

Review

Cyclodextrins as encapsulation agents for plant bioactive compounds

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ABSTRACT

Plants possess a wide range of molecules capable of improve healing: fibre, vitamins, phytosterols, and further sulphur-containing compounds, carotenoids, organic acid anions and polyphenolics. However, they require an adequate level of protection from the environmental conditions to prevent losing their structural integrity and bioactivity. Cyclodextrins are cyclic oligosaccharides arising from the degradation of starch, which can be a viable option as encapsulation technique. Cyclodextrins are inexpensive, friendly to humans, and also capable of improving the biological, chemical and physical properties of bioactive molecules.

Therefore, the aim of this review is to highlight the use of cyclodextrins as encapsulating agents for bioactive plant molecules in the pharmaceutical field.

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Contents

1. Introduction	122
2. Cyclodextrins	122
2.1. IC formation process	123
2.2. CDs' derivatives	123
3. Plant-derived bioactive agents	124
3.1. Flavonoids	124
3.2. Non-flavonoids	125
4. CDs and polyphenolics	127
4.1. CDs and flavonoids	127
4.2. CDs and non-flavonoids	131
5. Conclusion	133
Conflict of interest	133
Acknowledgments	133
References	133

Abbreviations: CD, cyclodextrins; IC, inclusion complex; K, constant stability; UV-Vis, ultraviolet-visible light; NMR, nuclear magnetic resonance; M- β -CD, methyl- β -cyclodextrin; DM- β -CD, 2,6-dimethyl- β -CD; TM- β -CD, 2,3,6-trimethyl- β -CD; DMA, acetylated-2,6-dimethyl- β -CD; HE- β -CD, hydroxyethyl- β -CD; HP- β -CD, 2-hydroxypropyl- β -CD; DHP, dihydroxypropyl- β -CD; G1- β -CD, glycosyl- β -CD; G2- β -CD, maltosyl- β -CD; GUG- β -CD, glucuronyl-glucosyl- β -CD; DE- β -CD, 2,6-diethyl- β -CD; TE- β -CD, per-*o*-ethyl- β -CD; TA- β -CD, per-*o*-acetyl- β -CD; TV- β -CD, per-*o*-valeryl- β -CD; CME- β -CD, O-carboxymethyl-O-ethyl- β -CD; SBE- β -CD, sulfate and sulfobutylether β -CD; CM- β -CD, O-carboxymethyl- β -CD; ROS, reactive oxygen species; HAT- β -CD, hydroxytrimethyl-ammoniumpropyl- β -CD; HP- γ -CD, 2-hydroxypropyl- γ -CD; HP- α -CD, 2-hydroxypropyl- α -CD; RM- β -CD, randomly methylated- β -CD.

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1. Introduction

Plants are, virtually, inexhaustible sources of biologically active compounds, which are their defence mechanisms against microorganisms, insects and herbivores. Plants bioactive compounds have been; widely used by the food, cosmetic and pharmaceutical industries (Aridogan et al., 2002; Belščak-Cvitanović et al., 2011; Cowan, 1999; Gou, Zou, & Ahn, 2011). In this field of expertise the utilisation of natural compounds instead of synthetic ones offers many advantages, such as high levels of biocompatibility, low toxicity and good availability. Plants bioactive molecules include polyphenolics, alkaloids and polysaccharides, and they all have well-documented pharmacological properties. However, polyphenolics are currently the major group of interest in view of their anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial and antioxidant properties, as well as their availability in the human diet (Aridogan et al., 2002; Belščak-Cvitanović et al., 2011; Cowan, 1999; Gou et al., 2011).

In order to have biological activity, molecules need to be capable of reaching the action site without losing integrity and be able to cross the lipophilic membrane. Plants bioactive compounds have restricted application as pharmaceutical products since they have limited water solubility, poor bioavailability, and can be easily modified by environmental factors such as temperature, pH and light. Therefore, in order to preserve bioactive molecules structural integrity, they need to be protected by a finishing formulation with the capacity to deliver them to the physiological targets without losing any bioactivity (Fang & Bhandari, 2010; Munin & Edwards-Lévy, 2011).

CDs can serve as vehicles for the protection of polyphenols due to their ability to encapsulate molecules, a process involving the formation of ICs. Indeed, CDs have the capacity to modify the guest molecule's characteristics, for example, enhance the solubility of lipophilic 'guests', stabilise the 'guest' against derivatizing agents (such as oxygen, visible or ultra-violet light, and heat), control volatility and sublimation properties, allow the physical isolation of incompatible compounds (via chromatographic separation), permit taste modification by masking potentially adverse

flavours, control odours and the release of such encapsulated compounds. Furthermore, CDs are now readily available, and their price and production costs have declined in recent years (Buschmann & Schollmeyer, 2002; Del Valle, 2004; Duan, Zhao, Ossurardóttir, Thorsteinsson, & Loftsson, 2005; Szejtli & József, 2003; Jug, Bečirević-Lačan, & Bečirević-Laaan, 2008; Manakker, Vermonden, Vans Nostrum, Hennink, & van de Manakker, 2009).

In this review, an overview of the published works on complexes between CDs and plant polyphenolics, with pharmaceutical applications, is provided. The review was based on articles published between 1996 and 2013.

2. Cyclodextrins

In the pharmaceutical industry, CDs are used as drug carriers to enhance the solubility, stability and bioavailability of the bioactive molecules (Uekama, Hirayama, & Irie, 1998). They have a high level of biocompatibility and are approved by FDA (Food and Drug Administration), thus CDs are friendly to humans (Jug et al., 2008; Matsuda & Arima, 1999; Shulman et al., 2011). CDs can complex with large group of molecules, from straight or branch aliphatic chains to polar compounds, changing their chemical, physical or biological behaviour (Arun et al., 2008).

CDs arise from starch degradation via enzymes, and are cyclic oligosaccharides with 6, 7 or 8 glucose residues linked by a (1–4) glycosidic bond. In nature, they appear as α -, β - and γ -CDs (Fig. 1), although the β -form is the most commonly employed for encapsulation purposes since it is the least expensive. CD molecules have a truncated cone shape, with a hydrophobic zone inside and a hydrophilic external surface (Fig. 1). Therefore, they are able to form ICs with poorly water-soluble molecules (such as polyphenolics), improving molecules' solubility (Buschmann & Schollmeyer, 2002; Loftsson & Duchêne, 2007; Singh, Sharma, & Banerjee, 2002).

In addition to the solubilisation improvement, CDs protect bioactive molecules from side-effects from the environmental conditions (temperature, pH, light) and, hence enhance their shelf-life and reduce the concentrations of the agent required to achieve a

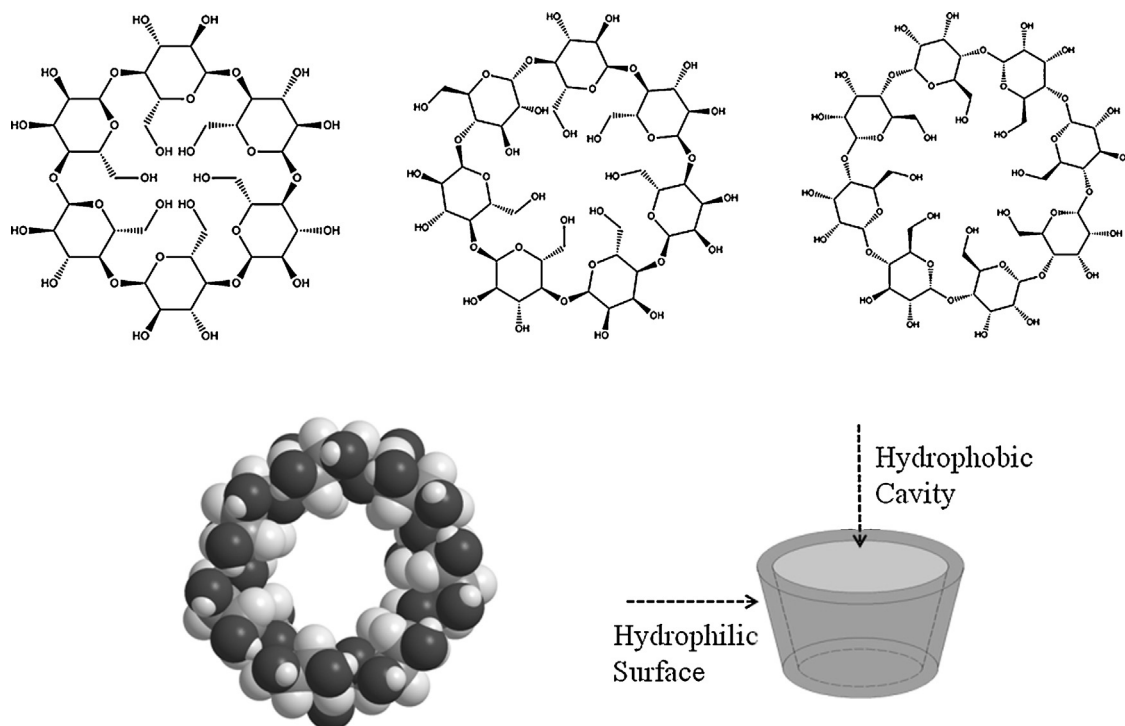


Fig. 1. Schematic representation of α -CD, β -CD and γ -CD (left to right) and schematic representation of the CD truncate aspect (Chem3D Pro 12.0 software).

