

植物精油的生物活性及应用研究进展

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摘要:植物精油具有多种生物活性,被广泛应用于食品工业、医疗保健、化妆品等多个领域。本文概括了国内外植物精油的研究文献,对植物精油在抑菌性、抗氧化性、抗病毒性及其在保健功能方面的应用进行了总结。

关键词:植物精油,抑菌性,抗氧化性,保健功能

中图分类号:R917

文献标识码:A

文章编号:1001-6880(2019)Suppl-0172-05

DOI:10.16333/j.1001-6880.2019.S.028

Advances on biological activity and application of plant essential oils

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Abstract: The plant essential oils have a variety of biological activities, which have been widely used in food industry, medical care, and cosmetic and so on. In the text, the biological activities about plant essential oils were summarized, such as antibacterial, antioxidative, antiviral and healthy functions.

Key words: plant es sential oils; antibacterial; antioxidative; healthy functions

植物精油一般在芳香植物的次生代谢中形成,具有强烈味道、较高挥发性和成分复杂等特征,在化妆品、食品、药品等领域有着广泛应用^[1]。植物精油存在于芳香植物的各个部分,如芽、叶、花、茎、皮、种子等,合成分后会储藏在分泌细胞、油室、油管、腺毛或树脂道中^[2]。植物精油多从芳香植物中提取,主要分布在热带或者温带地区,如地中海、南亚等。同时,芳香植物在这些地区也是传统饮食和医学药物的重要组成部分^[3-5]。植物精油成分比较复杂,一般含有20~60种化合物。其中,有1~3种是特征化合物,具有较高浓度。

本文对植物精油在人体营养于健康方面的研究进行了综述,并对精油作为配料在食品应用中的提供了一些建议。

1 抑菌作用

某些植物精油具有抑菌性,能够明显抑制细菌、真菌、病毒、寄生虫等的生长繁殖,延长食品保存期^[6-10]。植物精油的抑菌性机制涉及到不同的作用方式,部分要归结于疏水性,能够使植物精油容易穿过微生物的细胞壁和细胞膜,扰乱多糖、脂肪酸和磷脂组成的层结构。同时,植物精油可以凝聚细胞质,破坏蛋白质和脂肪结构^[11,12]。在真核微生物中,植物精油通过减小膜电位引起线粒体膜的去极化,影响Ca²⁺的循环,从而改变质子泵和ATP池^[13]。这些改变影响了细胞膜的流动性,导致异常渗透,自由基、细胞色素、Ca²⁺等会流失,使微生物凋亡和坏死^[14]。百里香和牛至精油可以抑制一些病原性细菌菌株,如 *E. coli*、*S. enteritidis*、*S. holeraesuis*、*S. typhimurium* 等,其主要作用风味化合物是香芹酚和百里酚^[15]。da Silveira 等人研究了月桂精油对 *E. coli* 和 *Yersinia enterocolitica* 的抑菌能力,并将其应用到新鲜托斯卡纳香肠的保藏中,当添加量为0.05 g/100

g时能够明显减少微生物的数量,延长2天保质期^[16]。Siddiqua等人对肉桂和丁香精油的抑菌性及其在粮食保藏中的作用进行了研究,结果发现肉桂和丁香精油对试验菌的最低抑菌浓度为5 g/L,当粮食保藏中使用量为10 g/L时,在37℃下4周保存时间内,于对照组相比能够明显减少试验菌的数量(超过5 log)^[17]。

2 抗氧化作用

自由基和其它活性氧引起的生物分子氧化,包括蛋白质、氨基酸、不饱和脂质和DNA的氧化等,最终会产生导致人体老化、动脉硬化和癌症等。人体的抗氧化系统之间的不平衡能够导致自由基产生多于除去,被称为“氧化应激”^[18]。这种情况下,抗氧化剂的添加可以重新获得自由基与抗氧化剂之间的平衡。植物精油是多酚类成分的天然来源,其作为抗氧化剂和自由基清除剂引起了研究人员的注意。罗勒、肉桂、丁香、肉豆蔻、牛至和百里香精油中的挥发性风味化合物已被证明在室温下具有较强的自由基清除和抗氧化性能^[19]。百里香精油清除游离自由基的能力接近于β-胡萝卜素/亚油酸系统中丁基化羟基甲苯(BHT)的能力,主要由于百里酚和香芹酚(分别为百里香精油成分的20.5%和58.1%)的作用^[20]。牛至精油抗氧化活性和α-生育酚、BHT差不多,但比抗坏血酸要差一些^[21]。石海燕等人研究发现青翘精油消除羟基自由基的能力大于Vc,并随着浓度的增大而增加^[22]。

