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Physicochemical properties, profile of volatiles, fatty acids, lipids and concomitants from four *Kadsura coccinea* seed oils

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1. Introduction

ABSTRACT

The *Kadsura coccinea* fruit is a wild fruit that may be eaten and used medicinally. Its seeds are rich in nutrients but are typically thrown away without processing.The physicochemical characterization, volatiles, fatty acids, lipids and concomitants of cold-processed seed oils from four kinds of *K. coccinea* were evaluated. The average kernel yield and oil yield of *K. coccinea* seeds were 68.21 % and 30.44 %, respectively. The seed oil contains a moderate level of total phenolics (368.99–503.99 mgGAE/100 g), total flavonoids (95.01–126.18 mg RE/100 g), and β-sitosterol (1498.8–1712.7 mg/kg) with higher iodine value, lower acid value, saponification value and shorter induction time. GC analysis reveals appreciable amounts of linoleic acid (64.91–68.05 %) and squalene in seed oil. GC–MS analysis showed that the major volatile compounds were γ-muurolene (27.25–31.7 %), β-himachalene (19.51–20.37 %) and β-curcumene (15.78–16.78 %). Moreover, 16 terpenoids, 14 phenolics were identified by UPLC-QTOF-MS/MS. These results suggest that *K. coccinea* seed seems an promising alternative oilseed with biological ingredients for food, cosmetics and pharmaceutical industries.

Kadsura coccinea (Lem.) A.C. Smith (*K. coccinea)*, also called Lengfantuan belongs to the family *Schisandraceae*, grows in mountain forests with an altitude of 1500–2400 m and is widely distributed in southern China, Vietnam, Thailand, etc. It is mainly composed of five parts: root, stem, leaf, flower and fruit, the roots and vines can be used as medicine, which can dispel wind and activate collaterals, regulate qi and relieve pain (Shi & [Chen, 2013\)](#page-9-0). The ripe fruit is red and consists of approximately 30 to 65 small berries, each berry contains three to six seeds, which are bitter and have thick shells and account for about 10 % of the *K. coccinea* berries [\(Liu et al., 2014](#page-9-0)). Each small berry has a fruity aroma similar to that of an apple, with a skin and pulp color similar to that of a

lychee. They are rich in amino acids, vitamin C, minerals and anthocyanins. These fruits have been used by ethnic minorities such as the Miao and Zhuang groups as a beneficial fruit and traditional folk medicine to treat gastritis [\(Li et al., 2022\)](#page-8-0). In addition, *K. coccinea* contains lignans, triterpenes, sesquiterpenes, steroids, amino acids and other effective ingredients with anti-tumor, anti-HIV, anti-inflammatory, liver protective, antioxidant functions and other bioactivity [\(Li et al., 2020](#page-8-0)). It is a green cash crop with edible, medicinal and ornamental values. The *K. coccinea* fruit seeds exist in a small aggregate fruit; each cluster contains 3–5 seeds. The fruit seeds are composed of exotesta, endocarp and kernel. The exotesta is a thin layer of wood, which is fragile and peeled easily. The endocarp is a brown film close to the kernel and difficult to peel. Apart from the production of seedlings, the seed is

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generally discarded as waste. Whereas, the *K. coccinea* seeds are rich in nutrients such as protein, a variety of trace elements, polyphenols, sterols, vitamins, and other active ingredients with free radical scavenging activity, bacteriostasis and enzyme inhibition activity[\(Wei et al., 2016](#page-9-0)). Similar bioactive compounds were also found in much seed oil and attracted the attention of many researchers [\(Sun et al., 2024;](#page-9-0) [Wang](#page-9-0) [et al., 2023\)](#page-9-0). However, the research information about the bioactive components of *K. coccinea* seeds are limited, such as fatty acid composition, phenols and other trace nutrients. As far as we know, there is no information on the comparative analysis of physicochemical properties and bioactive components of different undeveloped *K. coccinea* seed oils.

In this investigation, the seeds sourced from four main varieties of *K. coccinea* that are recognized for geographical indication products in China are used as the research object. The study's scope encompasses a systematic comparative analysis of these seeds' nutritional profiles, the physicochemical properties of the derived seed oil, the composition of fatty acids, volatile components, lipid concomitants, and other functional components. This study is expected to provide experimental data for the development and utilization of its seeds, and breeding of different varieties of *K. coccinea*.

2. Materials and methods

2.1. Plant materials

Four varieties of ripe fruit Dahong, Zihei, Fenhong, Hulu were obtained from Tongdao County, Hunan Province. These fruits were identified by Professor Lizhonghai in the College of Food Science and Engineering, and their ovoucher samples (No.DH202012 for Dahong; No.ZH202012 for Zihei; No.FH202012 for Fenhong; No. HL202012 for Hulu) were deposited in our laboratory of Central South University of Forestry and Technology. Their seeds were manually peeled from sarcocarp, and then cleaned with water, followed by dried in the shade, and stored in a black plastic bag at room temperature until use.

