
Biochemical variation in *Cystoseira*Sp.in eastern Libyan coast***Hdoud A. M. Taher**

ABSTRACT: Samples of eight species of brown algae *Cystoseira*Sp. were collected from a few locations in eastern coasts of Libya between fall 2017 and spring 2018, to study the biochemical composition of dry samples and their percentage estimates. The soluble sugars were between (40.5–58.6%), proteins (12.5–18.5%), lipids (1.9 – 5.0 %), meanwhile percentages of ash were between 22.1 and 41.7% and Iodine (0.48 - 0.83%). These results show the economic importance of these algae, while providing nutrients for the herbivores in their environmental niche and community composition.

1. INTRODUCTION

Oceans and seas of the world are scattered with about 8,000 species of algae, in depths up to 270 meters (Luning, 1990). The Mediterranean sea, especially the Libyan coast, is very rich by economically and ecologically important macro-marine algae (Critchley et al., 1998).

Ecologically, *Cystoseira* genera is good example for bio-indicators according to Pergent-Martini et al., (2005) and Godeh et al., (2011), its predominance could indicate positively for rocky, unpolluted and well-illuminated areas of Mediterranean sea, according to Giaccone, (1973); , Godeh et al, (1992); Thibaut, et al., (2005); Sales and Ballesteros, (2007), Ballesteros, (2007) and Arévalo, et al., (2007), for their high sensitivity to the environmental changes and human impacts (Short and Wyllie-Echeverria, 1996). Orfandis et al. (2001) indicated that their presence is indicative of the environmental state and the nutrients (nitrate, nitrite, ammonia and phosphate) level, and then, the quality of water. *Cystoseira* Sp., were not recorded in the Libyan coast before Nizamuddin et al., (1979) and Godeh et al., (1992), these brown algae are good shelters for many coastal fish species, compared to the other environments (Turk et al. 2007; Godeh, 2009 and Yilmaz-Kozetal, 2009).

Economically, Robledo&Pelegrin (1997) pointed that *Cystoseira* Sp. are counted of edible brown algae species, used as direct and indirect man food, containing many proteins, B vitamins, lipids, sugars and minerals including iodine (Chapman and Chapman, 1980; Dawes, 1998 and Rupe'rez and Saura-Calxto, 2001).

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Biochemically, Parthiban et al. (2013) have pointed around (11.0%) of sugars in *Cystoseira* Sp. going to a quarter approximately (Chakraborty & Santra, (2008); Chakraborty & Bhattacharya, (2012) and Kim, (2012) (26.6%). Meanwhile Rameshkumar et al. (2012) recorded Sugars (38.3%) in the same genera, and Marinho-Soriano et al., (2006) reported sugars from 68 %, reaching the zenith of nineties (90.50 – 93.34%) according to El-Shafay, (2014).

Protein was observed in dry marine algae ranges till 30% by Kim (2012), it important content in the cell wall of algae (Lewis et al., 2011). It was continued in brown algae of *Cystoseira* Sp. from less than 10 % (Mageswaran & Sivasubramantam, 1984; Robledo & Freile-Pelegrin, 2006; Renaud & Luong-Van, 2006; Chakraborty & Bhattacharya, 2012; Parthiban et al. 2013 and El-Shafay, 2014), to a range of twenties per cent (Ruperez & Saura-Caloxto, 2001 and Kim, 2012) Kim, (2012) recorded lipids in brown algae till 1.2%, going to less than 6.0 % (Chakraborty & Santra, 2008; Manivannan et al. 2009; Chakraborty & Bhattacharya, 2012 and Parthiban et al. (2013), maximized to around 8.0% (Renaud & Luong-Van, 2006), and 12.0 % approximately (Rameshkumar et al. 2012). Polat & Ozogul, (2008) stated that variation of minerals accumulation in ash remains to genetic and the environmental reasons, between 0.19% (El-Shafay, 2014), 0.26 – 1.03 % (Manve et al. 2013), Mageswaran & Sivasubramantam (1984) observed less than 15.0%, 22.5% (Kim, 2012), reaching 40% according to Renaud & Luong-Van, (2006).

Iodine; as major element for thyroid gland, physiologically (Van Netten et al. 2000), was found in brown algae of *Cystoseira* Sp. between 0.03 % by Ganesan & Subba Rao, (1999) and Morrissey et al., (2001), till 0.43 % according to Van Netten et al., (2000) in various species of the same genus.

