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Judith Müller-Maatsch, Mariangela Bencivenni, Augusta Caligiani, Tullia Tedeschi, Geert Bruggeman, Montse Bosch, Janos Petrusan, Bart Van Droogenbroeck, Kathy Elst, Stefano Sforza

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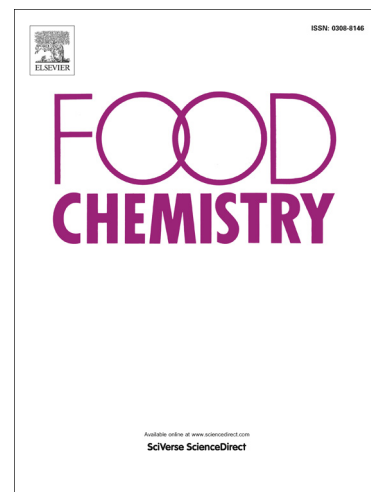
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1 **Pectin content and composition from different food waste streams**

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3 Judith Müller-Maatsch^a, Mariangela Bencivenni^a, Augusta Caligiani^a, Tullia Tedeschi^a, Geert
4 Bruggeman^b, Montse Bosch^c, Janos Petrusan^d, Bart Van Droogenbroeck^e, Kathy Elst^f, Stefano
5 Sforza^a

6 a) Department of Food Science, University of Parma, Parma, Italy

7 b) Nutrition Sciences N.V., Drogen, Belgium

8 c) Leitat Technological Center, Terrassa, Barcelona, Spain

9 d) IGV GmbH, Nuthetal, Germany

10 e) Institute for Agriculture and Fisheries Research, Merelbeke, Belgium

11 f) Flemish Institute for Technological Research, Mol, Belgium

12

13 *In memory of Anna Surribas, scientist and friend*

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15 Corresponding author:

16 Stefano Sforza, PhD

17 Department of Food Science

18 Parco Area delle Scienze 17a, University Campus

19 University of Parma

20 I-43124 – Parma

21 Italy

22 Tel. +39-0521-905406

23 e-mail: stefano.sforza@unipr.it

24

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27 **ABSTRACT**

28 In the present paper, 26 food waste streams were selected according to their exploitation
29 potential and investigated in terms of pectin content. The isolated pectin, subdivided into
30 calcium bound and alkaline extractable pectin, was fully characterized in terms of uronic acid
31 and other sugar composition, methylation and acetylation degree. It was shown that many
32 waste streams can be a valuable source of pectin, but also that pectin structures present a huge
33 structural diversity, resulting in a broad range of pectin structures. These can have different
34 physicochemical and biological properties, which are useful in a wide range of applications.
35 Even if the data could not cover all the possible batch by batch and country variabilities, to
36 date this represents the most complete pectin characterization from food waste streams ever
37 reported in the literature with a homogeneous methodology.

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52 **Keywords:** pectin, food waste, uronic acid, methylation degree, acetylation degree

53 1. Introduction

54 Pectins are polysaccharides occurring ubiquitously in plants. They are present in the cell walls
55 located in the middle lamella, and primary and secondary cell wall. The chemical structure of
56 pectin is heterogeneous, depending on the origin, location in the plant and extraction method.
57 The main structural motif is made by uronic acid residues linked through α -1-4-glycosidic
58 bonds, according to the definitions by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food
59 Additives and the European Commission, pectin needs to contain at least 65% of galacturonic
60 acid. Beyond the standard structural feature of the galacturonyl polymer, the
61 homogalacturonan, different pectic structures have been described in literature. In
62 rhamnogalacturonan I, the galacturonic acid residues are partly substituted by α -1-2 linked
63 rhamnose residues. In addition several side chains containing sugars, such as xylose,
64 arabinose, glucose, fucose, mannose or galactose, have been found to be linked to the main
65 backbone structure. Moreover, the galacturonic acid moieties in the backbone can also be
66 esterified on the carboxylic acid moiety by methyl groups, whereas in their O2/O3 positions,
67 esters can be also present by linkage with the acetyl group or, less commonly, with the
68 feruloyl group. (Levigne, Thomas, Ralet, Quemener & Thibault, 2002; Müller-Maatsch,
69 Caligiani, Tedeschi, Elst & Sforza, 2014)

70 Pectins are widely used as technological adjuvants in the food industry, fully exploiting their
71 structural diversity. Different structures lead to different gelling properties, emulsion
72 activities, emulsion stabilities and release effects in complex food matrices. Pectin can also be
73 used not only to produce jellies or fillings for bakery, but also in beverages made of milk, soy
74 or wheat and in food and pharmaceutical preparations as functional ingredients for release
75 control of oligomers showing prebiotic activities. (Babbar, Dejonghe, Gatti, Sforza & Elst,
76 2015) Due to the rising global demand in pectin, the identification of different sources is of
77 great interest (Willats, Knox & Mikkelsen, 2006; Babbar et al., 2015).

78 Among the possible sources of pectic polysaccharides, food waste streams are of major
79 interest. As a matter of fact, the exploitation of waste streams by the agrifood industry has
80 been an increasingly important issue over several years. Large volumes of waste have been
81 used as animal feed, fertilizers or for the generation of bio-energy, but recently extraction of
82 more valuable components in the residues is the subject of many research projects
83 (Pfaltzgraff, Bruyn, Cooper, Budarin & Clark, 2013). These high-value compounds can be
84 classified as insoluble (fibers), water-soluble or lipid soluble compounds (Schieber, Stintzing
85 & Carle, 2001). Innovative products coming from waste streams can therefore include dietary
86 fibers with different technological and nutritional properties as well as food additives (e.g.
87 bioflavours) and bioadsorbents (e.g. wastewater treatment) (Laufenberg, Kunz & Nystroem,
88 2003). In this line of research, several food wastes, such as apple, citrus, sugar beet, pea and
89 cauliflower, have been investigated in order to isolate pectin. (McKnee & Latner, 2000).
90 However, a detailed characterization of the amount and the structure of the pectin in different
91 waste streams, which is essential in order to assess their potential techno- and
92 biofunctionality, is still largely incomplete.

93 In the present paper, 26 food waste streams selected according to their exploitation potential
94 (mainly due to their potential nutritional properties, quantities produces and seasonality) in the
95 framework of the EU project NOSHAN (EU Grant Agreement n° 312140), have been
96 investigated in terms of pectin content, fully characterizing the isolated pectin in terms of
97 uronic acid and other sugar composition, methylation and acetylation degree. Even if the data
98 could not cover all the possible batch by batch and country variabilities, it is shown that many
99 waste streams can be a valuable source of pectin. Pectin structures also present a huge
100 structural diversity, resulting in a broad range of pectin structures, which can have different
101 physicochemical and biological properties that are useful in a wide range of applications.

102 To date, this represents the most complete pectin characterization from food waste streams
103 ever reported in the literature.

105 2. Materials and Methods

106 2.1. Materials

107 The following samples coming from industrial processing plants all around Europe were
108 considered: sugar beet flakes, apple pomace, pumpkin without kernels, pea pod, cabbage fresh
109 and sour, sour cucumber, onion hull, apple cake, seabuckthorn pulp, seabuckthorn seed (press
110 cake), pumpkin kernel cake, parsley, hop, rapeseed press cake, sabal (provided by IGV
111 GmbH, Germany, through collection at local plants), olive pomace, orange peels, grape
112 pomace (provided by Leitat Technological center, Spain, through collection at local plants),
113 tomato skins (provided by University of Parma, Italy, through collection at local plants),
114 berries (provided by Flemish Institute of Technological Research, Belgium, through
115 collection at local plants), whole apples, whole pears, belgian endive root and leaves, leek
116 (provided by the Institute for Agriculture and Fisheries Research, Belgium, through collection
117 at local plants).

