



## Bioactive compounds and antibacterial activities in crystallized honey liquefied with ultrasound

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### ABSTRACT

The effect of ultrasound on the crystal size, phenols, flavonoids, Maillard products and antibacterial activity of crystallized honeys was studied. Three multifloral honeys (M), one monofloral (MO) and one honeydew (HD) honey were used. Ultrasound was performed at 42 kHz for different times (0, 5, 10 and 15 min). The antibacterial activities were tested against *Salmonella typhimurium*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli*. In all honeys, the parameters analyzed had significant differences ( $P < 0.05$ ). After 15 min of ultrasound the HD had increments of 44 mg of gallic acid/100 g of honey in phenols, and some M showed increase in flavonoids (5.64 mg of quercetin /100 g of honey) and improvement in inhibition against *Salmonella typhimurium* was 13.1%. In some honeys the correlation between phenols or flavonoids and antibacterial activity were significant ( $P < 0.05$ ). No correlation was found between Maillard products and antibacterial activity. The ultrasound treatment effect on the crystal size, phenols, flavonoid, Maillard products, and antibacterial activity of crystallized honeys were different in each honey.

### 1. Introduction

Honey has biological properties such as antibacterial activity. Vodarou et al. [1] reported that all honeys had antibacterial activity regardless of botanical origin (coniferous, citrus, thyme or multifloral). Alvarez-Suarez et al. [2] found that honey has varying antibacterial effects, which can be attributed to the phenolic content of each honey. Noori et al. [3] reported the antimicrobial effects of honeys with different concentrations of phenols, flavonoids and hydrogen peroxide. The honeys show a strong correlation exists between the bacterial inhibitory capacity and polyphenol content in honey [4,5].

The crystallization of honey is an undesirable process because it affects the texture properties and the appearance of honey as a liquid and transparent product [6–7]. Furthermore, crystallization has a negative influence on honey because it promotes the growth of fungi and yeast [8]. Pimentel-Gonzalez et al. [9] found that the effect of thermal

treatment on the antibacterial activity of honey depends on its botanical origin and the type of bacteria to be inhibited. Bucekova et al. [10] found that the thermal liquefaction of crystallized honeys sometimes increases the antibacterial activities depending on their botanical origin.

In recent years, the use of emerging technology and its application in the food industry has been studied. The ultrasound processing slows honey crystallization and removes most of the yeasts present in honey [11]. Kuš and Jerković [12] mentions that the ultrasound process is very suitable for the extraction of volatile and semi-volatile compounds present in honey. In addition, the bioactive compounds in honey are not affected during ultrasound processing [13]. Kabbani, et al. [6] showed that ultrasound treatment accelerates the liquefaction of the honey, especially at temperatures below 50° C. Quintero-Lira et al. [14] and Önür et al. [15] found that the liquefaction of crystallized honey by an ultrasound process does not produce a significant increase in hydroxymethylfurfural.

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**Table 1**

Botanical source of the honeys from Hidalgo State, Mexico.

Honey	Geographical zone of Hidalgo, Mexico	Botanical source
Multifloral 1 (M1)	Acaxochitlan	<i>Gramineae</i> sp. 29.1%, <i>Mirtaceae</i> : <i>Eucalyptus</i> 5.4%, <i>Mercurialis</i> sp. 6.9%, <i>Cupressaceae</i> 7%: <i>Cupressus lusitánica</i> , <i>Juniperus flaccida</i> , and <i>Ericaceae</i> sp. 7.2%
Multifloral 2 (M2)	Arenal	<i>Arecaceae</i> sp. 21.5%, <i>Convolvulaceae</i> sp. 13.9%
Multifloral 3 (M3)	Huehuetla	<i>Quercus</i> sp. 11.2%, <i>Ricinus communis</i> 10.4%, <i>Rubiceae</i> sp. 12.9%
Monofloral (MO)	Orizatlan	<i>Citrus sinensis</i> 12%.: <i>Quercus</i> sp, <i>Ricinus communis</i> , <i>Papilionoideae</i> sp,
Honeydew (HD)	Tasquillo	<i>Juglans</i> sp. 20.9%-others: <i>Cruciferae</i> sp, <i>Ericaceae</i> sp. and <i>Mercurialis</i> sp.

