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15 Comparative analysis of chemical composition, antioxidant and antiproliferative activities of Italian
16 *Vitis vinifera* by-products for a sustainable agro-industry

17

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31

32 Abstract

33 *Vitis vinifera* leaves are wine industry wastes. In this study, the chemical composition, antioxidant
34 and antiproliferative activity of six Italian grapevine leaves extracts (Arvino, Gaglioppo, Greco
35 Nero, Magliocco Canino, Magliocco Dolce, and Nocera) were evaluated. HPLC analyses revealed
36 quercetin as dominant constituent (127.52–187.33 mg/kg) followed by rutin (55.99–143.67 mg/kg).
37 The antioxidant activity was determined using DPPH, ABTS, FRAP and β -carotene bleaching tests.
38 Gaglioppo showed the highest radical scavenging ability with IC₅₀ of 7.2 and 19.1 μ g/mL, for
39 DPPH and ABTS, respectively. Magliocco Dolce showed a 1.6-times higher FRAP
40 activity than that of the positive control BHT. The anti-proliferative activity was determined by
41 SRB assay against MCF-7, MDA-MB-231, A549 and COR-L23 human tumor cells. Greco Nero
42 showed the highest antiproliferative activity against MDA-MB-231 with IC₅₀ of 28.4 μ g/mL.
43 Based on the obtained results grape leaves should be considered an interesting ingredient for the
44 development of functional food products.

45

46 Keywords:

47 *Vitis vinifera* leaves, Waste, HPLC, Anti-proliferative, Antioxidant

48

49 Introduction

50 In Europe, agricultural waste is estimated in the order of 250 million per year. At global level, the
51 amount of waste produced by the agro-food industries is around 800,000 tons per year, which
52 represents a significant potential for the development of the bioenergy industry (Ayala-Zavala et al.,
53 2010). Nowadays, there is a growing interest in finding new sources of functional ingredients
54 starting from by-products of traditionally underestimated vegetable foods. Peels, seeds, shanks,
55 leaves, wastewater, and unusable pulp represent more than 40% of total plant food (Goñi and
56 Hervert-Hernández, 2011). These by-products are very rich in nutrients such as sugar, minerals,
57 organic acids, dietary fibers and bioactive compounds, such as polyphenols and carotenoids, and
58 could therefore be reused and have their own market (Sanchez-Zapata et al., 2009), assuming a
59 relevant economic and scientific value in various industrial sectors, including the food,
60 nutraceutical, pharmaceutical and cosmetic ones.

61 *Vitis vinifera* L. is a climbing shrub with large leaves belonging to the Vitaceae family, originally
62 from Asia Minor and subsequently introduced to Europe and other continents. The inflorescence
63 comes in the form of a bunch while the fruits are in the form of berries, whose color varies from
64 green to purple-black. Grape leaves are used in the Mediterranean area and in particular in Greece.
65 It can be stuffed with meats, rice, vegetables, cheeses, nuts, dried fruits and spices. Fresh grape
66 leaves must be blanched in hot water or a brine solution of salt and water to create an edible and
67 flexible product (Katalinić et al., 2013; Alexiadou, 2017). Several in vivo and in vitro studies have
68 been carried out on *V. vinifera* and its by-products. *V. vinifera* leaves showed to exert multiple
69 biological activities including antioxidant, antimicrobial (Abed et al., 2015), antidiabetic (Akabery
70 and Hosseinzadeh, 2016), anti-hypercholesterolemic (Devi and Singh, 2017), anti-inflammatory and
71 antitumor (Nassiri-Asl and Hosseinzadeh, 2016). These effects are due to the action of bioactive
72 compounds, such as tannins, flavonoids, anthocyanins as well as organic acids and vitamins
73 detected in the leaves of this plant (Hmamouchi et al., 1997). Antioxidant activity is one of the most
74 important properties of natural compounds with particular references to phenols. Oxidative stress
75 causes the alteration of biological macromolecules, such as lipids, proteins and nucleic acids and is
76 considered as the factor responsible for the onset of numerous diseases including cancer (Carocho
77 and Ferreira, 2013). In fact, in many types of cancer, high levels of reactive oxygen species (ROS)
78 have been detected which, through different mechanisms of action, promote the development and
79 progression of the disease (Liou and Storz, 2010). Endogenous defense mechanisms, represented by
80 antioxidant enzymes such as superoxide dismutase, catalase and glutathione peroxidase, work by
81 neutralizing the action of ROS. The excessive production of ROS, compared to the antioxidant