118 2.2. Dry matter determination

119 About 5 g of sample were weighed and dried for 4 h in an oven preheated to 103°C. After
120 cooling for 30 minutes they were weighed again and this value was taken as the dry matter
121 content.

122 2.3. Cell Wall Isolation

123 Isolation of the cell wall was performed adapting the method by Melton & Smith (2001).
124 Twenty-five gram of sample was ground to a powder, mixed with 100 ml 80% phenol- 0.5 M
125 HEPES buffer (w/v) and homogenized with an Ultraturrax T-50 basic (IKA-Werke, Staufen
126 im Breisgau, Germany, 2-3 min, 4,000 rpm). The mixture was separated in a centrifuge,
127 model 5804 (Eppendorf AG, Hamburg, Germany) by centrifuging for 20 min at 3220 x g at
128 room temperature in HDPE centrifuge bottles, and the supernatant removed. The separation of
129 the soluble cell matrix contents was done using 50 mM HEPES buffer (pH 6.7). The pellet
130 was treated (incubation 6 and 24 hr) with DMSO 90% (v/v) and furthermore incubated 1h at

131 40°C with 200 U porcine pancreatic α -amylase stabilized by 20 mM HEPES buffer with 20
132 mM CaCl_2 (pH 6.9), to remove starch from the samples. The pellet was washed with 20 mM
133 HEPES buffer with 20 mM CaCl_2 (pH 6.9) and the supernatant removed.

134 2.4. Sequential Extraction

135 The isolation method followed instructions by Melton et al. (2001). Cell walls of 25 g plant
136 tissue were treated twice (6 and 12 hr) with 50 mM trans-1,2-diaminocyclohexane-N,N,N,N-
137 tetraacetic acid (CDTA) in 50 mM potassium acetate buffer (pH 6.5), to extract the chelating
138 agent soluble solids (CASS). The supernatant was separated in a centrifuge model 5804
139 (Eppendorf AG, Hamburg, Germany) by centrifuging for 20 min at 3220 x g at room
140 temperature in HDPE centrifuge bottles and dialyzed with 0.1 M ammonium acetate buffer
141 (pH 6.5, 1 day, 3 changes, 4°C) followed by H_2O (3 days, 3 changes at 4°C). The solution was
142 freeze-dried (LIO 5P, VWR International PBI Milano, Italy) and the residue was weighted to
143 determine the yield of CASS related to the dry matter content of the food waste streams.

144 The pellet was treated with 50 mM Na_2CO_3 / 20 mM NaBH_4 twice (16 and 2 hr) at 4°C to
145 extract the dilute alkaline soluble solids (DASS). The supernatant was separated in a
146 centrifuge model 5804 (Eppendorf AG, Hamburg, Germany) by centrifuging for 20 min at
147 3220 x g at room temperature in HDPE centrifuge bottles and neutralized using acetic acid
148 and dialyzed with H_2O (3 days, 3 changes, 4°C). The solution was freeze-dried (LIO 5P,
149 VWR International PBI Milano, Italy) and the residue was weighted to determine the yield of
150 DASS related to the dry matter content of the food waste streams.

151 The total pectin yield was taken as the combined weights of the freeze-dried CASS and DASS
152 related to the dry matter content of the food waste streams.

153 2.5. Uronic acid content

154 Sample preparation and measurement followed instructions by Melton & Smith (2001) with
155 galacturonic acid as a standard. 10 mg of freeze-dried pectin samples were hydrolyzed by
156 adding 2 ml of concentrated sulfuric acid for 10 minutes, under constant stirring and cooling

157 in an ice bath. Then 0.5 ml of bidistilled water was added, the mixture was stirred and further
158 diluted with a further 5 ml of bidistilled water. The samples were separated in a
159 centrifuge model 5804 (Eppendorf AG, Hamburg, Germany) by centrifuging for 20 min at
160 3220 x g at room temperature in HDPE centrifuge bottles and the supernatant was used for the
161 colorimetric assay as follows. To 400 μ l of supernatant or standard (galacturonic acid in water
162 at different concentrations ranging from 25 μ g/ 400 μ l until 300 μ g/ 400 μ l), 40 μ l of 4 M
163 sulfamic acid/potassium sulfamate solution (pH 1.6) and 2.4 ml 75 mM sodium
164 tetraborate/sulfuric acid solution were added. The mixture was heated (100°C) for 20 min and
165 then cooled. To the sample control, 80 μ l 0.5% NaOH were added to determine the sugar
166 colouring. To the sample and standard, 80 μ l 255 M m-hydroxydiphenyl in 0.5% NaOH was
167 added and the absorbance was measured after 10 minutes at 525 nm against a water blank in a
168 UV/VIS LAMBDA BIO 20 spectrophotometer (Perkin Elmer, Waltham, MA, USA).

169 2.6. Degree of methylation and acetylation.

170 The method previously published by Müller-Maatsch et al. (2014) was followed. 30 mg of
171 freeze-dried pectin samples were combined with 1 ml 0.4 M NaOH and stirred for 2 hours at
172 room temperature in capped tubes. Afterwards the supernatant was separated in a centrifuge
173 model 5804 (Eppendorf AG, Hamburg, Germany) by centrifuging for 20 min at 3220 x g at
174 room temperature in HDPE centrifuge bottles, followed by the addition of 100 μ l of internal
175 standard solution (10 mg 3-(trimethylsilyl)propionate-d4 (TSP) in 5 ml D₂O) used to quantify
176 the methanol and the acetic acid. The supernatant was filtered using a syringe equipped with
177 0.4 μ m nylon filter and transferred in NMR-tubes. ¹H NMR spectra were acquired on a
178 VARIAN-INOVA 600 MHz spectrometer, equipped with a triple resonance inverse probe
179 (HCN), operating at 599.736 MHz for proton. Spectra were acquired at 298 K, with 32K
180 complex points, using a 90° pulse length. 128 scans were acquired with a spectral width of
181 7196.8 Hz, an acquisition time of 2.53 and a relaxation delay (d1) of 5 s. The experiments
182 were carried out with water suppression by low power selective water signal presaturation

183 during 5 s of the relaxation delay. The NMR spectra were processed by MestreC software.
184 The spectra were Fourier transformed with FT size of 64K and 0.2 Hz line-broadening factor,
185 phased and baseline corrected, and referenced to 3-(trimethylsilyl)-propionate-d₄ (TSP) peak
186 (0 ppm). The quantitative determination of acetic acid and methanol was obtained by manual
187 integration of the corresponding signals (1.92 ppm for acetic acid, 3.36 for methanol) and the
188 comparison with TSP area. The values obtained by the integration were converted in mass
189 value (mg) according to the formula reported in Müller-Maatsch et al. (2014). The accuracy
190 of the quantitative data was assured by the relaxation delay, determined by T₁ measurements,
191 which was set in order to allow the complete relaxation of the nuclei.

