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# Scalable anthocyanin extraction and purification methods for industrial applications

### <u>Richard S. Blackburn</u>,<sup>a,b</sup> Sannia Farooque,<sup>c</sup> Nicholas Beaumont,<sup>c</sup> Meryem Benohoud,<sup>b</sup> Alenka Tidder,<sup>b</sup> Christopher M. Rayner<sup>b,c</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Sustainable Materials Research Group, University of Leeds, UK <sup>b</sup>Keracol Limited, University of Leeds, UK <sup>c</sup>School of Chemistry, University of Leeds, UK





### **Extraction-Purification**



### Industrial-scale process

- Extract from berry waste
- Fruits are used in juice
  production
- Only waste skins are used to produce the extract
- Sustainably sourced
- Acidic aqueous extraction of dried skins
- Concentration using Solid Phase Extraction (SPE)
  - resin removes free sugars and small organic acids
- Ethanol elution of polyphenols retained by resin







### ARONIA (Aronia melanocarpa)



### Cy3gal (68%) Cy3arab (30%)

### **GRAPE** (Vitis vinifera)



## Case Study 1: Natural hair dyes

- ANC extract from blackcurrant waste skins (UK grown)
- Patented (WO2010131049) semipermanent hair colorants and coloration process
- Range of shades, fast to 12+ washes



## Case Study 2: Food colorants

- ANC extracted from sustainable sources
- Lake pigment formed with metal
- Pigments in range of colours
- Both water soluble and water insoluble pigments possible





U.PORTO

## Case Study 3: Marking eggshell

- Inks using ANC extracted from waste (WO2015128646)
- Increase in the information placed on an egg
- Reduced environmental and toxicological impact
- Enhance security, safety, and traceability





# Current research on ANC applications

- Cosmetic colorants and make-up
- Food colorants for lipophilic media
- Coloration of high-value textiles
- Collaboration with University of Porto

# Dyeing silk and wool with blackcurrant anthocyanins

- Range of colours obtainable by modifying pH and mordant metal
- Good wash fastness (30 °C)
- Poor to medium light fastness





# Investigation of the full composition of blackcurrant skin extract post-SPE





f1 (ppm)

## Anthocyanin-rich extract



# Identification of other components



# Liquid-liquid partitioning

- Aim was to purify anthocyanin extract by separating from other polyphenols
- Method for anthocyanin enrichment had to be scalable and economically viable
- Liquid-liquid partitioning was considered a good starting point as it can be scaled up relatively easily

# Liquid-liquid partitioning

- In acidic conditions, charged AH<sup>+</sup> anthocyanins have higher solubility in water
- However, uncharged flavonoids are expected to be relatively less water soluble
- Sugar moieties should enhance water solubility of neutral polyphenols



flavylium cation (AH+)

Selected solvents: hexane, ethyl acetate, ipropyl acetate and chloroform, partitioning with acidified water (pH 1.8; HCl)



## Liquid-liquid partitioning





# Sequential liquid-liquid partitioning

- Extract first partitioned with isopropyl acetate
  - removes quercetin and myricetin algycons and hydroxycinnamic acids
- Extract then partitioned with ethyl acetate
  - removes quercetin and myricetin glucosides



### ethyl acetate



# pH-controlled liquid partitioning

- At pH 6.3: quercetin rutinoside (7.52 ppm) and myricetin rutinoside (7.30 ppm) migrate into EtOAc layer
- At pH 12.1: quercetin and myricetin rutinosides do not migrate into EtOAc







## Sequential liquid-liquid partitioning with pH changes

BC extract comprises 48% ANC and 26% other polyphenols

OН

and freeze dried)

Quercetin



*iPrOAc at pH 1.8* removes

# pH-controlled liquid partitioning

- At pH 6.3 myricetin-3-rut + quercetin-3-rut migrate into EtOAc
- At pH 6.3 neutral ANC anhydrobase (A) should form
  - But Cy-3-rut, Cy-3-glc, Dp-3-rut and Dp-3-glc (A form?) do not migrate into EtOAc
  - Potential of disruption of co-pigmentation? Breaking down interaction between ANC and myricetin/quercetin rutinosides?



# Conclusions

- Blackcurrant extract post-SPE can be purified using sequential liquid-liquid and pH change extraction
- Provides an isolate with only four anthocyanins present (clean <sup>1</sup>H NMR evidence) in a process that is industrially scalable
- Separation enable by relative water solubility of different components in BC extract mixture
- Further investigation required to determine reasons for EtOAc separation of myricetin-3-rut + quercetin-3-rut from neutral anhydrobase forms of ANC glycosides at pH 6.3









www.keracol.co.uk



r.s.blackburn@leeds.ac.uk