

# Optimization of Total Monomeric Anthocyanin and Total Flavonoid Content Extractions from Purple Potato Tubers Using Ultrasonic Treatments

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The recent interest on phenolic bioactive compounds has caused an increased attention for optimizing the techniques used in bioactive phytochemicals extraction from different natural sources. In order to determine the best extraction conditions using direct sonication were varied amplitude (20, 50 and 80%) and sonication time (5, 15 and 25 min). To optimize the extraction process was performed mathematical modeling (full factorial experiments 2<sup>2</sup>) using SigmaXL software. The total anthocyanins content were determined spectrophotometrically by the pH differential method and the total flavonoids content were determined colorimetric by AlCl<sub>3</sub> method.

**Keywords:** purple potato tuber, anthocyanin pigments, flavonoids, sonication

Potato is the fourth food culture of the world, after corn, wheat and rice, with a production of 329 million tonnes per year. Worldwide, in terms of harvested area potato ranks seven after wheat, rice, corn, barley, sorghum and rapeseed. In terms of consumption, potato ranks third after rice and wheat. In Romania, currently, from the total cultivated area of 8.9 million hectares, potato ranks third with a share of about 3.2% after cereals which represent 62% and oilseeds 15% [1].

Potatoes are significant source of natural antioxidants and exhibit antioxidant activity as demonstrated in recent time by many authors. Studies have indicated that these phytochemicals have high free-radical scavenging activity, which helps to reduce the risk of chronic diseases and age-related neuronal degeneration [2]. Genotypes of potato with peel and pulp intensely colored (red, purple, blue) have antioxidant capacity 2-3 times higher than the white / yellow genotypes, and these aliments could help to supplement the required daily doses of antioxidants in the diet [3]. As a result, in recent years, breeder's efforts intensified to get new potato genotypes in different versions: blue peel and pulp [4, 5].

Because anthocyanin pigments are powerful antioxidants [6] has increased the need to improve extraction techniques. In order to increase the extraction efficiency can be used ultrasonic extraction technique. Ultrasound-assisted extraction is one of the most important techniques used for the extraction of valuable compounds from plant materials and is quite adaptable to a small or large scale. The method involves the use of ultrasound with frequencies ranging from 20 kHz to 2000 kHz, which increases the permeability of cell walls and causing cell lysis, thus favoring the extraction of biologically active compounds [7, 8]. The application of ultrasound-assisted extraction for plant materials [9] and its opportunities in the food processing industry [10] has proved many advantages [11].

The main objective of this paper was to optimise the extraction yield of total anthocyanin and total flavonoid

content from purple potato tuber by varying the amplitude and sonication time of a direct ultrasonic treatment. The ultrasonic conditions were compared with an indirect sonication using a bath system.

## Experimental part

### Material and methods

#### Plant materials

The potato variety, violet-blue de Galanesti, a population found in Romania [10], was analysed after 20 days of harvest from the research field of NIRDPSB Brasov, Romania.

#### Sample preparation

Purple potato in amount of 0.5 g ( $\pm 0.02$  g) was homogenized in 10 mL of 1% acidified water or 1% acidified ethanol. The sample was treated with ultrasonic waves (UP400S, Hielscher USA, Inc) using an ultrasonic probe with a 0.7 cm diameter cylindrical titanium alloy head operated at 24 kHz and 400 W (fig. 1). The tip of the probe was placed at 0.2 cm above the sample mixture and treated following each condition presented in table 1. After the ultrasonic treatment, the sample mixture was centrifuged (10000 rpm, 15 min) and concentrated at 45°C. All the experiments were conducted in triplicate, the results are expressed as mean value  $\pm$  standard deviation and for significant difference on  $p < 0.05$ .

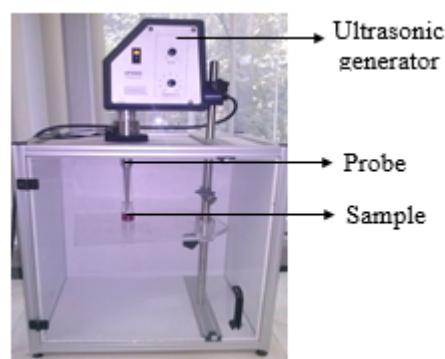


Fig. 1.  
Experimental  
setup for direct  
sonication

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Sample	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Amplitude (%) of the maximum amplitude		20		50		80			
Frequency (kHz)				24					
Time (min)	5	15	25	5	15	25	5	15	25
Factor	Level 1			Level 2			Middle point		
T: Sonication time (min)	5		25		15				
A: Amplitude (%)	20		80		50				
Concentration (mg/mL)	0.005	0.01	0.02	0.025	0.03	0.04	0.05		
Absorbance (510nm)	0.065	0.125	0.231	0.274	0.322	0.436	0.547		

### Full factorial design for the extraction process of anthocyanins and flavonoids

A two-level and two-factor full factorial experiment (table 2) with two-centered point was design and created using SigmaXL statistical analysis software (Econotron Software Inc., Canada) to cover the range of investigated ultrasonic treatment time and amplitude. Sonication time and sonication amplitude were chosen as independent variables and the total flavonoid content (TFC) and total monomeric anthocyanins (TAC) were the responses of the design.

The full factorial experimental design for each response with each extraction solvent was analyzed using SigmaXL and expressed in a first order model:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 T + \beta_2 A + \beta_{12} TA \quad (1)$$

The semnifications of symbols used in this formula are:

Y - Response design (TFC or TAC);

$\beta_0$  - Intercept term;

$\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$  - Linear coefficients;

$\beta_{12}$  - Interaction coefficient;

T and A - Independent variables (sonication time and amplitude).

