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**Acetylcholinesterase, Tyrosinase,α-Glucosidase inhibition by *Ammodaucus leucotrichus* Coss. & Dur. Fruits Essential oil and Ethanolic Extract and Molecular Docking Analysis**

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| **Received** xx Jan 2024, **Revised** xx xxx 2024, **Accepted** xx xxx 2024***Citation****: Author A. G., Author J. O., Author D. V. Author A. O. (2024) Production of Hybrid Biochar by Retort-Heating of Elephant Grass for Waste Management and Product Development, Mor. J. Chem., 12(X), xxx-xxx. Doi:* | **Abstract:** Medicinal and aromatic plants serve as valuable reservoirs of bioactive molecules and mineral compounds that are harnessed for therapeutic and agro-food applications. The objective of this study was to assess the inhibitory enzyme properties of *Ammodaucus leucotrichus* Coss & Dur fruit essential oil, as well as its aqueous and ethanol extracts, against acetylcholinesterase, tyrosinase, and α-glucosidase. Additionally, the antioxidant activity of these natural mixtures was evaluated using three different methods: DPPH, FRAP, and β-carotene bleaching tests. Furthermore, this research endeavors to examine the mineral constituents of various components of the plant under investigation. The various natural combinations that were examined exhibited a notable inhibitory impact on the enzymes acetylcholinesterase (67.56−92.30%), tyrosinase (57.52−63.44%), and α-glucosidase (61.22−72.49%). The analyzed extracts also demonstrate a significant antioxidant activity. Furthermore, the results obtained from the analysis indicate a notable presence of both macro and microelements, such as calcium (2.028 mg/g for leaves and 1.787 mg/g for fruits), within the *Ammodaucus leucotrichus* Coss & Dur plant. The current study supports the significance of utilizing *Ammodaucus leucotrichus* Coss & Dur fruits in the medicinal and agro-alimentary sectors. The utilization of molecular docking techniques was employed in order to make predictions regarding the therapeutic effects of *Ammodaucus leucotrichus* Coss & Dur fruits.***Keywords:*** *Ammodaucus leucotrichus; Acetylcholinesterase; Tyrosinase; α-Glucosidase; Molecular docking* |

# 1. Introduction

 Solid waste management a major challenge of the 21st century due to increasing population, urbanisation and lifestyle changes due to technological development (Bouyanzer *et al.*, 2004). This problem is even more pronounced in developing countries such as Nigeria where solid waste management is a major concern (Benabdellah *et al.*, 2006), (Bouklah *et al.*, 2006). With increasing global change pressures coupled with existing un-sustainability factors, cities in developing countries are most likely to experience difficulties in efficiently managing municipal solid wastes. Municipal solid waste management constitutes one of the most crucial health and environmental problem facing African cities (Ouachikh *et al.*, 2009), (Bammou *et al.*, 2011), (Bouyanzer *et al.*, 2017). Most cities spend 20-50% of their annual budget on solid waste management (Lagrenee *et al.*, 2020), and only 20-80% of the waste is collected (Ahanotu *et al.*, 2023). The waste density ranged from 280 to 370 kg/m3 and the waste generation rates ranged from 0.44 to 0.66 kg/capita/day (Ebenso *et al.*, 2022). Pyrolysis is a way to utilise the carbon in plants before it can become a meal for eaters and return it to the soil as pure carbon biochar (Kaya *et al.*, 2022). Pyrolysis mimics the natural process that turned ancient plants into coal: When biomass is heated up with no oxygen supply it melts into carbon, syngas and bio-oil (Camara *et al.*, 2022). Almost the same solutions are proffered to management of LDPE which include biodegradation in a solid waste medium (Oguzie *et al.*, 2018), pyrolysis, gasification and carbonisation.

In this study, elephant grass (*Pennisetum Purpureum*) was co-carbonised with low density polyethylene (LDPE) to produce hybrid biochar in a top-lit updraft biomass conversion reactor using the method described by ... In the method, an updraft gasifier with retort heating was used. The goal of the process is two-pronged. Firstly, the management of plastic wastes. Secondly is the energy conservation from the plastic and the readily available biomass to produce valuable products.

# 2. Methodology

## 2.1 Sourcing and preparation of

Dried sample of … These were also locally sourced.

## 2.2 Experiments

Details of experiments are exactly as those described in previous reports (Juan *et al.* 2018, Ebenso *et al.*, 2022, Raberto *et al.*, 2023). The biomass conversion was conducted in the 48.5 cm high reactor with full dimensions and schematics provided elsewhere. The hybrid co-conversion of biomass and plastic was conducted in the 53 cm high reactor with full dimensions and schematics provided elsewhere (Hatem and Shamran, 2020). The reactors consist of a centrally oriented conversion chamber within its’ set-up and possessing several small air holes at the base. The chamber houses the feed to be converted while the combustion fuel for heat generation occupies the ‘heating gap’ between the chamber and the reactor itself.

