

Research Article

Effect of dietary intake of phenolic compounds from mango peel extract on growth, lipid peroxidation and antioxidant enzyme activities in zebrafish (*Danio rerio*)

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ABSTRACT. Four experimental diets were formulated with 50, 100, 150 and 200 mg of phenolic compounds (PCs) kg⁻¹ feed, derived from mango peel. The control diet did not contain PCs. A total of 120 male zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) (average weight: 166 mg) were fed for eight weeks to assess the ability of PCs to prevent lipid peroxidation and enhance antioxidant status. Growth performance was calculated at the end of the experimental trial. Lipid peroxidations in muscle and antioxidant enzyme activity in the liver were evaluated at the end of the experiment. There was no significant difference in growth performance among treatments. Malondialdehyde (MDA) levels in muscle were significantly lower in fish fed diets containing 50 and 100 mg of PCs per kg of feed. Incorporation of PCs into zebrafish diet did not have any significant effects on glutathione peroxidase and superoxide dismutase activity. However, catalase (CAT) activity increased significantly in fish with diets containing 100, 150 and 200 mg of PCs kg⁻¹ feed. These results suggest a potential protective effect against in vivo lipid peroxidation and CAT-modulating effects.

Keywords: *Danio rerio*; mango peel; phenolic compounds; antioxidant enzymes; lipid peroxidation; oxidative stress

INTRODUCTION

In general, fish contain high levels of long-chain omega-3 (ω 3) polyunsaturated fatty acids (ω 3 PUFAs) such as all-cis-4,7,10,13,16,19-docosahexaenoic acid (DHA; 22:6, ω 3) and all cis-5,8,11,14,17-eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA; 20:5, ω 3), which constitute the phospholipids of cell membranes, providing structural and functional maintenance (Ardiansyah & Indrayani, 2007; Ayala *et al.*, 2014). Paradoxically, ω 3 PUFAs are highly susceptible to lipid peroxidation by reactive oxygen species (ROS) such as the superoxide anion ($O_2^{\cdot-}$), hydroxyl radical (OH^{\cdot}) and hydroperoxyl radical (HO_2^{\cdot}). These molecules are produced during normal cellular metabolism, malnutrition, biotic and abiotic factors and/or fish handling, and may increase ROS production and induce oxidative stress (Martínez-Álvarez *et al.*, 2005). Lipid peroxidation products, such

as lipid peroxy radicals and malondialdehyde (MDA, a good indicator of oxidative damage to lipids), can affect the nutritional quality (*e.g.*, decrease ω 3 PUFAs content) of fish intended for human consumption (Secci & Parisi, 2016). Also, there is an increased interest to prevent peroxidation of ω 3 PUFAs in fish since they have been related to the prevention of cardiovascular and inflammatory diseases in humans (Delgado-Lista *et al.*, 2012).

Assessment of oxidative stress indicators in farmed fish can be used as an index of welfare and muscle quality of fish of commercial interest (Sicuro *et al.*, 2010; Chulayo & Muchenje, 2015; Villasante *et al.*, 2015). Analyses of oxidative stress indicators in different tissues can be performed to provide additional information about fish health (Poli, 2009). For example, the fish liver has an important role in detoxification, and its enzymatic antioxidant defense

system helps to maintain redox homeostasis (Li *et al.*, 2015; Martínez-Álvarez *et al.*, 2005). The main enzymes responsible for the antioxidant response measured in fish are catalase (CAT), superoxide dismutase (SOD) and glutathione peroxidase (GPX), which act jointly to protect cells against oxidative damage (Martínez Álvarez *et al.*, 2005; Karadag *et al.*, 2014).

In the absence of adequate antioxidant enzyme activities, MDA concentration increases in fish muscle, which diminishes its quality. Plant extracts that are natural antioxidants have been used as dietary additives to protect tissues of fish, of commercial interest; rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and gilthead sea bream (*Sparus aurata*), against oxidative damage to lipids and enhance fish welfare (Lizárraga-Velázquez *et al.*, 2018a).

