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1 **2** The effect of different drying methods on the bioactive characteristics of rose
2 petals

3 **Abstract**

4 This study explored the effect of different drying methods (sun, shade, oven) on the
5 total polyphenol content (TPC) using the Folin–Ciocalteu (FC) procedure, total
6 flavonoid content (TFC) using the AlCl₃ colorimetric method, volatile organic
7 compounds using GC/MS and the antioxidant properties of the rose petals using the
8 protocol of DPPH assay. The results demonstrated that the drying methods had a
9 significant impact and the highest TPC (34.24 mg gallic acid equivalent (GAE)/ g
10 fresh weight (FW)) and TFC (5.56 mg catechin equivalent (CE)/g FW) were obtained
11 for the oven-dried sample. While, the fresh sample exhibited the lowest TPC (15.6 mg
12 GAE/g FW) and TFC (3.83 mg CE/g FW), respectively. Similarly, the oven-dried
13 sample showed the highest DPPH scavenging activity (60.30 %) and reducing power
14 (absorbance 1.138) among all the samples. Fresh rose sample GC-MS analysis
15 revealed that there are two major compounds heptacosane 64.56% and citronellyl
16 propionate 28.35%. Pentadecyl 2-phenylethyl ester oxalic acid was the second
17 dominant compound in sun and oven-dried rose samples, 18.5% and 14.79%
18 respectively.

19 Key words: Rose petals, antioxidants, TPC, TFC, VOC, GC-MS.

20 **Introduction**

21 Flowers, also known as blossoms or blooms are the reproductive structure of
22 flowering plants, and their consumption has been recorded in ancient Rome, Greece,
23 and China, both for their uses as alternative medicines or as part of traditional culinary,
24 along with the consumption of fruits, seeds, leaves, and roots of vegetables (Takahashi

25 et al., 2020). Despite popular belief, flowers add more than ornamentation to savory
26 dishes and desserts, delivering a unique combination of flavors, as well as enhancing
27 nutritional value. There are plants that are used as food for wild animals, as well as
28 plants that have medicinal properties, produces oils and essences, which are used in
29 perfumery and cosmetics, or in cooking (Barbieri and Stumpf, 2005). It is vital to
30 distinguish between flower and edible flower because flowering plants may contain
31 several toxic and antinutritional compounds such as oxalic acid, alkaloids,
32 hemagglutinins, and cyanogenic glycosides (Lara-Cortés et al., 2013). However,
33 various researchers have reported that until now, there is no official list dispensed by
34 any International body, ³⁸ such as the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), ¹⁹ United
35 Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), or European Food Safety Authority
36 (EFSA), on edible flowers (Fernandes et al., 2017 a, b)

37 Edible parts of flowers vary from one flower to another. Generally, the petals
38 of plants are edible, but the pollen, nectar, and other parts of some plants are also
39 consumed (Purohit et al., 2021). Although edible flowers have been consumed for
40 centuries, they are not as widely used as other foods. Their use in gastronomic
41 preparations is rather restricted to special events, gourmet cuisine, or the
42 recommendations of certain chefs. Fernandes et al., (2017) in their review reported the
43 benefits of edible flower for human health. ³⁰ It is a good source of moisture,
44 carbohydrates, and protein but low in lipids. Also, it has several minerals, such as
45 calcium, magnesium, potassium, iron, phosphorous zinc. Numerous studies have
46 demonstrated that flowers contain bioactive compounds. Compounds are responsible
47 for color is anthocyanin, not phenols. This activity is attributed ³² to the presence of
48 potential bioactive compounds such as flavonoids, which include flavonols, flavones,
49 carotenes, and anthocyanins (Purohit et al., 2021). In response to various pathologies,



