proteins in general.
249 In comparison to animal peptide data, plant protein-derived peptide sequence
250 availability is limited which may have an impact on the outcome of prediction analysis
251 and therefore contribute to underestimation of frequency and potency indices of plant
252 proteins. To be able to predict unrecorded ACE and DPP-IV inhibitor candidate
253 peptides potentially obtainable from oilseed and milk proteins, the PeptideRanker
254 application was used together with Pepsite2 (Stage II - see Figure 1 and below).

255 The frequency and potency indices among all proteins vary notably, even though
256 sequences possessing significant similarity (aligned score > 200 via BLAST). Lafarga

257 et al. (2014) also highlighted that the peptides derived from one 'parent' protein might
258 not always be generated from highly similar proteins.

259

260 3.3 Stage II: Predicting ACE and DPP-IV inhibitory peptides

261 Entire peptide profiles from *in silico* hydrolysis are provided with scores using
262 PeptideRanker (Supplementary Table 2S). A threshold of 0.8 was set in order to reduce
263 the number of false positives Mooney et al. (2012) and the resulting numbers of
264 peptides for each source are shown in Figure 2. Unlike the results of Udenigwe, Gong,
265 and Wu (2013), the numbers of bioactive peptides did not always appear to be strongly
266 dependent on the type of enzyme, or correlate with the frequency index calculated using
267 the BIOPEP database. In most cases, pepsin (pH > 2) gave the highest number bioactive
268 peptides, except for colinin (flaxseed) and glycinin (soybean). Subtilisin treatment
269 predicts the same number of bioactive peptides in 2S storage protein (sunflower) as in
270 the α -chain and α' -chain of β -conglycinin (soybean) and β -lactoglobulin (bovine). For
271 the other proteins, pepsin (pH = 1.3) gave the lowest number of bioactive peptides,
272 correlating with the trends in the frequency index of the proteins with different enzymes.
273 In addition, the highest numbers of bioactive peptides were predicted from oilseed
274 proteins compared to milk proteins. However, the total numbers of peptide fragments
275 are remarkably different for each protein sequence. Therefore, the average
276 PeptideRanker score for all the sequences was calculated (see Table 7). Pepsin (pH > 2)
277 gave the highest average score, pepsin (pH = 1.3) the lowest. This tendency is the same
278 as the influence of enzyme on frequency Index of ACE and DPP-IV inhibitor peptides.
279 For the pepsin (pH>2)-treated proteins, colinin exerted the highest average score
280 (0.2678), while the lowest was for κ -casein (0.1972). Thus, the oilseed proteins (0.2103
281 – 0.2678) might have equal or even better release of bioactive peptides compared to β -
282 lactoglobulin (0.2406), β -casein (0.2260) or κ -casein (0.1972).

283 Peptides with a score > 0.80 via PeptideRanker suggest high bioactive possibilities.
284 However, their biological activity still needs be explored via Pepsite2. Remembering
285 that this tool ignores peptides with > 10 amino acid residues, 89 oilseed peptides and

286 16 milk protein peptides were finally investigated (Supplementary Table 3S). (In
287 addition, 10 peptides were removed because their sequences were identical in the
288 oilseed- and milk-derived systems). Studies investigating the binding models of ACE
289 and DPP-IV inhibitors are available but the binding sites for different inhibitors are not
290 always the same (Table 8). Nevertheless, the important amino acids in ACE binding are
291 summarized as Glu162, Gln281, His353, Ala354, His383, Glu384, His387, Glu411,
292 Lys511, Phe512, His513, Val518, Tyr520 and Tyr523 in the study by Ngoh and Gan
293 (2017) whilst the predominant amino acids of DPP-IV binding have been described as
294 Arg125, Glu205, Glu206, Val207, Ser209, Phe357, Arg358, Tyr547, Gly(Trp)629,
295 Ser630, Tyr631, Gly633, Val656, Trp659, Tyr662, Tyr666, Asp708, Asn710, Val711 and
296 His740. These are slightly different from the ones summarized by Mudgil, Kamal, Yuen,
297 and Maqsood (2018), who do not mention Arg356, Glu403, Val404 and Tyr585 and
298 who modelled DPP-IV (PDB code: 4A5S) forming complexes with the inhibitor,
299 whereas the one used in our study is human DPP-IV (PDB Code: 1NU6).

