

The Effects of Different Plant Activators on Protein, Lipid and Fatty Acids in Snack-Seed Pumpkin

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Keywords: Snack pumpkin, plant activators, chemical analysis

Abstract. In this study, Nussem and Beppo snack seed pumpkin cultivars were used to determine the effects of different plant activators on seed protein, lipid and fatty acids contents. In the context of study, plant activators consist of Crop-set (CR), EM1, ERS, Vitormone-Plus Drip (VIT), *Bacillus subtilis* (OSU 142), *Bacillus megatorium* (M3), *Azospirillum sp.* (SP 245), *Spirulina platensis* (SIP), Ecompost (EKO), Camli Botanica liquid organic fertilizer (BOT) and Zincon (ZIN) were used as organic fertilizer. In the experiment, the plant activators were applied to the plants alone or in combination with each other and organic fertilizer. Two separate control groups which were organic and conventional (CONV.) fertilizer have been identified. As a result of the use of different plant activators, the highest protein content was obtained from CONV. application (35.50%), M3+SP 245 (33.09%) and M3 (33.04%); the highest lipid content was observed from SP 245+OG (45.90%), CR (44.48%) and SIP+OG (44.26%) applications. The use of different plant activators effected the fatty acid contents of seeds. Total 11 fatty acids were identified. Among the fatty acids, C16:0 (Palmitic acid), C18:0 (Stearic acid), C18:1 (Oleic acid) and C18:2 (Linoleic acid) were found dominant.

Introduction

Snack pumpkin product is the seed of plant from *Cucurbita pepo* and *Cucurbita moschata*. Seeds not only contain snack food but are also sources for food raw materials. Turkey produces about 42 181 tons Snack pumpkin in 628 441 area [1]. Pumpkin seed (*Cucurbita pepo* L.) is high in oil, protein, and total unsaturated fatty acids and provides an important source of nutrition [2]. Snack pumpkin showed rice produce both area and quantity. But, despite the increase in production quantities, the amount of product received from the unit area did not reach adequate levels. For this purpose the increase yield and quality used microbial fertilizer in addition plant activators [3]. Plant activators contains alone such as Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria= PGPR; *Azotobacter*, *Azospirillum* and *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus firmus*, *Pseudomonas striata* etc.), mycorrhiza (*Glomus fasciculatum*, *Glomus intraradices*, *Glomus aggregatum* etc.), microalgae (*Spirulina platensis*) microorganism or combination these microorganism with mineral element, vitamin, plant extract etc. The present study was carried out to examine the effect of different plant activators on total proteins, total lipid, fatty acids of snack-seed pumpkin.

Materials and Methods

This study was conducted at the experimental field in Cukurova University Pozanti Agricultural Research and Application Center. "Nussem" snack seed pumpkin and "Beppo" naked seed pumpkin were used as plant material. These snack pumpkins were cut and seeds extracted in 07 July 2015 and 21 July 2016 respectively, the seeds dried about ten days for analysis. 5-10 g powdered seed sample was taken for determination of lipid and 1 g for protein analysis.

Plant activators were Crop-set (CR), EM1, ERS, Vitormone-Plus Drip (VIT), *Bacillus subtilis* (OSU 142), *Bacillus megatorium* (M3), *Azospirillum sp.* (SP 245), *Spirulina platensis* (SIP). CR, contains crop fermentation of *Lactobacillus acidophilus* and plant extract, manganese, copper, iron,

