

Phytochemical Profiling and Inhibitory Impact of *Piper nigrum* and *Syzygium aromaticum* Extracts Targeting GH13 Family Amylases

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ABSTRACT

Background: Inhibition α -amylase have been reportedly providing a novel way in diabetes and obesity management. **Objectives:** Research for the last decade has outlined on broad range of health beneficial of various condiments and it is evident that regular spicy food consumption in appropriate quantity is also the reason of reducing risk of death from chronic disorders. **Materials and Methods:** The preliminary phytochemical screening methanol extracts of *P. nigrum* fruits and *S. aromaticum* flower buds were done for evaluation of phytochemicals. Therefore, the purpose of the present study is to find out the α -amylase inhibitory potential of commonly available spices named *Piper nigrum* (*P. nigrum*) and *Syzygium aromaticum* (*S. aromaticum*) at different parameters such as pH, temperature, time interval and days, which was carried out by using 3'5'-Dinitrosalicylic acid reagent (DNS) method. Statistical analysis was done by two-way ANOVA. For this purpose, phosphate buffer solution of *P. nigrum* and *S. aromaticum* were used. **Results:** Phytochemical screening showed the presence of alkaloids, carbohydrates, flavonoids, glycosides, phenol, phytosterols, tannins and terpenes. *P. nigrum* most significant α -amylase inhibition showed at 7 pH ($98.0 \pm 0.0\%$), 37°C temperature ($95.3 \pm 3.1\%$), day 6 (95.34 ± 1.15) and at 15 min ($83.3 \pm 3.1\%$), while *S. aromaticum* exerted stronger α -amylase inhibition at 7 pH ($100.0 \pm 0.0\%$), at 37°C temperature ($96.7 \pm 1.2\%$) and 3rd day (97.34 ± 1.15) and at 15 min ($96.7 \pm 2.3\%$). **Conclusion:** The present study provides the direct evidence that *P. nigrum* and *S. aromaticum* extract have great inhibitory potential of α -amylase enzyme so; by using these ideal parameters it will be useful in diabetes and obesity management.

Keywords: α -amylase, DNS (3'5'-Dinitrosalicylic acid reagent), *P. nigrum* (*Piper nigrum*), *S. aromaticum* (*Syzygium aromaticum*).

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INTRODUCTION

Diabetes is a metabolic disorder characterized by abnormal function of metabolic system which results high blood sugar level. Diabetes is a rapidly growing international health issue of 21st century due to frequent use of gadgets, less physical activity as well as increase consumption of sugary drinks and oily foods. Children have also frequently developed diabetes and approximately 6% of the world population is affected, which is a warning indication for researchers and health care sector (Khan *et al.*, 2020).

In diabetes, alpha amylase is responsible for carbohydrate breakdown into simple sugar which then absorbed through

wall of small intestine into the blood stream which directly influence in blood sugar level. Inactivation of amylase enzymes contributes to postpartum hyperglycemia in diabetic patients. Therapeutically available antidiabetic medicines exert their medicinal effect through various mechanisms such as elevation of insulin secretion, glucose absorption, and metabolism. Amylase is a principal enzyme which split complex sugar into glucose and maltose present in saliva and pancreatic juice (Whitcomb and Lowe, 2007). Alpha amylase is a dominant secretory product and has a fundamental role in starch and glycogen digestion and, it is a valuable enzyme commercially and industrially (Kandra *et al.*, 2003).

In diabetes, carbohydrate digestion can be controlled through amylase inhibition, which is influenced by factors such as pH, time interval, and temperature. In diabetes, maximum inhibition of the amylase enzyme, which are assists in sugar breakdown ranges normally from 45 to 55°C , which can be reduced by alteration in temperatures. The optimal pH range for amylase is 6.7 - 7.0 . Deviations from these ranges, whether toward acidic or alkaline



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conditions, can affect the stability and function of both hydrolytic enzymes. Inhibition of amylase has a positive impact on duration or time-dependent regulation of blood sugar in diabetic patients, as delaying carbohydrate digestion helps reduce postprandial blood glucose levels, improve glycemic control, and potentially delay the onset of long-term diabetes-related complications (Ren et al., 2024; Sauer et al., 2000).