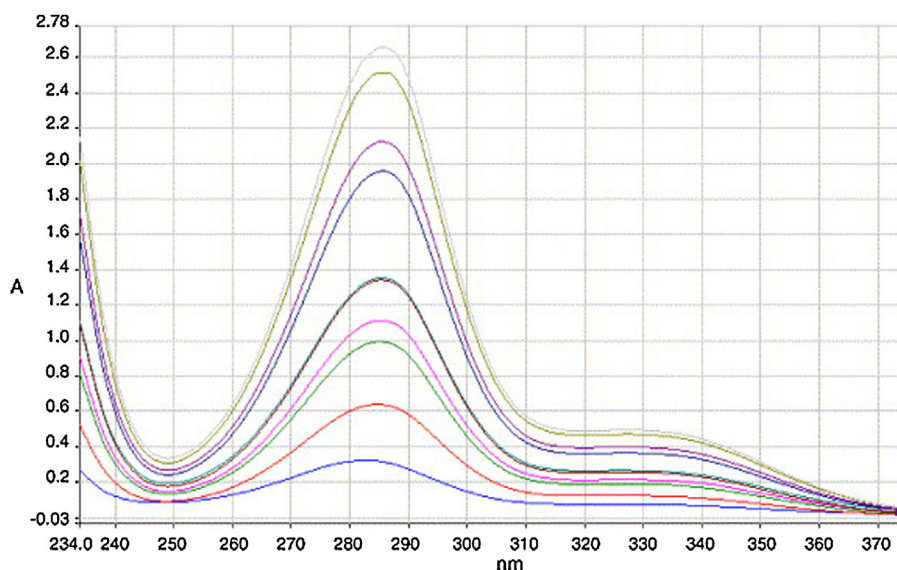


Fig. 2. UV absorption spectra of hesperidin (7.2×10^{-5} M) in the presence of increasing concentrations of HP- β -CD (0.0 – 9.0×10^{-3} M) (Tommasini et al., 2005).

biological effect (Carlotti, Sapino, Ugazio, & Caron, 2010; Fang & Bhandari, 2010).

Moreover, CDs can modify the behaviour of the encapsulated molecule, specifically by modulating the delivery rate (i.e. retarding or prolonging it), which renders the drug formulation with CDs 'non-bioequivalent' to formulations without CDs (Aqil, Munagala, Jeyabalan, & Vadhanam, 2013; Cal & Centkowska, 2008). Other advantage of the CDs application as carrier is CD ability to eliminate irritant or toxicological effects of the active agent, by replacing some excipients, such as pH regulators, solubilising agents or organic solvents (Cal & Centkowska, 2008; Davis & Brewster, 2004; Marques, 2010; Valenta & Auner, 2004).

2.1. IC formation process

There are several methods for the formation of ICs between CDs and bioactive molecules, and the selection of the process is clearly based on the properties of the guest molecule, the facilities available and the cost involved (Marques, 2010). The most common methods are neutralisation, slurry, solution, co-precipitation, kneading, and grinding method (Hedges, 1998).

The process of inclusion of the 'guest' into the CD occurs at the supramolecular level, and hence there is a substitution of enthalpy-rich water molecules from the central cavity, by the lipophilic 'guest' or moiety, and no covalent bonds are broken or formed between the IC compounds (Manakker et al., 2009; Marques, 2010). The IC is maintained via hydrophobic forces and van der Waals interactions, and also by other factors like the release of ring strain, modifications in solvent surface, tensions and also hydrogen bonds which render the IC complex more energetically stable (Del Valle, 2004; Manakker et al., 2009). IC generation represents a three-dimensional fit between the CD and the 'guest' molecule, and on the specific local interactions between the CDs' surface groups and the guest molecule (Buschmann & Schollmeyer, 2002).

The CD encapsulation of the bioactive molecule induces alterations on the physicochemical characteristics of both agents. Therefore, it is possible to assess the stoichiometry of the complexes and their stability constant (K) by analysing the modifications on the solubility, chemical reactivity and stability, UV–Vis absorbency, drug retention and permeability (Arun et al., 2008; Hirose, 2001; Marques, 2010). The stoichiometry of the IC represents the number of molecules that interact with the CD, in most part of the

cases the 1:1 IC is observed; however the same CD can interact with 2 or more molecules (1:2) or one guest can complex with more than one CD (2:1), not so frequent. The variable, K , also known as equilibrium constant or binding constant, needs to be determined by experimental methods and is a parameter that represents the thermodynamic equilibrium between the free and the complexes molecules (Szejtli & József, 1998). Moreover, thermodynamic parameters, such as enthalpy, entropy and free Gibbs energy, must be also considered as important parameters on the evaluation of the complexation process since the temperature influences the selectivity of the binding between CD and the bioactive molecule (Hirose, 2001, 2007).

Therefore, in order to assess the K value and the stoichiometry of the complex, evaluation of the IC concentrations and the equilibrium concentrations of the CD and the bioactive molecule needs to be assessed based on experimental methods. Continuous variation, slope ratio, mole ratio are some of the methods used, and the parameters are measured based on alterations on one or more physicochemical properties of the guest, for example UV–Vis absorbency spectrum (Fig. 2) or NMR (Fig. 3) (Arun et al., 2008; Hirose, 2007).

2.2. CDs' derivatives

In the last years, physicochemical properties and, consequently, the inclusion capacity of the natives' CD have been improved by chemical modification of their hydroxyl groups (Matsuda & Arima, 1999). Each CDs' glucopyranose unit has 3 reactive hydroxyl groups with different ratio of reactivity and function, in the case of β -CD it is possible to change 21 hydroxyl groups by chemical or enzymatic reaction (Szejtli & Jozsef, 2004). The β -CD derivatives (Table 1) are, normally, distributed based in their interaction with the water molecules, i.e., hydrophilic, hydrophobic or ionisable derivatives. The first group (hydrophilic) has better solubility in water and are suitable for IC formation with poor water soluble "guest" molecules. The DM- β CD, TM- β -CD, hydroxyalkylated CDs such as HP- β -CD and branched CDs like G- β -CD are some examples of hydrophilic CD derivatives. The hydrophobic derivatives, for example DE- β -CD, are capable of decrease and modulate the release rate of water soluble molecules. The ionisable CDs CM- β -CD, CME- β -CD, and SBE- β -CD, can enhance the dissolution rate, the inclusion capacity and also the decrease of the side effects of some molecules (Loftsson & Duchêne,

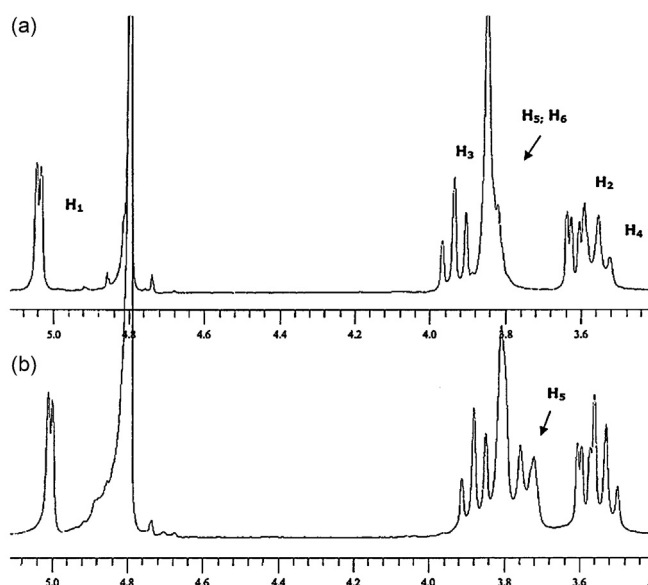


Fig. 3. NMR spectra: free β -CD (a); inclusion complex with 3-hydroxyflavon (b). Spectra recorded in D_2O ; signals referred to residual HDO (Calabrò et al., 2004).

Table 1
Common β -CD derivatives.

CD' derivative	Characteristic
Hydrophilic derivatives	
M- β -CD	Soluble in cold water and in organic solvents
DM- β -CD	Surface active, hemolytic
TM- β -CD	
DMA- β -CD	Soluble in water, low hemolytic
Hydroxyalkylated- β -CD	
2-HE- β -CD	Amorphous mixture with different degrees of substitution
2-HP- β -CD	Highly water-soluble (.50%), low toxicity
3-HP- β -CD	
3-HP- β -CD	
2,3-DHP- β -CD	
Branched- β -CD	
G ₁ - β -CD	Highly water-soluble (.50%), low toxicity
G ₂ - β -CD	
GUG- β -CD	
Hydrophobic derivatives	
Alkylated- β -CD	
DE- β -CD	Poorly water-soluble, soluble in organic solvents, surface-active
TE- β -CD	
Acylated- β -CD (C2–C18)	
TA- β -CD	Poorly water-soluble, soluble in organic solvents
TV- β -CD	Film formation
Ionaizable derivatives	
Anionic- β -CD	pK _a = 3–4, soluble at pH.4
CME- β -CD	

2007; Matsuda & Arima, 1999). The HP- β -CD and the SBE- β -CD are the most used derivatives on the pharmaceutical industry, their low toxicity and high solubility make them suitable for oral and parental application (Table 1) (Davis & Brewster, 2004; Loftsson & Duchêne, 2007; Stella & Rajewski, 1997).

