



Bioactive Phytochemicals with Anti-Aging and Lifespan Extending Potentials in *Caenorhabditis elegans*

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Abstract: In the forms of either herbs or functional foods, plants and their products have attracted medicinal, culinary, and nutraceutical applications due to their abundance in bioactive phytochemicals. Human beings and other animals have employed those bioactive phytochemicals to improve health quality based on their broad potentials as antioxidant, anti-microbial, anti-carcinogenic, anti-inflammatory, neuroprotective, and anti-aging effects, amongst others. For the past decade and half, efforts to discover bioactive phytochemicals both in pure and crude forms have been intensified using the *Caenorhabditis elegans* aging model, in which various metabolic pathways in humans are highly conserved. In this review, we summarized the aging and longevity pathways that are common to *C. elegans* and humans and collated some of the bioactive phytochemicals with health benefits and lifespan extending effects that have been studied in *C. elegans*. This simple animal model is not only a perfect system for discovering bioactive compounds but is also a research shortcut for elucidating the amelioration mechanisms of aging risk factors and associated diseases.

Keywords: aging; bioactive compounds; Caenorhabditis elegans; longevity pathways; lifespan

1. Introduction

Various plants and their by-products have become a major area of investigation for bioactive compounds with health benefits [1,2]. These bioactive phytochemicals are chemical components (mostly secondary metabolites) that are present in relatively smaller amounts compared to macronutrients such as carbohydrates, proteins, and lipids. Depending on the specific application and benefits, these phytochemicals are classified into various categories such as medicinal, functional foods, nutraceuticals, and botanicals, some of which are closely related or almost convey the same meaning. These compounds function in other processes that are vital to plant survival, such as protection and adaptation, due to their inability to escape several potential categories of ecological and environmental (biotic and abiotic) damaging stresses. However, their benefits extend to humans and other animals that have taken advantage of these properties by sourcing such valuable components from plants for other benefits beyond the basic macronutrients that are essential for life. Most of the bioactive substances that have been discovered from food sources so far are mostly of plant origin and are consumed as fruits, legumes, vegetables, spices, and medicinal herbs [2,3]. These products are available in diverse forms, such as in fresh, raw, or processed forms. Beyond their nutritional values, these food sources



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Copyright: © 2021 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https:// creativecommons.org/licenses/by/ 4.0/). contain bioactive compounds that exert anti-microbial, anti-viral, anti-carcinogenic, antiinflammatory, antioxidants, neuroprotective, and anti-aging effects [2]. Recent research in this field has sought to discover new natural bioactive compounds in food forms that have anti-aging and lifespan extending benefits, examples of which include Silymarin and 6-shogaol [1,3–7].

Aging in humans is closely associated with diverse pathological changes, including cancer, cardiovascular disorders, metabolic diseases such as type II diabetes, and neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease [1,2]. Conserved in all living forms, aging is a degenerative process that is characterized by a progressive deterioration of cellular components and functions, which in most cases, inevitably leads to mortality [3,4]. In developed countries, aging accounts for 90% of deaths, with about 100,000 cases per day, which makes up approximately two-thirds of deaths globally [5]. The United Nations projects that by 2050, the proportion of the global populace older that is older than 60 years of age will be closely doubled from 962 million to 2.1 billion [6]. Therefore, it is critical to gain an understanding of the molecular mechanism of the aging process along with the search for therapeutic interventions that are capable of extending lifespan and improving health span.

There are nine widely acknowledged hallmarks of aging that feature all of the major alterations of the key biological functions: loss of proteostasis, genomic instability, telomere attrition, mitochondrial dysfunction, epigenetic alterations, cellular senescence, deregulated nutrient-sensing, stem cell exhaustion, and altered intercellular communication [7]. In particular, the proteostasis network, which consists of protein synthesis, folding, secretion, trafficking, disaggregation, and degradation [7,8], is an integral part of the biological quality control systems that ensure cellular homeostasis for the survival and propagation of the organism. During aging, the decline of the proteostasis network contributes to the development of proteotoxicity related disorders such as Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease, Alzheimer's disease, and Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis [1,9]. There are two prominent concepts or theories as to how adverse changes occur in aging at the molecular level [10]. The programmed theory proposes aging as a genetically programmed chronic process, whereas the damage theory puts emphasis on the gradual and cumulative damage to cells and organs derived from internal and external factors [11]. The damage theory largely stems from the free radical theory that primarily focuses on the generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) as metabolic by-products and their accumulative damage to biomolecules [10–13] such as DNA/RNA, proteins, and lipids. The antidotes to this fundamental challenge are the antioxidants that provide a counter mechanism to keep the balance of ROS production in check. On one hand, it secures all of the essential ROS-dependent reactions, and on the other, it removes excessive ROS and prevents the undesirable species from being generated, thereby delaying aging-associated changes and increasing longevity [4,11,12,14]. Meanwhile, the search for bioactive compounds (from natural sources as well as synthetic) possessing antioxidant properties has been greatly intensified, which has so far brought to light several candidates with interesting potential in enhancing lifespan and health span.

Many critical aspects of the human aging process have been studied in model organisms, providing us great insight into the individual elements and more importantly the operating and underlying regulatory mechanisms. Amongst these organisms, the *Caenorhabditis elegans* model has been greatly employed for the discovery of longevity pathways as well as new anti-aging compounds with lifespan extending properties [15–18]. Here, we briefly introduce *C. elegans* as an important aging model, highlighting the prominent pathways or factors that are involved in aging process, and discussed the recent discovery of lifespan-extending compounds, plant sources as well as their anti-aging activities in the *C. elegans* system.

2. C. elegans as a Model for Aging Research

Model organisms have become a crucial part of biomedical research, tackling fundamental biological and medical questions that would otherwise be impossible to study in humans due to the cost, system complexity, and ethical issues [19–21]. Any biological system in which aging occurs has the potential of being a model for studying aging. However, the choice of the model is largely dependent on the specific questions to be answered as well as the amenability of the model. C. elegans, a multicellular organism sharing 60-80% similarity with humans at the genomic level, has emerged as an outstanding model for aging research [22,23]. Featured by a highly conserved aging signaling network, C. elegans has a relatively short life cycle and low maintenance and propagation costs [24,25]. More so, sophisticated genetic techniques and manipulations, such as RNAi, CRISPR-cas9, and the auxin-inducible degradation (AID) system, are all applicable to *C. elegans* for transgenesis as well as forward and reverse genetic screening [26]. The transparent body of C. elegans also serves an ideal system for real-time live imaging of fluorescence-tagged proteins in the whole animal [27–29]. Despite the abounding advantages with using C. elegans in aging research, it is not without limitations. On the downside, the advantages that are associated with the small size of this organism, such as ease of handling, can also be a substantial disadvantage, as obtaining a large amount of the same generation is limiting as well as labor intensive. Likewise, in spite of the >60% genetic conservation with humans, C. elegans is indeed a lower invertebrate and is significantly distant from mammals evolutionarily, biochemically, and physiologically [30–32].