Various herbal extracts and their active compounds have been reported as hydrolytic enzyme inhibitors as their main antidiabetic action (Kumar et al., 2011). *Piper nigrum* L. named as “King of spices” because of its strong fragrance (Srinivasan, 2007). *P. nigrum* belongs to the family Piperaceae and is cultivated in subtropical areas all over the world (Lim, 2012). *P. nigrum* has a wide spectrum of health benefits including anti-platelet, antineoplastic, antispasmodic, anti-diarrheal, analgesic, hepato-protective and antimicrobial activity (Harman et al., 2021; Ahmad et al., 2012; Manoharan et al., 2009). Lowering sugar and cholesterol ability of *Piper* species in oil revealed its feasible process by inhibitory effect of hydrolytic enzyme (Murshida et al., 2024; Sulaimon et al., 2020; Kumar et al., 2013). *Syzygium aromaticum* L., commonly known as “clove”, is a member of Myrtaceae family, used to improve the flavor and aroma and used as preservative in variety of foods (Chaieb et al., 2007). *S. aromaticum* is habitat to the Maluku islands of Indonesia. The chemical constituents of *S. aromaticum* are pharmacologically used in many countries as antimicrobial, analgesic, carcano-protective and sedative (Abd et al., 2014; Khan et al., 2012). *S. aromaticum* contains significant amounts of phenolic compounds, which play an important role in diabetes by hydrolytic enzyme inhibition (Adefegha and Oboh 2013; Neveu et al., 2010).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Chemicals

All reagents and chemicals were of research grade chemicals and acquired by Sigma Aldrich, Merck. Di-nitrosalicylic acid for amylase assay was purchased from BDH laboratory supplies for alpha amylase assay.

Plant material extraction

Piper nigrum dried fruit and *Syzygium aromaticum* dried flower buds were purchased from the herbal market of Karachi, Pakistan. After being authenticated by Prof. Dr. Mohtasheem Ul Hassan, Department of Pharmacognosy, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan, *P. nigrum* dried fruits and *S. aromaticum* flower buds were cleaned by removal of extraneous particles and converted into powdered form by using a grinder. This powder was macerated in 200 mL phosphate buffer solution of neutral pH for three days at room temperature. Phosphate buffer is used instead of solvents because it maintains the optimal physiological pH required for activity and stability of enzyme. These 10% phosphate buffer

extracts (0.1 gm/mL) were used in enzyme inhibitory assays at different parameters, including time interval, temperature, days, and pH. Performance was done in the research laboratory of the Department of Pharmacognosy and Department of Biochemistry, University of Karachi, Pakistan.

Methodology of phytochemical screening

Standard phytochemical screening methods used for identification of various phytochemicals from methanol extracts of *Piper nigrum* dried fruit and *Syzygium aromaticum* dried flower buds (Tanwiah et al., 2024).

Production of α -amylase

An α -amylase producing bacterial strain (*Bacillus subtilis* KIBGE-HAS) was obtained from the biochemistry department, University of Karachi. Medium composition followed by (Aslam et al., 2020; Triender, 1969) which contains yeast extract (1.0 g/dl), disodium phosphate (0.1 g/dl), peptone (1.0 g/dl), starch (1.5 g/dl), and calcium chloride (0.05 g/dl). 100 mL of medium of fermentation (pH 7.0) was distributed in 10 mL in inoculum tube and autoclaved (121°C, 15 min). The inoculum tube analyzed by sterilized wire loop overfilled with bacterial strain was incubated (32°C, 48 hr.). 10 mL inoculums were transferred to 90 mL fermentation medium and then incubated for 4 days (32°C). Cells present in fermented media were isolated by centrifugation (10,000 rpm, 15 min, 4°C) (Aslam et al., 2020; Trinder, 1969).

