# CITRUS WASTE REUSE FOR HEALTH BENEFITS AND PHARMA-/NEUTRACEUTICAL APPLICATIONS

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#### ABSTRACT

Citrus are the largest fruit crops grown across the globe. It is one of the most profitable crops in terms of economy as well as popular for nutritional benefits. The most interesting aspect about citrus is the availability of several varieties with attractive colours. Approximately 50 % of citrus remains unconsumed after processing as pith residue, peels and seeds. Direct disposal of these wastes cause serious environmental problems in terms of killing natural flora in the soil because of antibacterial properties of limonene oils. Seepage to underground waters or open water bodies affects water quality and aquatic life, respectively. Citrus waste reuse to obtain value added-phytochemicals and pectin is one of the popular topics in industrial research, food and synthetic

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chemistry. The present article reviews recent advances in exploring the effects of phytochemical compounds obtained from citrus wastes in view of various health aspects.

Key words: Citrus waste, Phytochemical compounds, Hesperidin, Naringenin, Flavonoids, Polyphenols

## INTRODUCTION

Citrus fruits have long been known for health benefits due to their nutrient contents and secondary metabolites, such as ascorbic acid, citric acid, phenolics, flavanoids, pectin, etc. Ascorbic acid helps in promoting the healing of mucosal lining by stimulating procollagen formation and subsequent synthesis of the same. (1) Various parts of the citrus fruits have been in popular use in traditional Indian and oriental medicines. Ripe fruits are good source of Vitamin-C, Vitamin-B complex and have curative properties for sore throat, cough, asthma, thirst, hiccough, earache, nausea and vomiting. These are also potent antiscorbutic, stomachic tonic, stimulant expellant of poison, correct fetid breath and analgesic. Distilled water extract of the fruit is sedative and fruit and seed extracts are useful in palpitation and making cardiac tonics.(2-4)

Citrus belongs to family Rutaceae comprising 140 genera and 1300 species. It is one of the major fruit crop grown in tropical and subtropical regions. The main varieties are sweet oranges (Citrus sinensis), tangerine or mandarin (Citrus reticulata), grapefruit (Citrus vitis), lime (Citrus aurentifolia), and lemon (Citrus limonum). The major types of citrus fruits popularly grown are shown in Figure 1. Annual citrus production worldwide currently amounts over 70 million tons in approximately 140 citrus producing countries.(5) Out of the total citrus production, approximately 40-50 % is utilized in processing and manufacturing commercial products,



Figure 1. Main varieties of citrus fruits grown across the globe.

such as juice, jams, marmalades, jellies, flavouring agents, beverages and health drinks, etc.

### CITRUS WASTES, ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMSAND REUSE

Citrus processing industries produce approximately 40 million tons of waste worldwide. The amount of residues obtained from citrus fruits constitutes almost 50 % of the original fruit mass. Citrus fruits contain  $\sim$ 40-55 % peels,  $\sim$ 30-35 % internal tissues and  $\sim$ 10 % seeds depending upon species, variety and climatic conditions where it is cultivated. The residue waste contain high amount of soluble sugars which make them highly perishable. Also, sugars and moisture facilitate high rates of fermentation. High content of organic matter especially peel oils (limonene) which carry antibacterial properties, make the citrus wastes inappropriate for direct disposals to landfills or dumping underground. Such disposals have been found to affect the natural and beneficial flora present in soil and aquatic bodies nearby. Furthermore, the oils tend to float on the surface of water bodies and limit the passage of oxygen from dissolving into the water affecting aquatic life. Also, citrus wastes are very difficult to dry by common conventional methods because of high moisture content.

Hence, extraction of oils, by-products and valuable phytochemical compounds from citrus wastes is not only a profitable alternative, but also a creative method of pollution abatement. Apart from essential oils (dlimonene), phenolics (coumarin, phenolic acid, phloroglucinol), flavanoids (hesperidin, naringenin, neo-hesperidin), carotenoids (lutein,  $\beta$ -carotene, lycopene, zeaxanthin), limonoids (limonin, normilin, limonoic acid), enzymes (pectinesterase, phosphatase, peroxidase), organic acids (citric acid, maleic acid, succinic acid), vitamins (Ascorbic acid, niacin, riboflavin), carbohydrates and pectins can be commercially extracted from the citrus wastes. (5) Some of the products created from citrus wastes are shown in Figure 2 and a collection of commercial brands are collaged in Figure 3. Commercial techniques and details of extraction processes are described in Reference. (5)

FLAVEDO (Outer-coloured part) Main compounds: Flavanoids and essential oils (Naringenin and limonene); Pigments (caratenoids); Neoeriocitrin, Neohesperidin

Uses: Succade (candied peel), Chinpi (dried peel), Honey citron tea, Herbal tea, aroma oils, digestives, antiseptic mouth rinse, soaps.