2.2. Chemical and reagents

Gallic acid, methanol, sodium carbonate, potassium hydroxide, toluene and n-hexane (analytical grade) was procured from Sinopharm Chemical Reagent Co., Ltd. (Shanghai, China). Folin-ciocalteau (analytical grade) was obtained from Shanghai Yuanye Biotechnology Co., LTD. The HPLC grade solvents (acetonitrile, methanol) were purchased from Merck (Darmstadt, Germany). HPLC grade formic acid and ammonium acetate were obtained from AMPO CNW (Shanghai, China).

2.3. The preparation of pressed K.Coccinea seed oil

Firstly, the shells *of K.coccinea* seeds were manually peeled to get the kernels, then the kernels were put into the SUN-2 oil press for pressing at room temperature to get the crude oil. Next, the *K. coccinea* seed oil was obtained after centrifuging the crude oil at 4000 rpm and 8000 rpm for 15 min. The kernel yield and oil yield of *K.coccinea* seed oil were calculated according to the following equation.

Kernel yield
$$
\left/ \frac{1}{\%} = \frac{\text{kernel weight}}{\text{seed mass}} \times 100
$$
 (1)

$$
0il yield / % = \frac{oil weight}{kernel weight} \times 100
$$
 (2)

2.4. Fat, protein, ash and minerals of K.Coccinea seed

The fat, crude protein, ash and minerals content of the *K.coccinea* seeds were determined according to the methods of [AOAC \(2016\)](#page-8-0).

2.5. Physicochemical properties of K.Coccinea seed oil

2.5.1. Color determination of K.Coccinea seed oil

Color measurements were performed by an automatic multi-function colorimeter (UltraScan PRO, HunterLab, USA). Use the oil sample without dilution and pour it into a 10 mm quartz cuvette. In the tricolor coordinate system, the L * value is a measure of brightness, ranging from 0 (black) to $+100$ (white), a * value ranging from -100 (green) to $+100$ (red), and b $*$ value ranging from -100 (blue) to $+100$ (yellow). The chromaticity value data is the average value of the measurement results from different positions of the sample.

2.5.2. Physicochemical properties analysis of K.Coccinea seed oil

The chemical properties of *K.coccinea* seeds, such as acid value, peroxide value, iodine value, and saponification value, were analyzed by the methods of [AOAC \(2016\)](#page-8-0). The oxidation induction period was determined by 743 Rancimat oxidation stability teste (Metrohm, China), and the specific steps were appropriately modified according to Morelló [et al. \(2004\).](#page-9-0) Take an appropriate oil sample and put it into the Rancimat oxidation stability tester. Set the heating temperature to 110 ◦C and the airflow rate to 20 L/h to accelerate the oxidation of oil and fat and generate volatile organic acids. The air will bring volatile organic acids into the conductivity chamber, and the deionized water in the conductivity chamber will dissolve volatile organic acids, ionize ions and cause changes in the conductivity of the deionized water. At the same time, the computer records the induction time of accelerated oxidation of oil and fat, and the test results are expressed in h.

2.6. Detection of volatile components in K.Coccinea seed oil

Using a headspace solid phase microextraction (HS-SPME) in conjunction with a QP-2010 Plus chromatograph mass spectrometer, the volatile components of *K. coccinea* seed oil were identified. The method conditions were referred to [Yang et al. \(2021\)](#page-9-0) with slight modification. Briefly, *K. coccinea* seed oil (1.0 g) was poured into a 20 mL headspace vial before the extraction head (Supelco 50/30 m DVB/CAR/PDMS) was inserted. The extraction head was then held at 60 ◦Cfor equilibrium (30 min), followed by 5 min of desorption. Following were the gas chromatography conditions: HP-5MS column, temperature program: 35 ◦Cfor oven, 250 ◦Cfor injection, a split injection mode, split ratio of 80:1. The column temperature was first set at 35 °Cand increased to 100 ◦C at a rate of 5 ◦C per min, holding that temperature for 0.1 min. The temperature was then raised by 10° C/min for an additional 5 min to 158 ◦C. After that, it was elevated to 230 ◦C at a rate of 15 ◦C/min and maintained there for 2.0 min. The following were the mass spectrometry conditions: In full scan mode with a *m*/*z* range of 40 to 500, the ion source and interface temperatures were 230 ◦C and 250 ◦C, respectively. By comparing the compounds to the NIST11 database, those that had matching degrees above 80 were chosen, and the relative concentration of each component was then determined using the peak area normalization method.

2.7. Detection of fatty acid composition of K.Coccinea seed oil

Fatty acid composition was studied according to the method of [Xu](#page-9-0) [et al. \(2022\).](#page-9-0) GC 2030 equipment (Shimadzu, Japan) with a split/ splitless injector was used to analyze the fatty acid composition of *K. coccinea* seed oil. Specifically, a 5 mL test tube was filled with 60 mg of oil, 4 mL of n-hexane, and 0.2 mL of a 2 mol/L potassium hydroxidemethanol solution. The test tube was then shaken rapidly for 30 s and left motionless until the combined solution turned clear. Then, 1 g of sodium bisulfate was added to the sample solution to shaking vigorously for 30 s and standing still until the mixed solution became clear. The supernatant was collected for gas chromatography analysis using a FID detector on a GC-2030 column with an SP-2560 column (100 m \times 0.25 $mm \times 0.20 \text{ m}$) (Shimadzu, Japan). The column temperature was

planned to rise from 120 ◦C to 230 ◦Cat 3 ◦C/min, then kept at 120 ◦C for 3 min and 230 ◦Cfor 10 min before rising to 235 at 5 ◦C/min and remaining at 235 ◦C for 28 min. The inlet temperature was kept at 230 °C, the detector temperature was kept at 250 °C, and the split ratio was 40:1. Inlet carrier gas was high quality nitrogen at a flow rate of 1.0 mL/min. Tail blowing, air, and hydrogen are 30, 400, and 40 respectively, quantified by the area normalization method.

