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AUTHORS: Aleksandra R. Novaković, Maja A. Karaman, Ivan Lj. Milovanović, Miona M. Belović, Milena M. Rašeta, Tanja I. Radusin, Nebojša M. Ilić

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1 Scientific paper

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3 **Edible mycorrhizal species *Lactarius controversus* Pers. 1800 as a source of antioxidant**
4 **and cytotoxic agents**

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7 Aleksandra R. Novaković^{1*}, Maja A. Karaman², Ivan Lj. Milovanović¹, Miona M. Belović¹,
8 Milena J. Rašeta³, Tanja I. Radusin¹, Nebojša M. Ilić¹

9

10 ¹Institute of Food Technology, University of Novi Sad, Bulevar cara Lazara 1,
11 21000 Novi Sad, Serbia

12 ²Department of Biology and Ecology, Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad,
13 Trg Dositeja Obradovića 3, 21000 Novi Sad, Serbia

14 ³Department of Chemistry, Biochemistry and Environmental Protection, Faculty of Sciences,
15 University of Novi Sad, Trg Dositeja Obradovića 3, 21000 Novi Sad, Serbia

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20 Corresponding author:

21 Aleksandra Novaković, Institute of Food Technology, University of Novi Sad, Bulevar cara
22 Lazara 1, 21000 Novi Sad, Serbia

23 E-mail: aleksandra.novakovic@fins.uns.ac.rs

24 Phone: +381214853770

25

26 **Abstract**

27

28 The aim of this work was to study chemical profile and antioxidant and cytotoxic activities of
29 ethanol and water extracts of *Lactarius controversus* (Pers.) 1800 mushroom species growing
30 in eastern Serbia. The chemical characterization of phenolic compounds performed by
31 HPLC-MS/MS demonstrated the presence of quinic acid among others. Determination of
32 antioxidant activity, including radical scavenging effects on DPPH[•], NO[•], OH[•] and SOA
33 radicals and ferric reducing ability was investigated. The highest DPPH radical scavenging
34 effect was obtained for water extract (LcAq) while ethanol extract (LcEtOH) demonstrated
35 the highest FRAP activity. Hexane extract applied in antibacterial assay against three
36 pathogenic strains demonstrated antibacterial effect only against *S. aureus* ATCC25922. Anti-
37 proliferative properties against estrogen dependent MCF 7 breast cancer cell lines using MTT
38 showed higher activity for ethanolic extract.

39

40 **Key words:** *Lactarius controversus*, phenolic compounds, quinic acid, antioxidants, cytotoxic
41 agents

42

43 INTRODUCTION

44

45 For thousands of years, traditional oriental medicine have used natural products,
46 including medicinal and toxic mushrooms, for curing and disease prevention. Most of
47 medicinal mushroom preparations were used in a form of tonics, food or powder with
48 unknown side-effects. Nowadays, wild- growing mushrooms still comprise a vast and largely
49 untapped source of powerful new pharmaceutical products for the mankind in the future [1].
50 The number of mushroom species on Earth is estimated to approximately 140,000 species
51 while only 10% of them have been already determined. According to estimates that only 5%
52 of the total known species, which is about 7000 species, are with detected and potential
53 benefits for mankind, means that mushrooms are still insufficiently explored sources of
54 bioactive compounds[2-5]. Mushrooms contain a variety of complex compounds derived
55 from secondary metabolism such as phenolic compounds, polyketides, triterpenoids and
56 steroids which are specific to each mushroom species and strain and have specific medicinal
57 effects on humans, including antimicrobial, antitumor, antioxidant etc.[6,7]. Many such
58 compounds have been used in the treatment of cancer [8,9]. Furthermore, evidence-based
59 studies suggest that there is a relationship between the physiopathology of several chronic
60 diseases (e.g. cancer) and oxidative stress development. Therefore, the use of foods rich in
61 antioxidants, such as phytochemical and mycochemical protectors, may be the most relevant
62 factor in the prevention of oxidative stress related diseases [10]. Moreover, there is a
63 continuous need for discovery of new molecules that are able to effectively reduce cancer
64 which is the leading cause of death in Europe in 2006[11].

65 Some literature data suggest that *L. controversus* is inedible species [12], but in
66 Serbia this species is used as food, after obligatory cooking procedure before consumption.

67 In the present work we studied whether the autochthonous mushroom species
68 *Lactarius controversus* Pers. (1800) possesses antioxidant, antibacterial and anti/proliferative
69 properties. To our knowledge, this is the first report dealing with the antioxidant growth
70 inhibitory properties of *L. controversus* against MCF 7 breast cancer cell line.