magnesium, zinc. CR was applied 60 ml in ha area. EM1, contains photosynthesis bacteria, lactic acid bacteria, yeast, actinomycetes and molds. The application was made once every two weeks. EM1; mixed 1l EM1 with 18 l water and then completed to 20 l. 4 l were taken from this mixture. ERS, *Glomus intraradices* (25%), *G. mosseae* (24%), *G. aggregatum* (1%), *G. monosporum* (1%), *G. deserticola* (1%), *G. brasilianum* (1%), *G. etunicatum* (1%), *G. margarita* (1%) are mycorrhiza fungi. The seedling has been dipped before planting. Application dose 250 g/da. VIT (*Azotobacter chroococcum* and *Azotobacter vinelandii*) once application, the seedling has been dipped before planting. The second application was made 2 months after the planting. Application dose 200 cc/da. *Bacillus subtilis* (OSU 142), *Bacillus megaterium* (M3), *Azospirillum spp.* (SP 245) were obtained from Yeditepe University, Turkey. 1/10 mixture was prepared from the bacterial isolate and taken at the present bacterial concentration (cells / ml 10^9). This prepared blend (cell/ml 10^7) plants have been dipped for 20 minutes before planting and then planted. *Spirulina platensis* is among the oldest and primitive life forms on earth and comes from the phylum of very basic life forms, cyanobacteria (better known as blue-green algae) and naturally contain various plant nutrients. 45 g/l *Spirulina spp.* solution has been prepared, and 200 cc of this solution has been applied to the plants, near the seedling roots. Ecompost (EKO), Camli Botanica liquid organic fertilizer (BOT) and Zincon (ZIN) were used as organic fertilizer. Ecompost is a fertilizer 100% organic, contains N, P, K, Ca, S, Mg, Fe, Mn, Zn and applied before planting per plant 250 g and after 1 month planting 200 g per plant. Camli Botanica Liquid organic fertilizer contains humic and fulvic acid (24%), organic matter (35%), nitrogen (N, 4%), organic nitrogen (N, 3.2%), P_2O_5 (2%), K_2O (3.5%) and applied after a week seedling planting, lastly 1 month after from this apply. Zincon, Zn (11%), (Mn 2%) and B (2.5%), Acetylsalicylic acid (0.01%), Free amino acid (5%), organic acid (11%), organic carbon of biological origin (10%), B1-B2-B6-B12 (6%) vitamin, vitamin, phytohormone, enzym, humic acid. Apply when planted seedling after 15 day, 750 cc-1 l / da and second application was given at 750 cc-1 l / ha when the first fruits were observed. Conventionally fertilizer have been used 100 kg N: 50 kg P_2O_5 : 200 kg K_2O /ha.

As organic fertilizers (OG); Ecompost, Camli Botanica Liquid organic fertilizer and Zincon have been used. In the experiment, the plant activators were applied to the plants alone or in combination with each other and organic fertilizer. Two separate control groups which were organic and conventional (CONV.) fertilizer have been identified. The following methods were used: Kjeldahl method [4] for total protein, and Bligh and Dyer method [5] was used for total oil; powdered seed samples were measured in quantities ranging from 5-10 g and placed in to the cellulose cartridges. Over the cartridge was pressed well with cotton on the purpose of that the samples should not diffuse. The cellulose cartridge was placed on a glass balloon and extractioned with diethyl ether solution for 3 hours. Diethyl ether was evaporated from the diethyl ether-lipid fraction which have been remained in the glass balloons using the method of a rotary evaporator in a water bath at 65 ° C. After that, the balloons were waited at stand at 60 ° C for 20 minutes in the stove to evaporate of the diethyl ether, they cooled until the room temperature in a desiccator and weighed on a 0.1 mg sensitive precision scale. The following formula has been used in the calculation of the lipid ratio Kenar [6].

Lipid ratio (%) = [Glass balloon weight (g)+ Lipid (g)]-[Glass balloon (g)] x100/ Sample weight (g)

Fatty acid profiles of fat extracted from the seed snack pumpkin samples were determined according to the method described by Ichibara et al. [7] with minor modification by using by gas chromatography (GC).

Statistical analyses were performed by the use of the JMP 5.1 program and Tukey test was used to compare the averages.