2.8. Detection of lipids and other concomitants of K.Coccinea seed oil based on UPLC-QTOF-MS/MS

The UPLC-QTOF-MS/MS settings were created using the techniques described by [Fan et al. \(2018\)](#page-8-0). Put 200 μL of *K.coccinea* seed oil into the centrifuge tube, add 600 μL of methanol and mix thoroughly. After vacuum extraction of methanol, add 100 μL of 50 % methanol aqueous solution and centrifuge for 15 min under 17,000 g, Use an UltiMate 3000 ultra-high-performance liquid chromatography (THERMO) in conjunction with a 5600 quadrupole time-of-flight mass spectrometer (AB SCIEX) to analyze the supernatant as the detection liquid and identify the multicomponent characterization and metabolomics of the *K. coccinea* seed oils. To be more precise, the chromatography conditions were column temperature of 40 ◦C, sample loading of 3 μL, and positive and negative ions were used to detect the samples. Positive ion mode: 0.1 % formic acid water (A), 0.1 % formic acid acetonitrile (B); Negative ion mode: A: water (2 mmol/L ammonium acetate), B: acetonitrile, mobile phase flow rate of 0.4 mL/min, elution gradient as follows:0–1.5 min 5–5 % (B), 1.5–2.5 min 5–10 % (B), 2.5–14 min 10–40 % (B), 14–22 min 40–95 % (B), 22–25 min 95–95 % (B), 25–26 min 95–5 % (B), 26–30 min 5–5 % (B). The primary acquisition range for mass spectrometry was 50–1200, the bombardment energy was 30 eV, and 10 secondary spectra were obtained every 50 ms. The atomizing air pressure (GS1), auxiliary air pressure (60 Psi), air curtain air pressure (35 Psi), temperature (650 ◦C), and spray voltage (5000 V (positive ion mode) or − 4000 V (negative ion mode) model) are the settings for the ESI ion source. Data analysis was employed with the software Analyst TF 1.7. AB Sciex.Firstly, the gathered data were converted into abf format by AnalysisBaseFileConverter, and then, MSDIAL ver 4.6 software was used to perform data processing such as peak search and peak alignment on the converted abf files. Meanwhile, the databases of Metlin, Mass-Bank, MoNA and HMDB were independently integrated based on the first-level and second-level map search (version V6.0).

2.9. Detection of sterol content in K.Coccinea seed oil

Based on the reference provided by [Xiong et al. \(2019\),](#page-9-0) the sterol content of *K. coccinea* seed oil was calculated. In a 50 mL test tube, add 25 mL of 2 mol/L KOH-C2H5OH solutions and 5 g of *K. coccinea* seed oil. After 60 min of saponification at 75 ◦C in a water bath kettle, add 5 mL of distilled water for chilling, then complete vortex extraction with 5 mL of n-hexane. The upper organic phase was collected to centrifuge at 3000 r/min for 20 min to obtain the supernatant to be analyzed by Shimadzu GC–MS-QP2010 equipped with Agilent HP-5MS UI capillary column (30 m \times 0.250 mm \times 0.25 μm). A 300 °Cinlet temperature was maintained. The temperature of the column was programmed to rise from 120 to 300 \degree C at a rate of 12 \degree C/min and to stay there for 20 min. High purity helium was used as inlet carrier gas and a flow rate of 1 mL/min. Each sample was injected in a volume of 1.0 mL utilizing the splitless mode, with a 7-mins solvent delay. The following settings were applied to the mass spectrometry: 230 ◦C for the ion source, 70 eV for the ionization voltage and the EI ionization source, 300 ◦C for the transmission line and 150 ◦C for the quadrupole, and 35–500 amu for the complete scan mode.

2.10. Determination of total phenolics content and total flavonoids content

the Folin-Ciocalteu method [\(Bubonja-Sonje et al., 2011](#page-8-0)) with slight modification. Briefly, 0.1 g of *K.coccinea* seed oil was mixed well with 1 mL of 80 % methanol by vortex blender and supernatant was collected. Combine three extracts as the detection solution. After that, combine 200 μL of Folin reagent with 100 μL of the sample solution, and let the mixture react for 30 min in the dark before incorporating 2 mL of a 10 % sodium carbonate solution. Then, being heated for 30 min at 70 ◦C after the mixed solution was diluted to a level of 10 mL with ultrapure water, and the absorbance was gauged at 760 nm, gallic acid was used as the standard control, the amount of total phenolics was determined, and the results were represented as mg of gallic acid equivalents (mg GAE/100 g) per 100 g of oil.

