



Fermentation and dry fractionation increase bioactivity of cloudberry (*Rubus chamaemorus*)



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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 23 June 2015

Received in revised form 3 November 2015

Accepted 13 November 2015

Available online 14 November 2015

Keywords:

Cloudberry

Bioprocessing

Fermentation

Dry fractionation

Antimicrobial activity

Antiadhesion activity

Anti-inflammatory activity

Phenolic compounds

ABSTRACT

Phenolic composition and bioactivity of cloudberry was modified by bioprocessing, and highly bioactive fractions were produced by dry fractionation of the press cake. During fermentation polymeric ellagitannins were partly degraded into ellagic acid derivatives. Phenolic compounds were differentially distributed in seed coarse and fine fractions after dry fractionation process. Tannins concentrated in fine fraction, and flavonol derivatives were mainly found in coarse fraction. Ellagic acid derivatives were equally distributed between the dry fractions. Fermentation and dry fractionation increased statistically significantly anti-adhesion and anti-inflammatory activity of cloudberry. The seed fine fraction showed significant inhibition of P fimbria-mediated haemagglutination assay of uropathogenic *Escherichia coli*. The seed coarse fraction significantly reduced NO and IL-6 production and iNOS expression in activated macrophages. Fermentation did not affect antimicrobial activity, but slight increase in activity was detected in dry fractions. The results indicate the potential of cloudberry in pharma or health food applications.

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1. Introduction

Fermentation technologies with microbes are widely used in the processing of plant-based materials, in order to enhance self-life, texture, flavour and bioactivity of food and feed products. Starter technology, in which the berries are inoculated with well-characterised microbes, is thus a promising tool to modify phenolic compounds and thus enhance the bioactivity of berry products. We recently developed fermentation technology for lingonberry, in which fermentation of lingonberry with *Hanseniaspora uvarum* yeast increased the contents of the natural preservative, benzoic acid (Viljanen, Heiniö, Juvonen, Kössö, & Puupponen-Pimiä, 2014).

Traditional jams and juices are still the main products of the berry processing industry. Due to the seeds in *Rubus* berries, such as cloudberry, being rather large, the food industry often separates the juice from press cake and uses only juice for further products. The remaining press cake, which contains mainly seeds and peel, can be used to extract valuable seed oil. However, still today in many cases berry by-products have no application, although they

are very rich in bioactive compounds, and they may cause environmental and storage problems. Thus, new innovative applications for berry by-products are needed by the industry. Enzyme-assisted berry processing, using microbially-based pectinolytic enzymes, has been studied by Puupponen-Pimiä, Nohynek, Ammann, Oksman-Caldentey, and Buchert (2008). In that study, commercial pectinase preparations released phenolic compounds from the cell wall matrix and consequently enhanced antimicrobial and antioxidant activity of the berry juice and press cake significantly.

Cloudberry (*Rubus chamaemorus*) is a unique Nordic berry species. In particular, the northernmost region, Lapland, is a favourable growth zone for this berry. The plant produces amber-coloured, juicy, flavourful and fragrant berries, which are an important raw material for the food, beverage and cosmetic industries. Cloudberry is very rich in ellagic acid, which is present in the plants mainly in the form of polymeric ellagitannins (ETs) which are esters of glucose with ellagic acid. More detailed analyses of Kähkönen, Kylli, Ollilainen, Salminen, and Heinonen (2012) revealed the presence of altogether 26 ellagitannin compounds in the cloudberry fruit, with lambertianin C (2804 Da) and sanguinin H-6 (1870 Da) being the two major components.

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Recent studies have shown that ellagic acid and ETs possess many interesting biological activities and thus they may play preventive role in disease prevention. For example cardioprotective effects of ellagitannins have been recently discussed (Larrosa, García-Conesa, Espín, & Tomás-Barberán, 2010). ETs have also shown beneficial effects on brain function: Rojanathammanee, Puig, and Combs (2013) reported potential attenuation in Alzheimer's disease progression due to anti-inflammatory effects in brains caused by ETs. In a recent study Sangiovanni et al. (2013) showed for the first time the preventative effect of ETs in gastric inflammation. Our clinical study indicated that bioavailability of ETs appears to be dependent on the composition of gut microbiota (Puupponen-Pimiä et al., 2013). In our *in vitro* studies, berry ETs showed strong antimicrobial activity against many severe human pathogens and spoilage bacteria, suggesting their potential role as natural antimicrobials and preservatives (reviewed by Puupponen-Pimiä, Nohynek, Alakomi, and Oksman-Caldentey (2005)). Adhesion to host cells is an important initiating step in bacterial infections. A number of reports indicates that berry phenolic compounds can inhibit bacterial adhesion to human cells *in vitro* (reviewed by Signoretto, Canepari, Stauder, Vezzulli, and Pruzzo (2012)), but to our knowledge the antiadhesive effect of cloudberry phenolics has so far not been investigated.

The aim of this study was to investigate how bioprocessing with food-grade lactic acid bacteria and further mechanical fractionation of the press cake affect composition of cloudberry phenolics and bioactivity of the cloudberry. Special interest was directed to antimicrobial, anti-adhesion and anti-inflammatory activities. We also developed an innovative dry fractionation method for the berry press cake to produce ingredients high in phenolic phytochemicals suitable for various industrial applications.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Berry material and pre-treatments

Frozen, ripe cloudberrys (*R. chamaemorus*) of Finnish origin were obtained from a local distributor, Pakkasmarja Ltd. (Suonenjoki, Finland). The cloudberrys were frozen and stored at -20°C until use.

Before the fermentation berries were heat-treated in order to guarantee microbiological safety and uniform quality of the fermentation product. Frozen cloudberrys and ultra-pure water were mixed together (1:1). The mixture was heated in a water bath to 80°C and held there for 5 min. After that the mixture was cooled in an ice bath and berries were crushed by a sterile potato masher. The pH of the mixture was adjusted to 5.0 with 5 N sterile filtered sodium hydroxide.

