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RETRACTED: Green synthesis, characterizations of silver nanoparticles using sumac (*Rhus coriaria* L.) plant extract and their antimicrobial and DNA damage protective effects

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Today, antimicrobial resistance against bacteria has become an important global public health problem. In this sense, the development of new biomedical solutions is becoming increasingly important. Especially plant-based nanoparticles produced by green synthesis are used in many fields. AgNPs have an important place in nanoscience and nanotechnology, especially in nanomedicine. Therefore, the present study was conducted to synthesize AgNPs using the medicinal plant extract sumac and to characterize them using advanced techniques and to determine the antibacterial activity of some bacteria that cause disease. Nanoparticles produced by green synthesis are used in a wide area around the world due to their many advantages such as environmentally friendly, economically and non-toxically. In this study, AgNPs were biosynthesized using sumac extract and evaluated for their antibacterial potency against *Bacillus cereus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Candida albicans*. UV-Vis spectroscopy of the prepared sumac-mediated silver solution showed the absorption maximum at about 400 nm. According to the TEM results obtained, it was observed that the particles were spherical, approximately 4 nm in size, and showed a homogeneous distribution. The sizes of nanoparticles formed by XRD pattern were supported and silver nanoparticles were obtained. According to the obtained XRD results, the crystal nature of nanoparticles in face-centered cubic structure was confirmed by the peaks in the XRD model corresponding to the planes (111) (200) (220) and (311). It was observed that the synthesized AgNPs provided a strong protection against plasmid DNA damage. It was determined that the inhibition zone diameters of biosynthesized nanoparticles measured in terms of antibacterial activity were between 10 and 14 mm. As a result, the study revealed significant antibacterial activity of the synthesized AgNPs due to extensive membrane damage.

KEYWORDS

Rhus coriaria L. extract, green synthesis, DNA damage, antimicrobial activity, Rc-AgNP

Introduction

Nanotechnology has a wide variety of effective practices, including of devices belonging to disciplines such as physics, engineering, chemistry and biology. (Singh et al., 2018). Nanostructures are used in cancer diagnosis, drug production, biomolecule synthesis, antimicrobial activity studies and many other fields (Habibullah et al., 2021). In order to eliminate the negative effects of nanoparticle production, researchers carry out many studies that are compatible with living organisms, cheap and environmentally friendly with green synthesis methods. (Nasrudin et al., 2019; Karimi-Maleh et al., 2020). NPs have antimicrobial activity that can overcome resistant mechanisms by providing enzyme inactivation and reduced cell permeability. Furthermore, NPs conjugated with antibiotics exert synergistic effects against bacteria, inhibit biofilm formation and have been used to combat multi-drug resistant organisms (MDROs) (Baptista et al., 2018). NPs can act as nanoscale molecules that can interact with bacterial cells, regulating cell membrane penetration and interfering with molecular pathways. Nanoparticles can increase drug efficacy by passing through the cell membrane as carrier agent (Mamun et al., 2021). NP coatings on implantable devices, wound dressings, bone cement or dental materials can be used as NP-based antibiotic delivery systems (Wang et al., 2017). NPs may enhance the inhibitory effects of antibiotics. In a study demonstrated a synergistic effect of functionalized Au NPs and fluoroquinolone antibiotics for the treatment of multidrug-resistant *Escherichia coli* infections (Gupta et al., 2017). NPs are therefore regarded as next-generation antibiotics. This study was conducted to evaluate the *in vitro* antimicrobial activities of Ag NPs. Silver nanoparticles are used promisingly to prevent the increasing amount of microbial drug resistance. Silver nanoparticles are one of the most effective inorganic nanoparticles studied as antifungal, antiviral, antimicrobial and antiinflammatory. According to the literature studies, the antibacterial activity mechanism of silver nanoparticles can be explained with the following features: 1. Denaturation of the bacterial outer membrane (Hamed et al., 2017), 2. Formation of pits in the cell membrane with the disintegration of the bacterial cell membrane (Dasgupta et al., 2018) and 3. As a result of the interactions between the sulfhydryl groups and disulfide bonds in the structure of enzymes and Ag NPs, all metabolic processes are disrupted and then result in cell death.