### Determination of total monomeric anthocyanin content

The total monomeric anthocyanins content (TAC) were determined through pH differential method [11] based on the property of anthocyanin pigments to change the color with pH. Two dilutions of the same sample were prepared, the first one in potassium chloride buffer (0.025 M, pH 1.0) and the second one in sodium acetate buffer (0.4 M, pH 4.5), pH being adjusted with HCl 0.2N. After equilibration at room temperature for 15 min, the absorbance of two dilutions was read at 510 nm and 700 nm using a UV-Vis Microplate Readers (Sunrise-Basic Tecan, Switzerland). Total monomeric anthocyanins - mg cyanidin 3-glucoside (cy-3-glu) equivalent / 100 g Fresh Weight - were calculated as follows:

$$\% w/w = \frac{A}{\epsilon L} MW DF \frac{V}{W_t} 100 \quad (2)$$

$$A = (A_{510nm} - A_{700nm})_{pH=1} - (A_{510nm} - A_{700nm})_{pH=4.5} \quad (3)$$

The semnifications of symbols used in these relations are:

A - Absorbance

$\epsilon$  - Molar extinction coefficient (34300 L / mol . cm for cy-3-glu)

L - Path length

MW - Molecular weight (484.84 g/mol for cy-3-glu)

DF - Dilution factor

V - Volume

$W_t$  - sample weight

**Table 1**  
CONDITIONS APPLIED FOR TAC AND TFC EXTRACTION USING DIRECT SONICATION

**Table 2**  
LEVELS IN FULL FACTORIAL EXPERIMENTS FOR DIRECT SONICATION

**Table 3**  
ABSORBANCE AT 510nm OF DIFFERENT CONCENTRATION OF QUERCETINE

### Determination of total flavonoid content

The total flavonoid content (TFC) of purple potato extracts was determined by a colorimetric method as described previously in other studies [12, 13].

The extracts were diluted with 2 mL of distilled water and 150  $\mu$ L 5% NaNO<sub>2</sub> was added. After 6 min the mixture was treated with 150  $\mu$ L AlCl<sub>3</sub> 10% and, after 6 min, with 2 mL NaOH 1N and the volum were made to 5 mL. The absorbance was recorded at 510 nm using a spectrophotometer (DR2800, Hach, USA) and the flavonoid content was expressed as mg of quercetin equivalents for 100 g of Fresh Weigh (FW).

For building the calibration curve, quercetine is used as a standard materials. Various concentrations (table 3) of standard quercetine solution were used to make a standard calibration curve (fig. 2).

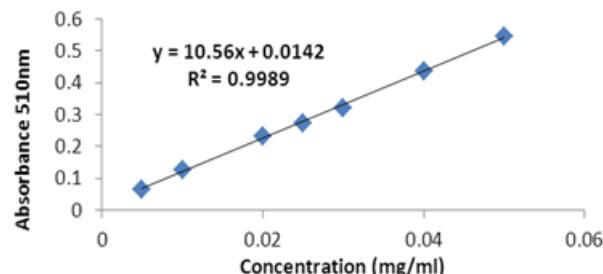


Fig. 2. Calibration curve of quercetine

Concentration values of extracts were obtained from quercetine standard curve, by interpolating to the X- axis. TFC was calculated by using the following formula:

$$TFC = (R \cdot DF \cdot V \cdot 100) / W \quad (3)$$

The semnifications of symbols used in this relation are:

R - Result obtained from the standard curve;

DF - Dilution factor;

V - Volume;

W - Sample weight.

### Comparison between direct and indirect sonication

The results from direct sonication were compared to an indirect ultrasonic bath system (fig. 3) where the ultrasonic generator is powered at 240 W with operating frequency of 35 kHz. In case of indirect sonication ultrasound is transmitted through a fluid compared to direct sonication where the ultrasonic probe is immersed directly in the sample mixture. The controls are simple extraction in solvent with intermittent shaking. All the experiments including controls were conducted in triplicate, the results are expressed as mean value  $\pm$  standard deviation and for significant difference on  $p < 0.05$ .



Fig. 3. Experimental setup for indirect sonication

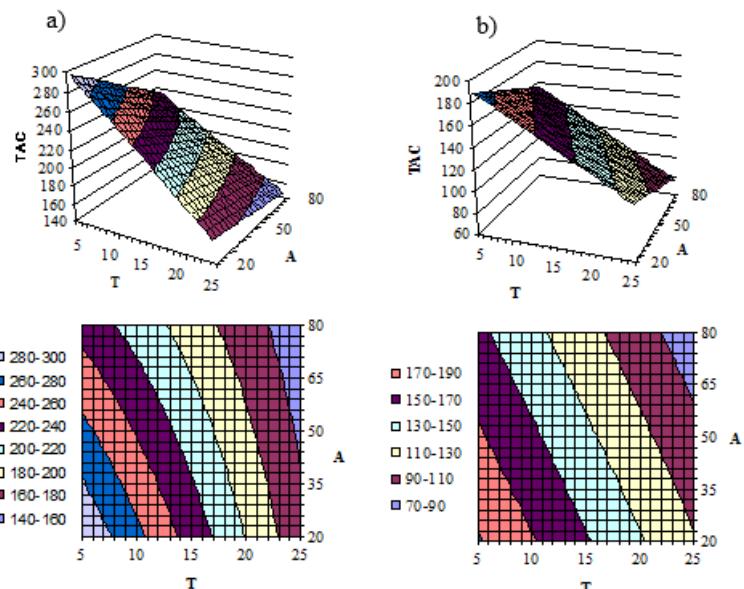


Fig. 4. Response contour plot and surface plot showing the effect of sonication time - T (min) and amplitude - A (%) on TAC extraction from purple potato tuber:  
a) 1% acidified water, b) 1% acidified ethanol