2.2. LAB fermentation of cloudberrys

Processing steps of cloudberry are shown in Fig. 1. *Pediococcus pentosaceus* VTT E-072742 from VTT Culture Collection (<http://culturecollection.vtt.fi>) was used as a starter culture in fermentation of cloudberrys. This strain was chosen due to its ability to grow in the cloudberry material. Prior to fermentations, the strain was refreshed in De Man Rogosa Sharpe broth (MRS; Oxoid, Basingstoke, UK) for 1 day in a 100% carbon dioxide atmosphere which was created using anaerobic jars and Anaerocult C strips (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany). The cells were collected from refreshed cultures by centrifugation and washed once in Ringel's solution (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany). The fermentations were carried out as recently described by Viljanen et al. (2014). Briefly, the heat-treated crushed berry material was inoculated with approximately 10^6 cfu g^{-1} of washed bacterial cells. The fermentations were per-

formed on a 6-kg scale in a 15-L capacity bioreactor for 14 days at 30°C under constant mixing (130 rpm). The bioreactor was purged with sterile-filtered nitrogen gas in order to create anaerobic conditions. The viable counts of lactic acid bacteria and yeasts were determined before and after the fermentations using plate count technique as previously described (Katina et al., 2007). The results were expressed as colony-forming units (CFU) per gram of wet weight (ww). The pH value was measured with a standard pH meter. For chemical analysis samples of the fermented materials were stored frozen until analysed.

2.3. Juice pressing and dry fractionation of the press cake

After fermentation the berry mash was treated with a hydraulically operated high-pressure tincture press (HAFICO, Fischer and Co., Dusseldorf, Germany) using 5 litres filling material to separate juice and insoluble press cake, which was further processed.

The press cake was dried in a fluid bed dryer (model TG 200, Retsch, Haan, Germany) using $+45^{\circ}\text{C}$ air flow, and a dry fractionation method was then developed and applied. The press cake was dry fractionated by sieving using different sieve sizes and by milling in a disc mill into pulp, peel, seed, seed fine and seed coarse fractions. Mass yields of different fractions were determined. Colour and surface features of the samples were examined with Zeiss SteREO Discovery.V8 stereomicroscope and imaged using an Olympus DP-25 single chip colour CCD camera and the Cell^P imaging software.

2.4. Chemical analysis of fermented cloudberrys

The concentration of sugars (glucose, fructose and sucrose) were analysed by high-performance anion exchange chromatography (HPAEC) (Dionex ICS-3000) with pulse amperometric detection (PAD) (Dionex Corporation, Sunnyvale, CA) as described by Viljanen et al. (2014). The separation of organic acids and mannitol was carried out on an Aminex HPX-87H column (300×7.8 mm; BioRad, Hercules, CA) as described by Viljanen et al. (2014).

2.5. Preparation and analysis of phenolic extracts

Concentrated phenolic extracts were prepared from cloudberry fermentation samples before juice pressing (days 0, 7 and 14) and from dry fractions of cloudberry press cake (fine and coarse fractions). Frozen berry samples were first lyophilised and ground to a fine powder, and then extracted according to Kähkönen, Hopia, and Heinonen (2001) with slight modifications. Phenolic compounds were extracted from 10 g of dry berry samples with 20 mL of solvent (acetone:water 70:30 vol/vol) in centrifuge tubes. Tubes were centrifuged (3000 rpm, 5 min), and the clear supernatant was collected. The procedure was repeated twice with 10 mL of solvent. Supernatants were combined and acetone was evaporated. Acidic Milli Q water (0.5% trifluoroacetic acid) was added to the residue, and interfering sugars and organic acids were removed by solid-phase extraction using C18 columns (Sep-Pak Vac 20 cc, 5 g; Waters). Phenolic compounds were eluted with methanol. These purified extracts were freeze-dried and stored at -20°C prior to analyses.

Phenolic compounds were analysed from the acetone extracts by HPLC-DAD and selected samples by UPLC-QToF-MS/MS. Analytical HPLC method was modified from methods described by Aaby, Ekeberg, and Skrede (2007), and Määttä-Riihinen, Kamal-Eldin, and Törrönen (2004). The HPLC system consisted of a Waters 600S system controller pump, Waters 717plus autosampler and Waters 2996 series photodiode array detector (Waters, Milford, MA). All the data was processed by Waters Empower Pro chromatography software. Phenolic compounds were separated on a Hypersil BDC