A series of pioneering works established the biochemical pathways that are associated with aging and longevity in *C. elegans*, which appear to be conserved through evolution [31–36]. Klass isolated eight mutant strains with a remarkable increase in lifespan and correlated this phenomenon with the restriction of caloric intake [33]. Further studies led to the identification of *age-1*, the first gene linked to lifespan extension [37,38]. Similarly, mutations in *daf-2* exhibited more than a double-fold increase in the lifespan through regulating the activity of *daf-16* [36]. These discoveries set up the foundation for using the *C. elegans* model to understand the aging process and to seek opportunities for lifespan extension. More work was inspired, collectively leading to the appreciation of the complex network underpinning the aging process. Meanwhile, this model has also been explored in other dimensions, ranging from assessing the environmental factors for aging (hermetic treatments and caloric restriction), studying the age-related diseases, population and evolutionary studies, and screening of drugs with potential lifespan-extending properties [13,39–42].

3. Signaling Pathways and Environmental Factors Related to Aging

Over 70 genes have been implicated in the pathways regulating the lifespan of *C. elegans* [38], with a high likelihood of further expansion on the current number. These genes are involved in the nutrient-sensing signaling pathways, including Target of Rapamycin (mTOR) signaling, AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK)-dependent signaling, sirtuins, and insulin/IGF-1 signaling (IIS). Other implicated pathways include the JNK pathway, TGF- β signaling, germline signaling, and mitochondrial respiration as well as other factors leading to aging process such as protein homeostasis, temperature, transcription factors, and so on. The representative genes that are involved in those pathways are listed in Figure 1.

Currently, *daf-16* is the most central aging related gene and is the downstream target of some of the pathways, most prominently, the IIS pathway. Its activity involves direct interaction with other genes, modulating the nuclear translocation or acting as a transcription factor to numerous target genes for lifespan regulation and stress resistance [43–46]. Not surprisingly, the pathways or factors that are involved in the aging process interact with each other to mediate lifespan extension.

TOR signaling

(PHA-4/FoxA, daf-2, rsks-1)





Figure 1. The known signaling pathways and key factors linked to aging process.

4. Bioactive Phytochemicals with Health Benefits

Derived from natural sources such as plants, animals, and microorganisms, bioactive compounds exhibit a highly diverse chemical nature. They are capable of interacting with biochemical systems, thereby conferring a wide spectrum of health benefits such as anti-inflammatory, anti-aging, anti-hypertensive, anti-cancer, anti-diabetic, and antineurodegenerative properties [47–53]. Of all of the bioactive compounds, the phytochemicals from plants are the most prominent and have gained more attention since increasing numbers of lifespan-extending candidates have been discovered from phenotypic screening in C. elegans [54]. Reverse genetic screening along with structural studies has elucidated the targets of some of these compounds and the related pathways that are involved. Phytochemical/secondary metabolites can be found in vegetables, fruits, cereals, and inedible plants, and many of them have been identified to possess antioxidant properties [55]. They are chemically categorized into polyphenols, terpenoids, alkaloids, saponins, phytosterols, and organosulfur compounds [55–59]. Here we focused on the application of the most abundant and most chemically diverse phytochemicals (polyphenols, terpenoids, and alkaloids) to aging studies and further highlighted the use of crude extract in aging studies in the subsequent section.

4.1. Polyphenolic Compounds

The polyphenolic compounds include flavonoids, tannins, stilbenes, coumarins, lignans, and other phenolic compounds (Table 1) that are mainly involved in curbing oxidative stress and related conditions by providing their reducing power to protect essential cellular components from detrimental oxidative damage [60]. Among the members of this class, the flavonoids are the most abundant group, with over 8000 compounds having been identified [61]. Flavonoids contain a basic flavan nucleus with 15 carbon atoms that are grouped into C_6 - C_3 - C_6 skeleton that comprises two aromatic C_6 rings and a heterocyclic ring with one oxygen atom [62]. The presence of a highly reactive hydroxyl group enables flavonoids to donate the hydrogen atom, thereby reducing highly oxidizing free radicals [62]. The main targeted pathway linked to the anti-aging efficacy by this class of compounds is IIS. For example, Tambulin, as a hydroxy substituted flavanol, enhances stress tolerance and longevity and mitigates the manifestation of Parkinson-like symptoms in C. elegans model, during which the IIS pathway is up-regulated by the expressions of *daf-16*, sod-1, sod-3, and ctl-2 [22]. Rosmarinic acid (RA) as a natural polyphenol, has been shown to improve the mean lifespan of *C. elegans* [63] by up-regulating the IIS pathway via *ins-18* and daf-16; the MAPK pathway via skn-1 and sek-1; and the stress resistance and antioxidant

genes such as *ctl-1*, *sod-3* and *sod-5*. The lifespan of the worms can also be extended by curcumin [64], which depends on the functions of *age-1*, *skn-1*, *sir-2.1*, *sek-1*, *unc-43*, *osr-1*, and *mek-1*, which are related to the IIS, MAPKK, and JNK signaling pathways. Polyphenol and chlorogenic acid enhance longevity via the IIS pathway depending on *daf-16*, *skn-1* and *hsf-1* [65]. Epigallocatechin gallate and epicatechin (EC) protect and facilitate the expression of major genes of the IIS pathway to protect *C. elegans* from oxidative stress, thereby enhancing the longevity [66–68]. Furthermore, pro-longevity effects have been found in the *C. elegans* aging models, with a broad variety of polyphenols/flavonoids such as myricetin, resveratrol, quercetin, naringenin, kaempferol, catechin, baicalein, fisetin, caffeic acid, phenethylester, acacetin, and blueberry polyphenols, most of which require *daf-16* [42,69–80].