3 抗病毒作用

单纯疱疹病毒(I型和II型)是常见的感染类病毒,合成抗病毒药物是较好的治疗方式,但对生殖器疱疹感染效果较差^[23]。单纯疱疹病毒还会对免疫系统产生抗性。植物精油可以作为合成抗病毒药物潜在替代物,具有较强的杀病毒性能,与合成抗病毒药物相比具有更低的自身毒性^[24]。研究表明,藜蒿精油在多层脂质中活性增加,能够抗胞内单纯疱疹病毒I型,香蜂草精油中的柠檬醛和香茅醛能抑制HSV-II的复制^[25,26]。

4 保健功能

4.1 缓解心脑血管疾病

动脉粥样硬化是血液中斑块在动脉内膜内层积聚,使动脉弹性减低、管腔变窄,从而导致的健康问题,一般通过防止低密度脂蛋白(low density lipoprotein, LDL)的氧化来减缓或抑制动脉粥样硬化。某些植物精油中对LDL的氧化具有抑制作用,其中,

萜类化合物能够有效抑制LDL中的脂质部分和蛋白质部分的氧化^[27],酚类化合物,如丁香酚和百里香酚,对LDL具有非常高的抗氧化活性,可以改变LDL受体的亲和力^[28]。研究发现,丁子香酚是精油中的主要挥发性风味化合物时(如丁香精油),由铜催化的LDL氧化可以被50%~100%抑制^[29]。

血栓的形成与血小板的活化有关,抑制血栓形成已成为预防和治疗心脏循环障碍、血栓栓塞并发症的重要方法之一。抗血小板药物是预防血栓栓塞性疾病有效方法,但会产生副作用,如胃糜烂(阿司匹林)、粒细胞缺乏症(噻氯匹定)等^[30]。植物精油已被证明具有潜在的抗血栓形成活性,如薰衣草精油显示出广谱抗血小板作用,并能抑制由二磷酸腺苷诱导的血小板聚集,乙酸芳樟酯是主要的抗血小板活性剂^[31]。洋葱精油中的含有机硫的化合物可以抑制血小板聚集和血栓形成,促进心血管健康,减少动脉粥样硬化或血栓形成疾病的的发生,其作用机制包括TXA2合成酶抑制和TXA2/PGH2受体阻滞^[32]。有机硫化合物,如大蒜精油中的大蒜素,可以有效抑制血小板的聚集。相对洋葱来讲,大蒜能更有效地降低血栓素B2的水平。当大蒜被压碎或咀嚼时,蒜氨酸就会转化成大蒜素^[33]。

4.2 癌症治疗

癌症患者常用的治疗方式是化疗治疗,主要在癌症快速发展阶段抑制肿瘤细胞增殖,加快肿瘤细胞死亡速度和诱导肿瘤细胞的分化率^[34]。但是,化疗的非歧视性对正常细胞也产生严重毒害作用,限制了化疗药物使用的有效剂量。植物精油的抗癌机理和能力较传统抗癌药有所不同,有研究指出,植物精油中的挥发性风味化合物成分,尤其是单萜,对甲羟戊酸代谢有药理作用,可解释为萜烯-肿瘤抑制活性^[35]。单萜在乳腺肿瘤模型中作为化学预防剂,主要在癌症发生的初始阶段防止化学致癌物和DNA相互作用,通过诱导I期和II期酵素分解致癌物质^[36]。 α -红没药醇,是甘菊精油中的一个倍半萜醇,被认为是高度恶性胶质瘤细胞凋亡诱导剂^[37]。D-蒈烯对人胃癌细胞植入裸鼠模型有着抑制血管生成和促凋亡效应,从而抑制肿瘤的生长和转移。D-蒈烯和细胞毒性剂,如5-氟尿嘧啶组合,能够增强诱导凋亡小体对BGC-823胃癌细胞的形成^[38,39]。

4.3 促进药物皮肤传递

口腔和鼻腔途径是药物施用中常见的非侵入性途径,由于胃或肝脏的首过代谢,某些药物不适合这

两种途径^[40]。亲脂性药物的鼻腔给药会导致药物吸收不良,皮肤可以以非侵入性方式作为替代药物施用途径,这种现象被称为局部或透皮给药^[41]。植物精油中的萜类化合物是合成皮肤渗透增强剂的天然替代品,有着较低的价格和较强的渗透增强能力^[42]。萜烯,如薄荷醇和桉叶素等,作为 β -受体阻滞剂可以改善普萘洛尔的皮肤渗透性,具有较短的生物半衰期^[43]。罗勒精油能够增加药物皮肤渗透的载体,加速消炎痛的透皮递送能力^[44]。

4.4 芳香疗法缓解焦虑障碍

芳香疗法是利用植物精油去治疗疾病的方法,常以香薰、添加到枕头或皮肤按摩等方式进行^[45]。部分植物精油中的挥发性风味化合物,如柠檬香脂、薰衣草、佛手柑、橙花油和缬草等,已经被用来治疗焦虑障碍、抑郁症等精神疾病^[46-50]。植物精油在控制中枢神经系统方面有着显著作用,例如,石菖蒲精油和苏合香丸精油中的挥发性风味化合物可以通过吸入被用来治疗癫痫,通过 γ -氨基丁酸神经调节系统对中枢神经系统有抑制作用^[51]。一些香味化合物,如顺式茉莉酮和甲基茉莉,具有素馨花的香气表征,在吸入后通过脑吸收,进而增强 γ -氨基丁酸受体响应,对大脑有安神效果,能够明显增加小白鼠的睡眠时间^[52]。薰衣草、薄荷、迷迭香和鼠尾草精油中挥发性风味化合物的吸入可显著减轻焦虑和压力有关的症状。也可以调节正常成人的交感神经活动,例如,胡椒、龙蒿、茴香或葡萄柚精油中的挥发性风味化合物的吸入导致了相对交感神经活动提升了1.5至2.5倍。相比之下,玫瑰油或广藿香油的香味吸入可以减少相对交感神经活性40%。吸入辣椒油可以诱导血浆肾上腺素分泌,与静息状态相比增加了1.7倍,而吸入玫瑰油引起的减少30%的肾上腺素分泌^[53]。

植物精油带有一定的香味,对于气味的不同心理反应会影响芳香治疗的效果。Ludvigson 和 Rottman 研究发现使用高浓度薰衣草精油会提高人的认知功能,尤其是算数方面^[54]。同时,个体对芳香物质的耐受程度也会影响效果,气味和情绪反应之间明显的关联要靠嗅觉感应通过神经传导到杏仁核,在杏仁核里会产生相应的刺激。因此,对于研究参与者来讲,特定气味的正面(或负面)作用可能是由于个体间的差异造成的^[55]。不同于芳香治疗的心理效应,药理效应并不涉及感知气体。当植物精油中的挥发性风味化合物由肺部或者嗅黏膜进入血液之后,再通过血液循环进入大脑,直接作用于大脑相

关区域去缓解焦虑障碍,这种芳香治疗对于嗅觉障碍患者很重要^[56]。芳香疗法中的生物效应要归功于芳香物质整体作用,虽然某些特定芳香成分的作用也非常重要。如薰衣草精油的主要挥发性风味化合物是芳樟醇,可以和大脑中的脂类物质相结合,容易穿过血脑屏障。芳樟醇可以抑制小鼠中谷氨酸的结合,利于薰衣草精油的吸入,以减少由电击引发的小鼠惊厥^[57]。香蜂草精油中的主要萜成分是香茅醛、橙花醛、乙酸香叶酯等,表现出相应的生物活性,例如,从烟碱乙酰胆碱受体中置换尼古丁和毒蕈碱受体中置换东莨菪碱^[58]。

4.5 缓解糖尿病症状

糖尿病是人体不能产生或正常使用胰岛素产生的一种疾病。某些精油可能加重糖尿病,例如,迷迭香精油对糖尿病家兔的胰岛素释放有抑制作用^[59]。Broadhurst 等人研究发现精油不会具有抗糖尿病活性,但是 Talpur 等人认为一些精油包括肉桂、茴香、小茴香、牛至通过口服给药,能提高II型糖尿病的胰岛素敏感性,降低了糖耐量实验大鼠的循环葡萄糖^[60,61]。Hasanein 等人利用香蜂花精油降低糖尿病实验大鼠的痛觉过敏和恢复血糖到正常水平,研究证明,当大剂量香蜂花精油应用到实验大鼠,可以恢复血糖到正常水平,同时也能够降低大鼠的体重^[62]。香蜂花精油作为腺苷酸活化蛋白激酶/乙酰辅酶a 羧化酶途径的调控关键因子,可以调节葡萄糖消耗活动和脂质积累活动,从而治疗糖尿病^[63]。

5 结论与展望

近些年来,关于植物精油的生物活性及作用机理已经取得了一定成果,但是还存在很多问题。由于植物精油成分复杂,在进行功能性评价时很难确定到底是一种物质还是几种物质在发挥作用,导致难以在分子学层面上对精油的功能性进行评价。同时,植物精油大多容易挥发,在作为食品配料使用时会存在引入异味的问题。因此,如何在不影响植物精油生物活性的前提下减少异味影响也是今后的发展方向之一。

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