300 Table 9 enumerates the 105 peptides binding to the amino acids presented in Table 8.
301 Gln281, His353, Lys511, His513, Tyr520 and Tyr523 are major binding sites of these
302 peptides predicting high ACE inhibiting activity, whilst only W629 is frequently bound
303 by these peptides to exert the DPP-IV inhibition. PF, TF, VF, SF, PSF, MKF, KF, IPF,
304 IF, HF, CF, NF and PM are considered as promising ACE inhibitory peptides, while
305 MW, AW, WF, AF, MKF, KF, QCAW, HWL, WA, IPF, MAPF, WM, IF, ACQCL,
306 PQNIPPL and VYPF could be considered as promising DPP-IV inhibitory peptides,
307 due to all their predicted binding sites being at the critical amino acid in ACE and DPP-
308 IV. In addition, ACF shows the highest p-value (0.05557) for predicting ACE binding
309 sites. Regarding DPP-IV, the highest p-value is 0.06617, coming from the dipeptide IF.
310 This means all the candidates could be considered to interact with both ACE and DPP-
311 IV. Comparison of the sequences recorded in the BIOPEP databases revealed that out
312 of these, 105 peptides are unrecorded in this database (Supplementary Table 4S). The
313 toxicity of the peptides was analysed using ToxinPred as suggested by Gupta et al.
314 (2013) but no toxic properties could be found.

315 The stability of peptides in the gastrointestinal (GI) tract (gastric phase + intestinal
316 phase) determines their availability and in vivo efficacy (You et al., 2010). In order to
317 predict whether the GI tract could be a barrier for effectivity of oral administration of
318 peptides, we used *in silico* GI digestion (mainly, pepsin (pH>2), trypsin and
319 chymotrypsin) applied to the peptides with high PeptideRanker scores. Out of the 105
320 peptides, only 21 were predicted as stable on exposure to these enzymes during
321 digestion (PG, VCPF, PF, PL, VF, SF, PSF, SPF, CL, VPF, IPF, IF, CG, CY, SPM, CF,
322 PF, CM, PM, VPPF and IPPL). In this case, the most promising peptides exerted a low
323 oral bioavailability, which is similar to the finding of Udenigwe and Fogliano (2017)
324 which is indicating that peptides may need to be protected by appropriate encapsulation
325 techniques as recently suggested (Mohan, Rajendran, He, Bazinet, & Udenigwe, 2015).

326

327 3.4 Limitations

328 The predicted generation of peptides *in silico* is based on the specificity of enzymes
329 and the primary structure of precursor proteins. However, peptide generation during
330 actual enzymatic hydrolysis is influenced by different factors such as accessibility of
331 individual peptide bonds through the target enzyme, the presence of enzyme inhibitors
332 and protein structural features such as tertiary structures that will impact on the
333 hydrolysis outcome (Agyei, Tsopmo, & Udenigwe, 2018; Nishinari, Fang, Guo, &
334 Phillips, 2014). In addition, frequency and potency indices of protein sequences are
335 calculated basing on the current knowledge recorded in BIOPEP databases. Therefore,
336 with more peptide sequences added to databases, changes in the frequency and potency
337 indices will undoubtedly occur (BIOPEP database). Then, the bioinformatic tools
338 involved in this study only consider the amino acid sequences of peptides to predict the
339 toxicity (ToxinPred); to align the score (PeptideRanker) and to predict the binding site
340 of ACE and DPP-IV (Pepsite 2). Furthermore, the binding of promising peptides at the
341 pertinent site of the targeted enzyme is not necessarily correlated with their inhibiting
342 activity, due to the fact that the interaction may not be associated with the targeted
343 activity (Pepsite 2) (Li-Chan, 2015). Finally, total protein isolates contain different

344 protein sequences, therefore, limiting our considerations to storage proteins is lacking
345 to represent the total biological activity of a protein source.