29



20



3



74 Food and pharmaceutical industries consider preservation of raw materials to be
75 their foremost concern, and drying is a widely used means to preserve these products,
76 as removing a substantial amount of moisture reduces the possibility of microbial
77 growth while reducing ⁵ the rate of the biochemical reactions, thus extending the
78 shelf life at room temperature (Hincapie et al., 2014). Chemical, Nutraceutical, and
79 organoleptic quality of dehydrated plant products is largely influenced by the duration
80 and temperature of the drying process. It has also been reported earlier that the selection
81 of drying method is also influenced by the raw material characteristics and the market
82 price of the final product (Meng et al., 2018). Nevertheless, air drying is usually
83 associated with exposure of product to high temperatures for a period of time, so few
84 physical qualities like size, color, and texture and chemical properties for instance, taste
85 and nutritional losses could happen. (Guiné, 2011). Some studies ⁵ concerning the
86 application of drying methods to edible flowers have been carried out on purple
87 coneflower (Kim et al., 2000), roses, ⁵ carnations (*Dianthus caryophyllus* L.) (Chen et
88 al., 2000), daylilies (Tai and Chen, 2000). The cost of storing and transporting dried
89 flowers is also lower since they require ⁵ less space, weigh less, and do not need
90 refrigeration.

91 Plants contain high concentrations of bioactive components with antioxidant
92 activity. Among 30 medicinal plants, ³ Vanderjagt et al. (2002) reported that rose had the
93 ³ second highest antioxidant levels and Choi et al. (2015) reported that roses possess a
94 high level of antioxidant activity due to high level of phenolic compounds. Vinokur et
95 al. (2006) evaluated the antioxidant properties of teas made from air-dried petals of
96 twelve rose varieties for phenolic content, total anthocyanins, and total phenolics levels
97 and concluded that teas made from rose petals might serve as caffeine-free drinks with
98 high antioxidant capacities and may be combined with other herbal beverages.

99 Generally, phenolic compounds are extracted from natural materials with solid-liquid
100 extraction methods using various organic solvents, such as methanol, acetone, and
101 ethanol, or a mixture of these with water (Will et al., 2008) and the extraction's
102 efficiency depends on the extraction conditions, such as solvent, time, temperature,
103 pressure, and so on (Franquin-Trinquier et al., 2014). Thus, the aim of this work was to
104 investigate the effects of three different drying methods (hot-air oven drying, shade-
105 drying, and sun drying) on the total polyphenol and flavonoid content, DPPH
106 scavenging activity, reducing power and identification of different bioactive
107 compounds extracted with 80 % ethanol in a solid to liquid ratio in rose.

108 **Materials and Methods**

109 Four kg of rose petals were procured from a farm in Taif, Saudi Arabia. Petals were
110 divided into 4 equal parts, the first part was dried in the sun at 38 ± 2 °C, the second part
111 was dried in the shade, the third part was dried in a hot-air oven at 60 ± 2 °C (ED-56,
112 Binder, Germany) and the fourth part was used fresh as control. The samples were dried
113 to a constant weight (± 0.05 g) using the related drying method.

114 **Extraction**

115 The rose petal samples were extracted with 80 % ethanol in a solid to liquid ratio of
116 1:20 on fresh weight basis using a shaker at 220 rpm for 1 h at 30 °C. The samples were
117 then filtered using a Whatman filter paper No 2. The extracts were stored at 4 °C for
118 further analysis.

119 **Determination of Total Phenolic Content (TPC)**

120 The quantification of total phenolic contents was performed using the Folin–Ciocalteu

121 (FC) procedure as previously reported by Alshammari et al., (2022). Methanol 4 mL
122 was used to dissolve 1 g of sample using vortex, then the solution was filtered through
123 Whatman No.1 filter paper. 200 μ l of Folin–Ciocalteu reagent was mixed with 5 mL
124 Milli-Q water and 100 μ l sample solution, then 3 mL of sodium carbonate (Na_2CO_3)
125 20% solution was added and incubated for 2 h at room temperature in the dark. The
126 intensity of absorbance was recorded at 765 nm with methanol as a blank. Gallic acid
127 standard (0–1.5 mg/mL) was used to obtain the standard curve for the calculation of
128 total phenolic contents and results were reported as milligram gallic acid equivalent
129 (GAE) per 100 g of sample.

130 **Total Flavonoid Content (TFC)**

131 The TFC was analyzed according to the method reported by (Salamatullah et al.,
132 2021). In total, 250 μ l of rose petal extract was mixed with 1000 μ l of water and then
133 75 μ l each of 5% NaNO_2 (w/v) and 10% AlCl_3 (w/v) was added. The prepared
134 mixture was allowed to stand for 5 min at room temperature. After that, 600 μ l of
135 water and 500 μ l of 1 M NaOH were added. Blank was prepared without extract. The
136 absorbance was measured at 510 nm (Jasco V-630 UV-Vis spectrophotometer,
137 Easton, MD, USA). TFC was expressed as catechin equivalent per gram dry weight of
138 the sample (mg CE/g DW) against a catechin standard curve prepared at a
139 concentration of 0.05–0.6 mg/mL.

