

DEVELOPMENT AND CHARACTERIZATION OF POMEGRANATE AND ORANGE FRUIT PEEL EXTRACT BASED SILVER NANOPARTICLES

Vinay C H^{1*}, Goudanavar P¹, Acharya A¹

¹Department of Pharmaceutics, Sri Adichunchanagiri College of Pharmacy, B.G. Nagara, Karnataka -571448, India.

*Corresponding Author:

Vinay C H, Research Scholar, Department of Pharmaceutic, Sri Adichunchanagiri College of Pharmacy, B.G. Nagar, Karnataka, India. E. mail : vinaykalyani9743@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Background: Nanoparticles are those whose size ranges 1 nm to 100 nm. They are in different sizes and shape, such as triangular, spherical, irregular, etc. In recent years, nanoparticles synthesis has received considerable attention due to their unique properties and potential applications. Powdered sample (100gm) was extracted with 800ml ethanol by Soxhlet extraction method for 6 hours. The resultant extract was used to prepare nanoparticles.

Methods: The main objective of the present work was to prepare pomegranate and orange peel extract based nano particles by chemical complexation method. Ethanolic extracts of pomegranate and orange peel were prepared by using Soxhlet apparatus and evaluated for phyto-chemical constituents.

Results: Qualitative analysis of pomegranate peel showed positive results for Alkaloids, Anthraquinones, Saponins and Terpenoids, where as orange peel showed positive results for Alkaloids, Tannin and Saponins. The percentage moisture content obtained from the 2 fruits (pomegranate and orange) was 72% and 96.12% respectively. The pH was found to be 3.6 and 3.8 for pomegranate and orange respectively. A zeta potential of prepared nanoparticles for pomegranate extract was found in the range of -24.6 mV to -34.5 mV (P20 & P50) and -21.4 mV to 32.0 mV (O20 & O50) for orange extract, respectively. These values of nanoparticles having higher surface charge which indicates there is least chance of aggregation. The particle size for pomegranate extract was found in the range of 118.6 nm to 231.7 nm (P20 & P30) and 178.8 nm to 191.6 nm (O20 & O50) for orange extract, respectively. These range confirms that obtained particles were in nano range, i.e. <500 nm size. SEM results indicated the formation of nanoparticles and were relatively spherical in shape. Energy dispersive spectrometry (EDS) analysis confirms the presence of AgNPs.

Conclusion: The silver nanoparticles were prepared by using fruit peels extract of pomegranate and orange. Computability study FT-IR showed no any change of functional groups of peel extracts in prepared nanoparticles. Zeta potential showed higher value hence less particle aggregation. Prepared nanoparticles were spherical in shape and having particle size of approximately 200±20nm. Further the study will be extended for anti-microbial and wound healing activities.

Key words: *Orange peel extract, Qualitative analysis, Nano particles, Zeta potential, Particle Size.*

INTRODUCTION

Nanoparticles are those whose size ranges 1 nm to 100 nm. They are in different sizes and shape, such as triangular, spherical, irregular, etc. In recent years, nanoparticles synthesis has received considerable attention due to their unique properties and potential applications¹.

Nanoparticles exhibit completely new or improved properties compared with larger particles of the bulk materials and these novel properties are derived due to the variation in specific characteristics such as size, distribution and morphology of the particles. Nanoparticles present a higher surface area to volume ration with decrease in the size of the particles².

Nanoparticles can be synthesized using various approaches including chemical, physical, and biological. Although chemical method of synthesis requires short period of time for synthesis of large quantity of nanoparticles, this method requires capping agents for size stabilization of the nanoparticles. Chemicals used for nanoparticles synthesis and stabilization are toxic and lead to non-ecofriendly by-products. The need for environmental non-toxic synthetic protocols for nanoparticles synthesis leads to the developing interest in biological approaches which are free from the use of toxic chemicals as by-products. Thus, there is an increasing demand for green nanotechnology. Plants provide a better platform for nanoparticles synthesis as they are free from toxic chemicals as well as provide natural capping agents³.

Pomegranate peel is a rich source of tannins, flavonoids, polyphenols and some anthocyanins as delphinidins, cyanidins, etc. Antioxidant and antibacterial properties of pomegranate peel in *in-vitro* model systems have been reported. All the compounds of pomegranate peels are reported to have therapeutic properties. Extracts of peels of pomegranate show antibacterial property against bacterial strains of *E. coli*, *P. aeruginosa* and *S. Aureus*⁴.

Citrus sinensis is genus of flowering plants in the family Rutaceae. Orange peels are a boon for skin, as they possess anti-microbial, anti-inflammatory and anti-fungal properties. The dried peels can be powdered and used to scrub and exfoliate skin. It is a great cleanser, helps to cure acne and pus filled pimples and remove blackheads, dark spots and pigmentation⁵.

The aim of the present study was to synthesize the pomegranate and orange fruit peel extract based nano particle

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials used

Pomegranate and orange peels were collected from local market, Bellur. Chemicals like Silver nitrate and Sodium borohydride were obtained from S.D Fine chemicals, Mumbai, India. All others chemical used were analytical grade. Milli Q water was used throughout the experiment.

