



**DIFFERENT FACTORS INFLUENCING TO ANNATTO DYE EXTRACTION IN
*BIXAORELANAL. SEEDS***

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Abstract

Annato is redish orange in colour, usually soft, but hard and brittle when dry. It has a peculiar sweetish odour and a disagreeable saline bitterish taste. It softens in water, to which it imparts a yellow color, but does not dissolve. The principal pigment in annatto extract is bixin, which is contained in the resinous coating of the seed itself. Annato seems to be an important natural colorant for food and drug industries owing to its potential uses as a substitute for Tartrazine which is a synthetic colorant that is prohibited in many countries. Purpose of our research is to investigate some major factors affecting to annatto dye extraction from *Bixaorelana* L. seeds such as kind and concentration of extraction solvent; ratio of solid/solvent; extraction time and temperature. Our results are as follows: solvent NaOH 0.5 M, ratio of solid/solvent 5g/90ml, extraction time 5 hours at temperature 80°C.

Keywords: Bixaorelana, dye extraction, solvent, annato

1. Introduction

Bixaorelana L. is an ancestral multiuse plant popularly known as Achiote or lipstick tree in view of its redish – orange dye on its seeds. The dye obtained from a thin, highly colored resinous coating of triangular seeds present in brown or crimson capsular fruit is called as “annato” colorant (P. Giridhar et al., 2014). Its seeds are composed of an ‘inseed’ with a

shelled kernel containing oils, waxy substances, mineral ash and alkaloid compounds, and are composed of cellulose and tannins, and an outer cover containing pigments, moisture, and a small amount of oils (Ribeiro JA, et al., 2005). Bixin, an apocarotenoid devoid of pro-vitamin A activity, is the main oil soluble pigment found in annato (McKeown GG et al., 1962). Hydrolysis of the bixin methyl ester group yields the dicarboxylic acid, norbixin, which is an annato pigment soluble in aqueous alkaline solutions [McKeown GG et al., 1962; Reith JF. Gielen JW, 1971).

Annato has been applied to the production of various foods. In particular, the oil-soluble annato color is used in dairy and fat-based

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products like butter, margarine, cheese, baked and snack foods, and also in pharmacy, dyeing of leather and cosmetics (Scoter MJ, 1998). Annato color imparts yellow to red with varied hue index as it possesses high tinctorial value, hence has significance in the food industry as a natural food grade colour, and stands second in rank among economically important natural food colourants, apart from its wide use in some regions of the world for non-food applications viz., to color textiles (Lata R et al., 1990), fabrics and weapons (Rao PGP et al., 2002). Several articles on *Bixa* provided a brief information about annato chemistry (Preston HD et al., 1980), its extraction methods and formulations (Aparnathi KD et al., 1991), pharmacology (Srivastava A et al., 1999), its toxicology and processing (Satyanarayana A et al., 2003) and methods to analyze its colour (Scoter MJ. Et al., 2009). The quality of seeds and their geographical condition had influence on annato dye yield as evident from various reports wherein, the seeds are the best with 3-4% bixin content.

Chuyen et al. (2012) have demonstrated improvement in bixin extraction yield, and also extraction quality from annato seed by modification and combination of different extraction methods. In another study (Ribeiro JA et al., 2005; Albuquerque CLC, Meireles MAA, 2012), researchers have applied supercritical CO₂ method as a pretreatment for defatting of annato seeds.

Irrespective of the method of extraction either using oils or using solvents, bixin can be hydrolyzed into norbixin under specific conditions of temperature and pH, the dicarboxylic acid and saponified into the potassium salt of norbixin. At elevated temperature (>70 °C), annato pigment gets degraded and forms several products including a

17-C yellow compound known as McKeown's pigment [28]. Supercritical extraction with CO₂ could be a good alternative to avoid these problems (Mendes RL et al., 2003). Studies of Annato pigment extraction have been carried out using supercritical CO₂ (Degnan AJ, et al., 1991; Chao RR et al., 1991; Silva GF et al., 2008) and CO₂ modified with several entrainers (methanol, chloroform and acetonitrile) (Anderson SG et al., 1997). It was shown that the entrainers increased the efficiency of extraction.

