# STUDY THE EFFECT OF LYCOPENE EXTRACT AND NANO-LYCOPENE EXTRACTED FROM TOMATO WASTE IN INHIBITING MICROBIAL **GROWTH AND AS AN INTIOXIDANT**

Abd Al-Hussain Attia Ali Rasheed

Iman Hameed Al-Anbari

Researcher Prof.

Dept. of Food Sci. Coll. of Agric Engin Sci. University of Baghdad. Abdulhussain.atiya1102a@coagri.uobaghdad.edu.iq

Dr.imanh.alanbari@coagri.uobaghdad.edu.iq

#### **ABSTRACT**

This study was aimed to investigate effectiveness of lycopene and nano-lycopene extracted from tomato waste powder in inhibiting the growth of microorganisms was studied. The study included preparing lycopene extract using a triple solvent mixture (hexane, acetone, and ethanol) in ratios (2:1:1) after evaporating them from the extractor and using it to prepare nano-lycopene by the technique of High-energy mechanical grinding. The surface morphology and roughness of the lycopene nanoparticles was determined, and their dimensions were determined using an atomic force microscope (AFM). The effectiveness of both lycopene and nano-lycopene extract was tested to inhibit gram-positive and negative bacteria, fungi, and yeast using the suitable diffusion method at concentrations of (50, 100, 150, 200, and 250) micrograms/ml. Its antioxidant activity was studied using the DPPH method and compared to lycopene extract and industrial antioxidant.

Key word: HPLC, XRD, carotenoid, chemical additives, free radicals, pigment, retention time. \*Part of Ph.D. dissertation of the 1st author

علي والانباري

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دراسة تأثير مستخلص اللايكوبين والنانو لايكوبين المستخلص من مخلفات الطماطة في تثبيط نمو

الميكروبات وكمضاد أكسدة

عبد الحسين عطية على

أستاذ

أيمان حميد الأنباري

قسم علوم الاغذية / كلية علوم الهندسة الزراعية , جامعة بغداد

هدفت الدراسة الى التعرف على فعالية كل من اللايكوبين الطبيعي و النانوي المستخلص من مسحوق مخلفات الطماطة في تثبيط نمو الأحياء المجهربة,وتضمنت الدراسة تحضير مستخلص اللايكوبين الطبيعي بأستخدام المزبج الثلاثي من الهكسان والأسيتون والأيثانول وبالنسب (2: 1: 1) وتجفيفه ثم تحضير اللايكوبين النانوي بأستعمال تقنية الطحن الميكانيكي العالي الطاقة, وتم تحديد التشكل السطحي لجسيمات اللايكوبين النانوية وخشونتها وتحديد أبعادها بأستعمال مجهر القوة الذربة Atomic force microscopy AFM وأختبرت فعالية كل من اللايكوبين المستخلص والنانوي في تثبيط البكتربا الموجبة والسالبة لصبغة كرام والفطربات والخميرة بأستعمال طربقة الأنتشار well diffusion method وبتراكيز (50, 100, 50 (250, 200, مايكروغرام/ مل. وتمت دراسة نشاطه المضاد للأكسدة باستخدام طربقة DPPH ومقاربته بمستخلص اللايكوبين ومضاد الأكسدة الصناعي.

> الكلمات المفتاحية: HPLC, XRD , الكاروتينوبدات, المضافات الكيميائية,الجذور الحرة, صبغة,وقت الأحتفاظ. \*حزء من أطروحة الدكتوراه للباحث الأول.



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#### INTRODUCTION

Lycopene is a natural carotenoid pigment produced by plants and microorganisms during photosynthesis to protect them from photooxidative activity. It is a plant chemical found mainly in tomatoes and their products, and it is a hydrocarbon compound composed of eight isoprene units. (1,10) Lycopene is one of the carotenoids that does not contain oxygen in its structure and has the chemical formula C<sub>40</sub>H<sub>56</sub> The lycopene molecule consists of 13 double bonds, including a central chain that includes 11 conjugated bonds (meaning each double bond is followed by a single bond) called the chromophore, which gives lycopene the distinctive red color of this dye due to Double bonds and their light absorption properties (9) Lycopene is the primary pigment in tomatoes and is one of the most important natural antioxidants because it contains double hydrocarbon conjugated bonds. Therefore, it is an effective antioxidant in inhibiting and removing free compared to other carotenoids, as it has been proven that lycopene has antioxidant activity superior to beta-carotene and alphatocopherol. It protects lymphocytes from the danger of free radicals, which strengthens the immune system. (6,16) Lycopene is an effective compound with a wide range of biological activities, including the inhibitory effect on the growth of multidrug-resistant (MDR) microorganisms such as Streptococcus pyogenes (4) Other researchers (10,15) found that lycopene extracted from tomato waste inhibited the growth of gram-positive (G +) and gram-negative (G-) bacteria, Escherichia coli, Staphylococcus aureus, by affecting cell membranes and their internal structure, which leads to Changes in the permeability and structure of cell walls, their effect on proteins responsible for cell division, and their effectiveness against fungal growth stimulating programmed cell death mitochondrial dysfunction. The term "nano" refers to nanoparticles, which are materials with at least one nano dimension, giving them physical, chemical, and biological characteristics and properties that differ from the material's natural state, making it suitable for different applications. This difference is attributed to the large surface area of the