3. Plant-derived bioactive agents

Plant extracts have been used in traditional medicine, and during the past few years many studies have proved their beneficial effects on human health. The plant extract's bioactivities are commonly related with compounds like fibre, vitamins, phytosterols, sulphur-containing compounds, carotenoids, organic acid anions,

together with polyphenolics (Manach et al., 2005). These kinds of molecules are plants' secondary metabolites and include a wide range of compounds, many of which are phenolics or their oxygen-substituted derivatives (Fig. 4). Polyphenolics confer protection to the plant, are responsible for plant odours (essential oils), plant pigmentation (quinines and tannins) or their flavours (e.g., terpenoid capsaicin from chilli peppers) (Cowan, 1999).

Polyphenolics are plant metabolites present in human and animal diets with a wide range of biological activities on human body, such as antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antibacterial and antiviral (Alberto, Fariás, & Nadra, 2001; Fang & Bhandari, 2010; Haslam & Cai, 1994; Manach et al., 2005; Munin & Edwards-Lévy, 2011; Scalbert, Johnson, & Saltmarsh, 2005). They share a common chemical structure: all have at least one aromatic ring, with one or more hydroxyl groups attached. The diversity of phenolic compounds present in nature results from variations in the basic chemical skeleton, such as degree of oxidation, hydroxylation, methylation, glycosylation, and conjugation with further molecules, particularly lipids, proteins, other phenolics, and biomolecular metabolites (Crozier, Jaganath, & Clifford, 2009; Munin & Edwards-Lévy, 2011).

Therefore, this group of natural bioactive compounds includes a range of molecules from simple, single aromatic-ring, low-molecular-mass compounds, to large and complex tannins and polyphenolic derivatives. However, they all share two fundamental biological activities (1) radical scavenging action and (2) antioxidant properties by interaction with proteins and ions (Heim, Tagliaferro, & Bobilya, 2002; Munin & Edwards-Lévy, 2011; Nichols & Katiyar, 2010; Proestos, Choriantopoulos, Nychas, & Komaitis, 2005). This interaction is especially important if the polyphenolic is capable of complex or chelate a metal with redox-activity (for example iron or copper) (Heim et al., 2002; Munin & Edwards-Lévy, 2011; Nichols & Katiyar, 2010; Proestos et al., 2005). The antioxidant activity of lipophilic phenolics and polyphenolics can be attributed to their action as chain-terminator for the self-perpetuating autocatalytic lipid peroxidation process, as indeed does α -tocopherol (vitamin E).

Polyphenolics are grouped by the number and arrangement of their carbon atoms (Fig. 4) (Crozier et al., 2009). In this review, polyphenolics will be sub-divided as flavonoids and non-flavonoids.

3.1. Flavonoids

Flavonoids are low-molecular-mass compounds with a flavan nucleus: two aromatic rings connected by 3-carbon bridge (C₆–C₃–C₆) (Heim et al., 2002; Manach et al., 2005). In plants, they are utilised in response to microbial infection. However, in animals and humans, flavonoids protect cells against damage caused by ROS, and also defend skin from damage induced by short wavelengths (Carlotti et al., 2010). Moreover, they have the capacity to inhibit the growth of a wide range of bacteria via disruption of bacterial cell walls following by their complexation with the extracellular soluble protein components (Cowan, 1999). Flavonoids also exert anti-viral actions due to their favourable oxidation potentials (Orhan, Ozçelik, Ozgen, & Ergun, 2010; Ozçelik, Orhan, & Toker, 2006).

The heterogeneity of the flavonoid group arises from the numerous substitutional modifications possible on the basic carbon-based skeleton. The presence of hydroxyl groups and sugars are very common, and increase their water solubility. However, methyl groups and iso-pentyl units increase their lipophilicities (Crozier et al., 2009). The bioactivities and properties of the flavonoids are critical, and are affected by small changes in the chemical structures (Cowan, 1999; Lim & Koffas, 2010). Therefore, flavonoids can be

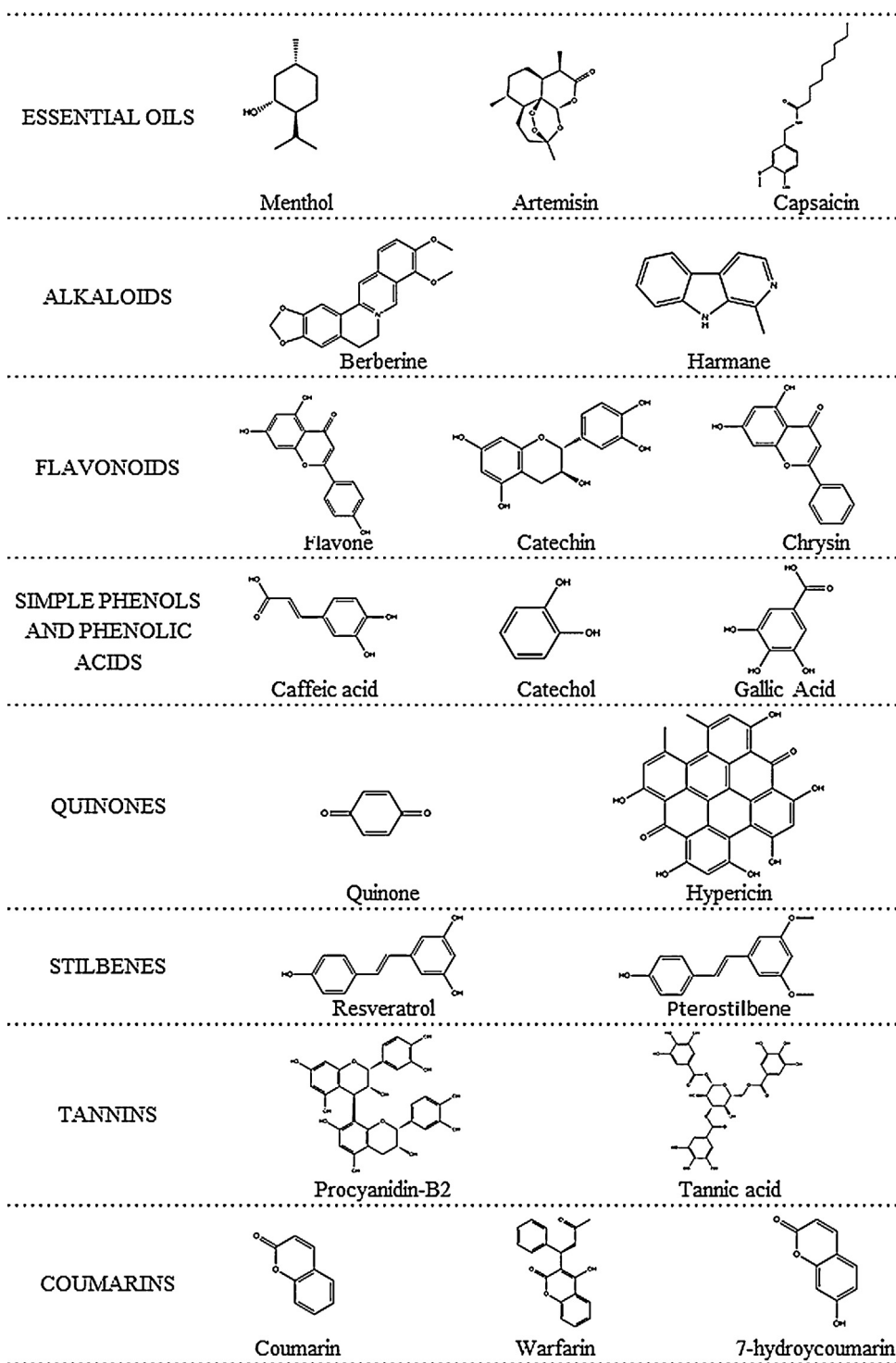


Fig. 4. Chemical structures of common plant-derivable bioactive agents (Chem3D Pro 12.0 software).

divided into sub-classes according to the precise nature of their chemical substituents, summarised in Fig. 5.

3.2. Non-flavonoids

Non-flavonoids include all the other polyphenolics (Fig. 4), from the simplest phenolics and phenolic acids to the phenolic complex tannin. This non-flavonoids group incorporates (1) phenolic acids, (2) quinines, (3) stilbenes, (4) tannins, and (5) coumarins.