Run order	T (min)	A (%)	TAC (mg cy-3-glu/100 g FW)				Residuals for water	Residuals for ethanol		
			Experimental values		Predicted values					
			Water	Ethanol	Water	Ethanol				
1*	5	20	297.72	193.01	298.01	190.21	-0.29	2.80		
2	25	20	167.54	110.33	166.31	112.44	1.23	-2.11		
3	5	80	235.29	155.12	233.34	154.65	1.95	0.47		
4	25	80	148.12	76.41	147.00	76.88	1.12	-0.47		
5	5	20	295.65	190.98	298.01	190.21	-2.35	0.77		
6	25	20	162.44	113.25	166.31	112.44	-3.87	0.81		
7	5	80	228.75	152.87	233.34	154.65	-4.59	-1.78		
8	25	80	143.23	80.93	147.00	76.88	-3.76	4.05		
9	15	50	213.76	132.56	211.16	133.54	2.60	-0.98		
10	15	50	219.14	129.98	211.16	133.54	7.98	-3.56		

\* Optimum conditions for TAC extraction for both solvents, 1% acidified water and 1% acidified ethanol.

## Results and discussions

### Optimization of sonication time and amplitude for TAC

In the table 4 can be observed that the maximum TAC of  $297.72 \pm 3.63$  mg cy-3-glu/100 g FW was obtained at 20% amplitude using 1% acidified water, which was 35.17% significantly higher than the maximum TAC of  $193.01 \pm 4.83$  mg cy-3-glu /100 g FW using 1% acidified ethanol at the same amplitude and sonication time of 5 min.

The models are well fitted with linear regression equations for both water ( $TAC_w$ ) and ethanol ( $TAC_e$ ) with high values of determinations coefficient and low residuals (table 4), also observed in the response surface analysis obtained (fig. 4).

$$TAC_w = 211.16 - 54.51T - 20.99A + 11.34TA, R^2=99.53\%$$

$$TAC_e = 133.54 - 38.88T - 17.78A, R^2=99.68$$

For both models all independent variables (sonication time and amplitude) have significant ( $p<0.05$ ) effect on TAC extraction, while interaction between sonication time and amplitude was significant just for first model ( $TAC_w$ ) and was not significant for second model ( $TAC_e$ ), because of that was removed from design. For both models ( $TAC_w$  and  $TAC_e$ ), sonication time has a higher effect on TAC extraction (coefficient -54.51 and -38.88) than amplitude (coefficient -20.99 and -17.78).

The optimisation procedure was conducted in order to maximise the total anthocyanins content. Through this

models was found that the maximum anthocyanins content was obtained at amplitude of 20% and sonication time of 2.78 min using 1% acidified water (312.625 mg cy-3-glu/100 g FW) and at amplitude of 20% and sonication time of 2.17 min (201.210 mg cy-3-glu/100 g FW) using 1% acidified ethanol.

### Optimization of sonication time and amplitude for TFC

In the table 5 can be observed that the maximum TFC of  $216.67 \pm 5.54$  mg quercetin/ 100 g FW was obtained at 80% amplitude using 1% acidified water, which was 48.85% significantly higher than the maximum TFC of  $110.83 \pm 3.15$  mg quercetin / 100 g FW using 1% acidified ethanol at 20% amplitude with the same sonication time of 5 min.

The models are well fitted with linear regression equations for both water ( $TFC_w$ ) and ethanol ( $TFC_e$ ) with high values of determinations coefficient and low residuals (table 5), also observed in the response surface analysis obtained (fig. 5).

$$TFC_w = 167.06 - 24.73T + 13.26A - 7.81TA, R^2=98.75\%$$

$$TFC_e = 94.93 - 8.43T - 14.13A - 7.47TA, R^2=95.80\%$$

For both models all factors (sonication time and amplitude) and the interaction between sonication time and amplitude have significant ( $p<0.05$ ) effect on TFC extraction. For first model ( $TFC_w$ ), sonication time has a higher effect on TFC extraction (coefficient -24.73) than

Run order	T (min)	A (%)	TFC (mg quercetin/100 g FW)				Residua ls for water	Residual s for ethanol		
			Experimental values		Predicted values					
			Water	Ethanol	Water	Ethanol				
1	5	20	173.78	106.62	170.72	110.02	3.07	-1.07		
2	25	20	134.39	105.23	136.87	108.09	-2.49	-0.90		
3*	5	80	216.67	92.02	212.85	96.70	3.81	-1.48		
4	25	80	150.62	61.74	147.78	64.91	2.85	-1.00		
5**	5	20	168.85	110.83	170.72	110.02	-1.87	0.26		
6	25	20	140.56	108.36	136.87	108.09	3.69	0.09		
7	5	80	210.24	98.79	212.85	96.70	-2.61	0.66		
8	25	80	146.13	65.48	147.78	64.91	-1.65	0.18		
9	15	50	166.84	98.79	167.06	94.93	-0.21	0.93		
10	15	50	162.48	101.44	167.06	94.93	-4.58	1.57		

\* Optimum conditions for TFC extraction using 1% acidified water.

\*\* Optimum conditions for TFC extraction using 1% acidified ethanol.