Polyphenolic Compounds	Mean Lifespan Extension *	Plant Source #	Ethnobotanical Use	Implicated * Genes	Pathway *	Anti-Aging Effect *	References
			Flavonoids				
Tambulin	16% at $50~\mu M$	Zanthoxylum armatum (Indian thorny ash, or Nepali Dhania, or Chinese coriander or timur)	Medicinal	daf-16, sod-1, sod-3, ctl-2	IIS	Anti-Parkinson's	[22]
Rosmarinic acid	40% at 60 μM 49% at 120 μM 63% at 180 μM	Rosmarinus officinalis (Rosemary)	Medicinal, Ornamental, Culinary, Source of essential oil	ins-18, daf-16, sek-1, skn-1, ctl-1, sod-3, sod-5.	IIS and MAPK	Anti-oxidative, Healthspan extension	[63]
Curcumin	39% at 20 μM	Curcuma longa (Turmeric)	Medicinal, Culinary	age-1, skn-1, sir-2.1, sek-1, unc-43, osr-1, mek-1 genes	IIS, MAPK and JNK	Anti-oxidative, Healthspan extension	[64]
Chlorogenic acid	20% at 50 μM	Coffea arabica (Coffee), Camellia sinensis (Tea)	Medicinal, Beverage	daf-16, skn-1 and hsf-1	IIS	Anti-oxidative, Healthspan extension	[65]
Epigallocatechin gallate 10%–14% at 220 µM (EGCG)		Camellia sinensis (Green tea)	Medicinal, Beverage	daf-16	IIS	Anti-oxidative,	[66,67]
20% at 100 μM			Develage	daf-16, sod-3	IIS	Anti-Aizheimer 5 –	[81]
Myricetin	32% at 100 µM	Abelmoschus moschatus (musk mallow),	Medicinal,	daf-16	IIS	Anti-ovidative	[69]
ingricean	18% at 100 µM	Citrus sinensis (Navel oranges), Vaccinium sect Cuanococcus (Blueberry leaves)	Food	daf-16, sod-3	IIS		[74]
15% at 100 μM 5% at 100 μM	Allium cepa L. (Onions),		daf-16	IIS		[73]	
	5% at 100 μM	<i>Malus domestica</i> (Apples),	Eunctional food	daf-16	IIS	- Anti ovidativo	[74]
Quercetin	11% at 100 μM 18% at 200 μM	Brassica oleracea (Broccoli), Vitis vinifera (Grape)	Culinary	age-1, daf-2, sek-1 and unc-43	IIS, CaMKII and p38 MAPK	Healthspan extension	[82]
	5% at 100 μM	Camellia sinensis (Tea),		daf-16	IIS		[74]
Kaempferol	10% at 100 μM	Brassica oleracea (Broccoli), Vitis vinifera (Grape), Solanum lycopersicum (Tomato), Fragaria ananassa (Strawberries), Malus domestica (Apples)	Beverage, Functional foods	daf-16	IIS	- Anti-oxidative, Healthspan extension	[77]
Fisetin	6% at 100 μM	Fragaria ananassa (Strawberries), Malus domestica (Apples), Diospyros kaki (Persimmons), Allium cepa L. (Onions), Cucumis sativus (Cucumbers)	Functional foods	daf-16	IIS	Anti-oxidative	[77]
Catechin	8% at 200 μM	Camellia sinensis (Green tea), Theobroma cacao (Cocoa), Vitis vinifera (Grape), Malus domestica (Apples)	Medicinal, Functional foods	akt-2, mev-1, nhr-8	IIS	Anti-oxidative, Healthspan extension	[75]
	15% at 100 μM			daf-16, sod-3	IIS		[81]
Epicatechin (EC)	47% at 200 μM	Camellia sinensis (Tea), Theobroma cacao (Cocoa), Vitis vinifera (Grape red wine)	Functional foods, Beverage	daf-2, age-1, akt-1, akt-2, sgk-1, daf-16, skn-1, hsf-1, gst-4, gst-7, hsp-16.2 and hsp-70	IIS	- Anti-oxidative, Healthspan extension	[68]

Table 1. Polyphenolic compounds with anti-aging and lifespan extending properties as demonstrated in the *C. elegans* model.

Polyphenolic Compounds	Mean Lifespan Extension *	Plant Source #	Ethnobotanical Use	Implicated * Genes	Pathway *	Anti-Aging Effect *	References
3'-O-methylepicatechin	6% at 200 μM	Malus domestica (Apples), Vitis vinifera (Grape),	Functional foods,	-	-	Anti-oxidative,	[83]
4'-O-methylepicatechin	12% at 200 μM	- Theobroma cacao (Cocoa), Camellia sinensis (Tea)	Beverage	-	-	 Healthspan extension 	[83]
Baicaloin	45% at 100 μM	Scutellaria baicalensis (Baikal skullcap or	Modicinal	skn-1	IIS	Anti-ovidativo	[76]
Dalcalem	36% at 0.1% <i>w/v</i>	Chinese skullcap)	Wetheniai	cbp-1	-		[84]
Caffeic acid	11% at 300 μM	Coffea arabica (Coffee)	Beverage, Medicinal	osr-1, sek-1, sir-2.1, unc-43, and daf-16		Anti-oxidative,	[85]
Acacetin (5,7-dihydroxy-4- methoxyflavone)	27% at 25 μM	Tephroseris kirilowii (Dog Tongue grass, Cotton bat)	Medicinal	sod-3, gst-4, ctl-1 and hsp-16.2	IIS	Anti-oxidative, Stress Resistance	[86]
Acacetin 7-O-α-l- rhamnopyranosyl(1–2)β- D-xylopyranoside	39% at 25 μM	Premna integrifolia (Wind killer)	Medicinal	<i>sir-2.1, skn-1, daf-16,</i> and <i>hsf-1</i>		Anti-oxidative, Stress Resistance	[87]
Quercetin-3-O- dirhamnoside	21% at 200 μM	Curcuma longa (turmeric)	Culinary, Medicinal	-	-	Anti-oxidative, Stress Resistance	[39]
Quercetin-3-O-glucoside	23% at $25~\mu M$	Erica multiflora (Winter Heather)	Medicinal	-	-	Anti-oxidative	[88]
Isorhamnetin (Quercetin 3'-O-methylether)	16% at 200 µM	Ginkgo biloba (ginkgo or gingko also known as the maidenhair tree), Hippophae rhamnoides (Sea buckthorn), Vaccinium sect. Cyanococcus (Blueberry)	Medicinal, Food	-	-	Anti-oxidative, Stress Resistance	[89]
Tamarixetin (Quercetin 4'-O-methylether)	11% at 200 μM	Cyperus teneriffae (Coco-grass)	Medicinal	-	-	Stress resistance, Anti-oxidative	[89]
Icariin	20% at 45 μM	Herba epimedii (Horny Goat Weed)	Medicinal	daf-2, daf-16, hsf-1	IIS	Anti-oxidative, Anti-neurodegenerative diseases	[90]
Icariside II	20% at 20 µM	Herba epimedii (Horny Goat Weed)	Medicinal	daf-2, daf-16, hsf-1	IIS	Anti-oxidative, Stress resistance, Anti-neurodegenerative diseases	[90]
Isoxanthohumol	2% at 100 μM	Humulus lupulus (hops)	Medicinal Beverage	daf-16	IIS	Anti-oxidative, Stress resistance	[91]
Silymarin	10% at 25 μM 24% at 50 μM	Silybum marianum (Milk thistle)	Medicinal	-	-	Anti-oxidative, Stress resistance, Anti- Alzheimer's	[1]
Genistein	27% at 100 µM	Vigna angularis (adzuki bean)	Medicinal, Food	hsp 16.2, sod-3		Healthspan extension, Stress resistance	[92]
Taxifolin	51% at 820 µM	Silybum marianum (blessed thistle or milk thistle), Carduus marianus (Marian thistle or Our-Lady's-thistle), Allium cepa L. (Onions)	Medicinal, Culinary	-	-	Stress Resistance, Ameliorates Cerebral Amyloid Angiopathy (ACAA)	[93]