Alpha amylase inhibitory assay at various parameters

The effect of *P. nigrum* and *S. aromaticum* extracts on the α -amylase enzyme was studied by using 3'5'-Dinitro salicylic acid (DNS) method with some modifications. For enzyme assay, potassium phosphate buffer (0.05 M) was used (pH 7.0). 3'5'-dinitrosalicylic acid was used as a reagent, and 1% starch was dissolved in potassium phosphate buffer was used as a substrate. 3'5'-Dinitro salicylic acid was used for the maltose examination (reducing sugar) in different concentrations (0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, and 1.0), whereas maltose was utilized as a standard, maltose standard curve. Different parameters for alpha amylase inhibition were determined by measuring enzyme substrate reaction with extracts at different temperatures (27°C, 37°C), times (5, 15, 25, 30 min.), days (1, 3, 6, 9), and pH (5, 6, 7, 8, 9) and measuring their absorbance by UV spectrophotometer at 546 nm. For α -amylase, a standard maltose curve was prepared to estimate the maltose formation during the starch hydrolysis by α -amylase (Wang et al., 2022; Moein et al., 2017). Two-way ANOVA was used for statistical analysis. An amylase unit is mentioned as “The amount of enzyme that generates 1.0 μ mol of maltose per minute from the starch hydrolysis as substrate in potassium phosphate buffer of pH 7.0.” One inhibitory unit of extract is established as 1 unit of inhibition activity of plant

extract, defined as “The amount of inhibitor that decreases the enzyme activity of alpha amylase by 1 unit.”

The % inhibition of alpha amylase was calculated by using the following equation:

$$\text{Reducing sugar (mg/mL)} = \text{At} - \text{Ac} \times 1/\text{IU}$$

$$\text{Residual activity} = \text{Rs} \times 100 / \text{TU}$$

$$\% \text{ inhibition} = 100 - \text{Ra}$$

Where: At = absorbance of test, Ac = absorbance of control, IU = inhibitory unit, Rs = reducing sugar, Ra = residual activity, TU = test unit

Ethical statement

This article does not use any human participant or animal for amylase inhibitory assay.

RESULTS

Phytochemical screening

Phytochemical screening of *P. nigrum* and *S. aromaticum* extracts present in supplementary file, which showed the presence of alkaloids, carbohydrates, flavonoids, glycosides, phenols, phytosterols, tannins and terpenes.

α -Amylase

P. nigrum exhibited most significant α -amylase inhibition at 7 pH ($98.0 \pm 0.0\%$), 37°C temperature ($95.3 \pm 3.1\%$), day 6 (95.34 ± 1.15) and at 15 min ($83.3 \pm 3.1\%$) whereas, *S. aromaticum* exerted stronger α -amylase inhibition at 7 pH ($100.0 \pm 0.0\%$), at 37°C temperature ($96.7 \pm 1.2\%$) and 3rd day (97.34 ± 1.15) and at 15 min ($96.7 \pm 2.3\%$) (Figures 1-4 and Tables 1-4).

DISCUSSION

Alkaloids, terpenes, and flavonoids (monocyclic and tricyclic) were found in *P. nigrum* extract. These compounds are used medicinally to treat a variety of illnesses, and they primarily demonstrated anti-diabetic, anti-obesity, and anti-oxidant properties by blocking the enzymes α -amylase (Takoorree *et al.*, 2019; Shi *et al.*, 2017). Analgesic, antidepressant, anti-diabetic, antimicrobial, anti-obesity, anti-diarrheal, and antioxidant properties are just a few of the positive health effects of piperine, a major alkaloid of *P. nigrum*, according to research studies (Ashokkumar *et al.*, 2021; Agbor *et al.*, 2012). Terpenes found in *P. nigrum* have been shown to have strong hypoglycemic and anticholinesterase effects, making them helpful in the treatment of dementia and diabetes (Conforti *et al.*, 2007).