The total flavonoids content of *K.coccinea* seed oil was estimated according to [Ji \(n.d.\)](#page-8-0). Briefly, 2 g *K.coccinea* seed oils were added with ethanol to 25 mL, shaken well before ultrasonic extraction for 20 min. Then, let stand to place 1 mL supernatant into the evaporating dish, add 1 g polyamide powder for adsorption, volatilize ethanol in the water bath and transfer it to the chromatographic column, which first elutes with 20 mL toluene and discard the toluene solution and then elute with methanol, combine the eluent and fix the volume to 25 mL before the absorbance was determined at 360 nm. Rutin was used as the standard control, and the result were expressed as mg rutin equivalents (RE) per 100 g of oil (mg RE / 100 g).

2.11. Determination of squalene content in K.Coccinea seed oil

According to [Ye et al. \(2021\)](#page-9-0), the squalene concentration of *K.coccinea* seed oil was determined using Shimadzu GC-2010 gas chromatograph equipment with a flame ionization detector (GC-FID) using squalane as the internal standard. Briefly, 1 g of *K.coccinea* seed oil was added to 50 mL potassium hydroxide-ethanol solution for saponification. Then followed by extraction with 50 mL n-hexane and washed using 50 mL ethanol. Finally, the extract was concentrated with rotary evaporators and nitrogen-blowing instrument and adjusted with distilled water to a final volume of 10 mL as the detection solution. For analysis, an HP-5 column (30 m \times 0.32 mm i.d x 0.25 mm) was used. For one minute, the temperature of the column was fixed at 160 ◦C. The temperature of the column was designed to rise from 160 to 220 ◦C at a rate of 15 ◦C/min, then to 280 ◦C at a rate of 5 ◦C/min, to be kept at 280 ◦C for 20 min, then to 300 ◦C for two min. Each sample was injected in 1.0 μL utilizing the split mode with a 40:1 split ratio. 1.0 mL/min of high quality nitrogen was employed as the inflow carrier gas. The FID detector temperature was kept at 300 ◦C, while the inlet temperature was kept at 250 ◦C. Squalene content was calculated as follows Eqs. (3):

$$
X = \frac{A_1 \times m_s}{A_s \times m} \tag{3}
$$

X—the content of the component to be measured in the sample, mg/ kg; A_1 -the peak area of the component to be measured in the sample. Asthe peak area of the internal standard squalane in the sample; m_s -the internal standard squalane added to the sample mass, μg; m—the sampling amount, g.

2.12. Statistic analysis

Sample analyses were performed in triplicate. The SPSS22 (version 22.0, IBM Corp. Armonk, NY, USA) program was used to determine the mean and standard deviations. A statistically significant difference was indicated by the $p < 0.05$.

3. Results and discussions

3.1. The kernel yield, oil yield and the nutrients of K.Coccinea seeds

The dried *K.coccinea* seeds have a thin layer of light khaki shells and brown *K.coccinea* kernel. All of the oils were clear and transparent by pressing and centrifuging. As shown in Table 1, the average kernel yield of the four varieties of *K.coccinea* seeds is 68.21 % with a variation coefficient of 1.02 %, and the average oil yield is 30.44 % with a variation coefficient of 7.89 %, which indicates that the kernel yield and oil yield of the four varieties of *K.coccinea* seeds are highly consistent. The crude fat content of *K.coccinea* seed kernels varied from 47.8 to 54.9 g/100 g indicating that the *K.coccinea* seed kernels are rich in oil, our finds are higher than that of *Cucumis melo var.* agrestis seeds $(27.96 \pm 2.15)\%$ ([Jiang et al., 2022](#page-8-0)).

Meanwhile, the protein content was also shown to some extent higher than *Combretum micranthum* seed oil (11.95 g/100 g) and *Morinda citrifolia seed oil* (7.1 g/100 g), with the content varied from 16.5 g/100 g to 17.3 g/100 g [\(Bougma et al., 2021](#page-8-0); [Jahurul et al., 2022](#page-8-0)), and the ash content was 2.9–3.0 g/100 g. The protein content of *K.coccinea* seeds is higher than that of common grains, and the fat content is comparable to that of higher than most of edible oilseeds such as peanuts, sesame seeds, sunflower seeds and other oil ([Wang et al., 2021](#page-9-0)). There are 11 mineral elements in *K.coccinea* seed kernels in all four varieties with variation coefficients of less than 10 % except sodium (21.88 %), indicating that there is general uniformity in the elemental composition of the four kinds of *K.coccinea* seeds. The five macroelements are potassium, phosphorus, magnesium, calcium, and sodium in descending order of content. These high-potassium and low-sodium elements are very beneficial to the human body. In addition, the contents of four trace elements, manganese, iron, copper and zinc, were also detected. Among these elements, the highest level was found in manganese with an average value of 122.12 mg/kg, followed by iron, these relatively higher levels of trace elements also contribute to the nutrition value of *K.coccinea* seeds.

3.2. The physicochemical properties of K.Coccinea seed oil

3.2.1. Color

Color is one of the important quality indicators that affect

Table 1

The kernel yield, kernel oil yield, fat, protein,ash and mineral element content of *K.coccinea* seed.