140 **DPPH Radical Scavenging Assay (RSA)**

141 The DPPH (1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazil, SIGMA, St. Louis, MO, USA) radical
142 scavenging activity was determined in this study using the method of Alshammari et
143 al., (2022). Briefly, 0.75 mL of the sample solution (0.1 g/mL) in warm water was
144 mixed with 1.5 mL of DPPH (0.09 mg/mL) in methanol. The mixture was then
145 incubated at 25 °C in a water bath for 5 min. The absorbance was measured at 517 nm

146 against a blank sample consisting of sample solution with distilled water. The
147 absorbance of a radical blank was also measured using 0.75 mL of distilled water.
148 The radical scavenging activity (RSA) of sample extract was expressed in terms of
149 percentage inhibition of DPPH radical by rose petal and was calculated as follows:⁷

$$150 \quad \text{RSA (DPPH, Inhibition, \%)} = [(AB - AT)/AB] \times 100$$

151 Where AB = Absorbance of radical blank (DPPH, without sample)

152 AT = Absorbance of test sample (DPPH, with sample)

153 **Antibacterial and anticandidal activity**

154 Antimicrobial activity of rose extracts using different methods was determined with
155 agar well diffusion assay against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Listeria monocytogenes*,
156 *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Escherichia coli*, and *Candida albicans* (Salamatullah et al.,
157 2021).

158 **Determination of minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC)**¹

159 The MIC of rose extracts was obtained using the previously published microbroth
160 dilution method. (Hussein and Joo, 2018 and Alyousef, 2021).³¹

161 **Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) analysis**

162 Analysis was carried out using gas chromatograph coupled with mass spectrometer
163 (Turbomass) Perkin-Elmer, Auto system XL using Elite 5MS capillary column (30 mts
164 × 0.25 mm ID). The oven temperature program was 80 °C for 5 minutes, rising to 310
165 °C at a rate of 10 °C/min.²⁷ The injector and interface temperatures were kept at 260 and
166 250 °C, respectively. The flow rate of the carrier gas, helium, was fixed to 1.0 mL/min.
167 In ionization mode, mass spectral scanning was performed at 40-600 (m/z). The
168 temperatures of the source and intake lines were set to 180 and 250 °C, respectively.¹⁷

169 To identify the compounds, the spectra were compared to the National Institute of
170 Standards and Technology (NIST, 2005 v2.1) collection.

171

172 **Statistical analysis**

173 Data was statistically analyzed using SAS (Version 9.2, 2000-2008; SAS Institute Inc.,
174 Cary, NC, USA). The experiments were independently replicated 3 times (n = 3). The
175 data were presented as mean standard deviation (SD). If the differences were found to
176 be significant between the groups, a post-hoc analysis using Duncan's multiple range
177 testing was carried out. The differences between the treatment groups were examined
178 using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) at a significance threshold of $p \leq 0.05$.