Results and Discussion

At in the percent of protein, lipid and fatty acid, significant different between applications average were recorded (Table 1, 2 and 3). The protein content ranged from 28.32 % to 35.50 %. The highest value was obtained from application of CONV. whereas applications ERS+OG and VIT+OG had the lowest protein content (28.32%) (Table 1).

Table 1. Total Protein Levels Obtained from Nussem and Beppo Seeds of Different Plant Activators and Organic Fertilizer Applications (%)

Applications	2015		Applications x year	2016		Applications x year	Applications Average
	Nussem	Beppo		Nussem	Beppo		
CR	30.59 I-S	30.59 I-S	30.59 K-P	29.75 M-W	33.75 C-H	31.75 H-M	31.17 E-H
EM1	32.41 D-M	32.30 D-N	32.35 G-J	27.61 W-Z	32.71 C-K	30.16 M-R	31.26 EFG
ERS	34.35 CDE	34.35 CDE	34.35 B-E	29.33 O-X	31.87 E-O	30.60 K-P	32.48 BCD
VIT	32.87 C-K	33.12 C-J	32.99 C-H	28.69 Q-X	33.12 C-J	30.90 I-P	31.95 CDE
OSU	33.12 C-J	33.13 C-J	33.12 C-H	28.36 R-X	33.57 C-H	30.97 I-P	32.05 B-E
M3	34.58 CD	34.66 CD	34.62 BCD	29.24 O-X	33.68 C-H	31.46 H-O	33.04 BC
SP 245	32.45 D-L	32.46 D-L	32.46 F-J	28.24 R-Y	35.15 BC	31.70 H-N	32.08 B-E
SIP	30.80 I-R	30.80 I-R	30.80 J-P	27.35 W-Z	32.56 C-L	29.96 N-R	30.38 GHI
EKO	31.45 G-P	31.45 G-P	31.45 H-O	24.24 ab	28.79 P-X	26.51 UV	28.98 JK
BOT	34.17 C-F	34.17 C-F	34.17 B-F	27.68 V-Z	31.67 F-O	29.67 PS	31.92 CDE
ZIN	32.87 C-K	32.87 C-K	32.87 D-H	26.65X-a	32.63 C-K	29.64 P-S	31.26 EFG
CR+OG	32.11 D-N	32.11 D-N	32.11 H-K	25.40 Zab	30.61 I-S	28.00 STU	30.05 HIJ
EM1+OG	33.90 C-G	33.90 C-G	33.90 B-G	25.66 Y-b	31.17 H-Q	28.42 RST	31.16 E-H
ERS+OG	30.51 J-T	30.51 J-T	30.51 K-Q	24.45 ab	27.82 U-Z	26.13 VW	28.32 K
VIT+OG	30.35 K-V	30.35 K-V	30.35 L-Q	23.30 b	29.27 O-X	26.28 UV	28.32 K
OSU+OG	33.92 C-G	33.92 C-G	33.92 B-G	23.62 b	25.36 Zab	24.49 W	29.21 JK
M3+OG	33.19 C-I	33.19 C-I	33.19 C-H	23.97 ab	29.94 L-W	26.96 TUV	30.07 HIJ
SP 245+OG	30.59 I-S	30.59 I-S	30.59 K-P	37.77 AB	27.91 T-Z	32.84 E-H	31.71 DEF
SIP+OG	32.58 C-L	32.58 C-L	32.58 F-I	23.48 b	29.37 O-W	26.43 UV	29.50 IJ
OSU+M3	32.56 C-L	32.56 C-L	32.56 F-I	30.47 J-U	30.41 K-U	30.44 K-Q	31.50 D-G
OSU+SP 245	29.92 L-W	29.66 N-W	29.79 O-R	29.92 L-W	27.62 W-Z	28.77 QRS	29.28 IJK
M3+SP 245	35.15 BC	35.15 BC	35.15 B	28.03 S-Z	34.03 C-G	31.03 I-P	33.09 B
OG	34.70 CD	34.70 CD	34.70 BC	24.00 ab	29.71 N-W	26.86 TUV	30.78 FGH
CONV.	38.92 A	38.92 A	38.92 A	32.33 D-N	31.83 E-O	32.08 H-L	35.50 A
Yearxvarieties	32.84 A	32.83 A		27.48 C	31.02 B		
Year	32.83 A			29.25 B			