Variety	DH	7H	FH	HI.
Kernel vield %	68.70 ± 0.38	67.23 ± 1.54	$68.20 + 0.77$	$68.72 + 0.29$
Oil yield %	27.54 ± 0.20	27.80 ± 2.43	33.36 ± 0.49	$31.10 + 0.52$
Fat $g/100 g$	56.20 ± 1.83	49.05 ± 1.76	50.68 ± 2.23	52.73 ± 1.17
Protein g/ 100 _g	16.6 ± 0.26	16.5 ± 0.13	16.8 ± 0.18	17.3 ± 0.16
Ash $g/100$ g	3.1 ± 0.07	3.1 ± 0.14	3.0 ± 0.07	3.1 ± 0.14
K(mg/kg)	7777.96 ±	$7268.39 +$	$6830.12 +$	$7861.50 \pm$
	217.04 a	190.77 ab	125.09 b	194.72 a
Na(mg/kg)	11.33 ± 2.49 a	7.68 ± 0.54 a	8.85 ± 1.41 a	7.77 ± 1.01 a
Ca(mg/kg)	564.57 \pm	576.31 \pm	$501.61 +$	506.85 \pm
	7.17a	40.02a	21.32a	26.72a
Mg(mg/kg)	3401.96 \pm	$3303.74 \pm$	$3017.89 \pm$	$3354.25 \pm$
	62.11a	93.25a	52.36 _b	76.36 a
P(mg/kg)	4464.45 \pm	4192.05 \pm	3931.55 \pm	4519.25 \pm
	96.36 a	141.12 ab	10.63 _b	127.25 a
$Mn * (mg)$	$126.45 \pm$	124.65 ± 4.42	$109.89 \pm$	$127.50 \pm$
kg)	2.62a	a	2.01 _b	3.46a
Fe $*(mg/$	47.97 ± 0.18	41.86 ± 0.89	41.41 ± 0.37	48.01 ± 1.46
kg)	a	b	b	a
Cu * $(mg/$	15.58 ± 0.23	13.40 ± 0.41	13.73 ± 0.15	15.80 ± 0.33
kg)	a	b	b	a
$Zn * (mg)$	15.41 ± 0.29	$13.52 + 0.41$	$13.37 + 0.27$	14.93 ± 0.37
kg)	a	b	b	a

Notes: * is trace element. Different letters in the same row indicate significant differences among different *K.coccinea* varieties (*p <* 0.05). DH: Dahong variety of *K.coccinea* seed oil; ZH: Zihei variety of *K.coccinea* seed oil; FH: Fenhong variety of *K.coccinea* seed oil; HL: Hulu variety of *K.coccinea* seed oil.

consumers' choice of edible oil. The four *K.coccinea* seed oils are all light yellow. Their color measurement results are shown in Table 2. The luminance coefficient L is 81.10–83.73 indicating that oils have a bright appearance, their chromaticity coordinate a* has some negative value from − 11.91 to − 13.15, and the chromaticity coordinate b* has positive values varied from 59.62 to 65.78. These differences may be due to the variety and some pigment components such as natural polyphenol pigments and carotenoids in vegetable oils, which are the dominant components affecting the color of vegetable oil.

3.2.2. The acid value, peroxide value, iodine value and saponification value

The acid value, peroxide value, iodine value and saponification value of the four varieties of *K.coccinea* seed oil are shown in Table 2. Acid value is one of the important indicators to measure the antioxidant properties of oils. The acid value of *K.coccinea* seed oil varied from 0.70 to 0.85 mg/g, which is far below the 4 mg/g, stipulated in the Chinese national food safety standard for vegetable oil, indicating that the free fatty acid content of *K.coccinea* seed oil is low and not easy to oxidize. Peroxide value is an indicator to measure the degree of oil oxidation and is generally positively correlated with the degree of oil rancidity. The peroxide value of *K.coccinea* seed oils is 0.013–0.027 g/100 g, which is far lower than the China national standard of 0.25 $g/100 g$, indicating that the degree of oil oxidation is extremely low.

The iodine value reflects the degree of oil unsaturation. In general, the higher the iodine value, the greater the degree of unsaturation of oil. Here, the iodine value of four kinds of *K.coccinea* seed oil varied from 135.32 to 177.15 g/100 g, all above 130 g/100 g, which is higher than pumpkin seed oil and *Argemone mexicana* seed oil that content of 105.33–109.67 g/100 g and 141.2 g/100 g, respectively [\(Singh](#page-9-0) $&$ [Kumar, 2023](#page-9-0)), indicating that they are all dry oil. The saponification value is generally related to the purity of oil and the molecular weight of fatty acids. The saponification value of these four kinds of *K.coccinea*

Table 2

Notes: ND:Undetectable or below the limited of detection. Different letters in the same row indicate significant differences among different *K.coccinea* varieties (*p <* 0.05). DH: Dahong variety of *K.coccinea* seed oil; ZH: Zihei variety of *K.coccinea* seed oil; FH: Fenhong variety of *K.coccinea* seed oil; HL:Hulu variety of *K. coccinea* seed oil.

seed oil ranged from 156.20 to 178.05 mg/g with the Fenhong varieties being the lowest. The lower the saponification value, the fewer free fatty acids and glycerides in the oil, and the more impurities. On the contrary, the higher the saponification value, the better the oil quality.