82 capacity of endogenous systems, determines the progression of oxidative stress leading to the onset
83 of serious diseases, including cancer (Ozden et al.,2009). Grape phenolic compounds, as natural
84 antioxidants, act as scavengers of free radicals and ROS quenchers are able to interfere with the
85 systems involved in the production of ROS, thereby blocking the progress of oxidative stress (Xia
86 et al., 2010). Over the years, several studies have shown the importance of natural bioactive
87 compounds as anticancer agents, preventive of various chronic diseases (Mondal et al., 2012).
88 Therefore, there is a growing interest in finding new sources of natural antioxidants that could be
89 used as a preventive for many diseases. In this context, we have screened the chemical profile,
90 antioxidant and anti-proliferative activity of six native Calabrian varieties of *V. vinifera* leaves in
91 order to highlight their potential in the development of new functional food and nutraceutical
92 products to identify new opportunities for the use of waste from the wine industry so far to be
93 poorly considered.

94

95 2. Materials and methods

96 2.1. Chemicals and reagents

97 All chemicals and reagents used in this study were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Chemical Co.
98 Ltd (Milan, Italy) and VWR International (Milan, Italy) and, unless specified otherwise, were
99 analytical grade or higher. Cell culture and cell culture materials were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich
100 Chemical Co. Ltd (Milan, Italy).

101

102 2.2. Plant materials and extraction procedure

103 *V. vinifera* leaves of six varieties of native Calabrian vines have been analyzed. The grapevine
104 varieties were Arvino, Gaglioppo, Greco Nero, Magliocco Canino, Magliocco Dolce and Nocera.
105 Leaves were collected in September 2017 from a local producer (Azienda Agricola Donna Fidelia,
106 Belvedere Marittimo, Cosenza, Southern Italy, (Latitude 39° 38' 11 N; Longitude 15° 50' 40 E).
107 Plant materials were subjected to ultrasound assisted extraction procedure using an ultrasonic water-
108 bath (Branson model 3800-CPXH, Milan, Italy). Briefly, 250 mL of a hydroalcoholic solution
109 (EtOH/H₂O 50:50 v/v) were used for the extraction of fresh leaves (50 g). For each sample, three
110 extraction cycles with an ultrasonic frequency of 40 kHz for 30 min were carried out. Then, the
111 mixture was filtered under vacuum through Whatman filter, and the solvent was removed with a
112 rotary vacuum evaporator at 30 °C. Samples were stored at -20 °C until analysis.

113

114 2.3. Total phenols content

115 The total phenols content (TPC) was determined using Folin-Ciocalteu method (Gao et al., 2000).
116 Folin-Ciocalteu reagent is a mixture in aqueous solution of phosphomolybdate and
117 phosphotungstate. Firstly a sample stock is prepared, adding 5 mL of methanol to 7,5 mg of extract.
118 Briefly, 100 μ L of stock was mixed with 0.5 mL Folin-Ciocalteu reagent, 1 mL of distilled water
119 and 1.5 mL of 20% Na₂CO₃. It was done in triplicate. After 2 h incubation at 25 °C the absorbance
120 was measured at 765 nm using a Perkin Elmer 40 UV-VIS spectrophotometer. The total content of
121 phenols was expressed in mg equivalent of chlorogenic acid per g fresh weight (FW).

122

123 2.4. Total flavonoids content

124 *V. vinifera* leaves total flavonoid content (TFC) was determined using a method that uses AlCl₃
125 (Loizzo et al., 2012). The same stock of polyphenols was used, done in triplicate. One mL of extract
126 solution was added to 1 mL of 2% aluminum chloride solution. It was allowed to incubate at room
127 temperature for 15 min and read at 510 nm with a Perkin Elmer 40 UV-VIS spectrophotometer.
128 Quercetin was chosen as the standard and the total flavonoid content was expressed in per g fresh
129 weight (FW).

