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E-mail: bjsir07@gmail.com



Physico-chemical properties and mineral content of selected tropical fruits in Bangladesh

R. Ara^{1,2}, S. Jahan³, A. T. M. Abdullah³, A. N. M. Fakhruddin¹ and B. K. Saha³*

Abstract

Physico-chemical properties and mineral contents of tropical fruits available at local market in Dhaka city were evaluated as fruits are the essential part of human diet to supply required micronutrient. Among the analyzed fruits, maximum and minimum amount of moisture was found in java apple (93.26±1.77%) and indian plum (66.86±1.81%) respectively. Mango contains highest amount of total soluble solids (15.20±0.81%) and total sugar (4.71±0.08%). Highest and lowest amount of vitamin C was found in guava (212.82±6.92 mg/100g) and java apple (10±1.77 mg/100g) respectively. Approximate energy value was found highest in indian plum (128.1±5.51kcal/100g) and lowest in green palmyra palm (27.7±2.64 kcal/100g). Indian plum (139.32±9.53mg/100g) and mango (34.03±6.81mg/100g) contain highest and lowest amount of sodium whereas rose apple (75.15±0.02mg/100g) and mango (10.23±1.94mg/100g) contain highest and lowest amount of potassium respectively. Heavy metals (As, Cd, Pb and Hg) were not detected in analyzed tropical fruits. This study suggests that the tropical fruits are enriched in micronutrients.

Keywords: Tropical fruits; Physico-chemical properties; Vitamin C; Mineral content; Heavy metals

Introduction

The composition of fruits may vary from one continent to another, one country to another in the same continent and in the same country and also may occur region to region due to change of climatic condition and sometimes rainfall (Haque *et al.*, 2009). A large number of tropical fruits and vegetables were grown in Bangladesh have a high nutritional value and play an important role in human nutrition (Rahman *et al.*, 2007) and also enriched in antioxidant, minerals, vitamins and dietary diversification (Jahan *et al.*, 2011). Small amount of micronutrients are needed for good health along with energy. Vitamins are vital in the control of bio-chemical reaction (Carr and Frei, 1999).

Fruit and vegetables are important components of a healthy diet and recent epidemiological studies suggest that regular consumption of adequate amounts could help to prevent major chronic diseases. Fruit and vegetables are important source of natural antioxidants which provide protection against various types of diseases and other health benefits (Shui and Leong, 2006). Increased consumption of fruit and vegetables significantly reduce the incidence of chronic

diseases, such as cancer, cardiovascular diseases and other aging-related pathologies (Prakash *et al.*, 2012).

There are some food composition tables available in Bangladesh which does not include all tropical fruits as well as limited to data in aspect of physico-chemical properties, minerals and heavy metal content, which is essential for national nutritional planning as well as nutritionist, dietician and consumers. The present study has conducted to address of physico-chemical properties, minerals and heavy metal contents in selected tropical fruits (e.g. guava, pomelo, karanda, mango, java apple, rose apple, indian plum, green palmyra palm and jujube) of Bangladesh collected from different local market of Dhaka city, those the people of Bangladesh usually take in their daily life. Findings from this study may provide information for national food composition table in some extent.

Materials and Methods

Experiments were carried out in Fruit Technology Research Section at Institute of Food Science & Technology (IFST),

¹Department of Environmental Sciences, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka-1342, Bangladesh.

²Department of Food Engineering and Tea Technology, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet -3114, Bangladesh.

³Institute of Food Science & Technology, Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Dhanmondi, Dhaka- 1205, Bangladesh.

^{*}Corresponding author: E-mail: bksbcsir@yahoo.com

Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), Dhaka. The same fruit samples were collected from three different local markets in Dhaka city. Collected samples were fresh, matured, well shaped and free from insect's bites and other organoleptic deterioration. The freshly collected sample was washed with de-ionized water to eliminate visible dirt and removed the water quickly with a blotting paper. Then the samples were cut into small pieces, homogenized and accurate amount was weighed as required for different analysis. The samples were analyzed for three replication.

