

Importance of Epigallocatechin-3-gallate with Tremendous Pharmacological Benefits in Functional Food Development

Mohamad Hesam Shahrajabian [#] and Wenli Sun ^{*,#}

Biotechnology Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Beijing 100081, China; sun-wenli@caas.cn; hesamshahrajabian@gmail.com

* Correspondence: sunwenli@caas.cn; Tel.: +86-13-4260-83836

These authors contributed equally to this work.

Abstract: One of the most tea catechin in epigallocatechin gallate. It is the principle plentiful tea polyphenol, accompanied by other polyphenols such as epigallocatechin, epicatechin-3-gallate, epicatechin, and catechin. The principle notable pharmacological characteristics of Epigallocatechin gallate are HIV infection, antineoplastic, hypertension, and related issues, type II diabetes mellitus, its application as nephroprotective, hepatoprotective, cardioprotective, and its utilizations in Parkinson, Osteoporosis, and Alzheimer. It has been also considered as the most important natural product in cancer treatment due to its safety, natural origin, and affordable. It has also ability to reduce lipid and protein damage caused by hepatotoxin. It carries also an important role in food industry. It is found in green tea, black tea, strawberries, cranberries, kiwis, cherries, apples, peaches, hazelnuts, pistachios, and pecans.

Keywords: natural products; medicinal plant; green tea; epigallocatechin; epigallocatechin gallate.

1. Introduction

Medicinal plant sciences have been studied as the main origin of curative treatment [1-10], and the natural ingredients and chemical ingredients of herbs and plants are used to prevent many diseases and promote health [16-21]. Epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG), which is a kind of catechin, is the ester of gallic acid and epigallocatechin [21-34]. Epigallocatechin-3-gallate is the main ample tea polyphenol, together with other polyphenols, such as catechin, epicatechin, epigallocatechin, and epicatechin-3-gallate. Epigallocatechin gallate, also considered as epigallocatechin-3-gallate, is a polyphenolic flavonoid obtained from tea (*Camellia sinensis*) posses many pharmaceutical benefits like antioxidant, antimicrobial, and anticancer activities. The goal of this manuscript is study of the most notable pharmaceutical merits of Epigallocatechin.

2. EGCG and Pharmacological Benefits

EGCG may cause the generation of reactive oxygen species, its process is according to the creation of EGCG quinone, EGCG dimer quinone and other components and the development of autoxidized products may have roles in the suppression of fibrillation; furthermore, EGCG are discovered to form covalent adducts with cysteinylthiol residues in proteins via autoxidation to consecutively stimulate protein function, which can be used to cure human gastric cancer; the balance and autoxidation of EGCG are related to metal ion, pH, temperature, oxygen amounts and antioxidant amounts [35]. EGCG effects alzheimer disease through oxidative stress, neuroinflammation, and neurogenesis alteration; inhibited the production of A β and decreased inflammation, cell apoptosis, and oxidative stress; it can also reduce the A β amounts by increasing endogenous APP proteolysis and reduce nuclear translocation of c-Abl, as well as leading to an elevation in the

Citation: To be added by editorial staff during production.

Academic Editor: Firstname Last-name

Received: date

Revised: date

Accepted: date

Published: date



Copyright: © 2023 by the authors. Submitted for possible open access publication under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

