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# Fruit-mediated synthesis of silver nanoparticles using *Vitis vinifera* and evaluation of their antimicrobial efficacy

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## Abstract

Nanobiotechnology is a rapidly growing scientific field of producing and constructing devices utilizing nanosized particles of about nanometer scale level (1 to 100 nm). Nowadays, nanoparticles have potential effects in life sciences and human health care applications. Among the nanoparticles, silver nanoparticles are playing a major role in the field of biomedical nanotechnology and nanomedicine. Silver is a naturally occurring precious metal, most often as a mineral ore in association with other elements. Silver nanoparticle has a natural antimicrobial effect against many pathogens such as bacteria, fungus, viruses, and yeast. In this present study, the silver nanoparticle is produced using *Vitis vinifera* fruit extract, and the purified nanoparticles will be used as an antibacterial agent against *Bacillus subtilis* and *Klebsiella planticola*. This green chemistry for the biosynthesis of silver nanoparticles has several advantages such as cost-effectiveness and compatibility for biomedical and pharmaceutical applications as well as for large-scale commercial production. Apart from this, it is an eco-friendly process, and compared with microorganisms, plant extract biorecovery unit has an added benefit of ease handling.

**Keywords:** *Vitis vinifera*; Biosynthesis; Silver nanoparticles; SEM; XRD

## Background

Nanotechnology is a developing interdisciplinary field of research interspersing material science, bionanoscience, and technology. Remarkable advances are made in the field of biotechnology and nanotechnology to harness the benefit of life sciences, health care and industrial biotechnology [1-3]. A reliable and eco-friendly process for synthesis of metallic nanoparticles is an important step in the field of nanotechnology. In recent years, noble metal nanoparticles have been the subject of focused research due to their unique optical, electronic, mechanical, magnetic, and chemical properties that are significantly different from those of bulk materials [4]. There is particular interest in nanoparticulate Ag, due to its ability to act as both an electron sink as well as a redox catalyst [5]. Numerous microorganisms and plant

extracts have been applied to synthesize inorganic nanostructures either intracellularly or extracellularly. It can be realized by electrostatic interaction between  $\text{Ag}^+$  and negatively charged carboxylate groups on the cell surface. In a microorganism the reduction of metal ions occurs on its cell surface by enzymes present in the cell wall [6]. The development of green processes for the synthesis of nanoparticles is evolving into an important branch of nanotechnology [7,8]. Several plant biomass or plant extracts have been successfully used for extracellular biosynthesis of silver nanoparticles. The metal ions reduction occurs very rapidly, and the reduction of Ag ions will be completed within hours. Rapid synthesis and excellent yield of silver nanoparticles through this plant-mediated [9-12] biosynthesis have a time-related (2 to 4 h) advantage in comparison with microbial synthesis (24 to 120 h) [13,14]. Therefore green chemistry approaches in nanotechnology for nanoparticle synthesis is used in medical applications, targeted drug delivery, imaging, and dye and heavy metal adsorption. The application of nanoparticles as delivery vehicles for

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bactericidal agents represents a new paradigm in the design of antibacterial therapeutics.

In this present investigation, we developed an inexpensive, versatile, and very reproducible method for large-scale synthesis of silver nanoparticles by reduction process using fruit extract of *Vitis vinifera*. This fruit extract can act both as reducing and stabilizing agents. *V. vinifera* is an important fruit which has phytochemicals such as resveratrol (a polyphenol), and it may have potential use in biomedical applications due to its high antibacterial activity.

## Results and discussion

### Visual identification

*V. vinifera* fruit-mediated synthesis of silver nanoparticles is a slow process, when compared with other natural plant materials. Here, the silver nanoparticles synthesis process was started in 1 h and completed in 4 h of incubation (Figure 1). This is due to the increasing concentration of silver nanoparticles as well as the particles' growth in size [15]. The intensity of color is increased when the time of incubation was increased. The color exhibited by metallic nanoparticles is due to the coherent excitation of all "free" electrons within the conduction band, leading to an in-phase oscillation, which is known as surface plasmon resonance [9]. In *V. vinifera* fruit-synthesized silver nanoparticles, there are no significant changes beyond 4 h, indicating the completion of the reduction reaction. This result correlated with the earlier reports of *Punica granatum* [16], and *Dioscorea oppositifolia* [17]. At the end of reduction process, there is a dark brown color of silver nanoparticles that settled at the bottom of the conical flask.