Although phenolics and *phenolic acids* are single-substituted phenolic rings, they are capable of numerous biological effects. In fact, some authors have related the number of hydroxyl groups on the aromatic ring with their antimicrobial activity: the higher the number of hydroxyl groups the higher is the level of toxicity exerted to microorganisms (Crozier et al., 2009). Phenolic acids include derivatives of benzoic acids, i.e. (C₁–C₆) hydroxybenzoic acids, and derivatives of cinnamic acid, i.e. (C₃–C₆) hydroxycinnamic acids (Dai & Mumper, 2010; Sánchez-Maldonado, Schieber, & Gänzle, 2011). Gallic, *p*-hydroxybenzoic, and ellagic acids are

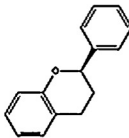
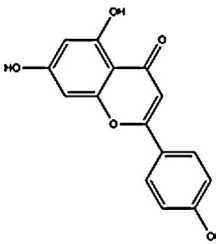
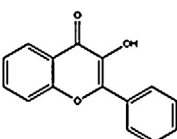
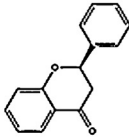
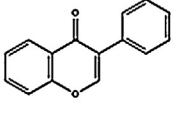
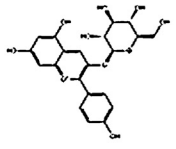
Class	General Structure	Flavonoid	Substitution Pattern
Flavan-3-ols		(+)-catechin	3,5,7,3',4'-OH
		(-)-epicatechin	3,5,7,3',4'-OH
		Epigallocatechin gallate	3,5,7,3',4'-OH, 3-gallate
Flavone		Chrysin	5,7-OH
		Apigenin	5,7,4'-OH
		Rutin	5,7,3',4'-OH, 3-rutinoside
		Lutolin	5,7,3',4'-OH
		Lutolin glucosides	5,7,3'-OH, 4'-glucose 5,4'-OH, 4',7-glucose
Flavonol		Kaempferol	3,5,7,4'-OH
		Quercetin	3,5,7,3',4'-OH
		Myricetin	3,5,7,3',4',5'-OH
		Tamarixetin	3,5,7,3'-OH, 4'-OMe
Flavanone		Naringin	5,4'-OH-rhamnoglucose
		Naringenin	5, 7, 4'-OH
		Taxifolin	3,5,7,3',4'-OH
		Eriodictyol	5,7,3',4'-OH
		Hesperidin	5,7,3'-OH,4'-OMe, 7-rutinoside
Isoflavone		Genistin	5,4'-OH, 7-glucose
		Genistein	5,7,4'-OH
		Daidzin	4'-OH, 7-glucose
		Daidzein	7,4'-OH
Anthocyanin		Apigenidin	5,7,4'-OH
		Cyanidin	3,5,7,4'-OH, 3,5-OMe
		Malvidin	

Fig. 5. Classification, structure and possible substitutions of the major classes of plant-derived flavonoids (Chem3D Pro 12.0 software).

representatives of the first group, and frequently occur in the form of glucosides. These compounds are water-soluble and sensitive to temperature, elevated pH values, oxidation and light (Munin & Edwards-Lévy, 2011; Nichols & Katiyar, 2010; Sánchez-Maldonado et al., 2011). Caffeic, ferulic and *p*-coumaric acids belong to the class of hydroxycinnamic acids, and are rarely found in the free form; indeed, they are usually present in nature as simple esters with hydroxy carboxylic acids or glucoses. The hydroxycinnamic acids are also sensitive to oxidation and high pH values, but they are poorly soluble in water (Crozier et al., 2009; Munin & Edwards-Lévy, 2011; Nichols & Katiyar, 2010; Yang et al., 2011). Phenolic acids have been described in the literature as molecules with

effective anti-microbial activity, particularly as fungicides. Their anti-microbial activity critically depends on their chemical structure, especially on the number and position of the substitution in the benzene ring, and also on the saturated chain length. The microbicidal capacity was found to be increased with augmentation of the alkyl chain length (Cueva et al., 2010; Merkl, Hradkova, Filip, & Smidrkal, 2010; Sánchez-Maldonado et al., 2011).

Quinones are highly reactive, oxidised polyphenolic agents containing an aromatic ring (phenol group-oxidised) with two ketone substitutions. In plants, they are responsible for the brown colouration of the injured fruits, and they act as intermediates in the melanin synthesis pathway in humans. Furthermore, quinones

exert powerful antimicrobial activities, by link irreversibly to proteins and enzymes of the surface wall and membrane of microorganisms, and thereby inactivating them. However, this mechanism of action may also be responsible for their toxicological actions in humans (Cowan, 1999).

Resveratrol serves as a typical representative of the *stilbenes* group. The members of this group are characterised by a C₆–C₂–C₆ structure, and are produced by plants during episodes of stress, such as those arising from disease or injury (Crozier et al., 2009; Nichols & Katiyar, 2010; Sapino, Carlotti, Caron, Ugazio, & Cavalli, 2008). Stilbenes, especially resveratrol, have been established as anti-ageing and antioxidant (Lim & Koffas, 2010).

Tannins are a group of relatively high-molecular-mass biomolecules capable of tanning leather, or precipitation of gelatine from solution. Tannins based on a gallic acid precursor which the 'nucleus' can be hydrolysable as multiple esters with D-glucose, or condensed derivatives from flavonoid monomers, also known as proanthocyanidins. Tannins have the capacity to stimulate phagocytic cells, and also act as host-mediated tumour suppression or microbicidal agents. The latter activity results from the capacity of these agents to reversibly bind to proteins via hydrogen bonding and/or hydrophobic interactions (van der Waal's forces), or irreversibly via covalent bonding processes which inactivate the enzymes and adhesins present on the microbial cell wall (Cowan, 1999; Nichols & Katiyar, 2010).

Coumarins include phenolic agents with fused benzene or α -pyrone rings; indeed, the basic structure can provide a wide range of substitutional modifications which modulate their biological activities. The major bioactivities assigned to this group of compounds are anti-thrombotic, anti-inflammatory, anti-allergic, hepatic-protective, anti-viral, anti-carcinogenic, and vasodilator agents (Creaven et al., 2010; Grazul & Budzisz, 2009). Warfarin, [2-hydroxy-3-(3-oxo-1-phenylbutyl)chromen-4-1], serves as a good example of a coumarin-based drug available with good anti-coagulant and with anti-viral properties (Cowan, 1999).

4. CDs and polyphenolics

The number of currently available pharmaceutical products based on polyphenolic agents is enormous, and its relevance to the global economy is consistently growing. A large number of plant extracts and their constituents, already employed in the food industry, have been adapted to serve as major active ingredients in both cosmetic and health products. However, the effectiveness of these active compounds deepens on preservation of their stability, bioactivity and bioavailability (Fang & Bhandari, 2010). Indeed, limited water solubility, differences in the amounts of extract required for bioactive effects, and the rapid oxidation of at least some of these agents, represent some of the problems detectable during the developmental stage of drugs based on polyphenolics (Fang & Bhandari, 2010; Marques, 2010; Munin & Edwards-Lévy, 2011). Therefore, new approaches have been developed in order to overcome these drawbacks. Indeed, their encapsulation with CD species is one of them.

A wide range of reports have been published regarding the encapsulation of natural polyphenolic agents by CDs, for food and drug delivery proposes. In this review, a brief resume of the available published work regarding the IC between the most common polyphenolics and CD with pharmaceutical applications will be made.

4.1. CDs and flavonoids

The majority of the publications in this area of expertise concern the encapsulation of flavonoids with β -CD and its derivatives in

order to improve the flavonoids water solubility and stability. The works with IC flavonoids-CDs are summarised in Table 2 and some of them are analysed with more detail.

The catechin, epicatechin and epigallocatechin-gallate are molecules representative of the flavon-3-ols subgroup. These compounds present antidiabetic and antiobesity properties, besides the antioxidant action (Haidong, Fang, Zhihong, & Changle, 2011). Catechin isolated from grape seed was successfully complexed with β -CD with a 1:1 stoichiometry (Krishnaswamy, Orsat, & Thangavel, 2012). Moreover, the solubility profile of epigallocatechin after encapsulation with β -CD, HP- β -CD and DM- β -CD was described by Folch-Cano, Guerrero, Speisky, Jullian, and Olea-Azar (2013). They observed that the temperature had a different influence on the K , dependent on the CD used. In the case of the native CD, the K rise with temperature increases, the opposite was observed for the CD derivatives used in this study. Hence, the DM- β -CD was the most suitable CD for the complexation of epigallocatechin. The authors also described that regardless of all the IC had similar geometries, the flavonoid antioxidant rings position inside the CD cavity was different (Folch-Cano et al., 2013).

Rutin is a flavone used as capillary preservation drug with poor solubility. The encapsulation of this polyphenol with α -CD, β -CD, HP- β -CD and DM- β -CD was described by different authors in order to improve rutin solubility, and consequently pharmacological activity (Haiyun, Jianbin, Shuang, & Jinhao, 2003; Shuang, Pan, Guo, Cai, & Liu, 1997; Sri, Kondaiah, Ratna, & Annapurna, 2007; Yu et al., 2007). For the CDs used, the IC formed was 1:1, this means that each molecule of cyclodextrin was capable of interacting with one molecule of rutin. Haiyun et al. (2003), Shuang et al. (1997) and Sri et al. (2007) achieved similar K for the IC of rutin and β -CD (265 and 260 M⁻¹). Regarding HP- β -CD, the IC formed was more stable since the constants described were higher than the ones for the rutin- β -CD. The constant value achieved by Sri and co-workers was a lower than that by Shuang and co-workers, meaning that higher temperatures (28 °C in the first case) are less favourable for this IC formation. However, the DM- β -CD was the CD with higher K (3217.62 M⁻¹) (Yu et al., 2007) and the α -CD with lower capacity to complex with rutin probably related to the CDs' cavity size (Shuang et al., 1997). The formation of IC improved rutin solubility and consequently its antioxidant activity and bioavailability. For instances, the complexation of rutin with β -CD improved its antioxidant protection of cells against oxidative stress (Calabrò et al., 2005). The enhancement of the oral availability by the capsulation of rutin by HP- β -CD was proved by Miyake and co-workers after administration of the ICs to beagle dogs. The stability of rutin was improved by complexation with HP- β -CD or HP- γ -CD, the HP groups enhanced the interactions stability of the CD with rutin and the analysis of NMR showed that the rutin A ring was inside the cavity of HP- β -CD. The IC protects rutin from thermal and UV degradation (Fig. 6) and, also, increased this phenolic antioxidant capacity (Nguyen, Liu, Zhao, Thomas, & Hook, 2013).