> ALBEDO (White part under the flavedo) Main compounds: Protein, dietary fibers, pectin, cellulose, Neohesperidin Uses: Thickening, jellying agent and stabilizers in jams, jellies, marmalades, sweet juices, pectin pomace, ingredient in pork sausages, beef burger, meat processing and emulsions

PITH RESIDUE (After juice extraction) Main compounds: Citric acid, folic acid, amino acid, cellulose Uses: Ethanol and vinegar production, citrus molasses clouding agent, pressed juice, dried citrus pulp pellets, beverage alcohol base

### SEEDS

Main compounds: Vitamin C, Sterols, tocopherol, oleic acid, palmitic acid, linoleic acid, limonin, citric acid, limonoids, trace minerals Uses: Seed oil (dietary oil, salad oil), seed flour (food supplement), ointments, medicines, soaps, cosmetics, pesticides, throat gargles, ear drops, nasal drops for sinus infections and cold, anti-fungal, antibacterial agent, foot creams, preservatives, sterilizing and disinfecting operating rooms, nebulizers for controlling respiratory infections

Figure 2. Main compounds and potential usage of different parts of citrus waste.





Cosmetics, skin care products and toiletries from Citrys Essential oils

**Figure 3.** Commercial products created from citrus wastes (pulp residue, pith, peels and seeds). The photographs of the products are taken from a local supermarket in Gyeongsan city, South Korea.

\*Disclaimer: Pictures of commercial products used in this article are purely for academic purpose and not meant for any advertisement or commercial benefit.

#### CITRUS WASTE DERIVED PHYTOCHEMICALS FOR HUMAN HEALTH

The phytochemicals and value added compounds extracted from citrus wastes are utilized in designing healthy foods, nutrient supplements, flavouring agents in foods processing, preservatives, health and power drinks in view of enhancing the quality of taste, aroma and curing deficiencies as well as restoring health. Citrus extracts are also utilized in cosmetic formulations for skin, hair and nails, antifungal and antibacterial lotions, soaps, perfumes and toiletries.

Obesity, hypertension, diabetes, heart diseases, cancer, memory loss, anxiety, etc., are closely related to personal lifestyle as well as food and dietary habits. Since last few decades, emphasis on the philosophy of "Prevention is better than cure" has gained huge attention and popularity in the mind-sets of common people and instigated awareness for achieving fitness

and good health. In this direction, nutrition and food scientists, dieticians and specialists have continuously researched along with medical practitioners and educationists on functional foods and nutritional supplements that can reduce the risk of diet related disorders/ diseases. Foods containing antioxidants and other phyto-nutrients, such as fruits and vegetables have proven to provide protective effects against many diseases especially degenerative processes caused by oxidative stress.(6-8) Obesity is an outcome of faulty life style, energy imbalance and abnormal metabolism. It is considered as a serious global health risk by World Health Organization (WHO). Obesity further increases the risk of dyslipidemia, hypertension, fatty liver disease, diabetes mellitus, cancers, osteoarthritis and asthma.(9, 10) As per WHO 2014 reports there are more than 1.9 billion adults of age 18 years and above identified as overweight and out of this, over 600 million were declared obese. Approximately 41 million children under the age of 5 were either overweight or obese. Overall,  $\sim 13$  % of the world's population (11 % of men and 15 % of women) were obese in 2014. The world prevalence of obesity is continuously increasing and has become doubled between 1980 and 2014. Surprisingly, overweight and obesity are linked to more number of deaths worldwide then underweight (11). Furthermore, WHO predicted that by the year 2030, the affected population might increase to 3.3 billion (i.e., 1.7 times). This not only is expected to alter the quality of health and life, but also increases economic burden in terms of direct and indirect health care costs which includes health monitoring, nutritional supplements and surgical management.