Green synthesis has attracted great attention because biomolecules in plant extracts are involved instead of toxic chemicals (Göl et al., 2020; Aygun et al., 2022). In the performed green synthesis process, the plant extract acts as a natural reducing and stabilizing agent and is mixed with any metal salt solution (Gur et al., 2022, Meydan et al., 2022). Various phytochemicals such as phenols, steroids, terpenoids, flavonoids, alkaloids, as well as tannins, proteins and saponins in the plant extract allow the Ag^+ ion to initiate the nucleation

process into Ag^0 atoms and aggregate them into $(\text{Ag}^0)_n$. Hydrolyzable tannins, flavonols, anthocyanins, phenolic acids and organic acids such as malic, citric and tartaric acids in sumac fruit extracts act as stabilizing and reducing agents, enabling the conversion of silver ions into silver nanoparticles.

Sumac (*Rhus coriaria* L., Anacardiaceae family), which grows untamed in the region laying out from the Canary Islands to Iran and Afghanistan along the Mediterranean coastline, is a flora to the Mediterranean and Southeastern Anatolia regions of Turkey and is utilized as a condiment and flavor ingredient. Studies show that sumac has antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, hypoglycemic, hypolipidemic, and neuroprotective features (Akbari-Fakhrabadi et al., 2018; Alsamri et al., 2021; Khalil et al., 2021). In many antimicrobial studies with extracts from the fruits of *R. coriaria*, a broad antimicrobial effect inhibiting the growth of Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacterial species were observed (Mahdavi et al., 2018). The observed antimicrobial activity was attributed to tannins, depending on the bacterial species. In addition, the utilize of plant-based treatment as an another approach for chemotherapeutic medicaments is recommended a lot of illnesses. Sumac (*R. coriaria* L.), one of the spices widely utilized among the people, is used in the therapy of many illnesses inclusive cancer (Farag et al., 2018). *Rhus coriaria* is a very rich plant in terms of phytochemical compounds (myricetin, gallic acid, tannins, flavonoids, terpenoids, isoflavonoids, anthocyanins, etc) it contains (Abdallah et al., 2019). Free oxygen radicals occur in all living organisms that perform aerobic respiration and if they exceed the antioxidant defense systems in the cell, undesirable reactions may occur (Uçkan et al., 2022). Free oxygen radicals known as superoxide anion (O_2^-), hydroxyl radicals ($\text{OH}^\cdot$), nitric oxide (NO), and peroxy radical ($\text{ROO}^\cdot$) are highly unstable and tend to react by attacking important biomolecules such as lipids, proteins, and nucleic acids in the environment. As a result of these oxidation reactions, it can cause diverse diseases like cell death, cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular illness, aging, lipid peroxidation and DNA damage. If free oxygen radicals, which are found at an increased rate in the cell, react with fatty acids, which are an important component of the cell membrane, peroxidation products are formed (Arslan et al., 2021). When erythrocytes are exposed to high levels of free radicals, it initiates lipid peroxidation by causing oxidation in biological membranes rich in polyunsaturated fatty acids. As a result of this event, the biological activity of the membranes is disrupted and cell damage occurs (Demir et al., 2022).

Although there are many studies reported on the chemical and biological potential of sumac, which is a rich source of bioactive substances, the capabilities of the important biomolecules contained in the sumac plant for nanoparticle synthesis have not been sufficiently demonstrated. Consequently, in this study, it was conducted to synthesize and characterize silver nanoparticles by utilizing the capping and stabilizing properties of bioactive compounds found in



FIGURE 1
(A) Sumac tree, (B) Sumac fruit (Alsamri et al., 2021) (C) 1 mm AgNO_3 (CAS 7761-88-8) solution (D) Sumac fruit extract (E) Ag/sumac nanoparticle solution.

aqueous extracts of sumac fruits grown in Gaziantep, Turkey. Basing on the above mentioned data and also the several toxic side effects of bacteria, the aim of the current study was to use the safe green synthesis method through the production of Ag nanostructures from *R. coriaria* fruit extract to determine its antibacterial potency against growth of harmful pathogens. To our knowledge this is the first report for antibacterial activity of the green synthesized silver nanostructures using *R. coriaria* fruit extract. In the light of the data obtained, this study has been a new green synthesis process that can be brought to the literature, which is easy, effective, quite economical and environmentally friendly. The antibacterial activity of bioformed nanoparticles against some pathogens and their capacity to inhibit DNA damage were also evaluated.