Mango (*Mangifera indica*) contains phenolic compounds (PCs) with high antioxidant activity (Velderrain-Rodríguez *et al.*, 2015). Mango cv. "Ataulfo" is a Mexican variety of high agronomic importance; it is used to produce juices, concentrates and snacks, but generates by-products currently considered industrial waste. Mango byproducts, such as peels, have a high PCs content which is capable of preventing lipid peroxidation of fish oil (Lizárraga-Velázquez *et al.*, 2018b). There are multiple *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies reporting the anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer, anti-diabetic and anti-obesogenic potential of mango peel PCs (Shah *et al.*, 2010); however, their antioxidant benefits have not been explored in fish. Therefore, this study aimed to evaluate the ability of mango peel PCs to delay lipid peroxidation in muscle and enhance antioxidant status in the liver of zebrafish (*Danio rerio*), which is considered a good aquaculture model.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Processing of mango peels

Mango peels (*Mangifera indica* cv. Ataulfo) were collected from Pure Mango S.A. of C.V., Escuinapa, Sinaloa, México. Fresh mango peels (50 kg) were dried at 50°C for 15 h in convective hot air and ground to a particle size of 0.25 mm using a hammer mill (California Pellet Mill Laboratory Mill Champion, Waterloo, IA, USA). Mango peel powder was stored at -20°C until analysis.

Extraction of phenolic compounds

Mango peel PCs were extracted according to Sekhon-Loodu *et al.* (2013) with minor modifications. Mango peel powder (10 g) was homogenized in 1 L of 70%

ethanol, sonicated three times for 15 min in a 3510-model ultrasonic bath (Branson, Wethersfield, CT, USA). After sonication, samples were centrifuged (3,000 g, 15 min, 4°C) in an Allegra X-30R model A99470 centrifuge (Beckman Coulter, Germany). Finally, a Rotavapor R-114 (Büchi Labortechnik AG, Flawil, Switzerland) was used (37°C) to remove the ethanol and concentrate the supernatants. Total phenolic content (TPC) was determined with the Folin-Ciocalteu reagent using gallic acid as standard. After knowing TPC, dilutions were prepared with concentrations of 50, 100, 150 and 200 mg of PCs.

Analysis of PCs by UPLC ESI-Q-TOF/MS/MS

PCs from mango peel were identified using Ultra-Performance Liquid Chromatography (UPLC) using ACQUITY UPLC; H-Class system (Waters, Milford, MA, USA) coupled to a G2 XS Quadrupole-Time-of-Flight (Q-Tof) mass spectrometer (Agilent, Santa Clara, CA, USA) equipped with electrospray ionization (ESI). Briefly, PCs were separated by UPLC at 40°C with a column ACQUITY BEH C18 (1.7 µm, 3.0×100 mm) using a mobile phase composed of 0.1% formic acid (A) and acetonitrile (B) at a flow rate of 0.3 mL min⁻¹. The gradient procedure was as follows: 0 min, 95% (A); 2.5 min, 75% (A); 3 min, 50% (A); 3.5 min, 35% (A); 5 min, 5% (A); 6 min, 95% (A); and 7 min, 95% (A). An electrospray source in negative mode was used to collect mass spectra under the following conditions: nitrogen gas; desolvation temperature, 350°C; desolvation gas, 13.3 L min⁻¹; capillary voltage, 1500 V; and fragmentor voltage, 10 V.

Experimental diets

The preparation of the experimental diets was carried out as follows: fish meal, fish oil, dextrin, cellulose, soy lecithin, alginate, mineral premix, vitamin premix, vitamin C and synthetic antioxidant butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT), were used to prepare the control diet. Four additional diets were prepared and supplemented with PCs from the mango peel extract (MPE) at concentrations of 50, 100, 150 and 200 mg PCs kg⁻¹ feed. These were denoted as MPE-5, MPE-10, MPE-15 and MPE-20, respectively (Table 1). Fish meal was ground in a hammer mill to a particle size of 250 µm. The macronutrients (fish meal, dextrin, cellulose and alginate) were mixed in a model AT-200 Hobart mixer (Offenburg, Germany), and the micronutrients (mineral premix, vitamin premix, vitamin C and BHT) were added. Fish oil and soy lecithin were added. Finally, PCs that had been homogenized in warm water were added until a homogeneous mixture was obtained. The resulting mash was passed through a model 22 meat grinder (Torrey®, IN, USA) to produce pellets,