192 2.7. Neutral sugars

193 Pectin samples were hydrolysed following the method previously published by Melton et al.
194 (2001). 10 mg of pectin sample were hydrolyzed with 3 ml 2 M trifluoroacetic acid under
195 nitrogen for 60 min at 121°C. To the hydrolysed mixture, 1 ml phenyl-β-D-glucopyranoside
196 (500 ppm) was added as internal standard. The samples were clarified by syringe filtration on
197 nylon filters (40 μm) and the filtrate evaporated to dryness with nitrogen. With 1800 μl N-N-
198 dimethylformamide and 200 μl N,O-Bis(trimethylsilyl)trifluoroacetamide (BSTFA) with
199 trimethylchlorosilane (TMCS) the sugars were silylated for 60 min at 60°C. The GC/MS
200 analysis was carried out with a Agilent Technology 6890N Network GC System equipped
201 with a 5973 MS Detector, using a capillary column HP-5MS 0,25 mm x 30 m x 0,25 μm,
202 injection volume of 1 μl, initial temperature 60°C, split injection (ratio 20:1), carrier gas
203 helium, following this temperature ramp: 10°C/min until 160°C, then 10°C/min until 220°C,
204 then 20°C/min until 270°C.

205 2.8. Statistical analysis

206 All measurements were done in duplicate and the average values with the corresponding
207 standard deviations were calculated.

208 3. Results

209 The pectin content was determined for the two fractions of pectin, the one soluble in chelating
210 agents (calcium-bound pectin) and the other one soluble in alkaline solution (ester linkage-
211 bound pectin). According to the method applied here, chelating agent solutions first extract
212 soluble pectic polysaccharides (Melton et al., 2001) yielding, after freeze drying, the chelating
213 agent soluble solid (CASS, details in the experimental section). CDTA actually solubilises
214 pectic polysaccharides supposedly by disrupting the ionic bridges between calcium and non-
215 esterified galacturonic residues. Chelating agents enhance the extractability of the pectic
216 polysaccharides in mild conditions and reduce the degradation and production of artefacts.
217 This was the main reason for choosing this method, even if quite cumbersome, exactly
218 because it is known to yield pectins with their native structure as intact as possible (Renard &
219 Thibault, 1993) even if co-extraction of proteins (14-44% w/w according to Pustjens, Schols,
220 Kabel & Gruppen, 2013) or other polysaccharides as hemicelluloses (Mateos-Aparicio,
221 Redondo-Cuenca & Villanueva-Suárez, 2010) can lead to aberrant estimations of the pectin
222 content. This method might also lead to incomplete recovery of the ester-bound pectin
223 fraction. Thus, in order to obtain the ester-bound pectin, an alkaline extraction with 50 mM
224 Na_2CO_3 /20 mM NaBH_4 was then also performed on the residual from the extraction with
225 CDTA yielding, after freeze drying, the diluted alkaline soluble solid (DASS, details in the
226 experimental section). The DASS fraction contains the previous ester-bound pectin as well as
227 traces of hemicelluloses. NaBH_4 was added to alkaline solutions to reduce the reducing end of
228 the polysaccharides and therefore prevent base peeling of polysaccharides (Melton et al.,
229 2001).

230 The total pectin content, also divided in the CASS and DASS fractions, is shown in Figure 1
231 for the different food wastes, expressed in mg/g sample (as dry matter), in decreasing order of
232 content. The highest levels of CASS were obtained from orange peel (126 mg/g), pumpkin
233 (85 mg/g) and parsley (47 mg/g), whereas the highest values of DASS came from pumpkin

234 (150 mg/g), orange peels (121 mg/g), and endive roots (119 mg/g). As displayed in Figure 1,
235 the DASS pectin fraction was almost always the more consistent one (the lower bound
236 represented by leek leaves, with a CASS/DASS ratio of 0.21). Nevertheless, in few samples
237 the CASS fraction was more abundant (olive pomace CASS/DASS ratio 1.27, grape pomace
238 1.45, tomato skins 3.24).

239 Although the results can not be considered representative of all the possible variations present
240 in food waste streams in Europe, the homogeneous analytical methodology applied showed
241 the impact of the processing technology on pectin yield and composition, as indicated by the
242 differences between apple pomace (CASS 14 mg/g DM, DASS 41 mg/g DM) and apple cake
243 (CASS 13 mg/g; DASS 73 mg/g). Also the different plant tissues with different pectin content
244 obviously affected the yield: whole apple, less rich in skins, had a lower amount of pectin per
245 gram of dry matter than the previously reported apple pomace and apple cake (CASS 10 mg/g
246 DM, DASS 10 mg/g DM). Endive leaves (CASS 18 mg/g DM, DASS 85 mg/g DM) and
247 endive roots (CASS 29 mg/g DM, DASS 102 mg/g DM) also showed a different pectin
248 contents.

249 The uronic acid content in the obtained polysaccharides is a good indication of the quality of
250 the pectin in the extract. The amount of uronic acids in our samples was determined
251 spectrophotometrically by using m-hydroxydiphenyl as a colouring agent, which is the
252 common way to determine uronic acids in the literature (Melton et al., 2001). The results are
253 reported in Figures 2 (uronic acid content in CASS samples) and 3 (uronic acid content in
254 DASS samples), expressed as mg of uronic acid for g of extracted pectin fraction. Samples are
255 reported in the same order as Figure 1, according to the decreasing content of total pectin. The
256 amount of uronic acids in the extract can vary due to the presence of neutral sugars replacing
257 galacturonic acids. Furthermore, the quality of the data can be affected by overestimation of
258 uronic acid in some samples due to the interference in the spectrophotometrical measurement
259 of extracted co-products, which might lead to 10-20% overestimation of the actual content of

260 uronic acid. Taking into account these limitations of the applied method and the expected
261 errors, the trends in galacturonic acid content were anyway very clear. Highest results in
262 uronic acid content, and therefore mostly homogalacturonan, was extracted with chelating
263 agents solution from onion hull (1146 mg/g CASS), orange peel (1099 mg/g CASS), leek
264 (890 mg/g CASS), endive (993-1033 mg/g CASS), seabuckthorn pulp (1002 mg/g CASS) and
265 fresh cabbage (934 mg/g CASS). Solids extracted in diluted alkaline solutions were found to
266 have highest yields in uronic acid in the case of apple pomace (1066 mg/g DASS), hop (974
267 mg/g DASS), seabuckthorn pulp (968 mg/g DASS), onion (958 mg/g DASS) and pea pod
268 (949 mg/g DASS).

269 In order to determine the neutral sugar contents, pectic polysaccharides extracted by chelating
270 agents were then hydrolyzed using TFA, releasing the neutral sugars, even if a full hydrolysis
271 of the polysaccharides was unlikely (Melton et al., 2001). Silylation of neutral sugars and
272 other compounds was then performed, in order to make them amenable for GC-MS detection,
273 as previously reported (Reinders & Thier, 1999; Caligiani, Malavasi, Palla, Marseglia,
274 Tognolini & Bruni, 2013). The results of the total amount of sugars occurring and the
275 detailed composition are reported in Table 1. The concentration of neutral sugars of pectic
276 polysaccharides again was found to be variable among the different samples, according to the
277 different waste streams, the CASS and DASS fraction, the treatment of samples with same
278 origins during food processing as well as different parts of one plant. Highest neutral sugar
279 content in CASS extracts was found in sugar beet (386 mg/g CASS), pea pod (310 mg/g
280 CASS) and olive pomace (305 mg/g CASS). Values for neutral sugar obtained in DASS
281 reached 442 mg/g DASS in fresh cabbage, 422 mg/g DASS in orange peels and 373 mg/g
282 DASS in olive pomace. Not surprisingly, samples with the lowest amount of uronic acid also
283 had the highest amount of neutral sugars.