130

131 2.5. Total anthocyanins content

132 The total anthocyanins content (TA) was determined using the differential pH method (Wrolstada et
133 al., 2005). Anthocyanins undergo a reversible modification of the structure with a change in the pH
134 that occurs with a variation in the absorbance spectrum. Seven and half mg of extract were added to
135 5 mL of distilled water. For each sample two dilutions were prepared, one with a 0.025M
136 hydrochloric acid buffer solution at pH 1, and the other with a 0.4M sodium acetate buffer solution
137 at pH 4.5, corrected with hydrochloric acid. The solutions were left to equilibrate for 15 min.
138 Spectrophotometric reading was performed at 510 nm and 700 nm. The results were expressed as
139 equivalent mg of cyanidine-3-O-glucoside per 100 g fresh weight (FW).

140

141 2.6. High performance liquid chromatography/diode array detector (HPLC/DAD) analysis

142 High performance liquid chromatography coupled to a diode array detector (HPLC/DAD) was used
143 to determine the phenolic profile of the extracts. The analysis was performed on a Knauer system
144 (ASI - Advanced Scientific Instruments, Berlin, Germany) equipped with two Smartiline Pump
145 1000 pumps, a Rheodyne injection valve (20 μ L) and a UV-VIS photodiode series detector
146 equipped with a semi-microcell. The antioxidant compounds were separated on a TSK gel ODS-100
147 V column (TOSOH Bioscience, Germany) (250 \times 3.0 mm; 3 μ m). The temperature of the column
148 was 30 °C with a flow rate of 0.5 mL/min. The mobile phase consisted of water/formic acid

149 (99.9:0.1, v/v solvent A) and acetonitrile/formic acid (99.9: 0.1, v/v; solvent B). The separation was
150 carried out according to the following gradient: 0.01–20.00 min, 5% B isocratic; 20.01–50.00 min,
151 5–40% B; 50.01–55.00 min, 40–95% 120 B; 55.01–60.00 min, 95% B isocratic. The identification
152 and quantification of the antioxidant compounds was performed by comparing the spectra and
153 relative retention times of the sample peaks with those obtained by injecting pure standards, i.e.
154 gallic acid, catechin, caffeic acid, syringic acid, rutin, trans-resveratrol, polydatin and quercetin that
155 are chosen as markers. The survey was performed at the wavelengths of 280, 254, 330 and 305 nm.
156 Data processing was performed using Clarity Software (Chromatography Station for windows).
157 Extracts were dissolved in 10 mL of methanol and filtered through a 0.45 µm millipore filter (GMF
158 Whatman) before the HPLC/UV–Vis determination. The results were expressed as mean ± SD of
159 three determinations. With this method, the following compounds have been identified and
160 quantified: gallic acid, (+) - catechin, caffeic acid, syringic acid, rutin, myricetin, transresveratrol,
161 polydatin and quercetin.

162

163 2.7. Evaluation of antioxidant activity

164 Several methods have been developed to determine the antioxidant activity of samples; the most
165 frequently used are in vitro methods based on capturing or scavenging free radicals generated in the
166 reaction or in the reduction of metal ions. In this work three methods (DPPH, β-carotene bleaching
167 and FRAP) that measure different types of antioxidant function were applied.

168

169 2.7.1. ABTS and DPPH radical scavenging assays

170 The radicals scavenging potential was investigated by using two different spectrophotometric
171 methods, namely 2,2'-azino-bis (3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulphonic acid (ABTS) and 2,2-diphenyl-
172 1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) assays.