### UV-visible spectroscopic analysis

In fruit-mediated synthesis, after mixing *V. vinifera* fruit extract in aqueous solution of the silver ion complex,

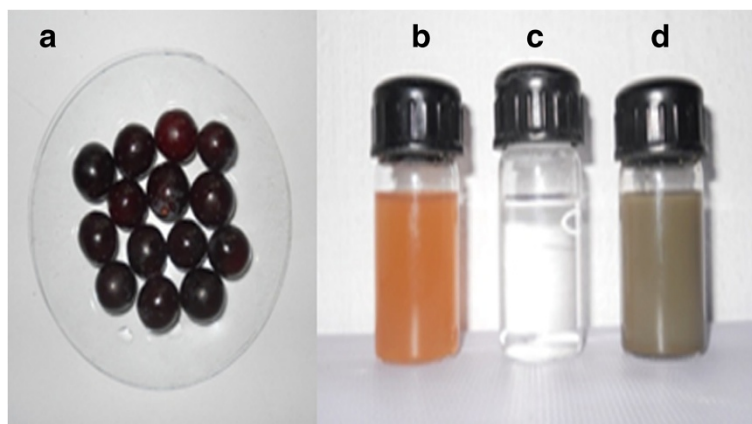
the solution slightly started to change in color from yellow to brown in 1 h of incubation at 37°C. Colloidal solutions of Ag nanoparticles show a very intense color while the time interval was increased from 1 to 4 h. This result correlated with the previous report of Chauhan et al. [16]. It is an indication of silver nanoparticles formation as the color change observed is due to the excitation of surface plasmon vibrations in silver nanoparticles [18]. The broad surface plasmon resonance band observed around 450 to 470 nm (Figure 2) indicates that the particles are large and polydispersed [18,19].

### SEM analysis

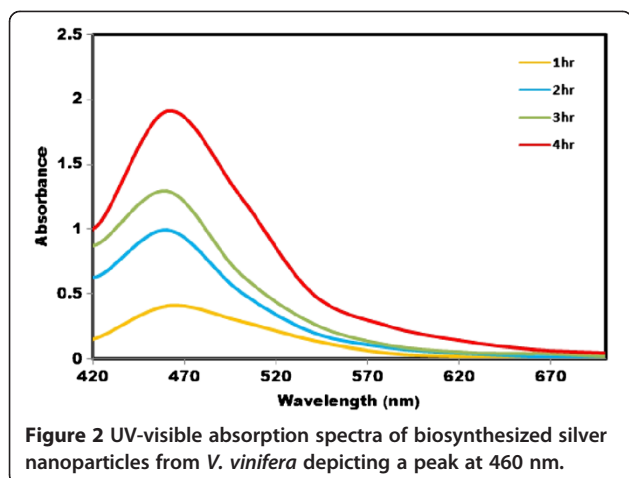
After the reduction process, the silver nanoparticles are separated by centrifugation of the solution at 15000 rpm for 15 min. Silver nanoparticles were purified by repeated centrifugation for three to four times, and the pellet was dried in hot air oven. Further, the air-dried powder was used to identify the shape and morphology of the nanoparticles. SEM characterizations of the synthesized Ag nanoparticles are shown in Figure 3. It shows relatively spherical-shaped nanoparticles formed with diameters that range from 30 to 40 nm. The nanoparticles were examined under various magnifications of  $\times 16,000$ ,  $\times 25,000$ , and  $\times 45,000$ . This result correlated with a previous report obtained using papaya fruit extract which was at a range of 25 to 50 nm [20].