Chrysin is also a flavone and its pharmaceutical applications are related with its antioxidant, anti-inflammatory and anti-hypertension capacity. However, as most part of this kind of compounds, chrysin has low solubility in water, therefore the use of CD as carrier agent improved its activity and administration (Chakraborty, Basu, Lahiri, & Basak, 2010). Chrysin IC with β -CD was investigated by Chakraborty et al. (2010). The complex had the stoichiometry of 1:1 and with a K of 1005 M⁻¹, antioxidant activity of the chrysin was also improved (Chakraborty et al., 2010). Kim, Kim, & Jung (2008) encapsulate this molecule with HP- β -CD, DM- β -CD, besides the native CD. They report the same stoichiometry (1:1) for all the CD used and the HP- β -CD had the higher K (1855 M⁻¹) (Kim et al., 2008). In both works, authors described that the interaction between the chrysin and the CDs occurs by the A-ring of the flavon, molecular interactions

Table 2
Published works regarding the inclusion of polyphenolics by CDs and derivatives.

	Polyphenolic	CD	Improved characteristics	References
Essential oils	Eugenol	β -CD		Divakar and Maheswaran (1997)
	Lavender	β -CD	Solubility	Răileanu, Todan, Voicescu, Ciuculescu, and Maganu (2013)
	Mint	β -CD	Solubility	Răileanu et al. (2013)
Alkaloids	Curcumin	α -CD	Solubility	Rahman, Cao, Steadman, Wei, and Parekh (2012)
		HP- α -CD	Anti-carcinogenic transdermal permeation	Ghanghria, Kesharwani, Agashe, and Jain (2012)
		β -CD	Anti-inflammatory bioavailability	Rocks et al. (2012)
		HP- β -CD	Photodegradation	Mohan, Sreelakshmi, Muraleedharan, and Joseph (2012)
		RM- β -CD		Dhule et al. (2012)
		SBE- β -CD		Dandawate et al. (2012)
		HTA- β -CD		López-Tobar, Blanch, Ruiz del Castillo, and Sanchez-Cortes (2012)
		HP- γ -CD		Patro et al. (2013)
		γ -CD		Tønnesen, Måsson, and Loftsson (2002) Dandawate et al. (2012)
Phenolic acid	Caffeic acid	β -CD	Solubility	Divakar and Maheswaran (1997)
		HP- β -CD		Zhang, Li, Zhang, and Chao (2009)
	Catechol	β -CD		Divakar and Maheswaran (1997)
	Chlorogenic acid	β -CD	Solubility Anti-oxidant Anti-microbial	Górnas, Neunert, Baczyński, and Polewski (2009)
				Zhao, Wang, Yang, & Tao (2010)
	Coumaric acid	β -CD	Solubility Anti-oxidant	Stražičar, Andrenšek, and Šmidovnik (2008)
	Ferulic acid	α -CD	Solubility	Divakar and Maheswaran (1997)
		β -CD	Photostability	Monti et al. (2011)
		γ -CD	Transdermal permeation	Anselmi et al. (2008)
	Nerolidylcatechol Rosmarinic acid	HP- β -CD	Solubility	Casolaro, Anselmi, and Piccicocchi (2005)
β -CD		Solubility	Soares et al. (2009)	
Vanillin	HP- β -CD	Anti-oxidant	Celik, Ozyürek, Tufan, Güçlü, and Apak (2011)	
	HE- β -CD			
	M- β -CD			
	β -CD		Divakar and Maheswaran (1997)	
Stilbenes	Resveratrol	α -CD	Thermal stability solubility	Li, Xu, Liu, Sun, and Li (2010)
		β -CD	Anti-oxidant	Li et al. (2011)
		HP- β -CD	Anti-carcinogenic	Lu, Cheng, Hu, Zhang, and Zou (2009)
		M- β -CD	UV degradation	Lu, Chen, Fu, Xiong, and Hu (2011)
		DM- β -CD		Kumpugdee-Vollrath (2012)
		γ -CD		Sapino, Carlotti, Caron, Ugazio, and Cavalli (2008)
Flavon-3-ols	Epigallocatechingallate	β -CD	Solubility	Folch-Cano, Guerrero, Speisky, Jullian, and Olea-Azar (2013)
		HP- β -CD	Anti-oxidant	
		DM- β -CD		
Flavone	Apigenin	DM- β -CD	Solubility	Kim, Kim, and Jung (2008)
		HP- β -CD		
	Baicalein	α -CD	Solubility	Zhou, Wei, Dou, Chou, & Wang (2013)
		β -CD	Thermal stability	
		HP- β -CD		
		DM- β -CD		
	Chrysin	β -CD	Solubility	Chakraborty, Basu, Lahiri, and Basak (2010)
		DM- β -CD	Anti-oxidant	Kim et al. (2008)
		HP- β -CD		
	Luteolin	β -CD	Solubility	Liu et al. (2013)
M- β -CD			Kim et al. (2008)	
D M- β -CD				
HP- β -CD				
HE- β -CD				
Rutin	β -CD	Solubility	Calabrò et al. (2005)	
	HP- α -CD	Stability	Miyake et al. (2000)	
	β -CD	Anti-oxidant	Shuang, Pan, Guo, Cai, and Liu (1997)	
	HP- β -CD	Bioavailability	Nguyen, Liu, Zhao, Thomas, and Hook (2013)	
	γ -CD		Sri, Kondaiah, Ratna, and Annapurna (2007)	
Flavonol	Catechin	β -CD	Solubility Anti-oxidant activity Transdermal permeation	Dias, Nikolaou, and Giovani (2011) Krishnaswamy, Orsat, and Thangavel (2012)
			Solubility	Schwingel et al. (2008)
	Galangin	HP- β -CD		Kim, Choi, and Jung (2009)
		DM- β -CD		
	Isoquercetin	β -CD		Wang et al. (2009)
		HP- β -CD		
	DM- β -CD			

Table 2 (Continued)

	Polyphenolic	CD	Improved characteristics	References
	Kaempferol	β -CD	Solubility	Mercader-Ros et al. (2010a,b)
		G ₂ - β -CD	Stability	Jullian, Brossard, Gonzalez, Alfaro, and Olea-Azar (2011)
		HP- β -CD	Thermal stability	Kim et al. (2009)
	Myricetin	DM- β -CD	Anti-oxidant activity	Mercader-Ros et al. (2010a,b)
		HP- β -CD	Solubility	Kim et al. (2009)
		DM- β -CD	Anti-oxidant activity	Mercader-Ros et al. (2010a,b)
	Quercetin	β -CD	Solubility	Dias et al. (2011)
		HP- β -CD	Anti-oxidant activity	Sri et al. (2007)
		M- β -CD	Photostability	Kim et al. (2009)
		DM- β -CD		Carlotti, Sapino, Ugazio, and Caron (2010) Mercader-Ros et al. (2010a,b)
Flavanone	Alpinetin	HP- β -CD	Solubility Stability	Ma et al. (2012)
		Astilbin	α -CD β -CD γ -CD	Solubility
	Naringenin	β -CD	Solubility	Yang et al. (2013)
		HP- β -CD	Bioavailability	Ficarra et al. (2002)
		DM- β -CD		Shulman et al. (2011)
		TM- β -CD		
	Naringin Hesperetin Hesperidin	β -CD	Solubility	Ficarra et al. (2002)
		β -CD	Solubility	Ficarra et al. (2002)
		β -CD	Solubility	Ficarra et al. (2002)
	Isoflavane	Daidzein	β -CD	Solubility
HP- β -CD			Bioavailability	Daruházi et al. (2013)
RM- β -CD				
γ -CD				
Genistein		β -CD	Solubility	Yatsu et al. (2013)
		HP- β -CD	Bioavailability	Daruházi et al. (2013)
		RM- β -CD		
		γ -CD		
Glycitein		β -CD	Solubility	Yatsu et al. (2013)
		HP- β -CD		
Puerarin	G ₂ - β -CD	Solubility	Liu, Zhao, Liu, Zhu, and Zeng (2012)	

already mentioned for rutin (Chakraborty et al., 2010; Kim et al., 2008).