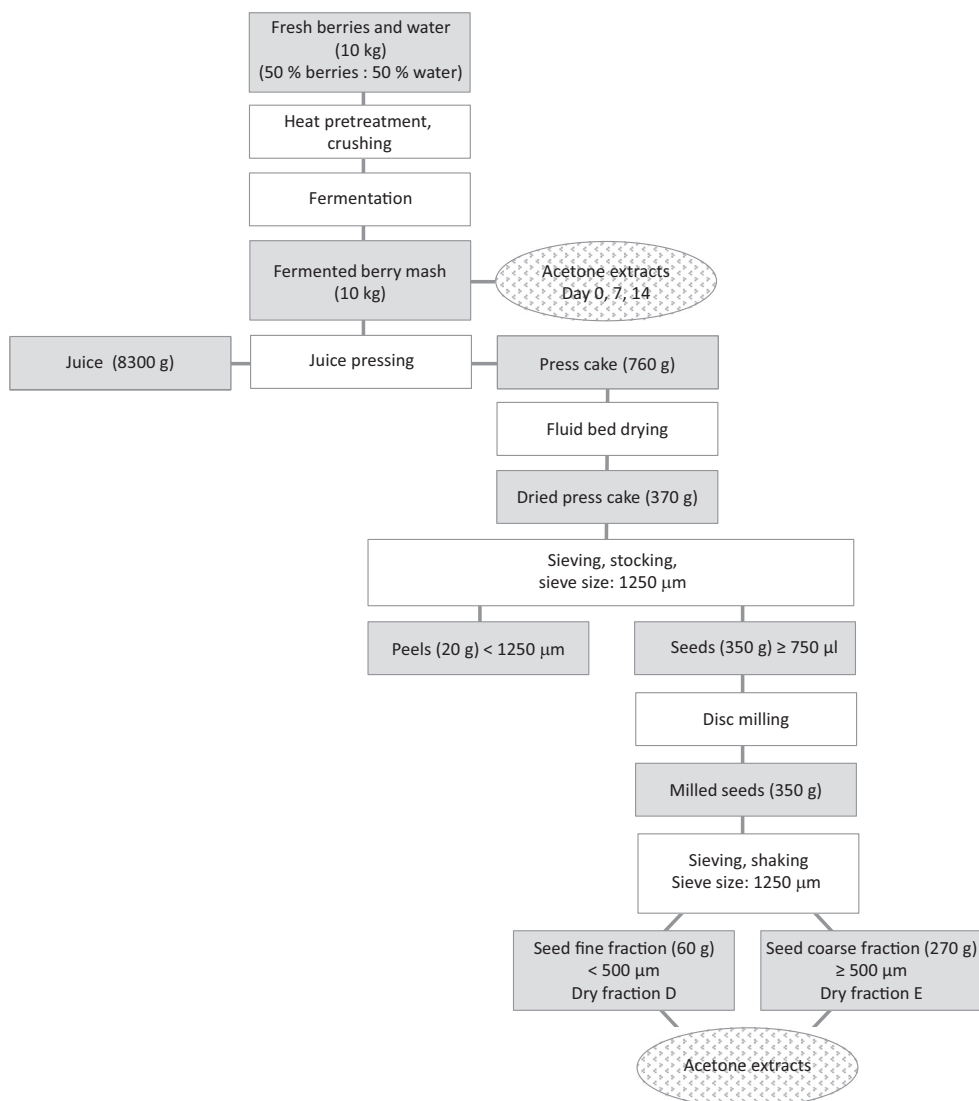


Fig. 1. Bioprocessing of cloudberry and further processing of the press cake by dry fractionation. Estimated yields are marked in darkened boxes in parenthesis. Acetone extracts, marked with circles, were prepared for bioactivity testing.

C-18 (150 × 4.6 mm, 5 µm, Agilent, Santa Clara, CA) reverse phase column. The solvents used for analyses of flavonols, phenolic acids and ellagic acid derivatives in the gradient program were 5% formic acid in water (**A**) and 100% acetonitrile (**B**) (Rathburn Chemicals Ltd, Walkerburn, UK) starting with 10% **B** and using a gradient to obtain 25% at 8 min, 65% at 45 min and 95% at 50 min. The solvents used in ellagitannin analyses in the gradient program were 2% acetic acid in water and acetic acid:acetonitrile:water (2:50:48). The flow rate was 1 mL/min and the injection volume 20 µL. Spectral data from all peaks were accumulated in the range 240–600 nm and chromatograms were recorded at 280 and 360 nm. The phenolic compounds were quantified according to their UV spectra, and retention time, when possible, with commercially available standards. Ellagitannins were quantified using punicalagin as standard (USA, California). All these standards were purchased from Sigma (St. Louis MO) and punicalagin from Chromadex (USA, California).

The UPLC–MS system consisted of an Acquity UPLC instrument (Waters, Milford, MA) using an Acquity UPLC BEH C18 column (1.7 µm, 100 mm × 2.1 mm i.d.) equipped with an Acquity Vanguard pre-column. The column was kept at 35 °C and the flow

rate was 0.3 mL/min. The mobile phase was eluent **A** 0.1% formic acid in water:acetonitrile (95:5, v/v) and eluent **B**, 0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile. The gradient program was following 0 min 0% **B**, 22 min 28% **B**, 22.5 min 40% **B**, 23 min 100% **B**, 24.5 min 100% **B**, 25 min 0% **B**. The sample volume injected was 2–5 µL. The UPLC was connected to a Waters Micromass Qtof Premier Mass Spectrometer (Waters, Milford, MA). An electrospray interface was used in the ionisation, operating both in negative and positive modes and the scanned data was collected in *m/z* range of 100–2000 Da. The ionisation source parameters were capillary voltage 3.0 kV, cone voltage 30 eV, source temperature 120 °C and collision energies UPLC–MS 3 eV and UPLC–MS/MS 20 eV. Desolvation gas temperature was 270 °C and gas flow-rate 795 L/h. Nitrogen and argon were used as cone and collision gases, respectively. The MS was calibrated using sodium formate and the lock masses were leucine enkephalin (negative mode) and reserpine (positive mode). Standard mixtures were run both in positive and negative modes and in UPLC–MS and UPLC–MS/MS modes, to help the identification of unknown compounds in the berry extracts. Masslynx software version 4.1 was used in controlling the instruments and in data handling.