346

347 4. Conclusions

348 Our results, based on selected amino acid sequences from different protein sources
349 hydrolyzed *in silico* using subtilisin and pepsin, indicate that oilseed proteins may be
350 good sources for bioactive peptides, in particular for ACE inhibitory peptides,
351 compared to bovine milk proteins. Further studies are highly warranted to validate the
352 predictions, in particular to confirm the presence and activity of peptides that are
353 currently not described and to establish their overall relevance for enzyme inhibition
354 and beneficial health properties *in vitro* and *in vivo*.

355

356 **Declarations of interest**

357 None

358

359

360

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586 **Table 1.** Overview on oilseed and bovine protein sequences used for bioinformatic
 587 analyses
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Protein	UniProtKB Code	Length	References
Flaxseed			
Linin	-	-	(Chung, Lei, & Li-Chan, 2005; Truksa, MacKenzie, & Qiu, 2003)
Conlinin	Q8LPD4	169	
Rapeseed			
Napin	P17333	180	(Ericson et al., 1986; Gueguen, Bollecker, Schwenke, & Raab, 1990)
Cruciferin	P11090	488	
Sunflower			
11S globulin seed storage protein	P19084	493	(R. Allen et al., 1987; R. D. Allen, Nessler, & Thomas, 1985)
2S seed storage protein	P15461	295	
Sesame			
2S seed protein protein	Q9XHP1	148	(Orruno & Morgan, 2007; Tai, Wu, Chen, & Tzen, 1999)
11S globulin seed storage protein	Q9XHP0	459	
Soybean			
Glycinin	P04347	516	(Fujiwara, Hirai, Chino, Komeda, & Naito, 1992; Meinke, Chen, & Beachy, 1981)
β -conglycinin, α' chain	P11827	639	
β -conglycinin, α chain	P13916	605	
Bovine			
β -lactoglobulin	P02754	178	(Dalglish, 2011; Madureira, Pereira, Gomes, Pintado, & Malcata, 2007)
β -casein	P02666	224	
κ -casein	P02668	190	

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594 **Table 2.** Distribution of alignment scores for 13 proteins sequences. (**BLAST**)

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Alignment scores	< 40	40 – 50	50 - 80	80 - 200	> 200
Number of groups	65	4	2	0	7

596 High value of alignment score indicates high homology

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604 **Table 3.** Summary of protein sequences with alignment scores over 200. (BLAST)
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	Identities	Positives	Gaps	Scores
P19084 vs P11090	189/494(38%)	265/494(53%)	87/494(17%)	304
P11090 vs Q9XHP0	150/442(34%)	251/442(56%)	35/442(7%)	277
P11090 vs P04347	167/520(32%)	258/520(49%)	116/520(22%)	254
P19084 vs Q9XHP0	161/471(34%)	257/471(54%)	49/471(10%)	275
Q9XHP0 vs P11090	146/442(33%)	246/442(55%)	35/442(7%)	271
P04347 vs Q9XHP0	149/495(30%)	249/495(50%)	83/495(16%)	252
P13916 vs P11827	495/649(76%)	540/649(83%)	54/649(8%)	900

606 **P19084:** Sunflower, 11S Globulin seed storage protein; **P11090:** Rapeseed, Cruciferin; **Q9XHP0:**
 607 Sesame, 11S Globulin seed protein; **P04347:** Soybean, Glycinin; **P13916:** Soybean, β -conglycinin, α' -
 608 chain; **P11827:** Soybean, β -conglycinin, α -chain; **Identities:** same amino acid residues in same position;
 609 **Positives:** amino acid residues with the similar molecular characteristics in same position; **Gaps:** Spaces
 610 for deletions and insertions; **Scores:** reflects homology.