As the most part of flavonoids, quercetin is flavonol with antibacterial, antioxidant and antitumor properties but its use on the pharmaceutical field is limited due to its sparingly solubility in water (Jullian, Moyano, Yañez, & Olea-Azar, 2007). The β -CD was used to improve solubility and photo stability of quercetin by several authors (Calabrò et al., 2004; Jullian et al., 2007; Sri et al., 2007). Jullian et al. (2007) and Calabrò et al. (2004) reported a 1:1 stoichiometric complex, but Sri et al. (2007) described a 1:2 complex. As it was mentioned in Section 2.1, in the same equilibrium, it is possible to find different interactions between CD and the guest molecule (1:1 or 2:1). Moreover, the K values, assessed by these authors, rise with the increase of the temperature. Jullian et al. (2007) used 30 °C to prepare the quercetin- β -CD and had the higher stability constant (602 M⁻¹). In the same work, the IC formation with SBE- β -CD and HP- β -CD was also established. The IC for both β -CD derivatives with quercetin was 1:1 and the solubility of quercetin was enhanced, with K of 4032 and 1419 M⁻¹, respectively, without diminishing its antioxidant property. Moreover, the CD derivatives were more efficient on the solubilisation of quercetin than the natural CD (Fig. 7) and showed better antioxidant activity (Jullian et al., 2007). The HP- β -CD was also used by Sri et al. (2007) and by Mercader-Ros et al. (2010a,b) to enhance the solubility and antioxidant properties of the quercetin. In both situations, the K value found was lower (321 and 900 M⁻¹) than that mentioned by Jullian et al., as well as the temperature used (28 and 25 °C) (Mercader-Ros et al., 2010a,b; Sri et al., 2007), this means that the temperature is a crucial parameter on quercetin/HP- β -CD IC formation. The antioxidant activity of the quercetin was improved by its encapsulation by β -CD derivatives (HP- β -CD, SBE- β -CD, DM- β -CD and M- β -CD) (Carlotti et al., 2010; Jullian et al.,

2007; Mercader-Ros et al., 2010a,b; Yu et al., 2007). The enhancement of quercetin biological activity may be an outcome of the protection from the rapid oxidation by free radicals conferred by the CDs (Mercader-Ros et al., 2010a,b). Carlotti et al. (2010) also reduced the photodegradation ratio of the quercetin by its complexation with M- β -CD. They claimed that because quercetin was in an apolar environment inside the CD cavity the photolytic reaction was reduced, and the amount of light capable of reach this flavonol was lower, since it had to cross the CD molecule (Carlotti et al., 2010).

Kaempferol is also a flavonol with great interest in the pharmaceutical field due to its potent antioxidant activity (Havsteen, 2002). Its behaviour in aqueous environment had been improved by the utilisation of CDs as encapsulating agents. As the other works described above, the β -CD derivatives, such as HP- β -CD, DM- β -CD and G₂- β -CD, were more suitable for the IC formation with kaempferol than the β -CD (Jullian, Brossard, Gonzalez, Alfaro, & Olea-Azar, 2011; Kim, Choi, & Jung, 2009; Mercader-Ros et al., 2010a,b). Additionally, the temperature conditions the K values, but in this situation IC formation was improved by lower temperatures (Jullian et al., 2011). The beneficial effect of the IC on the antioxidant activity of kaempferol was determined by Kim et al. (2009) and Mercader-Ros et al. (2010a,b).

The naringenin is a flavanone with a similar structure of the rutin, with good antioxidant capacity and capable of reduce the cholesterol plasma level (Goldwasser, 2010). The formation of IC between naringenin and β -CD and its derivatives (HP- β -CD, DM- β -CD, M- β -CD and TM- β -CD) was analysed by several authors (Ficarra et al., 2002; Shulman et al., 2011; Yang et al., 2013). For the CDs mentioned above the stoichiometry of the IC was 1:1, and the HP- β -CD was the CD with higher stability constant (Shulman et al., 2011). Yang et al. (2013) demonstrated that the water

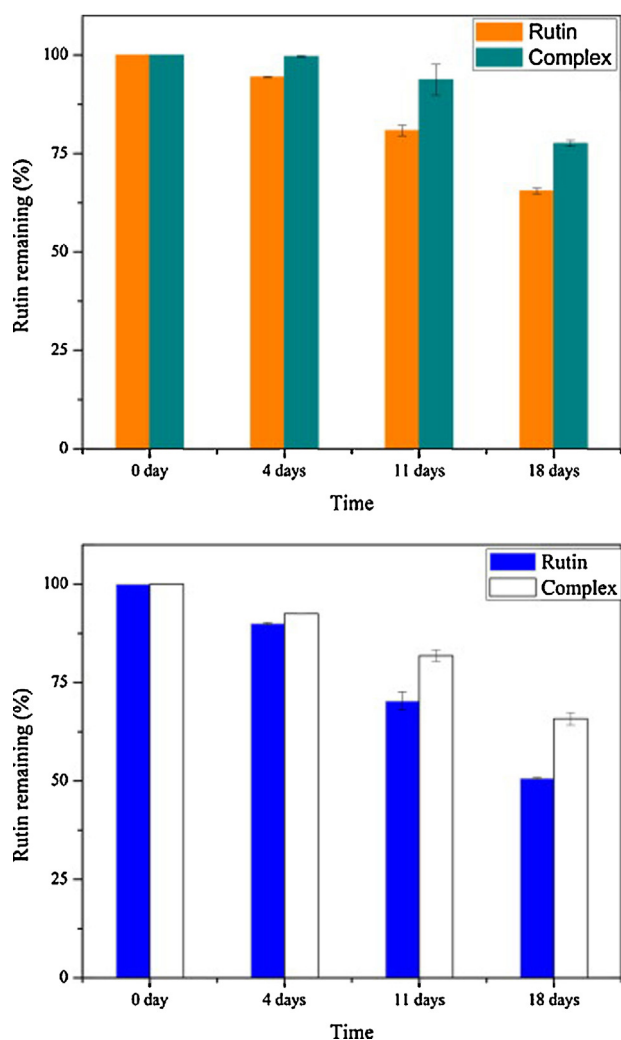


Fig. 6. Degradation of rutin by UV radiation (top) and heat (bottom) during an 18-day storage period (Nguyen, Liu, Zhao, Thomas, & Hook, 2013).

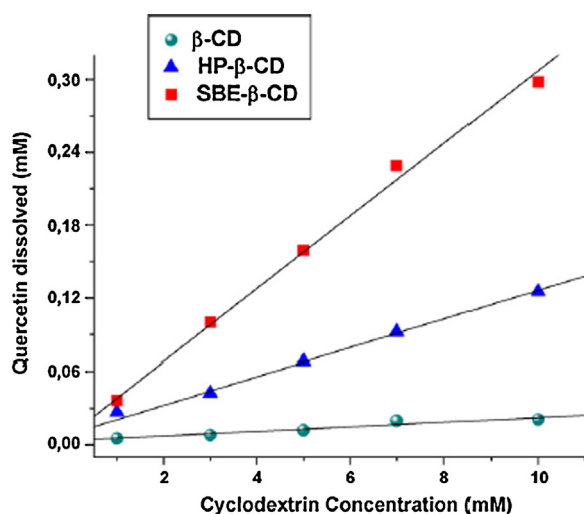


Fig. 7. Phase-solubility diagrams of quercetin IC with β -CD, SBE- β -CD and HP- β -CD in water at 30 °C (Jullian, Moyano, Yañez, & Olea-Azar, 2007).

solubility and thermal stability of this flavonoid was improved when encapsulated by β -CD, DM- β -CD or TM- β -CD spectrum. In fact, the ICs remained stable when exposed to temperatures near 225 °C. Based on their analysis of the NMR, they assumed that the C ring of naringenin was interacting with the CDs' cavity (Yang et al., 2013). The biological effect of the IC naringenin/HP- β -CD was also described. Shulman and co-workers proved that the solubility of the flavonoid was increased 400 times when complexed with the HP- β -CD; moreover the naringenin transport across the model of the gut epithelium (Caco-2 cells) was also enhanced as well as its plasma concentration. Therefore, the IC naringenin/HP- β -CD can be used as oral delivery drug for the treatment of diabetes and dyslipidaemia (Shulman et al., 2011).

Ficarra et al. (2002) and Tommasini et al. (2005) investigated the effect of the β -CD and HP- β -CD IC on the solubility of the flavanones hesperetin and hesperidin. In the first work, hesperetin and hesperidin were complexed with β -CD and improvement on the solubility and chemical stability was demonstrated (Ficarra et al., 2002). Tommasini et al. (2005) demonstrated that the ICs formed was 1:1, and the better complexation was observed by HP- β -CD and hesperetin, based on the higher K values (21,000 M⁻¹) when compared to the ones assessed for hesperidin (K 90 M⁻¹). The K values discrepancy can be justified by the size of the flavanones molecules, the hesperetin is smaller and less polar which make it more appropriate to interact with the hydrophobic cavity of the CD derivative. Nevertheless, the solubility of both flavanones was improved and, consequently, their antioxidant activity (Fig. 8). Therefore, the hesperidin and hesperetin application as antioxidant and anti-carcinogenic can be upgraded by the use of HP- β -CD as drug delivery agent (Tommasini et al., 2005).

Yang et al. (2011) used the three native CD and HP- β -CD for the IC formation with taxifolin, a flavanone able to dilate blood vessels, enhance microcirculation and cerebral blood flow and prevent platelet aggregation. In this investigation, they proved that the ICs formed enhanced the taxifolin water solubility and thermal stability, highlighting their use on healthcare products. Moreover, β -CD showed better capacity to interact with this flavanone (Yang et al., 2011).