284 The methylation and the acetylation degree was done after alkaline saponification (Levigne et
285 al., 2002) by determining methanol and acetic acid by NMR after performing the

286 saponification directly in alkaline deuterium oxide (Müller-Maatsch et al., 2014). The
287 esterification degree is shown only for CASS (figure 4), as the extraction with diluted alkaline
288 used for DASS causes the hydrolysis of the ester groups, thus making the esterification degree
289 completely unreliable. Highest values in methylation degree were obtained in apple (whole
290 apple 57%), even if after industrial processing this valued decreased (apple cake 36-40%), as
291 well as in berries (42%), seabuckthorn (32%) and pear (30%). The acetylation degree has not
292 been reported frequently on all samples analysed for pectic polysaccharides, also on account
293 of the fact that it is lower than the methylation degree. Actually, the highest values were
294 determined in sugar beet flakes (18%), rapeseed press cake (13 %) and pea pod (10%).

295 4. Discussion

296 4.1. General. The main aim of this study was to investigate the by-products of plant processing
297 food industry for the potential content of valuable pectic polysaccharides. The data here
298 presented, covering 26 different food wastes, cannot be considered a complete and exhaustive
299 description of all the possible batch by batch variations in every waste stream analysed, nor
300 covering for all the possible variations among different countries. Anyway, due to the
301 homogeneous methodological approach applied, the analysed samples can be considered a
302 meaningful survey of the waste streams considered, since the batches collected were the
303 average mixtures generated at different stages of agri-food chain manufacturing sites, which
304 process raw materials from different countries of Europe. The data obtained on the pectin
305 content of the various food waste streams are discussed below, compared with the data
306 reported in the literature (when available) on the corresponding content in the original food
307 material.

308 4.2. Orange Peel

309 The highest yield of pectic polysaccharides was obtained in orange peel with 247 mg/g
310 sample on dry matter basis. This is already a common source for pectins, which are usually
311 extracted with acidic extractants. Different technologies were also evaluated reaching 154.7
312 mg/g (traditional heating), 181.3 mg/g (microwave) and 204.4 mg/g (Ultra high pressure) of
313 pectin in orange peels (Guo, et al., 2012). The CASS sugar composition consisted, beside
314 uronic acid (of which 25% methylated), of arabinose (136 mg/g CASS) as the most abundant
315 neutral sugar. DASS had instead more arabinose (266 mg/g DASS) and galactose (105 mg/g
316 DASS), in agreement with a recent report (Chau & Huang, 2003). The high content of pectic
317 polysaccharides and their composition indicate this waste stream as an ideal source of dietary
318 fibre for nutritional factors (Chau et al., 2003) or as texturizer or stabilizer due to its gelling

319 property and rheological behaviour in a variety of food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products
320 (Guo, et al., 2012).

321 4.3. Pumpkin and pumpkin kernel cake

322 In the literature, pumpkin polysaccharides from styrian oil-pumpkin pulp extracted at pH 4
323 with the chelating agent EDTA yielded 24 mg/g of pectic material (Košťálová, Hromádková
324 & Ebringerová, 2013). Higher yields were obtained though by combining an acid extraction
325 (42 mg/g) with a microwave treatment determining 113 mg/g pectic polysaccharides in
326 squash pumpkin pulp (Yoo, et al., 2012). The sum of pectic polysaccharides determined in
327 this study were 235 mg/g sample dry matter, which is higher than previously reported, due to
328 the fact that the whole pumpkin (pulp and peel) was used as sample material. Only small
329 amounts of neutral sugars were found: arabinose (3.2 % of CASS) and xylose (2.6% of
330 CASS) had the highest values. The uronic acid extracted with a chelating agent solution (445
331 mg/g CASS; 536 mg/g DASS) was only partly esterified (18% methylation degree and 3%
332 acetylation degree). The composition was reported in the literature as being 543 mg/g uronic
333 acid, with a methylation degree of 28% in the extracts and a large amount of phenolic
334 compounds, proteins and neutral sugars (Košťálová, Hromádková & Ebringerová, 2013). Due
335 to its behaviour in forming viscose solutions and surface tensions, similar to citrus peels, it
336 can be used as food additive (Fissore, Rojas, Gerschenson & Williams, 2013). Furthermore
337 the extracts are suggested to have a positive effect on gut bacteria (Jun, Lee, Song & Kim,
338 2006). Pumpkin kernel cake, on the other side, is a by-product of processing industry
339 exploiting the valuable pumpkin seed oil. The extraction of pectic polysaccharides led to very
340 low yields (29 mg CASS/g; 30 mg DASS/g) and with low uronic acid content indicating a
341 large co-extraction of proteins, thus very little and low quality pectic material.

342 4.4. Leek

343 Pectic polysaccharides of leek were extracted mainly by alkaline solutions (25 mg CASS/g;
344 119 mg DASS/g). Results of uronic acid and neutral sugars indicate a high amount of

345 methylated uronic polysaccharides (DE 26%, DA 3%) with less side chains containing neutral
346 sugars, mainly galactose. These results agree with the previously reported ones, which
347 proposed that the presence of side chains containing galactose have a positive effect on the
348 biological activity of these pectic polysaccharides (Kratchanova, Nikolova, Pavlova,
349 Yanakieva & Kussovski, 2010).

350 4.5. Belgian endive leaves and roots

351 The extraction with chelating agents (roots 29 mg/g; leaves 19 mg/g) resulted in both samples
352 in lower yields than the alkaline one (roots 102 mg/g; Leaves 85 mg/g), indicating a higher
353 content of bound pectin. The detection of uronic acid was very high in leaves, both CASS and
354 DASS, as well as in roots CASS. Findings here are indicating a large amount of pectin, with a
355 high methylation degree, particularly in roots (DE Roots 23% Leaves 12%; DA Roots 3%,
356 Leaves 2%), with arabinose as the main neutral sugar. This composition strictly resembles
357 sugar beet pectin. In the literature, the distribution of neutral sugars of endive pulp pectin
358 extracted using enzymes led to different results. Though arabinose was also determined to be
359 the main neutral sugar, higher values were obtained in the neutral sugars mannose, galactose
360 and glucose. The value of galacturonic acid was less than that obtained with extraction by
361 chemicals (Zykwinska, Boiffard, Kontkanen, Buchert, Thibault & Bonnin, 2008). The higher
362 yields of pectin in roots than in leaves was also suggested previously (Villanueva-Suárez,
363 Redondo-Cuenca, Rodríguez-Sevilla & de las Heras Martínez, M., 2003).