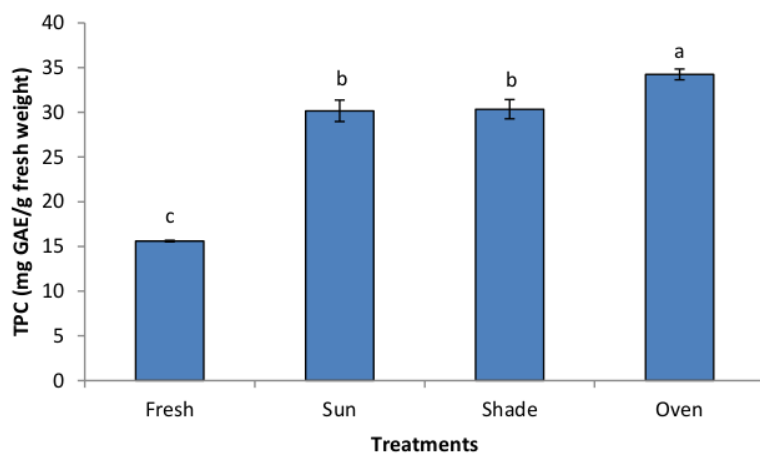
179 **Results and discussion**

180 **Effect of drying method on the total polyphenol content of rose**

181 Fig. 1 shows the effect of drying methods on the total polyphenol content (TPC) of rose
182 petals. The drying methods showed a significant effect on the TPC of rose samples (P
183 < 0.05). Fresh sample showed the lowest TPC (15.6 mg gallic acid equivalent (GAE)/g
184 fresh weight (FW)), while the highest TPC (34.24 mg GAE/g FW) was exhibited by
185 the oven-dried sample. Statistically, there was no differences ($P \geq 0.05$) between the
186 TPC of shade-dried and sun-dried samples. The results of our study are in contrary to
187 the findings of Barimah et al. (2017) who reported that the fresh leaves of *Taraxacum*
188 officinale exhibited the highest TPC (7.78 mg GAE/g) as compared to the solar dried
189 (4.19 mg GAE/g), hot-air oven dried (2.95 mg GAE/g), and freeze dried (4.31 mg
190 GAE/g). In another study, the total polyphenol contents of *Magnolia liliflora* extracts
191 were high after shade drying, microwave drying, and hot air drying. While the sun
192 drying caused damage and showed a lower content (Feng-Ying et al., 2015). The total
193 polyphenol content of rose petals ranged from 7.61 - 9.65 g GAE/100g dry weight

194 collected from 7 industrial scale plantations from Bulgaria for two consecutive growing
195 seasons (Ginova et al., 2013). The TPC of the methanolic extract of fresh Rosa
196 damascena flower from Turkey was reported as 276.02 mg GAE/g. Alizadeh and
197 Fattahi (2021) studied 24 accessions of cultivated Damask rose and found that the TPC
198 of rose petals ranged from 64.92–165.16 mg GAE/g dry weight. In previous work, the
199 amount of TPC (GAE/g DW) for Damask rose petals was reported as 211.92- 268.71
200 mg (Baydar and Baydar, 2013). The divergence in results can be attributed to the
201 location, variety, and the extraction method (Özkan et al., 2004). Convection and
202 vacuum-microwave drying method was studied by Matolk et al. (202). Polyphenol
203 content are high (208gm 100 g-1 dry matter) in the samples of pink rose. Stępień et al.
204 (2019) reported that the convection drying at 40 °C and vacuum-microwave drying
205 results in highest bioactive total polyphenol content and antioxidant activity.

206



207

208 Figure 1. Drying methods effect on the total polyphenol content of rose.

209 **Effect of drying methods on the total flavonoid content of rose**

210 ¹³ The effect of drying methods on the total flavonoid content (TFC) is shown in Fig. 2.

211 The drying methods almost exhibited a similar trend for TFC as it was shown for the

212 TPC of the rose samples. The TFC of the samples were in the following order: fresh <

213 sun-dried < shade-dried < oven-dried, which were ¹ significantly different from each

214 other (P < 0.05). In a recent study, the TFC of 24 accessions of cultivated Damask

215 rose petals was reported between 28.59–81.35 mg Qu/g dry weight (Alizadeh and

216 Fattahi, 2021). In another study, the TFC of Damask rose petals was reported as 28.1-

217 98 (mg catechin equivalents/ g dry weight) (Baydar and Baydar, 2013). The total

218 flavonoid content of the mint leaves was increased on drying compared to the fresh

219 one (Hayat, 2020). The vacuum drying method of *Bletilla striata* flowers exhibited a

220 ⁶ higher TFC content than the hot-air drying, microwave drying, infrared drying, natural

221 shade drying, and freeze-drying methods (Lu et al., 2021). The ⁶ hot-air drying,

222 microwave drying, infrared drying, natural shade drying, and freeze-drying methods

223 (Lu et al., 2021). In an earlier study it was found that the total flavonoid contents of

224 *Magnolia liliflora* extracts were high after shade drying, microwave drying, and hot

225 air drying, while the sun drying showed a lower flavonoid content (Feng-Ying et al.,

226 2015). There are contradicting reports in the literature about the drying methods

227 impact on plant samples. On one hand, the cell wall of plant materials may rupture