The objective of the present study was to determine if ultrasound at different times influences the characteristics of crystallized honeys, such as phenols, total flavonoids, maillard reaction products, crystal size and antibacterial activities

## 2. Materials and methods

### 2.1. Samples of honey

The crystallized honeys were recollected from different regions of Hidalgo State, Mexico, in August of 2018. The multiflower honeys were from Acaxochitlan (M1), Arenal (M2), Huhueta (M3), monoflower from Orizatlan (MO) and honeydew from Tasquillo (HD). (Table 1). These honeys were analyzed by microscopy and frequency determination of the classes of pollen. Each sample was collected in a sterile container and weighing 500 g were packet and sealed in amber glass bottles and stored at 5 °C in the dark until tested [16].

### 2.2. Ultrasound treatment

3 g of each of the honey samples were placed in a 20 mL test tube at 20 °C. After, they were processed with ultrasound during 5, 10 or 15 min into an ultrasonic bath (Branson 3510, Connecticut, USA) at 42 kHz.

### 2.3. Crystal size

The crystals were measure using the technique described by Kabbani et al. [6] with some modifications. One gram of honey was put on slid at Olympus CX31 microscope (JP) coupled to camera Infinity 1-2C, the size of 30 crystals of each honey were measured in  $\mu\text{m}^2$ , 30 images were captured for sample and the measurements were realized with Image-pro plus (USA).

### 2.4. Phenolic compounds

The technique Folin-Ciocalteu [17] was used to quantify the contained total phenols. Five grams of honey were diluted with distilled water (1:5 w/v), homogenized and centrifuged at 17,500  $\times$  g for 15 min at 4 °C in a centrifuge Z 36 HK (HERMLE Labortechnik GmbH, Wehingen, Germany). From supernatant, 0.5 mL was mixed with 2.5 mL of the Folin-Ciocalteu reagent 0.2 N, after 5 min at rest, 2 mL of a sodium carbonate solution (7.5% w/v) were added. The mixture was mixed vigorously and allowed to stand for 2 h in the dark. The mixture was read at 760 nm in a spectrophotometer (Jenway, 6715 UV/vis.). The results were expressed as mg of gallic acid equivalents (Fermont, MX) per 100 g of honey (mg GAE / 100 g).

### 2.5. Total flavonoids

The flavonoids were analyzed according the technique reported by

**Table 2**

Effect of ultrasound treatments (5, 10, 15 min) on the size of the crystallized honey crystal size.

Ultrasound time (minutes)	Crystal size ( $\mu\text{m}^2$ )				
	M1	M2	M3	MO	HD
0	138.6 $\pm$ 18.2 <sup>a,A</sup>	276.3 $\pm$ 21.3 <sup>a,C</sup>	202.8 $\pm$ 18.4 <sup>a,B</sup>	233.6 $\pm$ 18.4 <sup>a,B</sup>	132.9 $\pm$ 19.3 <sup>a,A</sup>
5	128.9 $\pm$ 17.7 <sup>ab,A</sup>	118.7 $\pm$ 19.7 <sup>b,C</sup>	185.4 $\pm$ 19.4 <sup>a,B</sup>	211.9 $\pm$ 17.9 <sup>ab,BC</sup>	110.9 $\pm$ 17.2 <sup>a,A</sup>
10	114.9 $\pm$ 19.3 <sup>ab,B</sup>	181.8 $\pm$ 16.5 <sup>c,C</sup>	142.1 $\pm$ 13.3 <sup>b,B</sup>	200.7 $\pm$ 16.1 <sup>ab,C</sup>	71.4 $\pm$ 15.3 <sup>b,A</sup>
15	95.4 $\pm$ 19.3 <sup>ab,B</sup>	162.1 $\pm$ 15.4 <sup>c,C</sup>	109.3 $\pm$ 14.2 <sup>bB</sup>	184.3 $\pm$ 17.6 <sup>b,C</sup>	42.1 $\pm$ 9.4 <sup>b,A</sup>