nanoparticles, which leads to an increase in the speed of their reactions, catalytic activities, and mechanical properties. (2,3) The study conducted by (5,4) demonstrated various properties of lycopene, including its antigrowth activity of the yeast Candida albicans, which causes skin infections and poses an increasing threat to the lives of women, especially patients who suffer immunodeficiency, pregnant women, and the elderly. Lycopene has anti-fungal activity. Such as Trichosporon beigelii and Malassezia furfur. Other researchers (3,13) found that lycopene extracted with organic solvents such as ether, chloroform, acetone, methanol, and ethanol has inhibitory activity against the microorganisms Staphylococcus Bacillus subtilis, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Escherichia coli, Aspergillus niger, Aspergillus flavus, and Candida albicans. Due to the severe health problems that chemical additives cause to foods, researchers have resorted to extracting microbial growth inhibitors and natural antioxidants from natural sources with effectiveness equal to or greater than the effectiveness of chemical additives. (9,7) Other researchers (10) found that adopting a diet rich in antioxidants such as carotenoids, especially lycopene, flavonoids, and tannins, reduces the chances of developing cancer and cardiovascular diseases due to their influential role in removing types of free radicals. there many neutral extracts antimicrobial. Lycopene has gained attention due to its various biological functions, as it the accumulation of stimulates species Reactive Oxygen (ROS) in bacteria, specifically the free radical hydroxyl (OH), which are highly destructive molecules that attack cell components and contribute to cell death. They are considered a major factor in stimulating programmed cell death and cause damage to cell membranes. And breaking DNA strands (14.11) This study aimed to use nano-lycopene as one of the areas of recent discoveries that include the manufacture and development of various nanomaterials. It has a vital role in our daily lives and in improving agricultural and industrial production, communications and medicine (12) Many studies and extensive research have been conducted to investigate the properties of nanomaterials and their potential applications for several purposes, such as antimicrobial agents, anti-cancer agents in wound dressings, and water treatment. Recent research has turned to nanotechnology to increase the effectiveness of prepared plant preparations in inhibiting microbial growth (12,27) Other researchers (5) found that nano-lycopene is an antibacterial to antibiotic-resistant bacteria through oral administration of nano-lycopene, which led to increased bioavailability through increased solubility and easy for absorption.

# MATERIALS AND METHODS

- 1 Lycopene was extracted from dried local tomato waste powder obtained from farms in Karbala Governorate in Iraq, following the method described by (12) and modified by us to obtain the pigment extract from dried tomato waste by taking 1 gram of the dried sample and it was mixed with 10 ml of a solvent mixture (acetone: hexane: ethyl alcohol) in a ratio (1:2:1) and placed on the magnetic stirrer mixer for 2 to 3 hours to ensure optimal extraction, then 1.5 ml of water added to it to separate the hexane layer from the acetone and ethyl alcohol layer and it mixed for another 5 minutes, and the upper layer containing lycopene removed and kept in a closed, opaque bottle. The process repeated until the dye was extracted entirely, and the extracted dye was concentrated in a rotary evaporator at a temperature of 40°C. Then, placed in the oven until the constant weight was obtained.
- 2 **Diagnosis of lycopene:** The extracted lycopene was diagnosed using the HPLC technique and the device model 9100 and equipped by the Korean (Yangle) company. The lycopene dye was diagnosed at a wavelength of 472 nanometers. The qualitative detection was carried out using standard lycopene supplied by CGMUP (Hungarian origin). The retention time (Rt) and spectral properties of the extracted lycopene were compared with standard lycopene dissolving the samples in petroleum ether at a concentration of (20 ppm). 50 microliters were injected into the HPLC device and the retention time(Rt) was calculated.AC18 type separation column was used with dimensions of (250 x 4.6) mm and a size of porous particles of 5µm. The mobile phase consisted