71

72 **EXPERIMENTAL**

73

74 **Standards and reagents**

75 Folin-Ciocalteu (FC) reagent, anhydrous sodium carbonate, gallic acid, aluminium
76 trichloride hexahydrate, sodium acetate trihydrate, quercetin hydrate, 2,2-diphenyl-1-
77 picrylhydrazyl (DPPH^{*}), anhydrous iron(III) chloride, 2,4,6-Tris(2-pyridyl)-s-triazine (TPTZ),
78 2-thiobarbituric acid, disodium hydrogen phosphate, thiazolyl blue tetrazolium bromide,
79 phenazine methosulfate (PMS), and β -nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NADH),3-(4,5-
80 dimethylthiazole-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT), dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO),
81 sulforhodamine B (SRB), and trichloroacetic acid (TCA) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich
82 (Steinheim, Germany). Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium with 4.5% of glucose (DMEM)
83 and fetal calf serum (FCS) were purchased from PAA Laboratories (Pasching, Austria).
84 Ascorbic acid, potassium dihydrogen phosphate, sodium nitroprusside dihydrate (SNP),
85 naphthylethylenediamine dihydrochloride (NEDA), sulfanilamide (SA) 35% hydrogen
86 peroxide, iron(II) sulfate heptahydrate, trichloroacetic acid, and ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
87 (EDTA) were purchased from Lach-ner (Neratovice, Czech Republic). 2-deoxy-D-ribose was
88 obtained from Alfa Aesar (Karlsruhe, Germany). Reference standards of the phenolic
89 compounds were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich Chem (Steinheim, Germany), Fluka Chemie
90 GmbH (Buchs, Switzerland) or from Chromadex (Santa Ana, USA). HPLC gradient grade
91 methanol was purchased from J. T. Baker (Deventer, The Netherlands), and p.a. formic acid

92 and DMSO from Merck (Darmstadt, Germany). Deionized water was produced using a
93 Millipore water purification system.

94

95 **Mushroom samples**

96 *Lactarius controversus* was collected from Sikola area in Serbia during the year 2012.

97 After the identification of the species, a voucher specimen (12-00663) was deposited at the

98 Herbarium Buns, Faculty of Sciences Department of Biology and Ecology, University in

99 Novi Sad. The mushroom samples were pre-frozen at -20 °C and freeze-dried (Martin Christ

100 GmbH, Germany). Freeze dried samples were ground to a fine powder, wrapped in plastic

101 bags and stored in the dark at room temperature prior to analysis.

102

103 **Extraction**

104 The whole freeze dried and powdered sporocarps of *L. controversus* (10g) were

105 extracted with the following solvents: ethanol (EtOH), methanol (MeOH) or hexane (Hex)

106 and distilled water (Aq) for 24 hours on a shaker (Thermofisher Scientific, USA) at 120 rpm

107 at room temperature (25°C). The extracts were filtered through Whatman No.4 filter paper

108 and the solvents were removed by rotary evaporation in vacuum at 40°C (Büchi,

109 Switzerland). The extracts obtained (LcEtOH, LcMeOH, LcHex) were stored in refrigerator at

110 +4°C while aqueous extract (LcAq) was stored at -20 °C prior to analysis. Dry residues

111 were redissolved in DMSO to obtain LcAq, LcEtOH, for determination of antioxidant and

112 anti-proliferative activities (5mg/ml), and LcHex was used for evaluation of antibacterial

113 activity.

114

115 **HPLC-MS/MS screening of the phenolic compounds**

116 For HPLC-MS/MS determination of the phenolic profile, method developed by Orčić
117 et al. [13] was used. The Agilent 1200 series liquid chromatograph was used for separation of
118 all analytes, using a Zorbax Eclipse XDB-C18 RR 4.6 mm x 50 mm x 1.8 mm (Agilent
119 Technologies) reversed-phase column held at 40°C. Detection was carried out by Agilent
120 series 6410A triple-quadrupole mass spectrometer with electrospray ionization (ESI).
121 MassHunter ver. B.03.01. software (Agilent Technologies) was used for instruments control
122 and data analysis. The binary mobile phase consisted of 0.05% formic acid (A) and methanol
123 (B) and was delivered at a flow rate of 1 ml/min. Gradient elution was performed using the
124 following solvent gradient: starting with 70% A / 30% B, reaching 30% A / 70% B in 6.00
125 min, then 100 % B at 9.00 min, holding until 12.00 min, with reequilibration time of 3 min.
126 The injection volume for all samples was 5 µL. ESI parameters were: drying gas (N₂)
127 temperature, 350°C; flow, 9 L/min; nebulizer gas pressure, 40 psi; capillary voltage, 4 kV,
128 negative polarity. All compounds were quantified in dynamic MRM mode (multiple reaction
129 monitoring mode). Compound-specific, optimized MS/MS parameters are given in Table 1.
130 The mix of stock solutions was prepared, with concentration of each compound being 100
131 µg/ml, and then, subsequently serially diluted in methanol-water (1:1), giving working
132 standard solutions with concentration ranging from 0.0015 µg/ml do 25.0 µg/ml, which were
133 used for construction of the calibration curves. Concentrations of standard compounds in
134 extracts were determined from the peak areas by using the equation for linear regression
135 obtained from the calibration curves (R² gt; 0.995).