228 during the drying process to facilitate the release of bioactive compounds into the

229 extracting solvent (¹¹ Hayat et al., 2010; Bernard et al., 2014; Hayat et al., 2019; Hayat,

230 2020). On the other hand, ² drying could cause the changes in the chemical structure of

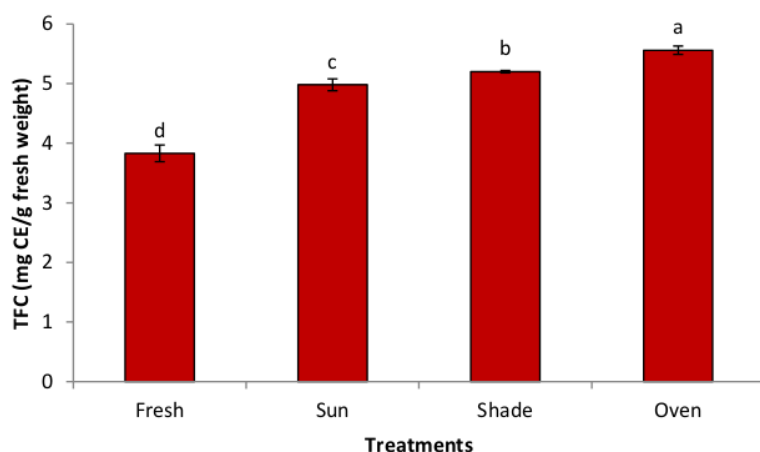
231 the phenolic compounds or cause them to adhere to each other components like

232 proteins, which makes their extraction difficult (Youssef and Mokhtar, 2014).

233 Moreover, the degradation enzymes such as polyphenol oxidase could play an

234 important role in certain moisture content of plant materials (Orphanides et al., 2013).

235 However, the ² plant species and cell wall stability have been reported to influence the
236 effect of drying on the phenolic content of plants (Youssef and Mokhtar, 2014).
237 Italian apple Mela Rosa dei Monti Sibillini was subjected to dehydrated by drying and
238 freez-lyohilization methods (López et al., 2020). Flavan-3-ols, flavonol glycosides
239 and dihydrochalcones are high in the extracts obtained by freez-lyophilization.

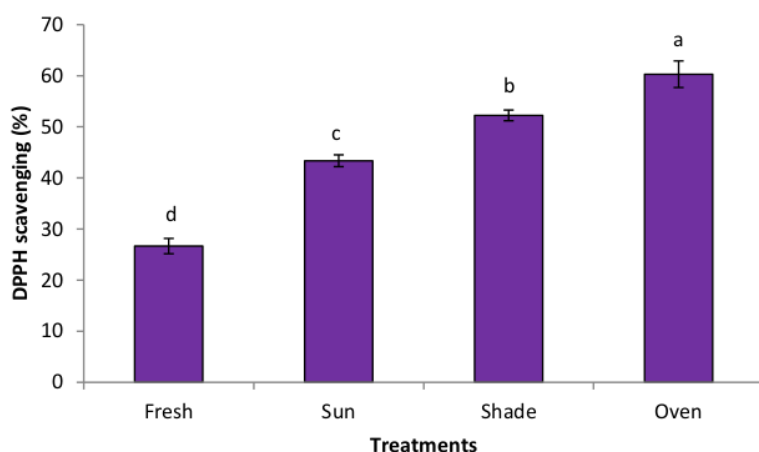


240 ⁸ Figure 2. Drying methods on the total flavonoid content of rose.

242 ² Effect of drying methods on the DPPH scavenging of rose

243 ¹⁰ The 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydazyl scavenging activity of the rose samples under
244 different drying methods is depicted in Fig. 3. The oven dried sample displayed the high
245 DPPH scavenging activity, reflecting the results of TPC and TFC. (60.30 %) followed
246 by the sample dried under shade (52.24 %). While, the lowest activity (26.66 %) was
247 obtained for the fresh rose sample. Özkan et al. (2004) reported the DPPH antiradical
248 activity of 74.51% for the fresh *Rosa damascena* flower collected from Turkey. In a
249 previous study, which assessed the effect of drying methods on *Taraxacum officinale*
250 leaves, it was reported that fresh leaves had DPPH scavenging effect, which was
251 significantly higher ² 83.71% (freeze), 74.34% (solar), and 69.51% for oven dried