2.6. Bioactivities

2.6.1. Antimicrobial activity

Antimicrobial activity of the acetone extracts (1 mg/mL) of the cloudberry material was measured in liquid cultures according to Nohynek et al. (2006). Microbial strains used in the analysis and their origin are presented in Supplementary Material 1. Bacterial strains *Staphylococcus aureus* VTT E-70045, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* VTT E-84219 and *Escherichia coli* strains VTT E-94564^T and VTT E-093121 were cultured aerobically at 37 °C on nutrient agar (NA, Oxoid) or in nutrient broth (NB, Oxoid) with agitation (150 rpm). *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* GG VTT E-96666 was grown in/on MRS (De Man Rogosa Sharpe; Oxoid, Basingstoke, UK) medium at 37 °C in an anaerobic chamber. Yeast strains *Candida albicans* VTT C-85161 and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* VTT C-00360 were grown on yeast mould agar (YMA, Difco) or in yeast mould broth (YMB, Difco) with agitation (100 rpm) at 37 °C and 30 °C, respectively. Microbial stock cultures were maintained frozen at –80 °C. For experimental use the microbial cultures were transferred onto solid media and incubated for 1–2 days as described above for each strain. The colonies were introduced into liquid media, incubated for 12–24 h, and used as the source of inoculum for antimicrobial activity analysis. The liquid culture method used (Nohynek et al., 2006) was modified by decreasing original 10 mL culture volume to 0.5 mL, enabling the analysis of very small amounts of berry extracts. Briefly, growth media were inoculated with 0.1% of overnight microbial cultures and delivered in portions of 0.5 mL on each berry extract weighed beforehand in round bottom Eppendorf tubes of 2 mL. Cultures with no berry extract were used as positive controls, and cultures with antibiotic compound (chloramphenicol or hygromycin B) were used as negative controls for microbial growth. The cultures in Eppendorf tubes were incubated in their optimal growth conditions, and microbial growth was followed by taking samples of 30 µL from the cultures altogether 4 times during the incubation period of 24 h. The samples were diluted in peptone saline (Maximal Recovery Diluent; Lab M, Heywood, UK), and the proper dilutions were plated. The plates were incubated as described above, and, on the basis of the microbial colony counts recorded, the growth curves were described for each culture. The inhibitory effects of berry extracts on the microbes were evaluated by comparing the control growth curves with those obtained from cultures with extracts.

2.6.2. Anti-adhesion activity analysed by haemagglutination assay (HA)

Gram-negative bacteria frequently express proteinaceous appendages called fimbriae, which mediate bacterial adhesion to specific receptor molecules on host cells. The non-fimbriated strain *E. coli* HB101 and the recombinant strain *E. coli* HB101 (pPIL291-15), which expresses P fimbria as the sole fimbria type, were available from previous work (Boyer & Roulland-Dussoix, 1969; Kylli et al., 2010; van Die, van Megen, Hoekstra, & Bergmans, 1984). The strains were grown for 18 h at 37 °C on Luria agar plates supplemented with appropriate antibiotics. Bacteria were collected and gently suspended in phosphate-buffered saline, pH 7.1 (PBS). The freeze-dried phenolic extracts of cloudberry materials were dissolved at a concentration of 1 mg lyophilised powder per mL PBS. EDTA-containing human erythrocytes of blood group O (Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics Inc., Raritan NJ) were washed three times in cold PBS and suspended to 4% (v/v) in cold PBS, which resulted in $4\text{--}8 \times 10^8$ erythrocytes/mL. The cells were kept at +4 °C or on ice.

HA was performed in 96-well round-bottomed microtitre plates as described before (Kylli et al., 2010). Briefly, 50 µL of bacterial cells were mixed with 50 µL of 4% erythrocyte suspension; the

plates were incubated for 18 h at +4 °C and the HA was read by eye. For inhibition of HA, bacterial cell suspensions were mixed with phenolic extracts, at final concentrations of 0, 1.56, 3.13, 6.25, 12.5, 25, 50 and 100 µg extract/mL suspension (w/v), prior to the addition of erythrocytes. The optimal concentration of bacterial cells in inhibition of HA was for each analysis determined by two-fold titration of the bacterial suspensions. The concentration used in inhibition of HA was four times the minimum agglutinating concentration, which equalled 2×10^8 to 2×10^9 bacteria/mL. The inhibition analysis was repeated four times for each combination of bacterial strain and phenolic extract. The average minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC; µg extract/mL) and standard deviation were calculated. On the basis of phenolics concentrations determined by analytical HPLC (Table 2), the MICs of ellagitannin, hydroxycinnamic acid, flavonols, ellagic acid and derivatives, and benzoic acid were calculated.

2.6.3. Anti-inflammatory testing

Anti-inflammatory activity was studied using murine J774 macrophages (American Type Culture Collection, Rockville, MD), which were cultured at 37 °C in 5% CO₂ atmosphere in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium with Ultraglutamine 1 (Lonza Verviers SPRL, Verviers, Belgium) supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated foetal bovine serum (Lonza), 100 U/mL penicillin, 100 µg/mL streptomycin and 250 ng/mL amphotericin B and harvested with trypsin-EDTA (Invitrogen, Paisley, UK).

Cells were seeded on 6 or 24-well plates and grown for 72 h to confluence prior to the experiments. Cloudberry acetone extracts were first dissolved in DMSO, and the stock solution was diluted in 1:1000 in fresh culture medium to obtain the final concentrations. Macrophages were activated through TLR4 pathway by adding bacterial lipopolysaccharide (LPS, 10 ng/mL) into the culture.

Possible cytotoxicity of the tested extracts was ruled out by measuring cell viability using Cell Proliferation Kit II (a modification of XTT test; Roche Diagnostics, Mannheim, Germany) according to manufacturer's instructions.

The effects of the tested extracts on nitric oxide (NO) production in activated macrophages was determined by measuring the accumulation of nitrite, a stable metabolite of NO, in the culture medium by the method of Griess (Green et al., 1982).

Interleukin-6 (IL-6) concentrations in the culture medium were measured by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) using reagents from R&D Systems Europe Ltd (Abingdon, UK).