Saturated and unsaturated fatty acids, monoterpenes, sesquiterpenes, and phenols are among the phytochemicals found in *S. aromaticum*. These compounds inhibit the enzymes α -amylase

which gives them analgesic, anesthetic, antidiabetic, antiobesity, antioxidant, and antimicrobial properties. One of *S. aromaticum*'s main constituents, eugenol, has important anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties (Alawiyah *et al.*, 2019; Pramod *et al.*, 2010). Sesquiterpene (caryophyllene), present in *P. nigrum* and *S. aromaticum*, has been shown to have anti-diabetic, and antioxidant properties due to amylase inhibition (Oghogho and Nimenibo, 2019). Amylase enzyme significantly reduced blood sugar levels in an *in vitro* study of secondary metabolites (Aljarah and Hameed, 2018).

Studies on streptozotocin-induced rats revealed that the triterpenes oleanonic acid and maslinic acid present in *S. aromaticum* suppress postprandial hyperglycemia due to α -amylase enzyme inhibition (Andile *et al.*, 2013; Khathi *et al.*, 2013; Musabayane *et al.*, 2010). *S. aromaticum* has the bioactive compound oleaonic acid, and maslinic acid is an effective compound that controls diabetes (Inoue *et al.*, 1997). *In vitro* studies reported that *P. nigrum* essential oil possesses antidiabetic potential through α -amylase inhibition (Kavitha *et al.*, 2018).

Results of α -amylase inhibition of *P. nigrum* and *S. aromaticum* at various parameters are shown in Figures 1-4 and Tables 1-4, where the extract from *S. aromaticum* showed the greatest α -amylase inhibition in comparison to *P. nigrum*. *P. nigrum* exerted maximum α -amylase inhibition at pH 7 ($98.0 \pm 0.0\%$), 37°C temperature ($95.3 \pm 3.1\%$), day 6 (95.34 ± 1.15) and at 15 min ($83.3 \pm 3.1\%$), whereas *S. aromaticum* showed $100.0 \pm 0.0\%$ inhibition at pH 7.00, ($96.7 \pm 1.2\%$) at 37°C temperature, 97.34 ± 1.15 at day 3, and $96.7 \pm 2.3\%$ at 15 min. Both plant kinetics studies have reported their alpha-amylase inhibitory potential (Moumita *et al.*, 2025; Elisa *et al.*, 2021). For the purpose of managing diabetes, piperine in *P. nigrum* inhibits α -amylase by binding to its active site through hydrophobic, hydrogen bond, and charge interactions with amino acid residues. This slows down the digestion of carbohydrates and may lower blood sugar levels (Samina *et al.*, 2025; Sudha *et al.*, 2011). By interfering with the enzyme's ability to hydrolyze carbohydrates, phenols and tannins found in *S. aromaticum* inhibit α -amylase (Amal *et al.*, 2024). These active compounds bind to various enzyme sites and form inactive complexes, which prevents the breakdown of starch into glucose and lowers blood sugar levels (Stephen and Ganiyu, 2012).

Analyzed parameters including pH, temperature, and time, significantly influence biochemical reactions (especially enzymatic ones) by affecting the enzyme's structure, the rate of molecular collisions, and the stability of assay components. The unique, 3D shape (tertiary structure) of enzymes, which are proteins, is held together by weak bonds such as ionic and hydrogen bonds between their amino acid side chains (R-groups). The solution's pH (hydrogen ion concentration) alters the ionization status of the R groups. The kinetic energy of molecules is affected by temperature, thereby influencing the frequency and

force of collisions, between enzyme and substrate molecules. It also affects the stability of the enzyme's protein structure. The duration of an assay determines how much substrate is consumed, how much product accumulates, and the potential for enzyme instability or product inhibition over time (Herlet et al., 2017).