main autophagy adaptor proteins NDP52 and P62; EGCG regulates the iron export ferroportin in substantia nigra, decrease oxidative stress and indicate a neurorescue impacts against 1-methyl-4-phenyl-1,2,3,5-tetrahydropyridine (MPTP)-induced neurochemical and functional shortages [36]. EGCG has shown anti-tumor activity by introduction of 6-methoxycabonyl to EGCG is effective against gefitinib-resistant HCC827-Gef cells which can increase its anti-tumor properties [37,38]. EGCG can blocks the synthesis of collagen, proliferation and activation of hepatic stellate cells, and it can decrease MMP-2 activity and contains the antifibrosis impacts via down-regulation of the expression of MMP-2 mRNA [39,40]. It can boost the enzyme inhibitory activity and the DPPH radical scavenging activity and against α -glucosidase, and α -amylase which shows its antibacterial impacts; its utilization may show important functions in cell behavior and important for regenerative endodontic treatment [41]. It has fungicidal activities against *Trichophyton mentagrophytes*, *Cryptococcus neoformans*, *T. rubrum*, and *C. albicans*, and EGCG synergistically boost the antifungal potency of azola drugs which can be useful in the development and preventing of drug resistance, in decreasing the drug dosage and reducing the negative impacts [42,43]. EGCG has antimicrobial impacts against bacteria leading to food-borne diseases, the most discovered bacterium are *Helicobacter pylori*, *Escherichia coli*, *Bacillus steathothermophilus*, *Helicobacter pylori*, *Clostridium thermoaceticum*, *Bacillus cereus*, and *Salmonella typhi* [44-50].

3. Conclusions

The tea catechin is epigallocatechin gallate, which is predominantly identified in tea (white, green, black, and oolong), fruits (strawberries, kiwis, cranberries, blackberries, cherries, apples, peaches, pears, and avocados), and nuts (pistachios, and hazelnuts, and pecans). Catechins may be grouped into a larger group of plant components such as polyphenols. Epigallocatechin, epicatechin 3-gallate, and epicatechin, and also show similar advantages. The main notable pharmaceutical characteristics of EGCG are in treatment of HIV infection, antineoplastic, hypertension, and related complications, type II diabetes mellitus, and also it has hepatoprotective, cardioprotective, and nephroprotective activities, and significant utilization in Parkinson, and Osteoporosis, and Alzheimer. Its value in cancer treatment is due to natural origin, low cost, and safety, but the major disadvantage is its minimum effectiveness with some restraints in researches related to EGCG.

Author Contributions: M.H.S., writing-original draft, preparation and editing; W.S., writing-original draft preparations. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This research was funded by the Natural Science Foundation of Beijing, China (Grant No.M21026). This research was also supported by the National Key R&D Program of China (Research grant 2019YFA0904700).

Institutional Review Board Statement: Not applicable.

Informed Consent Statement: Not applicable.

Data Availability Statement: Not applicable.

Acknowledgments: We are thanking and appreciate all the members and staffs of Biotechnology Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Beijing, China.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

References

1. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Sun, W. The golden spice for life: turmeric with the pharmacological benefits of curcuminoids components, including curcumin, bisdemethoxycurcumin, and demethoxycurcumin. *Curr Org Synth.* **2023**. <https://doi.org/10.2174/157017942066623060712949>
2. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Sun, W. The importance of salicylic acid, humic acid and fulvic acid on crop production. *Lett Drug Des Discov.* **2023**, *20*, 1-16. <https://doi.org/10.2174/1570180820666230411102209>