### EDX analysis

The fruit extract of *V. vinifera*-synthesized silver nanoparticles also produces a strong signal at 3 keV which reveals the presence of silver nanoparticles. The presence of the strong signal from silver (59.15%) atoms in the nanoparticles and weaker signals from oxygen



**Figure 1** *Vitis vinifera* fruit (a), fruit extract without (b) and without (d)  $\text{AgNO}_3$ , and  $\text{AgNO}_3$  solution (c).



(27.30%), chlorine (12.49%), and calcium (1.09%) atoms is confirmed (Figure 4). The weaker signals are recorded possibly due to elements (Cl, Ca, and O) from organic moieties like enzymes or proteins present within the extract of the pomegranate fruit [21].

#### X-ray diffraction analysis

The X-ray diffraction (XRD) pattern clearly shows that synthesized Ag nanoparticles formed are crystalline in nature. The fruit extract-synthesized (*Vitis vinifera*) Ag nanoparticles have shown five intense peaks (Figure 5) in the whole spectrum of  $2\theta$  values ranging from 30 to 80. The typical XRD pattern revealed that the sample contains a spherical structure of silver nanoparticles. A number of Bragg reflections corresponding to (0 0 4), (1

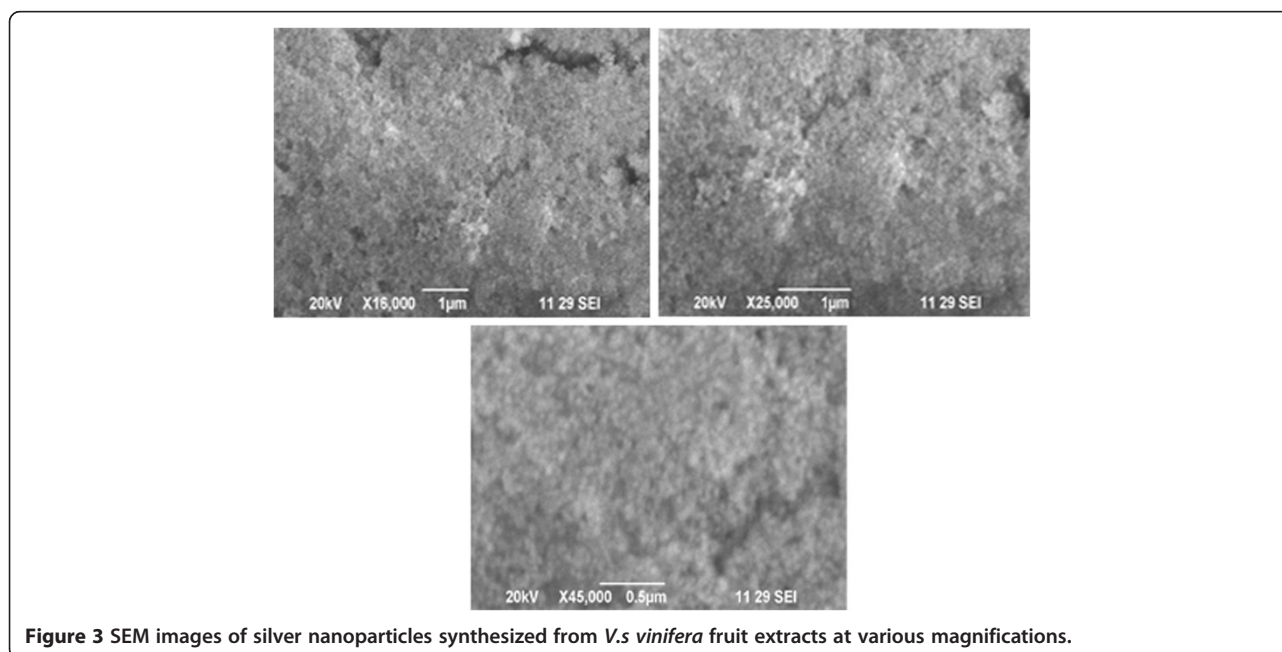
1 1), (2 0 0), (2 2 0) and (3 1 1) sets of lattice planes are observed which may be indexed, based on the FCC structure of silver. Peaks are also observed, suggesting that crystallization in the bio-organic phase occurs on the surface of the nanoparticles [22].

#### Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy

The fruit-synthesized (*V. vinifera*) silver nanoparticles obtained obvious absorption peaks at 3,314, 3,199, 1,671, 1,402, 1,399 and 1,122  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (Figure 6) as well as some intensity peaks that decreased at 2,967, 2,879 and 2,362  $\text{cm}^{-1}$ . Figure 6 shows that bands at 3,199 to 3,314  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  correspond to N-H, and O-H stretching vibrations of 1°, and 2° amines, amides, alcohol and H-bonded to phenols. The peak at 1,399 to 1,671  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  indicates C-H stretching vibrations of alkene. The peak at 1,122  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  represents the C-H in-plane bending of alkenes, alcohols, carboxylic acids, esters, and ethers. The weak band at 2,362 to 2,967  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  corresponds to C-H stretching vibrations of alkanes.

#### Antibacterial activity

The inhibition zone was observed against *Bacillus subtilis* and *Klebsiella planticola*. In the quantitative assay, 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50  $\mu\text{l}$  of Ag nanoparticles were added in five respective wells. The zone of inhibition was measured as 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 mm respectively in diameter. The zone of inhibition measured is summarized in Table 1. From the table, it is evident that the synthesized nanoparticles are good candidates for their usage in antibacterial drugs. Similarly, the silver nanoparticles synthesized from the extracts of the plant



**Figure 3** SEM images of silver nanoparticles synthesized from *V. vinifera* fruit extracts at various magnifications.

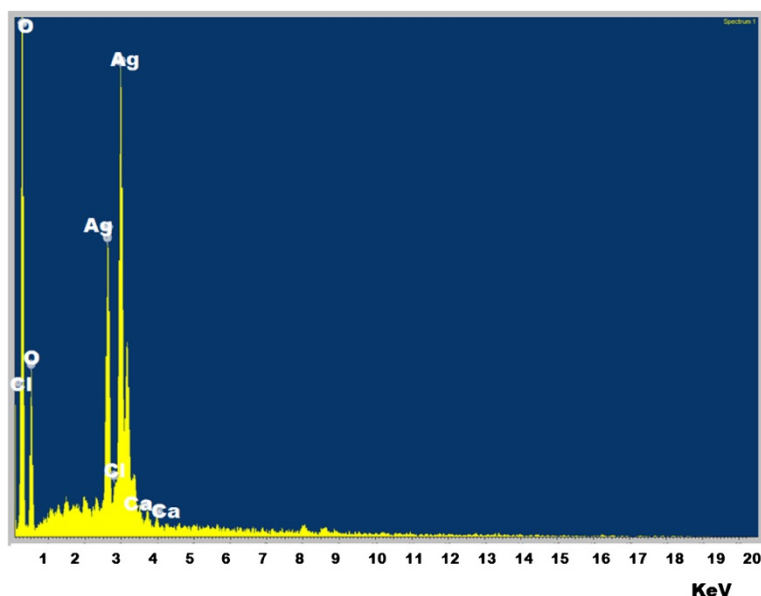


Figure 4 EDX spectra of prepared silver nanoparticles by *V. vinifera*.

barks of *Cinnamomum camphora* plants, are toxic to multi-drug-resistant bacteria, which shows their great potential effect in biomedical applications. Similar observations were found with the *Allium cepa* [23] and *Argimone mexicana* [24].

## Conclusions

In the present study, we found that *V. vinifera* is a good source for the synthesis of silver nanoparticles. It was confirmed by the brown color formation of the extract. Silver nanoparticles were synthesized using the present method having 30 to 40-nm average mean sizes with spherical shape. The reduction of silver ions and the stabilization of silver nanoparticles were thought to occur through the participation of fruit proteins and metabolites. Most importantly, the

reaction was simple and convenient to handle; it is believed that the *in vitro* phytosynthesis of silver nanoparticles has more advantages over other biological syntheses.