Table 2 shows the lipid contents of seeds. The highest value was obtained from SP 245+OG (45.90%), CR (44.48%) and SIP+OG (44.26%) whereas the lowest value was observed from applications CONV. (37.24%) and SP 245 (39.41%).

Table 2. Content of Lipid Obtained from Nussem and Beppo Seeds of Different Plant Activators and Organic Fertilizer Applications (%)

Applications	2015		Applications x year	2016		Applications x year	Applications Average
	Nussem	Beppo		Nussem	Beppo		
CR	54.00 A	42.54 M- b	48.27 A	43.44 K-W	37.96 X-e	40.70 K-O	44.48 AB
EM1	46.37 D-O	39.92 S-b	43.15 B-N	45.04 H-S	37.56 Z-f	41.30 H-N	42.22 B-F
ERS	49.84 A-I	40.80 P- f	45.32 A-E	48.20 B	32.46 fgh	40.33 L-P	42.83 B-E
VIT	46.30 D-O	37.24 b-f	41.77 F-N	43.27 K-X	36.22 e-f	39.74 N-Q	40.76 E-H
OSU	45.25 H-S	36.72 e-f	40.99 I-N	44.83 I-T	38.56 W-e	41.69 F-N	41.34 D-H
M3	43.98 J-V	41.72 N- e	42.85 B-N	42.51 M- b	38.50 W-e	40.50 L-P	41.68 C-H
SP 245	47.09 C-M	40.22 Q-a	43.66 B-L	40.77 P- f	29.56 h	35.17 R	39.41 HI
SIP	45.53 G-Q	38.49 W-e	42.01 D-N	46.74 D-N	36.32 d-f	41.53 G-N	41.77 C-G
EKO	46.61 D-N	41.70 N- e	44.15 B-K	45.63 G-P	41.68 N- d	43.66 B-L	43.91 ABC
BOT	51.06 A-E	38.73 V-e	44.90 A-G	49.25 A-J	35.28 a-g	42.26 C-N	43.58 BCD
ZIN	48.88 B-J	39.88 S-b	44.38 B-J	47.37 B-M	33.54 e-h	40.45 L-P	42.42 B-E
CR+OG	50.73 A-G	39.99 R-b	45.36 A-D	45.31 H-R	38.32 W-e	41.81 E-N	43.59 BCD
EM1+OG	52.47 AB	37.85 Z-e	45.16 A-F	48.08 B-K	34.20 d-h	41.14 H-N	43.15 BCD
ERS+OG	46.04 E-P	38.66 V-e	42.35 C-N	48.03 B-K	34.64 b-h	41.33 H-N	41.84 C-G
VIT+OG	47.91 B-L	43.24 K-Y	45.58ABC	47.82 B-M	35.58 e-f	41.70 F-N	43.64 ABC
OSU+OG	46.33 D-O	40.75 P- f	43.54 B-L	38.98 V-d	34.49 c-h	36.74 QR	40.14 FGH
M3+OG	46.22 D-O	42.62 L- a	44.42 B-I	46.66 D-N	38.26 W-e	42.46 C-N	43.44 BCD
SP 245+OG	50.84 A-G	41.51 N- d	46.18 AB	52.18 ABC	39.06 V-d	45.62 ABC	45.90 A
SIP+OG	50.24 A-H	39.63 T-c	44.93 A-G	45.94 E-P	41.22 N- e	43.58 B-L	44.26 AB
OSU+M3	45.67 F-P	38.29 W-e	41.98 D-N	37.90 Y-e	36.61 e-f	37.25 O-R	39.61 GH
OSU+SP 245	51.51 A-D	37.52 a-f	44.51 B-H	48.22 B-K	38.42 W-e	43.32 B-M	43.92 ABC
M3+SP 245	44.52 I-Y	41.43 N- e	42.97 B-N	43.39 K-W	30.62 gh	37.00 PQR	39.99 FGH
OG	51.02 A-F	39.29 U-d	45.15 A-F	42.90 K-Z	38.84 V-d	40.87 J-N	43.01 B-E
CONV.	41.70 N- e	38.01 X-e	39.85 MQ	38.52 W-e	30.73 gh	34.62 R	37.24 I
Yearxvarieties	47.92 A	39.19 C		45.04 B	36.19 D		
Year	43.89 A			40.62 B			