Methods used

Nanoparticles Preparation

Fruits of pomegranate and orange were collected, peels were separated and washed thoroughly with tap water. The washed peels were cut in to small pieces [1-5 cm] and air dried in sunlight for 20 days. The dried fruit peels were grinded properly using a mortar and pestle and later using a grinder, to obtain the powdered form and then passed through sieve no. 40 to get uniform powder and stored at room temperature. Powdered sample (100gm) was

extracted with 800ml ethanol by Soxhlet extraction method for 6 hours. The mixture filtered through a Whatman filter paper (No. 2) for removal of peel particles. The extracts were filtered and evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure at 60°C by a rotary evaporator (Buchi, Singapore). The extracts were placed in dark bottles and stored in refrigerator at 4°C⁶.

To a 50ml of freshly prepared 0.001M Silver nitrate solution, 5ml of 0.002M Sodium borohydride solution was added with continuous stirring and kept it aside for 15 minutes in a clean 250 ml beaker till a clear and slightly dark solution is obtained. Further, this clear solution is heated and maintained in water bath at 45°C for 30 min (solution A). Pomegranate peel extract in different concentration i.e. 200mg (P20), and 500mg (P50) was dissolved in 4ml of Milli Q water separately in test tube and heated slightly to get yellow brownish colored solution. This solution was added drop wise into solution A with continuous stirring using glass rod for 30-45 min till clear tea brown solution is obtained. The obtained solution is cooled to room temperature and 0.5ml of 0.5 mcg/ml PVP solution was added as a stabilizer and filtered to get clear tea brown colored solution of silver nanoparticles. This solution was stored in a dark place in a well closed container until further use. The same procedure was followed even for the orange peel extract to get clear orange color solution of silver nanoparticles. Then prepared nanoparticles were evaluated for FTIR, particle size, zeta potential, surface morphology by SEM, X-ray diffraction and energy dispersive spectrometry⁷.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Pomegranate and orange peel extracts were subjected to various tests to confirm the presence of photochemical constituents. The UV-spectroscopic analysis showed that pomegranate peel extract, a colored solution showed maximum absorbance at 461 nm wave length⁸ (figure 1). This result is in agreement with Nisha MH et al. studies, where they reported maximum absorbance of at pomegranate peel 472 nm.⁹ Whereas orange peel extract showed absorbance at 280 nm wave length (figure 2). Hence same wave length will be used for further studies. Results of qualitative analysis revealed that pomegranate peel extract showed positive results for Alkaloids, Anthraquinones, Saponins, tannins, and Terpenoids¹⁰, where as orange peel showed positive results for Alkaloids, Tannin and Saponins¹¹. The results were tabulated in table 1. Quantitative analysis revealed that equivalent weight in mg/ml found to be 345.14 and 500.10 respectively. The percentage moisture content obtained from the 2 fruits (pomegranate and orange) was 72% and 96.12% respectively. The pH was found to be 3.6 and 3.8 for pomegranate and orange respectively. The results were tabulated in table 2.

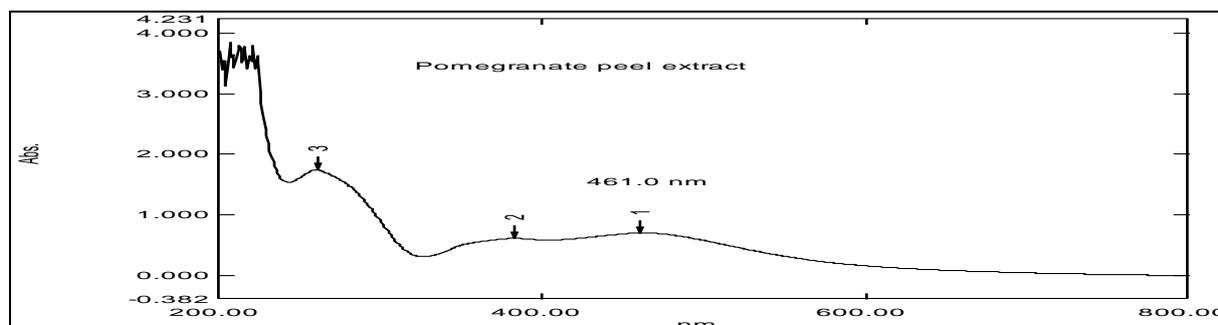


Figure 1: UV-Spectrum of pomegranate peel extract

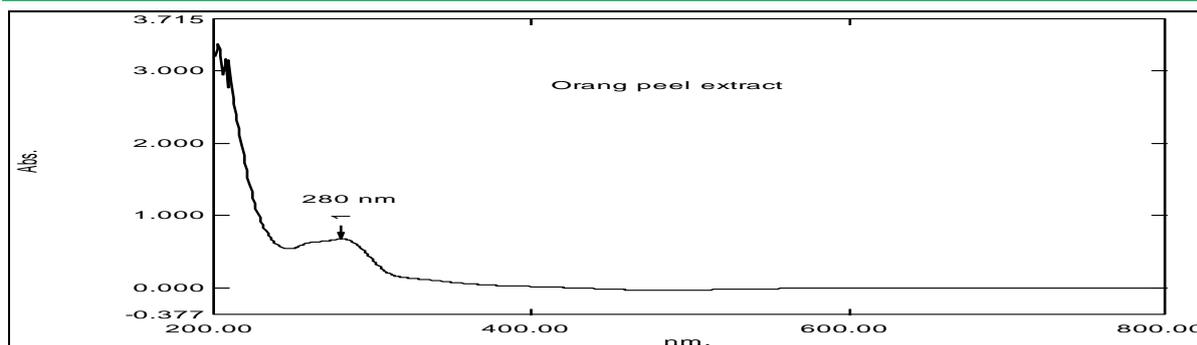


Figure 2: UV-Spectrum of orange peel extract

Table 1: Phyto-chemical analysis of ethanolic extract of pomegranate and orange peel