252 samples (Barimah et al., 2017). Lu et al. (2021) recently studied the vacuum drying and
253 shade drying showed higher DPPH scavenging for the *Bletilla striata* flowers as
254 compared to the hot-air drying, microwave drying, infrared drying, and freeze-drying
255 methods. The bioactive components of the fresh bitter water rose flower were better
256 preserved by freeze-drying treatment than the hot air drying, and the resulting DPPH
257 scavenging capacity was strong (Gao et al., 2014). Hendrysiak et al. (2023) reported
258 the significant influence on the antioxidant capacity of rosehip (*Rosa canina* L.) with
259 the addition of carrier substances.



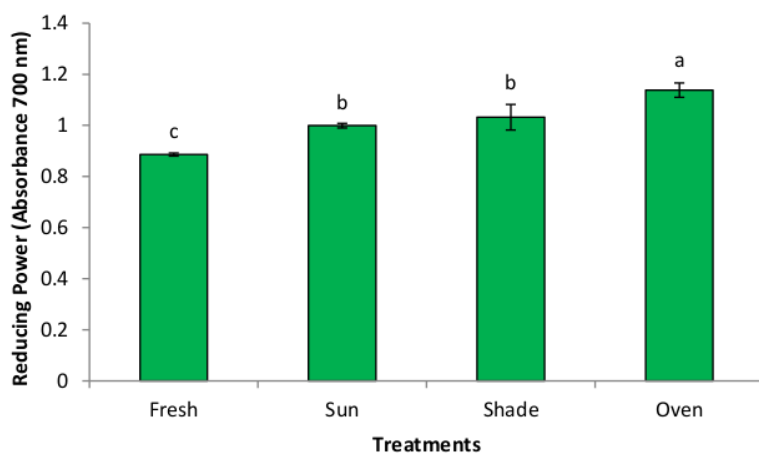
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261 Figure 3. Drying methods effect on the DPPH scavenging of rose.

262 Effect of drying methods on the reducing power of rose

263 Figure 4 represent the influence of drying procedures on the reducing power of rose
264 samples. The reducing power followed the same pattern as the TPC activity. The
265 highest reducing power was found for the dried rose sample by oven (absorbance
266 1.138), while the lowest activity (abs 0.886) was noted for the fresh sample,
267 respectively. There was no significant difference ($P > 0.05$) between the reducing power
268 of shade- (1.032) and sun-dried (0.999) samples. These results showed that the reducing

269 power was due to at least a part of the TPC and TFC of rose sample. The antioxidant
270 capacity of shade dried, microwave dried, and hot air-dried *Magnolia liliflora* was good,
271 while sun drying caused great damage to polyphenols and flavonoids, and the
272 antioxidant activity was low (Feng-Ying et al., 2015). The roses retained strong
273 antioxidant activity after oven drying, but low temperature refrigeration or frozen
274 storage accelerated the decomposition and loss of antioxidant components.



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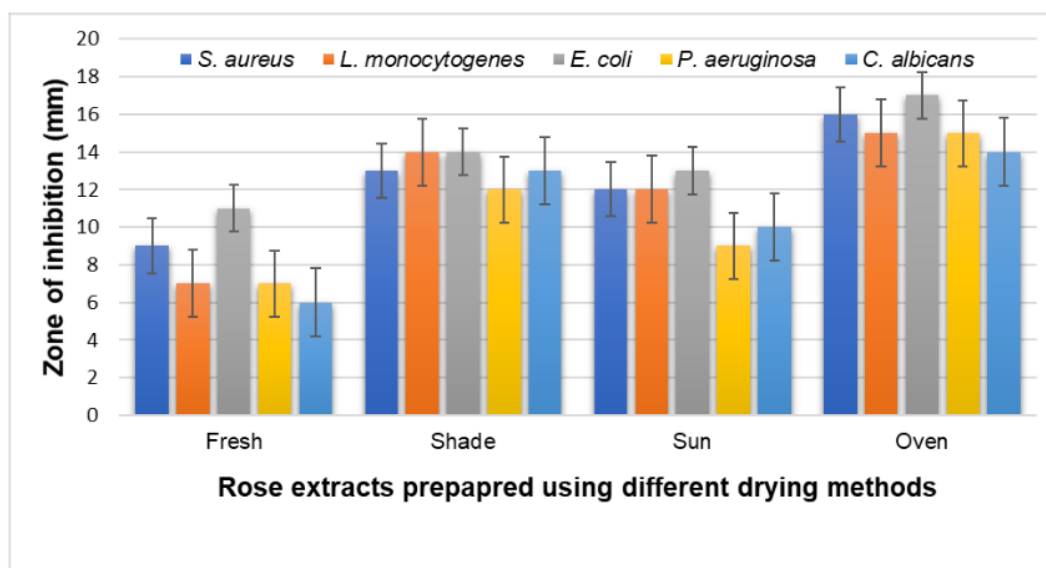
276 Figure 4. Drying methods effect on the reducing power of rose.