Orlistat (Xenical) approved by FDA is a very popular and relatively effective drug of the present time and prescribed for long term treatment of obesity. It efficiently inhibits the pancreatic lipase enzyme and prevents the absorption of dietary fats. (12, 13) However, it also causes severe gastrointestinal sideeffects. The side-effects make pharmacological approaches less attractive than therapeutic agents, which make natural remedies derived from phytochemicals a relatively more viable alternative. Therefore, the recent studies are being focused on searching innoxious and therapeutic natural products. In this regard, traditionally popular oriental herbal medicines, such as Diospyros kaki Thumb. and Citrus unshiu S. Marcov. Peels for treating obesity are being thoroughly investigated for developing potentially useful medicines/formulations. Both are popular as obesity curing herbal medicines in oriental countries, especially China, Korea and Japan. These fruits contain several bioactive compounds including polyphenols (esp. tannins), caratenoids, flavanoids, vitamins, minerals and dietary fibres. Polymethoxyflavones, hydroxyl polymethoxyflavones and hydroxylated polymethoxychalcones from Citrus sinensis has been reported to exhibit anticancer and antioxidant activities. (14)

Polyphenols present in Citrus limetta peels have shown to influence carbohydrate metabolism by inhibiting the  $\alpha$ -glucosidase and  $\alpha$ -amylase enzymes responsible for carbohydrate digestion. It also helps in avoiding chronic hyperglycemia that characterize type 2 Diabetes mellitus.(15) Citrus extracts especially flavanones and polymethoxyflavone have been found to provide estrogen effects and therefore, useful in hormone replacement therapy. The latter is a common therapy for estrogen deficiency in women especially post menopause which may lead further complications of osteoporosis, coronary diseases and bone density reduction, disturbed blood cholesterol profile and unpleasant symptoms, such as hot flashes and insomnia. Conventional pharmacological treatments have shown increased risks of cardiovascular diseases and induce breast cancer development, stroke and blood clots. (16)

Macromolecules present in our body fluid play important role in crystal aggregation, especially calcium oxalate crystallization leading to stone formation or urolithiasis. Calcium oxalate crystals are sparingly soluble or insoluble and tend to grow in size blocking urinary functions. In severe consequences, it leads to kidney failure and gall bladder malfunctioning. Even after treatment or removal of these stones, chances of reoccurrences are many and a big challenge for medical experts.

Table 1. Effect of	itrus waste derived phytochemical	compounds on various health aspects.

Citrus fruit	Fruit part extract	Active compound(s)	Effect on health	Animal Model	Ref.
Citrus unshiu	Water extract of dried peels (Chinpi)	Hesperidin, narirutin	Anti-aging effect	In vivo (Mice)	(17)

<i>Citrus sinensis (L.)</i> Osbek	Water extract of dried peels	flavoniods, polymethoxyflavonoids	Hepatoprotective and immunosuppressive effects	In vivo (Mice)	(18)
Citrus sinensis	Peel extract in ethanol and water (hot and cold)	Tannins, saponins, phenolic compounds, essential oils and flavonoids	Antimicrobial effect against dental caries bacteria <i>Streptococcus</i> <i>mutans</i> and <i>Lactobaccillus</i> acidophilus	<i>In vitro</i> (agar well diffusion method)	(19)
Lemon peel	Antibacterial compounds isolated from methanolic extract using water, ethanol and n-hexane	8-geranyloxypsolaren; 8-geranyloxypsolaren; 5-geranyloxy-7- methoxycoumarin; Phloroglucinol 1-β-D glucopyranoside (phlorin)	Antimicrobial effect against dental caries bacteria, viz., Streptococcus mutans ATCC7270, Prevotella intermedia, Porphyromonas gingivalis 381	In vitro	(20)
Syrian <i>Citrus limon</i> L.	Peel extract from hydrodistillation of 3h	limonene, $\gamma$ -terpinene, $\beta$ -pinene, O-cymene and citral	Cytotoxic effect on colorectal carcinoma cells	In vitro	(21)
<i>Citrus</i> grandis L. Osbek	Peel extract in 80 % ethanol by Soxhlet, 8h	Flavonoids-naringin, narirutin, neohesperidin	Cardioprotective activity against cyclophosphamide (CYP) and doxorubicin (DOX) induced cardiac toxicity in rats	<i>In vivo</i> (Adult male Wistar rats)	(22)
<i>Citrus paradisi</i> (grapefruit)	Grapefruit Seed Extract (GSE) in 100 % ethanol	Flavonoids (naringin), Vit-C, Vit-E	Ameliorating effect on DOX-induced cardiomyopathy	<i>In vivo</i> (Adult male Sprague- Dawley rats)	(23)
<i>Citrus</i> <i>spherocarpa</i> (Korean hallabong)	Peel extract in water and ethanol followed by Sephadex G-75 gel filtration	HBE polysaccharides (HBE-I, II, III, IV)	<i>Inhibitory effect on breast cancer metastasis</i>	In-vitro	(24)
Citrus unshiu	Dried peel extract in 70 % ethanol, refluxed for 3h at 80°C; concentrated and lyophilize	Flavonoids (naringin, hesperidin)	Hepatoprotective effects; Improves lipid and bone metabolism	<i>In vivo</i> (Ovariectomized (OVX) rats (animal model of post menopausal osteoporosis)	(25)
Citrus reticulata	Peel extract in 70 % ethanol, by maceration for 5 days; filtration and evaporation	Flavanone and polymethoxyflavone	Modulation of blood cholesterol and bone density	In vivo (Ovariectomized (OVX) rats)	(26)