Material and method

Preparation of sumac fruit extract

All chemicals used in this study are of analytical quality and supplied from Germany (Merck). The plant was identified from Yüzüncü Yıl University, Faculty of Science, Department of Chemistry, Van, Turkey. The sumac plant was freshly provided from the Geneyik region of Gaziantep province and dried. Fresh sumac fruits were used for synthesis. 5 g of the sumac sample, which was pulverized with a grinder, was weighed and placed in a beaker and 100 ml of distilled water was added to the top. Then it was boiled for 30 min in a magnetic stirrer and mixed. The resulting extract was filtered and used for nanoparticle synthesis (Figure 1).

Synthesis of Ag NPs

For the green synthesis of Ag NPs, 25 ml of sumac extract was added into 200 ml of 1 mm Ag solution. The mixture was

incubated for approximately 48 h at 75°C on a magnetic stirrer until a color change was observed. At the end of the reaction, when the solution turned dark, the process was terminated and the mixture was centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 15 min, and the resulting Ag NPs were taken into a Petri dish and dried in an oven. Nanoparticles were stored at room temperature for further experimental processing. The resulting nanoparticles were named Rc-AgNPs.

Characterization processes of Ag NPs

Perkin Elmer Lambda 750 device was used for UV-Vis measurements of synthesized biogenic Ag NPs. The diluted material was added to the quartz cells for UV-Vis analysis and measurements were taken at wavelengths ranging from 250 to 800 nm. FTIR analysis of dried samples was determined by Perkin Elmer Spectrum Two FT-IR Spectrometer measuring in the wavelength range of $500\text{--}4,000\text{ cm}^{-1}$. The functional groups of various biomolecules present in sumac extract, which are active in reducing AgNO_3 salt and stabilizing Ag NPs, were identified using FTIR analysis. The surface morphology of Ag NPs was studied using a JEOL JEM 1220 TEM instrument. Measurements for X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) were made on a device named Panalytical Empyrean, Turkey, which contains an X-ray generator with Cu K α radiation (40 kV, $\lambda = 1.5406\text{ \AA}$).

Antibacterial activity tests

Rc-AgNPs were created using sumac fruit extracts and Ag metal. The antibacterial activities of sumac-mediated silver nanoparticles were evaluated against Gram-positive bacteria (*Bacillus cereus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Enterococcus faecalis*), Gram-negative bacteria (*Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*) and *Candida albicans* fungus

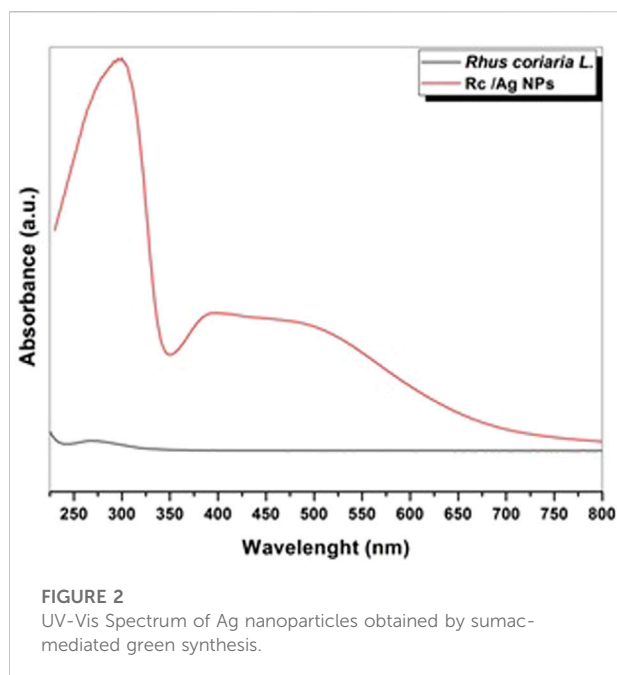


FIGURE 2
UV-Vis Spectrum of Ag nanoparticles obtained by sumac-mediated green synthesis.