136

137 **Total phenolic content**

138 Total phenolic content (TP) in the ethanol and water extracts was determined
139 according to method by Singleton et al. [14] adapted for plate reader (Multiskan Ascent,
140 Thermo Electron Corporation). 125 µl of 0,1M Folin-Ciocalteu reagent was added to 25 µl of

141 diluted extracts. After 10 minutes, 100 μ l of 7.5% w/v sodium carbonate was added and
142 reaction mixture was incubated for 2 hours. Absorbance was read at 690 nm after finished
143 incubation period. In order to eliminate the interferences, correction was prepared by
144 replacing the volume of reagents with the same volume of distilled water. Standard curve was
145 prepared for gallic acid, and total phenolic content was expressed as mg gallic acid
146 equivalents (GAE)/g of dry weight. Experiments were performed in triplicate.

147

148 **Total flavonoid content**

149 The flavonoid (TF) content of investigated extracts was measured
150 spectrophotometrically in a 96-well plate reader using modified method by Chang et al. [15].
151 30 μ l of sample was mixed with 90 μ l of methanol, 6 μ l of 0.75 M aluminium trichloride, 6 μ l
152 of 1 M sodium acetate and 170 μ l of distilled water. Absorbance was measured at 414 nm
153 after 30 minutes of incubation. Correction was prepared in the way indicated above, with
154 aluminium trichloride solution replaced with the equivalent volume of distilled water.
155 Standard curve was prepared using quercetin. Experiments were repeated three times, and
156 results were expressed as mg quercetin equivalents (QE)/g of dry weight.

157

158 **DPPH radical scavenging activity**

159 Spectrophotometrical determination of free radical scavenging activity was based on
160 the monitoring of DPPH radical transformation in the presence of antioxidants according to
161 Espin et al.[16]. The reaction mixture in the wells consisted of 10 μ l of sample, 60 μ l of
162 DPPH solution and 180 μ l of methanol. Control contained ethanol instead of sample, and
163 correction contained 10 μ l of sample and 240 μ l of methanol. After 60 min of incubation in
164 the dark at room temperature, the absorbance was measured using plate reader at 540 nm.

165 Each sample was tested at five different concentrations to obtain IC₅₀, and experiments were
166 performed in triplicate.

167

168 **Ferric reducing antioxidant power (FRAP)**

169 FRAP test was performed according to modified procedure of Benzie and Strain [17].
170 The FRAP reagent consisted of 300 mM acetate buffer (pH=3.6), 10 mM TPTZ in 40 mM
171 HCl and 20 mM FeCl₃ in the ratio 10:1:1 (v:v:v). 10 µl of sample, 225 µl of FRAP reagent
172 and 22,5 µl of distilled water were added in 96-well plate. Extract was replaced by the same
173 volume of ethanol in control, and correction contained distilled water instead of FRAP
174 reagent. Absorbance was measured after 6 minutes at 620 nm. Ascorbic acid was used to
175 construct the standard curve, and results were expressed as mg ascorbic acid equivalents
176 (AAE)/g of dry weight. Each analysis was performed three times.

177

178 **Nitric oxide radical scavenging capacity**

179 Nitric oxide scavenging capacity was determined according to the procedure of Green
180 et al. [18]. The reaction mixtures in the test tubes consisted of 30 µl tomato extract, 500 µl
181 SNP, and 500 µl of phosphate buffer, pH=7.4. Control contained equivalent volume of
182 ethanol, while the reagents were replaced by the phosphate buffer in the correction. Test tubes
183 were incubated at room temperature for 90 min, under light exposure. After incubation, 1 ml
184 of Griess reagent (0.2% solution of NEDA and 2% solution of SA in 4% phosphoric acid in
185 the ratio 1:1 (v:v)) was added to samples, corrections, and control. Aliquots of 250 µl were
186 transferred to the plate, and their absorbance was measured using plate reader at 540 nm.
187 Samples were tested at five different concentrations to obtain IC₅₀, and experiments were
188 performed in triplicate.

189

190 **Superoxide anion radical scavenging capacity**

191 Superoxide anion radical scavenging capacity of extracts was determined by
192 measuring their ability to neutralize superoxide anion radicals generated during aerobic
193 reduction of nitro blue tetrazolium by NADH mediated by PMS[19]. 100 μ l of 677 μ M
194 NADH, 100 μ l of 60 μ M PMS, 200 μ l of 144 μ M NBT and 1,1 ml of phosphate buffer (pH =
195 8.3) were mixed with 10 μ l of extract in the test tube. Control contained ethanol instead of
196 extract, and correction contained 10 μ l of extract and 1,5 ml of phosphate buffer. After 5
197 minutes of incubation, aliquots of 250 μ l were transferred to the plate, and their absorbance
198 was measured at 540 nm. Five different concentrations of each sample were tested to obtain
199 IC_{50} , and experiments were performed in triplicate.

200

201 **Hydroxyl radical scavenging capacity**

202 The content of OH radicals was determined from the degradation reaction of 2-deoxy
203 d-ribose into fragments [20], while the malonyl dialdehyde (MDA) reaction with TBA reagent
204 was determined spectrophotometrically at 532 nm. Each reaction was performed in triplicate
205 using 10 μ L of fungal extract (33.3–1000 μ g/mL) to obtain IC_{50} , and experiments were
206 performed in triplicate.