The effects of the tested extracts on the expression of inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS) were determined by Western blotting. Actin was used as a loading control. Protein samples (20 µg of lysates) were analysed according to standard Western blotting protocol as described previously (Leppänen, Jalonen, Korhonen, Tuominen, & Moilanen, 2010). The membrane was incubated with the primary antibody in the blocking solution at 4 °C overnight, and with the secondary antibody in the blocking solution for 1 h at room temperature. Bound antibody was detected using Super Signal[®] West Pico or Dura chemiluminescent substrate (Pierce, Rockford, IL) and Image Quant LAS 4000 mini imaging system (GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences AB, Uppsala, Sweden). The quantitation of the chemiluminescent signal was carried out with the use of Image Quant TL software (GE Healthcare). Rabbit polyclonal iNOS and actin antibodies and HRP-conjugated goat polyclonal anti-rabbit antibody were from Santa Cruz Biotechnology Inc. (Santa Cruz, CA).

Results were expressed as mean ± standard error of mean (S.E. M.). Statistical significance of the results was calculated by analysis of variance supported by Dunnett's adjusted significance levels. Differences were considered significant at $p < 0.05$.

Table 1

Organic acids and sugars (mg/g of dry weight) in cloudberry fermentations with *P. pentosaceus* E-072742.

Time (days)	pH	Glucose	Fructose	Lactic acid	Malic acid
0	5.1	158	94	0	54
7	4.4	139	79	59	22
14	4.1	124	62	97	23

3. Results and discussion

3.1. Viable counts and sugar metabolism

P. pentosaceus VTT E-072742 grew from 2×10^6 cfu g⁻¹ to 1×10^8 cfu g⁻¹ during the 7-day fermentation. The viable counts stayed at this level until the end of the fermentation at day 14. The growth of contaminating yeast or bacteria was not detected (<10² cfu/g). The cloudberry material acidified during the lactic fermentation. The pH value decreased from an initial value of 5.1 to 4.1 during the 14 days. The sugar analysis showed that the concentration of glucose and fructose decreased and the concentration of lactic acid increased (Table 1). The concentrations of citric and acetic acids were below the detection limit. The concentration of malic acid decreased during the fermentation, probably due to malolactic fermentation. In malolactic fermentation malic acid is decarboxylated to lactic acid and carbon dioxide, which leads to cytoplasmic alkalisation and ATP synthesis. Malolactic fermentation has been identified as a major system for alkali production in oral streptococci and for protection against environmental stresses such as acid damage (Sheng, Baldeck, Nguyen, Quivey, & Marquis, 2010).

3.2. Juice and press cake dry fractions

After fermentation the mass yields of cloudberry juice were 81–85% and yields of press cake were 8–10%. About 5% of the press

cake consisted of peel and pulp, and the remaining 95% were seeds containing also the seed oil. After dry fractionation about 17% of the seeds were distributed to fine fraction and the rest – about 83% – to coarse fraction. Different berry fractions and estimated yields of these fractions are presented in Fig. 1. Estimated values were calculated from averages of berry treatments. Stereo micrographs of cloudberry fractions are presented in Supplementary Material 2.

3.3. Phenolic composition of the extracts

Phenolic compounds of fermented and dry fractionated cloudberry samples were analysed by HPLC-DAD and by UPLC-QToF-MS/MS using acetone extracts. Altogether 16 phenolic compounds were detected from cloudberry. The UV chromatograms at 280 nm and 360 nm showed the presence of ellagitannins, ellagic acid and derivatives, flavonols and hydroxycinnamic acid, ellagitannins and ellagic acid being the most abundant compounds (Table 2). Ellagic acid, ferulic acid, caffeic acid and benzoic acid were detected in comparison with authentic standards. The identification of the remaining peaks was based on the fragmentation data reported in the literature and UV spectrum (Fischer, Carle, & Kammerer, 2011; Gasperotti, Masuero, Vrhovsek, Guella, & Mattivi, 2010; God-ovac, Tešević, Vajs, Milosavljevic, & Stankovic, 2009; Kähkönen et al., 2012; McDougall, Martinussen, & Stewart, 2008; Seeram, Lee, Scheuller, & Heber, 2006). The MS/MS analysis in negative mode of all ellagitannins found gave a fragment ion at *m/z* 301 representing ellagic acid. The main ellagitannins detected in cloudberry correspond to the dimeric sanguin H-6, [M–H][–] at *m/z* 1869, and trimeric lambertianin C, [M–2H]^{2–} at *m/z* 1401 (Kähkönen et al., 2012; McDougall et al., 2008). Other ellagitannins found in cloudberry in low concentration were tentatively identified like isomers of sanguin H10 (*m/z* 1567), casuarictin/potentillin (*m/z* 935) and sanguin H2 (*m/z* 1103). The MS/MS study also indicated the presence of ellagic acid-derivatives such

Table 2
Phenolic composition of acetone extracts of fermented and dry fractionated cloudberry. Values expressed as mg/g acetone extracts. Samples were taken after 0, 7 and 14 days of fermentation.

Peak	[M–H] [–]	0 days	7 days	14 days	Dry fraction D	Dry fraction E	
<i>Ellagitannins</i>							
1	Sanguin H10	1565	13.46	8.60	3.58	12.79	7.69
2	Casuarictin/potentillin	935	3.51	9.26	9.68	16.36	– ^a
3	Casuaricitrin/potentillin	935	5.45	8.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	Lambertianin C	1401	76.57	86.93	82.93	13.13	0.00
5	Sanguin H6	1868	95.44	91.89	85.90	43.82	26.48
6	Sanguin H2	1103	9.43	0.00	0.00	10.30	5.63
7	Sanguin H2	1103	4.32	3.95	3.84	13.37	9.11
8	Casuaricitrin/potentillin	935	6.53	6.38	7.90	6.53	1.20
9	Sanguin H2	1103	6.07	4.67	3.86	–	5.40
	Total		220.78	219.73	197.70	116.30	55.51
<i>Hydroxycinnamic acids</i>							
10	Ferulic acid	163	0.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.59
11	Caffeic acid	193	1.51	1.11	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total		2.33	1.11	0.00	0.00	1.59
<i>Flavonols</i>							
12	Q-3-O-gluc ^b	477	4.06	5.01	5.82	0.69	1.68
13	Q-3-O-[6"'] ^c	607	1.07	1.21	2.34	0.41	2.73
	Total		5.13	6.22	8.16	1.10	4.41
<i>Ellagic acid derivatives</i>							
14	Ellagic-gly ^d	463	0.00	12.91	15.07	7.94	20.87
15	Ellagic acid	301	144.30	262.20	508.00	122.89	119.33
16	Ellagic-acetylpen ^e	475	3.66	2.74	5.05	3.54	3.65
	Total		147.96	277.85	528.12	134.37	143.85

Bold values refer to the sum of compounds in each phenolic main groups: ellagitannins etc.