Table 3 shows dominant fatty acids found in oils of seeds. Total 11 fatty acids were identified. Among them, the highest proportions in oil of snack seed pumpkin were C16:0 (Palmitic Acid Methyl Ester), C18:0 (Stearic Acid Methyl Ester), C18:1 (Oleic Acid Methyl Ester) and C18:2 (Linoleic Acid Methyl Ester).

Ermis [8] reported that the pumpkin seeds contained high lipid (35%-48%), and also oleic acid (40%-58%) and linoleic acid (30%-40%) were dominant fatty acids. He also reported that it contained 35%-40% of protein. These results were similar to the results of our study. However, the values were found to be different for oleic acid, linoleic acid and protein. Stevenson et al. [9] reported that the oil content of pumpkin cultivars ranged from 10.9 to 30.9%. Researchers also reported the predominant fatty acids in pumpkin seed oil from all 12 cultivars studied as linoleic acid, oleic acid, palmitic acid, and stearic acid. These results were similar to findings of our study but values for oil content were found to be different. Lazoz [10] investigated the nutritional, fatty acid, and oil characteristics of pumpkin and melon seeds. As a result, they found the defatted flour of the pumpkin and melon seeds contained, respectively: crude protein, 55.4 and 39.4%; and the major fatty acid of the oils was linoleic (18:2) at concentrations of 43.1 and 64.6%, followed by oleic (18:1), 37.8 and 20.1%, respectively. Habib et al [11] reported that the seeds of pumpkin (*Curcubita maxima*) contained 36.70% total lipid, 34.56% total protein and pumpkin seed oil contained the highest amount of oleic acid (40.58%) while stearic acid, palmitic acid and linoleic acid content were found to be 27.06, 17.39 and 14.97%. These result were similar to the results of our study but values for protein, lipid, palmitic and linoleic acid were found to be different.

Table 3. Content of dominant fatty acids; C16:0, C18:0, C18:1n9 and C18:2.