Phytochemicals	Pomegranate	Orange
Alkaloids	+	+
Aminoacide	-	-
Tannin	+	+
Anthraquinones	+	-
Saponins	+	+
Potein	-	-
Terpenoids	+	-
Cardiac glycosides	-	-

Note: + = Present, - = Absent

Table 2: Quantitative analysis of pomegranate and orange peel extract

Parameters	Pomegranate	Orange
Equivalent weight (mg/ml)	345.14	500.10
Ash content	30%	40%
Moisture content	72%	96.12%
pH	3.6	3.8

The FT-IR spectrum of pomegranate peel extract showed the distinct peak in the range of 3036, 2928, 1734, 1102 and 713. The absorption peaks located mainly at 3036 cm^{-1} are generally attributed to aromatic or aliphatic C–H stretching, 2928 cm^{-1} are generally assigned to the alkyl C–H stretching, whereas peaks at 1734, 1375 and 1332 cm^{-1} are due to C–O–O stretching bands, 1102 and 1050 cm^{-1} are due to C–C stretching vibrations, 713 and 624 cm^{-1} are due to acetylenic C–H bending vibrations in the region of 40–4000 cm^{-1} . All the spectrum of pomegranate peel extract are present in the pomegranate peel extract nanoparticles. Hence there was no any shift of functional groups are seen in pomegranate peel extract nanoparticles (Figure 3 & 4).

Table 3: FTIR peaks of Pomegranate peel extract and peel extract nanoparticles

Functional group	Absorption peaks (cm^{-1})	
	Pomegranate peel extract	Pomegranate peel extract nanoparticles
aromatic or aliphatic C–H stretching	3036	3038.31
alkyl C–H stretching	2928	2926.48
C–O–O stretching bands,	1734, 1375 and 1332	1338.23
C–C stretching vibrations	1102 and 1050	1008.1
acetylenic C–H bending	713 and 624	896.06