Multifloral 1 (M1), multifloral 2 (M2), multifloral 3 (M3), monofloral (MO) and honeydew (HD). different lowercase letters represent a significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ) within the column (among time) as determined by tukey's comparison of averages. different uppercase letters represent a significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ) within the row (among honeys) as determined by tukey's comparison of averages. all determinations were performed in triplicate.

Sancho et al. [18] with some modifications Medina-Pérez et al. [19]. One gram of honey was diluted (1:10) with methanol (Femont, MX), homogenized and centrifuged at 17,500  $\times$  g for 15 min at 4 °C. Two mL of supernatant were mixed with two mL of aluminum trichloride (2% with methanol) (Femont, MX). The mix was rested for 15 min in the dark and read at 415 nm in spectrophotometer (Jenway, 6715 UV/vis.). The results were expressed as mg of quercetin equivalents (Sigma-Aldrich, USA) per 100 g of honey (mg QE/100 g).

### 2.6. Products of the Maillard reaction

The melanoidin content was determined in 50% honey aqueous solution using a spectrophotometry technique measured the net absorbance. The read (absorbance) was done at 450 nm [20]. The melanoidin content was expressed in absorption units.

### 2.7. Antibacterial activity

Three gram-negative bacteria (*Escherichia coli* ATCC 25922; *Salmonella typhimurium* ATCC 43971; and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, ATCC 27853), and three gram-positive bacteria (*Bacillus subtilis* ATCC 6630, *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 13709; and *Listeria monocytogenes* ATCC 15313) were used the antibacterial activity of honey.

The bacteria were activated in nutrient broth at 37 °C, the activation time was as follows: *E. coli* for 9 h, *S. aureus* 20 h, while *B. subtilis*, *P. aeruginosa* and *L. monocytogenes* were incubated for 24 h. Obtaining a final concentration of 10<sup>7</sup> colony forming units per mL (CFU / mL). An 8.5% (w/v) honey solution was prepared with deionized water. In a tube, 1 mL of the activated culture (10<sup>6</sup> CFU/mL) was placed in 9 mL of the honey solution and they were homogenized. The time of exposition was fifteen minutes. In a sterile petri dish (100  $\times$  15 mm), 1 mL of the honey dilution was placed with the culture, and 20 mL of the culture medium, they were homogenized with horizontal movements and left to rest until they solidified. All strains were incubated at 37 °C for 24 h. Each strain was grown in specific medium. The eosin methylene blue agar for *E. coli*, agar *S. aureus* for *S. aureus*, agar *Salmonella* and *Shigella* with *S. typhimurium* and agar nutritive for *B. subtilis*, *L. monocytogenes* and *P. aeruginosa* were used. Sterile saline solution was used as negative control and ciprofloxacin as positive control. All tests were done in triplicate. The inhibition percentage was calculated as follows:

$$\% \text{ inhibition} = ((\text{Concentration initial (CFU/mL)} - \text{Concentration final (CFU/mL)}) / \text{Concentration initial (CFU/mL)}) * 100.$$