277 **Antimicrobial activity of the rose extracts**

278 Extracts of rose were also assessed for their antibacterial and antifungal activity against
279 4 bacterial strains and 1 *Candida* sp. We observed that highest antibacterial and
280 anticandidal activity was demonstrated Fig. 5, by the extracts that were prepared from
281 the oven dried sample followed by the extract of shade dried sample, sun dried and
282 lowest activity was recorded for the fresh samples. After treatment with extract
283 prepared from the oven dried sample as depicted in the figure, growth suppression
284 zones of 16, 15, 17, 15, 14 mm were obtained against *S. aureus*, *L. monocytogenes*, *E.*
285 *coli*, *P. aeruginosa*, and *C. albicans*, respectively. Fluconazole and doxycycline were

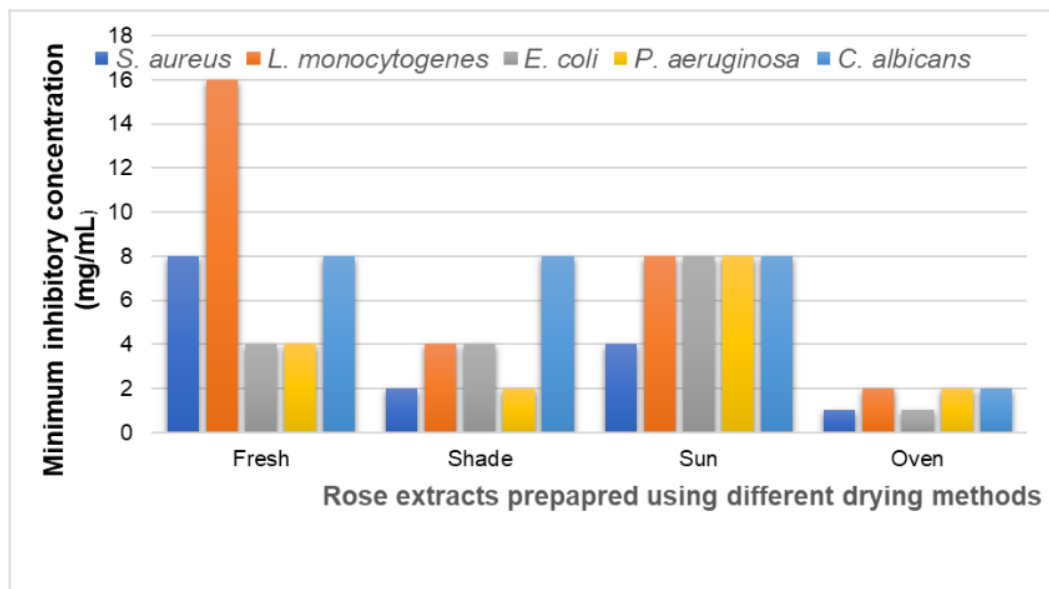
286 employed as positive controls drugs, since they are both antifungal and antibacterial
 287 respectively. Microorganism are responsible for the spoilage of food leading to food-
 288 borne disease that cause severe health issues to the consumers and incur huge economic
 289 losses (Uthpala et al., 2021). Extract prepared from the oven dried rose samples
 290 demonstrated highest inhibition against the test bacteria and *Candida* sp. and thus could
 291 prove effective against food associated pathogens.