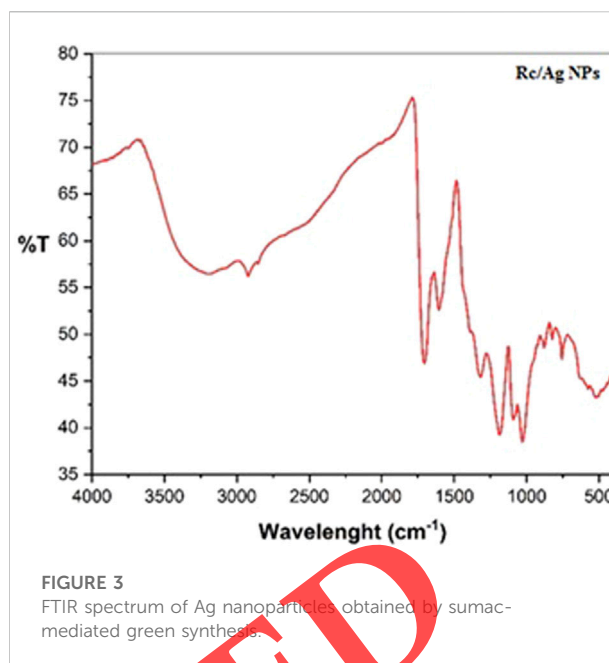


FIGURE 3
FTIR spectrum of Ag nanoparticles obtained by sumac-mediated green synthesis.

using the agar well diffusion method (Behravan et al., 2019). Pathogens used in the study were taken from Van Yüzüncü University Health Services Vocational School Laboratory. Rifampin antibiotic was as positive control. Tryptic soy broth was used for the activation of microorganisms and Müller Hinton Agar medium was used for the disc diffusion method. Inhibition zone diameters of each disc were measured in millimeters (mm).

DNA damage test

DNA fragmentation activity of AgNPs synthesized using sumac extract was performed using agarose gel electrophoresis method. pBR322 (CAS 93384-17-9) was used as the target DNA. Rc-AgNPs prepared at different concentrations (250–500–750–1,000 µg/ml) were mixed with plasmid DNA (pBR322). The resulting mixtures were incubated at room temperature for 60 min. The reaction mixtures were then loaded onto the gel. Electrophoresis was performed at 90 V for 60 min. Unprocessed genomic DNA (CAS 9012-36-6) was used as negative control. The results obtained were graphed and interpreted (Gulbagca et al., 2019; Gur et al., 2022).

Statistical analysis

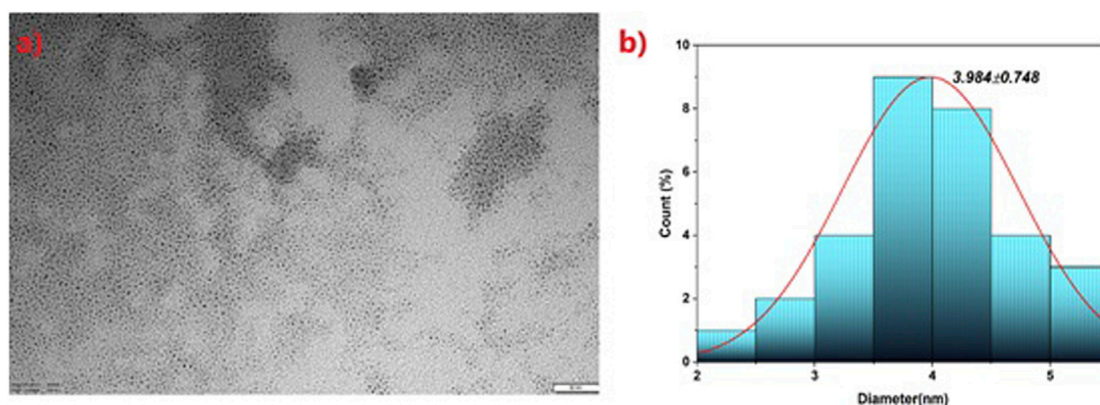
Descriptive statistics were expressed as mean and standard Deviation. SPSS statistical software version 19.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, III, United States) pack has used for analyses.