The stability of the annato dye in foods is the most important parameter which is especially from quality and aesthetic point of view. Though bixin part of annato pigment is highly stable compared to other carotenoids such as beta-carotene, etc., which is mainly due to its apocarotenoid nature, various studies revealed that bixin is susceptible to processing and storage conditions especially to high temperatures and light which leads to a loss in the color of the annatoed foods (Bersetj C et al., 1986; Najjar SV et al., 1998). Similarly the effect of water activity is reported to be having influence on bixin stability, wherein, bixin is more stable at intermediate and higher water activities (Gloria MBA et al., 1995).

Purpose of our research is to investigate different factors affecting to annato dye extraction from *Bixa orellana* L. seeds such as kind and concentration of extraction solvent; ratio of solid/solvent; extraction time and temperature.

2. Material & Method

2.1 Material

Bixa seed is originated from Mekong river delta, Vietnam. The seed is collected from wild-growing bushes or from plantations



Figure 1. *Bixa* seed

2.2 Research method

2.2.1 Examine kind and concentration of solvent for extraction

Boiling 10 samples (each sample 5 gram) with 100 ml NaOH and KOH with following concentrations: 0.05 M; 0.1 M; 0.5 M; 1.0 M; 1.5 M at temperature 90°C. After that we filter the extracted fluid, take 0.5 ml filtrate to measure by UV – VIS. Acidify the remained filtrate with 100 ml HCl 3M, filter to get the particle. Take filtrate to drying in glass oven in 50°C. Compare the dye with the initial weight.

2.2.2 Examine the ratio of solid/solvent

Boiling 5 samples(each sample 5 gram) with NaOH 0.5M: 60ml, 70ml, 80ml, 90ml, 100ml at temperature 90°C in 4 hours. After that we filter the extracted fluid, take 0.5 ml filtrate to measure by UV – VIS. Acidify the remained filtrate with 100 ml HCl 3M, filter to get the particle. Take filtrate to drying in glass oven in 50°C. Compare the dye with the initial weight.

2.2.3 Examine extraction time

Boiling 5 samples(each sample 5 gram) with 90 ml NaOH 0.5 M at temperature 90°C in different duration: 3h, 4h, 5h, 6h, 7h, 8h, 9h. After that we filter the extracted fluid, take 0.5 ml filtrate to measure by UV – VIS. Acidify the remained filtrate with 100 ml HCl 3M, filter to get the particle. Take filtrate to drying in glass oven in 50°C. Compare the dye with the initial weight

2.2.4 Examine extraction temperature

Boiling 5 samples(each sample 5 gram) with 90 ml NaOH 0.5 M in 5 hours at different temperatures: 60°C, 70°C, 80°C, 90°C, 100°C. After that we filter the extracted fluid, take 0.5 ml filtrate to measure by UV – VIS. Acidify the remained filtrate with 100 ml HCl 3M, filter to get the particle. Take filtrate to drying in glass oven in 50°C. Compare the dye with the initial weight

2.3 Statistical analysis

All data are processed by Excell 2003.

3. Result & Discussion

3.1 Effect of kind and concentration of solvent to annatto extraction

Table 1. Optical density of annatto extracted by different solvent concentrations

λ (nm)	Optical density (A)									
	NaOH (M)					KOH (M)				
	0.05	0.1	0.5	1.0	1.5	0.05	0.1	0.5	1.0	1.5
453	1.2509	1.4731	1.5701	1.4281	1.0968	0.8809	1.4112	1.5313	1.3240	1.2221
481	1.0395	1.1989	1.3051	1.1673	0.8468	0.7257	1.1557	1.2571	1.1214	0.9691

Table 2. % Dye extracted by different solvents

Solvent	NaOH (M)					KOH (M)				
	0.05	0.1	0.5	1.0	1.5	0.05	0.1	0.5	1.0	1.5
M ₀ (g)	5.004	5.006	5.012	5.012	5.007	5.007	5.009	5.009	5.011	5.008
M ₁ (g)	1.958	1.963	1.871	1.889	1.915	1.950	1.852	1.865	1.903	1.862
M ₂ (g)	2.339	2.462	2.455	2.380	2.255	2.237	2.308	2.412	2.304	2.221
%Dye	7.614	9.968	11.652	9.798	6.790	5.732	9.104	10.920	8.002	7.169