Table 1. Ingredients, proximate composition and PCs content of the experimental diets administered to zebrafish *Danio rerio*. ^aSelecta de Guaymas, S.A de C.V, Guaymas, Sonora, Mexico, ^bDroguería Cosmopolita, S.A. de C.V. Mexico, Mexico D.F., ^cTrout nutrition México S.A de C.V. (by courtesy), vitamin premix composition: vitamin A, 2,400 IU mg g⁻¹; vitamin D3, 2,250 IU; vitamin E, 160 g; vitamin K3 8.00 g; vitamin B1, 20.00 g; vitamin B2, 40.00 g; vitamin B6, 16.00 g; pantothenic acid, 60.00 g; folic acid, 4.00 g; vitamin B12, 80 mg; nicotinic acid, 160.00 g; biotin, 500 mg; vitamin C, 100 g; choline, 300 g; excipient c.b.p. 2,000 g, ^dmineral premix composition: manganese, 100 g; magnesium, 45 g; zinc, 160 g; iron, 200 g; copper, 20 g; iodine, 5 g; selenium 400 mg; cobalt 600 mg, ^eDSM Nutritional Products Mexico S.A. de C.V., El Salto, Jalisco, Mexico, ^fSigma-Aldrich Chemical, S.A. de C.V. Toluca, Mexico, ^gphenolic compounds from MPE, ^hMean \pm SD, number of replicates = 3, ⁱNitrogen-free extract (including fiber) = 100 - (%protein + %lipid + %ash), ^jgross energy (kJ g⁻¹) was calculated according to the physiological fuel values of protein, 20.93 kJ g⁻¹; lipids, 37.68 kJ g⁻¹; and nitrogen-free extract, 16.75 kJ g⁻¹.

Ingredients (%)	Diet				
	Control	MPE-5	MPE-10	MPE-15	MPE-20
Fish meal ^a	73	73	73	73	73
Fish oil ^b	8	8	8	8	8
Dextrin ^b	3	3	3	3	3
Celulose ^b	10.560	10.547	10.542	10.537	10.532
Soy lecithin ^b	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60
Minerals premix ^c	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23
Vitamin premix ^c	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
Vitamin C ^d	3	3	3	3	3
Alginate ^e	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
BHT ^e	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Total phenolic compounds ^f	0	0.005	0.01	0.015	0.02
Proximate composition (% dry matter) ^g					
Crude protein	54.62 \pm 0.21	54.49 \pm 0.19	54.59 \pm 0.11	54.71 \pm 0.33	54.56 \pm 0.17
Crude lipid	12.39 \pm 0.33	12.04 \pm 0.30	12.17 \pm 0.18	12.39 \pm 0.54	12.33 \pm 0.27
Ash	15.83 \pm 0.25	15.89 \pm 0.04	15.72 \pm 0.25	15.73 \pm 0.09	15.85 \pm 0.04
NFE ^h	17.16 \pm 0.32	17.58 \pm 0.12	17.52 \pm 0.34	17.17 \pm 0.19	17.26 \pm 0.14
Gross energy (kJ g ⁻¹) ⁱ	18.97	18.88	18.94	18.99	18.95

which were dried at 38°C for 12 h, reduced to a 600 μ m diameter and stored at 4°C until use.

Chemical analysis

Ingredients and diets were analyzed to determine moisture, crude protein, crude fat and ash content (method 942.05; AOAC, 2000). Moisture was determined using a Craft stove (method 930.15; AOAC, 2000). Crude protein was identified with the Dumas combustion method (Ebeling, 1968) using a Flash 2000 Organic Elemental Analyser (Thermo Scientific, Italy). Crude fat content was analyzed using a micro Soxhlet Foss Soxtec Avanti 2050 Automatic System (Foss Soxtec, Hoganäs, Sweden) using an official method (method 920.39; AOAC, 2000). Ash content was analyzed by calcination of the samples in a muffle furnace at 550°C (Fisher Scientific International, Pittsburgh, PA, USA) using an official method (method 942.05; AOAC, 2000).

The PCs content in the experimental diets was analyzed to determine the final concentration in zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) feed. Briefly, diets (0.5 g) were

homogenized in 20 mL of 70% ethanol, stirred for 24 h at 20°C, and sonicated for 15 min. After sonication, samples were centrifuged (3,000 g, 15 min, 4°C) and supernatants were collected. PCs content was determined with the Folin-Ciocalteu reagent using gallic acid as standard.