Medically, as well, El-Baghdady (2000); Tüney et al., (2006); El-Fatmy, (2008); El-Fatimy et al., (2009) reported some antimicrobial, antibacterial and antifungal effects of some crude extracts of some dictyotales in Benghazi coasts. Although the healthy benefits of these seaweeds, our local culture still refusing and avoiding fact that algae are useful as food and drugs (Godeh et al. 1992).

In this work, biochemical structure will be studied in three species of *Cystoseira* Sp. in locations of the eastern Libyan coast, to estimate the nutritional value of these species of protein, lipids, sugars and minerals, and their potential use as food and medicine, to evaluate some of their economic importance and chemical composition in farther investigations.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

1.2. Locations (Fig. 1):

1.1.2. Susah (21° 58 '34' 'E 31° 53' 32 '' N): A rocky cliff that with semi-isolated ponds, where water is replenished depending on the state of the sea.

2.1.2. Al-Hamamah(37 '21° E '32° 15 '' N): A shallow sand-line with up to one meter depth, a low-lying coastline, and filled with some rock masses.

3.1.2. Al-Haniah(21° 31 '15' 'E 32° 50 '44' 'N): A rocky bed with isolated rock pools that renew their water, according to state of sea and height of waves.

2.2. Sampling and samples preparation:From study sites, between fall 2017 and spring 2018, the samples of *Cystoseira* species were collected, washed and then transferred to the laboratory Department of Marine Sciences Faculty of Sciences in University of Omar Al-Mukhatr, Al-Bayda - Libya, where they were identified taxonomically, using Italian list from Ardissonne, (1893), Pampanini (1931), Nizamuddin et al. (1979), Burrows, (1991) Godeh et al. (1992),Godeh et al. (2009)Godeh et al. (2011) and Aleem (1993). In laboratory Epiphytes, impurities and salts removed carefully, then dried at room temperature, then grinded and kept away from light until the analysis, according to Turna et al. (2002) and Mayhoob et al. (2015).

2.3. Biochemical analysis: The following analysis were performed in the chemical laboratory of the Faculty of Science at the University of Omar Al-Mukhtar - Al-Bayda, the Food Control Laboratory - Al-Bayda, and the Environmental Lab at the Judicial Experience Center - Al-Bayda, as follows:

2.3.1. Soluble sugars: They were detected using (phenol phenethylene + concentrated sulfuric acid), which added to dry algae powder, where sugars dissolve into pentoses to combine with phenol and give a brownish brown complex (Dubois et al., 1956). Absorption was estimated at wavelength 490 nm, using a spectrophotometer, sugars were estimated as a percentage of dry weight, using standard solution of D. Glucose.