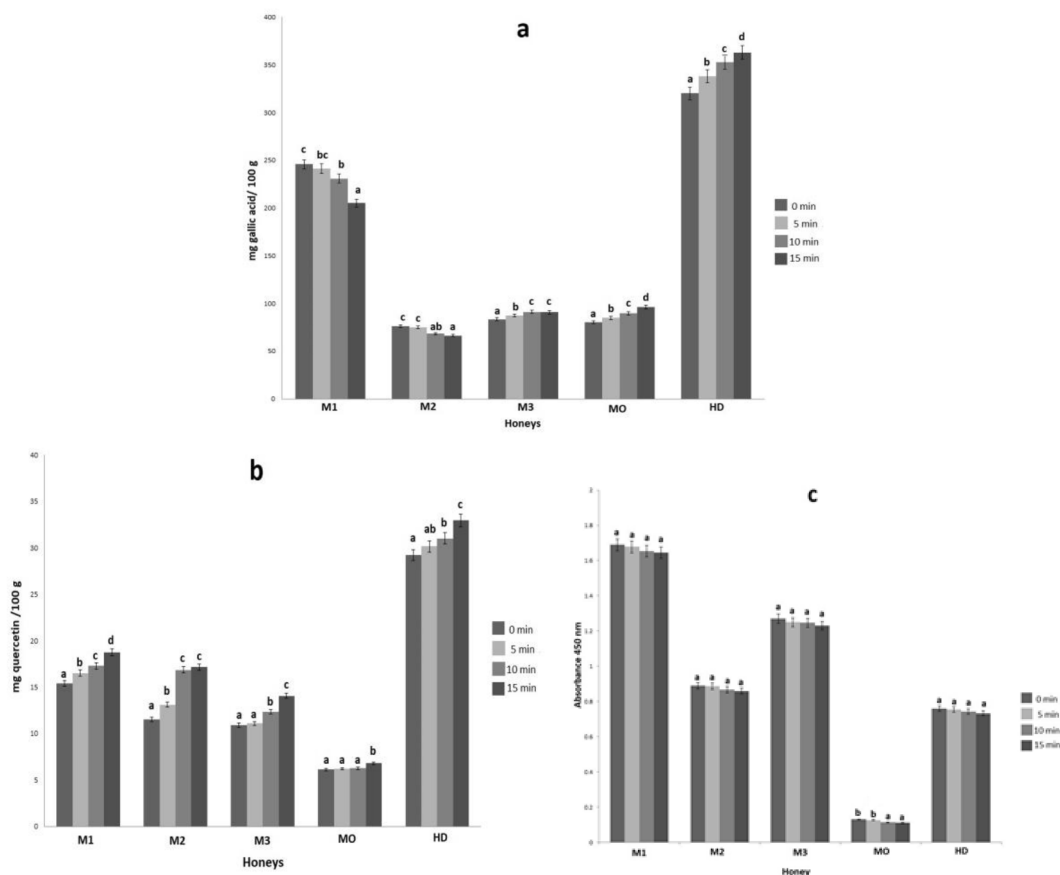


Fig. 1. Effect of the ultrasound at different times (0, 5, 10 and 15 min) in different crystallized honeys (M1, M2, M3, MO and HD) in their antibacterial compounds: a) total phenols, b) total flavonoids and c) Maillard products.

## 2.8. Statistical analysis

The experimental design was completely randomized. All tests were performed in triplicate. When significant differences were found ( $P < 0.05$ ) between treatment, the technique of Tukey's was used to compare the means with a significantly of ( $P < 0.05$ ). The correlation was done using Pearson correlation. The analyses were done with the statistical program SPSS (version 20) software.

## 3. Results and discussion

### 3.1. Crystal size

In table 2, it is observed that the crystal size presents a significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ) between the honey samples, the M2 honey sample is the largest (276.3  $\mu\text{m}$ ). Bakier [21] reported that the crystal size depends on the type of honey. The reduction of crystal size by ultrasound was different in each honey. The greatest reduction percentage was observed in the honey HD (68.3%). Kabbani et al. [6] and Quintero et al. [14] found a reduction in the crystal size of different honeys upon ultrasound treatment. Ultrasound treatment reduces crystal sizes through the application of sound waves [22].