364 4.6. Fresh and sour Cabbage

365 The yield of pectic polysaccharides in fresh and fermented cabbage differed little when
366 extracted with chelating agent solutions (Fresh 30 mg CASS/g; Sour 23 mg CASS/g) and
367 more in alkaline solutions (Fresh 93 mg DASS/g; Sour 44 mg DASS/g). A similar effect in
368 loss of dietary fibre was mentioned for cabbage while boiling and storing (Wennberg,
369 Engqvist & Nyman, 2003). The composition of pectic polysaccharides in fresh and sour
370 cabbage ranged from homogalacturonans in CASS (uronic acid content 934 mg/g CASS) to

371 galacturonans with a high amount of side chains containing arabinose and galactose in DASS.
372 Galactose and arabinose rich pectic polysaccharides have been reported previously in fresh
373 cabbage and are studied for their immunological activity (Westereng, Michaelsen, Samuelsen
374 & Knutsen, 2008). The methylation (Fresh 19%, sour 12%) and acetylation degree (fresh 5%,
375 sour 4%) indicate that this pectic material might have good gelling properties, which have not
376 been reported yet.

377 4.7. Onion

378 Pectic substances extracted from onion hulls were composed mainly of uronic acids with a
379 methylation degree of 19% and acetylation degree of 2%, indicative for highly polymerized
380 polygalacturonates. These findings are in line with what has been previously reported in the
381 literature, where also very efficient immunostimulating effects as well as physical properties
382 were observed (Patra, et al., 2013).

383 4.8. Parsley

384 There has not been any research done on parsley pectin, so the values obtained in this paper
385 of 47 mg/g in CASS and 67 mg/g DASS are the first reported ones. The extract had a uronic
386 acid content between 867 mg/g CASS and 858 mg/g DASS, indicating a high purity of pectin.
387 The neutral sugars detected were mainly arabinose (6.51% CASS; 10.75% DASS) and
388 galactose (6.45% CASS; 13.06 % DASS). The low degree of methylation and acetylation
389 indicates physical properties similar to pumpkin or sugar beet pectic polysaccharides. Due to
390 the high amount of neutral sugars it could be used as functional food ingredient.

391 4.9. Apple, apple cake and apple pomace

392 By-products of apple processing industry are after citrus fruits the second most used source
393 of pectin (May, 1990). Three samples of apple origin were investigated in this paper. Whole
394 apples, discarded from fresh consumption, apple cake and apple pomace from the fruit
395 processing industry. Yields were higher in the processed products: apple 10 mg CASS /g, 10
396 mg DASS /g; apple cake 13 mg CASS/g, 74 mg/g DASS; apple pomace 14 mg CASS/g, 42

397 mg DASS/g. Uronic acid content of the extracted pectic polysaccharides was in all three
398 samples lower in the extraction with chelating agent (apple 488 mg/g CASS, apple cake 408
399 mg/g CASS, apple pomace 781 mg/g CASS) than in the diluted alkaline extraction (apple 656
400 mg/g DASS, apple cake 802 mg/g DASS, apple pomace 1067 mg/g DASS). CASS as well as
401 DASS were rich in neutral sugars arabinose 6-9%, galactose 2-4%, rhamnose 1-4%, glucose
402 1-7% and xylose 1-5%. Traces of mannose and fucose were found as reported earlier (Renard
403 et al., 1993). The CASS fraction contained highly methylated galacturonans, but with a wide
404 range (26-60%). This data supports the decrease of methylation during juice production,
405 likely due to the activity of pectin-methylesterase.

406 4.10 Pea

407 Extraction of pea pods yielded 10 mg CASS/g and 73 mg DASS/g, values which are in
408 agreement with the total yield of pectic polysaccharides in literature (Mateos-Aparicio,
409 Redondo-Cuenca & Villanueva-Suárez, 2012). The pectic polysaccharide fractions were rich
410 in uronic acid (70-95%), highly methylated (30%) and acetylated (10%), and rich in
411 arabinose, xylose and galactose as mentioned previously (Wheightman, Renard, Thibault,
412 1995). There has not been any study yet reported on the technological application of pea hull
413 pectin, despite the purity and high methylation degree.

414 4.11. Cucumber

415 Pectic polysaccharides of cucumber (sour) were 27 mg CASS/g and 38 mg DASS/g. The
416 CASS extract contained more homogalacturonans indicated by the high uronic content and
417 small amounts of neutral sugar, mainly galactose and fucose. In contrast, the uronic acid
418 content was lower in DASS with a high amount of neutral sugar (galactose, arabinose and
419 fucose). Galacturonic residues were methylated at 25 % and partially acetylated 4%. As
420 reported by McFeeters et al., the fermentation of cucumber led to a loss in esterification from
421 54% in fresh cucumber to 16% in fermented one (McFeeters & Armstrong, 1984).

422 4.12. Sugar beet

423 Yields of pectic polysaccharides obtained from sugar beet pulp were 28 mg CASS/g and 32
424 mg DASS/g. These results are lower than previously reported, which can be explained by the
425 different method used for the extraction (Oosterveld, Beldman, Schols & Voragen, A. G. J.,
426 1996). The composition of the fractions were in agreement with the literature (Yapo, Robert,
427 Etienne, Wathelet & Paquot, 2007): uronic acid content ranged between 653 mg/g CASS and
428 689 mg/g DASS and high values of arabinose and small amounts of galactose and rhamnose
429 were detected. This indicates the occurrence of rhamnogalacturonan, arabinan and
430 homogalacturonan in both extracts. The galacturonic residues in sugar beet are known to be
431 both methylated (29%) and acetylated (18%) (Renard et al., 1993).

432 4.13. Berries

433 The by-product of berry juice production contained 25 mg CASS/g and 33 mg DASS/g
434 which is in agreement with the yields reported from bilberry and black currant press cake
435 (Hilz, Bakx, Schols & Voragen, 2005). CASS was composed by 744 mg/g uronic acid with
436 42 % methylation degree and 1 % acetylation degree, arabinose, galactose and rhamnose. In
437 DASS less uronic acid 596 mg/g and more neutral sugars were detected. Similar results were
438 measured by Hilz et al. (2005), though the methylation degree and acetylation degree was
439 different. Again, this might be explained by different sample pretreatment.

440 4.14. Rapeseed

441 Extraction yields of pectic polysaccharides were low in rapeseed press cake (25 mg CASS/g;
442 23 mg DASS/g). In accordance with the literature, the uronic acid content ranged from 85
443 mg/g CASS to 102 mg/g DASS with high levels of arabinose and xylose (Eriksson, Anderson
444 & Aman, 1997). In CASS 25% of uronic acid was methylated and 13% esterified with acetic
445 acid groups. The possibility of having proteins coextracted with the pectin fraction was
446 mentioned previously in rapeseed meal (Pustjens et al., 2013).

447 4.15. Seabuckthorn pulp and see

448 The pulp of seabuckthorn was found to have more pectic polysaccharides (14 mg CASS/g
449 and 25 mg DASS/g), compared to the by-product seabuckthorn seeds (6 mg CASS/g, 8 mg
450 DASS/g). No further analysis was applied on the seed waste, given the very low amount of
451 pectin. Extracts of the pulp contained high amounts of uronic acid, halfway esterified and
452 partially acetylated, as well as arabinose and galactose in accordance with literature
453 (Dongowski, 1996).

454 4.16. Hop

455 The extraction of pectic material from hops yielded 9 mg CASS/g and 18 mg DASS/g.
456 Several neutral sugars were detected, with arabinose, galactose and xylose as the highest. The
457 uronic residues were partially methylated (14%) and acetylated (7%). Similar findings of
458 pectic extracts of hop using acidic solution were obtained previously (Oosterveld, Voragen,
459 A. G. J. & Schols, 2002).