173 A DPPH solution in ethanol (0.25 mM) was mixed with *V. vinifera* leaves extracts in ethanol at
174 different concentrations ranging from 31.5 to 1000 mg/mL. The bleaching of DPPH was determined
175 spectrophotometrically at 517 nm. A solution of ABTS radical cation was prepared by mixing 7mM
176 ABTS solution with 2.45mM potassium persulphate and stored at room temperature for 12 h before
177 use. Then, it was diluted with ethanol to an absorbance of 0.70 at 734 nm. After addition of extracts
178 in ethanol at concentrations ranging from 5 to 80 mg/mL to 2 mL of diluted ABTS+ solution,
179 absorbance was measured at 734 nm. The radicals (ABTS or DPPH) scavenging ability was
180 calculated as follows: scavenging activity= $[A_0 - A] / (A_0) \times 100$, where A_0 is the absorbance of the
181 control reaction and A is the absorbance in the presence of the extract (Tundis et al., 2017).

182 Ascorbic acid was used as positive control in both assays.

183

184 2.7.2. β -Carotene bleaching test

185 The protection of extract for lipid peroxidation was measured as previously described (Tundis et al.,
186 2017). Briefly, β -carotene solution was added to linoleic acid and 100% Tween 20. The absorbance
187 of the samples, standard and control was measured at 470 nm against a blank at t=0 and
188 successively after 30 and 60 min of incubation.

189

190 2.7.3. FRAP (Ferric Reducing Ability Power) assay

191 The FRAP assay was applied following the procedure previously described (Loizzo et al., 2016).
192 The FRAP value represents the ratio between the slope of the linear plot for reducing Fe^{3+} -TPTZ
193 reagent by different Colombian fruits extract compared to the slope of the plot for FeSO_4 .

194

195 2.7.4. Relative Antioxidant Capacity Index (RACI) calculation

196 Relative Antioxidant Capacity Index (RACI) is a statistical tool that allows determining the
197 antioxidant capacity of food matrices. It is the average value that is generated by integrating the
198 data obtained from TA, TFC, TPC, ABTS, DPPH, FRAP and β -carotene bleaching tests of each
199 sample (Sun and Tanumihardjo, 2007). Standard scores were derived from data from different
200 chemical methods without unrestricted units and no variance between the methods. The standard
201 score is calculated using the following equation:

$$202 \text{ RACI} = (x - \mu) / \sigma$$

203 where x is the raw data, μ is the mean, and σ is the standard deviation.

204

205 2.7.5. Global Antioxidant Score (GAS)

206 Global Antioxidant Score (GAS) is a correlation index of the results obtained from the different in
207 vitro assays that allows to evaluate the total antioxidant activity of the samples being analyzed. For
208 each sample the average of five T-scores is taken into account for the GAS value between zero and
209 three. T-score is calculated by the following equation: $\text{T-score} = (X - \text{min}) / (\text{max} - \text{min})$, where min
210 and max, respectively, represent the smallest and largest values of variable X among the
211 investigated extract (Leeuw et al., 2014).

212

213 2.8. Anti-proliferative activity

214 In this study four cancer cell lines namely human Caucasian breast carcinoma (MCF-7, ECACC
215 N°:86012803), human Caucasian breast adenocarcinoma (MDA-MB-231, ECACC N°:92020424),
216 lung carcinoma A549 (ECACC N°:86012804) and human Caucasian lung large carcinoma COR-

217 L23 cells (ECACC N°:92031919) were used. Prior to use, all media, buffers, trypsin and dyes were
218 filter-sterilized and warmed to 37 °C. The COR-L23 cells were cultured in RPMI 1640 medium,
219 while MCF-7, MDA-MB-231, and A549 cells were cultured in DMEM. Both media were
220 supplemented with 10% foetal bovine serum, 1% L-glutamine, and 1% penicillin/streptomycin. The
221 cell lines were maintained at 37 °C in a 5% CO₂ atmosphere with 95% humidity. Cells
222 trypsinization was done using a 1:30 dilution of standard Trypsin-EDTA solution. Cells counting
223 and viability were performed using a standard trypan blue cell counting technique.

