



POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF SOME NATURAL DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS ON ANTHROPOMETRIC CHARACTERISTICS AMONGST WEIGHTLIFTER ATHLETES

[176]

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Received 16 June, 2018

Accepted 11 July, 2018

ABSTRACT

This work was carried out to study the effect of using some natural dietary supplements; i.e. powders of date palm pits and pollen, ginseng roots, moringa leaves and royal jelly which giving orally in capsule to improve endurance of weightlifter athletes throughout 12 weeks in camp of sport Championship Sector belongs to the Armed Forces, Ministry of Defense, Future City, Cairo, Egypt. Collecting data showed that the suggested dietary supplement capsule had the highest value of the antioxidant activity (96.3%) and significant increases in total phenolic and flavonoids content (52.42 & 63.1 mg/g, respectively). Also, the anthropometric measurements showed a significant increase in weight and height in males compared to females. likewise, waist and mid upper arm circumference had significant increases in males compared to females, Male weightlifter athletes had significant muscles mass bigger than female one, and the fat mass for male was assessed as "Fitness" which ranged between (14 and 17%) but the female had fat mass that assessed as "Athletes" which ranged between (14 and 20%). The weights lifting by male and female increased during three months, and also revealed a significant increase in the efficiency of males in lifting weights higher than in the females during the period of 12 weeks. Thus, the results indicated that by incorporating natural dietary supplement powders in suggesting capsule, it is possible to enhance the performance of weightlifter athletes.

Keywords: Date palm pits and pollen, Ginseng roots, Moringa leaves, Royal jelly, Dietary supplement, Weightlifter athletes, Anthropometric measurements.

INTRODUCTION

Athletes consume dietary supplements in belief that they will boost their performance and modify their body composition. Dietary supplements are often highly marketed for their capability to growing muscle size and their force (Burns et al 2004; Herbold et al 2004; Yusko et al 2008).

Nutraceuticals, often referred as phytonutrients or functional foods, are natural bioactive chemical compounds that supply physiological benefits, beside their fundamental nutritional function. Although the use of nutraceuticals by athletes has a long history, but scientifically supported nutritional and medical evidence has allowed used nutraceuticals for their potentially effective. Many plants are perfect sources of antioxidants and act as immunomodulator. In recent years, plants and its products have been the main focus in the search for the nutraceuticals to fighting oxidative stress and enhance athlete's performance (Dillard and German 2000).

Date-pits (seeds) have an excellent nutritional quality because their elevation amounts of fiber and great amounts of minerals, vitamins, lipids and protein. Additionally, dates seeds were shown to be rich in antioxidants especially phenolics and total flavonoids (Soong and Barlow 2004;

Al Farsi and Lee 2008; Habib and Ibrahim 2009; Habib et al 2013).

The date palm pollen of *Phoenix dactylifera* were used in conventional medicine for the treatment of various disorders which include memory disturbances, inflammation, fever, paralysis, loss of consciousness and numerous nervous disorders (**Biglari et al 2008**). The high concentrations of total phenolic content, flavonoids and anthocyanins as well as the presence of considerable quantities of selenoproteins in date palm pollen makes it an excellent source for processes of antioxidant (**Baliga et al 2011**).

Ginseng roots (*Panax ginseng*) have been used as conventional medicine and functional food. The health beneficial aspects of ginseng are well known as common tonics, which ameliorate health functions such as wound healing, rising stamina and immunomodulator. The advantageous function of ginseng is mainly depending on the bioactive components such as saponins, free amino acids and polyphenol (**Yun et al 2001; Chang et al 2003**).

The Moringa leaves (*Moringa oleifera*) are reported to be a good sources of phytonutrients such as vitamins A, C and E, proteins, calcium, potassium, magnesium, iron, manganese, copper, also they contain appreciable amounts of total phenols and carotenoids (**DanMalam et al 2001; Saini et al 2014a, 2014b and Hekmat et al 2015**).

Royal jelly is known as a conventional food for health promotion. It is a viscous substance secreted by worker honeybees. Royal jelly contains great amounts of proteins, free amino acids, lipids, vitamins and sugars, and is known to have several physiological and pharmacological functions in humans. Which include immunomodulator, anti-hypercholesterolemic and antitumor activities (**Mateescu and Barbulescu 1999**).

