

Biochemical Properties of Red Garlic: A Narrative Review of Laboratory Studies

Michele Antonelli (1), Davide Donelli (2)

1) Department of Public Health, AUSL-IRCCS of Reggio Emilia, Reggio Emilia (Italy)

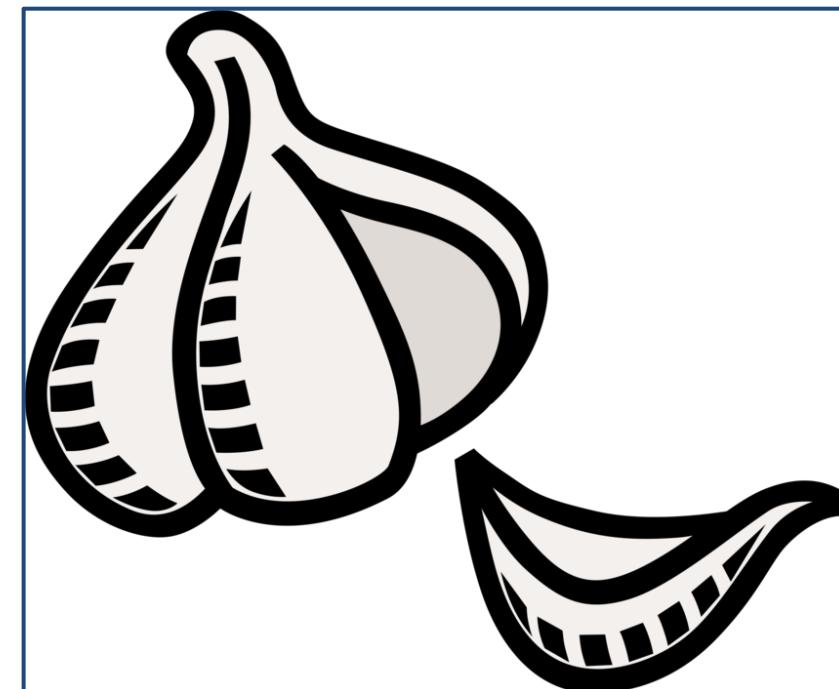
2) Cardiology Unit, University Hospital of Parma, Parma (Italy)

INTRODUCTION & AIM

The aim of this literature review is to synthesize existing research on the **biochemical properties of red garlic extracts**, focusing on their effects in cell or animal models of human diseases.

METHOD

A narrative search was conducted in February 2024 on **PubMed** and **Google Scholar** to identify relevant studies examining the biochemical properties of red garlic extracts. The search strategy incorporated the keyword “red garlic” and inclusion criteria encompassed articles written exclusively in English.



Picture provided under the CC Non-Commercial License by Wannapik Studio and available at <https://www.wannapik.com/vectors/22514>

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Following the search of selected databases, 789 articles were retrieved and 10 laboratory studies were included in this literature review, exploring the impact of red garlic extracts on laboratory models of lung and digestive tract phlogosis, cancer, microbial proliferation, obesity, and responses to inflammation or oxidative stress [1-10].

The studies analyzed both aged and fresh red garlic extracts, with a specific emphasis on water extracts. The outcomes highlighted significant antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties of red garlic extracts, also suggesting potential pro-metabolic effects that could be beneficial in addressing excessive weight and dyslipidemia. The findings also point to the inhibitory effect on cancer cell proliferation by red garlic byproducts and the superior anti-inflammatory profile of the hydroalcoholic extract.

Comparative analyses between red and black garlic extracts indicate inconclusive evidence regarding antioxidant activity. The findings also suggested a high level of tolerability for the gut microbiota.