The edible portion of whole fruit was determined by subtracting the weight of inedible parts of fruits from the weight of whole fruits. The p^H of fruit extract was determined with a digital pH meter (Type H1 98106 by HANNA) and titratable acidity was estimated with the visual acid base by digital method (Ranganna, 1986). Crude fiber was determined by standard AOAC method (AOAC, 2005). Moisture content was determined by digital moisture analyzer (AnD MX-50). The total soluble solid (TSS) was determined with a hand refractometer (Type ATAGO, Model-9099). Reducing sugar and total sugar were determined by Lane and Eynon method (Ranganna, 1986). The estimation of total protein was made by Kjeldahl method and the total fat content of sample was determined by the

standard AOAC method (AOAC, 2005). The content of total carbohydrate was determined by the following equation:

Total Carbohydrate (%) = $100 - \{\text{Moisture (\%)} + \text{Protein (\%)} + \text{Fat (\%)} + \text{Ash (\%)} \}$

Vitamin C was estimated by 2, 6-Dichlorophenolindophenol visual titration method according to AOAC (AOAC, 2005). Ash was determined by heating sample at 600°C in muffle furnace (Type Gallenkamp, Model-S90 NC/NA) for six hours until a constant weight was reached. Mineral solutions were prepared to analyze minerals and heavy metals (Kirk and Sawyer, 1991). All the minerals and heavy metals were estimated by Flame Atomic Absorption Spectrometric method (Thermo-Scientific iCE 3000 series, Atomic Absorption Spectrometer), and vapor hydride generation system used in case of As and Hg analysis. The approximate food energy was estimated (Edeoga *et al.*, 2003), using equation:

 $FE = \{(\%TC-\%CF) \times 4\} + (\%TF \times 9) + (\%TP \times 4)$

Where, FE = Food Energy in Kcal/100g, TC= Total Carbohydrate, CF = Crude Fiber, TF= Total Fat, TP = Total Protein.

Table I. Physico-chemical properties of selected tropical fruits (Result expressed as per 100 gm of edible portion)

Name of the fruits	Edible Portion (%)	p^{H}	Moisture (%)	TSS (%)	Total Sugar (%)	Reducing Sugar (%)	Titratable acidity (%)	Total Carbohydrate (gm)	Total Protein (gm)	Total Fat (gm)	Ash (gm)	Crude Fiber (gm)	Total Energy (Kcal)	Vitamin C (mg)
Guava (Psidium guajava)	99.78±0.05	4.20±0.05	85.30±2.28	5.35±0.31	3.69±0.31	2.16±0.15	0.38±0.04	12.06±2.04	1.59±0.14	0.48±0.04	0.57±0.06	3.21±0.18	46.08±2.23	212.82±6.92
Pomelo (Citrus maxima)	51.14±2.39	4.22±0.03	84.67±1.82	7.30±0.08	4.14±0.06	3.57±0.13	0.76±0.06	14.15±1.35	0.54±0.03	0.39±0.02	0.25±0.05	0.35±0.04	60.87±5.00	160.98±5.88
Rose Apple (Syzygium jambos)	75.86±3.28	5.40±0.02	87.32±1.70	6.78±0.24	3.90±0.14	3.11±0.07	0.25±0.04	11.78±1.39	0.07±0.01	0.36±0.04	0.47±0.02	1.01±0.08	46.6±2.84	25.00±2.95
Indian Plum (Flacourtia jangomas)	84.13±2.70	3.64±0.01	66.86±1.81	6.52±0.17	4.16±0.28	3.24±0.17	0.51±0.09	31.31±3.64	0.69±0.05	0.42±0.03	0.72±0.02	0.92±0.10	128.1±5.51	75.00±4.15
Karanda (Carissa carandas)	85.07±2.57	3.11±0.01	83.51±1.29	5.20±0.06	1.79±0.09	0.45±0.05	1.28±0.08	15.16±2.06	0.88±0.04	0.11±0.03	0.34±0.03	0.95±0.11	61.35±2.53	25.00±2.82
Green Palmyra palm (Borassus flabellifer)	21.06±1.70	5.67±0.01	91.60±1.45	6.65±0.10	4.09±0.07	3.29±0.09	0.12±0.02	7.71±0.08	0.24±0.05	0.10±0.02	0.35±0.06	1.25±0.07	27.7±2.64	17.50±2.52
Mango (Mangifera indica)	61.28±2.15	4.03±0.02	85.75±1.24	15.20±0.81	4.71±0.08	3.99±0.13	0.28±0.02	12.83±1.83	1.11±0.08	0.14±0.02	0.17±0.04	2.72±0.09	46.14±3.55	45.00±5.71
Java Apple (Syzygium samarangense)	95.43±1.62	4.65±0.01	93.26±1.77	4.78±0.20	3.07±0.10	2.35±0.09	0.44±0.04	4.91±0.20	0.51±0.13	1.16±0.09	0.16±0.03	0.86±0.10	28.68±5.90	10.00±1.77
Jujube (Zizyphus mauritiana)	85.89±1.68	3.58±0.02	84.09±1.21	4.78±0.07	0.96±0.13	0.67±0.05	1.28±0.07	12.99±2.32	1.39±0.09	1.00±0.16	0.53±0.10	2.08±0.23	58.2±5.55	113.00±7.70