The goal of this research was to determine the phytochemical activity of five potential natural dietary supplements on high performance endurance athletes like weightlifters and their anthropometric characteristics.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials

Five natural dietary supplement powders obtained from Harraz Planta Medical Group, Cairo, Egypt, of (date palm pits and pollen, ginseng, moringa leaves and royal jelly) were. While, sodium carbonate and methanol were obtained from

El-Gomhoreya Co., Cairo, Egypt. 2,2-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl radical (DPPH) and Folin-Ciocalteus phenol reagent were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Inc. (St Louis, MO, USA).

Preparation of the dietary supplement capsule

The five natural dietary supplement powders were mixed to prepare the suggested capsule at the following percentages: 30% date- pits: 20% date palm pollen: 20% ginseng roots: 20% moringa leaves: 10% royal jelly. Half gram of the mixture was taken and prepared in gelatin capsule for taking orally by weightlifter athletes.

Proximate analyses of dietary supplement materials

The five natural dietary supplement powders were analyzed for their moisture content, ash, crude fiber, protein and fat contents, according to the methods described in **AOAC (2007)**. The energy value was calculated based on their content of crude protein, fat and carbohydrate using formula described by **Crisan and Sands (1978)** as follows: Energy value (kcal/100 gm) = (2.62 x % protein) + (8.37 x % fat) + (4.2 x % carbohydrate).

Samples extraction

Each of the five natural dietary supplement powders were extracted with methanol (70%) with shaking the mixture for one hour then filtered with Whatman No.1 filter paper as described by **Bloor (2001)**. The extracts were labeled and kept for laboratory analysis.

Determination of total phenolic content

The total phenolic content of the extracts was calorimetrically determined, using the Folin-Ciocalteu method, described by **Singleton et al (1999)**. Aliquots of 0.5 ml of each extract were added to 0.5 ml of folin reagent, followed by adding 0.5 ml of an aqueous 7.5% solution of sodium carbonate. The mixture was stirred and allowed to stand for 30 min. The absorbance at 765 nm, blank sample consisting of water and reagents was used as a reference. The results were expressed as milligram of gallic acid equivalent per ml extract (mg GAE/ml) by reference to the gallic acid calibration curve.

Total flavonoids content (TFC) assay

The total flavonoids content was determined according to the method of **Mohdaly et al (2012)**. A 100 μ L aliquot of 2% AlCl_3 ethanolic solution was added to 100 μ L of the extract and mixed well. After keeping for 1 h at room temperature, the absorbance at 420 nm was measured. A yellow color indicates the presence of flavonoids. The total flavonoid contents were expressed as milligram quercetin equivalents (QE).

DPPH-radical scavenging activity (%)

The ability of the extracts to scavenge DPPH free radicals was determined according to (**Brand-Williams et al 1995**). Aliquots 0.1 ml of sample extract was mixed with 2.9 ml of 0.1 mM DPPH in methanol. The control samples contained all the reagents except the extract. The reaction mixture was shaken well and allowed to react for 20 min at room temperature. The remaining DPPH free radical was determined by absorbance measurement at 517 nm against methanol blank. The percentage scavenging effect was calculated from the decreased absorbance against control according to the following equation:

$$\text{Scavenging activity \%} = \frac{[(\text{Abs}_{\text{control}} - \text{Abs}_{\text{sample}}) / \text{Abs}_{\text{control}}] \times 100}{}$$

Study design and subjects

The study was conducted on 5 male and 5 female weightlifter athletes aged 16 - 25 years, trained in Athletic Championship Sector belongs to Army Forces, Ministry of Defense, Future City; Cairo, Egypt. The given dose was 1-2 of suggested dietary supplement capsule daily according to the player's body weight: Less than 70 kg body weight take one capsule before morning training (7:30 am) and one capsule before evening training (4:00 pm). More than 70 kg body weight take two capsules before morning training (7:30 am) and two capsules before evening training (4:00 pm) for 12 weeks.

This study was approved by the Committee of Ethics for Athletic Championship Sector belongs to Army Forces, Ministry of Defense, Future City; Cairo, Egypt.