Discussion and conclusion

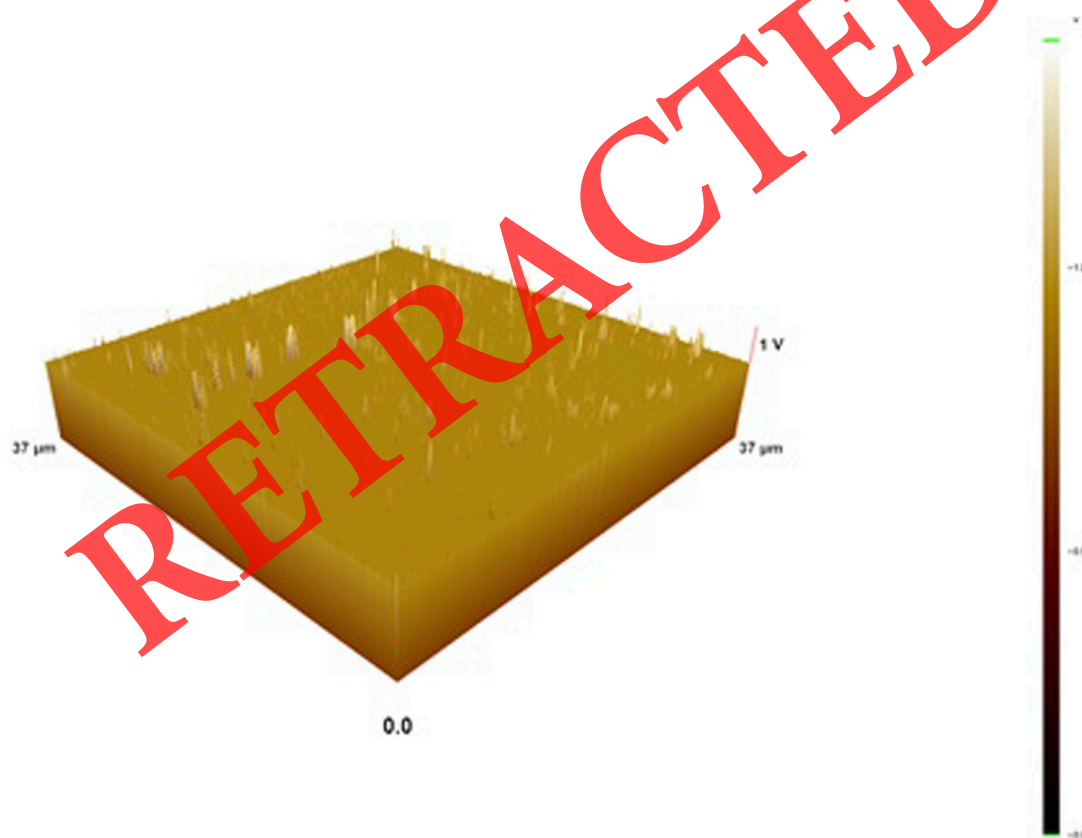
Material characterizations for nanoparticles synthesized with sumac

TEM, XRD, AFM, FTIR, and UV-vis were used to characterize Ag NPs formed using the sumac-mediated green synthesis process. Figure 2 showed the UV-vis spectrum with the peak corresponding to Ag NPs in the 250–800 nm absorption band. When fruit extract was added to the aqueous silver nitrate solution, the color of the solution changed from colorless to yellowish brown and finally colloidal brown, indicating the formation of silver nanoparticles. UV-Vis spectroscopy was used to confirm the formation of silver nanoparticles. A ridge of around 300 nm and a neck area of around 400 nm were observed. Sumac plant extract is also included in the graph, and the differentiation of AgNP and sumac plant extract has been observed. It is seen that the data obtained are compatible with the literature (Zheng et al., 2018; Jebil et al., 2020).

The nature of phytochemicals responsible for the reduction of AgNP and sumac extract was studied by Fourier-transform infrared (FTIR) spectrometry. Thanks to the FTIR analysis, the stabilization of the synthesized metallic nanoparticles and the closure of various functional groups were diagnosed. Spectra characterizing AgNP were recorded in the range of 4,000–500 cm⁻¹. The FTIR spectra of Ag NPs was shown in Figure 3. Biomolecules with carbonyl groups, primary amine groups (R-NH₂), R-OH groups and other functional groups can be seen in the FTIR spectrum. In the FT-IR spectra, the N-H functional group peaked at 3,206.3 cm⁻¹. The 2,923 cm⁻¹ –CH₂ functional group formed a peak. The carbonyl functional group is

**FIGURE 4**

Ag nanoparticles obtained by green synthesis via sumac (A) TEM image (B) Histogram graph.

