ANALYSIS ON THE ACCUMULATION OF ORIDONIN IN DIFFERENT PORTIONS OF ISODON RUBESCENS (HEMSLEY) H. HAR

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Abstract

Analysis on the accumulation of oridonin in different parts of Isodon rubescens was studied. The contents of oridonin in all parts of I. rubescens were analyzed with RP-HPLC. The results showed that the differences between the contents of oridonin in the different parts of I. rubescens are extremely significant. The content of oridonin in the leaf of I. rubescens is higher than that of other parts. The content of oridonin in the stem was close to that of leaf. The root of I. rubescens had lowest content of oridonin in the three portions. But the content of oridonin in the root obtained was 0.0811 mg/g. The root in long run should be utilized to avoid wasting the I. rubescens resources.

Introduction

It is set in the Chinese Pharmacopoeia (2015 Ed.) that Rabdosiae Rubescensis Herba (traditional Chinese medicine) is the dry aerial portions of Isodon rubescens (Hems.) H. Hara (Chinese Pharmacopoeia 2015 Ed.). I. rubescens belongs to Labiatae family (Flora of China 1979). There are much resources of I. rubescens in the Taihang Mountain in China. Rabdosiae Rubescensis Herba are used as traditional Chinese medicine for the treatment of sore throat, inflammation and gastrointestinal problems ((Sun et al. 2006). Oridonin is a bioactive chemical component in I. Rubescens, and has potent in vitro and in vivo activity against human cancer cells (Ikezoe et al. 2003, Leung et al. 2005 and Bai et al. 2010). Growers of medicinal plants usually harvest the aerial portions of I. rubescens and then dry it in the sun before sale as Rabdosiae Rubescentis Herba. I. rubescens is subshrub plant with 3 - 4 years of life. The root of I. rubescens is very flourishing. The weight of I. rubescens root is usually larger than that of its aerial parts. The reports about medicinal compositions in the root of I. rubescens are scanty. Therefore, the value of I. rubescens root is not clear. In addition, there are differences between the contents of medicinal compositions in I. rubescens stem and those in its leaf. In this study, the difference between the accumulation of oridonin in different portions of I. rubescens was analysed to fully exploit I. rubescens resources and reasonably utilize Rabdosiae Rubescentis Herba.

Materials and Methods

Shimadzu HPLC-2010 instrument, shimadzu (C18 reverse-phase column, 5 µm, 250 × 4.6 mm), electronic analytic balance (precision: 0.0001), ultrasonator and rotary evaporator were used. Methanol (AR), ethanol (AR) and acetonitrile (HPLC grade) were used as reagents. Standard oridonin (99.8 %) were purchased from Sichuan Weikeqi Biotechnology Co. Ltd. in China in June 2017.

Thirty plants of I. rubescens were randomly dug in Guanshan of Xinxiang city in Henan province China in July, 2018. The leaves, stems and roots of these plants were separated and dried to get constant weight at 40°C.

The dry leaf, stem and root of I. rubescens were respectively crushed and sieved with 80 meshes sieve. Each material was weighed for 2 g and extracted with 25 ml ethanol solvent (75%)
in the ultrasonic bath for 30 min. The mixture was filtered with filter paper. The residue was extracted with the same solvent (25 ml of 75% ethanol) and filtered once again. This filtrate was merged and added to 50 ml. The extract was filtered with 0.22 µm membrane filter. The extraction of each kind material was repeated three times. Standard oridonin solutions were prepared at 0.001, 0.005, 0.025, 0.05 and 0.15, mg/ml respectively.

The Diamonsil C18 reverse-phase column (5 µm, 250 x 4.6 mm) was used as HPLC column. The temperature in HPLC column was 35ºC. The volume of extract injected was 10 µl. The gradient mobile phase consists of acetonitrile and water. The content (v/v) of acetonitrile in the gradient mobile phase varied from 25 to 29 % in 0 - 10 min, 29 % in 10 - 15 min and 29 to 30 % in 15 - 20 min. The flow rate of mobile phase was 0.8 ml/min. A variable wavelength recorder was set at 238 nm to detect ingredients eluted from the column.