Anthropometric measures

Anthropometric measurements included body weight and height; waist and mid upper arm circumferences; and calculated waist-to-height ratio. Waist and mid upper arm circumferences were measured by anthropometric tape. Body mass index (BMI) and ideal body weight percentage (IBW %) were also calculated. All measurements were performed according to the techniques described by **WHO (2008)**; **Lee et al (2008)**; **Whitney et al (2010)**, respectively.

Determination of body composition

Body composition was determined from skin-fold measurement. Skinfolds were measured in mm at four sites of the body: triceps, thigh, suprailliac and at abdomen region using Lange Skin-fold Caliper with constant tension. Different components of body composition were assessed by using standardized equations according to (**Jackson & Pollock 1978**; **Jackson et al 1980**).

Physical performance parameters

The six recommended parameters that used for evaluating the performance of weightlifting players are known as: front squat; back squat; power snatch; snatch; power clean & jerk as well as clean & jerk were evaluated and recorded as a progressive weightlifts for each player every two weeks, the beginning of the evaluation was after four weeks of taking the suggested dietary supplement capsule.

Statistical analysis

Descriptive values of data were represented as means \pm standard errors. Statistical analysis was performed using one way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Duncan's multiple range test with $P \leq 0.05$ being considered statistically significant (**Steel et al 1997**). Statistical analysis was conducted with SAS program (**SAS 2008**).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Proximate composition of dietary supplement materials

Data given in **Table (1)** indicated that the date-pits powder had the highest caloric value compared with the other substances. While, royal jelly

recorded the highest protein and fat content, moringa leaves showed high content of ash and fiber. Date palm pollen recorded the highest carbohydrate and moisture contents. This observation is agreed with those reported by (Mateescu and Barbulescu 1999; Chang et al 2003; Baliga et al 2011; Habib et al 2013; Hekmat et al 2015).

Table 1. Proximate composition % of dietary supplement materials

Analysis	Dietary supplement				
	Date- pits	Date pollen	Ginseng roots	Moringa leaves	Royal jelly
Moisture	9.49±0.03 ^b	11.48±0.01 ^a	4.11±0.01 ^e	5.2±0.06 ^d	6.09±0.02 ^c
Ash	1.21±0.01 ^d	0.46±0.01 ^e	4.82±0.01 ^b	8.35±0.01 ^a	3.76±0.01 ^c
Fat	8.20±0.01 ^b	1.15±0.01 ^d	0.87±0.01 ^e	5.73±0.01 ^c	8.30±0.01 ^a
Protein	5.78±0.01 ^d	1.08±0.01 ^e	13.75±0.01 ^c	28.51±0.01 ^b	30.43±0.04 ^a
Fiber	1.50±0.01 ^b	0.18±0.01 ^c	0.09±0.01 ^d	19.15±0.05 ^a	ND
Carbohydrate	73.82±0.03 ^c	85.64±0.01 ^a	76.40±0.02 ^b	33.07±0.07 ^e	51.42±0.03 ^d
Caloric Kcal/100g	393.81±0.08 ^a	372.16±0.01 ^b	364.09±0.03 ^d	261.53±0.33 ^e	365.21±0.05 ^c

N=3, means in the same row with the same letter are not significantly different (P<0.05).

ND: Not detect

Antioxidant status of dietary supplement materials

The results of the antioxidant status assessment in **Table (2)** showed that the suggested dietary supplement capsule had the highest value of the antioxidant activity (96.3%), followed respectively by date-pits > palm heart > royal jelly > ginseng roots > moringa leaves.

A significant increase was noticed in the content of phenols and total flavonoids of the proposed dietary supplement capsule (52.42, 63.1 mg / g, respectively). While, for the dietary supplement materials, the moringa leaves showed the highest phenols content (45.83 mg / ml). Meanwhile, the royal jelly recorded the highest content of total flavonoids (42.13 mg / g) compared to other raw materials. These findings are in harmony with those obtained by DanMalam et al (2001); Yun et al (2001); Al Farsi and Lee (2008).