^a No detected.

^b Q-3-O-gluc. Quercetin-3-O-glucuronide.

^c Q-3-O-[6"'] Quercetin 3-O-[6"']-(3-hydroxy-3methylglutaryl)-β-glucoside].

^d gly. Glycoside.

^e Acetylpen. acetylpenicillin.

Table 3

Antimicrobial activity of acetone extracts (1 mg/ml) of cloudberry fruit (day 0), fermented cloudberry (day 14) and dry fractions D and E against selected beneficial or harmful microbial strains.

Extract (1 mg/ml)	<i>S. aureus</i> E-70045	<i>E. coli</i> E-093121	<i>P. aeruginosa</i> E-84219	<i>S. cerevisiae</i> C-00360	<i>C. albicans</i> C-85161	<i>L. rhamnosus</i> E-96666
Day 0	+++++	++	++	–	+/-	–
Day 14	+++++	++	++	–	+/-	–
Dry fraction D	+++++	+++ ⁺	++	–	–	nd
Dry fraction E	+++++	++	++	–	–	nd

Abbreviations: nd, not determined. – no inhibitory effects; ±, +, weak inhibition; ++, clear inhibition; +++, +++⁺, strong inhibition; +++++, very strong inhibition; +++++, death of the culture.

as, ellagic acid-glycoside (*m/z* 463) and ellagic acid-acetyl-pentose (*m/z* 475), as well as different quercetin derivatives like quercetin-3-*O*-glucuronide (*m/z* 447) and quercetin 3-*O*-[6''-(3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl)-β-glucoside] (*m/z* 607).

Accumulation of ellagic acid and simultaneous degradation of ellagitannins was the general trend in cloudberry LAB fermentation. In addition, hydroxycinnamic acids decreased and flavonol derivatives increased.

Before dry fractionation process the juice was separated from the press cake. Distribution of different groups of phenolics between juice and press cake were screened by HPLC. Ellagic acid was equally distributed between juice and press cake, while flavonols and ellagitannins were concentrated in press cake (data not shown).

The phenolic profile of each extract was distinct. Interestingly, phenolic profiles of the seed fine fraction (fraction D) and seed coarse fraction (fraction E) differed remarkably. Seed fine fraction clearly contained more tannins than seed coarse fraction. On the other hand, more flavonols, namely quercetin derivatives, were found in seed coarse fraction. Ellagic acid was equally distributed between the dry fractions.

3.4. Bioactivities

3.4.1. Antimicrobial activity

Antimicrobial activity was tested in liquid cultures of selected microbial strains using acetone extracts (1 mg mL⁻¹) of cloudberry samples (Table 3). Non-fermented as well as fermented cloudberry was strongly antimicrobial against *S. aureus* VTT E-70045, and also inhibited growth of pathogenic Gram-negative bacteria *E. coli* VTT E-093121 and *P. aeruginosa* VTT E-84219. These results are well in line with our earlier studies (Nohynek et al., 2006; Puupponen-Pimiä et al., 2005). Fermentation did not alter antimicrobial activity. The growth of pathogen yeast strain *C. albicans* VTT C-85161 was slightly decelerated with the cloudberry extracts. Extracts did not have an effect on growth of probiotic strain *L. rhamnosus* VTT E-96666 and spoilage yeast *S. cerevisiae* VTT C-00360. Dry fractions of fermented cloudberry showed variable antimicrobial activities against microbial species in this study. *S. aureus* was the most sensitive to all the acetone extracts of the dry fractions. In addition, seed fine and coarse fractions of fermented cloudberry were active against uropathogenic *E. coli* and *P. aeruginosa*. *S. cerevisiae* and *C. albicans* were not sensitive against any of the dry fractions tested. Interestingly, the extract from seed fine fraction showed stronger inhibition on the growth of uropathogenic *E. coli* than other cloudberry extracts. Concentrations of casuarictin/potentillin (peak 2, Table 2) and sanguin H2 (peak 7, Table 2) isomers were higher in this extract compared to any other tested extract. This might be one reason for increased antimicrobial activity. Phenolics may also act in synergistic way, and thus specific combination of phenolics in seed fine fraction might have been most effective against *E. coli*. Antimicrobial activity may also be dependent on other compounds as phenolics. Berry seed oil is also well known for its antimicrobial activity. Distribution of seed oil components between seed dry fractions was not studied. Vatter, Lin, Labbe,

and Shetty (2004, 2005) have used solid state bioprocessing to enhance health benefits of berries through phenolic antioxidant enrichment. In their experiments cranberry pomace was bioprocessed by food-grade fungus *Rhizopus oligosporus* or *Lentinus edode*. This bioprocessing increased antioxidant activity and antimicrobial activity against important foodborne pathogens, such as *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*, and *E. coli* O157:H7.