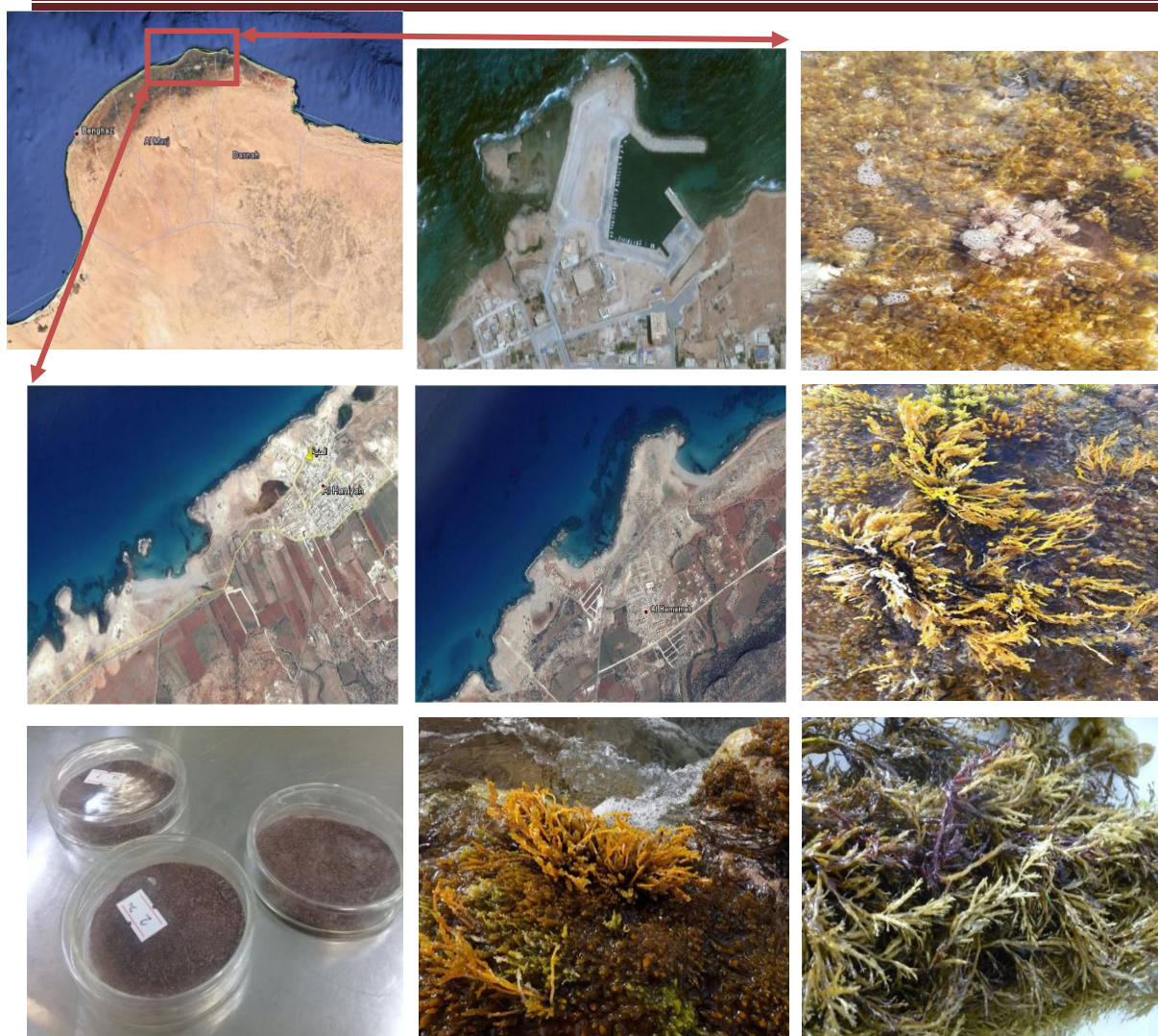


Figure 1: Google Images 2018 for coasts of Susah, Al-Hamamah and Al-Haniah - Al-Gabal Al-Akhdar, Libya, with some samples of brown algae specimens in the field trip and dried and powdered algae samples.

2.3.2. Protein: according to Raymond et al., (1964), proteins were determined by bioretic reagent (copper sulphate + sodium and potassium tartrates + sodium hydroxide and potassium iodide). When this reagent was added, peptides interacted with copper sulphate to form violet colour, absorbance was read at 540 nm wavelength on spectrophotometer. The amount of proteins was calculated as a percentage of the standard solution of Bovine serum albumin (BSA).

2.3.3. Lipids: were determined by adding chloroform-methanol (1: 2) to algae powder (Folch et al., 1956).

2.3.4. Ash: Organic matter was burned at 500 ° C to retain ash, which is the sulphates and oxides of minerals, ash was calculated as a percentage of dry weight (Larsen, 1978).

2.3.5. Iodine: Determined according to Saenko et al., (1978), by converting iodine compounds to a partial form, allowing interaction with bromine probes to form L_2Br^- bright green

complex, and using spectrophotometer to read absorption at wavelength 680 nm. Iodine was calculated in percentage of dry weight, using Standard solution of potassium iodide KI.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

In general, some marine algae species contain significant proportions of proteins, lipids, sugars and minerals, and these ratios vary by species, seasons, geographical distribution and environment (Ito & Tsuchiya, 1977; Dhargalkaretal 1980 and Herbertreau et al., 1997). The most important results in this work (Table 1 and Figure 2).

Table (1): Biochemical content of three species of Brown algae *Cystoseira* Sp. In three coastal sites, Al-Gabal Al-Akhdar, Libya 2018.