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612 **Table 4.** Number and percentage of amino acid residues frequently discovered in ACE
613 and DPP-IV inhibitory peptides present in oilseed and bovine proteins (**ProtParam**)
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Protein	Ala	Gly	Ile	Leu	Phe	Pro	Trp	Tyr
Flaxseed								
2S Conlinin	10	19	8	9	7	2	3	3
%	5.90%	11.20%	4.70%	5.30%	4.10%	1.20%	1.80%	1.80%
Rapeseed								
Napin	12	9	6	15	9	15	2	3
%	6.70%	5.00%	3.30%	8.30%	5.00%	8.30%	1.10%	1.70%
Cruciferin	33	47	22	45	22	25	5	10
%	6.80%	9.60%	4.50%	9.20%	4.50%	5.10%	1.00%	2.00%
Sunflower								
11S Globulin Seed Storage Protein	38	35	24	37	25	22	8	5
%	7.70%	7.10%	4.90%	7.50%	5.10%	4.50%	1.60%	1.00%
2S Seed Storage Protein	14	17	16	15	10	13	0	1
%	4.70%	5.80%	5.40%	5.10%	3.40%	4.40%	0%	0.30%
Sesame								
2S Seed Storage Protein	12	6	2	7	6	3	2	4
%	8.10%	4.10%	1.40%	4.70%	4.10%	2.00%	1.40%	2.70%
11S Globulin Seed Storage Protein	34	33	20	35	18	19	4	12
%	7.40%	7.20%	4.40%	7.60%	3.90%	4.10%	0.90%	2.60%
Soybean								
Glycinin	20	41	17	41	18	38	4	15
%	3.90%	7.90%	3.30%	7.90%	3.50%	7.40%	0.80%	2.90%
β -conglycinin, α' chain	28	31	29	49	32	35	3	15
%	4.40%	4.90%	4.50%	7.70%	5.00%	5.50%	0.50%	2.30%
β -conglycinin, α chain	28	26	31	54	30	40	2	15
%	4.60%	4.30%	5.10%	8.90%	5.00%	6.60%	0.30%	2.50%
Bovine								
β -lactoglobulin	19	5	10	27	4	8	2	4
%	10.70%	2.80%	5.60%	15.20%	2.20%	4.50%	1.10%	2.20%
β -casein	9	5	11	27	9	35	1	4
%	4.00%	2.20%	4.90%	12.10%	4.00%	15.60%	0.40%	1.80%
κ -casein	16	3	13	13	7	21	1	9
%	8.40%	1.60%	6.80%	6.80%	3.70%	11.10%	0.50%	4.70%

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619 **Table 5.** Frequency indices of ACE and DPP-IV inhibitory peptides generated *in silico*
 620 from oilseed and bovine proteins using enzymatic hydrolysis with subtilisin and pepsin
 621 (pH 1.3 and pH>2) (**BIOPEP**)
 622

	Subtilisin		Pepsin (pH 1.3)		Pepsin (pH>2)	
	ACE inhibitor	DPP-IV inhibitor	ACE inhibitor	DPP-IV inhibitor	ACE inhibitor	DPP-IV inhibitor
Flaxseed						
2S Conlinin	0.0296	0.0355	n/a	n/a	0.0533	0.1006
Rapeseed						
Napin	0.0389	0.0444	0.0111	0.0056	0.0883	0.0883
Curciferin	0.0246	0.0574	0.0164	0.0184	0.084	0.1127
Sunflower						
2S Seed Storage Protein	0.0102	0.0271	0.0068	0.0068	0.0644	0.0949
11S Globulin Seed Storage Protein	0.0243	0.0446	0.0101	0.0142	0.0649	0.0852
Sesame						
2S Seed Storage Protein	n/a	0.0405	0.0068	n/a	0.0743	0.0946
11S Globulin Seed Storage Protein	0.0194	0.0367	0.0043	0.013	0.0475	0.0907
Soybean						
Glycinin	0.031	0.0581	0.0078	0.0116	0.0523	0.0969
β -conglycinin, α' chain	0.0203	0.0423	0.0063	0.0125	0.0673	0.1095
β -conglycinin, α chain	0.0198	0.0347	0.0099	0.0165	0.0793	0.1124
Bovine						
β -lactoglobulin	0.0169	0.0337	0.0056	0.0225	0.0562	0.118
β -casein	0.0268	0.0938	0.0268	0.0357	0.067	0.1518
κ -casein	0.0158	0.0789	0.0053	0.0211	0.0947	0.1421