3.4.2. Anti-adhesion activity

Acetone extracts of cloudberry fermentations and dry fractions were analysed for the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) required to inhibit HA of the recombinant strain *E. coli* HB101 (pPIL291-15), which expresses P fimbriae as the sole fimbria type. *E. coli* HB101 (pPIL291-15) efficiently agglutinated human erythrocytes in the absence of inhibitor, whereas the well-characterised non-fimbriated laboratory strain *E. coli* HB101, used as a control in the study, did not agglutinate the erythrocytes. As shown in Fig. 2, unfermented extract (day 0) inhibited HA of P-fimbriated *E. coli* at an average of 7 µg extract/mL. The extract at fermentation

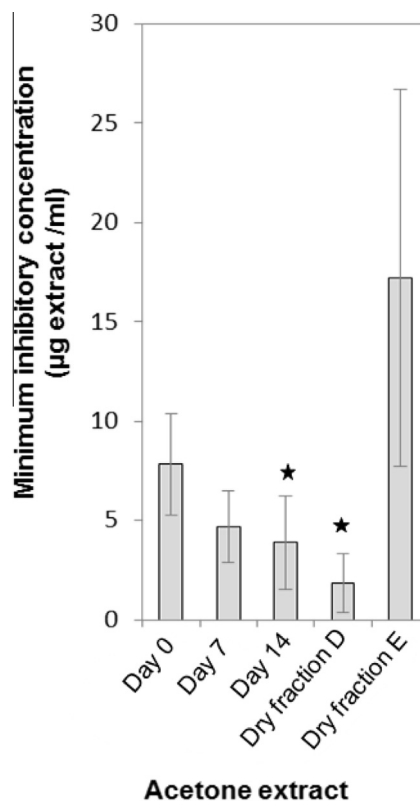


Fig. 2. Effect of cloudberry phenolic extracts on bacterial adhesion. Minimum concentrations of acetone extracts (µg/mL) of fermented cloudberry (days 0, 7, 14), and seeds dry fractions (D, fine fraction; E, coarse fraction) required for inhibition of P-fimbriated *E. coli* to human erythrocytes are shown. The results represent averages and standard deviations of four independent experiments. Significant difference between a sample extract and the extract of day 0 fermentation, as calculated by Student's *t*-test, is indicated with an asterisk ($p < 0.05$).

midpoint (day 7) inhibited the HA at an average of 5 µg extract/mL, but the difference to the control was not statistically significant. The extract at the end of fermentation (day 14) showed a statistically significantly lower MIC of 3.9 µg extract/mL compared to the unfermented extract. The extract of the coarse seed fraction (fraction E) showed low inhibitory capacity; the MIC was on average 17 µg extract/mL. Interestingly, the extract of the fine seed fraction (fraction D) was the most potent inhibitor of *E. coli* HA, showing an MIC of only 1.9 µg extract/mL, which statistically is significantly different from the non-fermented control extract.

The concentrations (as mg/g extract) of individual phenolic compounds in the acetone extracts were determined (Table 2) and the results were used in combination with the obtained MIC values (µg extract/mL, Fig. 2) to determine the concentration of ellagitannin, hydroxycinnamic acid, flavonols and ellagic acid and derivatives at the MIC of the various acetone extracts (see Supplementary Material 3). The results showed that the most potent inhibitory acetone extract, the fine seed fraction D, contained the lowest concentrations of phenolic compounds. The

major components in the fine seed fraction D at MIC (ellagic acid and derivatives, ellagitannin, benzoic acid) were present at much higher concentrations in the extracts of lower inhibitory potential. The results indicate that the inhibitory compound was not one of the phenolic compounds. Due to the importance of P fimbria-mediated adhesion in the virulence of uropathogenic *E. coli*, several anti-adhesive approaches have been reported. These include inhibition of P-fimbrial binding to target cells using synthetic derivatives of the Gal-α-1-4-Gal-containing globoseries of glycolipids and prevention of P fimbria assembly on the bacterial surface using rationally designed synthetic inhibitors of fimbria assembly (reviewed by Ruer, Pinotsis, Steadman, Waksman, and Remaut (2015)).

3.4.3. Anti-inflammatory activity

The anti-inflammatory properties of cloudberry acetone extracts were tested in macrophages activated by exposure to bacterial endotoxin LPS. Under these conditions, the cells produce proinflammatory factors, such as NO, IL-6 and iNOS, which were measured in the present study. The effects of the cloudberry acetone extracts on the inflammatory factors were investigated by adding the extracts in five concentrations (1, 3, 10, 30, and 100 µg/mL) into the cultures of activated macrophages. The extracts did not show cytotoxic effects but some of them had interesting anti-inflammatory properties (see Supplementary Material 4).

Unfermented (day 0) extract at higher concentrations had a minor anti-inflammatory effect on NO and IL-6 production. Interestingly, the fermented (day 14) extract showed somewhat improved anti-inflammatory activity as compared to the unfermented (day 0) extract, suggesting that the fermentation process produced/enriched anti-inflammatory compounds in the berry material.

When investigating the anti-inflammatory effects of the extracts of dry fractions (fractions D and E) the fine fraction (fraction D) showed only minor anti-inflammatory activity. Intriguingly, the extract of the coarse dry fraction (fraction E) had the most potent anti-inflammatory properties among the tested extracts. It reduced NO and IL-6 production and iNOS expression in a dose-dependent manner and produced statistically significant effects already at concentrations of 1–3 µg/ml (Fig. 3). These results suggest that the anti-inflammatory compounds produced during the fermentation process are concentrated in the coarse dry fraction (fraction E).

As described above, the phenolic profiles of the four tested acetone extracts were distinct. Also, the phenolic profiles of the two dry fractions were different and quercetin derivatives were shown to concentrate in the coarse dry fraction E. Quercetin has been shown to possess anti-inflammatory properties in activated macrophages (Endalea et al., 2013; Hämäläinen, Nieminen, Vuorela, Heinonen, & Moilanen, 2007; Jung & Sung, 2004), as well as in carrageenan-induced inflammation in rats (Morikawa et al., 2003). In activated macrophages the effects of quercetin on transcription factors NF-kappaB and STAT1 have been proposed to explain, at least partly, the inhibitory effects of quercetin on NO production and iNOS expression (Hämäläinen et al., 2007).