460 4.17. Grape pomace

461 11 g CASS/g and 8 mg DASS/g pectic polysaccharides were extracted from grape pomace.
462 The larger amount was extracted by chelating agents as already reported for grape pomace of
463 different varieties (Deng, Penner & Zhao, 2011). A high uronic acid content was detected in
464 CASS (894 mg/ g CASS), low methylated (5%) with small amounts of arabinose and
465 galactose as reported for grape pulp (Saulnier & Thibault, 1987).

466 4.18. Olive pomace

467 Olive pomace, like grape pomace, has a low amount of pectic polysaccharides extractable by
468 chelating agents (14 mg CASS/g) or diluted alkaline solution (11 mg DASS/g). CASS
469 contains a high amount of uronic acid partially methylated and acetylated as well as high
470 amounts of neutral sugars, mostly arabinose and rhamnose. Similar findings were reported by
471 Jiménez et al. in untreated olive pulp (Jiménez, Rodríguez, Fernández-Caro, Guillén,
472 Fernández-Bolaños & Heredia, 2001).

473 4.19. Tomato

474 Pectic polysaccharides of CASS and DASS contained uronic acid (784 mg/g CASS and 330
475 mg/g DASS) with traces of neutral sugars, mostly galactose. The sugar composition in pectic
476 polysaccharides is similar to the findings of Reinders et al. (1999). Galacturonic residues were
477 halfway esterified and partially acetylated, albeit higher esterification up to 69% were
478 reported previously (Seymour, Colquhoun, Dupont, Parsley & Selvendran, 1990). The
479 differences can be explained again through the advanced ripening stage and the treatment of
480 the starting material.

481 4.20. Pear

482 Pear pectic polysaccharides are similar to apple pectic polysaccharides though the yield of
483 whole pears as starting material is much lower. A high amount of uronic acid and arabinose 6
484 % in CASS and 10 % in DASS, as well as traces of xylose and galactose were detected. The
485 galacturonic residues were halfway esterified and partially acetylated. Renard et al. extracted
486 from fresh pear cultivar “Gieser Wildeman”, uronic acid rich fractions with a very low
487 contents of neutral sugars, of which arabinose had the highest content (Renard, 2005). The
488 similarity to apple pectin suggests the same physical properties.

489 4.21. Sabal

490 There was no literature found on the content of sabal pectic polysaccharides. So the data
491 about this plant is the first time reported here. The amount of pectin was found to be very low,
492 although the uronic acid content suggested a fair purity.

493 **5. Conclusion**

494 The investigation done here had the purpose to characterize the pectin composition of several
495 waste streams of the plant processing industry. Although the data here reported do not exhaust
496 all the possible variations possibly present in different batches and countries, this is the most
497 complete survey of the of the pectic materials obtained from many diverse by-products with
498 homogeneous methodology. It has shown that the pectin structures and yields present a very

499 high diversity according to the different origin. New insights in pectic polysaccharides
500 distribution have been gained by performing the extraction with a chelating agent solution
501 (CDTA) and a diluted alkaline solution, measuring in both fraction uronic acid and neutral
502 sugars content, as well as degree of methylation and acetylation. This level of details in the
503 molecular structures of pectin from by-products is unprecedented in the literature so far.
504 In general, the pectin structure of these waste streams seems to be well preserved compared to
505 the original food material, with the notable exception of the methylation and acetylation
506 degree, which are often lowered by the processing and/or by the action of the enzymes. The
507 information about changes in pectic polysaccharide composition after processing is very
508 valuable for the industry in view of a possible reutilization of these materials as a source of
509 pectin. Even if the minimum amount of 65% uronic acids is usually required (thus preventing
510 some of our material to be classified as truly pectin), however extracts that do not reach this
511 limit might have interesting functionalities, and hence could be useful in different applications.
512 The possible uses of pectic polysaccharides according to their composition, as food additive
513 for their physical properties or as functional food for their bioavailability and bioactivity, can
514 be derived from the data obtained in this study.

515

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519 Feed from Food Waste – NOSHAN).

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539 **Captions to Tables and Figures**

540

541 **Figure 1.** Calcium bound (dark bars) and ester linkage bound (light bars) pectin in the
542 different food waste streams, expressed as mg/g of dry matter.

543

544 **Figure 2.** Uronic acid content in CASS (calcium-bound pectin), listed from left to right
545 according to the total pectin content, expressed as mg/g of extracted pectin in the CASS
546 fraction

547

548 **Figure 3.** Uronic acid content in DASS (dilute alkaline soluble pectin), listed from left to
549 right according to the total pectin content, expressed as mg/g of extracted pectin in the DASS
550 fraction

551

552 **Figure 4.** Degree of esterification (in percentage) in CASS (calcium-bound pectin), listed
553 from left to right according to the total pectin content