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Table 6. Potency indices (μM^{-1}) of ACE and DPP-IV inhibitory peptides generated from oilseeds and bovine proteins (**BIOPEP**)

	Subtilisin		Pepsin (pH 1.3)		Pepsin (pH>2)	
	ACE	DPP-IV	ACE	DPP-IV	ACE	DPP-IV
	inhibitor	inhibitor	inhibitor	inhibitor	inhibitor	inhibitor
Flaxseed						
2S Conlinin	0.0014197	0.0000060	n/a	n/a	0.0019097	0.0000375
Rapeseed						
Napin	0.0030663	0.0000009	0.0000445	n/a	0.0062213	0.0002050
Curciferin	0.0039421	0.0001985	0.0002079	0.0000031	0.0038966	0.0002328
Sunflower						
2S Seed Storage Protein	0.0004810	0.0000497	0.0001125	0.0000038	0.0010453	0.0000876
11S Globulin Seed Storage Protein	0.0015792	0.0000274	0.0002115	n/a	0.0016763	0.0000688
Sesame						
2S Seed Storage Protein	n/a	0.0001826	0.0009543	n/a	0.000873	0.0002536
11S Globulin Seed Storage Protein	0.0009832	0.0000153	0.0000940	0.0000050	0.0016192	0.0000818
Soybean						
Glycinin	0.0029164	0.0001214	0.0003297	0.0000015	0.0035738	0.0001779
β -conglycinin, α' chain	0.0004772	0.0000653	0.0000549	n/a	0.0015270	0.0001141
β -conglycinin, α chain	0.0002859	0.0000453	0.0002303	0.0000013	0.0016910	0.0000831
Bovine						
β -lactoglobulin	0.0014124	0.0001646	0.0000431	0.0000887	0.0016405	0.0003243
β -casein	0.0007556	0.0002810	0.0006728	0.0000410	0.0010948	0.0003079
κ -casein	0.0006648	0.0002997	0.0000404	0.0000060	0.0046858	0.0002614

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629 **Table 7.** Average scores of fragments released from oilseeds and bovine proteins
 630 **(PeptideRanker)**

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Protein sequences	Average score		
	Subtilisin	Pepsin (pH 1.3)	Pepsin (pH > 2)
Flaxseed - Colinin	0.0936	0.0498	0.2678
Rapeseed - Napin	0.1628	0.0731	0.2476
Rapeseed - Cruciferin	0.1095	0.0622	0.2553
Sunflower - 2S seed storage protein	0.0520	0.0393	0.2053
Sunflower - 11S globulin seed storage protein G3	0.0946	0.0582	0.2538
Sesame - 2S seed storage protein	0.0771	0.0391	0.2673
Sesame - 11S globulin seed stroage protein	0.0902	0.0480	0.2381
Soybean - Glycinin	0.0981	0.0515	0.2299
Soybean - β -conglycinin, α' -chain	0.0940	0.0650	0.2103
Soybean - β -conglycinin, α -chain	0.1015	0.0748	0.2137
Bovine - β -lactoglobulin	0.1068	0.0699	0.2406
Bovine - β -casein	0.1236	0.0701	0.2260
Bovine - κ -casein	0.0975	0.0581	0.1972