For oil accelerated oxidation experiments, the Rancimat method is widely used because of its good reproducibility and easy operation. The Rancimat Oxidation Stabilizer reflects the oil oxidation induction time by detecting the change of the conductivity of the solution in the measuring cell. Under the oxidation induction temperature was 120 ◦C, the induction periods of Dahong and Fenhong were 3.19 h and 3.14 h, respectively, which is longer than that of Zihei (1.58 h) and Hulu (1.36 h), indicating that the Dahong and Fenhong have relatively stronger stability. This difference may be caused by the different levels of linoleic acid in oils as the higher content of linoleic acid, the shorter time of the induction time [\(Zhang et al., 2015](#page-9-0)). Moreover, the induction time was probably close to the level of acid value, as the acid value of Zihei and Hulu were slightly higher than those of Dahong and Fenhong.

3.3. Volatile components of K.Coccinea seed oil

Volatile substances are also one of the important indicators for the sensory characteristics of vegetable oils. Different oils often have

different flavors and volatile substances in oils give them unique smells and characteristics. The total ion chromatography of volatile components detected in the four varieties of *K.coccinea* seed oil was shown in S. Fig. 1, and the compositions are shown in [Table 3.](#page-5-0) A total of 60 volatile components have been detected in these seeds and 52, 54, 48 and 52 volatile components were detected in Dahong, Zihei, Fenhong and Hulu, respectively, which accounted for 96.58 %, 95.66 %, 95.37 % and 93.80 % of the corresponding total peak area, respectively. Among them, most of the volatile components were alkenes, and a small amount of alcohols, aldehydes, esters, ketones and other substances. There were 44 common components in the volatile substances of *K.coccinea* seed oil, accounting for the majority of the total peak area, indicating that the volatile components of the four varieties of *K.coccinea* seed oil were highly consistent. Of these ingredients, 11 volatile substances have a content of 1 % of the total, which are also common components of the four *K. coccinea* seed oils. The compounds listed below, in descending order of content, make up 87.19–89.88 % of the total peak area: γ-Cadinene, β-Himachalene, β-Curcumene, alpha-Longipinene, Cuparene Bicycl, Caryophyllene, 1,5-dimethyl-8-(1-methylethenyl)-,[S-(Z,E)], α-Zingiberene, Selina-3,7(11)-diene, Bergamotol, *Z*-.alpha.-trans-, (+)-epi-Bicyclosesqu iphellandrene. These volatile components of *K.coccinea* seed oil are mainly sesquiterpenes. Among the 11 most important

Fig. 1. The total ion chromatogram of volatile components detected in the four varieties of *K.coccinea* seed oil. A: Dahong variety of *K.coccinea* seed oil; B:Zihei variety of *K.coccinea* seed oil; C: Hulu variety of *K.coccinea* seed oil; D:Fenhong variety of *K.coccinea* seed oil.

Volatile components of *K.coccinea* seed oil.

Notes:ND:Undetectable or below the limited of detection. Different letters in the same row indicate significant differences among different K.coccinea varieties (p *<* 0.05). DH: Dahong variety of *K.coccinea* seed oil; ZH: Zihei variety of *K.coccinea* seed oil; FH: Fenhong variety of *K.coccinea* seed oil; HL:Hulu variety of *K.coccinea* seed oil.

substances, only borneol is a monoterpene, and the other 10 substances are sesquiterpenes. Among the natural products, sesquiterpenes are a large and important group, and the basic skeleton of sesquiterpenes is acacia pyrophosphate composed of three isoprene groups, which is formed through a series of complex transformations in living organisms, becoming the largest type and number of structural skeletons among terpenes components, and most sesquiterpenes have good biological activity. Sesquiterpenes and monoterpenes are also the main components of volatile oils, giving them various properties such as antibacterial, antifungal, antiviral, anti-inflammatory, insecticidal, and antioxidant while imparting a strong and unique odor ([da Silva Gündel](#page-9-0) [et al., 2018\)](#page-9-0).

3.4. Fatty acids of K.Coccinea seed oil

The fatty acid composition, sterol, and squalene content of the four kinds of *K.coccinea* seed oils are shown in Table 4. Their fatty acid composition is similar with a total of 13 fatty acids ([Fig. 1\)](#page-4-0), 6 saturated fatty acids, and 7 unsaturated fatty acids detected. Linoleic acid among them had the highest content of 68.32 %. This is comparable to the high content of linoleic acid in the widely used grapeseed oil (67 %) and slightly lower than that of the "king of linoleic acid" safflower oil (78.54 $% \sim 82.45$ %). However, it is significantly higher than that of many common vegetable oils, including corn oil (57 %), soybean oil (54 %) and linseed oil ([Liang et al., 2021;](#page-8-0) [Xu et al., 2022](#page-9-0)). α-Linolenic acid and linoleic acid are essential fatty acids that must be obtained from dietary sources, which can promote the conversion of excess cholesterol in the body into bile salts, prevent the deposition of cholesterol in the arterial wall, reduce serum cholesterol content and prevent arteriosclerosis. Palmitic acid (12.2–12.8 %) and oleic acid (2.68–2.92 %) were next to the linoleic acid in abundance in *K.coccinea seed oils. K.coccinea* seed oil can be exploited as a new edible oil source due to its high amount of seed