Polyphenolic Compounds	Mean Lifespan Extension *	Plant Source #	Ethnobotanical Use	Implicated * Genes	Pathway *	Anti-Aging Effect *	References
Trolox (6-Hydroxy-2,5,7,8- tetramethylchroman-2- carboxylic acid	31% at 0.6 mM–3 mM	Fragaria ananassa (Strawberries)	Functional food	-	-	Anti-oxidative	[93]
Chicoric Acid	20% at 100µM	Cichorium intybus (Chicory), Echinacea angustifolia (Purple cone flower), Lactuca sativa (Lettuce), Ocimum basilicum (Basil)	Medicinal, Culinary	-	AMPK	Anti-oxidative	[94]
Naringin	23% at 50 μM	Citrus grandis (Pomelo), Citrus paradise (grapefruit), and Citrus aurantium (Bitter orange)	Functional food	daf-16, daf-2, akt-1, akt-2. eat-2, sir-2.1, rsks-1, and clk-1	IIS	Anti-oxidative, Anti-Alzheimer's, Anti-Parkinson's	[35]
			Tannins				
	18% at 100 μM			sek-1	MAPK	Anti-oxidative,	[95]
Tannic acid 24% a	24% at 0.01% <i>w/v</i>	Camellia sinensis (Tea), Vitis vinifera (Grape), Arachis hypogaea (Pea nuts)	Functional food	daf-16	IIS	Anti-Alzheimers', — Neuroprotective <u>Others</u> Anti-amyloidogenic, Antimicrobial, Anticancer, Antimutagenic	[84]
Pentagalloyl Glucose	18% at 160 μM	<i>Eucalyptus leaves</i> (Southern blue gum or blue gum)		daf-16, age-1, eat-2, sir-2.1, and isp-1	IIS, DR, SIR-2.1 and METC.	Anti-oxidative <u>Others</u> Estrogenic, Anti-inflammatory, Anti-oxidative, Anticancer	[53]
			Stilbene				
	Variable effects at 100 µM	Vitis vinifera (Grape), Peanuts		sir 2.1	-	Anti-oxidative Others	[70]
Resveratrol	3% at 5 µM	Theobroma cacao (Cocoa),	Functional food	-	-	Antiviral,	[71]
	11% at 100 µg/mL	Vaccinium sect. Cyanococcus (Bideberry), Vaccinium myrtillus (Bilberry), Vaccinium macrocarpon (cranberry)			-	Anti-nociceptive, Anti-diabetic activities	[72]
OxyResveratrol	31% at 1000 μM	Morus alba (white mulberry)	Functional food, Medicine	sir-2.1, aak	AMPK and SIR-2.1	Anti-oxidative, Neuroprotective	[96]
TSG (2,3,5,4'- Tetrahydroxystilbene-2-O- β-D-glucoside)	23% at 100 μM	Polygonum multiflorum (Tuber fleeceflower)	Medicinal	-	-	Anti-oxidative, Stress resistance	[97]
Polydatin	30% at 1 mM	Vitis vinifera (Grape)	Functional food	<i>sir-2.1, skn-1, sod-3,</i> and <i>daf-16</i>	IIS	Anti-oxidative, Stress resistance, Neuroprotective	[98]
Piceatannol	18% at 50 and 100 μΜ	Passiflora edulis (Passion fruit), Camellia sinensis (White Tea), Vitis vinifera (Grape)	Functional food	daf-16, hsp 16.2, sod-3, str-2.1	IIS	Anti-oxidative <u>Others</u> Estrogenic, Anti-inflammatory, Anti-oxidative, Anticancer	[99]

Polyphenolic Compounds	Mean Lifespan Extension *	Plant Source #	Ethnobotanical Use	Implicated * Genes	Pathway *	Anti-Aging Effect *	References
			Coumarins				
^ Urolithin A (UA)	45% at 50 μM	Vaccinium sect. Cyanococcus (Blueberry), Fragaria ananassa (Strawberries), Arachis hypogaea (Pea nuts), Quercus spp (acorns), Punica granatum (pomegranates), Juglans regia (Walnut), Rubus idaeus (raspberries)	Functional food	-	-	Anti-oxidative, Healthspan extension	[100]
^ Urolithin B (UB)	36% at 50 μM	Vaccinium sect. Cyanococcus (Blueberry), Fragaria ananassa (Strawberries), Arachis hypogaea (Pea nuts), Quercus spp (acorns), Punica granatum (pomegranates), Juglans regia (Walnut), Rubus idaeus (raspberries)	Functional food	-	-	Anti-oxidative, Healthspan extension	[100]
^ Urolithin C (UC)	36% at 50 µM	Vaccinium sect. Cyanococcus (Blueberry), Fragaria ananasa (Strawberries), Arachis hypogaea (Pea nuts), Quercus spp (acorns), Punica granatum (pomegranates), Juglans regia (Walnut), Rubus idaeus (raspberries)	Functional food	-	-	Anti-oxidative, Healthspan extension	[100]
^ Urolithin D (UD)	19% at 50 μM	Vaccinium sect. Cyanococcus (Blueberry), Fragaria ananasa (Strawberries), Arachis hypogaea (Pea nuts), Quercus spp (acorns), Punica granatum (pomegranates), Juglans regia (Walnut), Rubus idaeus (raspberries)	Functional food	-	-	Anti-oxidative, Healthspan extension	[100]
			Lignan				
Sesamin	13% at 6.3 μg/plate	Sesamum indicum L. (Sesame Seeds)	Functional Food	daf-2, skn-1, pmk-1, and daf-16	IIS	Anti-oxidative <u>Others</u> Anti-allergenic, Anti-carcinogenic, Antihypertensive, Hypocholesterolemic	[101]
Vitexin	17% at 100 mM	Vigna angularis (adzuki beans)	Functional Food	sod-3, hsp-16.2	IIS	Anti-oxidative <u>Others</u> Antiviral, Anti-depressant, Anti-nociceptive, Anti-diabetic	[13]
Arctigenin	13% at 100 μM	Arctium lappa (Greater burdock)	Medicinal	daf-16, jnk-1	IIS	Anti-oxidative, Stress resistance	[102]
Matairesinol	25% at 100 μM	Arctium lappa (Greater burdock)	Medicinal	daf-16, jnk-1	IIS	Anti-oxidative, Stress resistance	[102]
Arctiin	15% at 100 μM	Arctium lappa (Greater burdock)	Medicinal	daf-16, jnk-1	IIS	Anti-oxidative, Stress resistance	[102]