Each value represents the Mean±SD.

Dietary fiber was not analyzed and not considered in the calculation of total energy though fruits contain fair amount of dietary fiber among crude fiber and that's why in this case food energy may be termed as approximate food energy.

Results and Discussion

In Table I, edible portion, p^H, moisture, TSS, total sugar, reducing sugar, titratable acidity, total carbohydrate, total protein, total fat, ash, crude fiber, total energy and vitamin C values are given. The highest amount of edible portion was observed in guava (99.78±0.05%). Edible portion of guava may be 100% because many people consume the whole portion (pericarp and seed) of guava. Among the selected fruits, the lowest amount of edible portion was found in green Palmyra palm (21.06±1.70%). The value is logical due to thick skin of green Palmyra palm.

The p^H value among the tropical fruits was found to vary $(3.11\pm0.01\%$ to $5.67\pm0.01\%$). The highest amount of p^H and the lowest amount of titratable acidity was observed in green palmyra palm $(5.67\pm0.01\%)$ and $(0.12\pm0.02\%)$ respectively. The lowest amount of P^H was observed in karanda $(3.11\pm0.01\%)$ and the highest value of titratable acidity was found almost same for karanda and jujube $(1.28\pm0.08\%)$. The moisture content of the selected fruits ranged between $66.86\pm1.81\%$ and $93.26\pm1.77\%$. Among the analyzed fruits, java apple contains the highest amount of moisture $(93.26\pm1.77\%)$ and the lowest amount of moisture $(66.86\pm1.81\%)$ was found in indian plum. It was reported that, moisture content of different tropical fruits varied from $(79.1 \pm 0.01\%)$ (Gopalan *et al.*, 1993).

The total soluble solid (TSS) among the selected fruits ranges from $4.78\pm0.20\%$ to $15.20\pm0.81\%$. The highest amount of

Table II. Mineral contents of selected tropical fruits (Result expressed as per 100 gm of edible portion)