### 3.2. Bioactive compounds

The concentration of total phenols in the crystallized honeys and the honeys processed with ultrasound showed significant differences ( $P < 0.05$ ) as evident in Fig. 1. The M3, MO and HD honeys showed an increase of total phenols since 5 min (Fig. 1a). Stojkovic et al. [23] mentions that ultrasound treatment increases the content of total phenols

and the antioxidant capacity of honey, compared to conventional heat treatment. The flavonoid content increased in all samples since 15 min (Fig. 1b). Chaikman et al. [24] also observed that the ultrasound process increased the contents of phenols and flavonoids in honey. The ultrasound process increased the amounts of organic compounds extracted, such as volatile compounds [25]. The Maillard products showed a reduction in all honeys, but the differences were not significant ( $P > 0.05$ ) (Fig. 1c). Shirahashi et al. [26] reported that the final stages of the Maillard reaction produce a melanoidin polymer. Ultrasound reduces the organic polymer [27]; as a consequence, the application of ultrasound to honey reduces Maillard products.

### 3.3. Antibacterial activities

The crystallized honey solution to 8.5%, showed significant differences ( $P < 0.05$ ) in the inhibition of *Escherichia coli*. Honey HD had the greatest effect (Table 3). Moussa et al. [28] reported the inhibitory effect of different honeys against *E. coli*. The effect of the ultrasound on each honey was different. The honey M3 showed a significant ( $P < 0.05$ ) increase in inhibitory effect after ultrasound treatment. Plaza et al. [29] reported the extraction of active compounds that inhibit the growth of *E. coli* by ultrasound. All the crystallized honeys to 8.5% inhibited *Salmonella typhimurium*, and the MO and HD honeys had the strongest effect, achieving 94% inhibition (Table 3). These results are similar to those of Taormina et al. [30]; Mundo et al. [31] who found that honeys of different botanical origins exhibited antibacterial activity against *S. typhimurium*. Only the honey HD did not show a significant increase ( $P > 0.05$ ) inhibition with ultrasound treatment. Danyeh et al. [32] reported the use of ultrasound to extract essential oils from *Prangos ferulacea* and *Satureja macrosiphonia* that had an inhibitory effect on

**Table 3**

Effect of the time in ultrasound treatment (5, 10, 15 min) in different crystallized honey in the % inhibition of negative gram bacteria.

Ultrasound Time (minutes)/Honey	M1	M2	M3	MO	HD
<i>Escherichia coli</i>					
0	83.1 ± 1.7 <sup>a,A</sup>	90.1 ± 3.4 <sup>a,BC</sup>	87.1 ± 1.7 <sup>a,AB</sup>	90.1 ± 1.7 <sup>a,BC</sup>	95.05 ± 3.4 <sup>a,C</sup>
5	83.2 ± 1.2 <sup>a,A</sup>	90.0 ± 2.0 <sup>a,B</sup>	89.5 ± 1.6 <sup>ab,B</sup>	90.7 ± 3.3 <sup>a,B</sup>	94.7 ± 1.5 <sup>a,B</sup>
10	81.7 ± 2.5 <sup>a,A</sup>	89.1 ± 1.3 <sup>a,B</sup>	92.7 ± 1.3 <sup>bc,B</sup>	90.9 ± 1.5 <sup>a,BC</sup>	94.4 ± 1.8 <sup>b,B</sup>
15	79.5 ± 1.3 <sup>a,A</sup>	89.3 ± 2.2 <sup>a,B</sup>	93.9 ± 0.9 <sup>c,CD</sup>	91.5 ± 3.3 <sup>a,B</sup>	95.1 ± 1.0 <sup>a,D</sup>
<i>Salmonella typhimurium</i>					
0	80.8 ± 1.2 <sup>a,A</sup>	89.3 ± 1.7 <sup>a,BC</sup>	86.2 ± 1.8 <sup>a,AB</sup>	94.7 ± 1.8 <sup>a,C</sup>	94.6 ± 1.7 <sup>a,C</sup>
5	81.3 ± 1.5 <sup>a,A</sup>	98.3 ± 1.4 <sup>b,B</sup>	97.6 ± 1.1 <sup>b,B</sup>	96.7 ± 1.4 <sup>ab,B</sup>	94.3 ± 1.5 <sup>a,B</sup>
10	86.2 ± 1.4 <sup>b,A</sup>	99.1 ± 1.5 <sup>b,B</sup>	98.4 ± 1.4 <sup>b,B</sup>	98.4 ± 1.4 <sup>ab,B</sup>	95.1 ± 1.6 <sup>a,B</sup>
15	88.2 ± 1.9 <sup>b,A</sup>	99.2 ± 1.3 <sup>b,B</sup>	99.2 ± 1.5 <sup>b,B</sup>	99.2 ± 1.3 <sup>b,B</sup>	95.9 ± 1.8 <sup>a,B</sup>
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>					
0	96.9 ± 1.1 <sup>a,B</sup>	99.2 ± 0.9 <sup>a,B</sup>	97.6 ± 1.5 <sup>a,B</sup>	98.6 ± 0.7 <sup>a,B</sup>	78.8 ± 1.1 <sup>a,A</sup>
5	98.8 ± 0.9 <sup>ab,B</sup>	99.4 ± 1.4 <sup>a,B</sup>	97.8 ± 0.8 <sup>a,B</sup>	98.3 ± 1.1 <sup>a,B</sup>	78.1 ± 0.9 <sup>a,A</sup>
10	99.4 ± 1.2 <sup>ab,B</sup>	99.5 ± 0.9 <sup>a,B</sup>	98.0 ± 0.9 <sup>a,B</sup>	98.9 ± 1.2 <sup>a,B</sup>	78.6 ± 1.2 <sup>a,A</sup>
15	99.8 ± 0.9 <sup>b,B</sup>	99.7 ± 0.8 <sup>a,B</sup>	98.3 ± 1.2 <sup>a,B</sup>	99.1 ± 0.9 <sup>a,B</sup>	79.7 ± 0.8 <sup>a,A</sup>