Polyphenolic Compounds	Mean Lifespan Extension *	Plant Source #	Ethnobotanical Use	Implicated * Genes	Pathway *	Anti-Aging Effect *	References
Lappaol C	11% at 100 μM	Arctium lappa (Greater burdock)	Medicinal	daf-16, jnk-1	IIS	Anti-oxidative, Stress resistance	[102]
Lappaol F	12% at 100 µM	Arctium lappa (Greater burdock)	Medicinal	daf-16, jnk-1	IIS	Anti-oxidative, Stress resistance	[102]
(Iso) lappaol A	11% at 100 µM	Arctium lappa (Greater burdock)	Medicinal	daf-16, jnk-1	IIS	Anti-oxidative, Stress resistance	[102]
			Phenolic Compound	s			
Tryosol	21% at 250 µM	Olea Europea L. (Olive tree)	Medicinal, Food	hsf-1, daf-2, daf-16	IIS	Anti-oxidative, Stress resistance	[103]
6-Gingerol	20% at 25 μM	Zingiber officinale (Ginger)	Culinary, Medicinal	hsp-16.2, sod-3		Anti-oxidative, Stress resistance	[5]
6-Shogaol	19% at 12.5 μM 25% at 25 μM	Zingiber officinale (Ginger)	Culinary, Medicinal	sod-3, hsp-16.2		Anti-oxidative, Stress resistance	[5]
Salicyclic Acid	14% at 1 mM	<i>Rubus idaeus</i> (raspberries), Salix alba L. (Willow tree)	Medicinal, Food	daf-16, sod-3, sod-5, ctl-2, gst-4, gst-10	IIS	Anti-oxidative, Stress resistance	[104]
Salicylamine	32% at 100 μM 56% at 500 μM	Fagopyrum esculentum (Buckwheat)	Culinary	sir-2.1, ets-7	-	Healthspan extension	[105]
Juglone	29% at 40 µM	Juglans nigra (Black Walnut)	Functional Food, Medicinal	daf-16, sod-3, hsp-16.2, sir-2.1	IIS	Anti-oxidative, Stress resistance	[106]
Gallic Acid	25% at 300 μM	Punica granatum (Pomegranate), Aspalathus linearis (Rooibos tea), Vitis vinifera (Grape), Raphanus sativus (Black radish), Allium cepa L. (Onions)	Functional food	-	-	Stress resistance	[17]
Ferulic Acid	9.58% at 500 μM	Beta vulgaris (Beet root), Oryza sativa (Rice), Glycine max (Soyabean), Daucus carota (Carrot), Avena sativa (Oats)	Functional food	daf-2, daf-16, hlh-30, skn-1, and hsf-1	IIS	Healthspan extension, Stress resistance, Anti- Huntington's disease	[107]

* Mean lifespan and implicated genes, pathways, and anti-aging effects in the table are the specific outcomes from the references indexed directly against the compound at the right-end column. A dash (-) sign in the column for implicated genes and pathways represents where the authors did not proceed to investigate the molecular mechanism beyond the effect observed. Where different mean lifespans are not from the same study, we have referenced the appropriate literature for such. Original units of concentration used by the investigators are reported here. Additionally, where other health benefits besides the anti-aging effect have been noted for the compound in the primary research referenced, we grouped them under the heading "<u>Others</u>" in the column for "Anti-aging-effect". # Plant sources of the compound in the study indexed to the reference directly at the right-end column are listed. Other sources that have been mentioned by the primary study, and previous studies have also been listed as well. Scientific names and common names (in parenthesis) of the plant sources are provided. ^Compounds not directly obtained from the plant sources indicated but that are produced by gut microflora from foods rich in ellagitannins such as the plants listed.

4.2. Terpenoids

Terpenoids are the most abundant and structurally diverse phytochemicals. Also known as terpenes, they can be classified based on the number of isoprene units $(C_5H_8)_n$ into various subgroups, including hemiterpenes (C_5H_8) , monoterpenes $(C_{10}H_{16})$, sesquiterpenes $(C_{15}H_{24})$, diterpenes $(C_{20}H_{32})$, sesterterpenes $(C_{25}H_{40})$, triterpenes $(C_{30}H_{48})$, tetraterpenes $(C_{40}H_{64})$, and polyterpenes $(C_5H_8)_n$. Terpenoids exhibit a broad range of pharmacological activities, ranging from anti-malarial, anti-cancer, anti-inflammatory, anti-bacterial, anti-viral, and anti-aging to anti-neurodegeneration [108]. Some of the notable terpenoids are the chemotherapy medication Taxol[®] (paclitaxel) and the frontline antimalarial drug Artemisinin [108].

Isoprenol is a hemiterpene-based unsaturated C₅ alcohol that confers lifespan extension and stress tolerance in *C. elegans* via *daf-16* and *skn-1* through the IIS pathway [23]. Moreover, the expressions of SOD-3 and GST-4 can be boosted by isoprenol through the translocation of DAF-16 from the cytosol into the nucleus [22]. Carnosic acid relies on the MAPK and HSF-1 pathway to up-regulate *sod-5*, *hsp-16.2*, *hsp-16.1*, *sek-1*, and *skn-1* [109]. Carnosol, as a phenolic diterpene, increases the mean lifespan of *C. elegans* through the HSF-1 signaling pathway to up-regulate sod-3 and sod-5 as antioxidants and hsp-16.1 and hsp-16.2 for heat shock response [110]. Beta-caryophyllene (BCP), a naturally occurring bicyclic sesquiterpene, is capable of extending lifespan as well as of increasing the resistance to oxidative stress by inducing the dietary restriction response and xenobiotic stress response [111]. The compound 4-Hydroxy-E-globularinin, an iridoid isolated from *Premma* integrifolia, exhibits detoxification activity against ROS and up-regulates hsp-16.2 and sod-3 through *daf-16* in the IIS pathway [112]. A similar effect was found with oleanolic acid, where *sod-3*, *hsp-16.2*, and *ctl-1* were up-regulated via *daf-16* [113]. However, α -Tocopherol, either in free form or encapsulated with SDNF (soluble dietary fiber-based nanofibers), may provide the longevity benefits via different routes [114]. Lifespan extension potentials have also been ascribed to additional high molecular weight isoprenoid-based compounds such as withanolide-A, specioside, ursolic acid, and glycyrrhetinic acid [60,115–117]. Examples of these terpenoids with longevity-modulating effects are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Terpenoids with anti-aging and lifespan extending properties as demonstrated in the *C. elegans* model.