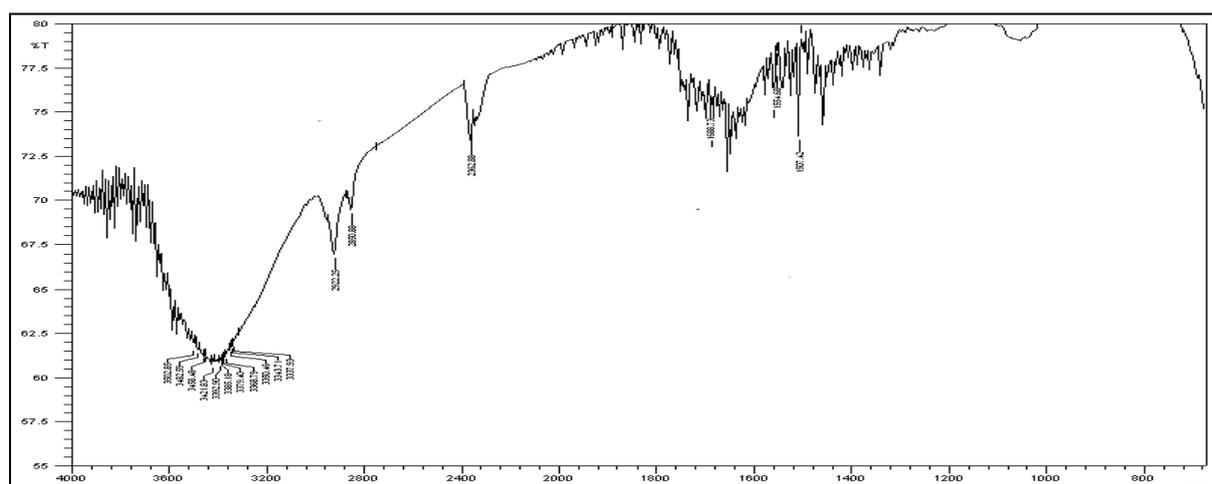


Figure 3: FTIR spectra for pomegranate peel extract

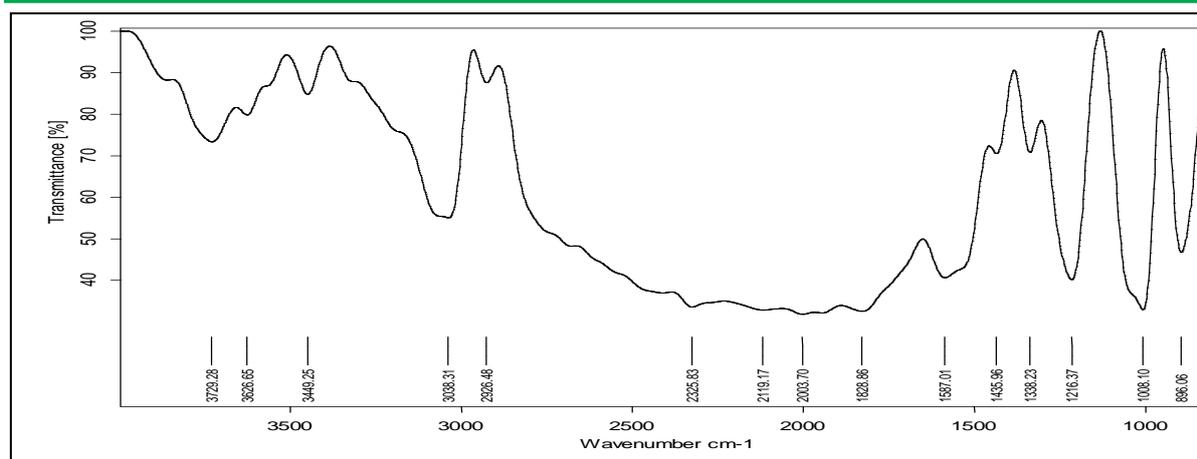


Figure 4: FTIR spectra for pomegranate peel extract nanoparticles

The FT-IR spectrum of orange peel extract showed the distinct peak in the range of 3390, 2355, 1649, 771, 677, and 424 cm^{-1} (Fig. 2a). Intense absorption is observed at 1649 cm^{-1} and is characteristic of the C=C stretching aromatic ring. The peak at 3390 and 3388 cm^{-1} reveals water and OH absorption frequency. The weak bands at 2355 and 2357 cm^{-1} indicates carbonyl specific absorption. The peak at 771 and 769 cm^{-1} corresponds to C–H stretching of aromatic compounds. The peak at 677 and 671 cm^{-1} could be assigned to the C=O stretching of carbonyl group. The broad peaks around 424 and 422 cm^{-1} are related to oxygen from hydroxyl groups. Further the comparison of FT-IR spectrum between the orange peel extract and peel-AgNPs will be done to find out any changes in the position as well as the absorption bands. All the spectrum of orange peel extract is present in the orange peel extract nanoparticles. Hence there was no any shift of functional groups are seen in orange peel extract nanoparticles (Figure 5 & 6).

Table 4: FTIR peaks of orange peel extract and orange peel extract nanoparticles

Functional group	Absorption peaks (cm^{-1})	
	Orange peel extract	Orange peel extract nanoparticles
C=C stretching aromatic ring	1649	1588.62
OH absorption	3390 and 3388	3388.62
Carbonyl group	2355 and 2357	2256.18
C–H stretching of aromatic	771 and 769	889.11