From table 1 and table 2, we see that NaOH 0.5M and KOH 0.5M extract annatto higher than other concentrations. Meanwhile, extraction by NaOH 0.5M shows the optical density at two wavelength 453nm, 481nm; the

dye extracted is higher than sample extracted by KOH 0.5M. Moreover, ion Na⁺ is healthier than ion K⁺, NaOH is more economic. So we choose NaOH 0.5M to extract annatto from *Bixaorelana* L.

3.2 Effect of ratio solid/solvent

Table 3. %dye extracted by different solvent volumes

$V_{\text{NaOH}} \text{ (ml)}$	60 ml	70 ml	80 ml	90 ml	100 ml
M0 (g)	5.012	5.010	5.013	5.010	5.008
M1 (g)	1.869	1.903	1.869	1.819	1.863
M2 (g)	2.396	2.466	2.467	2.460	2.504
%dye	10.515	11.238	11.929	12.794	12.799

From table, when we use more NaOH 05 M, the dye extracted is also increased respectively,

especially from 60 ml to 90 ml. So we choose solvent volume 90 ml for further experiments.

3.3 Effect of extraction time

Table 4. Optical density of extracted fluid by different extraction times

$\lambda \text{ (nm)}$	Optical density (A)						
	3h	4h	5h	6h	7h	8h	9h
453	1.1280	1.3035	1.4094	1.1453	1.1158	1.0402	0.8654

We acidify the extracted fluid by 100 ml HCl 3M, dry the filtrate at 50°C, calculate the % dye.

Table 5. % dye by different extraction times

Time (h)	3h	4h	5h	6h	7h	8h	9h
M0 (g)	5.007	5.006	5.001	5.006	5.004	5.003	5.000
M1 (g)	1.851	1.810	1.935	1.790	1.822	1.765	1.823
M2 (g)	2.455	2.452	2.615	2.405	2.389	2.304	2.271
% dye	12.063	12.825	13.597	12.285	12.063	10.774	8.960

From table 4 and table 5, when we increase the extraction time we shall get more percentage of dye. However if we increase the extraction time (from 6h to 9h) the extraction recovery shall be

down because the high temperature and long time can cause damage to annato. So we choose the extraction time 5h for further experiments.

3.4 Effect of extraction temperature

Table 6. Optical density of extracted fluid by different extraction temperatures

$\lambda \text{ (nm)}$	Optical density (A)				
	60°C	70°C	80°C	90°C	100°C
453	1.2880	1.4305	1.4523	1.3766	1.2642

Table 7. % dye of extracted fluid by different extraction temperatures

Temperature	60°C	70°C	80°C	90°C	100°C
M0 (g)	5.008	5.002	5.010	5.011	5.009
M1 (g)	1.875	1.803	1.889	1.792	1.859
M2 (g)	2.453	2.455	2.619	2.477	2.496
% dye	11.542	13.035	14.571	13.670	12.717

From table 6 and table 7, we see the high percentage of annato dye if the sample is treated at temperature 60°C-80°C. If we continue increasing the extraction temperature to 90°C, 100°C; the percentage of dye extracted shall be decreased owing to thermal damage. So we choose the optimal temperature 80°C for annato extraction.

4. Conclusion

Annatois obtained from the thin resinous aril portion of seeds of Bixaorelana - a tropical plant of great agroindustrial interest. Bixin and norbixin are the main components of annatto colour which imparts red to yellow hue to the food matrix. Annatto is the most sought after natural colorant in the food industry in view of its availability, affordability and viability. It also finds wide use in cosmetics, pharmacy and dyeing purposes. We have successfully determined some main technical factors influencing to the annatto extraction such as kind and concentration of solvent, ratio of solid/solvent, extraction time, extraction temperature.

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