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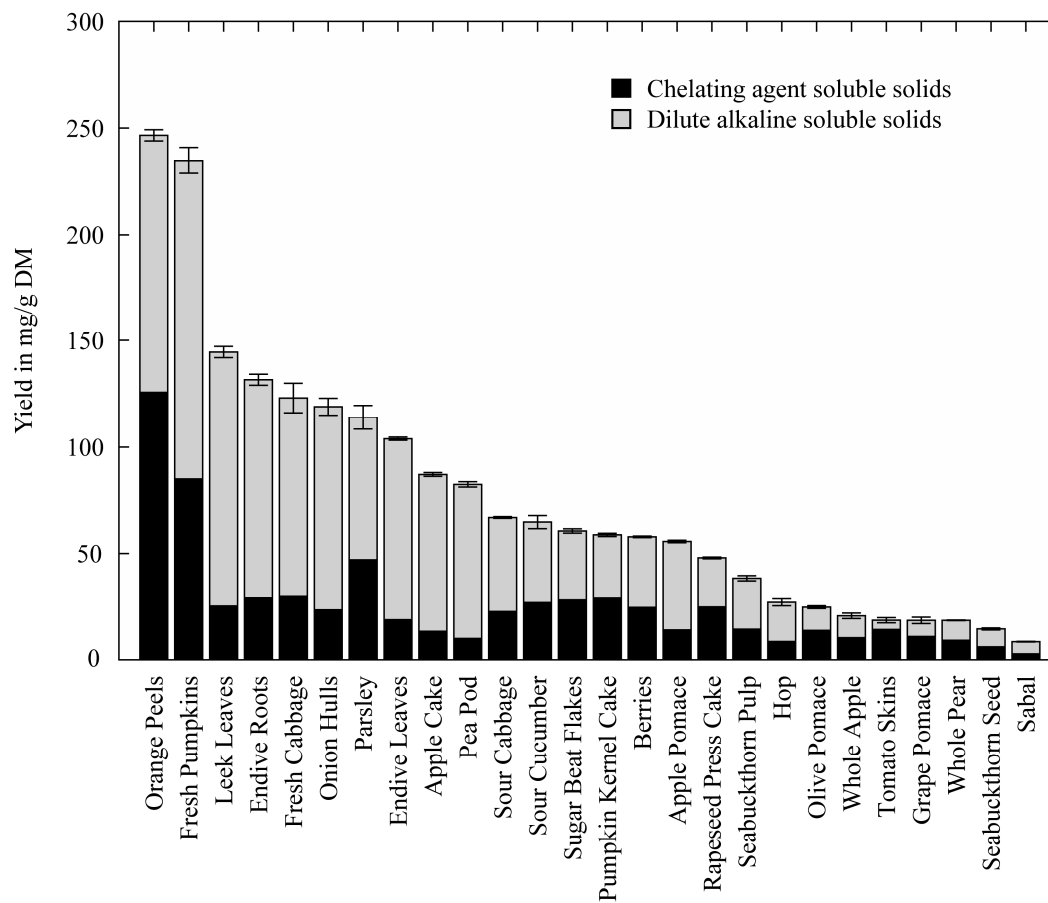
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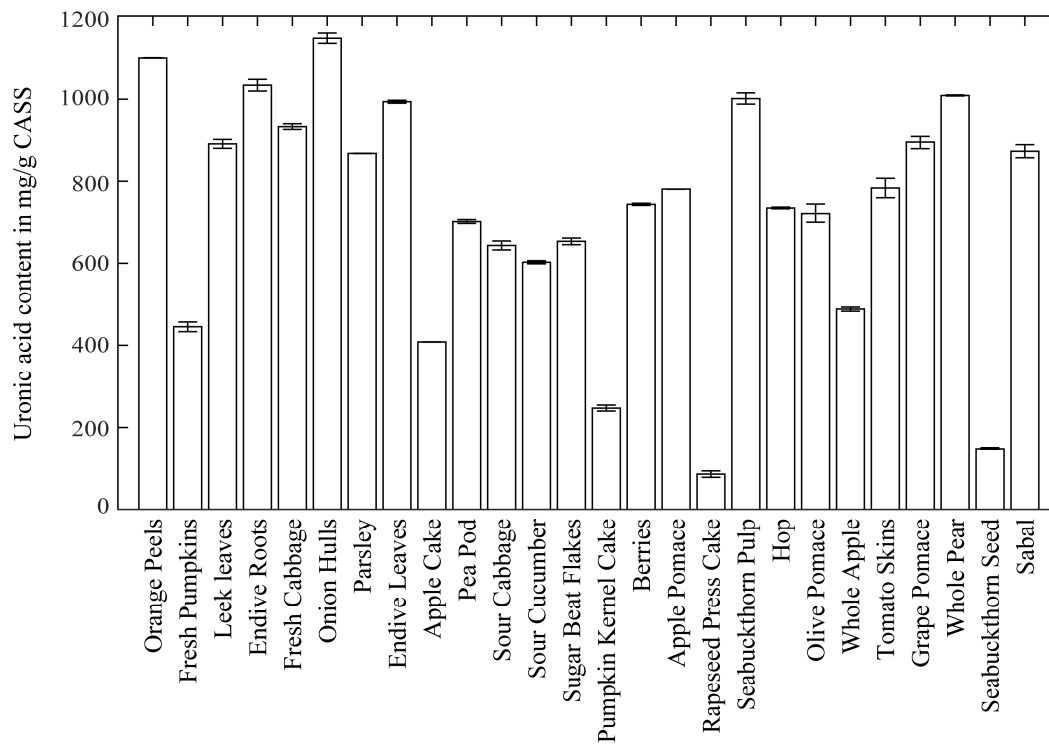
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689 Fig. 1

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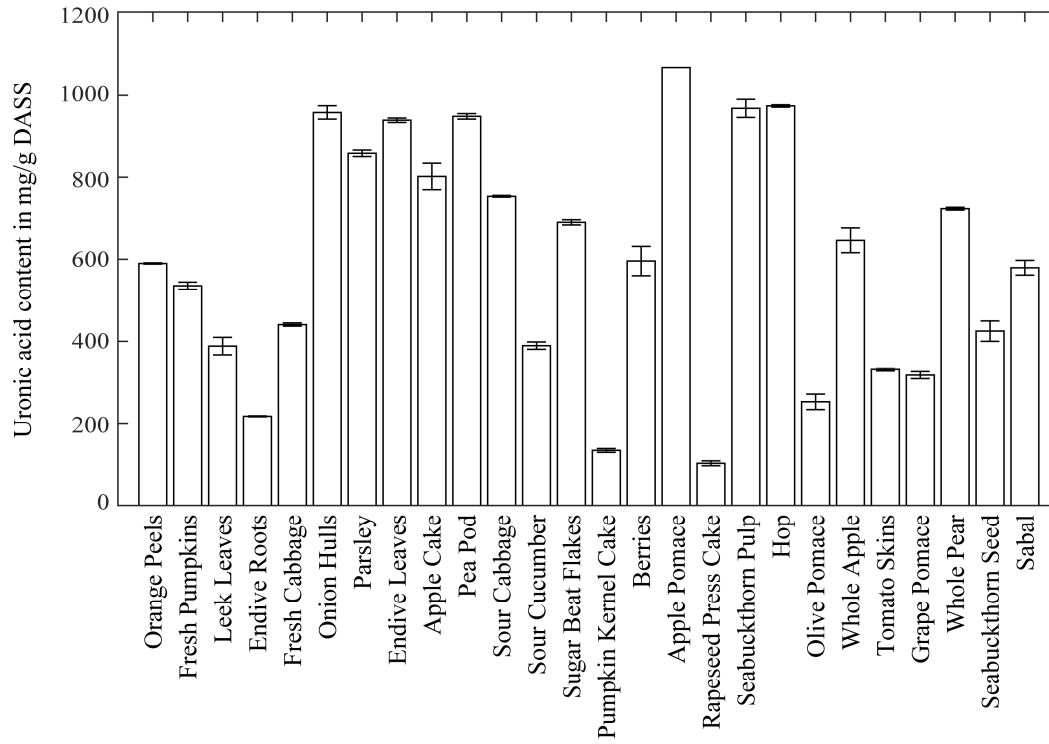
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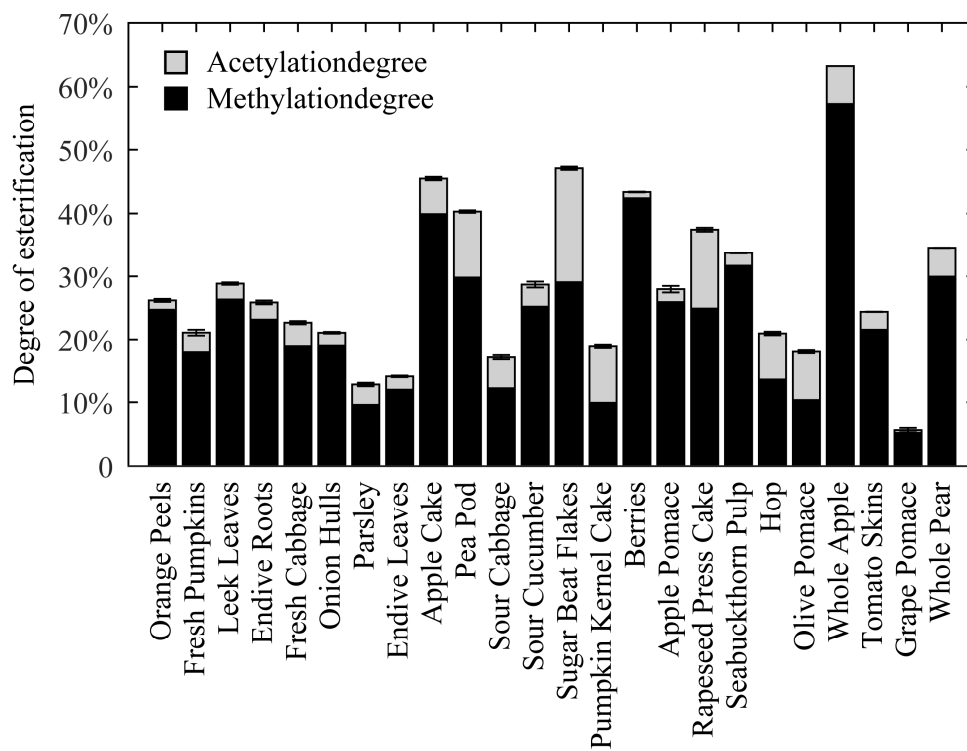
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Table 1 Profile and content of neutral sugars in CASS (calcium-bound pectin) and DASS (dilute alkaline soluble pectin)