207

208 **Antibacterial activity**

209 *In vitro* antibacterial susceptibility assay was done for LcHex extract after dissolving
210 in 5% DMSO to reach final extract concentration of 0,5% (w/v). Standard American Type
211 Culture Collection (ATCC) strains of two Gram-positive bacteria, *S. aureus* ATCC25922, *B.*
212 *subtilis* ATCC6633 and one Gram-negative bacteria, *E. coli* ATCC25923 were used.

213 Two-fold assay in 96-well microplates (Spektar, Čačak, Serbia) for determination of
214 minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) and minimal bactericidal concentration (MBC)

215 values was employed. Pure bacterial strains were subcultured on nutrient agar slants at 37°C
216 24 h, while suspensions of the tested strains were corresponding to McFarland 0.5 optical
217 density $\approx 1.5 \times 10^8$ CFU/mL. 50 μ l of extract was added to 50 μ l of Müeller Hinton Broth
218 (Torlak, Belgrade, Serbia) seeded with 1 μ l bacterial suspensions. Evaluation of antibacterial
219 activity was done according to the CLSI procedure (2008) modified by Karaman et al. [21]
220 applying extract concentration in the final range from 0.78 to 25.0 mg/mL. After incubation at
221 35°C for 18-24h, MIC was determined as the lowest extract concentration preventing visible
222 bacterial growth while the complete absence of growth was considered as MBC. It was
223 confirmed by sub-culturing aliquots of 100 μ L working solutions on Müeller Hinton agar
224 plates and incubated at 35°C overnight. Last two wells were free from tested extracts, and
225 hence served as a growth control (positive control) and with 5% DMSO as a negative control.
226 Reference antibiotics (ampicillin, gentamicin) were applied as control standards. All analysis
227 were carried out in triplicate (n=3).

228

229 **Evaluation of anti-proliferative activity**

230 *Cells*

231 MCF-7 cells were grown in Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium with 4.5% of
232 glucose (DMEM, PAA Laboratories) supplemented with 10% fetal calf serum (FCS). For the
233 experiment, the cells were seeded in a 96-well microplate (5000 cells per well). After 24 h
234 incubation, the growth medium was replaced with 100 μ l of medium containing samples at
235 four different concentrations (33.3, 100, 300, and 900 μ g/mL). Untreated cells served as the
236 control, and DMSO was used as a positive control. The effects of the extracts on the growth
237 of human tumor cell line were evaluated according to the two procedures.

238 *MTT Assay*

239 After 24 and 72 h, the cell viability was determined by the proliferation test MTT
240 assay[22], which is based on the colour reaction of mitochondrial dehydrogenase in living
241 cells with MTT reagent. At the end of the treatment period, MTT was added to each well (50
242 $\mu\text{g}/100 \mu\text{l}$ /well), which was then incubated at 37 °C in 5% CO₂ for 3 h. The coloured crystals
243 of produced formazan were dissolved in 100 μl acidified isopropanol (0.04 M HCl in
244 isopropanol). The absorbance was measured at 540 nm and 690 nm on plate reader (Multiskan
245 Ascent, Thermo Electron Corporation, USA).

246 *SRB (Sulforhodamine B) Assay*

247 This colorimetric assay estimates cell number indirectly, by staining cellular protein
248 with the protein-binding dye SRB, in adapted procedure by Skehan et al.[23]. After
249 incubation period, the cells were fixed adding cold 50% trichloroacetic acid (TCA) and
250 incubated for 1h at 4°C. Wells were washed with deionized water and dried; sulforhodamine
251 solution (0.4% in 1% acetic acid) was then added to each plate well and incubated for 30 min
252 at room temperature. Unbound SRB was removed by washing with 1% acetic acid. Plates
253 were air dried, the bound SRB was solubilised with 10 mM Tris (pH 10.5) and absorbance
254 was measured at 492nm and 690nm in the microplate reader. The results were expressed in
255 EC₅₀ values (sample concentration that inhibited 50% of the net cell growth). DMSO was
256 used as positive control.

257 Percentage of cytotoxicity was calculated as the ratio of treated group absorbance and
258 the control group absorbance, multiplied by 100. Experiments were performed twice in
259 triplicate, and the obtained results were expressed as IC₅₀ values (sample concentration that
260 inhibited 50% of the net cell growth). IC₅₀ values were calculated from the cytotoxicity (%) -
261 extract concentration ($\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) plot using the Origin v. 6.0 graphing and data analysis software
262 (1999).

263

264 **Statistical analysis**

265 Results were expressed as mean \pm standard deviation (SD). Statistical analysis was
266 performed using STATISTICA software system (StatSoft, Inc. (2013), version 12.0
267 (www.statsoft.com)). Significant differences between two groups were determined by
268 Student's t-test. Pearson correlation coefficients were calculated between content of
269 antioxidant compounds in extracts and their antioxidant and antiproliferative activity in
270 different assays. Cluster analysis was performed using Mahalanobius distances.

271

272 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

273

274 **LC-MS/MS determination of phenolic compounds**

275 Forty-five phenolic compounds were recorded using HPLC-MS/MS technique (Table
276 1), and only quinic acid was identified and quantified (8.9 μ g/g d.w.), while concentrations of
277 other detected compounds were under the limits of quantification (LOQ) of the method.
278 According to the obtained results we cannot claim that other detected compounds, which
279 could not be quantified in this work, are not present in examined extracts, but we could expect
280 them to be present in amount lower than listed LOQ.