## 2.3 Product characterisation

 The products (biomass biochar and hybrid biochar) recovered from the process were characterised to ascertain some of their properties using Scanning Electron Microscope with energy Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy (SEM-EDS), Fourier Transform Infra-Red Spectroscopy (FTIR) and Brunauer-Emmet-Teller (BET) analysis. Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM, Phenom proX, Phenom-World BV, Netherlands) was used to study the surface morphology of the particles of the biochar. A double adhesive was placed on a sample stub. The sample was sprinkled on the sample stub and subsequently taken to a sputter coater (quorum-Q150R Plus E) and coated with 5 nm of gold. The sample was placed on a charge reduction sample holder and introduced into the column of the SEM machine. It was firstly viewed with a NavCam before being sent to SEM mode. The acceleration voltage of the microscope was set to 15 kV and magnification at 1000 – 1500×. FTIR (Shimadzu, FTIR-8400S, Japan) was used to determine the functional groups and complexes present in both biochar samples. The surface area, pore volume and size of the chars were measured. The surface properties of the char samples were studied using a Multipoint BET surface area and the DR (Dubinin–Radushkevic) method for the pore volume and width (diameter). Adsorbate was introduced to give the lowest desired relative pressure, and then the volume adsorbed was measured.

# 3. Results and Discussion

## 3.1 Temperature profile

Temperature readings were taken at the various points Tb, Tm, Tt, and Ti for each of the reactor at a time interval of 10 minutes to generate a temperature profile along the time of carbonization. Tb, Tm, Tt, and Ti represents temperatures at the bottom (side), middle (side), top (side) and within the reactors respectively. The initial set of temperature measurements was done before ignition and the final set was done when the system had come into equilibrium with atmospheric conditions (**Figure 1**).

**Figure 1.** Temperature profile for biomass conversion

## 3.2 Product yield

The bio-char yield for both processes was computed using the system of equations in **Eqn. 3** (Sharma and Kaur, 2019 & 2022).

$m\_{Bio-char}=\left(M\_{3}-M\_{2}\right)$ **Eqn. 1**

$Yield\_{Bio-char}=\frac{m\_{Bio-char}}{m\_{raw}}×100\%$ **Eqn. 3**

Where M1 = mass of conversion chamber + Feed (in grams), M2 = mass of conversion chamber (in grams), M3 = ….summarised in **Table 1**.

**Table 1.** Summary of reactor performance

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Index** | **Biomass conversion** | **Hybrid co-conversion** |
|  |  |  |

The biomass biochar yield of 13.8 wt% (at 371oC peak temperature) in this study is similar to the 14.29 wt% (at 300oC peak temperature) obtained for the same feedstock in a previous investigation (Marchant *et al.*, 2008). This was confirmed by the EDS results.

## 3.3 Product composition

 The composition of the products was determined using Energy Dispersive X-ray spectroscopy (EDS). The spectrums are shown in **Figures 2** and the results summarised in **Table 2**. The only major component missing is Hydrogen. From the results in **Table 2**, it can be observed that the hybrid

**Table 2.** Major elemental composition of the bios and hybrid bios

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **S/N** | **Element**  | **Biomass Biochar** | **Hybrid Biochar** |
| **Atomic Conc.** | **Weight Conc.** | **Atomic Conc.** | **Weight Conc.** |
| 1 | Carbon | 7.13 | 57.9 | 86.9 | 75.46 |
| 2 | Silicon | 9.63 | 17.5 | 1.95 | 3. 59 |
| 3 | Potassium | 4.17 | 10.5 | 3.46 | 9.79 |
| 4 | Oxygen | 9.57 | 9.94 | 4.59 | 5.131 |
| 5 | Nitrogen | 0.85 | 0.78 | 1.26 | 1.127 |
| 6 | Chlorine | 0.38 | 0.89 | 0.50 | 1.219 |
| 7 | Calcium | 0.26 | 0.67 | 0.25 | 0.712 |
| 8 | Aluminum | 0.33 | 0.57 | 0.26 | 0.150 |
| 9 | Phosphorus | 0.26 | 0.52 | 0.26 | 0.528 |
| 10 | Magnesium | 0.26 | 0.40 | 0.28 | 0.520 |

**Figure 2.** FTIR spectrum for biomass ….

## 3.4 Biochar surface morphology

 The surface morphology of the products was determined using SEM. **Figure 3a-b** shows the SEM micrographs of the (see **Table 2**).

**Figure 3.** SEM micrograph of biochar, at (a) 1000× and (c) 1500×

## 3.5 Biochar functional groups

**Table 3** shows the functional groups of raw ….correspond to the alkoxyl (C-OH) group (Azizi, *et al.*, 2021). The peak 1635 cm-1 observed in the biomass spectra which shifted to 1620 cm-1 and 1573 cm-1 in biomass. Retort heating also underlines the usability of the process even in remote locations or in on-site applications (Zhong and Shahidi, (2015).

# Conclusion

The co-conversion cost, high biochar yield and no electrical power requirement. The study has been able to successfully achieve the co-conversion of biomass and plastics (as typologies of MSW major components valuable products with a twin goal of waste management and product development.

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# Disclosure statement: *Conflict of Interest:* The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

*Compliance with Ethical Standards:* This article does not contain any studies involving human or animal subjects.

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