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Czech Journal of

**FOOD SCIENCES** 

home page about us contact

US

## Table of Contents

**IN PRESS** 

**CJFS 2014** 

**CJFS 2013** 

**CJFS 2012** 

**CJFS 2011** 

**CJFS 2010** 

**CJFS 2009** 

**CJFS 2008** 

**CJFS 2007** 

**CJFS 2006** 

**CJFS 2005** 

**CJFS 2004** 

**CJFS 2003** 

**CJFS 2002** 

**CJFS 2001** 

**CJFS Home** 

## Editorial Board

#### **For Authors**

- AuthorsDeclaration
- Instruction to Authors
- Guide for Authors
- CopyrightStatement
- Submission

### For Reviewers

- Guide for Reviewers
- ReviewersLogin

#### **Subscription**

### Czech J. Food Sci.

R. Fabiani, P. Rosignoli, R. Fuccelli,

Bartolomeo, G.
Morozzi:
Involvement of
Hydrogen Peroxide
Formation on
Apoptosis Induction
by Olive Oil Phenolic
Compounds

Czech J. Food Sci., 27 (2009): S197-S199

In the present investigation the ability of different phenolic compounds, either present or not in olive oil, to induce both apoptosis on tumour cells and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

accumulation in cell culture medium was assesed. Among the phenols studied we found that tyrosol (*p*-HPEA), homovanillic alcohol and protocatechuic, *o*-coumaric, vanillic, homovanillic, ferulic and syringic acids did not induce either apoptosis on HL60 cells or H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> accumulation, while

hydroxytyrosol (3,4-DHPEA), 3,4-

dihydroxyphenylacetic acid (3,4-DHPA), 3,4-dihydroxy-hydrocinnamic acid (3,4-DHHC) and gallic acid induced both apoptosis and accumulation of H2O2 in the culture medium which were significantly reduced by catalase. In contrast, the dialdehydic form of elenoic acid linked to hydroxytyrosol (3,4-DHPEA-EDA) and to tyrosol (p-DHPEA-EDA) induced high level of apoptosis not reduced by catalase. Finally, oleuropein exerted a weak pro-apoptotic effect not mediated by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> release. From these results it is evident that: (1) the cathecol moiety of phenols is necessary but not sufficient to induce apoptosis and H2O2 accumulation; (ii) the 3,4-DHPEA metabolism may partially reduce its proapoptotic potential; (iii) the pro-apoptotic activity of 3,4-DHPEA-EDA and p-DHPEA-EDA is not mediated by H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> releasing activity.

#### **Keywords:**

olive oil; phenols; apoptosis; hydrogen peroxide

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