		Ara (mg/g pectin)		Glc (mg/g pectin)		Rha (mg/g pectin)		Glu (mg/g pectin)		Man (mg/g pectin)		Xyl (mg/g pectin)		Rib (mg/g pectin)		Fuc (mg/g pectin)	
Orange peels	CASS	136	± 10	35	± 6	18	± 4	11	± 4	traces		5	± 1	-		-	
	DASS	266	± 38	105	± 22	37	± 9	10	± 1	1	± 0	5	± 0	-		-	
Fresh pumpkins	CASS	32	± 25	12	± 4	16	± 11	10	± 4	-		26	± 30	-		-	
	DASS	17	± 2	16	± 1	16	± 1	16	± 1	-		13	± 1	-		-	
Leek leaves	CASS	17	± 1	21	± 2	7	± 1	6	± 1	-		3	± 0	-		-	
	DASS	12	± 7	19	± 9	10	± 6	2	± 2	2	± 3	1	± 1	-		-	
Endive roots	CASS	31	± 1	13	± 3	14	± 1	6	± 1	5	± 1	-		-		-	
	DASS	22	± 8	7	± 2	8	± 4	1	± 1	-		1	± 0	-		-	
Fresh cabbage	CASS	54	± 6	64	± 10	23	± 4	20	± 6	-		12	± 1	-		-	
	DASS	195	± 21	158	± 14	39	± 13	21	± 1	4	± 0	26	± 2	-		-	
Onion hulls	CASS	14	± 0	38	± 18	20	± 4	18	± 2	-		-		-		-	
	DASS	13	± 5	107	± 24	21	± 6	13	± 5	-		-	±	-		-	
Parsley	CASS	65	± 3	65	± 1	23	± 1	17	± 0	-		3	± 0	-		2	± 0
	DASS	108	± 10	131	± 8	36	± 4	20	± 1	-		8	± 0	-		5	± 0
Endive leaves	CASS	20	± 1	12	± 1	21	± 0	5	± 1	5	± 0	4	± 1	-		3	± 0
	DASS	36	± 8	20	± 5	33	± 6	5	± 1	7	± 2	6	± 1	-		6	± 1
Apple cake	CASS	58	± 15	27	± 2	11	± 1	27	± 1	-		27	± 5	-		-	
	DASS	85	± 7	26	± 1	22	± 1	16	± 1	-		-		-		-	
Pea pod	CASS	129	± 2	29	± 1	31	± 4	14	± 2	-		107	± 2	-		-	

Sour cabbage	DASS	77	± 28	16	± 5	19	± 13	1	± 2	-		36	± 18	-	-
	CASS	145	± 1	44	± 5	40	± 1	38	± 0.	-		-	-	-	-
Sour cucumber	DASS	195	± 45.51	63.47	± 8	41	± 9	22	± 4	-		20	± 2	-	-
	CASS	19	± 0.06	39.64	± 1	8	± 2	7	± 1	16	± 2	13	± 0	-	-
Sugar beat flakes	DASS	35	± 1.74	122.73	± 7	17	± 1	7	± 1	45	± 1	26	± 9	-	-
	CASS	298	± 24.93	44.04	± 0	36	± 3	7	± 2	-		-	-	-	-
Pumpkin kernel cake	DASS	266	± 74.65	50.16	± 5	25	± 9	5	± 3	-		-	-	-	-
	CASS	32	± 5.44	17.00	± 4	21	± 1	24	± 2	-		32	± 3	-	-
Berries	DASS	29	± 2.13	22.68	± 1	22	± 3	33	± 1	-		36	± 1	-	-
	CASS	40	± 11.39	92.78	± 35	14	± 5	36	± 41	-		-	-	-	-
Apple pomace	DASS	26	± 2.44	30.16	± 6	14	± 2	15	± 2	-		-	-	-	-
	CASS	73	± 16.07	21.33	± 2	39	± 3	73	± 3	12	± 3	9	± 13	-	-
Rapeseed press cake	DASS	67	± 2.73	16.91	± 1	35	± 0	55	± 2	-		6	± 5	-	-
	CASS	76	± 5.43	17.75	± 1	9	± 1	10	± 1	8	± 1	30	± 1	-	9 ± 2
Seabuckthorn pulp	DASS	68	± 18.87	18.09	± 6	8	± 2	9	± 2	9	± 2	21	± 4	5	± 2 11 ± 6
	CASS	97	± 50.21	9.92	± 4	12	± 6	6	± 3	-		8	± 4	5	± 3 -
Hop	DASS	75	± 9.05	16.45	± 1	11	± 0	15	± 0	-		9	± 1	7	± 2 -
	CASS	43	± 9.84	24.47	± 4	16	± 4	8	± 2	10	± 2	27	± 10	-	3 ± 1
Olive pomace	DASS	35	± 25.41	19.75	± 14	15	± 13	6	± 6	8	± 6	11	± 7	-	3 ± 2
	CASS	159	± 15.84	20.87	± 7	53	± 7	34	± 23	-		18	± 11	-	20 ± 17
Whole apple	DASS	220	± 30.98	27.83	± 3	61	± 11	28	± 4	11	± 2	26	± 18	-	-
	CASS	79	± 14.06	24.39	± 16	15	± 3	16	± 2	9	± 5	47	± 17	-	7 ± 0
Tomato skins	DASS	88	± 12.21	38.46	± 8	20	± 3	10	± 2	-		20	± 6	-	3 ± 1
	CASS	19	± 2.99	38.85	± 0	8	± 0.4	7	± 1	16	± 0	13	± 2	-	-

Grape pomace	DASS	29	± 9.15	102.94	± 9	14	± 3	6	± 3	38	± 11	23	± 13	-	-
	CASS	12	± 3.24	8.13	± 2	10	± 2	3	± 1	-		6	± 2	-	-
Whole pear	DASS	15	± 3.07	9.63	± 3	10	± 2	12	± 1	6	± 1	8.89	± 1	-	-
	CASS	64	± 8.92	14.35	± 1	25	± 2	8	± 1	6	± 0	19.81	± 2	-	-
	DASS	99	± 1.19	29.87	± 2	32	± 1	10	± 6	-		37.26	± 15	-	-

712

713 **Highlights**

- 714 - Calcium bound and covalently linked pectin analyzed in 26 food waste streams
- 715 - Uronic acid content, neutral sugars, acetylation and methylation degree determined
- 716 - Very wide diversity of pectin structures among vegetal food waste materials
- 717 - First wide database of pectin content and characterization

718

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT