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Antioxidant and Tyrosinase Inhibition Activities in the Persicae Semen Extracts

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Prunus persica (L.) BATSCH (Rosaceae) seeds are well known as a traditional folk medicine (Persicae Semen; Tounin, Taoren in Chinese) in China, Korea, and other Asian countries. They are frequently used as an ingredient in a variety of Chinese medicine prescriptions, particularly those used to treat women's diseases. The aim of the present study was to examine the antioxidant and tyrosinase inhibition activities of *Persicae semen* extracts. The crude ethanol extracts were used in this study. Antioxidant activities were measured by both 1, 1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl radical ($DPPH^{\cdot}$) scavenging and 2,2-azino-bis (3- ethylbenz-thiazoline-6-sulfonic acid) ($ABTS^{\cdot +}$) decolourisation methods. To further evaluate the effect of *Persicae semen* extracts on tyrosinase inhibition, *in vitro* tyrosinase inhibition assays was employed. Results shown that the tyrosinase inhibition activities of *Persicae semen* extracts (IC_{50}, 0.43 mg/mL) were stronger than licorice extracts (IC_{50}, 0.76 mg/mL).

In conclusion, the *Persicae semen* ethanol extracts had the potent activities in the antioxidant and tyrosinase inhibition assays. It suggested that *Persicae semen* had the potential for cosmetic applications.

Key words: Persicae semen, ethanol extraction, antioxidant, tyrosinase inhibition