Species	Soluble Sugars	Proteins	Lipids	Ash	Iodine
<i>C. abies-marina</i> –Susah	54.1	18.5	1.9	24.9	0.59
<i>C. amentacea</i> –Alhannia	39.8	13.1	7.6	39	0.55
<i>C. amentacea</i> –Alhamama	41.1	11.9	2.2	44.4	0.41
<i>C. amentacea</i>–AVERAGE	40.5	12.5	4.9	41.7	0.48
<i>C. compressa</i> –Susah	47.1	17.3	4.81	30	0.79
<i>C. compressa</i> –Alhamama	51.1	19.6	5.13	23.3	0.87
<i>C. compressa</i>–AVERAGE	49.1	18.45	5.00	26.65	0.83
<i>C. discors</i> –Susah	42.1	20.1	3.6	33.5	0.71
<i>C. elegans</i> –Susah	52.1	15.3	3.3	28.7	0.60
<i>C. elegans</i> –Alhamama	48.1	16.8	3.1	31.5	0.50
<i>C. elegans</i>–AVERAGE	50.1	16.05	3.2	30.1	0.55
<i>C. gerloffii</i> –Susah	58.1	16.1	3.00	22.1	0.70
<i>C. mediterranea</i> var. <i>valiante</i>–Susah	58.6	14.6	4.21	22.0	0.69
<i>C. susanensis</i> –Alhamama	45.9	17.3	4	32.1	0.70
<i>C. susanensis</i> –Susah	44.1	11.8	4.3	39.1	0.83
<i>C. susanensis</i>–AVERAGE	45.0	14.55	4.15	35.6	0.77

3.1. Soluble sugars: About 40.5 % in *C. amentacea* were the nader of polysaccharides in the studies species, meanwhile it peaked to 58.6% dry weight in *C. mediterranea* var. *valiante* in Susah shores. This range of sugars is more significant than Renaud & Luong-Van, (2006), Rameshkumar et al. (2012) and Parthiban et al. (2013), although Marinho-Soruano et al., (2006), and El-Shafay, (2014) notified higher records than recent study. The difference between the studied species and this corresponds to Pádua et al. (2004). These values have been mainly similar to studies on brown seaweed in most other regions. Ruperez & Saura-Caliexo (2001) reported that low-calorie brown algae due to low fats and high proteins and sugars ratios. Brown algae have high sugars suitable to produce ethanol (John & Anisha, 2011).