Table 4

Notes: Different letters in the same row indicate significant differences among different *K.coccinea* varieties (*p <* 0.05). SFA: saturated fatty acid; MUFA: monounsaturated fatty acid; PUFA: polyunsaturated fatty acids; USFA: unsaturated fatty acid; DH: Dahong variety of *K.coccinea* seed oil; ZH: Zihei variety of *K. coccinea* seed oil; FH: Fenhong variety of *K.coccinea* seed oil; HL:Hulu variety of *K.coccinea* seed oil.

oil and unsaturated fatty acids.

3.5. Analysis of lipids and their concomitants in K.Coccinea seed oil

3.5.1. The lipids in K.Coccinea seed oil

The study utilized UPLC-QTOF-MS/MS tandem technology to analyze the biological components present in four varieties of *K.coccinea* seed oil. The results, including heat maps of compositions are presented in [Fig. 2](#page-7-0). A total of 74 substances were identified through comparative analysis of the contrast database, with 34 of them being fatty acyl compounds such as stearic acid, myristic acid, palmitic acid, heptadecanoic acid, linoleic acid, and eicosanoic acid. The majority of these fatty acids were consistent with those detected using gas chromatography. Furthermore, pinolenic acid greatly reduced lipid accumulation, oxidative stress, and inflammatory responses generated by oleic acid in HepG2 cells ([Zhang et al., 2019\)](#page-9-0). Moreover, 9(*S*)-HODE and 9(*S*)-HOTrE are chemicals in the metabolic pathways of linoleic acid and α -linolenic acid, respectively. Both are positioned in the downstream locations of the metabolic processes. In addition, the study discovered that *K.coccinea* seed oil also contains some rich phytosterols, such as β-sitosterol and cholesterol. Of these, β-sitosterol is the predominant phytosterols in *K. coccinea* seed oil, with a level of 1498.8–1712.7 mg/kg of oil.[\(Table 2](#page-3-0)). This was greater than the levels found in *Balanites roxburghii* seed oil (52.5–147 mg/kg) [\(Yadav et al., 2023\)](#page-9-0), and some edible oil such as olive oil (1200–1330 mg/kg) ([Bai et al., 2021\)](#page-8-0), palm oil (150.6–434.7 mg/ kg), coconut oil (415.14–422.79 mg/kg), etc. These triterpene molecules have a similar structure to cholesterol and provide a variety of health benefits such as cardiovascular and hypocholesterolemic activity prevention.

3.5.2. The terpenoids in K.Coccinea seed oil

In addition, 16 terpenoids (sesquiterpenes, diterpenes, and triterpenes) were identified. The four varieties of *K.coccinea* seed oil contained two types of sesquiterpenes, seven types of diterpenes, and seven types of triterpenes, which differed from the volatile components, which were primarily sesquiterpenes. *K.coccinea* seed oil contains terpenoids such as 5-Hydroxyiminoisocaryophyllene, abscisic acid, geraniol, pristanoic acid, carnosic acid, sclareol, rafenolide, glycyrrhetinic acid, madecassoside, betulinic acid, α-boswellic acid, 11-Oxoursolic acid acetate, and others. These compounds like prenol lipids all possess similar 5‑carbon precursors, isopentenyl diphosphate. Thus, they coexist with fatty acyl molecules found in seed oils. The majority of these terpenoids have good biological activity, for example, sclareol has antibacterial action[\(Tran et al., 2019](#page-9-0)), glycyrrhetic acid possesses anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antitoxin, gastroprotective, antiviral, cardioprotective, anti-inflammatory effects. Asiaticoside has various activities such as antitumor, neuroprotection and liver protection (Ming $&$ [Yin, 2013](#page-9-0)), and madecassoside has activities such as treatment of skin trauma, antiinflammation, tumor suppressor, and anti-oxidative stress [\(Kunjumon](#page-8-0) [et al., 2022](#page-8-0)). Geraniol is an intermediary in the production of vitamin E and vitamin K, with active properties such as antibacterial, antiinflammatory, anti-tumor, and neuroprotective effects(Ho et al., [2018\)](#page-8-0). Carnosic acid has a phenolic hydroxyl group, which is a lipophilic antioxidant molecule with strong antibacterial action as well as tumor suppressor, anti-inflammatory, and fat-reducing properties. It is often utilized in the food, nutrition, healthcare, and cosmetics sectors [\(Birti](#page-8-0)ć [et al., 2015\)](#page-8-0).