Table 2. Antioxidant status of dietary supplement materials

Dietary supplement	Antioxidant status		
	Total phenols (mg/g) as gallic acid	Total flavonoids (mg/g) as quercetin	Scavenging activity %
Date- pits	27.54±1.21 ^d	4.65±0.02 ^f	76.21±1.11 ^b
Palm pollen	35.81±0.01 ^c	11.72±0.02 ^e	68.55±0.11 ^c
Ginseng roots	3.82±0.02 ^f	29.92±0.02 ^c	47.54±0.83 ^e
Moringa leaves	45.83±1.14 ^b	27.04±0.11 ^d	18.31±0.32 ^f
Royal jelly	22.82±0.13 ^e	42.13±0.08 ^b	58.52±1.71 ^d
Suggested capsule	52.42±0.13 ^a	63.10±0.09 ^a	96.30±0.56 ^a

N=3, means in the same column with the same letter are not significantly different (P<0.05).

The anthropometric characteristics for weightlifter athletes

Data observed in **Table (3)** indicated that the anthropometric measurements showed a significant increase in weight and height in males compared to females, but not significant differences within the body mass index and ideal weight and

did not reach the level of obesity. Also, the results of the waist and mid upper arm circumference had significant increase in males compared to females. These results are in parallel with those of **(Ioná et al 2007)** reported that the male adventure racers presented significantly higher values than did female athletes.

Table 3. The anthropometric characteristics for weightlifter athletes

Variable	weightlifting athletes	
	Male	Female
Weight, kg	79.40 ± 4.03 ^a	65.40± 4.01 ^b
Height, cm	174.0 ± 2.54 ^a	165.0 ± 3.19 ^b
BMI, kg/m ²	26.11 ± 1.40 ^a	24.03± 1.36 ^a
IBW, %	112.31 ± 5.32 ^a	97.02± 6.44 ^a
Waist circumference, cm	33.71 ± 0.21 ^a	31.50± 0.71 ^b
Waist-to-height ratio (WHtR), cm	0.19 ± 0.003 ^a	0.19± 0.01 ^a
Mid upper arm circumference index (MUAC), cm	8.2 ± 3.37 ^a	7.1 ± 0.85 ^b

N= 5, means in the same raw with the same letter are not significantly different (P<0.05).

Skinfolds and body composition of weightlifting athletes

The skin folds (mm) at four sites and also the body composition of the male and female weightlifter athletes are given in **Table (4)**. The skin folds at triceps, thigh, suprailiac and abdomen showed no significant tendency across the gender. While, body composition indicators showed that the athletes fell within normal limits. Male weightlifter athletes had significant muscles mass bigger than female, and the fat mass in male was assessed as "Fitness" which ranged between (14 and 17%) but the female had fat mass was assessed as "Athletes" which ranged between (14 and 20%). While, in another study by **(Marius et al 2015)** reported that all female endurance athletes among different sports like rowers, highway cyclists, swimmers, skiers, biathletes and long-distance runners, the fat

mass was assessed as "optimal" which ranged between (20 and 24%).

Effect of dietary supplement given in suggested capsule on physical performance parameters for weightlifter athletes

Data given in **Table (5)** indicated that, on studying the effect of dietary supplements capsule on the physical performance of weightlifters it was found through a series of exercises the ability of players to increase their weight which raised over 12 weeks from the weights recorded at intervals (0, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 weeks). The weights lifting by male and female increased during the previous periods, and also revealed a significant increase in the efficiency of males in lifting weights being higher than in the females during the period of experiment.

Table 4. Skinfolds and body composition of weightlifting athletes

Variable	weightlifting athletes	
	Male	Female
Triceps skinfold thickness, mm	18.80±4.91 ^a	13.20±0.86 ^a
Thigh skinfold thickness, mm	15.00±0.71 ^a	18.00±2.21 ^a
Suprailiac skinfold thickness, mm	15.40±3.91 ^a	13.20±2.39 ^a
Abdomen skinfold thickness, mm	24.80±2.69 ^a	22.40±1.28 ^a
Body fat, %	16.00±2.02 ^a	20.00±1.38 ^a
Fat mass, kg	13.00±2.35 ^a	12.80±0.37 ^a
Lean mass, kg	66.40±2.38 ^a	52.60±4.06 ^b
Body fat percentage category	Fitness (14 - 17%)	Athletes (14 - 20%)

N= 5, means in the same row with the same letter are not significantly different (P<0.05).