Multifloral 1 (M1), multifloral 2 (M2), multifloral (M3), monofloral (MO) and honeydew (HD). Different lowercase letters represent a significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ) within the column (among time) as determined by Tukey's comparison of average. Different uppercase letters represent a significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ) within the row (among honeys) as determined by Tukey's comparison of averages.

#### *Salmonella typhimurium.*

In contrast, the crystallized honey to 8.5% with the least inhibition of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* was the HD (Table 3). Honeys of diverse countries have shown the inhibitory effect of these bacteria [33–35]. Only the honey M1 had a significant increase ( $P < 0.05$ ) in antibacterial activity after 15 min of ultrasound treatment. All crystallized honeys to 8.5% had an effect against *Listeria monocytogenes*, and M1 honey had the greatest inhibitory effect (99%). Elbanna et al. [36] and Rodriguez et al. [37] also reported the effect of different honeys on *Listeria monocytogenes*. The M2, M3, MO and HD honeys showed significant increases ( $P < 0.05$ ) in antibacterial activity against *Listeria monocytogenes* after ultrasound treatment. Salarbashi et al. [38] found that the application of ultrasound to essential oils from *Achillea biebersteinii* and *Achillea wilhelmii* increased the bioactive compounds and the inhibitory effect on these bacteria.

The inhibitory effect of *Staphylococcus aureus* differed significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) between the honeys. The HD honey had the least effect (Table 4), and the same antibacterial activity was found by Bueno-Costa et al. [39] with honeys of different floral origins. The ultrasound treatment had no significant effect ( $P > 0.05$ ) on the M1, M2, MO and HD honeys. Again, there are reports of the increased extraction of bioactive compounds with inhibitory effects on *Staphylococcus aureus* using ultrasound [40]. All multifloral M1, M2 and M3 honeys had significant increases ( $P < 0.05$ ) in the inhibitory effect with the ultrasound process in *Bacillus subtilis* (Table 4). Honeys from New Zealand [41] exhibited similar inhibitory effects against *Bacillus subtilis*. The Ultrasounds assistance increased the extraction of antibacterial compounds in *Cyclocarya paliurus* against *Bacillus subtilis* [42].