224 The anti-proliferative activity of the extracts was determined through an in vitro assay that allows to
225 evaluate the inhibition of cell growth, using a bright pink amino-xanthous dye, sulforodamine B
226 (SRB) (Loizzo et al., 2009). It is therefore a colorimetric assay, through which the number of cells
227 can be indirectly estimated. Cells were trypsinized, counted and placed in 96-well plates. Optimal
228 plating density of each cell line was determined over a range 5–15×10⁴ to ensure exponential
229 growth throughout the experimental period and to ensure a linear relationship between absorbance
230 at 490 nm and cell number where analyzed by the SRB assay, and incubated to allow for cell
231 attachment. After 24 h the cells were treated with serial dilutions of the samples. Each sample was
232 initially dissolved in DMSO and further diluted in medium to produce different concentrations. One
233 hundred microliters/well of each dilution were added to the plates in six replicates to obtain the final
234 concentrations ranging from 5 to 200 µg/mL for the sample. The final mixture used for treating the
235 cells contained not more than 0.5% of the solvent (DMSO), the same as in the solvent control wells.
236 After 48 h of exposure 100 µL of ice-cold 40% trichloroacetic acid was added to each well, left for
237 1 h at 4 °C, and washed with distilled water. The trichloroacetic acid -fixed cells were stained for 30
238 min with 50 µL of 0.4% (w/v) SRB in 1% acetic acid. Plates were washed with 1% HOAc and air
239 dried overnight. For plate reading, the bound dye was solubilised with 100 µL of 10mM tris base
240 (tris[hydroxymethyl]aminomethane). The absorbance of each well was read on a Molecular Devices
241 SpectraMax Plus Plate Reader (Molecular Devices, Celbio, Milan, Italy) at 490 nm. Cell survival
242 was measured as the percentage absorbance compared to the untreated control. Vinblastine sulfate
243 salt and taxol were used as positive control. The antiproliferative activity of *V. vinifera* leaves
244 extracts was expressed in terms of IC₅₀ values.

245

246 2.9. Statistical analysis

247 All experiments were carried out in triplicate. Data were expressed as means ± S.D. Differences were
248 evaluated by the one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) test completed by a multicomparison
249 Dunnett's test ($\alpha=0.05$). The inhibitory concentration 50% (IC₅₀) was calculated by a nonlinear
250 regression curve with the use of Prism Graphpad prism version 4.0 for Windows, GraphPad

251 Software, San Diego, CA, USA (www.graphpad.com). The concentration-response curve was
252 obtained by plotting the percentage of inhibition versus the concentrations. PCA was applied to
253 examine the relationships between the chemical constituents of the leaves using the SPSS software
254 for Windows, version 17.0 (SPSS Inc., Chicago, IL, USA). The results are presented in terms of
255 loading and score plots.

256

257 3. Results and discussion

258

259 3.1. Chemical composition of calabrian *V. vinifera* leaves extracts

260 It is well known that phenols and flavonoids are the important antioxidant substances contained in
261 most natural plants. Genotypes, environmental factors and postharvest processing conditions
262 influence the amount of bioactive compounds present in the grapevine. Herein, the TPC, TFC and
263 TA content of *V. vinifera* leaves extracts were evaluated (Table 1). The TPC content ranged from
264 39.11 to 294.54 mg chlorogenic
265 acid equivalents per g plant material, respectively for Magliocco Canino and Greco Nero. A TFC in
266 the range 2.11–26.16 mg quercetin equivalents per g plant material was found in Greco Nero and
267 Gaglioppo, respectively. Both TPC and TFC content are in the same order of magnitude as
268 confirmed by Essa et al. (2017). However, as reported by Güler et al. (2014) the TPC and TFC
269 content significantly varied in the six investigated varieties.

270 Anthocyanins play a crucial role in the color of grapes and consequently in wine. Leaves TA
271 content ranged from 1.10 to 0.95 mg cyaniding-3-O-glucoside equivalents per 100 g FW for
272 Gaglioppo and Nocera varieties, respectively. High levels of phenolic compounds in leaves extracts
273 have been found in several studies (Katalinić et al., 2013), however it is difficult to compare our
274 data with those reported in literature, since different units were used to express the obtained results.
275 The phenolic profile by HPLC lead to the identification of selected markers gallic acid, (+)-
276 catechin, caffeic acid, syringic acid, rutin, trans-resveratrol, polydatin, myricetin and quercetin
277 (Table 2, Supplementary material). Quercetin represent the most abundant phenolic compound with
278 concentration in the range 127.52–187.33 mg/kg for Nocera and Greco Nero varieties, respectively
279 followed by rutin, with concentration ranging from 55.99 to 143.67 mg/kg for Arvino and
280 Magliocco Dolce leaves extracts, respectively. Myricetin was also detected with concentration
281 ranging from 3.8 to 6.7 mg/kg for Arvino and Magliocco Dolce, respectively. Arvino leaves extract
282 showed a higher trans-resveratrol content (26.63 mg/kg) in comparison to other investigated
283 samples. Among hydroxybenzoic acids, syringic acid was the most representative with
284 concentration in the range from 108.37 to 186.86 mg/kg, for Gaglioppo and Arvino variety,

