HPLC/DAD METHOD FOR DETERMINATION OF FLAVONOIDS RUTIN AND QUERCETIN IN HERBAL SUPPLEMENTS

Tanja Janeva [1], Anita Najdenkoska [2], Zorica Arsova-Sarafinovska [1, 2]

[1] Goce Delcev University – Stip, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Republic of North Macedonia

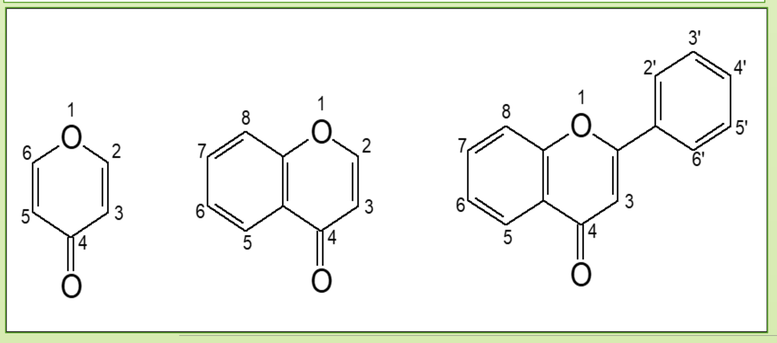
[2] Institute for Public Health of the Republic of North Macedonia, 1000 Skopje

INTRODUCTION

Flavonoids are a large group of polyphenolic components possessing a benzo-γ-pyronic structure and are widely distributed in plants. The chemical nature and the biological activity of flavonoids depends on the structural class to which they belong, the degree of hydroxylation, the degree of polymerization, and the presence of other substituents and bonds. Ginkgo biloba is one of the top-selling botanicals in the world. It has supported efficacy for the treatment of cerebrovascular disease and dementia. Ginkgo biloba leaf extract is said to contain more than 20 kinds of flavonoids.

AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of this work was to develop and validate HPLC method for determination of rutin and quercetin as representative flavonoids in the commercially available herbal supplements containing *Ginkgo biloba* leaf extract.



MATERIAL AND METHODS

HPLC analyses were performed using a Schimadzu LC-2010 chromatographic system (Schimadzu, Kyoto, Japan) consisting of a LC-20AT Prominence liquid chromatograph pump with a SPD-M20A Prominence Diode Array Detector. Chromatographic separation was performed on a Purospher® STAR RP-18e reversed-phase column (250 X 4.0 mm I.D.; particle size 5 µm) in a gradient mode with a mobile phase constituted of: acetonitrile: 3% phosphoric acid (85% phosphoric acid was used). The elution was carried out at a flow rate of 1.50 ml /min. All analyses were performed at room temperature (24 +/- 2°C). Rutin was monitored at 255 nm, while quercetin at 375 nm. Data analyses were done using Class VP 7.3 Software.

METHOD VALIDATION

The proposed method was validated according to the guidelines set by the International Conference on Harmonization for validation of analytical procedures.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The identification of flavonoids was done by comparison of retention times of the components, their UV spectra and by standard addition method. Calibration curves were obtained using standard solutions of rutin and quercetin with concentrations ranged from 0.01 – 0.08 mg/ ml. Correlation coefficients were 1.0 and 0.9998 for rutin and quercetin, respectively. The method precision was confirmed by assessment of repeatability and reproducibility. RSD obtained in the repeatability study were: 0.52 % and 0.05 % for rutin and quercetin, respectively. RSD obtained in the reproducibility study were: 0.82 % and 0.95 % for rutin and quercetin, respectively. The average recovery were 99.2 % and 101.2 % for rutin and quercetin, respectively. The limits of detection for rutin and quercetin were 0.95 ng/ml and 1.25 ng/ml, respectively, indicating an excellent sensitivity of the proposed method.

CONCLUSION

This HPLC method is simple, easy to perform and specific for determination of rutin and quercetin in herbal preparations containing dry leaf of *Ginkgo biloba* and can be used for routine analysis.