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637 **Table 8.** Summary of important active sites or binding sites in ACE and DPP-IV (*Homo*
638 *sapiens*)
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Important sites	References
Angiotensin-converting enzyme	
Binding sites of lisinopril in ACE: Glu384, Val518, Glu162, Lys511 and Tyr520	(Natesh, Schwager, Sturrock, & Acharya, 2003) (Priyanto et al., 2015)
Active sites: Glu384, Ala354, Glu162, His353,	
Active sites of ACE binding by Lisinopril and Enalaprilat: Glu162, His353, Ala354, Glu384, His387, Glu411, His383, Tyr523, Tyr520, Lys511	(Wang, Wu, Xu, Xie, & Guo, 2011)
Important binding sites of two natural ACE inhibitory peptides: Gln281, Tyr520, Lys511, Tyr523, His353, Ala354, His513, His353, Ala354, Phe512, Glu384	(Masuyer, Schwager, Sturrock, Isaac, & Acharya, 2012)
Dipeptidyl-peptidase IV	
Active sites: Ser630, Asp708, His740, Gly629, Gly633, Tyr631, Glu205 and Glu206	(Lambeir et al., 2003)
Important binding sites of commercial DPP-IV inhibitors: Ser630, Tyr666, Tyr547 (vildagliptin and saxagliptin); Tyr547 and Trp629 (alogliptin and linagliptin); Asn710 (sitagliptin and teneligliptin); Glu205 and Glu206 play a key role in DPP-IV inhibiting activities for all the DPP-IV inhibitor	(Nabeno et al., 2013)
Active sites: Val207, Ser209, Phe357, Arg358	
Binding sites of saxagliptin in DPP-IV: Val711, Val656, Tyr662, Tyr666, Trp659, Tyr547, Asn710, Glu205, Glu206, Tyr 547 and Arg125	(Metzler et al., 2008)
DPP-IV inhibitors binding sites: Ser630, Glu205, Glu206, Arg125, Phe357, Tyr 547, Arg125, Trp629	(Berger et al., 2018)
Active sites: Ser630, His740, Asp708; Tyr547; Tyr666; Tyr662; Val711; Val656; Trp659; Arg125; Asn710; Glu205; Glu206 and Arg358	(Engel et al., 2003)

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645 **Table 9.** The frequency of 105 peptides binding to the amino acids detained in Table 8
646 **(Pepsite2)**

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Binding sites in ACE	Number of peptides	Binding sites in DPP-IV	Number of peptides
E(Glu)162	0	R(Arg)125	0
Q(Gln)281	103	E(Glu)205	3
H(His)353	102	E(Glu)206	5
A(Ala)354	0	V(Val)207	0
H(His)383	57	S(Ser)209	0
E(Glu)384	36	F(Phe)357	12
H(His)387	27	R(Arg)358	0
E(Glu)411	54	Y(Tyr)547	33
K(Lys)511	86	W(Trp)629	93
F(Phe)512	0	S(Ser)630	47
H(His)513	102	Y(Tyr)631	9
V(Val)518	0	G(Gly)633	0
Y(Tyr)520	104	V(Val)656	2
Y(Tyr)523	102	W(Trp)659	0
		Y(Tyr)662	7
		Y(Tyr)666	25
		D(Asp)708	0
		N(Asn)710	2
		V(Val)711	2
		H(His)740	5

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650 **List of figures**

651

652 **Figure 1.** Bioinformatic methodology applied for screening and predicting ACE and
653 DPP-IV inhibitory peptides from oilseed and bovine proteins.

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656 **Figure 2.** Peptide profiles generated from *in silico* hydrolysis of thirteen proteins which
657 demonstrated scores over 0.8

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660 **List of Equations**

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662
$$A = \frac{a}{N} \quad \text{Eq (A.1)}$$

663 A: the frequency index of targeted peptides released from precursor proteins

664 a: the number of targeted peptides

665 N: the total number of amino acid residues

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667
$$B = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^K \frac{a_i}{IC_{50}}}{N} \quad \text{Eq (A.2)}$$

668 B: the potency index of targeted biological activity

669 a_i: the number of repetitions of peptides with same amino acid residues released from precursor proteins

670 IC₅₀: the concentration of bioactive peptides needed to inhibit half-maximal enzyme activity

671 K: the number of different peptides with targeted biological activities

672 N: the total number of amino acid residues

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$$\text{Average score} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^k b_i}{N} \quad \text{Eq (A.3)}$$

675 b_i: the score of peptides

676 k: the number of peptides released from precursor protein

677 N: the total number of amino acid residues

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