285 respectively. Greco Nero variety showed the highest content of (+)-catechin (68.4 mg/kg) followed
286 by Arvino grapes (56.9 mg/kg).

287 The phenolic content of different varieties of *V. vinifera* leaves is dependent and strongly
288 influenced by the sample collection period.

289 Katalinić et al. (2013), showed a significant increase in flavonols content, particularly for myricetin
290 and quercetin, in September leaves compared to May leaves with concentration ranging from 10 to
291 35 mg/kg of dry leaves, depending on the variety and the time of sampling.

292 Myricetin and quercetin are two of the main representative compounds in leaves from Narince,
293 Saruhanbey, Sultani Çekirdeksiz, Sultan1, and Sultan7 Turkish grape cultivars (Güler and
294 Candemir, 2014). Calabrian grapes cultivars are characterized by a higher trans-resveratrol content
295 in comparison to other cultivars. Balík et al. (2008) reported a transresveratrol content ranging from
296 2.5 to 8.5 mg/kg for André and Saint Laurent and Blauer Portugieser grapes, respectively. It is
297 interesting to note that these cultivars did not contain (+)-catechin.

298

299 3.2. Antioxidant capacity of the grapevine leaves extracts

300 Herein, we reported the antioxidant potential of leaves extract from six grapevines from Calabria
301 region. To evaluate the antioxidant activity of the samples, four in vitro assays (ABTS, DPPH, β -
302 carotene bleaching, and FRAP), normally used to determine the antioxidant potential of plant
303 extract and food matrix, were applied. These assays are based on an electronic transfer reaction,
304 such as FRAP, DPPH and ABTS test or on a transfer reaction of a hydrogen atom, such as β -
305 carotene bleaching inhibition assay (Huang et al., 2005). Data are reported in Table 3. Gaglioppo
306 leaves extract showed the highest radical scavenging activity with IC₅₀ values of 7.19 and 19.12
307 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ for DPPH and ABTS, respectively, whereas Magliocco Dolce resulted to be more active
308 against DPPH \cdot radical with IC₅₀ value of 12.47 $\mu\text{g/mL}$. The bleaching of β -carotene is the
309 consequence of hydro-peroxides formation from linoleic acid. The assay is based on the ability of
310 the phytochemicals with antioxidant activity to reduce the oxidation of linoleic
311 acid and to inhibit the free radicals generated by the emulsion system (Koleva et al., 2002). The best
312 protection of lipid peroxidation was observed with Arvino and Nocera leaves extracts, with IC₅₀
313 values of 41.80 and 43.34 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, respectively. The antioxidant capacity of the various samples
314 was also evaluated using the FRAP method. In this case the evaluation of the reducing power is
315 related to the ability of the sample to reduce the ferric iron to ferrous (from Fe³⁺ to Fe²⁺). Extracts
316 were tested at concentration of 2.5 mg/mL and butylhydroxytoluene (BHT) was used as a positive
317 control. A ferric reducing power 1.5-times higher than that of BHT was found with Magliocco
318 Dolce leaves extract that showed a FRAP value of 100.41 $\mu\text{M Fe (II)/g}$. A significant result was