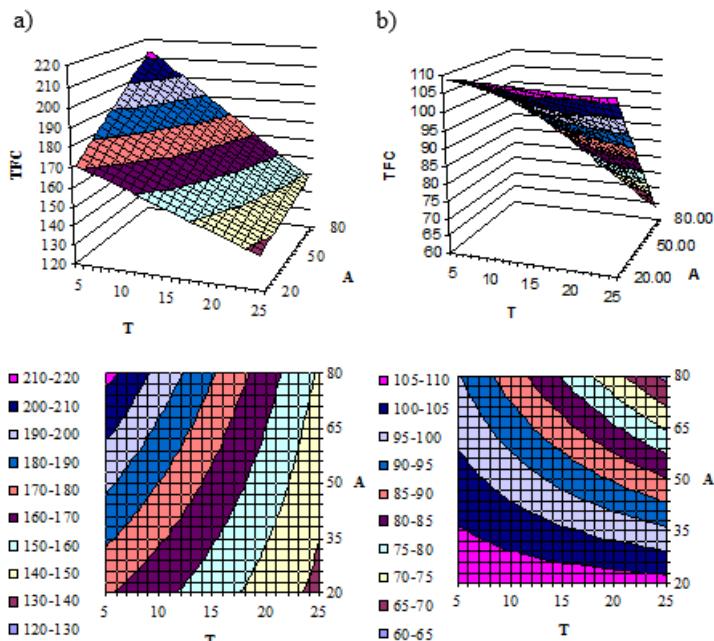


Fig. 5. Response contour plot and surface plot showing the effect of sonication time - T (min) and amplitude - A (%) on TFC extraction from purple potato tuber: a) 1% acidified water, b) 1% acidified ethanol

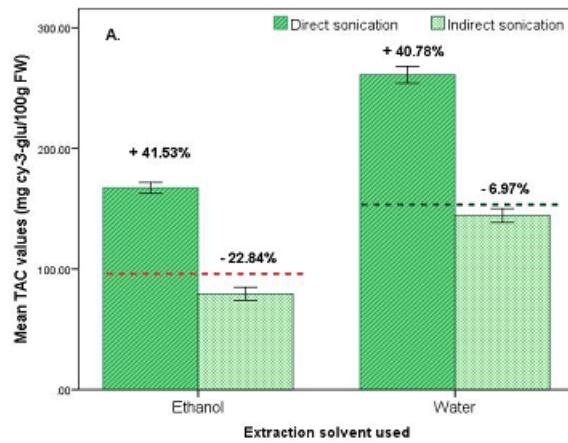
amplitude (coefficient +13.26) while for the second model (TFC<sub>E</sub>), sonication time has a lower effect on TFC extraction (coefficient -8.43) than amplitude (coefficient -14.13).

The optimisation procedure was conducted in order to maximize the total flavonoids content. Through this models was found that the maximum flavonoids content was obtained at amplitude of 80% and sonication time of 2.65 min using 1% acidified water (220.498 mg quercetine/100g FW) and at amplitude of 20% and sonication time of 2.34 min (110.279 mg quercetine/100g FW) using 1% acidified ethanol.

#### Comparison of direct sonication and indirect sonication with conventional extraction of TAC and TFC from purple potato tuber

The results of direct sonication (time 5 min and 50% amplitude) were compared with an indirect sonication using a bath and the conventional solvent extraction (sample control). The result of direct sonication for TAC was significantly higher than both the indirect sonication and the control method using 1% acidified water and 1% acidified ethanol as solvent (fig. 6A). For TAC in water using direct sonication, it was a significant increase by 40.78% from control of  $154.35 \pm 4.05$  mg cy-3-glu/100 g FW while

**Table 5**  
EFFECT OF SONICATION TIME AND AMPLITUDE ON TFC EXTRACTION FROM PURPLE POTATO TUBER USING FULL FACTORIAL DESIGN



Dotted lines represent controls for:  
Water:  $154.35 \pm 4.05$  mg cy-3-glu/100 g FW  
Ethanol:  $95.83 \pm 6.16$  mg cy-3-glu/100 g FW

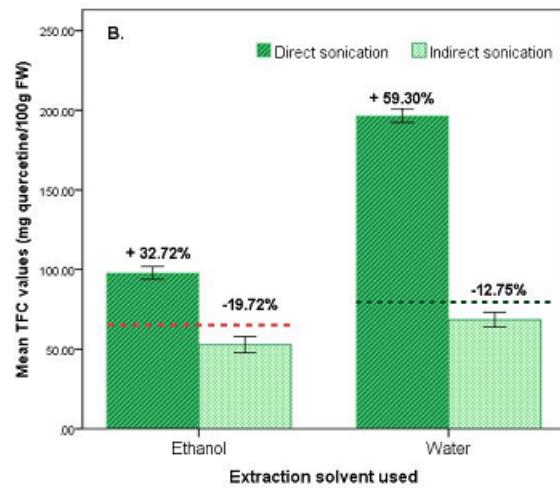


Fig. 6. Comparison of direct and indirect sonication for: A. TAC and B. TFC

using indirect sonication, it was a decrease by 6.97%. Also for TAC in ethanol using direct sonication, it was a significant increase by 41.53% from control of  $95.83 \pm 6.16$  mg cy-3-glu/100 g FW while using indirect sonication, it was a decrease by 22.84%. In comparing both solvents alone, 1% acidified water also gave a higher content of TAC by 35.92% compared to 1% acidified ethanol. The indirect sonication using the ultrasonic bath did not give improvement in the extraction of TAC, on the contrary was observed a significant decrease for both solvent used.

The result of direct sonication for TFC was significantly higher than both the indirect sonication and the control method in 1% acidified water and 1% acidified ethanol (fig. 6B). For TFC in water using direct sonication, it was a significant increase by 59.30% from control of  $78.48 \pm 2.91$  mg quercetin/100 g FW while using indirect sonication, it was a decrease by 12.75%. Also for TFC in ethanol using direct sonication, it was a significant increase by 32.72% from control of  $65.83 \pm 3.53$  mg quercetin/100 g FW while using indirect sonication, it was a decrease by 19.72%. Similarly to the TAC extraction, 1% acidified water also gave a higher content of TFC by 50.22% compared to 1% acidified ethanol. The same like TAC extraction, for the indirect sonication using the ultrasonic bath was observed a significant decrease for both solvents used.