- of Acetonitrile: Methanol 10:90 and the flow speed was 1 ml per minute. The operation process, calculation of results, and study of the spectroscopic properties of lycopene were carried out using the Clarity Chromatography SW program.
- 3- **Preparation of nano-lycopene**. A high-energy steel ball mill equipped by the German company Retsch was used at a speed of 400 revolutions per minute for 15 minutes and for intermittent periods to avoid high temperatures and changes in the properties of lycopene. The ground product was then collected in sterile, opaque glass bottles and refrigerated (4±2)°C. XRD, AFM examination were conducted to characterize the nanomaterials in the Optics Department, Laser Division of the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- 4 The two standard isolates of the bacteria Escherichia coli **ATCC** 25922 Staphylococcus aureus ATCC 25923, the yeast Candida albican, and two isolates of the fungus Penicillium sp. and Aspergillus niger were obtained from the laboratories of the Environmental Research Center / University of Technology / Baghdad / Iraq for the purpose of studying the effect of lycopene and nanolycopene prepared at different concentrations  $(250, 200, 150, 100, 50) \mu g / ml$  to study its effect on the microbial community, by activating microbial cells by culturing them in brain and heart infusion broth for 24 hours at a temperature of 37 degrees Celsius with continuous stirring. The activated bacterial cells were grown on Muller Hinton medium prepared by the company (Himedia) from India. It was designed according to the supplier company's instructions and intended to study the effect of antibiotics on bacterial cells. Yeast cells and activated fungi were grown on potato dextrose agar medium prepared by the Dutch company DCM, which was intended to study the antibiotic effect on fungal cells, Then holes with a diameter of 6 mm were made in the medium, with equal designated for dimensions placing lycopene solution in it, with a volume of 100 microliters for each hole. The dishes were left to settle, and the agar absorbed the lycopene solutions for a quarter of an hour at room temperature, Then the plates were transferred to an incubator at 37 degrees Celsius for 24

hours. The damping diameter around the holes was then measured using a ruler.

5- The method described in (18) was followed to prepare DPPH and measure the antioxidant activity.

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of extracting lycopene from tomato waste powder indicated that the amount of lycopene amounted to 185.6 mg/100 g of waste powder. The reason for the superiority of this treatment can be attributed to the high polarity of both acetone and ethyl alcohol, as they synergize in the process of penetrating cellulosic tissues and mixing with water, for hexane, which is characterized by low polarity, which helps in dissolving the dye lycopene, which is characterized by low polarity. Figures (1) and (2) shows that the retention time (RT) of the lycopene dye is close to that of the standard compound, and the (RT) for the

standard lycopene was (5.04 minutes) with a percentage of (96.4)% and the appearance time was (RT) for the extracted lycopene is 5.09 minutes and a percentage of 85.5%, which confirms the purity of the extracted lycopene .Figure (3) indicates that the X-ray diffraction examination showed that the average crystal size is (12.52) nanometers. We can observe from Figure 4. (A-B) the three-dimensional microscopic images and the graph of the lycopene using the AFM device, where the atomic force microscopic analysis showed a pore-free shape with homogeneity uniformity on the surface of the sample, and the surface of the film did not show any evident cracking. The granules showed wellseparated conical columnar growth; it collects grains all over the surface with some vertical grains merging in a few places and showed an average particle size of (50.42) nm