Table 1. Effect of citrus waste derived i	phytochemical compounds on various health aspect	s.(cont)

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Citrus karna	Peel extract by maceration in hexane, CHCl3, ethyl acetate and methanol, 24h	Flavonoids and phenolic acids	Anti-ulcerogenic and antioxidant activity	<i>In vivo</i> (Wistar rats; Water immersion (WIS) and Hypothermic restraint (HRS) stress models)	(27)
<i>Citrus medica</i> Linn.	Whole fruit aqueous extract by maceration	Flavonoids and phenolic acids	Antiulcer activity	In vivo (Mice)	(4)
Citrus auranthium	Flesh and peel extract in acetone, ethanol and methanol for 72h at 25 °C; filtered, evaporated and redissolved in DMSO (dimethyl sulphoxide) to a concentration of 50 mg/ml	Total phenolic content	Antioxidant activity:	In-vitro experiments on HepG2 (ATCC 8065) cells; Antioxidant activity by DPPH method	(8)
Citrus limetta	Aqueous peel extract	Polyphenolic compounds	Anti diabetic (antihyperglycemic); antioxidant activity	<i>In-vitro</i> (Antioxidant activity by DPPH method)	(28)
Citrus unshiu	Citrus Peel + <i>Diospyros kaki</i> fruit extract in boiling water, 2h; enzyme decomposition, 15g; enzyme viscozyme inactivation at 90 °C, 30 min; filtration and concentrated; sterlization	Polyphenolic (especially tannins) carotenoids, falvanoids, vitamins, minerals and dietary fibers	Anti-obesity effect	In-vivo (Mice)	(29)
Citrus sinensis; Citrus limon	Soxhlet extraction of citrus peel in ethyl acetate, acetone, ethanol, ether and water	Flavonoids, saponins, steroids, terpenoids, tannins, alkaloids	Antibacterial effect	In-vitro (Mice)	(30)

Citrus aurentifolia	Peel extract in methanol fractioned using ethyl acetate, butanol and aqueous methanol	Tannins, alkaloids and polyphenols	Anti-helminthic effect against Heligmosomoides bakeri (nematod) in mice	In vivo (Mice)	(31)
Orange, lemon and mandarin	Ethanolic extract of citrus peel suspended in 0.5% DMSO	Limonene (90%), β- pinene (0.5%), α- pinene (0.5%), sabinene (0.3%)	Antihelminthic effect on Ascaridia galli in chickens collected from their intestines	<i>In vivo</i> (Chicken)	(32)
Citrus limon	Peel essential oils from cold pressing	terpenoids	Antifungal effect on oral candidiasis ( <i>Candida albicans</i> ) fungus	In-vitro	(33)
Citrus	Extract of multiple varieties of citrus peels (Gold Lotion or GL copmrising extracts from the peels of six citrus fruits produced in Japan)	flavonoida, polymethoxyflavones (PMFs)	Anticancer activity (Skin, Colon, Prostate)	<i>In-vivo</i> (Female ICR mice)	(34)
Citrus sinensis L.	Essential oil from hydrodistillation	α-terpineol (33.59%), γ-muurolene (4.44%), D-limonene (17.74%), linalool (9.73%), citronellol (4.88%), and isopiperitenone (3.58%), etc.	Antituberculosis effect	In-vitro	(35)
Citrus kiyomi x ponkan; GKP (jeju Hallabong tangor)	Glycosides of GKP converted into aglycosides by enzyme cytolase	decreased amount of flavanone rutinoside forms (nerirutin and hesperidin) and increased amount of flavanone aglycoside forms (naringenin and hesperetin)	Antioxidant and anti-inflamatory activity	In-vitro (RAW 264.7 cells)	(36)
Citrus unshiu	Peel waste is lyophilized, ground and suspended in 50 mM sodium acetate buffer	Hesperidin and narirutin	Proangiogenic effects; improves blood circulation	<i>In-vitro</i> (Human umbilical vein endothelial cells-HUVECs)	(35)
Citrus	Extracted and purified	Bioflavonoid naringenin	Cholesterol regulation	In vivo (Rats)	(37)
Citrus	Extracted and purified	Bioflavonoid naringenin	Hepatic cholesterol regulation	<i>In vivo</i> (Spragne Dawley rats)	(38)