This study proves that direct sonication improves the TAC and TFC extraction compared to indirect sonication and the conventional solvent extraction.

In addition to improved the extraction of bioactive compound from plants, ultrasonic extraction can contribute to reducing the extraction time.

## Conclusions

At sonication time of 5 min and 20% amplitude was found giving the highest content of anthocyanins also for 1% acidified water and 1% acidified ethanol, while 5 min and 80% amplitude gave the highest content of flavonoid for 1% acidified water and 5 min and 20% amplitude for 1% acidified ethanol. These conditions using direct sonication have enhanced TAC yields by 40.78% (1% acidified water) and 41.53% (1% acidified ethanol) and also for TFC yields by 59.30% (1% acidified water) and 32.72% (1% acidified ethanol) compared with control.

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## CONTENTS

### M.D.Gheorghiu

Happy 85<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Professor Alexandru T. Balaban!.....595

### A.T.Balaban

A Chemical Engineer with Remarkable Discoveries in Organic Chemistry, Astrophysics, and Number Theory  
(Dr.Antonie Dinculescu).....599

### Dumitra Lucan, L.Velciu, Gheorghita Jinescu

The Synergistic Impurities Effect on the CANDU Steam Generator Corrosion.....603

### Elena Truta, Ana Maria Davitoiu, G.Jinescu, Ana Mihaela Mitu, Genica Caragea, M.Ionica, Elena Luminita Stanciulescu

Study on the Correlation of Urinary Leaden Levels and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.....609

### Lucia Pintilie, Mihaela Deaconu, Amalia Stefanici, C.Tanase, MT.Capriou

Synthesis and Spectroscopy Studies of By-products of Chloroquinaldol.....613

### Elena Bucur, A.E.Danet

Particulate Matter and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon Air Pollution in Areas of Bucharest with Heavy Road Traffic.....621

### Irina Ciotaus, Lucia Gansca, Adriana Andreica, Sanda Maxim, I.Oprean

Synthesis of the Monounsaturated Sex Pheromones of Some Lepidoptera Involving Ving Mercury Derivatives.....626

### Liana Bogatu, Raluca Elena Dragomir

Influence of Additives on Antiwear and Extreme Pressure Behaviour of the Vegetable Oils.....630

### Ecaterina Anca Serban, Ioana Diaconu, Cristina Monica Mirea, Elena Ruse, Gh.Nechifor

Partition of Indole-3-acetic Acid in Biphasic Systems.....634

### R.Szep, Reka Keresztes, G. Deak, E.Toba, Marieta Ghimpusan

The Dry Deposition of the PM10 and PM2.5 to the Vegetation and its Health Effect in the Ciuc Basin.....639

### Cristina Modrogan, Irina Pincovschi

Depolution Acid Waste Waters Containing Cadmium and Zinc Ions Using as Extractant Tri-n-octyl-phosphine Oxide.....645

### Violeta Monica Radu, A.A.Ivanov, G.Deak, Elena Diacu

Assessment of Heavy Metals Content in Water and Sediments from the Lower Danube River Using EcoIndex.....649

### Andreea Carac, Rica Boscencu, Simona Patriche, Rodica Mihaela Dinica, Geta Carac, Cerasela Elena Gard

Antioxidant and Antimicrobial Potential of Extracts from *Aloe vera* Leaves.....654

### E.L.Muresan, A.Puitel, A.Pui, C.D.Radu, D.Tampu, N.Cimpoiesu, I.Sandu

Hierarchically Bimodal Porous Metallosilicate Catalysts for Acetolysis of Epichlorohydrin.....659

### Florentina Damsa, A.Woinaroschi, Gh.Olteanu, Carmen Liliana Badarau

Optimization of Total Monomeric Anthocyanin and Total Flavonoid Content Extractions from Purple Potato Tubers Using Ultrasonic Treatments.....665

### D.R.Popoviciu, Ticuta Negreanu Pirjol, Rodica Bercu

Copper, Chromium, Zinc and Manganese Accumulation in Three Common *Brassicaceae* on the Romanian Littoral.....670

### A.A.Kadir, A.Benlamoudi, LG.Sandu, MMAI Bakri Abdullah A.V.Sandu

Leachability of Lead by Incorporation of Tread and Untread Sugarcane Bagasse in Solidification/stabilization Method.  
A comparative study.....673

### D.Dobrota, E.Dobrita, V.Petrescu, M.A.Titu

The Analysis of the Homogeneity of Chemical Composition in Castings Made of Bronze with Tin.....679

### S.Pavel, H.Hopf, PG.Jones, V.V.Lupu, L.M.Birsu

Synthesis and Structural Characterization of Some 1,2-Bis[(1H-1,2,3-tiazol-1-yl)methylene]benzene Derivatives.....683

### Olga Pintilie, Laura Ion, Andriana Surleva, M.Zaharia, Elena Todirascu Ciornea, Elena Ciubotariu,

### Adriana Balan, G.Drochioiu, I.Sandu

Monitoring Methods of Plant Viability in Genetic Conservation.....687

### Adela Cristina Lazar, Aranka Illea, F.Onisor, Lucia Bel, Orsolya Sarpatoczi, I.Papuc,

### M.Taulescu, Mariana Pacurar, R.S.Campian

Effects of Bisphosphonates on the Jaw Bone in Dental Extraction. Histological and biochemical aspects in an animal model.....692

### Alina Monica Miftode, A.E.Spac, V.Dorneanu, Alina Stefanache

Use of the Chlorpromazine Radical Cation for the Antioxidant Activity Estimation.....696