Terpenoids	Mean Lifespan Extension *	Plant Source #	Ethnobotanical Use	Implicated * Genes	Pathway *	Anti-Aging Effect *	References
Carnosic Acid	3% at 60 μM 8% at 120 μM 16% at 180 μM	Rosmarinus officinalis L (Rosemary)	Food, Medicinal	sod-5, hsp-16.2, hsp-16.1, sek-1, skn-1	MAPK and HSF-1	Anti-oxidant, Anti- inflammatory, Antibacterial, Anti-cancer, Neuroprotec- tive	[109]
Carnosol	19% at 180 µM	Rosmarinus officinalis L (Rosemary)	Medicinal, Culinary	sod-3, sod-5, hsp-16.1, hsp-16.2, hsf-1, daf-16.	IIS	Antioxidant, Anticancer, Antimicrobial, Anti- inflammatory	[110]
Beta- Caryophyllene	>22% at 50 μM	Syzygium aromaticum (Clove), Cannabis sativa (hemp), Rosmarinus officinalis L (Rosemary, Humulus lupulus (Hops)	Culinary, Beverages	pha-4, sir-2.1, hsf-1, skn-1, daf-16, gst-4, gst-7, hsp-70, sod-2, sod-3 and daf-9	IIS	Anti-oxidant, Anti- inflammatory, anti-biotic, Anti- carcinogenic, local anesthetic	[111]

Terpenoids	Mean Lifespan Extension *	Plant Source #	Ethnobotanical Use	Implicated * Genes	Pathway *	Anti-Aging Effect *	References
4-Hydroxy-E- globularinin	18% at 20 μM	Premna integrifolia (Wind killer)	Medicinal	daf-16, hsp-16.2, sod-3	IIS	Anti-oxidant	[112]
10- <i>O-trans-p-</i> Coumaroylcatalpol	17% at 20 μM	Premna integrifolia (Wind killer)	Medicinal	daf-16	IIS	Anti-oxidant, Anti- parkinson's disease	[118]
Oleanolic acid	16% at 300 μM	Constituent of the leaves and roots of more than 120 plant species such as Olea europaea (olive tree), Viscum album (European mistletoe or common mistletoe), Aralia chinensis (Chinese Angelica Tree)	Food, Medicinal	sod-3, hsp-16.2, ctl-1, daf-16	IIS	Anti-oxidant, Hepatoprotective, Hypoglycemic, Anti- inflammatory	[113]
α-Tocopherol	7% at 50 μg/mL 15% at 100 μg/mL 17% at 200 μg/mL	Sunflower seeds (Helianthus annuus), Prunus dulcis (Almonds), Corylus avellana L. (Hazelnuts), Arachis hypogaea (Pea nuts), Spinacia oleracea (Spinach), Brassica oleracea var. italica (Broccoli), Actinidia deliciosa (Kiwifruit), Mangifera indica (Mango)	Functional food	_	-	Anti-oxidant	[114]
Withanolide-A	29% at 5 μM	Withania Somnifera (Ashwagandha)	Medicinal	sgk-1, daf-16, sod-3, skn-1, hsf-1, gst-4, hsp-16.2	IIS	Neuroprotective, Stress resistance	[115]
Specioside	15% at 25 μM	Stereospermum suaveolens (Patala)	Medicinal	sod-1, sod-2, sod-3, gst-4, gst-7, hsp-16.2, hsp-70, clt-1	IIS	Antioxidant, Stress resistance	[87]
Ursolic acid	32% at 25 μM	Malus domestica (Apple peels), , rosemary, Lavandula angustifolia (lavender), Mentha piperita (Peppermint), Thymus vulgaris (thyme), Ocimum basilicum (Basil), Vaccinium myrtillus (Bilberry)	Medicinal, Culinary	jnk-1, jkk-1	JNK-1	Antioxidant, Stress resistance	[117]
18α- Glycyrrhetinic acid	17% at 20 μg/mL	<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> (Licorice)	Medicinal, Culinary	skn-1, daf-16	p38 MAPK	Neuroprotective	[59]
Glaucarubinone	1.9 days at 100 nM	Simaroubaceae spp. (Amargo, Bitterwood, Marupa, or Quassia)	Ornamental, Medicinal	-	-	Anti-oxidant <u>Others</u> Antimalarial	[71]

Terpenoids	Mean Lifespan Extension *	Plant Source #	Ethnobotanical Use	Implicated * Genes	Pathway *	Anti-Aging Effect *	References
Fucoxanthin	14% at 5 μM	Undaria pinnatifida (Wakame), Hijikia fusiformis (Hijiki)	Medicinal	-	-	Antioxidant, Stress resistance	[119]
Catalpol	28% at 25 μM	<i>Rehmannia glutinosa</i> (Chinese foxglove)	Medicinal plant	mek-1, daf-2, age-1, daf-16, and skn-1	IIS	Anti-oxidant, Anti- Alzheimer's, Anti- Parkinson's, Anti-stroke <u>Others</u> Anticancer, Anti-diabetes	[120]
Ferulsinaic acid	20% at 100 µM	<i>Ferula</i> communis (Giant Fennel)	Medicinal, Culinary	-	-	Anti-oxidant	[121]
Verminoside	20% at 25 μM	Stereospermum suaveolens (Patala)	Medicinal	daf-16	-	Antioxidant, Stress resistance	[116]
Dehydroabietic acid	15% at 10 μM	Pinus densiflora (Japanese red pine), Pinus sylvestris (Scots pine), Abies grandis(Grand fir)	Medicinal	sir-2.1	-	Healthspan extension	[122]
Secoisolariciresinol Diglucoside	22% at 500 μM	Linum usitatissimum (Flaxseed)	Food, Medicine	daf-16, hsf-1, nhr-80, daf-12, glp-1, eat-2, and aak-2.	IIS	Anti-oxidant, Anti- Alzheimer's, Anti- Parkinson's	[123]

* Mean lifespan and implicated genes, pathways, and anti-aging effects in the table are the specific outcomes from the references indexed directly against the compound at the right-end column. A dash (-) sign in the column for implicated genes and pathways represents where authors did not proceed to investigate the molecular mechanism beyond the effect observed. Where different mean lifespans are not from the same study, we have referenced the appropriate literature for such. Original units of concentration used by the investigators are reported here. Additionally, where other health benefits besides the anti-aging effect have been noted for the compound in the primary research referenced, we grouped them under the heading "<u>Others</u>" in the column for "Anti-aging-effect". # Plant sources of the compound in the study indexed to the reference directly at the right-end column are listed. Other sources that have been mentioned by the primary study and previous studies have also been listed as well. Scientific names and common names (in parenthesis) of the plant sources are provided.