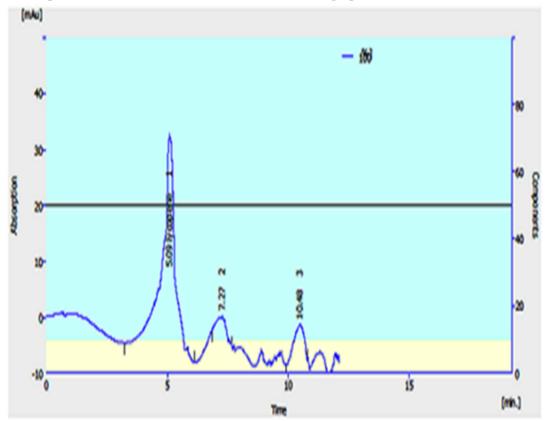


Figure 1. RT for standard lycopene

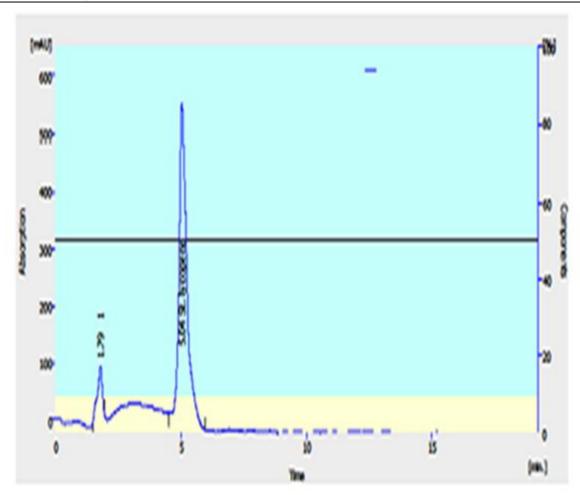


Figure 2. RT (Retention time) of extracted lycopene

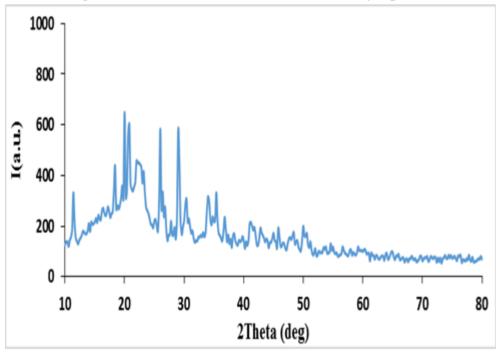


Figure 3. X-ray diffraction of lycopene nano composite

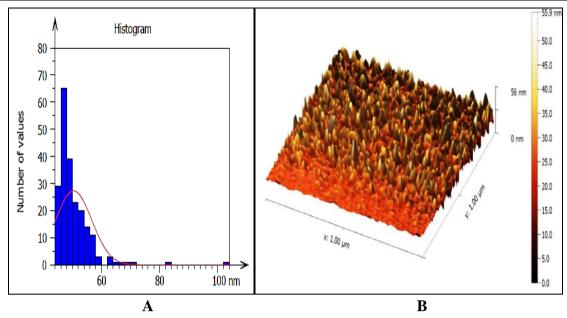


Figure 4.(A-B) 3D microscopic image of lycopene and a diagram of the dimensions in the AFM device

Inhibitory activity of lycopene and nanolycopene on bacterial growth: Table (1) shows that nano-lycopene showed the highest inhibitory activity against bacteria. The average diameter of the inhibition corona for *Escherichia coli* was (21.5 mm) and for *Staphylococcus aureus* (24.2 mm) at a concentration of 250 micrograms/ml. In comparison, the average diameter of the inhibition corona for the extracted lycopene

was (12.5 mm and 15.8 mm), respectively, for the same concentration. We notice an increase in the inhibitory activity in both extracted and nano-lycopene with increasing concentrations used, It was observed that the inhibitory effectiveness of the Gram-positive bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus* is more than the inhibitory effectiveness of the Gram-negative *Escherichia coli*.

Table 1. Inhibitory activity of lycopene extract and nano-lycopene against bacteria\*

Microscopic organism	Concentration µg/ml	The diameter of the inhibition area(mm)	
		Natural Lycopene	Nano Lycopene
Escherichia coli	50	6.0	8.9
ATCC 25922	100	6.8	11.5
	150	7.9	14.2
	200	9.2	18.8
	250	12.5	21.5
Staphylococcus aureus	50	6.5	9.6
ATCC 25923	μ100	7.3	12.5
	150	9.5	15.8
	200	11.6	19.5
	250	15.8	24.2

\*Each number represents an average of three replicates
The variation in the inhibitory efficacy of
lycopene is attributed to the cell wall
structure's distinct characteristics and outer
membranes in these bacterial species. Studies
have indicated that the biologically active
chemicals derived from plants significantly
affect Gram-positive bacteria more than Gramnegative bacteria because Gram-negative
bacteria contain a distinctive outer membrane

and peptidoglycan layer. It is well known that these microorganisms constitute a global health concern due to their enormous antibiotic resistance.

Inhibitory activity of lycopene and nanolycopene on the growth of yeast *Candida albicans:* Table (2) shows the inhibitory effect of lycopene and nano-lycopene against *Candida albicans* yeast, as nano-lycopene

showed the highest inhibitory activity against yeast, as the average diameter of inhibition reached 17.8 mm at a concentration of 250 micrograms/ml, superior to the extracted lycopene, which reached 13.5 mm at the same concentration. It was found (15) that lycopene possesses antifungal properties by stimulating apoptosis in both the early and late stages of fungal growth. This mechanism is achieved by

raising the levels of reactive oxygen species. (ROS) inside the cells. The demise of fungal cells is mainly attributed to hydroxyl radicals, which leads to a defect in mitochondrial functions and ultimately to cell death. Nanoparticles have an antifungal effect on various fungi and yeasts, such as the pathogenic yeast *Candida albicans*.

Table 2. Inhibitory activity of lycopene and nano-lycopene against yeast\*

Microscopic organism	Concentration µg/ml	The diameter of the inhibition area(mm)	
		Natural Lycopene	Nano Lycopene
Candida albicans	50	6.1	6.9
	100	7.8	8.2
	150	9.6	10.8
	200	11.5	13.6
	250	13.5	17.8

\*Each number represents an average of three replicates 3- The inhibitory effectiveness of lycopene and nano-lycopene on the growth of fungi: Table (3) shows that nano-lycopene showed the highest inhibitory activity against fungi, as the average diameter of the inhibition halo in Aspergillus niger reached (19.5) mm and in Penicillium sp (21.5) mm at a concentration of 250 micrograms/ml, superior to the extracted lycopene, which reached an average diameter of the inhibition halo is (13.5 and 15.9) mm, respectively, at the same concentration. The results showed an increase in the inhibitory effectiveness with increasing concentrations used, and stated that lycopene inhibits the growth of microorganism cells by stimulating programmed cell death, DNA fragmentation and activating the enzymes responsible for programmed cell death, the most important of which is the caspase enzyme (17,18) Other researchers stated that the formation of physical and nanoparticles changes the

chemical properties of lycopene, enabling it to target multiple antimicrobial mechanisms effectively. These mechanisms include penetrating cell walls and membranes and inhibiting DNA.(24,23) The antimicrobial activity of nanocomposites can be attributed to their large surface area, which facilitates the attachment of a greater number of ligands to the surface of the nanoparticles and enhances the number of charges, thus increasing the interaction speed of between nanocomposites and the receptors on the microbial surface(16,21,22) Other researchers indicated that some plant preparations prepared in nano formula demonstrated an inhibitory effect on Gram-positive negative bacteria and their effectiveness as antioxidants compared to the industrial antioxidant **BHT** Butylated hydroxyl toluene.(26, 25).

Table 3. Inhibitory activity of extracted lycopene and nano-lycopene against fungi\*

Microscopic organism	Concentration µg/ml	The diameter of the inhibition area(mm)	
		Natural Lycopene	Nano Lycopene
Aspergillus niger	50	6.3	7.5
	100	7.2	9.7
	150	9.1	12.8
	200	11.4	15.9
	250	13.5	19.5
Penicillium sp.	50	6.6	7.7
	100	7.5	9.9
	150	9.4	13.8
	200	11.8	17.9
	250	15.9	21.5

<sup>\*</sup>Each number represents an average of three replicates

4- Antioxidant activity of nano-lycopene Table (4) shows that nano-lycopene is significantly superior at the level of significance (p<0.05) in suppressing free radicals compared to natural lycopene and BHT, and that the higher the concentration, the greater the antioxidant effectiveness as the highest percentage of inhibition reached 82.9% at the concentration of 250 micrograms/ml, percentage of free radical the suppression for them reached 57.1% and 51.3%, respectively, and this It agrees with. stated that nanomaterials who

characterized by higher effectiveness than their effectiveness in their natural state. (28,26) The superiority of nano-lycopene over extracted lycopene is due to the qualities and properties it possesses that enable nanocomposites to interact in different ways compared to their interactions when they are in their normal size due to their reduced size, increased surface area of nanoparticles, and the spread of surface charges, which allows them to have a greater increase in the number of atoms and molecules participating in the interactions (19,20,27).

Table 4. Effect of lycopene concentration and nano-lycopene on antioxidant activity in DPPH

assay concentration µg/ml % Inhibition 50 200 **Treatment** 100 250 150 \* Lo 14.7 24.7 35.6 46.6 57.1 \*\* L<sub>N</sub> 21.1 31.7 54.1 62.2 82.9 10.9 21 31.7 41 51.3 **BHT** 4.61 \* 5.92 \* 5.88 \* 6.01 \* 7.57 \* LSD

L<sub>0</sub> represents extracted lycopene, L<sub>N</sub> represents nano sized lycopene

### **Conclusions**

Tomato industry waste can be utilized in the production of dried nano-lycopene by mechanical grinding using steel balls, which produced nano-lycopene particles that showed distinct effectiveness as microbial inhibitory compounds antioxidants at low concentrations, which encourages their use as an effective and safe alternative to preservatives whose use has been associated with many health risks and negative effects.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

#### **DECLARATION OF FUND**

The authors declare that they have not received a fund.

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