### Ana Maria Gheldiu, Dana Maria Muntean, Ileana Cristea, Irina Antonescu, Ruxandra Chira, Corina Ureche, L.Vlase

Kinetics of Nebivolol and its Active Metabolite After Single Dose Oral Administration of Nebivolol.....702

<b>B.Tita, Gh.Furau, Eleonora Marian, D.Tita, C.Furau</b>	
Anti-inflammatory Drugs Interacting with Cu(II) Metal Ion. Synthesis, characterization and thermal behaviour of the complex with ketoprofen.....	706
<b>T.E.Youssef, H.Al Turaif, W.Aftab, D.Baleanu</b>	
Computational Structural Analysis for Substituted Nickel Phtalocyanines. Preparation and characterization.....	711
<b>Alexandra Pica, Florica Dumitru</b>	
Investigations on the Structure and Characteristics of Some Ecological Dielectric Fluids.....	716
<b>Ileana Camenita, Ana Maria Manta</b>	
Corrosion Inhibition of Steel in Cooling Water Systems Using Tween 20 Surfactant.....	720
<b>Claudia Cobzaru, N.Apostolescu, Gabriela Antoaneta Apostolescu, Adriana Marinoiu, Mihaela Silion, Corina Cernatescu</b>	
Sunflower Oil Behaviour During Storage Time.....	724
<b>Andreea Bondarev, O.Pantea, Sonia Mihai, Catalina Calin, Catalina Gabriela Gheorghe</b>	
Removal of Cadmium from Aqueous Solutions Using Low Cost Sorbents.....	728
<b>I.V.Asaftei, K.Earar, N.C.Lungu, L.M.Birsa, Maria Ignat, V.Plesu, I.G.Sandu</b>	
Comparative Study Between Zn-Cu-HZSM-5 and Zn-HZSM-5 (Acetate) Catalysts in Conversion of C <sub>4</sub> -C <sub>4</sub> = Technical Fraction.....	734
<b>R.M.Boatca, Mihaela Monica Scutariu, Ioana Rudnic, Maria Alexandra Martu Stefanache, Loredana Hurjui, Elena Rezus, Silvia Martu</b>	
Evolution of Inflammatory Biochemical Markers Within Periodontal Therapy to Patient with Rheumatoid Arthritis.....	741
<b>D.Bombos, Sanda Velea, Mihaela Bombos, G.Vasilievici, Elena Emilia Oprescu</b>	
Ecological Component for Motor Fuels Based on Furfural Derivatives.....	745
<b>Daniela Popovici, Cristina Dusescu, Mihaela Neagu</b>	
Removal of Phenol from Aqueous Solutions on Activated Carbon Obtained from Coffee Grounds.....	751
<b>Daniela Jumanca, Atena Galuscan, Angela Cosruta Podariu</b>	
Protection of Demineralized Enamel Surfaces in Temporary Teeth Using Fluorinated Varnishes.....	757
<b>Casen Panaitescu, Mihaela Bombos, Daniela Angela Buzoianu, D.Bombos, G.Vasilievici</b>	
Imidazoline Type Dispersant for Aqueous Dolomite Suspension.....	760
<b>H.Haragus, D.Vermesan, Voichita Lazureanu, N.Ferdean, Daniela Radu, R.Prejbeanu, M.Niculescu</b>	
Antibiotic Loaded Cement Spacers for Two Stage Treatment of Periprosthetic Joint Infections.....	764
<b>Vasilica Popescu, Irina Crina Anca Sandu, G.Popescu</b>	
Influence of Parameters of Polycondensation Stage on Ethyl Chitosan Grafting on Cotton.....	768
<b>Irnis Azura Zakarya, Ismail Abustan, Norli Ismail, Tengku Nuraiti Tengku Izhar, Sara Yasina Yusuf, A.V.Sandu</b>	
A Study on Relationship Between Volatile Fatty Acids Concentrations and Methane Gas Production in Two-Phase Reactor.....	774
<b>M.Ljujic, Milena Djuric, S.Curcic, M.Pavlovic, Neda Nikolic</b>	
Reservoir Sedimentation as a Consequence of Land Use in the Catchment.....	779
<b>Cristina Popescu, Gabriela Bucur, A. G. Moise, Otilia Cangea</b>	
Modern Procedure for Crude Oil Temperature Control with Programmable Logic Controller.....	785
<b>M. Andrei</b>	
Aspects Related to the Purification of Biodiesel Synthesized in Alkaline Catalysis.....	791
<b>Iuliana Cretescu, Sorina Ropciuc, Mirela Ahmadi, Olga Alina Rada, Mihaela Ostan</b>	
Physico-Chemical Characteristics of Commercial Available Energy Drinks.....	796
<b>Madalina Nicoleta Matei, K. Earar, Lucia Carmen Trinca, D. Mareci, Lenuta Fotea, Catalina Amisoara Peptu, Cristina Bica</b>	
Degradation Characteristics of Poly-tetrafluoroethylene Coatings on Stainless Steel Orthodontic Wires Immersed in Tuna Fish Derived Products.....	800
<b>Delia Maria Minca, Daniela Anca Puscasiu, S. Brad, Carmen Sofica Tatu</b>	
Effect of Magnetita® on Routine Laboratory Parameters in Patients with Impaired Kidney or Liver Function.....	808
<b>P.C. Albu, H. N. Abdalraheem Al Ani, Anca Maria Cimbru, G. Al. Popa, Alexandra Gabriela Niculae, Alexandra Raluca Miron</b>	
Pharmaceutical Industry Wastewater Treatment by Electrocoagulation and Micellar Ultrafiltration.....	813
<b>V. Nicolae, B. Neamtu, Oana Picu, Maria Alexandra Martu Stefanache, V. S. Ibric Cioranu</b>	
The Comparative Evaluation of Salivary Biomarkers (Calcium, Phosphate, Salivary pH) in Cario resistance Versus Cario activity.....	821