4.3. Alkaloids

Alkaloids represent a class of nitrogenous chemicals that are not only derived from plants but also from fungi, bacteria, and animals [124]. According to their heterocyclic ring system and biosynthetic precursor, this class of compounds are categorized into eight subgroups, including tropanes, indoles, imidazoles, piperidines, isoquinolines, pyrrolizidines, quinolozidines, and pyrrolidine alkaloids [124]. Historically, some alkaloids have been used as poisons, whereas others have been used as remedies against fever and snakebites [124–126]. Though a bit under the shadow of toxicity, alkaloids elicit great potential in pharmaceutical development, primarily as analgesic, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-bacterial, anti-spasmodic, anti-cancer, anti-hypertensive, and stimulants to the central nervous system [56,124,127]. Particularly, over 300 compounds of this class have been shown to possess some degree of anti-aging property [40]. Reserpine confers significant thermo tolerance and longevity benefits to the worms, which is likely independent of daf-16 and partially rely on serotonin [126]. Enhanced longevity effects are also offered by the methylxanthine alkaloid caffeine, which is able to induce the nuclear translocation of daf-16 but does not requires its activity [128]. The action of pentagalloyl glucose (a gallotannin) on lifespan requires the cooperation between four pathways, including the IIS pathway, the mitochondrial ETC, the Sir-2.1 signaling, and the dietary restriction pathway [53]. The studied alkaloids with lifespan extending potentials in C. elegans are summarized in Table 3.

Alkaloids	Mean Lifespan Extension *	Plant Source #	Ethnobotanical Use	Implicated * Genes	Pathway *	Anti-Aging Effect *	References
Reserpine	31% at 30 µM	Rauwolfia serpentine (Indian snakeroot), Rauwolfia vomitoria (the poison devil's-pepper)	Medicinal	tph-1 (serotonin)	Serotonin pathway	Anti-oxidant, Antipsychotic, Anti-hypertensive	[126]
Tomatidine	7% at 25 μM	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i> (Unripe tomato fruits, leaves and stems)	Medicinal, Functional food	skn-1	IIS	Anti-inflammatory, Anti- tumorigenic, Lipid-lowering activities	[129]
Spermidine	18% at 0.2 mM	Glycine max (soy bean), Pisum sativum	Functional food	-	-	Enhanced autophagy	[130]
openniume	15% at 0.2 mM	- (green peas), Zea mays (Maize corn)	i unctional toou	-	-		[131]
	29% at 0.1% <i>w</i> / <i>v</i>			daf-16	IIS		[84]
	16% at 10 mM	<i>Collia acuminata</i> (kola nuts), <i>Camellia sinensis</i> (Tea leaves),	Beverages,	daf-16	IIS	 Antioxidant, Stress resistance, 	[3]
Caffeine —	80% at 5 mM		Medicinal	daf-2	IIS	Neuroprotective,	[128]
	31.9% at 5 mM	- Cojjeu urubicu (conee beans)		Implicated * GenesPathway *Anti-Agintph-1 (serotonin)Serotonin pathwayAnti-ox Antipsy Anti-hypeskn-1IISAnti-infla Anti-tum Lipid-lo activdaf-16IISAntiox Stress redaf-16IISAntiox Stress redaf-16, sod-3IISAntiox Stress redaf-16, sod-3, hsp 16.2, gst-1 and gst-10IISAntiox Stress redaf-16, hsp-16.2, ctl-1, sod-3IISAntiox Stress redaf-16, hsp-16.2, ctl-1, sod-3IISAntiox Stress redaf-16, hsp-16.2, ctl-1, sod-3IISAntiox Stress re	- Anti-Alzheimer's	[127]	
Theophylline	25% at 5 mM	Camellia sinensis (Tea), Coffea arabica (Coffea)	Beverages, Medicinal	skn-1, gst-4	IIS	Antioxidant, Stress resistance	[127]
Chlorophyll	23% at 10 μg/mL 25% at 40 μg/mL	Spinacia oleracea (Spinach)	Food, Medicinal	daf-16, sod-3	IIS	Antioxidant	[132]
Pyrroloquinoline quinone	33% at 0.5 mM	Actinidia deliciosa (Kiwifruit), Petroselinum crispum (Parsley), Capsicum annuum (Green bell pepper), Carica papaya (Pawpaw)	Functional food, Culinary	daf-16,skn-1, sod-3, hsp 16.2, gst-1 and gst-10	IIS	Antioxidant, Stress resistance	[133]
Calycosin	21% at 200 μM	Astragalus mongholicus Bunge (membranous milk-vetch)	Medicinal	daf-16, hsp-16.2, ctl-1, sod-3	IIS	Antioxidant, Stress resistance	[134]

Table 3.	Alkaloids v	with anti-ag	ging and life	espan exten	ding prop	erties as de	emonstrated i	in the C. el	egans model.
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* Mean lifespan and implicated genes, pathways, and anti-aging effects in the table are the specific outcomes from the references indexed directly against the compound at the right-end column. A dash (-) sign in the column for implicated genes and pathways represents where authors did not proceed to investigate the molecular mechanism beyond the effect observed. Where different mean lifespans are not from the same study, we have referenced the appropriate literature for such. Original units of concentration used by the investigators are reported here. Additionally, where other health benefits besides the anti-aging effect have been noted for the compound in the primary research referenced, we grouped them under the heading "<u>Others</u>" in the column for "Anti-aging-effect". # Plant sources of the compound in the study indexed to the reference directly at the right-end column are listed. Other sources that have been mentioned by the primary study and previous studies have also been listed as well. Scientific names and common names (in parenthesis) of the plant sources are provided.

4.4. Plants Crude Drugs and Extracts with Lifespan Extending Abilities in C. elegans

Medicinal plants are essential sources of bioactive therapeutic compounds. Therapeutic studies using pure isolated phytochemicals are commonly preceded by preliminary studies using crude plant extracts to confirm the therapeutic potentials. Several studies have reported that some plant extracts show a lifespan prolonging effect on *C. elegans*. For instance, the aqueous stem bark extract from Endopleura uchi was reported to alter the DAF-16/FOXO pathway and to enhance the expression of the stress response genes such as hsp-16.2 and sod-3 [135]. Through High Performance Liquid Chromatography/Ultraviolet-Visible (HPLC UV/VIS) analysis, phenolic bergenin has been proposed as the major active component, potentially paving a new path for further developing compounds with similar and even more potent effects [135]. *Calycophyllum spruceanum* water extract has been shown to modulate the DAF-16/FOXO pathway, and five secondary metabolites have been identified via HPLC/Mass Spectrometry (MS) analyses, including 5-hydroxy-6methoxycoumarin-7-glucoside, cyanidin, gardenoside, taxifolin, and 5-hydroxymorin [136]. Both the leaf and fruit extract of *Caesalpinia mimosoides* and *Eugenia uniflora* possess longevity enhancing activity via the IIS pathway with sod-3, gst-4, and hsp-16.2 as targets [137,138]. Glochidion zeylanicum and Anacardium occidentale leaf extracts have also been reported to display longevity enhancing and oxidative stress resistance activities in C. elegans via the DAF-16/FOXO and SKN-1/Nrf-2 signaling pathways [139,140]. Furthermore, phytochemical analysis narrowed down on the active compounds, revealing benzoic acid, pentadecanoic acid, octadecatrienoic acid, n-hexadecanoic acid, β-caryophyllene, palmitic acid, and α -linolenic acid as prominent metabolites. Extract from *Hibiscus sabdariffa L*. exhibits significant lifespan extension activities alongside curbing amyloid- β toxicity in *C. elegans*, which is mediated by the IIS pathway through the activation of the DAF-16 and SKN-1 transcription factors [141]. An ayurvedic polyherbal extract (PHE) derived from six herbs, including Berberis aristata, Emblica officinalis, Cyperus rotundus, Terminalia chebula Cedrus deodara, and Terminalia bellirica, has been shown to enhance the expressions of *daf-16*, *daf-2*, *skn-1*, *sod-3*, and *gst-4*, all of which are associated with longevity and stress response [142]. As mentioned in the foregoing, although crude extracts may exert therapeutic effects, the main ingredients that are responsible are pure chemical components that serve specific effects. It is therefore important to elucidate and characterize the specific components, as this will eventually pave the way for new strategic pharmacological designs. Examples of these plant extracts with longevity-modulating effects are summarized in Table 4.