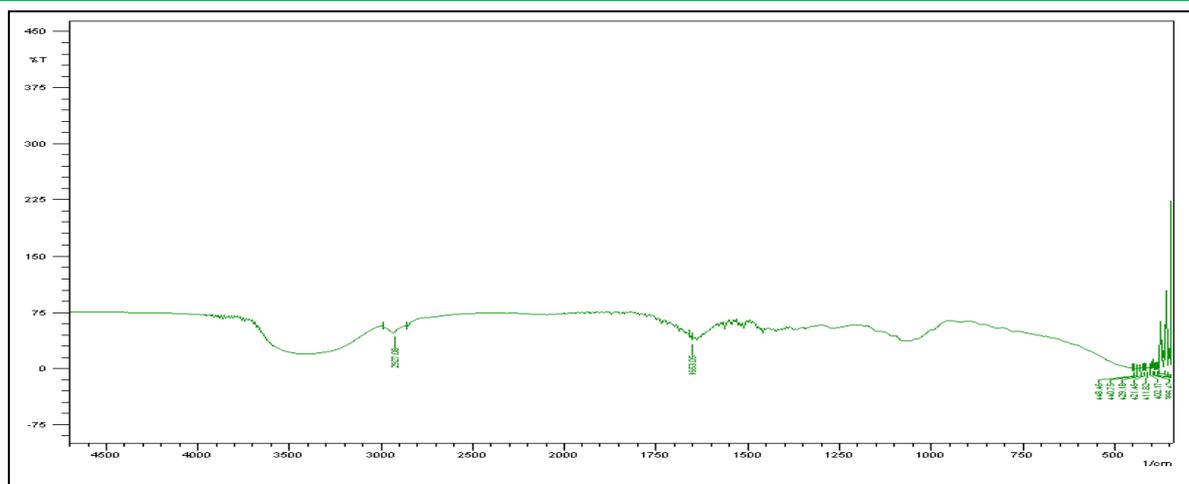


Figure 5: FTIR spectra for orange peel extract

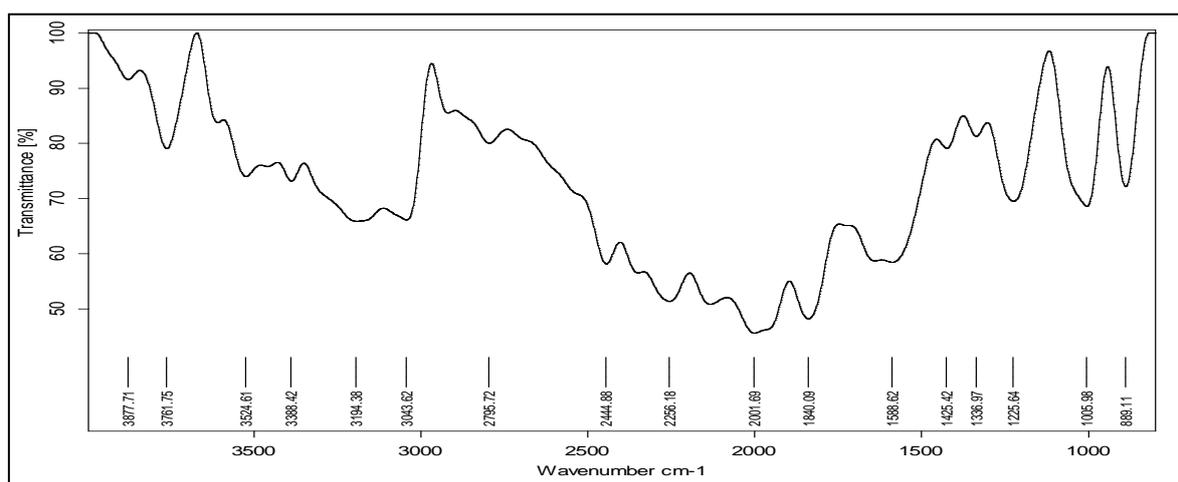


Figure 6: FTIR spectra for orange peel extract nanoparticles

The pomegranate and orange peel extracts silver nanoparticles were subjected to Zeta Potential analysis to determine the surface charge of the nanoparticles and to find out the aggregation behavior. The values of zeta potential for pomegranate peel extract silver nanoparticles were found in the range of -34.5 mV to -24.6 mV for pomegranate P50 and pomegranate P20, respectively. Whereas, in case of orange peel extract nanoparticles showed zeta potential value range from -32.0 mV to -21.4 mV for orange O50 and orange O20, respectively. Hence all batches of nanoparticles having higher surface charge which indicates there is least chance of aggregation.

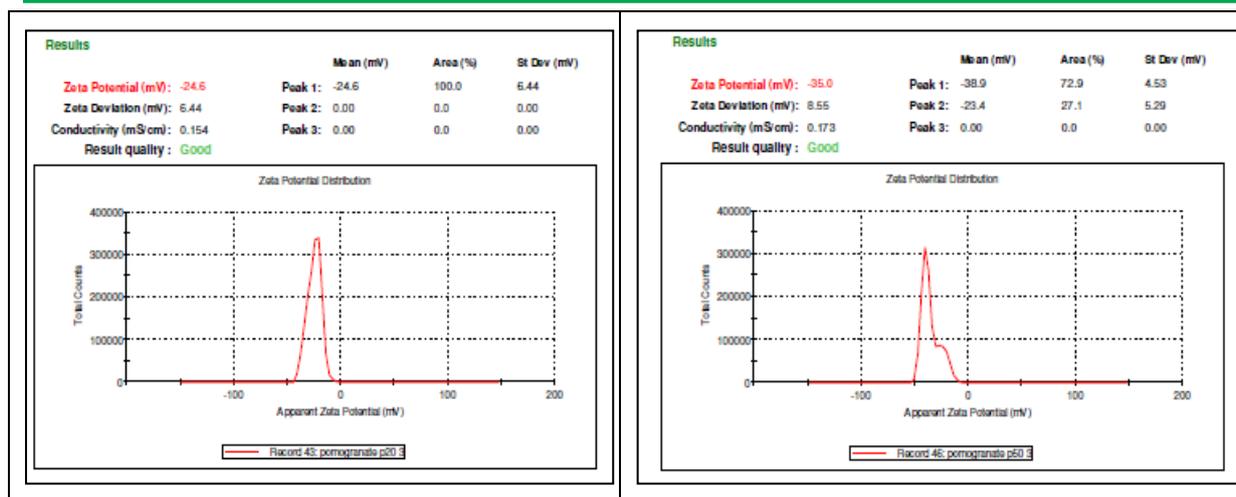


Figure 7: Zeta potential of pomegranate extract silver nanoparticles (P20, P50)

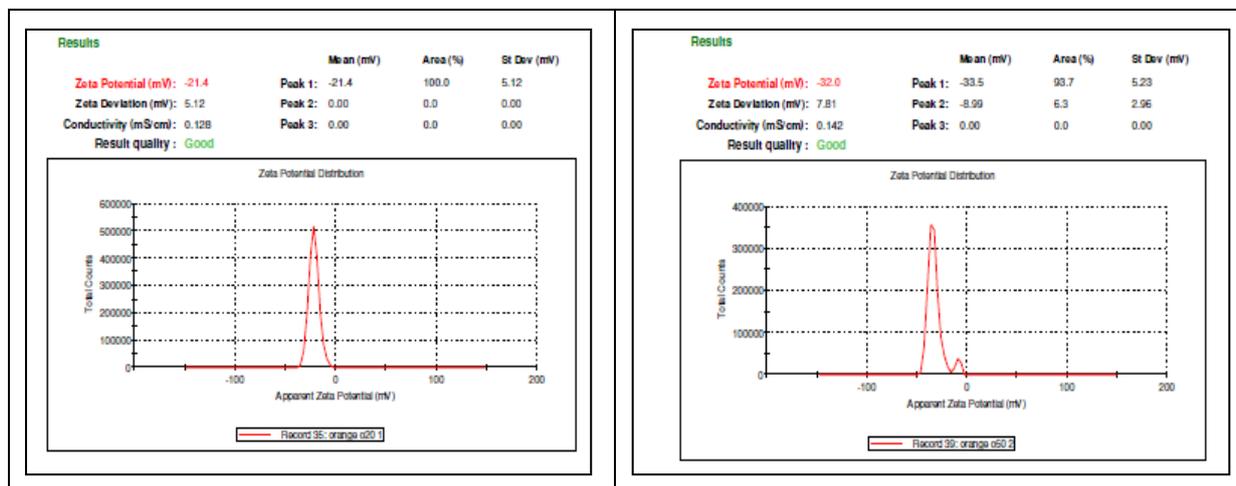


Figure 8: Zeta potential of orange extract silver nanoparticles (O20, O50)