These standard solutions and prepared extracts were respectively analyzed according to the above HPLC method. Chromatography peak areas of oridonin in each chromatogram were respectively recorded. These contents of oridonin in extracts were analyzed according to their chromatography peak areas and the standard curves (relating these peak areas to their contents). All of the data were analyzed with SPSS (Statistical Product and Service Solutions).

Results and Discussion

The HPLC chromatogram of standard oridonin is presented in Fig. 1. The retention time of oridonin is 14.304 min.

The standard curve of oridonin is set up according to the contents and their corresponding peak areas (Table 1 and Fig. 2). The adopted standard curve of oridonin is $y = 10020360.7899 \times + 685.1315$ (x: Concentration, y: Peak area, $R^2 = 0.9999$).

![HPLC chromatograms of standard oridonin.](image)

The peaks of oridonin in extract chromatograms were identified according to their retention time in HPLC (Fig. 3). The concentrations of oridonin in extracts were analyzed according to their peak areas and standard curves (Table 2). The contents of oridonin in *I. rubescens* materials were analyzed according the methods of preparation extract.
The results showed that there was large difference between the contents of oridonin in the different portions of *I. rubescens*. Then the variance and multiple comparisons on these contents of oridonin in the different portions of *I. rubescens* were analysed (Table 2).
The differences between the contents of oridonin in different portions of *I. rubescens* were extremely significant (p < 0.01). The content of oridonin in the leaf of *I. rubescens* is higher than that of other portions. The stem of *I. rubescens* owns close content of oridonin to that of leaf. The root of *I. rubescens* has lowest content of oridonin in the three portions. But the content of oridonin in the root achieve 0.0811 mg/g.

Table 2. Contents of oridonin in *I. rubescens* materials.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part</th>
<th>Peak area (mg)</th>
<th>Concentration (mg/ml)</th>
<th>Content (mg/g)</th>
<th>Multiple comparisons*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leaf</td>
<td>1332583</td>
<td>0.132918953</td>
<td>3.322974</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf</td>
<td>1115786</td>
<td>0.111283315</td>
<td>2.782083</td>
<td>3.106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf</td>
<td>1288220</td>
<td>0.128491669</td>
<td>3.212292</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stem</td>
<td>502622</td>
<td>0.050091534</td>
<td>1.252288</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stem</td>
<td>571380</td>
<td>0.05695336</td>
<td>1.423834</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stem</td>
<td>593876</td>
<td>0.059198388</td>
<td>1.47996</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Root</td>
<td>35001</td>
<td>0.003424473</td>
<td>0.085612</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Root</td>
<td>30327</td>
<td>0.002958023</td>
<td>0.073951</td>
<td>0.0811c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Root</td>
<td>34271</td>
<td>0.003351622</td>
<td>0.083791</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The mean difference is significant at the 0.01 level. The different letters indicate, there is obvious difference between these means. The same letters indicate there is not obvious difference between these means.

The dry aerial portions of *Isodon rubescens* is used as Rabdosiae Rubescentsis Herba which is specified in the Chinese Pharmacopoeia (Chinese Pharmacopoeia 2015 Ed.). There are very a few published reports about the accumulation of oridonin in different portions of *Isodon rubescens* (SU et al. 2009). The result of present study and other published reports similarly showed that the contents of oridonin in the aerial portions (especially leaf) of *Isodon rubescens* are all higher than that of root (SU et al. 2009). The content of oridonin in the root achieve 0.0811 mg/g. Therefore, the root of *I. rubescens* has considerable medicinal value. The root would be exsiccated in 3-4 years if it be harvested for *I. rubescens* possesses 3-4 years of life. The root in long age should be utilized to avoid wasting the *I. rubescens* resources.

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**References**


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