Fish rearing and feeding

Adult zebrafish were obtained from the Bioassay Laboratory in aquatic organisms of the Research Center for Food and Development (CIAD, Mazatlán Unit), which come from a standardized genetic line (line AB, www.zfin.org). A completely randomized experimental design with three replicates per treatment was used. A total of 120 male zebrafish with a mean initial weight of 166 \pm 1 mg were maintained under a 12 h light-dark cycle. Zebrafish were placed in 15 aquarium tanks (6 L) in groups of eight fish; each tank had a static renewal system. The effect of PCs on growth performance and the antioxidant response was evaluated using the following feeding protocol: zebrafish were fed twice a day manually (9:00 and

16:00 h) to apparent satiety for eight weeks. Each morning, fecal matter and excess leftover feed were carefully siphoned out from the bottom of each tank, and 30% water volume was renewed daily. Water conditions were temperature $27 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$, pH 6.9 ± 0.5 , dissolved oxygen $5.0 \pm 0.3 \text{ mg L}^{-1}$ and chlorine 0.0 mg L^{-1} .

Growth parameters and feed efficiency

Fish were weighed individually under anesthesia [0.005% (w/v) tricaine (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA)] every two weeks to calculate their mean body weight. Growth and feed efficiency of the fish were monitored regarding weight gain (WG), specific growth rate (SGR), survival (S), feed intake (FI), feed conversion ratio (FCR), the protein efficiency ratio (PER) and hepatosomatic index (HSI). Biological indicators were calculated as follows: WG (mg) = [final mean weight - initial mean weight]; SGR (%/day) = $[100 \times (\ln(\text{final mean body weight}) - \ln(\text{initial mean body weight})) / \text{number of days}]$; S (%) = $(\text{final number}/\text{initial number}) \times 100$; FI (mg fish^{-1}) = $\sum_i 60[(\text{total feed consumption}) / (\text{number of fish})] / \text{number of days}$; FCR = feed intake/weight gain; PER = weight gain / protein intake and HSI (%) = $(\text{liver weight} / \text{body weight}) \times 100$.

Muscle lipid peroxidation

The head, tail and viscera were removed from each fish to quantify lipid peroxidation. Four fishes (about 400 mg) from each tank were homogenized (Ultra-Turrax D25 basic, IKA[®]-Werke, Germany) with 1.2 mL of PBS buffer (pH 7.4). Homogenized samples were centrifuged at 3,000 g for 15 min at 4°C ; supernatants were recovered and used to quantify peroxidized lipids as described by Solé *et al.* (2004). Briefly, 200 μL of the homogenate was mixed with 1,300 μL of 1-methyl-2-phenylindole (10.3 mM) in methanol: acetonitrile (1:3; v/v), 200 μL of water and 300 μL of 37% HCl. This mixture was incubated at 45°C for 40 min, cooled on ice for 10 min and centrifuged at 3,000 g for 15 min at 4°C . Absorbance was read at 586 nm, and the amount of peroxidized lipids (nmol MDA g^{-1} of tissue; w/w) was calculated using a standard solution of 1,1,3,3-tetraethoxypropane (10 mM).

Hepatic antioxidant-enzyme activities

On the last day of the experiment, zebrafish were euthanized under anesthesia with 0.0075% (w/v) tricaine (Sigma-Aldrich, MO, USA). The liver was removed and manually homogenized in 300 μL of PBS buffer (pH 7.4) and centrifuged at 3,000 g for 15 min at 4°C . The supernatant was used to determine total protein content and antioxidant enzyme activities. Total

protein content was determined using Bradford's reagent (Bradford, 1976) and bovine serum albumin as a standard. The CAT activity was determined using a Cayman Chemical kit (Ann Arbor, MI, USA); one unit of CAT was defined as the amount of enzyme that catalyzed the formation of 1 nmol of formaldehyde per minute at 25°C . GPX activity was measured using a Cayman Chemical kit; one unit of GPX was defined as the amount of enzyme that catalyzed the oxidation of 1 nmol of NADPH to NADP^+ per minute at 25°C . The SOD activity was assayed using a Sigma-Aldrich kit; one unit of SOD was defined as the amount of enzyme that inhibited the formation of WST-1 formazan by 50%. All enzyme activity results were expressed as specific enzyme activity in U mg^{-1} protein.

Statistical analysis

Data were evaluated for normality (Kolmogorov-Smirnov test) and homogeneity of variance (Levene's test) before statistical analyses. Dependent variables (growth performance, MDA content and antioxidant enzymes activities) were analyzed using a one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA); a *post-hoc* Tukey's test was conducted when significant differences were found ($P < 0.05$). Before statistical analysis, the percentages (SGR, S and HSI) were transformed to arcsine, but results were reported as a percentage. Statistical analyses were run using Statistica v.7 (StatSoft, Inc., 2004).