281 Quinic acid is a crystalline acid that is usually obtained from plants and it is a
282 versatile starting material for the synthesis of new pharmaceuticals [25]. It was found in some
283 species from genus *Lactarius*, *L. volemus* in previous studies [26]. Previous research
284 [25,27,28], showed that quinic acid is a common constituent of human diet, capable of
285 conversion into tryptophan and nicotinamide via the micro flora of the gastro intestinal (GI)
286 tract, thus providing in situ physiological source of these essential metabolic ingredients to
287 humans[25,27,29].

288

289 **Antioxidant activity**

290 Antioxidant activity is manifested in a wide variety of actions, such as inhibition of
291 oxidizing enzymes, chelating of transition metals, transfer of hydrogen or a single electron to
292 radicals, singlet oxygen deactivation, or enzymatic detoxification of reactive oxygen species
293 [30,31].

294 The overall antioxidant activity should be evaluated by different methods in order to
295 extensively characterize the antioxidant potential of pure compounds or extracts [32].
296 Therefore, water and ethanol extracts of *L.controversus* were examined with regard to
297 scavenging capacity towards, DPPH[•], NO[•], OH[•] and SOA[•] radicals and ferric reducing power.
298 The results for antioxidant activity of analyzed extracts are shown in Table 2. Although both
299 extracts possessed antioxidant properties, water extract provides higher antioxidant activity
300 (IC₅₀= 219.37 µg/ml) than ethanol extract for the DPPH and SOA assay, while ethanolic
301 extract showed higher activity than water extract according to reducing power capacity
302 (FRAP). Moreover, both analyzed extracts did not differ significantly only in OH[•] and NO[•]
303 assay according to IC₅₀ values. Investigated extracts showed higher activities for DPPH assay
304 than *L. piperatus* and methanol extract of *L. deliciosus*[30].

305 Results showed that ethanol extract contained more total phenols than water extract
306 (Table 2). These results showed higher values than in the previous studies for the genus
307 *Lactarius* [33]. The content of flavonoids between extracts did not differ significantly.
308 Phenols are expected to be the key components accounting for the demonstrated results that
309 are statistically determined via correlations (Table 4).

310

311 **Antibacterial activity**

312 Hexane extract provides antibacterial activity against only one strain *S. aureus* at
313 concentration of 3.12 mg/ml for MIC and 6.25 mg/ml for MBC. Analyzed extract showed

314 lower activities than antibiotics (gentamicin and ampicillin: MIC 2.5 µg/ml, 8 µg/ml and MBC
315 10 µg/ml, 128 µg/ml respectively). These results are in agreement with previous data for
316 chloroformic extracts [21].

317

318 **Antiproliferative activity**

319 Antiproliferative activity of water and ethanol extracts of *L. controversus* against MCF7
320 human breast cancer cell line evaluated by MTT and SRB assays are presented in Table 3.
321 Under the experimental conditions both extracts showed cytotoxic activity in two different
322 assays applied at the highest concentration (900 µg/ml), percentage of cytotoxic inhibition
323 was in the range from 53.12% -LcAq to 95.35% -LcEtOH, after 24 h and from 36.15% -LcAq
324 to 79.96% -LcEtOH after 72 h. In particular, LcEtOH displayed the strongest growth
325 inhibitory activity after 24 h acute phase (IC_{50} = 166.42 µg/ml). Differences in IC_{50} values
326 obtained for the same samples by the two assays can probably be attributed to the difference
327 in sensitivity of targets they reflect, since they measure distinct biological parameters in living
328 cells. While SRB assay does not depend on enzymatic activity but on protein content of the
329 cells, in MTT assay the results reflect the activity of mitochondrial dehydrogenase which is
330 more sensitive parameter, and therefore in many cases with changes detectable in lower
331 concentrations. However, the effects observed for each sample also strongly depend on the
332 specific mixture of compounds present in the sample, their interaction and action of their
333 metabolites that induce specific and often unexpected cellular responses.

334 Cluster analysis was done in order to classify extracts with different examined
335 concentrations (33.3, 100, 300, 900 µg/ml) on the basis of percentage of cytotoxic inhibition,
336 depending on the treatments applied, e.g. incubation time exposure (24h and 72h). In this
337 study, we calculated Mahalanobis distance between samples, which were used for cluster
338 analysis (Fig. 1). All samples were clustered into two major groups which separated LcEtOH

339 900 µg/ml (57% CI to 91% CI at both incubation times) from others which were divided in
340 two main groups, (IIb – water extract except LcEtOH at 300 µg/ml , and IIa – ethanolic
341 extract except LcAq at 33,3µg/ml). In previous studies, *L.controversus* collected in Portugal
342 was described in the literature as an ergosterol producer (58.6 mg/100gf.w.) [12].Therefore, it
343 could be assumed that sterols and similar compounds (triterpenoids) may be a major class of
344 active constituents contributing to *in vitro* cytotoxicity against cancer cells[9].