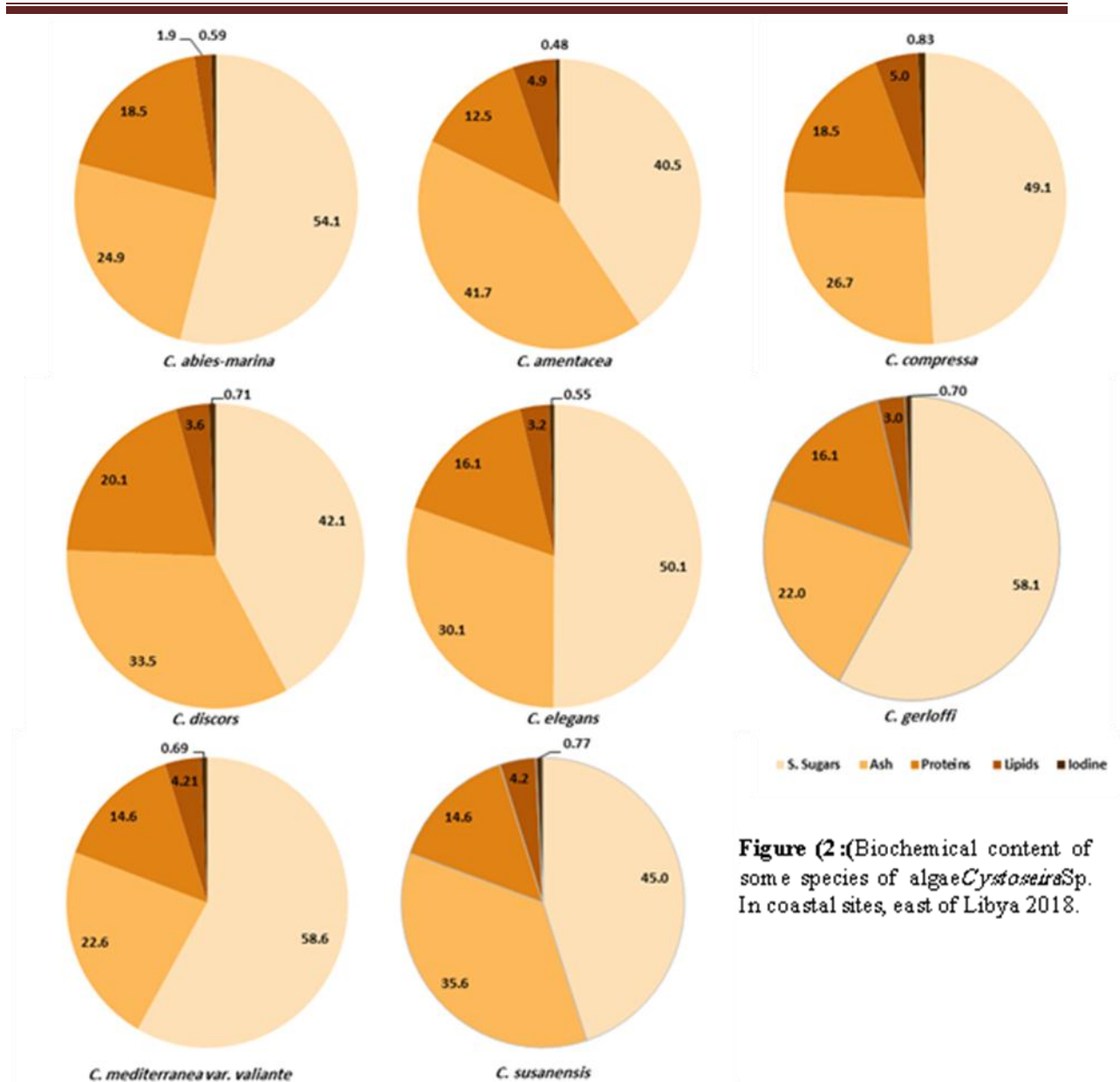


Figure 2: (Biochemical content of some species of algae *Cystosira* Sp. In coastal sites, east of Libya 2018.

3.2. Proteins: In Alhannia and Alhamama shores, *C. amentacea* had 12.5 % of protein in dry weight, whereas *C. abies-marina* in Susah peaked 18.5 %. Recent work has been recoded higher than Mageswaran&Sivasubramantam (1984), Robledo&Freile-Pelegrin, (2006), Kim, (2012) and Parthiban et al. (2013). Meanwhile Fleurence (1999) and Ruperez&Saura-Caloxto, (2001) recorded higher ratios. Differences were observed between studied species consistent with Kim (2012), who concluded that the overall protein content in dry marine algae ranges from 10-30%, and 5-15% in the cell wall (Lewis et al., 2011).

3.3. Lipids: *C. compressa* in Alhamama and Susah coasts had a significant level of lipids (5.0 %), meanwhile *C. abies-marina* in Susah shores has been recorded insignificantly (1.9% dry weight). These values were higher than Marinho-Soruano et al., (2006), Manivannan et al. (2009), Kim, (2012), El-Shafay, (2014) and Mayhoob, (2015), and lower than Renaud &Luong-Van, (2006), Rameshkumar et al. (2012) for the same genera. Although lipids in most marine algae do not reach 4.5% (Murata &Nakazoe, 2001).The spatial and environmental

differences have a role as well (Ito & Tsuchiya, 1977; Herbetreau et al., 1997), these compounds are used to feed fish larvae (Estovez et al., 1999), and as a source of omega-3 (Nordoy, 1989).

3.4. Ash: In Alhamama and Alhannia rocky shores, *C. amentacea* seaweeds have a large portion of mineral ashes up to 41.0 % approximately, whereas there was 22.1 into parts of *C. gerloffii* from Susah beach. These values are more significant than Mageswaran&Sivasubramantam (1984), Marinho-Soruano et al., (2006), Kim, (2012) and El-Shafay, (2014), and considerable than Robledo&Freile-Pelegrin, (2006) Renaud &Luong-Van, (2006). This ratios variationremains to the minerals accumulation degree within each species, and the environmental consideration as well (Polat&Ozogul, 2008).

3.5. Iodine:It plays a role to control the thyroid gland diseases (Van Nettenetal2000). It varies according to species, going from 0.48 *C. amentacea* in Alhannia and Alhamama locations, up to 0.83 % dry weight in *C. compressa*. Almost this variation level was higher than records of Ganesan&SubbaRao, (1999), Van Netten et al., (2000) and Morrisey et al., (2001) as well. Meaning that they are significant source of iodine.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Brown algae – including *Cystosira* Sp. genera - are rich in proteins and soluble sugars, which cause slowing digestion, thus depleting nutrient uptake and then decreasing blood sugar and cholesterol, so they are considered suitable to human nutrition , to obesity and thyroid diseases control as well. Therefore: **(1)** Marine algae of such species should be taken into consideration in marine aquaculture projects, as an important food and therapeutic source, with intensification of studies on other families and species. **(2)** Libya coastline containsimportant resources, including algae, should be used sustainably.

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