The genistein is an isoflavone used on treatment and prevention of estrogenic related cancers or postmenopausal symptoms due to its great affinity to estrogenic receptors. This polyphenolic had also anti-inflammatory effects and platelet aggregation inhibition. However, genistein limited solubility reduce its applicability in the pharmaceutical industry (Daruházi et al., 2013). The complexation of genistein with CD can improve its solubility and enhance its biological effects. Daruházi et al. (2013) tested the IC formation between this isoflavonoid and β -CD, γ -CD, HP- β -CD and RM- β -CD. The genistein was capable of interacting with the 4 CD, but the CD derivatives induced a higher influence on the solubility of the compounds. The genistein capacity to cross biological membranes was also improved by the encapsulation with the CDs (Fig. 9) (Daruházi et al., 2013). Yatsu et al. (2013) assessed the β -CD and HP- β -CD encapsulation capacity of a mixture of daidzein, genistein and glycitei. All the isoflavones showed higher affinity to the HP- β -CD and the interaction between the CD and the bioactive molecules occur by introduction of the B-ring into the CD cavity, besides external interactions (Yatsu et al., 2013). Based on the works described above, the derivatives of β -CD are more appropriate for the improvement of the flavonoids solubilisation and stabilisation, being the HP- β -CD the most used. These groups of flavonoids can interact with CDs by (1) directing the B-ring towards the secondary rim of the CD or (2) heading the A-ring towards the secondary rim of the CD (Kim et al., 2009). Moreover, flavonoids photo- and thermal stability upgrade by encapsulation with CDs, as well as their antioxidant

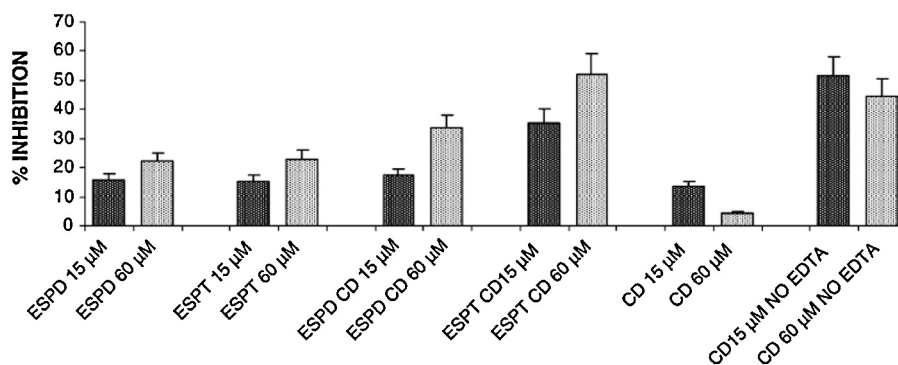


Fig. 8. Effect of 15 and 60 μM free and complexed hesperidin (ESPD), hesperetin (ESPT) and HP- β -CD as hydroxyl radical ($\text{OH}\cdot$) scavengers on deoxyribose oxidation. Each bar represents the mean \pm S.D. of MDA production in three experiments, each in triplicate. Results are reported as % I of $\text{OH}\cdot$ production in respect to untreated samples (0%) (Tommasini et al., 2005).

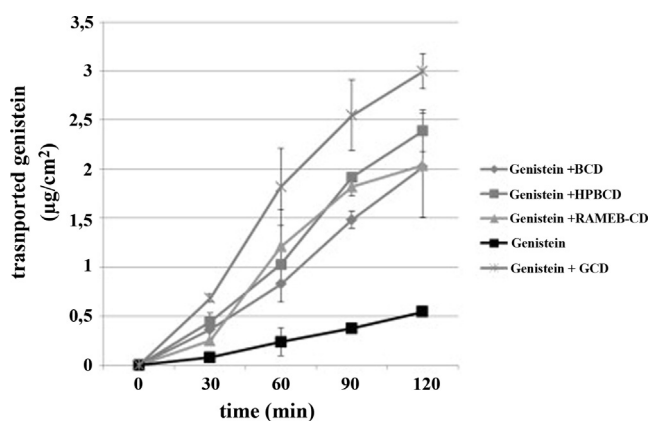


Fig. 9. Transport of genistein and its β -CD, γ -CD, HP- β -CD, and RAMEB-CD complexes through Caco-2 monolayer (Daruházi et al., 2013).

activity, since the CDs prevent the oxidation by free radical of the flavonoids.

4.2. CDs and non-flavonoids

As referred above, the non-flavonoids had great importance on the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industry due to their biological properties. Though, their application is limited because these polyphenolics are very susceptible to degradation by environmental factors such as light, temperature and pH (Crozier et al., 2009; Del Rio, Costa, Lean, & Crozier, 2010). In order to overcome this, some works have been published regarding the inclusion of non-flavonoids into CD.

The ferulic acid is commonly used for the preventing UV light induced skin tumour, but it has low stability under thermal and physical stress. The IC formation between ferulic acid and α -CD was investigated by Anselmi et al. (2008). Thus, the authors proposed the inclusion of this phenolic acid into the α -CD, with a K value of 1162 M^{-1} and equimolecular complexation. Based on their results, the α and β unsaturated part of the ferulic acid and part of its aromatic skeleton were inside the hydrophobic cavity of the CD. The IC increased the ferulic acid resistance to the degradation by UVB and also, decreases its rate release (Anselmi et al., 2008). The same phenolic acid was used by Casolaro, Anselmi, & Picciocchi (2005) for the complexation with α -CD. The stoichiometry of the IC was the same and they assumed that the ferulic acid was neutralised inside the CD cavity (Casolaro et al., 2005). The cutaneous permeation and distribution through skin of the IC ferulic acid and α -CD was assessed by Monti et al. (2011). They concluded that the IC prevented the formation of the less active *cis*-isomer of ferulic acid

and its degradation by UV light. The ferulic acid/ α -CD IC presented lower penetration on the skin which enlarge the skin protection against UV damages, since the ferulic acid remains at the skin surface (Monti et al., 2011). The encapsulation of ferulic acid with HP- β -CD was also studied (Wang, Cao, Sun, & Wang, 2011). The IC obtained had lower stability ($K 166.3 \text{ M}^{-1}$) and the same stoichiometry of the other ICs described above. Nevertheless, the solubility and protection against decomposition caused by irradiation with UV light was enhanced by the complexation of the ferulic acid with this CD (Wang et al., 2011).

Although, caffeic acid has been described as antibacterial and antioxidant phenolic acid, its biological activity may be jeopardised by its sensibility to oxidation and lower solubility (Zhang, Li, Zhang, & Chao, 2009). Thus, some authors had described its encapsulation with CD to overcome these issues. Górnas, Neunert, Baczyński, & Polewski (2009) and Divakar and Maheswaran (1997) complexed this phenolic acid with β -CD. In both cases, the experimental results suggest a 1:1 IC with K of 270 and 516 M^{-1} . The molecular interaction was described as follows, the hydroxyl groups of the phenolic acid were trapped inside the β -CD cavity and the carboxyl moiety was projected outwards the CD (Divakar & Maheswaran, 1997; Górnas et al., 2009). Górnas et al. (2009) studied the influence of the pH on the IC formation, and concluded that the K decreased with the presence of caffeic acid charged species. The caffeic acid was, also, encapsulated by HP- β -CD to increase solubility (Zhang et al., 2009). The authors conclude that the IC formation was better in acid conditions and the IC ratio was 1:1; also, the caffeic acid solubility increases. The lipophilic aromatic ring and ethylene portion of the caffeic acid was entrapped inside the CD cavity and the polar groups were outside the HP- β -CD cavity (Fig. 10) (Zhang et al., 2009).

Rosmarinic acid, a hydroxycinnamic acid with high antioxidant properties and poor solubility, was encapsulated with α -CD, β -CD, HP- β -CD, HE- β -CD and M- β -CD (Celik, Ozyürek, Tufan, Güçlü, & Apak, 2011) in order to improve both properties. By the observation on the UV-Vis spectrum of the rosmarinic acid and the ICs, the authors assessed the stoichiometry of all ICs (1:1) and the K . They reported that ability forming stables IC was as follows M- β -CD > HE- β -CD > HP- β -CD > β -CD > α -CD. Additionally, the antioxidant activity of the ICs was higher than the rosmarinic acid alone (Celik et al., 2011).

Resveratrol *trans*-3,4,5'-trihydroxystilbene is a polyphenolic with a high level of therapeutic potential as anti-carcinogenic and anti-oxidant (Sapino et al., 2008). This stilbene displays a hydrophobic behaviour, and is also extremely affected by exposure to oxygen, light, and oxidative enzymes, reducing its bioactivity. The use of CD to protect resveratrol and to increase its solubility, stability and bioactivity was applied in several studies (Kumpugdee-Vollrath, 2012; Li, Xu, Liu, Sun, & Li, 2010; Lu, Cheng, Hu, Zhang, & Zou,

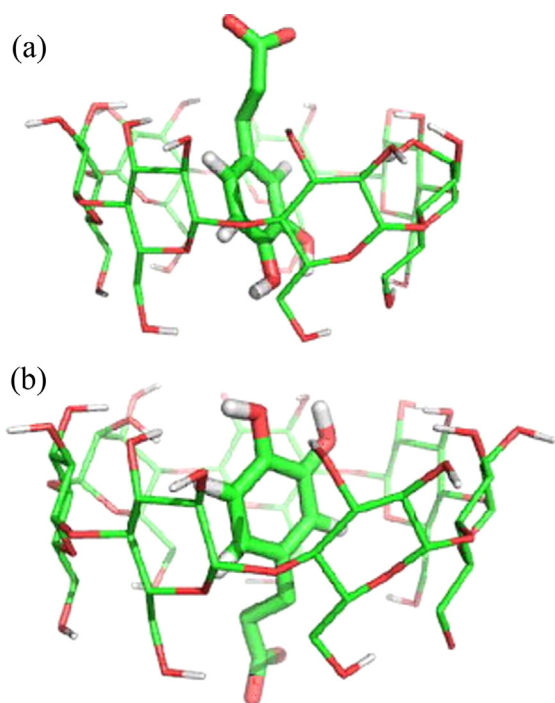


Fig. 10. Optimised structure of the β -CD-caffeic acid complex. Caffeic acid is inserted into the apolar cavity of betaCD from its (a) "top" side; (b) "bottom" side.