RESULTS

Mango peel extract (MPE) phenolic compounds (PCs) profile

Eight PCs were identified, five of which were phenolic acids, two flavonoids and a polyphenol, xanthone (Table 2). Gallic acid (m/z $[\text{M-H}]^-$, 169.01), 2-hydroxycinnamic acid (m/z $[\text{M-H}]^-$, 163.038), mangiferin (m/z $[\text{M-H}]^-$, 421.089) and quercetin (m/z $[\text{M-H}]^-$, 301.035) were identified by comparing the m/z $[\text{M-H}]^-$ and fragment ions with standards. Methyl gallate (m/z $[\text{M-H}]^-$, 183.027), ethyl gallate (m/z $[\text{M-H}]^-$, 197.041) and isoquercitrin (m/z $[\text{M-H}]^-$, 463.085) were compared with literature. Protocatechuic acid (m/z $[\text{M-H}]^-$, 153.014) was confirmed with MassBank of North America (<http://mona.fiehnlab.ucdavis.edu>).

Growth and feed efficiency parameters

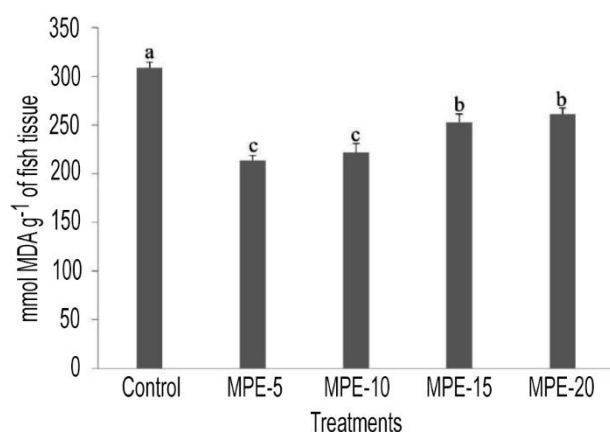
The WG, SGR, S, FI, FCR, PER and HSI were not significantly affected by supplementation of PCs from MPE into the diet of zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) (Table 3). Zebrafish survival was greater than 90%, and no significant difference ($P > 0.05$) among the different dietary treatments was observed.

Table 2. PCs detected in mango peel cv. Ataulfo extract by UPLC-ESI Q-Tof-MS/MS. ^aConfirmed with the standard, ^bconfirmed with literature (Dorta *et al.*, 2014), ^cconfirmed with database (MassBank of North America).

Identification	Retention time (min)	m/z [M-H] ⁻	Fragment ions MS/MS (m/z) [M-H] ⁻	Molecular formula
Gallic acid ^a	1.521	169.010	125.017	C ₇ H ₆ O ₅
2-Hydroxycinnamic acid ^a	4.180	163.038	119.044, 136.922, 138.925	C ₇ H ₆ O ₅
Mangiferin ^a	3.482	421.089	301.035, 331.045	C ₁₉ H ₁₈ O ₁₁
Quercetin ^a	4.817	301.035	179.997, 150.999, 152.002	C ₁₅ H ₁₀ O ₇
Methyl gallate ^b	3.425	183.027	124.010	C ₈ H ₈ O ₅
Ethyl gallate ^b	4.328	197.041	124, 125, 169.010	C ₉ H ₁₀ O ₅
Isoquercitrin ^b	4.283	463.085	301.035, 300.030	C ₂₁ H ₂₀ O ₁₂
Protocatechuic acid ^c	2.585	153.014	108.020, 109.020	C ₇ H ₆ O ₄

Table 3. Growth parameters and feed efficiency of zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) fed experimental diets for eight weeks. ^aData is expressed as mean ± SD for three tanks per group, eight fish each. IW: initial weight, FW: final weight, WG: weight gain, SGR: specific growth rate, S: survival, FI: feed intake, FCR: factor conversion ratio, PER: protein efficiency ratio, HSI: hepatosomatic index.