Alpha-amylase inhibition of *P. nigrum* extract across a range of temperatures showed significant results. Both extracts

revealed maximum alpha amylase inhibitory effect at 37°C and minimum at 27°C. At high temperature the amylase will split starch gradually because of denaturation, and at low temperature amylase activity slows down because of reduced kinetic energy, so the optimal temperature that shows maximum alpha amylase enzyme activity ranges between 32°C and 37°C (Whitcomb and Lowe, 2007). *P. nigrum* and *S. aromaticum* extracts exert

Table 1: Effect of temperature and plant extract on α -amylase inhibition.

Temp	Extract	N	Mean Inhibition	Standard Inhibition	Standard Error Inhibition	Mean % inhibition $\pm$ Standard (n=3)
27	PN	3	87.34	7.57	4.372	87.34 $\pm$ 7.57
27	SA	3	96.01	2	1.155	96.01 $\pm$ 2.00
37	PN	3	95.34	3.1	1.764	95.34 $\pm$ 3.06
37	SA	3	96.68	1.15	0.667	96.68 $\pm$ 1.15

Data are mean $\pm$ SD ($n=3$), where PN = is *P. nigrum* and SA is *S. aromaticum*. The effect of temperature and extract type on α -amylase inhibition was analyzed by two-way ANOVA, with temperature (27 and 37°C) and extracts (*P. nigrum*, *S. aromaticum*) as fixed factors. For each temperature-extract combination, the assay was performed in triplicate ($n=3$). Data are presented as mean $\pm$ SD. At 27 °C, *P. nigrum* extract inhibited α -amylase activity by 87.3 $\pm$ 7.6%, whereas *S. aromaticum* showed 96.0 $\pm$ 2.0% inhibition (mean $\pm$ SD, $n=3$). At 37 °C, the corresponding values were 95.3 $\pm$ 3.1% and 96.7 $\pm$ 1.2% for *P. nigrum* and *S. aromaticum*, respectively (Table -01). Two-way ANOVA revealed no statistically significant effects of temperature [$p=0.115$], extract type [$p=0.076$], or their interaction [$p=0.173$] on percentage inhibition. Although inhibition tended to be higher for *S. aromaticum* than for *P. nigrum* and at 37°C compared with 27°C, these differences did not reach statistical significance ($p>0.05$).

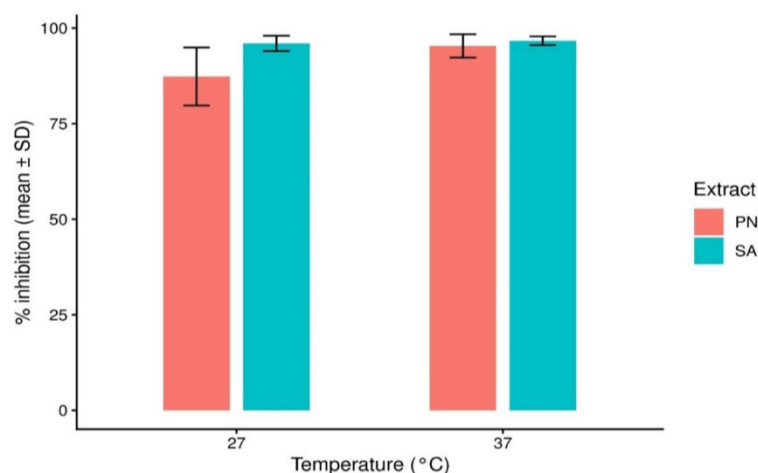


Figure 1: PN and SA effect on amylase at different temperatures.