345 Correlation analysis between obtained IC₅₀ values in antioxidant assays, and total
346 phenolic and flavonoid content and cytotoxic activity are presented in Table 3.The highest
347 significant positive correlation was observed for DPPH, FRAP and SAO assays with TP and
348 TF contents. The observed correlations are in agreement with the data of Kalogeropouloset al.
349 [34] who reported that antioxidant activity of wild growing mushrooms correlated well with
350 total phenolic acids and flavonoid content. SAO assay showed the strongest significant
351 negative correlation with cytotoxic activity for both incubation times and FRAP assay.

352 MTT assay results significantly correlated negatively with TF, especially after 72h (-
353 0.9939).These negative linear correlations proved that the highest antioxidant (lowest IC₅₀)
354 activities showed higher cytotoxic effects.

355

356 CONCLUSION

357

358 In summary, quinic acid (8.9µg/g d.w.) was identified and quantified by HPLC-
359 MS/MS in methanol extract of *L.controversus* which confirms that this species is a potentially
360 good source of nutraceuticals .Both ethanol and water extracts of *L.controversus* possessed
361 antioxidant activity, with water extract being the most potent in DPPH and SAO assays and
362 ethanol extract in FRAP assay. In antiproliferative assay both extracts showed activity against
363 MCF7 cell line, although ethanol extract was more potent. To our knowledge, this is the first

364 report describing antioxidant, antibacterial activity, and growth inhibitory properties of
365 *L.controversus*. Our results revealed that the ethanol and water extracts *L.controversus*
366 showed anticancer, antioxidant, and low antibiotic capacities. Together, these activities
367 indicate that these mushrooms are promising sources of bioactive compounds.
368

369 **Acknowledgement**

370 This paper is the result of research within the projects III 46001 and 172058, financed by the
371 Ministry of Education, Science, and Technological Development, Republic of Serbia. The
372 authors would like to thank Prof. Dr. Goran Anačkov for his valuable help in statistical
373 analysis performance.

374

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477

478 Naučni rad

479 **Jestiva mikorizna vrsta *Lactarius controversus* Pers. 1800 kao izvor antioksidativnih i**
480 **citotoksičnih agenasa**

481 Aleksandra R. Novaković¹, Maja A. Karaman², Ivan Lj Milovanović¹, Miona M. Belović¹,
482 Milena J. Rašeta³, Tanja I. Radusin¹, Nebojša M. Ilić¹

483 ¹Institut za prehrambene tehnologije, Univerzitet u Novom Sadu, Bulevar cara Lazara 1,
484 21000 Novi Sad, Srbija

485 ²Departman za biologiju i ekologiju, Prirodno-matematički fakultet, Univerzitet u Novom
486 Sadu, Trg Dositeja Obradovića 3, 21000 Novi Sad, Srbija

487 ³Departman za hemiju, biohemijui zaštitu okoline, Prirodno-matematički fakultet, Univerzitet
488 u Novom Sadu, Trg Dositeja Obradovića 3, 21000 Novi Sad, Srbija

489 **Izvod**

490 *Lactarius controversus* (Pers.) 1800 je vrsta gljive sa veoma oštrim ukusom, ali se može
491 koristiti u ljudskoj ishrani nakon kuvanja. Cilj ovog rada je bio da se prouči hemijski profil i
492 antioksidativna i citotoksična aktivnost etanolnih i vodenih ekstrakata ove samonikle vrste sa
493 lokacije iz istočne Srbije. Sadržaj ukupnih fenola i flavonoida je imao više vrednosti za
494 etanolne ekstrakte (45.84 mg GAE/g d.w., 3.50 mg QE/g d.w). Takođe je ispitana i
495 antioksidativna aktivnost, uključujući aktivnost protiv DPPH[•], NO[•], OH[•] i SOA radikala i
496 sposobnost redukcije gvožđa. Najveću aktivnost protiv DPPH[•] radikala je imao vodeni ekstrakt
497 (IC₅₀= 219.37 µg/ml) dok je etanolni ekstrakt demonstrirao najveću FRAP aktivnost od 10.93
498 mg AAE/g.

499 Hemijska karakterizacija fenolnih jedinjenja izvedena pomoću HPLC-MS/MS je pokazala
500 prisustvo hininske kiseline (8.9 µg/g d.w.). Heksanski ekstrakt primenjen u antibakterijskom
501 testu duplog razblaženja, protiv tri patogena soja, je pokazao antibakterijsko dejstvo samo
502 protiv *S. aureus* ATCC25922, postizući MIC i MBC od 3,12 mg/ml i 6,25 mg/ml,

503 respektivno. Antiproliferativno dejstvo na estrogen zavisnu MCF 7 ćelijsku liniju raka dojke
504 određeno pomoću MTT testa je bilo jaće za etanolne ekstrakte ($166.42 \pm 3.1 \mu\text{g/ml}$). Podaci
505 dobijeni u ovi testovima ukazuju da je ova vrsta gljive obećavajući izvor bioaktivnih
506 jedinjenja sa antioksidativnim i citotoksićnim dejstvom.