Parameter	Diet				
	Control	MPE-5	MPE-10	MPE-15	MPE-20
IW (mg)	162.00 ± 0.07	162.00 ± 0.06	162.00 ± 0.06	162.00 ± 0.06	162.00 ± 0.06
FW (mg)	194.82 ± 0.99	193.39 ± 2.53	193.87 ± 1.08	192.56 ± 1.16	193.51 ± 0.99
WG (mg)	32.32 ± 0.99	30.89 ± 2.53	31.37 ± 1.08	30.06 ± 1.16	31.01 ± 0.92
SGR (% d ⁻¹)	0.30 ± 0.01	0.29 ± 0.03	0.29 ± 0.01	0.28 ± 0.01	0.29 ± 0.01
S (%)	91.60 ± 7.21	91.60 ± 14.43	91.60 ± 7.21	95.83 ± 7.21	95.83 ± 7.21
FI (mg fish ⁻¹)	1.35 ± 0.06	1.40 ± 0.14	1.40 ± 0.12	1.16 ± 0.18	1.25 ± 0.09
FCR	2.56 ± 0.03	2.51 ± 0.01	2.51 ± 0.02	2.50 ± 0.02	2.53 ± 0.02
PER	0.79 ± 0.05	0.73 ± 0.07	0.75 ± 0.08	0.87 ± 0.07	0.83 ± 0.06
HSI (%)	1.47 ± 0.03	1.48 ± 0.03	1.47 ± 0.01	1.48 ± 0.02	1.49 ± 0.03

**Figure 1.** The concentration of malondialdehyde (MDA) as a measurement of lipid peroxidation in zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) muscle of control, MPE-5, MPE-10, MPE-15 and MPE-20 groups, fed for eight weeks. Data are expressed as mean ± SD (n = 3). Different letters indicate significant differences ($P < 0.05$) among experimental diets.

Lipid peroxidation

Lipid peroxidation is presented in Fig. 1. MDA levels were significantly lower ($P < 0.05$) in MPE-5 and MPE-10 groups, while the control group showed substantially higher MDA levels than PCs in all supplemented groups.

Antioxidant enzymes activities

Figure 2 suggests that the incorporation of MPE into zebrafish diets did not have a significant effect on GPX and SOD ($P > 0.05$) activities.

However, CAT activity significantly increased in MPE-10, MPE-15 and MPE-20 groups, as compared to the control and MPE-5 groups. No significant difference ($P < 0.05$) was found between the control and MPE-5 groups.

DISCUSSION

Mango peel extract (MPE) phenolic compounds (PCs) profile

Mango peel extract is a rich source of PCs such as phenolic acids and flavonoids, which exhibit high antio-

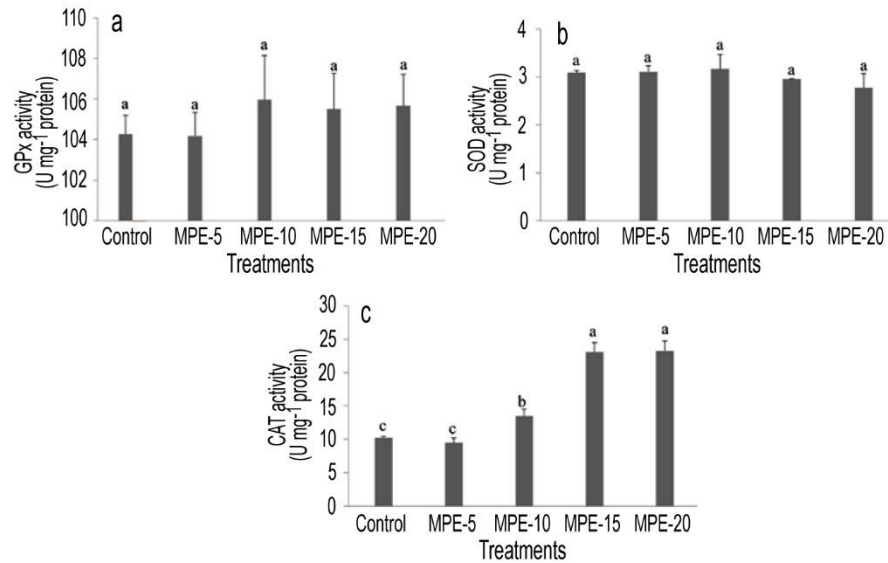


Figure 2. Antioxidant activities of a) GPX, b) SOD and c) CAT in zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) liver of control group, MPE-5, MPE-10, MPE-15 and MPE-20 groups, fed for eight weeks. Data are expressed as mean \pm SD (n = 3). Different letters indicate significant differences ($P < 0.05$) among experimental diets.