The particle sizes of prepared nanoparticles were determined by using Malvern particle size analyzer. The values of particle size for pomegranate peel extract silver nanoparticles were found in the range of 118.6 nm to 231.7 nm for pomegranate P20 and pomegranate P30, respectively. Whereas, in case of orange peel extract nanoparticles showed particle size in the range of 178.8 nm to 191.6 nm for orange O20 and orange O50, respectively.

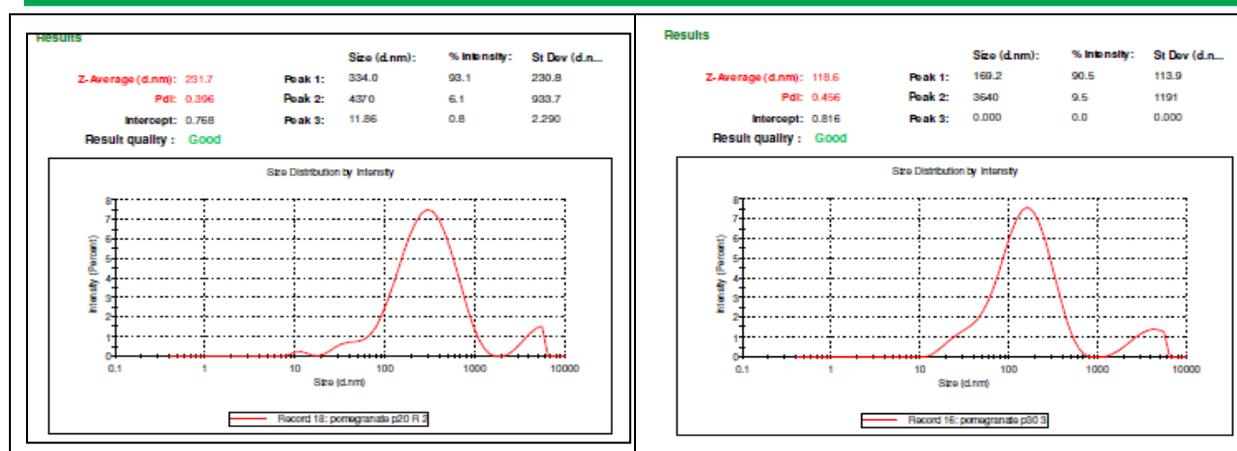


Figure 9: Particle size distribution of pomegranate extract silver nanoparticles (P20, P30)

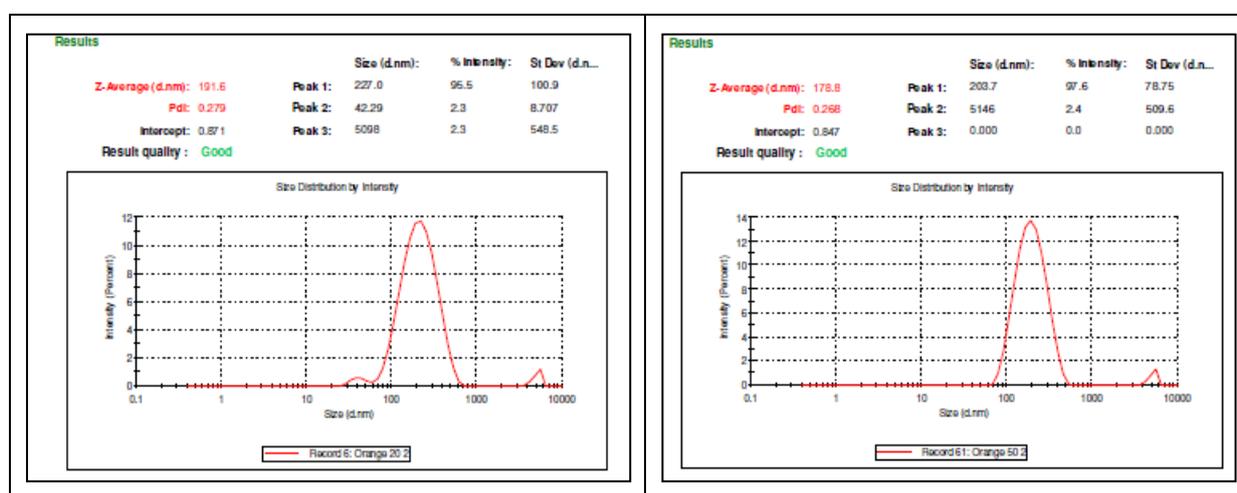


Figure 10: Particle size distribution of orange extract silver nanoparticles (O20, O50)

To confirm the crystalline nature of pomegranate peel extract, X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were obtained (Figure 11). The peaks assigned to the diffraction pattern clearly showed peaks corresponding to $2\theta = 11.36^\circ, 16.26^\circ, 19.04^\circ, 27.48^\circ, 49.26^\circ, 59.56^\circ$ and 64.07° .