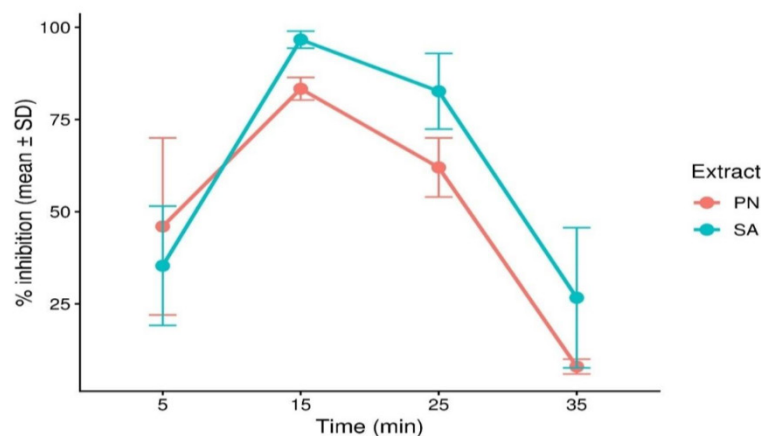


Figure 2: PN and SA effect on amylase at different time intervals.

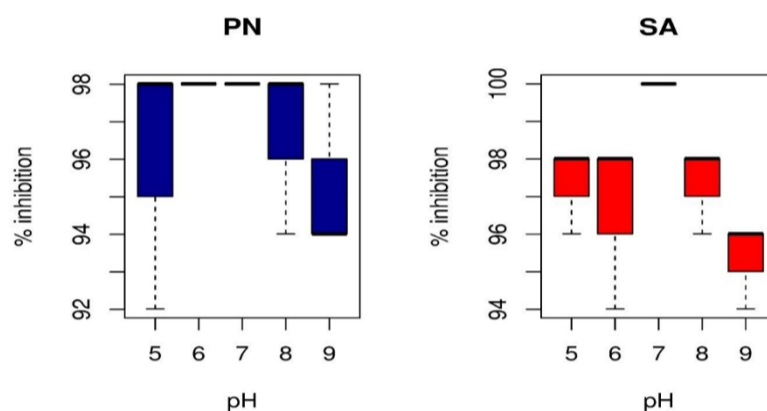


Figure 3: PN and SA effect of amylase at different pH.

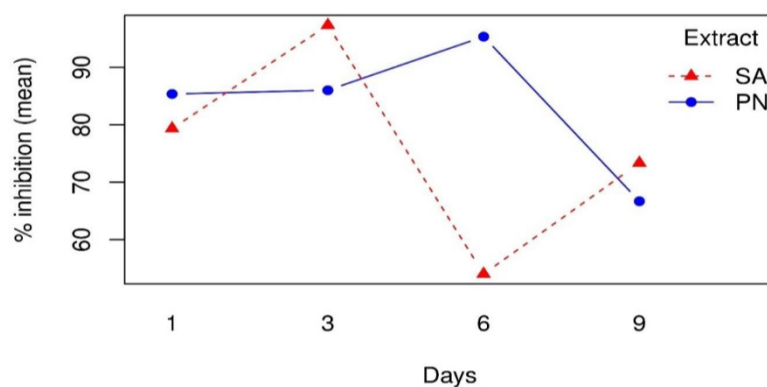


Figure 4: PN and SA effect on amylase on different days.

Table 2: Effect of time and plant extract on α amylase inhibition.

Time	Extract	N	Mean Inhibition	Standard Inhibition	Standard Error Inhibition	Mean % inhibition $\pm$ Standard (n=3)
5	PN	3	46.01	24	13.86	46.01 $\pm$ 24.00
5	SA	3	35.34	16.17	9.33	35.34 $\pm$ 16.17
15	PN	3	83.34	3.06	1.76	83.34 $\pm$ 3.06
15	SA	3	96.68	2.31	1.33	96.68 $\pm$ 2.31
25	PN	3	62.01	8	4.62	62.01 $\pm$ 8.00
25	SA	3	82.68	10.26	5.93	82.68 $\pm$ 10.26
35	PN	3	8.01	2	1.15	8.01 $\pm$ 2.00
35	SA	3	26.68	19.01	10.97	26.68 $\pm$ 19.01

For the timecourse assay, α amylase inhibition by *P. nigrum* and *S. aromaticum* extracts varied markedly with incubation time (Table 2). At 5 min, inhibition was $46.0 \pm 24.0\%$ for *P. nigrum* and $35.3 \pm 16.2\%$ for *S. aromaticum* (mean $\pm$ SD, $n=3$). It increased to $83.3 \pm 3.1\%$ and $96.7 \pm 2.3\%$ at 15 min and then declined by 35 min ($8.0 \pm 2.0\%$ and $26.7 \pm 19.0\%$ for *P. nigrum* and *S. aromaticum*, respectively). Twoway ANOVA showed a highly significant effect of time on inhibition [$p < 0.001$], whereas the main effect of extract and the time $\times$ extract interaction was not significant ($p > 0.05$).

Table 3: Effect of pH and plant extract on α -amylase inhibition.

pH	Extract	Mean Inhibition	Standard Inhibition	n	Standard Error Inhibition	Mean Standard
5	PN	96.01	3.46	3	2	96.01 $\pm$ 3.46
5	SA	97.34	1.15	3	0.67	97.34 $\pm$ 1.15
6	PN	98.01	0	3	0	98.01 $\pm$ 0.00
6	SA	96.68	2.31	3	1.33	96.68 $\pm$ 2.31
7	PN	98.01	0	3	0	98.01 $\pm$ 0.00
7	SA	100	0	3	0	100.00 $\pm$ 0.00
8	PN	96.68	2.31	3	1.33	96.68 $\pm$ 2.31
8	SA	97.34	1.15	3	0.67	97.34 $\pm$ 1.15
9	PN	95.34	2.31	3	1.33	95.34 $\pm$ 2.31
9	SA	95.34	1.15	3	0.67	95.34 $\pm$ 1.15

The inhibitory activity of *P. nigrum* and *S. aromaticum* extracts on α -amylase remained high (95-100%) over the pH range 5-9 (Table 3). Mean inhibition ranged from 95.3 $\pm$ 2.3% to 98.0 $\pm$ 0.0% for *P. nigrum* and from 95.3 $\pm$ 1.2% to 100.0 $\pm$ 0.0% for *S. aromaticum* (mean $\pm$ SD, n=3). Twoway ANOVA revealed a significant effect of pH on % inhibition [$p=0.033$], whereas the main effect of extract and the pH $\times$ extract interaction was not significant [$p=0.426$; $p=0.559$].

Table 4: Effect of days and plant extract on α -amylase inhibition.

Days	Extract	Mean Inhibition	Standard Inhibition	n	Standard Error Inhibition	Mean Standard
1	PN	85.36	4.191	3	2.42	85.36 $\pm$ 4.19
1	SA	79.34	4.163	3	2.40	79.34 $\pm$ 4.16
3	PN	86.01	5.292	3	3.06	86.01 $\pm$ 5.29
3	SA	97.34	1.155	3	0.67	97.34 $\pm$ 1.15
6	PN	95.34	1.155	3	0.67	95.34 $\pm$ 1.15
6	SA	54.01	18.330	3	10.58	54.01 $\pm$ 18.33
9	PN	66.68	11.547	3	6.67	66.68 $\pm$ 11.55
9	SA	73.34	21.197	3	12.24	73.34 $\pm$ 21.20

Incubation time markedly influenced α -amylase inhibition by both extracts (Table 4). For *P. nigrum*, inhibition increased from 85.4 $\pm$ 4.2% on day 1 to 95.3 $\pm$ 1.2% on day 6, then declined to 66.7 $\pm$ 11.5% on day 9 (mean $\pm$ SD, n=3). For *S. aromaticum*, inhibition rose from 79.3 $\pm$ 4.2% on day 1 to 97.3 $\pm$ 1.2% on day 3, dropped to 54.0 $\pm$ 18.3% on day 6, and partially recovered to 73.3 $\pm$ 21.2% by day 9. Twoway ANOVA showed a significant main effect of days [$p=0.020$] and a significant Days $\times$ Extract interaction [$p=0.003$], indicating that the timecourse pattern differed between the two extracts, while the overall main effect of extract was not significant [$p=0.125$].