# REVISTA DE CHIMIE

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4

## CUPRINS

### M.D.Gheorghiu

Profesorul Al. T. Balaban la a 85-a aniversare.....595

### A.T.Balaban

Un inginer chimist cu descoperiri remarcabile in chimia organica, astrofizica si teoria numerelor.....599

### Dumitru Lucan, L.Velciu, Gheorghita Jinescu

Efectul sinergistic al impuritatilor asupra croziunii generatorului cu abur Candu.....603

### Elena Truta, Ana Maria Davitoiu, G.Jinescu, Ana Mihaela Mitu, Genica Caragea, M.Ionica, Elena Luminita Stanciulescu

Studiul corelarii intre nivelurile de plumb urinar si sindromul ADHD.....609

### Lucia Pintilie, Mihaela Deaconu, Amalia Stefaniu, C.Tanase, M.T.Caproiu

Studii de sinteza si spectroscopice ale produselor secundare ale clorochinardolului.....613

### Elena Bucur, A.E.Danet

Poluarea aerului cu particule in suspensie si hidrocarburi aromatice in zona cu trafic rutier greu a Bucurestiului.....621

### Irina Ciotaus, Lucia Gansca, Adriana Andreica, Sanda Maxim, L.Oprean

Sinteza feromonilor se sex mononesaturati ai unor lepidoptere cu implicarea derivatilor mercurului.....626

### Liana Bogatu, Raluca Elena Dragomir

Influenta aditivilor asupra comportarii uleiurilor vegetale la antiuzura si presiune extrema.....630

### Ecaterina Anca Serban, Ioana Diaconu, Cristina Monica Mirea, Elena Ruse, Gh.Nechifor

Partitia acidului indol-3-acetic in sisteme bifazice.....634

### R.Szep, Reka Keresztes, G. Deak, F.Toba, Marieta Ghimpusan

Depunerea PM<sub>10</sub> si PM<sub>2,5</sub> pe vegetatie si efectul acestora asupra sanatatii in Bazinul Ciuc.....639

### Cristina Modrogan, Irina Pincovschi

Depoluarea apelor uzate acide cu ioni de Cd si Zn folosind un extractant pe baza de fosfor.....645

### Violeta Monica Radu, A.A.Ivanov, G.Deak, Elena Diacu

Evaluarea continutului de metale grele in apa si in sedimente la nivelul Dunarii de Jos utilizand ecoindicii.....649

### Andreea Carac, Rica Boscencu, Simona Patriche, Rodica Mihaela Dinica, Geta Carac, Cerasela Elena Gard

Potentialul antioxidant si antimicrobian al extractului din frunzele de *Aloe vera*.....654

### E.L.Muresan, A.Puitel, A.Pui, C.D.Radu, D.Tampu, N.Cimpoiesu, I.Sandu

Catalizatori porosi bimodali ierarhici de tip metalosilikat utilizati in reactia de acetoliza a epiclorhidrinei.....659

### Florentina Damsa, A.Woinaroschi, Gh.Olteanu, Carmen Liliana Badarau

Optimizarea extractiei antocianinului monomeric total si a continutului total de flavonoide

din tuberculii de cartofi mov in camp ultrasonic .....665

### D.R.Popoviciu, Ticuta Negreanu Pirjol, Rodica Bercu

Acumularea unor metale (Cu, Cr, Zn si Mn) in trei plante *Brassicaceae* de pe litoralul romanesc .....

### A.A.Kadir, A.Benlamoudi, I.G.Sandu, M.M.Al Bakri Abdullah A.V.Sandu

Levigabilitatea plumnului prin incorporarea fibrelor de trestie de zahar tratate si netratate

prin metoda solidificarii / stabilizarii. Studiu comparativ.....673

### D.Dobrota, E.Dobrita, V.Petrescu, M.A.Titu

Analiza omogenitatii compozitiei chimice a aliajelor de bronz cu staniu.....679

### S.Pavel, H.Hopf, PG.Jones, V.V.Lupu, L.M.Birsu

Sinteza si caracterizarea structurala a unor derivati de 1,2-bis[(1H-1,2,3-triazol-1-il)metilen]benzen.....683

### Olga Pintilie, Laura Ion, Andriana Surleva, M.Zaharia, Elena Todirascu Ciornea, Elena Ciubotariu,

### Adriana Balan, G.Drochioiu, I.Sandu

Metode de monitorizare a factorilor care afecteaza viabilitatea plantelor in procesul conservarii genetice:

determinari enzimatici.....687

### Adela Cristina Lazar, Aranka Ilea, E.Onisor, Lucia Bel, Orsolya Sarpatoczi, I.Papuc, M.Taulescu,

### Mariana Pacurar, R.S.Campian

Efectele biofosfonatilor asupra osului maxilar in extractiile dentare. Aspecte histologice si biochimice pe model animal.....692

### Alina Monica Miftode, A.ESpac, V.Dorneanu, Alina Stefanache

Utilizarea radicalului cation clorpromazina pentru estimarea activitatii antioxidantane.....696

### Ana Maria Gheldiu, Dana Maria Muntean, Illeana Cristea, Irina Antonescu, Ruxandra Chira, Corina Ureche, L. Vlase

Cinetica nebivololului si a metabolitului sau activ dupa administrarea unei doze orale unice.....702