To confirm the crystalline nature of orange peel extract, X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns were obtained (Figure 11). The peaks assigned to the diffraction pattern clearly showed peaks corresponding to $2\theta = 9.21^\circ, 11.36^\circ, 19.42^\circ, 38.10^\circ,$ and 67.44° .

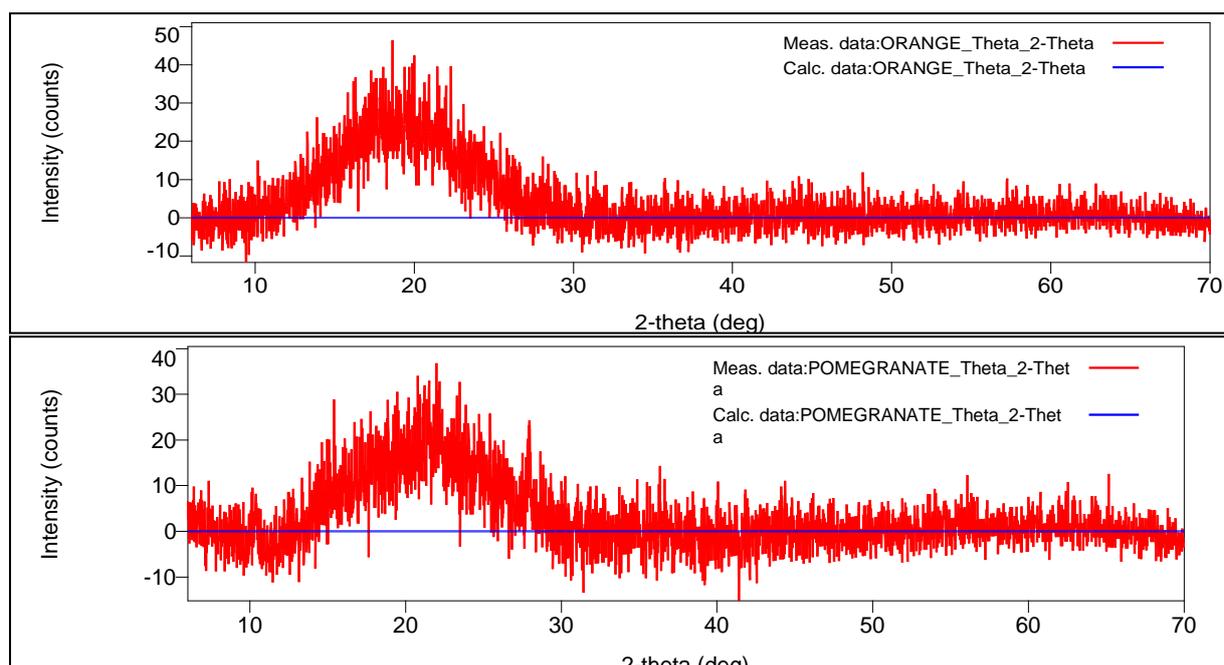


Figure 11: XRD pattern of pomegranate peel extract and orange peel extract

The surface morphology of prepared nanoparticles was determined by using SEM (Hitachi). SEM results clearly showed the formation of nanoparticles and were relatively spherical in shape and also showed there was only a small degree of agglomeration. The largest size of orange peel extract nanoparticles was 94.5 nm in size whereas pomegranate based nanoparticles had 74.9 nm. The SEM results were shown in figure 12 a (orange peel extract), 12 b (pomegranate peel extract) and 12 c, morphology of peel extract based AgNPs respectively.

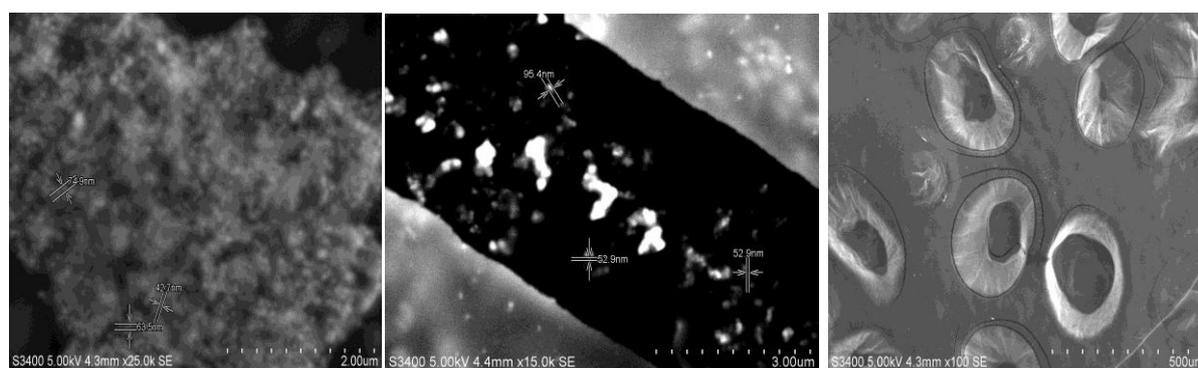


Figure 12: (a) SEM images of AgNPs by orange peel extract, (b) pomegranate peel extract and (c) AgNPs morphology respectively.