xidant activity both *in vivo* and *in vitro*. The PCs identified in this study have also been reported by Velderrain-Rodríguez *et al.* (2015) in which gallic acid, protocatechuic acid and 2-hydroxycinnamic acid were observed as major PCs in mango peel cv. Ataulfo extract. Additionally, Pacheco-Ordaz *et al.* (2018) indicated that mangiferin was the predominant PCs found in mango peel extract cv. Ataulfo. Other studies have reported the presence of methyl gallate, ethyl gallate, quercetin and isoquercetin in mango peel (Dorta *et al.*, 2014), which is in agreement with our results.

Growth performance and feed efficiency

In aquaculture, the inclusion of some feed additives such as PCs from plant extracts could negatively affect growth performance and feed efficiency of fish (Buyukcapar *et al.*, 2011). In the present study, the predominating compounds of the MPE PCs, which were incorporated into zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) feed, were phenolic acids (gallic, 2-hydroxycinnamic and protocatechuic acids; gallic acid derivatives such as methyl and ethyl gallate), flavonoids (quercetin and isoquercetin) and a polyphenol xanthone known as mangiferin, which did not show effects on growth performance and feed efficiency. Our results on growth performance and feed efficiency of zebrafish are in agreement with other studies conducted on gilthead sea bream (*Sparus aurata*) and rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), where PCs extracted from olive oil (hydroxytyrosol and hydroxycinnamic acids) and purple maize

(anthocyanins) were supplemented in the diets of these species (Sicuro *et al.*, 2010; Villasante *et al.*, 2015). The former may be attributed to the fact that the specific extracts used do not contain PCs of high molecular weight, such as condensed tannins (>5000 Da). Condensed tannins are considered as antinutrients for aquatic organisms since they can form stable complexes with proteins and can lead to reduced protein digestibility if they bind with digestive proteases, which is directly related to a reduction in growth performance and feed efficiency in farmed fish (Omnes *et al.*, 2017). Therefore, the MPE-derived PCs used here are safe to administer to zebrafish in concentrations of up to 200 mg per kg of feed.

Lipid peroxidation

Oxidative stress can promote the peroxidation of PUFAs in fish flesh. Lipid peroxidation is an important process that can lead to decreased quality of muscle, decreased shelf life, loss of nutritionally relevant compounds (*e.g.*, PUFAs) and formation of off-flavors (Secci & Parisi, 2016). Our results suggest that MPE PCs were absorbed, distributed and metabolized by zebrafish while acting as free radical scavengers and/or metal-chelating agents, indicated by a decrease in MDA production in zebrafish tissue. Lipid peroxidation depends on the amount of ROS produced, concentrations of Fe⁺² and the level of endogenous and exogenous antioxidants (Ayala *et al.*, 2014; Charão *et al.*, 2014). The major PCs found in MPE, such as mangiferin, quercetin, gallic acid, and its derivatives,

are characterized by high antioxidant capacity, which can mitigate oxidative stress through various mechanisms. For example, PCs can directly scavenge ROS through electron or hydrogen atom donation, or they can prevent their formation by chelating Fe^{+2} (and other transition metals) which promote oxidative stress by catalyzing hydroxyl radical formation via the Fenton reaction. There is evidence confirming that mangiferin, quercetin, gallic acids, and its derivatives have the iron-chelating ability and can scavenge ROS which constitutes their main antioxidant mechanisms preventing lipid peroxidation *in vitro* (Boadi *et al.*, 2003; Pardo-Andreu *et al.*, 2008; Badhani *et al.*, 2015). Previous experiments in our laboratory (Lizárraga-Velázquez *et al.*, 2018b) suggest that MPE PCs delay MDA formation in fish oil, an effect also exhibited by the synthetic antioxidant BHT. Other *in vitro* studies report that the addition of grape PCs (catechin and procyanidins) and quince extracts (containing procyanidin B dimer and hydroxycinnamic acids) prevent lipid peroxidation in the muscle of different fish species during storage (Pazos *et al.*, 2005; Fattouch *et al.*, 2008). There are also studies that have demonstrated the effectiveness of PCs from plant extracts such as feed additives on preventing lipid peroxidation in animal tissue (Surai, 2014). However, there are only a limited number of studies on the use of PCs from plant extracts as a feed additive with antioxidant properties on the prevention of lipid peroxidation in the muscle of farmed fish. For example, Villasante *et al.* (2015) reported that dietary inclusion of an extract rich in anthocyanins increased $\omega 3$ (DHA, EPA, and all-cis-7,10,13,16,19-docosapentaenoic acid) and $\omega 6$ (cis, cis-9,12-octadecadienoic acid) total PUFA levels in the body and muscle of rainbow trout, respectively. Another study indicated that dietary administration of an olive oil extract rich in tyrosol and hydroxytyrosol decreased MDA levels in muscle of gilthead sea bream (Sicuro *et al.*, 2010). The majority of the available reports on PCs in aquaculture have mainly focused on their use as immunostimulants (Nootash *et al.*, 2013; Magrone *et al.*, 2016). Our data suggest that MPE PCs significantly mitigate lipid peroxidation in zebrafish, which merits further investigation in fish that are used for human consumption to validate their use as feed supplements conclusively.