hydrolytic enzyme inhibition under varying durations; both extracts exhibited more α -amylase inhibitory effect at 15 min. Enzyme inhibition can be time-dependent; some spices show powerful inhibition initially that decreases gradually, while others may have a delayed but prolonged effect. Both extracts result in digestive enzyme inhibition on all days, but the highest inhibitory potential is achieved on day 3 (*S. aromaticum*) and day 6 (*P. nigrum*), it may be influenced by its concentration or the presence of its chemical constituents. *P. nigrum* contains alkaloids (piperine), while *S. aromaticum* contains phenol (eugenol) and other compounds, which inhibit α -amylase by decreasing the rate of carbohydrate digestion and glucose absorption. This inhibition aids in postprandial glucose level management and potentially helps in controlling blood sugar level (Elisa et al., 2021; Stephen et al., 2015; Sudhir and Mohan, 2002). Both extracts exhibited maximum α -amylase inhibitory effect at pH 7 and minimum at pH 9. Optimum activity of α -amylase was found to be in the pH range of 4.5 to 7; below this pH enzyme reduces its activity.

Both extracts showed significant inhibition of digestive enzyme, but *S. aromaticum* has more potential to inhibit α -amylase than *P. nigrum* due to their high concentration of various bioactive phytochemicals included alkaloids, carbohydrates, flavonoids, glycosides, phytosterols, phenols, tannins and terpenes (monoterpenes, and sesquiterpenes). Especially phenol (eugenol), sesquiterpenes (caryophyllene) present in *S. aromaticum* interact effectively with the hydrolytic enzyme structures to inhibit their activity (Hafizah et al., 2016; Mnafigui et al., 2013).

CONCLUSION

The current investigation suggests that dried fruits of *P. nigrum* and dried flower buds of *S. aromaticum* extracts by DNS method, showed significant inhibitory effect of α -amylase at different parameters, due to the presence of their various active chemical constituents. *P. nigrum* and *S. aromaticum* extracts may be accounted for as economic and natural antidiabetic and antiobesity medicine to manage postprandial hyperglycemia by

alpha amylase inhibitory potential and their ideal parameters. Results may be useful for making various herbal formulations in the future to discover a novel medication. Pancreatic juice normally has a pH of 7.5 to 8.0 (or even up to 8.6). This is because pancreatic enzymes work best in an alkaline environment. Even though the juice is alkaline, different enzymes have slightly different ideal pH ranges: Trypsin functions best between 7.8 and 8.7 and amylase is optimal around 7.0. All of these enzymes thrive in the slightly basic conditions of the duodenum. Inhibition of amylase is helpful in reducing fat absorption and promoting weight loss and can be achieved by inhibiting pancreatic lipase, an enzyme that breaks down fats. Enzyme inhibitions can lessen pain in people with chronic pancreatitis. It accomplishes this by reducing pancreatic enzyme secretion, which lowers pancreatic duct pressure. Studies have demonstrated that inhibiting the small intestine's pancreatic digestive enzymes can improve survival following experimental shock.

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ABBREVIATIONS

DNS: 3'5'-Dinitrosalicylic Acid Reagent; **ANOVA:** Analysis of Variance; **At:** Absorbance of test; **Ac:** Absorbance of control; **IU:** Inhibitory Unit; **Rs:** Reducing sugar; **Ra:** Residual activity; **TU:** Test Unit; **Sc:** Standard concentration.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

AUTHORS CONTRIBUTION

Syeda Tayyaba Asif conducted the whole experiments. Madiha Jamshed carried out calculations. Mohtasheem Ul Hassan and Shah Ali Ul Qader analyzed the data and helped in manuscript preparation.

SUMMARY

Optimizing the alpha amylase inhibitory potential of *P. nigrum* and *S. aromaticum* extracts alongside phytochemical profiling offers a promising strategy for managing diabetes and obesity.

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