Energy dispersive spectrometer (EDS) analysis for the confirmation of elemental silver was carried out for the detection of elemental silver. The EDS microanalysis confirms the presence of AgNPs which is known to provide information on the chemical analysis of the elements or the composition at specific locations. The spectrum analysis reveals signal in the silver region and then confirms the formation of AgNPs. Metallic silver nanocrystals generally show a typical optical absorption peak at approximately 2 keV due to the surface plasmon resonance. The EDS results were shown in figure 13 a for pomegranate peel nanoparticles and 13 b for orange peel nanoparticles, respectively.

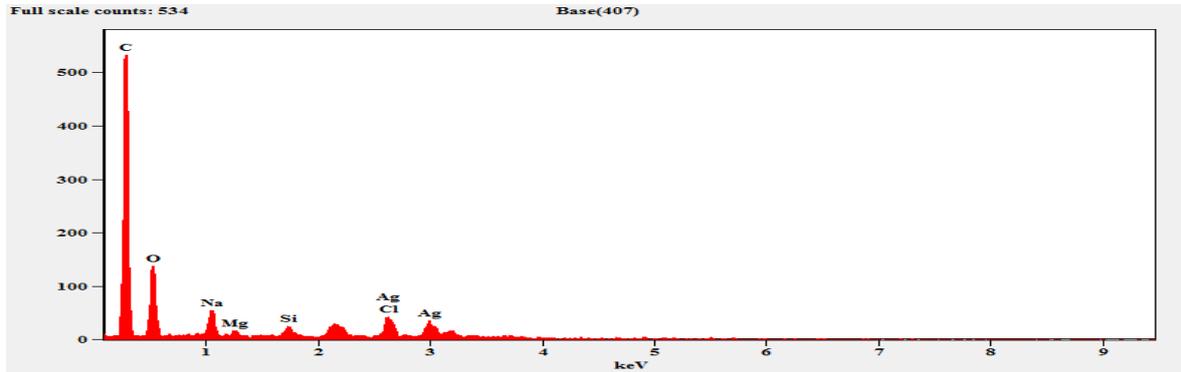


Figure 13 a. EDS pattern of spherical pomegranate peel extract AgNPs prepared

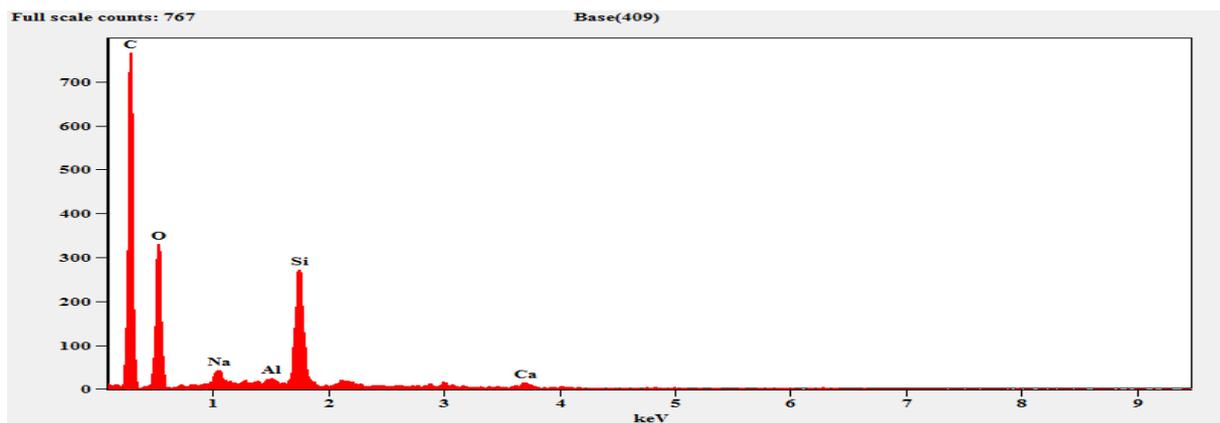


Figure 13 b. EDS pattern of spherical orange peel extract AgNPs prepared

Table 5: Quantitative Results for: Base(407)

Element Line	Weight %	Weight % Error	Atom %
C K	56.12	± 3.15	67.25
O K	30.86	± 1.38	27.76
Na K	3.94	± 0.47	2.46
Mg K	0.61	± 0.13	0.36
Si K	1.08	± 0.18	0.55
Si L	---	---	---
Cl K	2.29	± 0.29	0.93
Cl L	---	---	---
Ag L	5.11	± 0.92	0.68
Ag M	---	---	---
Total	100.00		100.00

Table 6: Quantitative Results for: Base(409)

Element Line	Weight %	Weight % Error	Atom %
C K	45.26	± 5.94	55.60
O K	38.92	± 2.13	35.88
Na K	3.18	± 0.45	2.04
Al K	0.43	± 0.13	0.24
Si K	11.10	± 0.30	5.83
Si L	---	---	---
Ca K	1.10	± 0.15	0.41
Ca L	---	---	---
Total	100.00		100.00

CONCLUSION

Pomegranate and orange peel extract based nano particles were prepared by chemical complexation method using silver nitrate. Particle size, surface morphology and elemental analysis confirm that prepared formulations were silver particle based nano particle. Further research will be extended for antimicrobial and wound healing activity using suitable animal model. Such herbal based nano particles might be safe, economically cheap and user friendly.

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