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Table 1. Effect of citrus waste derived p	hytochemical compounds on	various health aspects.(cont)

Orange	Peel and pulp residue, shredded, dried and added to cattle feed	Essential oils	Antimicrobial activity	In vitro (Cattle)	(39)
Citrus reticulata	Peel extract in ethanol from soxhlation and maceration	phenolics and flavonoids	Anti-aging effect	<i>In vitro</i> (Antioxidant and anti-enzyme assay)	(40)
Citrus	Peel extract and formulations	bioflavonoids	Inhibition of stone forming proteins	In vivo (Rats)	(41)
Citrus kawachiensis	Dried peel powder	Auraptene	Anti-inflamatory effect	In vivo (Mice)	(42)
Citrus reticulate, Citrus unshiu, Citrus depressa	Nobiletin extracted from <i>C. depressa</i> using chromatography and recrystallized in actone; dried peels of <i>C.</i> <i>reticulata</i> Blanco and <i>C.</i> <i>unshiu</i> Markovich employed as ANTII NOBILS PERICAPRIUM	Nobiletin; ANTII NOBILS PERICAPRIUM	Enhances learning and memory	In vivo (Mice)	(43)

Citrus derived phytochemicals, notably citric acid helps in converting the oxalates into citrates which are relatively more soluble in water and can be passed through urine. Furthermore, phytotherapy including naringenine, hesperidin and rutin have started gaining interest in recent years. Some of the study reports can be found in the references.(44-46) Table 1 lists and elaborates some of the recent scientific studies on the effects of citrus derived phytochemicals and various diseases, illness and health profiles. The concept of consuming citrus regularly is a part of the everyday life in oriental countries. It is preserved along with peels and seeds. Cleaned citrus fruits are cut in small pieces, added with sugar, boiled for 4-7 minutes, further boiled with honey for 4-7 minutes and stored for months. It is consumed as herbal tea with hot water. Preserved honey citron tea is shown in Figure 4. Citrus is also preserved with ginger, rosemary, ginseng and other herbs for enhancing flavour and aroma as well as nutritional benefits.



Lemon Ginger

Grapefruit

Lemon Cherry

Lemon

(28)



Lemon Raspberry

Lemon Fig

Kumguat



Freeze Dried Oranges

Freeze Dried Kumquat

Orange peel jellied with Agar Agar

Figure 4. Honey citron tea. Oriental concept of preserving citrus fruits along with peels and seeds with honey and consumed as herbal tea. It is also preserved with ginger, cherry, raspberry, fig, plum, resins and other herbs for additional benefits, flavour and aroma. Furthermore, it is also freeze dried and jellied with agar agar and consumed as snacks.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Increasing health awareness and quality of healthy life has incorporated citrus as an essential part of diet and cuisine. Citrus not only provides nutritional supplements but also helps reducing risks of several illnesses. Edible as well as non-edible parts of citrus both are rich in various phytochemical and value added compounds. Non-edible parts or citrus wastes are reused to obtain more than 400 commercial products which are either utilized in nutritional supplements, curative medicines, food processing, preservatives, or cosmeticsmaking, home utilities and toiletries. The ongoing research on citrus waste reuse is dedicated to minimise the hazards from direct disposal and maximise the recovery of value added products.

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