<b>B.Tita, Gh.Furau, Eleonora Marian, D.Tita, C.Furau</b>	
Interactiunea medicamentelor antiinflamatoare cu ioni metalici de Cu(II). Sinteză, caracterizare și comportare termică a complexului cu ketoprofen .....	707
<b>T.E. Youssef, H.Al Turaiif, W.Aftab, D.Baleanu</b>	
Analiza structurală numerică a ftalocianinelor substituite cu nichel. Obținere și caracterizare .....	712
<b>Alexandra Pica, Florica Dumitru</b>	
Studierea structurii și a caracteristicilor unor fluide dielectrice ecologice.....	716
<b>Ileana Camenita, Ana Maria Manta</b>	
Inhibarea coroziunii otelului în sistemele cu apă de racire utilizând surfactantul Tween 20.....	720
<b>Claudia Cobzaru, N.Apostolescu, Gabriela Antoaneta Apostolescu, Adriana Marinoiu,</b>	
<b>Mihaela Silion, Corina Cernatescu</b>	
Comportarea uleiului de floarea soarelui în timpul depozitării.....	724
<b>Andreea Bondarev, O.Pantea, Sonia Mihai, Catalina Calin, Catalina Gabriela Gheorghe</b>	
Indepartarea cadmiului din solutii apoase cu ajutorul unui adsorbant ieftin .....	728
<b>I.V.Asaftei, K.Earar, N.C.Lungu, L.M.Birsa, Maria Ignat, V.Plesu, L.G.Sandu</b>	
Studiul comparativ privind folosirea catalizatorilor Zn-Cu-HZSM-5 și Zn-HZSM-5(acetat) la conversia fractiei tehnice $C_4-C_4=$ .....	734
<b>R.M.Boatca, Mihaela Monica Scutariu, Ioana Rudnic, Maria Alexandra Martu Stefanache, Loredana Hurjui,</b>	
<b>Elena Rezus, Silvia Martu</b>	
Evolutia marcarilor biochimici ai inflamatiilor fara terapie periodontala la pacientii cu artrita reumatoidea.....	741
<b>D.Bombos, Sanda Velea, Mihaela Bombos, G.Vasilievici, Elena Emilia Oprescu</b>	
Comportarea ecologica a carburantilor auto pe baza de derivati ai furfuralului.....	745
<b>Daniela Popovici, Cristina Dusescu, Mihaela Neagu</b>	
Indepartarea fenolului din solutii apoase pe carbune activ obtinut .....	751
<b>Daniela Jumanca, Atena Galuscan, Angela Cosruta Podariu</b>	
Protectia suprafetelor de smalt demineralizate ale dintilor de lapte folosind lacuri florurate.....	757
<b>Casen Panaitescu, Mihaela Bombos, Daniela Angela Buzoianu, D.Bombos, G.Vasilievici</b>	
Dispersant de tip imidazolinic pentru suspensii apoase de dolomita.....	760
<b>H.Haragus, D.Vermesan, Voichita Lazureanu, N.Ferdean, Daniela Radu, R.Prejbeanu, M.Niculescu</b>	
Distantieri de ciment cu incarcare de antibiotic pentru doua etape de tratament al infectiilor legaturilor periprostetice.....	764
<b>Vasilica Popescu, Irina Crina Anca Sandu, G.Popescu</b>	
Influenta parametrilor etapei de policondensare asupra grefarii etilchitosanului pe bumbac.....	768
<b>Irnis Azura Zakarya, Ismail Abustan, Norli Ismail, Tengku Nuraiti Tengku Izhar, Sara Yasina Yusuf, A.V.Sandu</b>	
Studiul relatiei dintre concentratia acizilor grasi volatili si productia de gaz metan in reactoarele in doaua faze.....	774
<b>M.Iljujic, Milena Djuric, S.Curcic, M.Pavlovic, Neda Nikolic</b>	
Sedimentarea lacurilor ca o consecinta a terenului utilizat la captare.....	779
<b>Cristina Popescu, Gabriela Bucur, A. G. Moise, Otilia Cangea</b>	
Procedeu modern de control al temperaturii titeiului utilizandu - se un controller logic programabil.....	785
<b>M. Andrei</b>	
Aspecte legate de purificarea biodieselului obtinut prin cataliza alcalina.....	791
<b>Iuliana Cretescu, Sorina Ropciuc, Mirela Ahmadi, Olga Alina Rada, Mihaela Ostan</b>	
Caracteristicile fizico-chimice ale bauturilor energizante din comert.....	796
<b>Madalina Nicoleta Matei, K.Earar, Lucia Carmen Trinca, D. Mareci, Lenuta Fotea,</b>	
<b>Catalina Anisoara Peptu, Cristina Bica</b>	
Caracteristicile de degradare ale arcurilor ortodontice din otel acoperite cu politetrafluoroetilena, imersate in produsi derivati ai tonului .....	800
<b>Delia Maria Minca, Daniela Anca Puscasiu, S. Brad, Carmen Sofica Tatu</b>	
Efectul magnetitei® asupra parametrilor rutinei de laborator la pacientii cu insuficiența renala sau hepatica.....	808
<b>P.C. Albu, H. N. Abdalraheem Al Ani, Anca Maria Cimbru, G. Al. Popa, Alexandra Gabriela Niculae,</b>	
<b>Alexandra Raluca Miron</b>	
Tratamentul apelor uzate din industria farmaceutica prin electrocoagulare și ultrafiltrare micelara.....	813
<b>V. Nicolae, B. Neamtu, Oana Picu, Maria Alexandra Martu Stefanache, V. S. Ibric Cioranu</b>	
Evaluarea comparativa a unor biomarkeri salivari (calcii, fosfat, pH salivar) in cariorezistenta vs. carioactivitate.....	821

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**2016 Impact Factor      Available summer 2017**

**2014/2015 Impact Factor : 0.81**

**2013 Impact Factor : 0.677**

**2012 Impact Factor : 0.538**

**2011 Impact Factor : 0.599**

**2010 Impact Factor : 0.693**

**2009 Impact Factor : 0.552**

**2008 Impact Factor : 0.389**