4. Conclusion

Phenolic composition and bioactivity of cloudberry can be remarkably modified by bioprocessing. In addition, highly bioactive fractions can be produced by dry fractionation of the press cake. During fermentation ellagitannins were degraded and simultaneously ellagic acid was accumulated. Phenolics were differentially distributed in seed coarse and fine fractions after dry fractionation process. Seed fine fraction contained clearly more

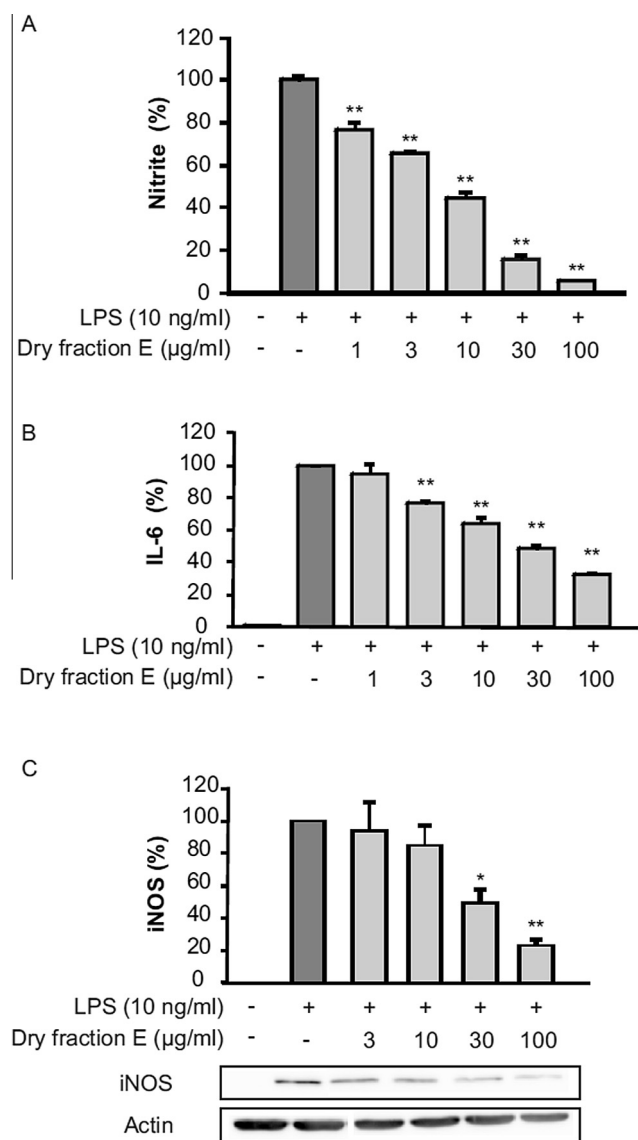


Fig. 3. Effects of the coarse dry fraction (fraction E) on nitric oxide (A) and interleukin 6 (IL-6; B) production and on inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS) expression in activated macrophages. Nitric oxide production (A) was determined by measuring the accumulation of its stable metabolite nitrite into the culture medium. Values are mean ± SEM, n = 4; *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01.

tannins than seed coarse fraction. On the other hand, more quercetin derivatives were found in seed coarse fraction. Ellagic acid was equally distributed between the dry fractions.

Fermentation did not increase antimicrobial activity of cloudberry, but interestingly dry fractionation of the press cake did, as seed fine fraction had some increased antimicrobial activity against uropathogenic *E. coli*.

Due to the significance of P fimbria-mediated adhesion in the virulence of uropathogenic *E. coli*, various anti-adhesive approaches have been reported. However, the reported P-fimbria inhibitors are synthetic and their synthesis complicated or expensive. Our results clearly showed that naturally occurring cloudberry phenolics have potential as competitive inhibitors of *E. coli* adhesion. Fermentation had a minor, but statistically significant effect on the anti-adhesive capacity of the cloudberry, which was seen as inhibition of P fimbria-mediated HA of *E. coli*. The extracts of the seed fractions differed markedly, as the fine seed fraction had a significantly higher inhibitory effect on *E. coli* adhesion than the coarse seed fraction.

Our results also showed that fermentation process enriched or produced anti-inflammatory compounds of the cloudberry material. Interestingly, the seed coarse fraction was shown to be very potent as it significantly reduced NO and IL-6 production and iNOS expression even at low concentration.

It was not possible to identify phenolic compounds from the berry material that caused inhibition of growth and fimbria-mediated adhesion of *E. coli* bacteria or reduced production of inflammatory biomarkers. These components may not be identifiable in the current study or they may be non-phenolic compounds. Synergistic effects of specific phenolics are also possible. In general cloudberry proved to be a very potent source for bioactive compounds. This is very important, because berries can be easily added to the normal daily diet, and thus patients and other needy persons would get these health benefits in a regular manner. The results provide interesting suggestions for future research and applications: the active compounds present in the seeds should be identified and further evaluated in pharma or health food applications.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Acknowledgements

Tekes- the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation (BERRYFERMENTATION project (No. 40437/08) during the years 2009–2012) and Medical Research Fund of Tampere University Hospital are acknowledged for financial support. We wish to thank Airi Hyrkäs, Liisa Änäkäinen, Pirkko Nousiainen, Heidi Eriksson, Merja Salmijärvi, Ulla Österlund, Salla Hietakangas, Mirva Järvelä-Stölting, Meiju Kukkonen, Maiju Laaksonen and Petra Miikkulainen for expert technical assistance and Päivi Vahala and Heli Määttä for skilful secretarial help.

Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.foodchem.2015.11.061>.

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