Applications	2015				2016			
	C16:0	C18:0	C18:1n9	C18:2	C16:0	C18:0	C18:1n9	C18:2
CR	11.03 I-N	6.16 L-R	42.03 W-a	38.12 CDE	11.57 C-M	7.45 A-G	46.55 C-D	31.19 VW
EM1	11.79 A-K	6.53 G-Q	41.11 Zab	38.23 CDE	11.79 A-K	7.10 B-L	44.57 H-L	33.57 L-Q
ERS	11.53 C-N	6.20 L-R	43.88 LQ	35.95 HI	12.40 A-D	7.39 A-H	44.96 G-K	32.30 STU
VIT	11.66 B-M	6.51 G-Q	42.75 RX	36.64 GH	12.22 A-G	7.72 A-D	44.46 I-N	32.39 R-U
OSU	11.32 D-N	6.51 G-Q	42.94 QW	36.61 GH	11.26 E-N	7.95 AB	45.47 E-I	32.86 O-T
M3	11.72 A-L	6.68 E-P	42.24 U-Y	36.97 FGH	11.52 C-N	7.61 A-E	47.25 BC	30.49 WX
SP 245	11.70 A-L	6.16 L-R	41.06 ab	38.57 BCD	12.68 AB	7.75 A-D	42.58 T-X	33.40 M-R
SIP	10.95 J-N	6.69 E-P	46.35 C-F	33.75 KP	11.92 A-K	7.63 A-E	43.18 P-V	33.92 K-N
EKO	10.46 N	6.54 F-Q	41.85 X-a	38.67 ABC	11.88 A-K	6.70 E-P	45.84 D-G	32.69 P-T
BOT	11.26 E-N	6.41 I-Q	41.33 YZa	36.16 HI	12.08 A-I	7.19 B-K	42.07 W-a	35.29 IJ
ZIN	11.85 A-K	6.16 L-R	40.15 b	39.29 AB	12.54ABC	8.20 A	44.36 J-N	31.62 UV
CR+OG	11.00 I-N	6.11 N-R	44.50 I-M	36.15 HI	11.79 A-K	7.01 B-M	45.58 D-H	32.80 O-T
EM1+OG	11.20 F-N	5.69 QR	42.31 U-Y	38.28 BE	12.34 A-E	7.50 A-F	45.84 D-G	30.84VWX
ERS+OG	12.77 A	5.86 O-R	45.63 D-G	35.45 IJ	12.26 A-F	7.80ABC	43.41 N-T	33.34 N-S
VIT+OG	11.10 H-N	6.05 M-R	44.27 K-O	36.18 HI	12.40 A-D	6.74 E-O	45.44 E-I	32.52 Q-U
OSU+OG	10.57 MN	6.56 F-Q	43.41 M-T	36.91 FGH	12.00 A-J	6.80 D-O	43.65 L-S	34.01 K-U
M3+OG	11.32 D-N	6.20 L-R	43.04 P-W	37.26 EFG	11.52 C-N	6.94 C-N	46.50 CDE	32.25 TU
SP 245+OG	11.28 E-N	6.44 H-Q	41.83 X-a	37.94 CF	12.16 A-H	6.97 C-N	44.55 H-M	33.28 N-T
SIP+OG	10.84 K-N	5.27 R	44.09 K-P	36.61 GH	11.95 A-J	7.35 A-I	43.21 P-U	34.50 JKL
OSU+M3	11.65 B-M	6.24 K-Q	42.13 V-Z	37.56 DG	11.74 A-L	7.23 B-J	43.50 M-T	34.45 J-M
OSU+SP 245	11.22 F-N	5.76 PQR	43.74 L-R	36.82 GH	11.13 G-N	6.81 D-O	45.40 F-J	33.75 K-O
M3+SP 245	11.58 B-M	6.36 J-Q	42.94 Q-W	36.52 GH	12.36 A-E	6.86 C-N	43.24 O-U	34.60 JKL
OG	10.65 LMN	6.18 L-R	41.26 YZa	39.63 A	12.59ABC	7.02 B-M	42.62 S-X	34.80 JK
CONV.	11.31 D-N	6.64 F-Q	48.34 A	31.53 UVW	11.59 B-M	7.75 A-D	47.80 AB	29.87 X

Conclusions

In our study eight plant activators and three organic fertilizer were used in snack seed pumpkin with or without organic fertilizers. Total protein ranged from 28.32% to 35.50%, and total lipid ranged from 37.24% to 45.90%. 11 fatty acid were identified. C16:0, C18:0, C18:1n9 and C18:2 were found dominant compared to other fatty acids. As a result, applied plant activators on Nussem and Beppo varieties had no effect total protein content, total lipid and fatty acid in snack seed pumpkin.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

Acknowledgements

This project was funded by Cukurova University Scientific Research Projects Unit with the project code of FDK-2015-3664. The researcher thanks to Prof. Dr. Fikretin Sahin from Yeditepe University, Turkey for providing isolates which are OSU 142, SP 245 and M3.

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