**FIGURE 5**

AFM image of Ag nanoparticles obtained by green synthesis via sumac.

indicated by the FT-IR spectrum peak at 1707.1 cm^{-1} (Aygün et al., 2020). Similar to our work in a study in which FTIR spectrum bands of *T. brevifolia* extract mediated AgNP were

observed, -OH and aldehyde C-H stretching vibrations were observed at $3,418$ and $2,920\text{ cm}^{-1}$, respectively. At $1,079\text{ cm}^{-1}$ it belongs to C-O stretching vibrations (Sarlı et al., 2020).

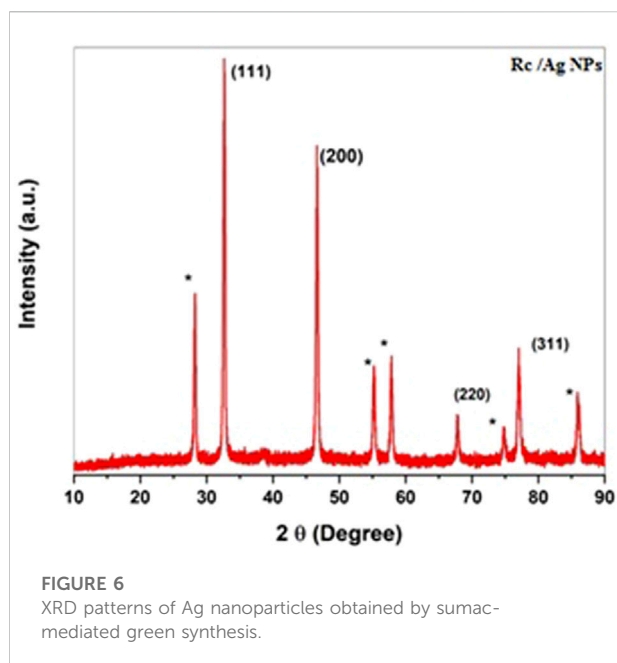


FIGURE 6
XRD patterns of Ag nanoparticles obtained by sumac-mediated green synthesis.

In Figures 4A, particle size and shape were investigated by TEM analysis. The synthesized Ag NPs were examined in TEM images. The obtained particles showed homogeneous distribution and it was confirmed that they were nanoparticles by histogram graph in Figures 4B. The particles were spherical and appeared to be about 4 nm in size. Although the particle size results obtained from the TEM images were quite small compared to the previously published green synthesized publications, it was understood that the particles supported by the XRD pattern were smaller in size and silver nanoparticles were obtained (Maham et al., 2017). Similar results were found in a study that was consistent with our results Ibrahim et al., 2020). In a study in which aerial parts of *Allium rotundum* L. *Falcaria vulgaris* (Bernh. And *Ferulago angulata* Boiss plants were used in the synthesis of silver nanoparticles, the nanoparticle size was found to be 20.5 nm according to the results of the tem analysis (Hekmati et al., 2020). The TEM results we found in our study were found to be quite low compared to other studies in the literature.

Surface morphology and size of silver nanoparticles synthesized with sumac extract were determined using AFM. The typical AFM image obtained for synthesized silver nanoparticles was shown in Figure 5. The particle topography showed a regular distribution. It was shown that the synthesized material was homogeneously distributed. The results obtained were found to be compatible with the literature (Sadhasivam et al., 2010). The topography and surface roughness of the synthesized silver nanoparticles were examined in a study using AFM, and it was shown that the silver nanoparticles

were multidispersed and were in good agreement with the SEM and TEM images (Kanniah et al., 2020).