Table 5. Effect of dietary supplement given in capsule on physical performance parameters for weightlifter athletes

Parameters	Period of evaluation (week)					
	0	4	6	8	10	12
Front squat, kg						
Male	157.4a	163.4a	167.0a	168.8a	169.0a	170.8a
Female	95.8b	99.8b	102.4b	105.2b	107.4b	108.6b
Back squat, kg						
Male	178.0a	185.4a	188.8a	192.6a	195.4a	195.0a
Female	100.4b	113.8b	116.2b	118.2b	120.4b	123.4b
Power snatch, kg						
Male	102.4a	106.8a	110.8a	112.8a	116.0a	117.8a
Female	57.8b	60.4b	62.6b	65.2b	67.2b	68.0b
Snatch, kg						
Male	116.0a	121.4a	123.2a	124.8a	126.6a	127.8a
Female	66.4b	70.0b	71.6b	73.4b	75.0b	77.4b
Power clean and jerk, kg						
Male	129.0a	134.0a	136.0a	137.2a	136.8a	137.4a
Female	71.8b	76.2b	78.4b	82.0b	83.2b	84.6b
Clean and jerk, kg						
Male	144.2a	149.0a	150.0a	152.2a	153.0a	155.0a
Female	84.8b	88.2b	91.0b	92.8b	95.0b	98.0b

N= 5, means in the same column with the same letter for each parameter are not significantly different (P<0.05).

CONCLUSION

Based on the aforementioned results, it could be concluded that the natural dietary supplementing powders incorporated in suggested capsule could be used as a potential source for nutraceutical ingredients to improve the performance and improve endurance for weightlifting athletes.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Thanks and great fullness will not be enough words to Brigadier Fathi, M. Zoraik, Chairman of New Farosince Company for Scientific Research & Engineering Supplements and the councilor weightlifting athletic in Athletic Championship Sector belongs to Army Forces, Ministry of Defense, Future City, Cairo, Egypt; for his valuable supports.

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التأثيرات المحتملة لبعض المكملات الغذائية الطبيعية على الخصائص الأنثروبومترية بين رياضيي رفع الأثقال

[176]

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Received 16 June, 2018

Accepted 11 July, 2018

الموجز

الذكور مقارنةً بالإناث، تبين في رياضات رفع الأثقال أن الذكور لديهم كتلة عضلات أكبر من الإناث، وتم تقييم كتلة الدهون للذكور كـ "لائق" والتي تتراوح بين (14-17%) لكن تم تقييم كتلة الدهون لدى الإناث على أنهم "رياضيين" والتي تتراوح بين (14-20%) وزاد وزن الأثقال المرفوعة عند الذكور والإناث خلال فترة 12 اسبوعاً ، وكشفت أيضاً زيادة كبيرة في كفاءة الذكور في رفع الأوزان أعلى من الإناث خلال فترة 12 اسبوعاً. لذلك، تشير النتائج إلى أنه من خلال دمج مساحيق المكملات الغذائية الطبيعية في الكبسولة المقترحة، فمن الممكن تعزيز أداء رياضيين رفع الأثقال.

الكلمات الدالة: نوى البلح، طلع النخل، جذور الجينسنج، أوراق المورينجا، غذاء ملكات النحل، المكملات الغذائية، لاعبي رفع الأثقال، القياسات الأنثروبومترية

تم تنفيذ هذا العمل لدراسة تأثير استخدام بعض المكملات الغذائية الطبيعية؛ مثل مساحيق نوى البلح وطلع النخل، جذور الجينسنج، أوراق المورينجا وغذاء ملكات النحل التي تعطي عن طريق الفم في كبسولة لتحسين القدرة على التحمل لرياضيي رفع الأثقال طوال 12 أسبوعاً بقطاع البطولة الرياضية للقوات المسلحة التابع لوزارة الدفاع- مدينة المستقبل - القاهرة - جمهورية مصر العربية. وأظهرت النتائج أن كبسولة المكملات الغذائية المقترحة لها أعلى قيم للنشاط المضاد للأكسدة بنسبة 96.3% وزيادة كبيرة في محتوى الفينولات والفلافونويد الكلية (52.42 و 63.1 ملجم/جرام على التوالي). أيضاً أظهرت القياسات الجسمانية البشرية زيادة كبيرة في الوزن والطول عند الذكور مقارنةً بالإناث. وفي نفس الوقت، كان محيط الخصر ومنصف الجزء العلوي من الذراع بارزاً في