Antioxidant enzymes activities

During oxidative stress, tissues respond by inducing enzymatic and non-enzymatic antioxidant defense mechanisms. However, prolonged or enhanced oxidative stress may depress the endogenous antioxidant system by decreasing enzyme activities of SOD, CAT

and GPX (Samarghandian *et al.*, 2016). These enzymes work jointly; SOD catalyzes the dismutation of $\text{O}_2^{\cdot -}$ to hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2), and molecular oxygen (O_2), which is then reduced to water and O_2 by CAT and GPX. An inefficient endogenous antioxidant system can increase the production of $\text{O}_2^{\cdot -}$ and H_2O_2 and can consequently produce highly reactive free radicals like OH^{\cdot} , which is considered the main initiator of lipid peroxidation (Ayala *et al.*, 2014). PCs may offer cellular protection as indirect antioxidants by modulating the expression or activity of the predominating endogenous antioxidant enzymes (SOD, CAT and GPX). Sellamuthu *et al.* (2013) have reported that mangiferin can protect the kidney and liver of rats with induced oxidative stress, through an increase in SOD, CAT and GPX activities by activation of Nrf2 (nuclear factor-E2-related factor 2). Nrf2 is a transcription factor involved in the cellular antioxidant response, modulating gene expression of various enzymes and proteins. In the present study, MPE PCs did not have any effect on SOD and GPX activities in liver of zebrafish; we suggest that because oxidative stress was not induced, there was lower production of substrates ($\text{O}_2^{\cdot -}$ and H_2O_2) available to the antioxidant enzymes.

In contrast, CAT activity dose-dependently increased with MPE PCs. The increase in CAT activity suggests higher H_2O_2 concentrations in peroxisomes (Carvalho *et al.*, 2012). H_2O_2 is the main cellular precursor of the hydroxyl radical which is considered as the most biologically active free radical, hence why the removal of H_2O_2 is a good strategy against oxidative stress (Karadag *et al.*, 2014). Peroxisomal H_2O_2 is an important byproduct of the β -oxidation of fatty acids (Dansen & Wirtz, 2001); therefore, the biological importance of CAT is evident in aquatic organisms because fatty acids are their main dietary lipids. According to our results, the intake of dietary MPE PCs at varying concentrations (100, 150 and 200 mg PCs per kg of feed) enhances CAT activity, possibly due to high production of H_2O_2 in zebrafish liver.

CONCLUSIONS

Supplementation of MPE PCs did not impair growth performance and feed efficiency of zebrafish (*Danio rerio*). Supplementation of 50 and 100 mg PCs per kg of feed decreased lipid peroxidation end-products (MDA) in zebrafish muscle and could, therefore, be used to avoid the decrease in EPA and DHA in fish flesh destined for human consumption, potentially providing health benefits to consumers. MPE PCs significantly increased hepatic CAT activity, without having a significant effect on SOD and GPX activities. Based on these findings, MPE PCs could be used as

feed additives to preserve the nutritional quality of fish of commercial interest. Further studies are necessary to support these findings.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cynthia E. Lizárraga-Velázquez thanks CONACYT for a doctoral fellowship. We also, thanks to Alexis Emus-Medina and Laura Aracely Contreras-Angulo for their technical support on the UPLC ESI-Q-TOF/MS/MS analysis, and the National Council for Science and Technology (SAGARPA-CONACYT grant 164673) for the financial support granted to C. Hernández.

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Received: 23 December 2018; Accepted: 18 March 2019