**Table 4**

Effect of the time in ultrasound treatment (5, 10, 15 min) in different crystallized honey in the % inhibition of positive gram bacteria.

Ultrasound Time (minutes)/Honey	M1	M2	M3	MO	HD
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>					
0	99.0 ± 1.7 <sup>a,C</sup>	82.7 ± 1.1 <sup>a,A</sup>	94.2 ± 0.9 <sup>a,B</sup>	84.6 ± 1.7 <sup>ab,A</sup>	93.3 ± 1.6 <sup>a,B</sup>
5	99.2 ± 1.5 <sup>a,C</sup>	87.1 ± 1.2 <sup>b,B</sup>	97.6 ± 1.1 <sup>b,D</sup>	84.1 ± 1.4 <sup>a,A</sup>	94.3 ± 1.8 <sup>a,C</sup>
10	97.5 ± 1.5 <sup>a,B</sup>	88.7 ± 1.3 <sup>b,A</sup>	98.4 ± 1.3 <sup>b,B</sup>	87.3 ± 1.3 <sup>b,A</sup>	96.3 ± 1.9 <sup>ab,B</sup>
15	97.1 ± 1.9 <sup>a,B</sup>	90.3 ± 1.4 <sup>ab,B</sup>	98.5 ± 1.1 <sup>b,C</sup>	88.1 ± 1.6 <sup>b,A</sup>	98.4 ± 1.4 <sup>b,C</sup>
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>					
0	98.1 ± 1.8 <sup>a,B</sup>	98.6 ± 1.5 <sup>a,B</sup>	99.1 ± 1.7 <sup>a,AB</sup>	99.5 ± 1.1 <sup>a,B</sup>	77.3 ± 1.7 <sup>a,A</sup>
5	97.6 ± 1.6 <sup>a,B</sup>	99.0 ± 1.4 <sup>ab</sup>	97.2 ± 1.4 <sup>ab,B</sup>	98.1 ± 1.4 <sup>a,B</sup>	77.5 ± 1.5 <sup>a,A</sup>
10	97.7 ± 1.3 <sup>ab,BC</sup>	99.1 ± 1.6 <sup>a,C</sup>	94.4 ± 1.4 <sup>bc,B</sup>	98.7 ± 1.4 <sup>a,C</sup>	78.4 ± 1.6 <sup>a,A</sup>
15	97.1 ± 1.9 <sup>a,C</sup>	98.9 ± 1.4 <sup>a,C</sup>	92.5 ± 1.6 <sup>CB</sup>	99.1 ± 1.3 <sup>a,C</sup>	79.4 ± 1.9 <sup>a,A</sup>
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>					
0	94.4 ± 1.5 <sup>a,C</sup>	73.2 ± 1.5 <sup>a,A</sup>	81.7 ± 1.2 <sup>a,B</sup>	95.8 ± 2.1 <sup>a,C</sup>	71.1 ± 1.8 <sup>a</sup>
5	96.8 ± 1.2 <sup>bc,C</sup>	74.3 ± 1.2 <sup>a,A</sup>	84.8 ± 1.1 <sup>b,B</sup>	96.1 ± 1.9 <sup>a,C</sup>	72.2 ± 1.9 <sup>a,A</sup>
10	98.7 ± 1.2 <sup>b,D</sup>	79.2 ± 1.8 <sup>b,B</sup>	87.4 ± 0.9 <sup>c,C</sup>	98.7 ± 1.2 <sup>a,D</sup>	70.1 ± 2.2 <sup>a,A</sup>
15	99.7 ± 1.1 <sup>b,D</sup>	81.3 ± 2.0 <sup>b,B</sup>	89.4 ± 1.2 <sup>c,C</sup>	99.3 ± 1.8 <sup>a,D</sup>	68.9 ± 1.8 <sup>a,A</sup>

Multifloral 1 (M1), multifloral 2 (M2), multifloral (M3), monofloral (MO) and honeydew (HD). Different lowercase letters represent a significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ) within the column (among time) as determined by Tukey's comparison of average. Different uppercase letters represent a significant difference ( $P < 0.05$ ) within the row (among honeys) as determined by Tukey's comparison of averages.