XRD analysis was performed to confirm the crystalline nature of the synthesized silver nanoparticles. The XRD diffractogram of Ag NPs was shown in Figure 6. The peaks at 32.69°, 46.64°, 67.82°, and 77.03° correspond to clusters of lattice planes (111), (200), (220), and 311 respectively. As seen in the green synthesis, XRD model, Ag NPs with facecentered cubic (fcc) structure were obtained. The resulting graphic was similar to the literature (Sajadi et al., 2019). In a study, according to XRD analysis measurements of silver nanoparticles synthesized using *Tagetes Erecta* plant, Bragg's four diffraction peaks corresponding to (111), (200), (220) and 311 planes at 38.11°, 44.27°, 64.42° and 77.47° angles. They have observed (Katta and Dubey, 2021).

Antibacterial activity

The antibacterial properties of Rc-Ag NPs obtained by using the aqueous extract of the fruits of the *Rhus coriaria* plant were investigated using the disk diffusion method. Gram-positive bacteria, Gram negative bacteria and *Candida albicans* fungus were used. In a study, it was determined that Ag NPs obtained by green synthesis showed antibacterial activity against some Gram-positive and Gram-negative pathogens by disk diffusion method (Behravan et al., 2019). It was observed that silver nanoparticles (Rc-Ag NPs) formed inhibition zones between 10 ± 0.68 – 14 ± 0.5 mm against Gram (+) and Gram (-) bacteria and had an antibacterial effect. It was determined that Rc-Ag NPs formed a zone of 12 ± 0.2 mm against *Candida albicans* showed an antifungal effect. As a result, it was determined that silver nanoclusters showed antimicrobial activity. Inhibition zone diameters of *Rhus coriaria* extract and Rc-Ag NPs against pathogenic microorganisms are given in Table 1. It is discerned that Rc-Ag NPs got from *Rhus coriaria* plant extract have a much more antimicrobial effect than the aqueous extract of sumac against all microorganisms tested. Studies have shown that the antibacterial activity of sumac fruit extracts can be referred to the presence of secondary metabolites such as phenolic acids, flavonols, anthocyanins, hydrolyzable tannins and organic acids like malic, tartaric and citric (Gulbagca et al., 2022). The sudden rising in bacterial resistance to many antibiotics has caused this subject to be perceived by people as a serious threat (Ismail et al., 2018). In order to control and restrict this resistance, the development of new drugs and potentially the use of plants for this purpose are seen as an ideal way. Plants have ethnomedical structures that play an important role in protecting human health against various diseases (Kocak et al., 2022). The antibacterial effects of nanoparticles synthesized thanks to the important

TABLE 1 Inhibition zone diameter values of *Rhus coriaria* (Rc) extract and Rc-Ag NPs against pathogenic microorganisms. Mean values of three parallel measurements from test measurements ($n = 3$) $\pm$ SD.

Test microorganisms	Zone of inhibition (mm)		
Bacteria	<i>Rhus coriaria</i> extract	Rc-AgNPs	Rifampin
<i>Bacillus cereus</i> ATCC 10876	10 $\pm$ 0.74	11 $\pm$ 1.2	13 $\pm$ 0.85
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> ATCC 6633	12 $\pm$ 0.35	14 $\pm$ 0.5	16 $\pm$ 0.32
<i>Enterococcus Faecalis</i> ATCC	-	10 $\pm$ 0.70	11 $\pm$ 0.35
<i>Escherichia coli</i> ATCC 25952	-	-	10 $\pm$ 0.10
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> ATCC 27,853	9 $\pm$ 0.45	10 $\pm$ 0.68	12 $\pm$ 0.20
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> ATCC 29,213	10 $\pm$ 0.30	-	24 $\pm$ 0.25
Fungus			
<i>Candida albicans</i> ATCC 90028	10 $\pm$ 0.55	12 $\pm$ 0.2	15 $\pm$ 0.32

TABLE 2 Substances added to the wells for DNA damage activity determination.

	1.well	2.well	3.well	4.well	5.well	6.well
DNA	+	+	+	+	+	+
Loading dye	+	+	+	+	+	+
H ₂ O ₂	-	+	-	+	+	+
UV	-	+	-	+	+	+
Rc-Ag NPs	-	-	250 μg/ml	500 μg/ml	750 μg/ml	1,000 μg/ml

biomolecules that plants have with our study may be an inspiration for medical science to develop new drugs. In this context, in the study evaluating the antibacterial activities of *Rhus coriaria* essential oil on various bacterial strains, they showed that sumac essential oil effectively inhibited the growth of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Bacillus subtilis* with concentrations of 2, 3, or 15 mg/ml, respectively (Zhaleh et al., 2018). In another study was carried out on Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria to determine the antibacterial activity of the aqueous and ethanol extract of *Rhus coriaria* (Mahdavi et al., 2018; Ismail 2020). In conclusion, the ethanolic extract of sumac berries exhibited strong concentration-dependent antimicrobial activity with a broad spectrum for all these bacterial strains.