507 **Ključne reći:** *Lactarius controversus*, fenolna jedinjenja, hininska kiselina, antioksidanti,
508 citotoksićni agensi

509

510 Table 1. Optimized dynamic MRM parameters

511 Table 2. Antioxidant activity of *L. controversus* extracts and their total phenolic and total
512 flavonoid content

513 Table 3. Cytotoxic activities of *L. controversus* extracts on MCF7 (IC₅₀; µg/ml)

514 Table 4. Correlation between antiproliferative assays and antioxidant assays and total
515 phenolic and total flavonoid content in crude extracts

516

517 Figure 1. Diagram of cluster analysis based on cytotoxic activities

518 Table 1. Optimized dynamic MRM parameters

Compound	t _R (min)	Precursor (m/z)	Product (m/z)	V _{fragmentor} (V)	V _{collision} (V)
Gallic acid	0.58	169	125	90	10
Catechin	0.74	289	245	150	10
Protocatechuic acid	0.79	153	109	105	9
5- <i>O</i> -Caffeoylquinic acid	0.80	353	191	100	10
Epigallocatechin gallate	0.81	457	169	165	16
Epicatechin	0.95	289	245	150	10
Gentisic acid	1.03	153	109	100	9
<i>p</i> -Hydroxybenzoic acid	1.08	137	93	80	10
Esculetin	1.13	177	133	105	15
Caffeic acid	1.18	179	135	100	10
Vanillic acid	1.24	167	108	100	15
Syringic acid	1.31	197	182	90	7
<i>p</i> -Coumaric acid	1.69	163	119	90	9
Umbelliferone	1.73	161	133	120	19
Scopoletin	1.77	191	176	80	8
Ferulic acid	1.90	193	134	90	11
Vitexin	1.90	431	311	200	22
Sinapic acid	1.92	223	193	100	17
Luteolin 7- <i>O</i> -glucoside	2.13	447	285	230	30
Hyperoside	2.16	463	300	200	30
Quercetin 3- <i>O</i> -glucoside	2.25	463	300	210	30
Rutin	2.33	609	300	135	42
Apiin	2.60	563	269	250	36
<i>o</i> -Coumaric acid	2.62	163	119	100	5
Myricetin	2.67	317	179	150	20
Quercitrin	2.75	447	300	190	27
Kaempferol 3- <i>O</i> -glucoside	2.80	447	284	190	30
Apigenin 7- <i>O</i> -glucoside	2.81	431	268	135	41
Secoisolariciresinol	2.90	361	165	130	26
3,4-Dimethoxycinnamic acid	2.99	207	103	110	7
Baicalein	3.40	445	269	140	22
Daidzein	3.43	253	208	145	31
Matairesinol	3.66	357	122	130	24
Quercetin	3.74	301	151	130	15
Naringenin	3.87	271	151	130	16
Cinnamic acid	3.91	147	103	100	5
Luteolin	4.03	285	133	135	25
Genistein	4.12	269	133	145	32
Kaepferol	4.55	285	285	130	0
Apigenin	4.71	269	117	130	25
Isorhamnetin	4.79	315	300	160	21
Chrysoeriol	4.82	299	284	125	20
Baicalein	5.15	269	269	165	0
Amentoflavone	5.78	537	375	220	35

519

520

521 Table 2. Antioxidant activity of *L. controversus* extracts and their total phenolic and total
 522 flavonoid content

Antiradical assays IC₅₀ (µg/ml)^a	LCEtOH	LCAq
DPPH[•]	355.64 [*] ±41.5	219.37 ^{**} ±5.7
NO[•]	52.61 [*] ±5.7	90.2 [*] ±24.4
SOA	128 [*] ±6.6	4.41 ^{**} ±4.4
OH[•]	12.05 [*] ±3.9	12.80 [*] ±1.1
Antioxidant assay^b		
FRAP	10.93 [*] ±0.9	3.0 ^{**} ±0.8
Total content^c		
TP	45.84 [*] ±0.9	3.50 ^{**} ±0.9
TF	25.05 [*] ±0.31	1.20 ^{**} ±0.3

523 ^aResults are expressed as IC₅₀ (µg/ml) – concentration of extracts that caused 50% (25%) of
 524 activity in assays (in NO assay).

525 ^bFerric reducing antioxidant power (FRAP) is expressed as mg ascorbic acid equivalents/g
 526 extract dry weight (mg AAE/g d.w.).

527 ^cTotal phenol content (TP) was expressed as mg gallic acid equivalents/g extract dry weight
 528 (mg GAE /g d.w.) and total flavonoid content (TF) was expressed in mg quercetine
 529 equivalents/g extract dry weight (mg QE/g d.w.).

530 ^{*,**} Significant differences between two groups were determined by student's t-test (p<0.001).

531

532

533 Table 3. Cytotoxic activities of *L. controversus* extracts on MCF7 (IC₅₀; µg/ml)

Extracts	MTT assay		SRB assay	
	24h	72h	24h	72h
LCAq	306.17*±15.5	<900*	623.80*±49.81	249.02**±44.8
LCEtOH	166.42**±3.1	302.74**±9.6	526.98*±35.4	696.37*±8.4

534 All values are represented as mean values and standard deviations obtained from three
 535 measurements (mean ± SD; n=3).