3. Sun, W.; Shahrajabian, M.H. Therapeutic potential of phenolic compounds in medicinal plants-natural health products for human health. *Molecules*. **2023**, *28*(1845), 1-47. <https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules28041845>
4. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Petropoulos, S.A.; Sun, W. Survey of the influences of microbial biostimulants on horticultural crops: case studies and successful paradigms. *Horticulturae*. **2023**, *9*(193), 1-24. <https://doi.org/10.3390/horticulturae9020193>
5. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Sun, W. Survey on medicinal plants and herbs in traditional Iranian medicine with anti-oxidant, anti-viral, anti-microbial, and anti-inflammatory properties. *Lett Drug Des Discov*. **2023**, *19*. <https://doi.org/10.2174/1570180819666220816115506>
6. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Marmitt, D.; Cheng, Q.; Sun, W. Natural antioxidants of the underutilized and neglected plant species of Asia and South America. *Lett Drug Des Discov*. **2023**, *20*(10), 1512-1537. <https://doi.org/10.2174/15701808196662206161455558>
7. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Cheng, Q.; Sun, W.; The importance of neglected and underutilized medicinal plants from South America in modern pharmaceutical sciences. *Lett Drug Des Discov*. **2023**, *19*. <https://doi.org/10.2174/1570180819666220512113812>
8. Sun, W.; Shahrajabian, M.H.; Lin, M. Research progress of fermented functional foods and protein factory-microbial fermentation technology. *Fermentation*. **2022**, *8*(12), 688. <https://doi.org/10.3390/fermentation8120688>
9. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Cheng, Q.; Sun, W. Wonderful natural drugs with surprising nutritional values, Rheum species, gifts of the nature. *Lett Org Chem*. **2022**, <https://doi.org/10.2174/1570178619666220112115918>
10. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Cheng, Q.; Sun, W. The most important medicinal herbs and plants in traditional Chinese and Iranian medicinal sciences with antioxidant activities. *Lett Drug Des Discov*. **2022**, *19*(9). <https://doi.org/10.2174/1570180819666220414102700>
11. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Sun, W.; Cheng, Q. The importance of flavonoids and phytochemicals of medicinal plants with antiviral activities. *Mini Rev Org Chem*. **2022**, *19*(3), 293-318. <https://doi.org/10.2174/1570178618666210707161025>
12. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Chaski, C.; Polyzos, N.; Petropoulos, S.A. Biostimulants application: A low input cropping management tool for sustainable farming of vegetables. *Biomolecules*. **2021**, *11*(5), 698. <https://doi.org/10.3390/biom11050698>
13. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Sun, W.; Cheng, Q. Different methods for molecular and rapid detection of human novel coronavirus. *Curr Pharm Des*. **2021**, *27*, 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.2174/1381612827666210604114411>
14. Sun, W.; Shahrajabian, M.H.; Cheng, Q. Natural dietary and medicinal plants with anti-obesity therapeutics activities for treatment and prevention of obesity during lock down and in post-Covid-19 era. *Appl Sci*. **2021**, *11*(17), 7889. <https://doi.org/10.3390/app11177889>
15. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Chaski, C.; Polyzos, N.; Tzortzakis, N.; Petropoulos, S.A. Sustainable agriculture systems in vegetable production using chitin and chitosan as plant biostimulants. *Biomolecules*. **2021**, *11*(6), 819. <https://doi.org/10.3390/biom11060819>
16. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Sun, W.; Cheng, Q. Molecular breeding and the impacts of some important genes families on agronomic traits, a review. *Genet Resour Crop Evol*. **2021**, *68*, 1709-1730. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10722-021-01148-x>
17. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Sun, W.; Cheng, Q. Exploring *Artemisia annua* L., artemisinin and its derivatives, from traditional Chinese wonder medicinal science. *Not Bot Horti Agrobot Cluj Napoca*. **2020**, *48*(4), 1719-1741. <https://doi.org/10.15835/nbha48412002>
18. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Sun, W.; Soleymani, A.; Cheng, Q. Traditional herbal medicines to over come stress, anxiety and improve mental health in outbreaks of human coronaviruses. *Phytother Res*. **2020**, *2020*(1), 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ptr.6888>
19. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Sun, W.; Cheng, Q. Chemical components and pharmacological benefits of basil (*Ocimum basilicum*): a review. *Int J Food Prop*. **2020**, *23*(1), 1961-1970. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10942912.2020.1828456>
20. Sun, W.; Shahrajabian, M.H.; Cheng, Q. Fenugreek cultivation with emphasis on historical aspects and its uses in traditional medicine and modern pharmaceutical science. *Mini Rev Med Chem*. **2021**, *21*(6), 724-730. <https://doi.org/10.2174/1389557520666201127104907>
21. Sun, W.; Shahrajabian, M.H.; Cheng, Q. Barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*), a medicinal fruit and food with traditional and modern pharmaceutical uses. *Isr J Plant Sci*. **2021**, *68*(1-2), 1-11. <https://doi.org/10.1163/22238980-bja10019>
22. Sun, W.; Shahrajabian, M.H.; Cheng, Q. Health benefits of wolfberry (Gou Qi Zi) on the basis of ancient Chinese herbalism and Western modern medicine. *Avicenna J Phytomed*. **2021**, *11*(2), 109-119. <https://doi.org/10.22038/AJP.2020.17147>
23. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Sun, W.; Cheng, Q. Improving health benefits with considering traditional and modern health benefits of *Peganum harmala*. *Clin Phytosci*. **2021**, *7*(1), 1-9. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40816-021-00255-7>
24. Marmitt, D.; Shahrajabian, M.H. Plant species used in Brazil and Asia regions with toxic properties. *Phytother Res*. **2021**, *2021*(2), 1-24. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ptr.7100>
25. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Sun, W.; Khoshkham, M.; Cheng, Q. Caraway, Chinese chives and cassia as functional foods with considering nutrients and health benefits. *Carpathian J Food Sci Technol*. **2021**, *13*(1), 101-119. <https://doi.org/10.34302/crpfst/2021.13.1.9>
26. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Sun, W. Great health benefits of essential oils of pennyroyal (*Mentha pulegium* L.): a natural and organic medicine. *Curr Nutr Food Sci*. **2023**, *19*(4), 340-345. <https://doi.org/10.2174/1573401318666220620145213>
27. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Sun, W. The important nutritional benefits and wonderful health benefits of cashew (*Anacardium occidentale* L.). *Nat Prof J*. **2023**, *13*(4), 2-10. <https://doi.org/10.2174/2210315512666220427113702>
28. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Sun, W. A friendly strategy for an organic life by considering Syrian bean caper (*Zygophyllum fabago* L.), and parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa* L.). *Curr Nutr Food Sci*. **2023**, *9*(9), 1-5. <https://doi.org/10.2174/1573401319666230207093757>
29. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Sun, W. Sustainable approaches to boost yield and chemical constituents of aromatic and medicinal plants by application of biostimulants. *Recent Pat Food Nutr Agric*. **2022**, *13*(2). <https://doi.org/10.2174/2772574X13666221004151822>

30. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Sun, W.; Shen, H.; Cheng, Q. Chinese herbal medicine for SARS and SARS-CoV-2 treatment and prevention, encouraging using herbal medicine for COVID-19 outbreak. *Acta Agric Scand B Soil Plant Sci.* **2020**, *70*(5), 437-443. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09064710.20201763448>
31. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Sun, W.; Cheng, Q. Clinical aspects and health benefits of ginger (*Zingiber officinale*) in both traditional Chinese medicine and modern industry. *Acta Agric Scand B Soil Plant Sci.* **2019**, *69*(6), 546-556. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09064710.2019.1606930>
32. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Sun, W.; Cheng, Q. A review of ginseng species in different regions as a multipurpose herb in traditional Chinese medicine, modern herbology and pharmacological science. *J Med Plant Res.* **2019**, *13*(10), 213-226. <https://doi.org/10.5897/JMPR2019.6731>
33. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Sun, W.; Cheng, Q. A review of astragalus species as foodstuffs, dietary supplements, a traditional Chinese medicine and a part of modern pharmaceutical science. *Appl Ecol Environ Res.* **2019**, *17*(6), 13371-13382. https://doi.org/10.15666/aer.1706_1337113382
34. Sun, W.; Shahrajabian, M.H.; Cheng, Q. The insight and survey on medicinal properties and nutritive components of shallot. *J Med Plant Res.* **2019**, *13*(18), 452-457. <https://doi.org/10.5897/JMPR2019.6836>
35. Zhang, Z.X.; Li, Y.B.; Zhao, R.P. Epigallocatechin gallate attenuates β -Amyloid generation and oxidative stress involvement of PPAR γ in N2a/APP695 cells. *Neurochem Res.* **2017**, *42*(2), 468-480.
36. Liu, J.; Zhong, T.; Yi, P.; Fan, C.; Zhang, Z.; Liang, G.; et al. A new epigallocatechin gallate derivative isolated from Anhua dark tea sensitizes the chemosensitivity of gefitinib via the suppression of PI3K/mTOR and epithelial mesenchymal transition. *Fitoterapia.* **2020**, *143*, 104590.
37. Liu, R.; Zhang, T.; Wang, T.; Chang, M.; Jin, Q.; Wang, X.; Microwave-assisted synthesis and antioxidant activity of palmitoyl-epigallocatechin gallate. *LWT.* **2020**, *101*, 663-669.
38. Yasuda, S.; Horinaka, M.; Sakai, T. Sulforaphane enhances apoptosis induced by *Lactobacillus pentosus* strain S-PT84 via TNF α pathway in human colon cancer cells. *Oncol Lett.* **2009**, *18*(4), 4253-4261.
39. Kitamura, M.; Nishino, Y.; Obata, Y.; et al. Epigallocatechin gallate suppresses peritoneal fibrosis in mice. *Chem Biol Interact.* **2012**, *195*(1), 95-104.
40. Vilela, M.M.; Salvador, S.L.; Teixeira, I.G.L.; DelArco, M.C.G.; DeRossi, A. Efficacy of green tea and its extract, epigallocatechin-3-gallate, in the reduction of cariogenic microbiota in children: A randomized clinical trial. *Archives Oral Biol.* **2020**, *114*, 104727.
41. Evensen, N.A.; Braun, P.C. The effects of tea polyphenols on *Candida albicans*: Inhibition of biofilm formation and proteasome inactivation. *Can J Microbiol.* **2009**, *55*(9), 1033-1039.
42. Behbahani, J.M.; Irshad, M.; Shreaz, S.; Karched, M. Synergistic effects of tea polyphenol epigallocatechin 3-O-gallate andazole drugs against oral *Candida* isolates. *J Mycol Med.* **2019**, *29*(2), 158-167.
43. Lee, K.M.; Kim, W.S.; Lim, J.; Nam, S.; Youn, M.; Nam, S.W.; et al. Antipathogenic properties of green tea polyphenol epigallocatechin gallate at concentration below the MIC against enterohemorrhagic *Escherichia coli* O157: H7. *J Food Prot.* **2009**, *72*(2), 325-331.
44. Cui, Y.; Oh, Y.J.; Lim, J.; Youn, M.; Lee, I.; Park, H.K.; et al. AFM study of the differential inhibitory effects of the green tea polyphenol (-)-epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG) against gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria. *Food Microbiol.* **2012**, *29*(1), 80-87.
45. Isaacs, C.; Xu, W.; Merz, G.; Hillier, S.; Rohan, L.; Wen, G.Y. Digallate dimmers of (-)-epigallocatechin gallate inactivate herpes simplex virus. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother.* **2011**, *55*(12), 5646-5653.
46. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Sun, W. Five important seeds in traditional medicine, and pharmacological benefits. *Seeds.* **2023**, *2*(3), 290-308. <https://doi.org/10.3390/seeds2030022>
47. Sun, W.; Shahrajabian, M.H.; Petropoulos, S.A.; Shahrajabian, N. Developing sustainable agriculture systems in medicinal and aromatic plant production by using chitosan and chitin-based biostimulants. *Plants.* **2023**, *12*(13), 2469. <https://doi.org/10.3390/plants12132469>
48. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Kuang, Y.; Cui, H.; Fu, L.; Sun, W. Metabolic changes of active components of important medicinal plants on the basis of traditional Chinese medicine under different environmental stresses. *Curr. Org. Chem.* **2023**. <https://doi.org/10.2174/1385272827666230807150910>
49. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Sun, W. Study of different types of fermentation in wine-making process and considering aromatic substances and organic acid. *Curr. Org. Synth.* **2023**, *20*. <https://doi.org/10.2174/1570179420666230803102253>
50. Shahrajabian, M.H.; Sun, W. Mechanism of action of collagen and epidermal growth factor: A review on theory and research methods. *Mini-Rev. Med. Chem.* **2023**, *23*. <https://doi.org/10.2174/1389557523666230816090054>

Disclaimer/Publisher's Note: The statements, opinions and data contained in all publications are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s) and not of MDPI and/or the editor(s). MDPI and/or the editor(s) disclaim responsibility for any injury to people or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions or products referred to in the content.