Table 4. Plant crude extracts with anti-aging and lifespan-extending properties as demonstrated in the C. elegans model.

Plant Source #	Mean Lifespan Extension *	Ethnobotanical Use	Implicated Genes *	Pathway *	Anti-Aging Effect *	References
Endopleura uchi (Uxi)	33% at 300 μg/mL	Medicinal	daf-16, hsp-16.2 and sod-3	IIS	Antioxidant, Stress resistance, Anti-Huntington's disease	[135]
Calycophyllum spruceanum (capirona)	16% at 300 μg/mL	Medicinal	daf-16	IIS	Antioxidant, Stress resistance, Healthspan extension	[136]
Caesalpinia mimosoides (Pansi)	4% at 50 $\mu g/mL$	Food vegetable	daf-16, sod-3, gst-4	IIS	Antioxidant, Stress resistance	[137]
Eugenia uniflora (Surinam cherry)	Significant increase at 500 µg/mL	Food, Medicinal	daf-16, hsp-16.2 and sod-3	IIS	Antioxidant, Stress resistance, Healthspan extension	[138]

Plant Source #	Mean Lifespan Extension *	Ethnobotanical Use	Implicated Genes *	Pathway *	Anti-Aging Effect *	References
Anacardium occidentale (Cashew)	20% by 50 μg/mL	Medicinal, Functional food	daf-16, skn-1, sod-3, gst-4	IIS	Antioxidant, Stress Resistance, Healthspan extension	[139]
Glochidion zeylanicum (Umbrella Cheese)	10% at 100 μg/mL	Medicinal, Food	daf-16, skn-1, sod-3, gst-4	IIS	Antioxidant, Stress Resistance, Healthspan extension	[140]
Hibiscus sabdariffa L. (Roselle)	24% at 1 mg/mL	Medicinal, Beverage, Food supplement	daf-16, skn-1	IIS	Antioxidant, Stress Resistance, Anti- Neurodegenerative	[141]
Polyherbal extract of Berberis aristata (Indian barberry); Emblica officinalis (Indian gooseberry or amla); Cyperus rotundus (Purple Nutsedge); Terminalia chebula (gall nut); Cedrus deodara(Himalayan cedar); Terminalia bellirica (beleric myrobalan)	16% at 0.01 μg/mL	Medicinal	daf-16, daf-2, skn-1, sod-3 and gst-4	IIS	Antioxidant, Stress Resistance, Anti- Neurodegenerative	[142]
<i>Betula utilis</i> (Himalayan Silver Birch)	35.99 % at 50 μg/mL	Medicinal	daf-16, hsf-1, skn-1, sod-3 and gst-4.	IIS	Antioxidant, Healthspan extension	[143]
<i>Citrus sinensis</i> (Orange extracts)	10.5%, 18.0%, and 26.2% at 100, 200, and 400 mg/mL, respectively	Functional food	daf-16, sod-3, gst-4, sek-1, and skn-1	IIS	Antioxidant, Healthspan extension	[35]
<i>Cuscuta chinensis</i> (Chinese Dodder)	24% at 30 μg/mL	Medicinal	hsp-16.1 and hsp-12.6	IIS	Stress Resistance, Healthspan extension	[144]
Eucommia ulmoides (Hardy Rubber Tree)	9% at 30 μg/mL		-	-	Stress resistance	[144]

* Mean lifespan and implicated genes, pathways, and anti-aging effects in the table are the specific outcomes from the references indexed directly against the compound at the right-end column. A dash (-) sign in the column for implicated genes and pathways represents where authors did not proceed to investigate the molecular mechanism beyond the effect observed. Where different mean lifespans are not from the same study, we have referenced the appropriate literature for such. Original units of concentration used by the investigators are reported here. Additionally, where other health benefits besides the ant-aging effect have been noted for the compound in the primary research referenced, we grouped them under the heading "Others" in the column for "Anti-aging-effect". # Plant sources of the compound in the study indexed to the reference directly at the right-end column are listed. Other sources that have been mentioned by the primary study and previous studies have also been listed along. Scientific names and common names (in parenthesis) of the plant sources are provided.

5. Summary and Perspectives

Globally, the significant rise in the aging populace is imposing a great economic and social burden. It is necessary to conduct more research focusing on the biological process of aging, with the aim of facilitating the development of potential interventions to alleviate the adverse health impact of aging-associated medical conditions such as neurodegenerative disorders, cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases. Suitable model organisms such as *C. elegans* will continuously provide more unique insight into this complex process as well as in the discovery of new bioactive compounds with pharmaceutical efficacy. Plant polyphenols including flavonoids, tannins, stilbene, coumarins, lignan, and other phenolic compounds as well as terpenoids and alkaloids have been a major source of these bioactive compounds, either as single purified compound or in crude extract mixtures. The disadvantage of crude extracts is that a complex interaction between all of the components of the crude and the biological system of the model may produce inhibitory, antagonistic, or synergistic effects. This makes it impossible to know exactly which component is inducing the particular effect being observed. Despite this challenge, crude the extracts of

medicinal plants such as *Endopleura uchi*, *Calycophyllum spruceanum*, *Caesalpinia mimosoides*, *Eugenia uniflora*, *Glochidion zeylanicum*, *Anacardium occidentale*, *Hibiscus sabdariffa* L, and an ayurvedic polyherbal extract (PHE) derived from six herbs has demonstrated efficacy in extending lifespan in C. elegans [135–138,140–142]. However, purified compounds are better alternatives, as they provide the advantages of elucidating the structure, targets, mechanism of action, and pathways involved as well as the modification of the compound for improved activity.

In the future, discovering novel and effective natural candidates that extend lifespan and that delay aging and related diseases still depends on advancements in state-of-the-art high-throughput screening techniques [145,146]. Combining this effort with studies in suitable model organisms such as *C. elegans* [147,148] will provide a better platform for understanding the aging process as well as facilitating healthy aging to improve the quality of life of the elderly population.

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