2009; Lu, Chen, Fu, Xiong, & Hu, 2011; Lucas-Abellán, Fortea, López-Nicolás, & Núñez-Delgado, 2007; Sapino et al., 2008). The effect of 3 native CDs and M- β -CD on the thermal stability of the resveratrol was reported by Li et al. (2010). Based on the thermal analyses made, they assumed that the IC formation was favoured by the temperature rise, since all the reactions had negative enthalpy energy. The encapsulation of γ -CD and resveratrol was the most stable owing to the better fit between the phenolic compound and the CD cavity, since γ -CD had the biggest cavity (Li et al., 2010). A similar work used the native α -CD and β -CD and 2 derivatives (HP- β -CD and DM- β -CD) to increase the concentration of resveratrol on solution and its stability. It was observed that the IC with native CD was only capable of complexing with part of the resveratrol molecule and that the HP- β -CD offered a cavity with a better fit to the bioactive molecule (Kumpugdee-Vollrath, 2012).

The biological properties of resveratrol (anti-oxidant and anti-carcinogenic) were also enhanced by its encapsulation. For instance, Lu and co-workers used β -CD and HP- β -CD as resveratrol carrier agents and described the betterment of the scavenging capacity of the IC (Lu et al., 2009), the inhibition of the lipid peroxidation activity (Fig. 11) and the cytotoxicity to cancer cells without harming the healthy ones (Lu et al., 2011). The results obtained on the two works support the notion that the CD derivative forms a stronger IC with this stilbene (K β -CD 1815 M^{-1} and K HP- β -CD 6778 M^{-1}), related to the easier access of the resveratrol to the HP- β -CD cavity due to enlargement of the cavity opening and the despairing of the intramolecular hydrogen bond network (Lu et al., 2011, 2009). Additionally, the employment of HP- β -CD for resveratrol encapsulation also increases the photostability of this natural compound. The host position of the 'guest' molecule inside the CDs did increase the resistance to the degradation by UV radiation without affecting its antioxidant properties. Therefore, the resveratrol-HP- β -CD ICs represent a powerful candidate for the protection of skin against oxidative stressing episodes (Sapino et al., 2008). Furthermore, resveratrol concentration on aqueous environment was improved by the complexation with β -CD and G_2 - β -CD and, consequently, its antioxidant capacity. Besides the

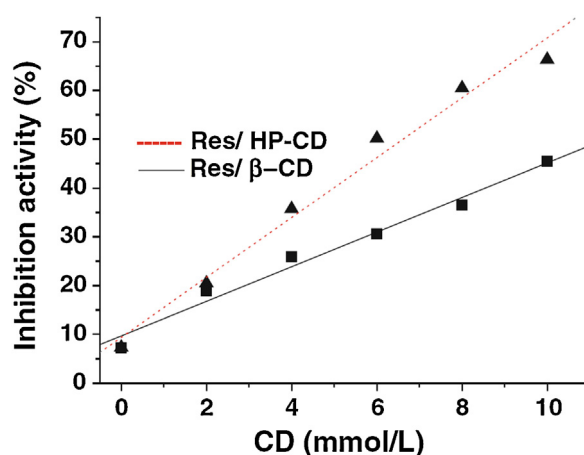


Fig. 11. Inhibition activity of lipid peroxidation of the resveratrol- β -CD and resveratrol-HP- β -CD complexes at 25°C (Lu, Chen, Fu, Xiong, & Hu, 2011).

solubilisation, both CDs were capable of protecting the phenolic compound from rapid oxidation, by entrapping it inside their cavities, with similar stability (K β -CD 4317 M^{-1} and K G_2 - β -CD 5130 M^{-1}) (Lucas-Abellán et al., 2007).

The curcumin is a natural phenolic compound with anti-tumour activity and effective against HIV-infection, cystic fibrosis and immunomodulating agent, but their low stability at acid environment and physiological pH and its photosensitivity limited the use of this coumarin as pharmaceutical agent (Aggarwal, Sundaram, Malani, & Ichikawa, 2007). Therefore, its encapsulation by the native CD was described by Patro et al. (2013). They were able to improve the solubility and oral availability with all the 3 IC; however the α -CD was the one that showed higher K (1124 M^{-1}). López-Tobar et al. (2012) also applied to β -CD and γ -CD as curcumin drug carriers. The large cavity of γ -CD was more efficient in the IC formation. Moreover, both CDs were able to form 2:1 IC with this phenolic compound and the molecular interaction proposed was that the aromatic rings and the hydrogen bonds were involved and a change occurs from the curcumin planar ketoenol form to non-planar diketo. The chemical stability and bioavailability may be upgraded by this conformational alteration (López-Tobar, Blanch, Ruiz del Castillo, & Sanchez-Cortes, 2012). The same stoichiometry of the IC β -CD-curcumin was observed by Tang, Ma, Wang, and Zhang (2002) and Rahman, Cao, Steadman, Wei, & Parekh (2012). In both situations, the solubility of curcumin was described as well as the same molecular interaction, as referred above. Dandawate et al. (2012) used a synthetic form of curcumin but accomplished the same stoichiometry and solubility. In this work, the anti-carcinogenic, systemic bioavailability and tissue distribution of the IC β -CD-synthetic curcumin were compared with the synthetic curcumin alone and concluded that they have been improved by the encapsulation (Dandawate et al., 2012).

CD derivatives were also tested as drug carriers of curcumin, in order to overcome the difficulties of its application as anti-carcinogenic agent. For instance, 2 molecules of HP- β -CD formed stable IC (K 5000 – $62,000\text{ M}^{-1}$) with 1 molecule of curcumin (Ghanghoria, Kesharwani, Agashe, & Jain, 2012; Mohan, Sreelakshmi, Muraleedharan, & Joseph, 2012; Tomren, Måsson, Loftsson, & Tønnesen, 2007). The transdermal capacity of curcumin was raised by the complexation with HP- β -CD as well as the decrease of skin irritation (Ghanghoria et al., 2012). Besides, HP- β -CD, HP- α -CD and HP- γ -CD were used with the same goal. Mohan et al. (2012) compared the encapsulation of the three CD derivatives and reported that the encapsulation may occur both in 1:1 and 2:1 stoichiometry and the HP- γ -CD has a better complexation capacity. This IC (HP- γ -CD-curcumin) was capable of reducing

cell proliferation and increases the apoptosis of cancer cells by interfering in the protein production (Rocks et al., 2012). Tønnesen, Måsson, & Loftsson (2002) reported the encapsulation of curcumin with several CD derivatives, namely HP- α -CD, RM- β -CD, HP- β -CD, SBE- β -CD, HTA- β -CD and HP- γ -CD. The greater positive change on the stability and solubility of curcumin was achieved by the complexation with the RM- β -CD and HP- γ -CD, probably due to the more hydrophobic environment found inside the cavity of the first CD and large cavity of the second leading to a better accommodation of the bioactive molecule (Tønnesen et al., 2002). The increase of the curcumin resistance to hydrolysis under alkaline environments when encapsulated with these CDs, was also proved (Tønnesen et al., 2002).

The application of CDs as carriers of non-flavonoids is a viable choice to protect them from degradation by environment factors, such as UV-light, pH, temperature and oxidation, and also to improve their solubility, factors that contribute to increase the biological properties of these natural active molecules. However, because this group of molecules is a bit diverse, it is not possible to generalise the molecular mechanisms of interaction between CDs and non-flavonoids and the efficiency of the encapsulation depends, essentially, on the size of the CD cavity.

5. Conclusion

The use of bioactive molecules from plants has gained a substantial interest during the last decade for food, cosmetic and pharmaceutical applications. Polyphenolic agents derived from plant sources have aroused much interest, especially in view of their antioxidant activity and bactericidal and fungicidal actions. Concerning the pharmaceutical applications of these plant-derived bioactive molecules, the current problems are related to the protection of their properties from environmental factors, with their solubility in water and biofluids, and their bioavailability.

CDs have a relatively unique capacity of improving solubility of bioactive polyphenolic agents in aqueous systems; protect them from elevated temperatures, pH values, light or the moisture-induced degradations phenomena which serve to increase their bioavailability. Furthermore, the use of substituted cyclodextrins has been found to improve the physicochemical properties of these bioactive molecules. In fact, in the case of flavonoids the CD derivatives are the better choice to achieve an efficient complexation. Otherwise, the selection of the better CD for encapsulated non-flavonoids molecules needs to be based on the dimensions of the molecule and the CD cavity.

Nevertheless, the formation of inclusion complexes between CDs and plant polyphenolics serves as a promising pathway for the development of pharmaceutical products friendlier to the user.

Conflict of interest

None declared.

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