## Methods

### Chemicals

$\text{AgNO}_3$  was purchased from Himedia, Mumbai, India. The bacterial cultures of *B. subtilis* and *K. planticola* were obtained from Microbial Type Culture Collection, Chandigarh, India.

### Preparation of fruit extract

Ripened fruit of *V. vinifera* was used for the preparation of the extract. This ripened fruit weighing 25 g was thoroughly washed in distilled water and dried, cut into

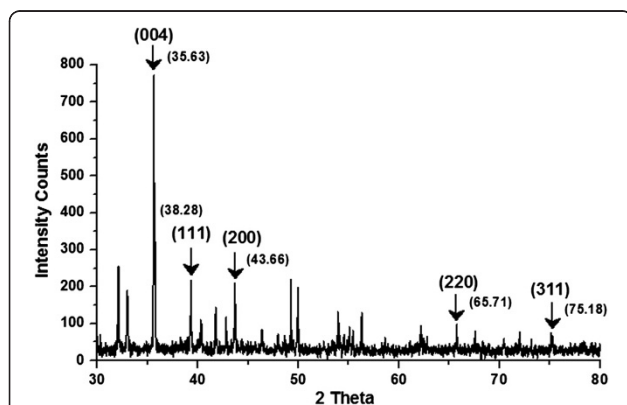


Figure 5 XRD patterns of silver nanoparticles synthesized using *V. vinifera* fruit broth.

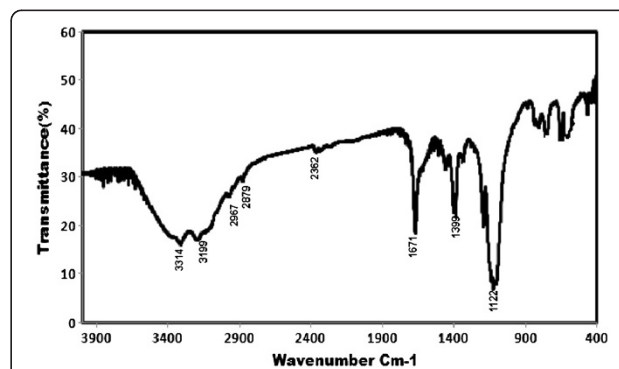


Figure 6 FT-IR spectrum of silver nanoparticles synthesized by reacting  $\text{AgNO}_3$  with *V. vinifera* fruit extract.

**Table 1 Antimicrobial activity of Ag nanoparticles synthesized using the fruit extract of *V. vinifera* (mm)**

Concentration of silver nanoparticles ( $\mu$ l)	Bacterial strain (zone of inhibition)	
	<i>B. subtilis</i>	<i>K. planticola</i>
10	8	5
20	8	6
30	8.5	8
40	11	9
50	13	11

small pieces, crushed into 100 ml of sterile water, and filtered using Whatman filter paper no. 1; the filtrate was collected and underwent a second filtration using the same type of filter paper, but the pore size was smaller. The filtrate was collected, and this filtrate was used as the sample.

#### Formation of silver nanoparticle

One millimolar of 95-ml silver nitrate (0.016 g) solution was prepared and kept in a 250-ml Erlenmeyer flask. *V. vinifera* fruit extract (5 ml) was added to the silver nitrate solution. Ninety-five percent of the bioreduction of  $\text{AgNO}_3$  ions occurred within 4 h. The yellow colored solution which slowly turned brown indicated the formation of silver nanoparticles.

