

ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL GENOTOXICITY OF THE PHLOROTANNIN PREPARATIONS DEMONSTRATING HIGH ANTIBIOTIC AND ANTIFUNGAL ACTIVITIES

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Introduction:

Among the bioactive metabolites produced by marine organism, phlorotannins currently attract special attention due to their high antibiotic, antifungal, and cytotoxic capacities. Phlorotannins are unique phenolic metabolites of brown algae – oligomers and polymers of phloroglucinol (1,3,5-trihydroxybenzene). Brown algae contain from 0.5 to 30% phlorotannins per dry weight. Different phlorotannin preparations are currently extensively studied from the perspective of their use in clinical pharmacy. However, these biologically active compounds are still not tested for their possible deleterious side effects, such as mutagenic activity.

Aim of study:

In this study we tested antibiotic, antifungal, and mutagenic activity of three phlorotannin preparations in order to assess their perspectives for applied relevance in medicine.

Materials and methods:

Phlorotannins were isolated from thalli of three brown algae (*Fucus serratus*, *Ectocarpus siliculosus*, and *Desmarestia aculeata*) (Figure 1). Antibacterial and antifungal effects were estimated as minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) of phlorotannin preparations against two model objects: Gram-negative bacteria *Escherichia coli* strain KA796 and ascomycete yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* haploid strain LAN201-ura3Δ. Mutagenic activity of the extracts was assessed in the Ames test using three tester strains of *Salmonella typhimurium* (TA97, TA98, and TA100). Rat liver extract was used for the metabolic activation of the potential promutagens.