Name of the fruits	Copper (mg)	Iron (mg)	Zinc (mg)	Manganese (mg)	Sodium (mg)	Potassium (mg)	Calcium (mg)	Magnesium (mg)	Aluminium (mg)
Guava (Psidium guajava)	21.30±3.12	ND	2.47±0.46	ND	68.78±11.24	15.65±3.07	27.13±4.42	2.75±0.29	ND
Pomelo (Citrus maxima)	0.02±0.03	ND	ND	ND	58.72±3.13	13.71±4.05	28.46±4.02	1.07±0.13	0.50±0.23
Rose Apple (Syzygium jambos)	12.82±3.83	ND	ND	ND	91.36±3.28	75.15±0.02	34.56±1.70	5.98±0.24	1.05±0.14
Indian Plum (Flacourtia jangomas)	ND	ND	ND	2.85±0.26	139.32±9.53	56.19±7.42	79.41±4.96	28.62±5.46	0.69±0.07
Karanda (Carissa carandas)	ND	ND	ND	ND	38.04±6.75	23.61±1.98	28.89±3.68	1.86±0.36	0.60±0.06
Green Palmyra palm (Borassus flabellifer)	ND	ND	ND	ND	56.74±6.52	41.20±6.85	23.15±3.76	7.32±0.26	0.25±0.05
Mango (Mangifera indica)	ND	ND	ND	6.16±1.19	34.03±6.81	10.23±1.94	19.45±5.27	1.54±0.51	0.22±0.10
Java Apple (Syzygium samarangense)	6.86±1.82	ND	17.2±4.50	32.64±5.08	60.73±4.92	23.78±3.45	43.01±2.26	0.77±0.08	ND
Jujube (Zizyphus mauritiana)	ND	ND	ND	ND	49.53±5.05	68.19±12.06	36.31±8.02	19.66±1.90	ND

ND= Not detected
Each value represents the Mean±SD.

TSS was found in mango (15.20±0.81%) and the lowest amount of TSS was found in java apple and jujube (4.78±0.20%). Generally, TSS indicates more sugar in the pulp. The more ripe the fruits the more amount of sugar in fruits (Haque et al., 2009). The sugar content of fresh fruits ranges between 2% and 30% (Norman, 1976). This range is as similar to our present study. Mango contains the highest amount of total sugar (4.71±0.08%) and reducing sugar (3.99±0.13%). The lowest amount of reducing sugar was found in karanda (0.45±0.05%) and the lowest amount total sugar was found in jujube (0.96±0.13%). In this study, it was found that protein content of different tropical fruits ranges between 0.07±0.01% and 1.59±0.14%. The highest amount of protein was found in guava (1.59±0.14%) and the lowest amount of protein was found in rose apple (0.07±0.01%). It was reported that in fruits, maximum protein content ranges 1.57% to 5.42% but in the different varieties tropical fruits it varies from 0.4 to 0.8% (Gopalan et al., 1993). Usually fat content of different fruits is not greater than 1% (Norman, 1976). In our study, it was found that the fat content of different fruit ranges between 0.10±0.02% and 1.16±0.09%. The highest amount of fat was found in java apple (1.16±0.09%) and the lowest amount of fat was found in green palmyra palm (0.10±0.02%). The total amount of ash (minerals) present in selected fruits ranges between 0.16±0.03% and 0.72±0.02%. Maximum content of ash was found in indian plum (0.72±0.02%) and minimum content of ash was found in java apple $(0.16\pm0.03\%)$.

Maximum content of crude fiber was found in guava (3.21±0.18%) and minimum content of crude fiber was found in pomelo (0.35±0.04%). In this study, total carbohydrate present in fruits ranges between 4.91±0.20 % and 31.31±3.64%. The highest amount of carbohydrate was present in indian plum (31.31±3.64%) and the lowest amount of carbohydrate was found in java apple (4.91±0.20%). Fruits, rich in carbohydrates provide high amount of energy. Indian plum show the highest amount of approximate food energy (128.1±5.51kcal/100g) due to its high carbohydrate content and the green palmyra palm shows the lowest amount of approximate food energy (27.7±2.64 kcal/100g). In present study we observed that, guava contain highest amount of vitamin C (212.82±6.92mg/100g) and java apple contain lowest amount of vitamin C (10±1.77mg/100g). Nutrient database showed the range of vitamin C in the tropical fruits from 9.01 to 210.47 mg/100g (USDA, 2010) which has been analyzed by using HPLC method whereas the information revealed from this study on vitamin C has been estimated by 2, 6-Dichlorophenolindophenol visual titration method according to AOAC instead of HPLC method. The North American Dietary Reference, recommended daily intake of vitamin C 90 mg and not more than 2 gm (USDA, 2010) and whereas in case of adult (19-65 years) population group recommended nutrient intake (RNI) for vitamin C is 45mg/day (WHO/FAO, 2002).