#### 3.4. Correlations

The Pearson's correlations did not show significant correlation ( $P < 0.05$ ) between phenols, flavonoids, and Maillard products and the effect on gram-negative and gram-positive bacteria of M1, MO and HD honeys (Table 5). The M2 honey showed significant correlations ( $P < 0.05$ ) between phenols and *Salmonella typhimurium* and between flavonoids and *Bacillus subtilis*. The M3 honey showed significant correlations ( $P < 0.05$ ) between phenols and *Salmonella typhimurium* and *Listeria monocytogenes* and between flavonoids and *Escherichia coli*. Shan et al. [43] reported correlations between the phenols of medical plants and their effects on *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Escherichia coli*, and *Salmonella*.

#### 4. Conclusions

All crystallized honeys had different inhibitory effects in each bacterial assay. The ultrasound process reduced the size of the crystals and the content of Maillard products in all honeys. Some honeys showed increased contents of bioactive compounds (phenols or flavonoids) and increased antibacterial activity due the release of bioactive compounds of the crystallized matrix of honey by the ultrasound process.

#### Author contributions

Campos-Montiel R.G. coordinated the work, Peláez-Acero A. participating in the writing of the manuscript, Cobos-Velazco J.E. conducted experimentation, Gonzales-Lemus U. analysis of results, Espino-Manzano S.O helped draft the manuscript, Gonzalez-Montiel L. carried out the methodology and Aguirre-Alvarez G. editing the manuscript. All authors read and approved the manuscript.

Table 5

Correlations between phenols, flavonoids, maillard products and the inhibitory effect against negative and positive gram bacteria.

	<i>Salmonella typhimurium</i>	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	<i>Pseudomona aeruginosa</i>	<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>
M1 Correlation coefficients						
Phenols	0.532	-0.37	0.866	0.834	-0.834	-0.331
Flavonoids	0.942	-0.993	0.834	0.68	-0.103	-0.99
Maillard products	-0.985	0.902	-0.944	-0.911	0.209	0.87
M2 Correlation coefficients						
Phenols	0.980*	-0.471	0.943	0.524	0.679	0.743
Flavonoids	0.834	-0.952	0.896	0.959*	0.232	0.934
Maillard products	-0.996	0.649	-0.992	-0.698	-0.563	-0.839
M3 Correlation coefficients						
Phenols	0.997*	0.829	0.546	0.852	-0.779	0.977*
Flavonoids	0.88	0.978*	0.903	0.836	-0.984	0.712
Maillard products	-0.882	-0.705	-0.677	-0.544	0.708	-0.79
MO Correlation coefficients						
Phenols	0.916	0.817	0.297	0.703	-0.437	0.582
Flavonoids	-0.38	-0.656	0.383	-0.1	0.944	0.041
Maillard products	-0.822	-0.704	-0.12	-0.549	0.539	-0.411
HD Correlation coefficients						
Phenols	0.393	-0.479	0.114	-0.255	0.651	0.738
Flavonoids	0.49	-0.388	0.228	-0.363	0.729	0.806
Maillard products	-0.864	0.149	-0.661	0.77	-0.973	-0.993

Multifloral 1 (M1), multifloral 2 (M2), multifloral (M3), monofloral (MO) and honeydew (HD). (\*) Represent significant correlation (P &lt; 0.05).

### CRedit authorship contribution statement

Campos-Montiel R.G. coordinated the work, Peláez-Acero A. participating in the writing of the manuscript, Cobos-Velazco J.E. conducted experimentation, Gonzales-Lemus U. analysis of results, Espino-Manzano S.O helped draft the manuscript, Gonzalez-Montiel L. carried out the methodology and Aguirre-Alvarez G. editing the manuscript.

### Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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