DNA damage inhibition activity

Reactive oxygen species (ROS) cause many diseases such as cancer, age-related disorders, neurodegenerative diseases

and infertility, but also damage biomolecules, lipids, carbohydrates, proteins and DNA (Sies and Jones, 2020). DNA is a molecule that is easily damaged, and damage is constantly occurring on it, and these damages are repaired by DNA repair systems. In cases where the DNA repair systems in the cell are insufficient, the damage can lead to cell death. Therefore, in recent years, plant components such as rosemary, sage, thyme, ginger, pepper and sumac have been identified that protect against oxidative damage. In a study, it was also shown that *Rhus coriaria* can reduce DNA damage through a direct ROS scavenging activity, and gallic acid, an important component in sumac fruit, reduces H₂O₂-induced DNA damage in human lymphocytes comparable to sumac (Chakraborty et al., 2009).

In the study, the inhibitory effect of Rc-Ag NP on pBR322 plasmid DNA was investigated by agarose gel electrophoresis method. In the study, it was determined that DNA progressed by being protected in the first well, and was damaged by H₂O₂ and UV light from the second well (Table 2). It was observed that Rc-Ag NPs added in concentrations of 250–500–750–1,000 μg/ml from the third well had a protective effect on DNA.

According to the gel electrophoresis result, it was determined that DNA damage was prevented from the third well with 250 μg/ml nanoparticles added and that the DNAs moved more clearly with the addition of Rc-AgNPs in increasing concentrations to the other wells, respectively. It was observed that Rc-AgNPs added to the last well and at the highest concentration (1,000 μg/ml) had a good protective effect of DNA. The view acquired as a result of electrophoresis is shown in Figure 7. There are other studies in the literature that include the DNA protective effect of sumac plant (Iram et al., 2020; Nozza et al., 2020).

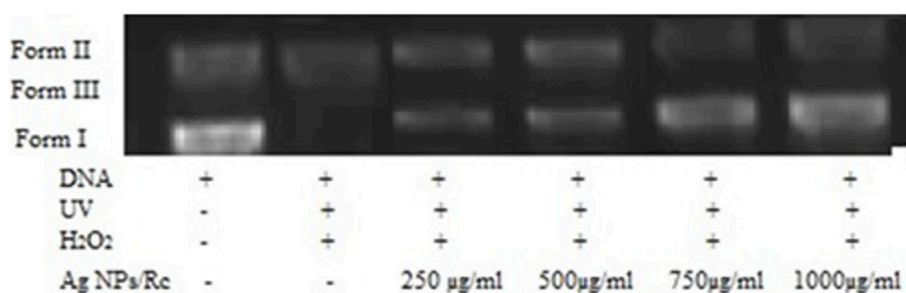


FIGURE 7
Electrophoresis image examining DNA damage.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the current study established an easy, economical and inexpensive eco-friendly protocol to synthesize AgNSs using *R. coriaria* fruit extract. UV-Visible, TEM, XRD measurements confirmed the formation of green synthesized silver nanoparticles. The efficacy of biosynthesized AgNPs as antibacterial therapy was confirmed by its significant antibacterial activity against pathogenic microorganisms. According to the results obtained, this shows their potential as a promising alternative to damage harmful pathogens. It was observed that green silver nanoparticles prepared at certain concentrations prevented DNA damage. However, further and detailed study is required to develop biological applications of biosynthesized AgNPs.

Data availability statement

The raw data supporting the conclusions of this article will be made available by the authors, without undue reservation.

Author contributions

TG contributed to conception and design of the study, organized the database, performed the statistical analysis, wrote the first draft of the manuscript and wrote sections of the manuscript. The author contributed to manuscript revision, read, and approved the submitted version.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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