3.5.3. The phenolic compounds in K.Coccinea seed oil

Besides the active ingredients mentioned above compounds, a total of 14 phenolic substances including 9 phenolic acids, 1falvonoid and 4 lignans were identified in four varieties of *K.coccinea* seed oil. Ferulic acid, 4-Hydroxy-3-methoxycinnamaldehyde, hydroquinone, catechol, dextranquinic acid, coniferyl aldehyde, 3-methoxycatechol, syringaldehyde, isoeugenol, chrysanthemin, etc., among which the last five are phenolic substances common to the four *K.coccinea* seed oils. Among

Fig. 2. Heatmap clustering of metabolites in seed oils of four *K.coccinea* species.

them, hydroquinone has a good antioxidant and whitening activity. Syringaldehyde has antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities. Isoeugenol is mainly used as a fragrance in industry. Chrysoeriol is a natural flavonoid with various benefits such as anti-oxidant, antiinflammatory, anti-tumor, anti-osteoporosis, and cardioprotective ([Limboonreung et al., 2020](#page-8-0)). Coniferaldehyde is a plant phenol found in several medicinal plants such as sage, eugenol, and cinnamon, with antiinflammatory and antioxidant activities ([Akram et al., 2016](#page-8-0)). Polyphenolic compounds not only have antioxidant effects but also have physiological functions of lowering blood lipids and preventing cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases, which are a class of active substances of great importance to human health. For lignan compounds, four lignans were detected in *K.coccinea* seed oil with significant differences between the varieties. Only Pinoresin and open-loop isolapsin resin phenol all exist in the four *K.coccinea* seed oil. Pinoresin is in the upstream position of the open-loop isolapsin resin phenol in the metabolic pathway, and the conversion is completed by the action of pinoresinol-lapsinol reductase. Nordihydroguaiaretic acid was only detected in Dahong and Zihei, and only enterodiol was detected in Hulu.

Due to lack of reference material of phenolics compounds, the total phenolics content and total flavonoids of *K.coccinea* seed oil were spectrophotometry detected by are summarized in [Table 2.](#page-3-0) of the four varieties, Hulu had the highest total phenolics content with the value of 503.99 \pm 5.65 mg GAE/100 g, followed by Zihei (430.15 \pm 3.26 mg GAE/100 g), Dahong (393.22 \pm 6.92 mg GAE/100 g) and Fenhong $(368.99 \pm 3.46 \text{ mg}$ GAE/100 g), which significantly higher than that of nutmeg seed oils (3.21 mg GAE/g) (Kozł[owska et al., 2016](#page-8-0)). Phenolic compounds can protect lipids from peroxidation and maintain lipid stability. The abundance of phenolic components found in *K. coccinea* seed oil suggests that the oil may possess superior antioxidant properties. The total flavonoid content of the four varieties of *K.coccinea* seed oil varied from 95.01 \pm 0.59 mg RE/100 g to 126.18 \pm 6.82 mg RE/100 g. Consistent with the level of total phenolics content, the total flavonoid content of Hulu and Zihei varieties was significantly higher than that of Dahong and Fenhong varieties, all higher than that of pressed perilla seed oil (43.6 mg/kg) (Jia et al., 2022).

3.5.4. The squalene in K.Coccinea seed oil

Aside from the above compounds, another unsaturated fatty acid, squalene, was also detected in *K.coccineas* seed oil. Squalene is a kind of bioactive molecule with antihypoxia activity, which is a precursor molecule for the synthesis of phytosterols and steroid hormones, widely found in various seed oils such as olive oil, camellia oil, peanut oil, soybean oil, peony seed oil, and linseed oil with a certain amount of squalene ([Zhu, 2019](#page-9-0)). As shown in [Table 2](#page-3-0), a relatively higher level of squalene (14.4–15.1 mg/kg) has also been found in *K.coccinea* seed oil except Dahong variety. These values were much higher than many other plant seed oils, such as grape seed oil (Beveridge et al., 2005), pomegranate seed oil [\(Liu et al., 2022](#page-9-0)), etc. It was only 1 to 2 % lower than those found in olive oil (Cert et al., 2000), indicating that *K.coccinea* seed oil has a good application potential.

4. Conclusion

This present work is the first attempt to thoroughly assess the physicochemical properties and compositions of seed oils derived from four *K. coccinea* types with the goal of developing them into a possible industrial oil source. The nutritional composition of the seed oil showed that the seed was rich in phenolics and flavonoids, and also showed high iodine value, low acid value, peroxide value, saponification value and other good quality parameters. *K.coccinea* seed oil is rich in linoleic acid, terpenoids, phenols and lignans. In addition, the content of β-sitosterol is high, and a small amount of cholesterol and squalene. These findings clearly indicate that *K.coccinea* seeds may contribute to a variety of biological and nutritional applications. These bioactive ingredients are the biological material basis for *K.coccinea* seed oil to exert its antioxidant, antibacterial and other activities, indicating that *K.coccinea* seed oil has the potential to be processed into important edible oil, pharmaceutical and cosmetic oil in industrial mainstay.

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CRediT authorship contribution statement

Jing Wang: Writing – original draft, Visualization, Software, Data curation. **Yingying Cheng:** Writing – review & editing, Methodology, Formal analysis. **Liying Fang:** Writing – review & editing, Methodology, Formal analysis. **Ao Yang:** Conceptualization. **Feijun Luo:** Validation, Resources. **Jun Lu:** Writing – review & editing. **Jiali Ren:** Validation, Resources.

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Data availability

No data was used for the research described in the article.

Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at [https://doi.](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fochx.2024.101765) [org/10.1016/j.fochx.2024.101765](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fochx.2024.101765).

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