292 The lowest concentration at which the extracts demonstrates complete growth
 293 inhibition of the bacteria is termed as its minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) Fig.
 294 6. We observed that lowest MICs were demonstrated by extract prepared from oven-
 295 dried sample against all test pathogens (Figure). MIC values were recorded to be 1
 296 mg/mL against *S. aureus* and *E. coli* while 2 mg/ml against *L. monocytogenes*, *P.*
 297 *aeruginosa* and *C. albicans*. MICs ranged from 4 -16 mg/ml, 2 - 8 mg/ml and 4 - 8
 298 mg/ml for the fresh, shade dried and sun-dried samples, respectively. Similar MIC
 299 values have been reported previously with the extract of *Acemella* flowers that were
 300 subjected to different drying techniques (Uthpala et al., 2021).



301

302 Figure 5. Antimicrobial activity of rose extracts subjected to different drying techniques



303

304 Figure 6. MIC of rose extracts subjected to different drying techniques against test
305 pathogens

306 **10 Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) analysis**

307 Results of GC-MS analysis is reported in Table-1. Fresh sample shows the aliphatic
308 hydrocarbons are the dominant compounds 64.73%. Whereas aliphatic hydrocarbon
309 for sun and oven dried samples are 11.69 and 8.93%, respectively. Generally the
310 representative aliphatic hydrocarbons for rose samples was tetracosane, heptacosane
311 and 11-decyl-docosane in all rose samples. Major compound in sun and oven dried
312 rose samples were Phenylethyl alcohol, 30.41% and 40.21% respectively.
313 Fresh Rose sample GC-MS analysis revealed a high ratio of heptacosane 64.56% and
314 citronellyl propionate 28.35%. Pentadecyl 2-phenylethyl ester oxalic acid was the
315 second dominant compound in sun and oven dried rose samples, 18.5% and 14.79%,
316 respectively. Fresh rose samples have three major compounds and other compounds
317 are found as traces comparing with sun and oven dried samples. Higher monoterpene

318 alcohols and lower quantity of alkanes indicate good quality of rose oil (Baser, 1992).
 319 Therefore, this agrees to our analysis for sun and oven dried rose samples, this
 320 correlates with the TPC, TFC, and DPPH scavenging activity results. However,
 321 extraction of fresh Rose samples can be considered as a good source of aliphatic
 322 hydrocarbon. Halawani (2014) reported citronellol (15.9 - 33.3%) nonadecane (5.5 –
 323 16.0%) in rose oil. Ulusoy et al. (2009) reported that citronellol and geraniol are the
 324 major compounds in Turkish rose oils. El-Sharnouby et al. (2021) reported the
 325 concentrations of geraniol, phenyl ethyl alcohol, and citronellol were 8.67, 9.87, and
 326 16.56% respectively for rose samples grown under 500 PPM salinity water.

327 **Table 1: GC-MS Analysis of rose samples (%).**

Compound Name	Oven	Sun	Fresh
Phenylethyl alcohol	40.21	30.41	0.17
2,3-dihydro-3,5-dihydroxy-6-methyl 4H-pyran-4-one	13.91	8.30	0.00
Tetracosane	2.83	2.51	0.08
Hexadecanoic acid	3.36	4.80	0.08
Heptacosane	5.25	4.90	64.56
Octadecanoic acid	1.45	2.26	0.69
11-decyl-docosane	0.85	4.27	0.08
Citronellyl acetate	1.52	0.99	0.76
β -Sitosterol	1.04	0.75	4.91
Pentadecyl 2-phenylethyl ester oxalic acid	14.79	18.45	0.00
Citronellyl propionate	8.16	9.60	28.35
Neryl acetate	2.01	2.19	0.18
β -Phenylethyl n-decanoate	4.63	10.56	0.13

328

329 **Conclusions**

330 This study presents a significant effect of drying methods on the bioactive properties of
 331 the rose petals. The fresh sample exhibited the lowest TPC, TFC, and antioxidant
 332 activity, while the oven-dried sample demonstrated the high activity. The results
 333 suggested that the oven drying of rose petals not only could save the processing time of
 334 rose but also could enhance its bioactive properties. GC-MS analysis also revealed the

335 same results, fresh rose has the high content of aliphatic hydrocarbons whereas sun and
336 oven dried samples have the high amount of monoterpene alcohols. This knowledge
337 might be useful in the preparation of rose for food and pharmacological uses.

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