REFERENCES

1. Lasalvia, A.; Cairone, F.; Cesa, S.; Maccelli, A.; Crestoni, M.E.; Menghini, L.; Carradori, S.; Marinacci, B.; Gallorini, M.; Elsallabi, O.; et al. Characterization and Valorization of “Sulmona Red Garlic” Peels and Small Bulbs. *Antioxidants (Basel)* 2022, 11, doi:10.3390/antiox11112088.
2. Jeong, Y.-Y.; Park, H.-J.; Cho, Y.-W.; Kim, E.-J.; Kim, G.-T.; Mun, Y.-J.; Lee, J.D.; Shin, J.-H.; Sung, N.-J.; Kang, D.; et al. Aged Red Garlic Extract Reduces Cigarette Smoke Extract-Induced Cell Death in Human Bronchial Smooth Muscle Cells by Increasing Intracellular Glutathione Levels. *Phytother. Res.* 2012, 26, 18–25, doi:10.1002/ptr.3502.
3. Park, H.-J.; Jeon, B.T.; Kim, H.C.; Roh, G.S.; Shin, J.-H.; Sung, N.-J.; Han, J.; Kang, D. Aged Red Garlic Extract Reduces Lipopolysaccharide-Induced Nitric Oxide Production in RAW 264.7 Macrophages and Acute Pulmonary Inflammation through Haeme Oxygenase-1 Induction. *Acta Physiol.* 2012, 205, 61–70, doi:10.1111/j.1748-1716.2012.02425.x.
4. Recinella, L.; Gorica, E.; Chiavaroli, A.; Fraschetti, C.; Filippi, A.; Cesa, S.; Cairone, F.; Martelli, A.; Calderone, V.; Veschi, S.; et al. Anti-Inflammatory and Antioxidant Effects Induced by L. Extracts on an Ex Vivo Experimental Model of Ulcerative Colitis. *Foods* 2022, 11, doi:10.3390/foods11223559.
5. Chiavaroli, A.; Masciulli, F.; Ingallina, C.; Mannina, L.; Loreta Libero, M.; Di Simone, S.C.; Acquaviva, A.; Nilofar; Recinella, L.; Leone, S.; et al. Comprehensive Metabolite and Biological Profile of “Sulmona Red Garlic” Ecotype’s Aerial Bulbils. *Food Res. Int.* 2024, 175, 113654, doi:10.1016/j.foodres.2023.113654.
6. Talebi, S.; Afshari, J.T.; Rakhshandeh, H.; Seifi, B.; Boskabadi, M.H. In Vitro Antiproliferative Effect of Fresh Red Garlic on Human Transitional Cell Carcinoma (TCC-5637 Cell Line). 2006.
7. Ryu, J.H.; Park, H.-J.; Jeong, Y.-Y.; Han, S.; Shin, J.-H.; Lee, S.J.; Kang, M.J.; Sung, N.-J.; Kang, D. Aged Red Garlic Extract Suppresses Nitric Oxide Production in Lipopolysaccharide-Treated RAW 264.7 Macrophages through Inhibition of NF- κ B. *J. Med. Food* 2015, 18, 439–445, doi:10.1089/jmf.2014.3214.
8. Lee, S.-J.; Kim, R.-J.; Ryu, J.-H.; Shin, J.-H.; Kang, M.-J.; Kim, I.-S.; Sung, N.-J. Effects of the Red Garlic Extract for Anti-Obesity and Hypolipidemic in Obese Rats Induced High Fat Diet. *생명과학회지* 2011, 21, 211–220.
9. Lee, S.-J.; Shin, J.-H.; Kang, M.-J.; Jung, W.-J.; Ryu, J.-H.; Kim, R.-J.; Sung, N.-J. Antioxidants Activity of Aged Red Garlic. *생명과학회지* 2010, 20, 775–781.
10. Hwang, C.-R.; Shin, J.-H.; Kang, M.-J.; Lee, S.-J.; Sung, N.-J. Antioxidant and Antibesity Activity of Solvent Fractions from Red Garlic. *J. Life Sci.* 2012, 22, 950–957, doi:10.5352/JLS.2012.22.7.950.