#### Antibacterial activity

Agar disk diffusion method was used to assay the bactericidal effect of green synthesized silver nanoparticles on Muller-Hinton agar plates against the strains of *B. subtilis* and *K. planticola*. A single colony of test strain was grown overnight in LB broth medium on a rotary shaker (200 rpm) at 35°C. After 24 h of incubation, a loop full of bacterial culture was placed on the Muller-Hinton broth medium. The silver nanoparticles are taken at different concentrations of 10 to 50  $\mu$ l and are impregnated with a sterile disk placed over the surface of the medium to assess the bactericidal effect of the silver nanoparticles. After incubation at 35°C for 24 to 48 h, the zones of inhibition were measured.

#### Characterization study of synthesized silver nanoparticles

After completion of the nanoparticle synthesis process, the particle-containing solution was centrifuged to separate the nanoparticles, and this process was repeated two or three times to remove unwanted garbage. It was then dried in a hot air oven at 70°C. The synthesized nanoparticles indicated by UV-visible spectroscopy, were carried out in a Perkin-Elmer spectrophotometer (Branford, CT, USA) operating in a wavelength from 300 to 900 nm. The morphology of the nanoparticles was

identified using a scanning electron microscope by Philips (Amsterdam, The Netherlands). The presence of elemental silver in the solution mixture was identified using an energy dispersive X-ray spectrophotometer, and it was operated at an accelerating voltage of 20 kV. The crystallinity of the nanoparticles was evident from the XRD measurements. FT-IR data indicate a bonding of Ag nanoparticles with the functional group of fruit extract through bridging linkage. The antimicrobial activities were done using bacteria like *B. subtilis*, *K. planticola* for biomedical application.

#### Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

#### Authors' contributions

GG carried out the nanoparticles synthesis and characterization. KP carried out the manuscript preparation, MV, SR and CM carried out the antibacterial activity. GA and CK supervised the research work and corrected the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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GG completed her M.Sc. in Biotechnology in Periyar University and obtained her Ph.D. degree in Nanotechnology under the guidance of GA. Her research interests include green-mediated synthesis of nanoparticles and its agricultural applications for controlling plant diseases. KP received his B.Sc. (2005) and M.Sc. in Biotechnology (2007) from Madurai Kamaraj University and Periyar University, India, respectively. He is currently working to obtain his Ph.D. degree at Manonmaniam Sundaranar University in India. He is interested in the green and immobilized microbe-mediated synthesis process of nanoparticles and nanocomposites and their biomedical and textile industry applications. MV obtained her M.Sc. in Environmental Biotechnology in Sri Paramakalyani Centre for Environmental Sciences, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Alwarkurichi, Tirunelveli. She obtained her Ph.D. degree under the guidance of GA in the field of nanotechnology. Her research interests include eco-friendly synthesis of nanoparticles and its application in the environment. SR completed his M.Sc. in Biotechnology in Periyar University and obtained his Ph.D. degree in Nanotechnology under the guidance of GA. He published 11 research articles in nanoparticle synthesis. He is interested in the metallic nanoparticles synthesis using algae and algae-derived compounds and their potential applications in the biomedical field. CM completed her B.Sc. in Zoology and M.Sc. in Environmental Biotechnology in SPKCES, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Alwarkurichi, Tirunelveli. She achieved her Ph.D. degree under the guidance of GA in the field of nanotechnology. Her research interests include synthesis of semiconductor nanomaterials and metal nanoparticles and their biomedical applications. CK had done his master's degree and doctoral degree in the discipline of Chemistry. His research interests are in the field of green chemistry, environmental chemistry, and synthesis of nanoparticles. Currently, he works as an associate professor in MSU, Tirunelveli. GA received his M.Sc. in Applied Chemistry (1992) and Ph.D. in Environmental Biotechnology (1997) from Anna University, India. He had 10 years (1999 to 2008) of post-doctoral experiences from the National Taiwan University in Taiwan, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology in Japan, and National Central University in Taiwan. He has received many research awards from the Indian and other country governments. He is an associate editor in five international journals. At present, he is an associate professor of Environmental Biotechnology and the leader of the Environmental Nanobiotechnology Division at SPKCES, MS University, India. His main research interest is on biosynthesis of nanoparticles and nanomaterials, nanobiocatalyst, and environmental chemistry.

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