536 *,** Significant differences between two groups were determined by Student's t-test.

537

538

539 Table 4. Correlation between antiproliferative assays and antioxidant assays and total
 540 phenolic and total flavonoid content in crude extracts

	MTT assay		TF ^a	TP ^b
	24h	72h		
DPPH	-0.8031	-0.8387	0.8839 [*]	0.9515 ^{**}
FRAP	-0.9549 ^{**}	-0.9486 ^{**}	0.9623 ^{**}	0.9038 [*]
NO•	0.4338	0.5974	-0.6044	-0.3017
OH•	0.1122	0.0736	-0.0490	-0.0672
SOA	-0.9767 ^{***}	-0.9951 ^{***}	0.9789 ^{***}	0.7105
TF	-0.9621 ^{**}	-0.9939 ^{***}	-	-
TP	-0.7568	-0.7546	-	-

541 ^atotal flavonoid content (TF) was expressed in mg quercetine equivalents/g extract dry weight
 542 (mg QE/g d.w.)

543 ^btotal phenol content (TP) was expressed as mg gallic acid equivalents/g extract dry weight
 544 (mg GAE/g d.w.)

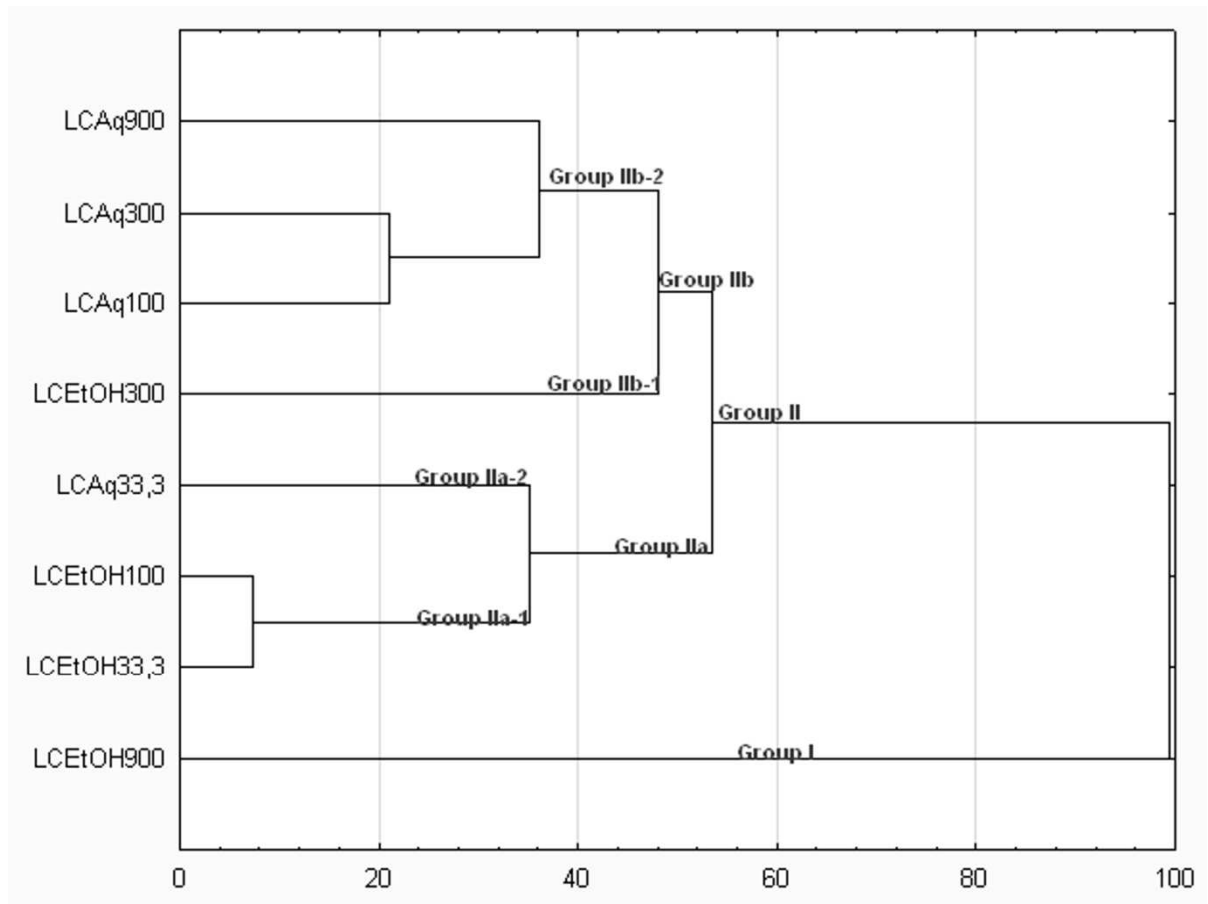
545 ^{*}correlations are significant at p<0.05

546 ^{**}correlations are significant at p<0.01

547 ^{***}correlations are significant at p<0.001

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551

Figure 1. Diagram of cluster analysis based on cytotoxic activities