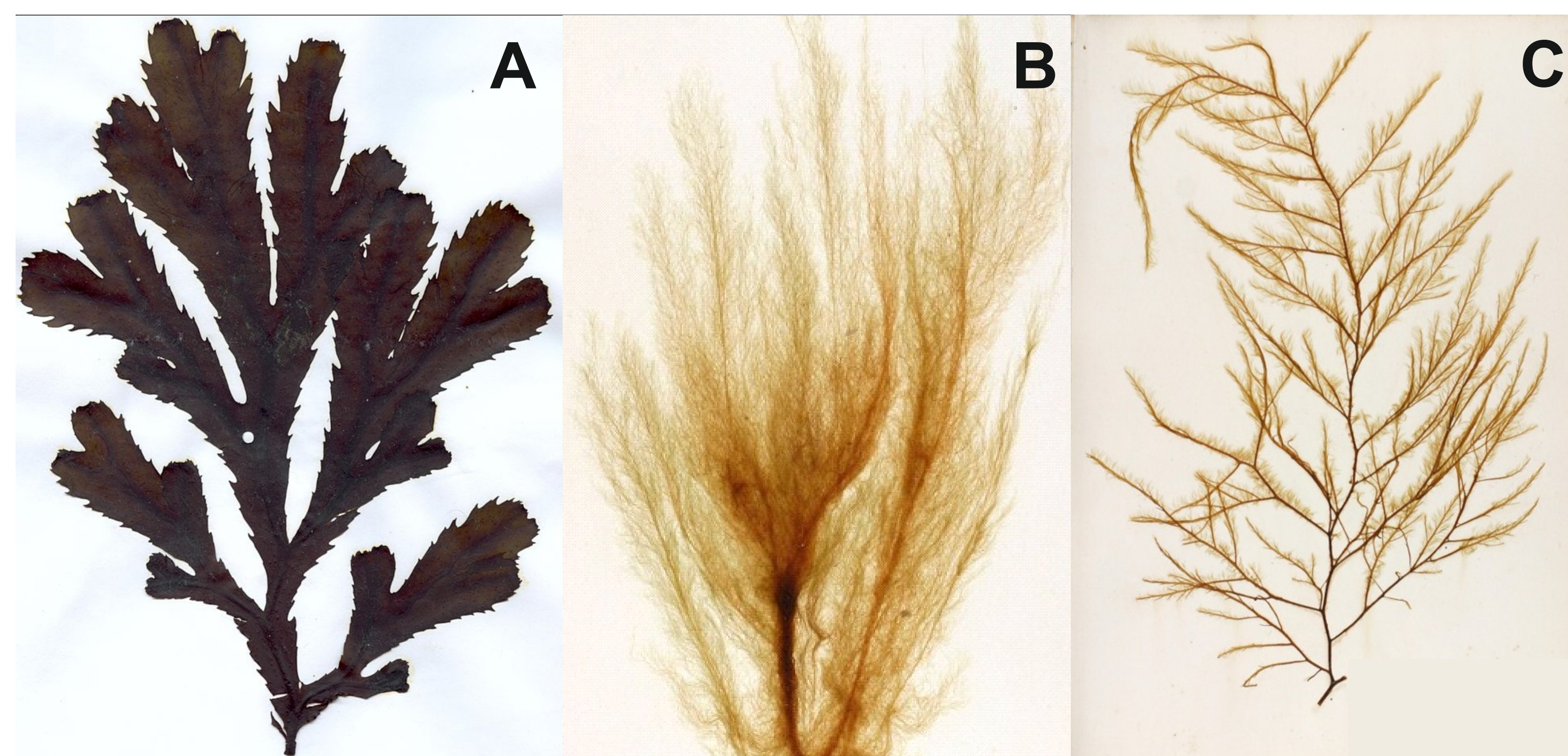


Figure 1. Brown algae used in the present study, as phlorotannin sources: A - *Fucus serratus*; B - *Ectocarpus siliculosus*; C - *Desmarestia aculeata*

Results and discussion:

All three tested phlorotannin preparations showed considerable antibacterial and antifungal activity. Phlorotannins of *D. aculeata* were the most toxic with MIC values 5 and 4 µg/ml for *E. coli* and *S. cerevisiae*, correspondingly. MIC values of *F. serratus* extracts were 20 µg/ml for *E. coli* and 10 µg/ml for *S. cerevisiae*. Phlorotannin preparations isolated from *E. siliculosus* showed MIC 25 µg/ml for both test-objects (Table 1). These MIC values are similar to those of widely used antibiotics and fungicides, such as tetracycline, ampicillin, fluconazole and amphotericin B.

Phlorotannins of *D. aculeata* showed no mutagenic effects in the both variants of the Ames test (with and without metabolic activation). Meanwhile the phlorotannin preparations of *E. siliculosus* and *F. serratus* demonstrated slight mutagenic activity (fold change 1.3-1.4, $P < 0.05$) compared to the negative control after metabolic activation for TA100 strain (base pair substitutions), and preparations of *F. serratus* also showed considerable mutagenic activity (fold change 2.3, $P < 0.05$) without metabolic activation for TA97 strain (frameshift mutations) (Table 1).

| Algae (phlorothannin sources) | MIC µg/ml | | The Ames test | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|-------|
| | <i>Escherihia coli</i> | <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> | MA+ | MA– |
| <i>Fucus serratus</i> | 20 | 10 | TA 100 | TA 97 |
| <i>Ectocarpus siliculosus</i> | 25 | 25 | TA 100 | — |
| <i>Desmarestia aculeata</i> | 5 | 4 | — | — |

Table 1. MIC values (µg/ml) of phlorothannins extracts isolated from brown algae against *E. coli* and *S. cerevisiae*. Tester strains of *S. typhimurium* showing enhanced mutation frequency after phlorotannins treatment in the Ames test with metabolic activation (MA+) and without metabolic activation (MA–).

Conclusions:

Phlorotannin preparations of *D. aculeata* featured the maximal antibacterial and antifungal activities and did not demonstrate significant genotoxicity in the Ames test. Thus, these preparations may be regarded as the most perspective for further use in clinical pharmacy.

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