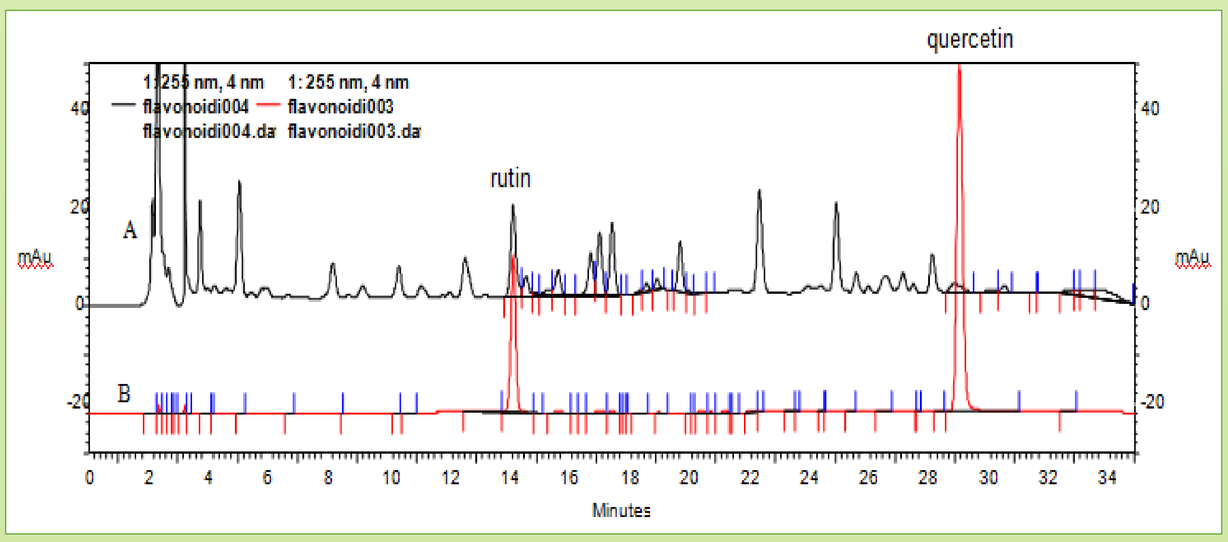


Fig. 1. A chromatogram of sample (A) and standard solution of rutin and quercetin (B) at 255 nm

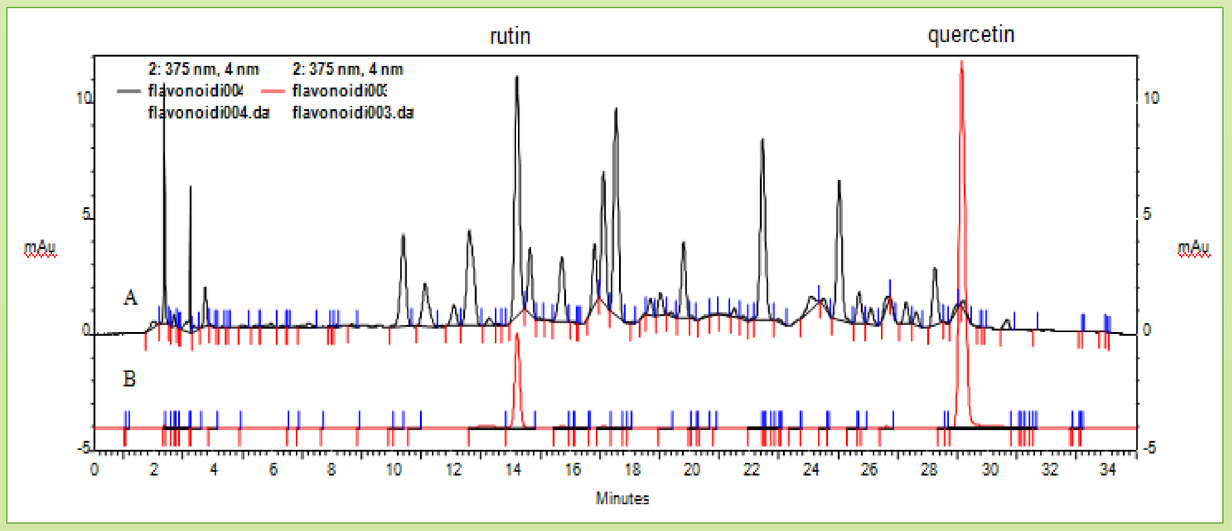


Fig. 2. A chromatogram of sample (A) and standard solution of rutin and quercetin (B) at 375 nm

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