In Table II, the minerals content are depicted. The anti-oxidant minerals those are found in selected fruit

Table III. Toxic heavy metal contents of selected tropical fruits (Result expressed as per 100 g of edible portion)

Arsenic(µg)	Cadmium(mg)	Lead(mg)	Mercury(µg)	
ND	ND	ND	ND	
ND	ND	ND	ND	
ND	ND	ND	ND	
ND	ND	ND	ND	
ND	ND	ND	ND	
ND	ND	ND	ND	
ND	ND	ND	ND	
ND	ND	ND	ND	
ND	ND	ND	ND	
	ND	ND N	ND N	

ND= Not detected

Detection limit: Arsenic = 1.5ppb, Cadmium = 0.20ppm, Lead = 0.25ppm, Mercury = 2.0ppb

samples are copper, manganese and zinc. These minerals are called micro-minerals. Copper was found in guava, rose apple, pomelo and java apple 21.30±3.12mg/100g, 12.82±3.83mg/100g, 0.02±0.03mg/100g and 6.86±1.82mg/100g respectively. Iron content was not detected in analyzed fruits. Among the analyzed fruits, zinc was found in guava and java apple, 2.47±0.46mg/100g and 17.20±4.50mg/100g respectively. Manganese content of the selected fruits was found in indian plum, mango and java apple, 2.85±0.26mg/100g, 6.16±1.19mg/100g and 32.64±5.08mg/100g respectively.

It was observed that sodium presents in different fruits ranges between 139.32±9.53mg/100g and 34.03±6.81mg/100g. The highest amount of sodium was found in indian plum (139.32±9.53mg/100g) and lowest amount of sodium was found in mango (34.03±6.81mg/100g). In analyzed fruits, potassium present in different fruits ranges between 75.15±0.02mg/100g and 10.23±1.94mg/100g. The highest amount of potassium was found in rose apple (75.15±0.02mg/100g) and lowest amount of potassium (10.23±1.94mg/100g) was found in mango. Potassium content of tropical fruits varies from 45 to 450mg/100g (Gopalan et al., 1993). Calcium amount in this study was found between 79.41±4.96mg/100g and 19.45±5.27mg/100g. It was reported that calcium content of tropical fruits varies from 4-50mg/100g (Gopalan et al., 1993). Among the fruits analyzed, the highest amount of magnesium was found in indian plum (28.62±5.46mg/100g) and lowest amount was found in java apple (0.77±0.08mg/100g). Among the analyzed fruits, aluminium content ranges 1.05±0.14mg/100g and 0.22±0.10mg/100g. The highest amount of aluminium present in (1.05±0.14mg/100g) and lowest amount was found in mango $(0.22\pm0.10 \text{mg}/100 \text{g}).$

Toxic heavy metals namely arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury were studied. In Table III, values of toxic heavy metals are given. These heavy metals are harmful and become toxic for health if they are taken above the permissible limit. Among the fruits analyzed arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury were not detected. So the consumption of analyzed fruits are safe from heavy metal contamination.

Conclusion

Present study indicates that tropical fruits of Bangladesh are affluent sources of fiber, vitamin C and as well as many important minerals. The analyzed fruits contain adequate amount of fiber, a small amount of protein and fat. They also rich in sodium, potassium, calcium and magnesium and a

little amount of zinc, manganese. Indian plum contains highest amount of energy and also sodium, calcium and magnesium. Rose apple contains highest amount of potassium. Java apple contains the highest amount of zinc. The heavy metals were not detected among the analyzed fruits, for this reason they are safe for consumption. This study will help the people to maintain their dietary requirements of micronutrients through consumption of tropical fruits. Regular intake of tropical fruits may alleviate the prevalence of micronutrient deficiency problem from Bangladesh and this information will be good resource for the food composition table as well.

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