319 also obtained with Greco Nero (93.35 $\mu\text{M Fe (II)/g}$). The observed reducing activity was
320 noteworthy since in cells, the presence of Fe^{+2} is toxic since this ion could react in the Fenton
321 reaction with H_2O_2 to generate $\text{OH}\cdot$ that will initiate the oxidation (Halliwell, 2008).
322 Our data are in agreement with those reported by Katalinić et al. (2009) who found a DPPH radical
323 scavenging ability of Croatian *V. vinifera* leaves extracts with IC_{50} value of 61.69 and 70.32
324 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ in the May and September leaves, respectively. Radical scavenging potential was observed
325 with the ABTS test with percentage of inhibition of 59.36 and 71.38 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ in the May and
326 September leaves, respectively. Orhan et al. (2007) evaluated the antioxidant activities of four
327 fractions of *V. vinifera* leaves using the DPPH assay, demonstrating an effective DPPH radical
328 scavenger activity. The fraction in EtOAc showed the most activity, with an inhibition of 92.8%,
329 followed by the fraction in CHCl_3 , with a percentage of 41.4%. Recently, Katalinić et al. (2013)
330 reported the antioxidant potential of extracts from six *V. vinifera* varieties. Leaves collected in
331 August showed an average FRAP value similar to those obtained in our study, in a range of 79.7–
332 118.4mM Trolox equivalent for Marastina and Vranac varieties, respectively. All investigated
333 samples showed EC_{50} values higher than those found for Calabrian leaves extract. This observation
334 confirmed that grape leaves antioxidant activities are affected by several factors including variety,
335 country of cultivation and the climatic conditions.

336 In determining the antioxidant properties of the food matrix, the combined effects of the bioactive
337 components should be considered. The RACI value was calculated for all the samples under study
338 as the average of the standard scores transformed from the raw data generated with different
339 antioxidant tests without differences in units and variances.

340 Each test contributed the same weight in building RACI. Reported positive values of RACI equal to
341 0.72, 0.29 and 0.23, respectively in the extracts of Nocera, Arvino and Greco Nero, confirmed the
342 previous values obtained from antioxidant tests. Data obtained from the DPPH, ABTS, FRAP and
343 β -carotene bleaching tests were used to calculate, for each sample, the value of GAS that is used to
344 compare the antioxidant power of the extracts. It was observed that the extracts of Gaglioppo and
345 Magliocco Canino have the lowest GAS value, equal to 0.43 and 0.57, showing the highest
346 antioxidant power. Therefore, all grape leaves exhibited high levels of natural antioxidants. The
347 antioxidant activity of *V. vinifera* leaves was confirmed in vivo. Devi and Singh (2017)
348 demonstrated that the methanol and aqueous extract of *V. vinifera* increase serum reduced
349 glutathione (GSH) level and serum catalase level. The significant increase in serum GSH suggested
350 that *V. vinifera* leaves extract acts by an indirect pathway that one or more phytochemicals are able
351 to influence GSH production and/or reduction process of GSSG to GSH. The high level of GSH

352 after *V. vinifera* leaves administration is important also because it contributes to the
353 chemoprevention.
354 Phenolic compounds exert antioxidant activity through different mechanisms of action, including
355 the direct extinction of ROS, by the inhibition of enzymes and the chelation of metal ions like Fe³⁺
356 and Cu⁺ and by inhibition of oxidative chain reactions.
357 According to Katalinić et al. (2013), the radical scavenging activity evaluated by the DPPH and
358 ABTS tests revealed a positive Pearson's correlation coefficient with total phenol content with *r*
359 values of 0.72 and 0.85, respectively. Correlation analysis revealed, also, that the total carotenoid
360 content positively correlated with β -carotene bleaching test (*r* values of 0.59 and 0.65 at 30 and 60
361 min incubation, respectively).
362 Among phytochemicals identified in our samples, a positive correlation was observed for quercetin
363 and trans-resveratrol with *r* values of 0.91 and 0.56, and 0.66, and 0.72 for DPPH and ABTS,
364 respectively. The stilbene compound also positively correlated with β -carotene bleaching test
365 evaluated after 30 min incubation (*r*=0.65).

366

367 3.3. Anti-proliferative activity

368 The anti-proliferative activity of *V. vinifera* leaves extracts on four tumor cell lines (A549, COR-
369 L23, MDA, MCF-7) was evaluated. Data are reported in Table 4. Analysis of data evidenced that
370 Greco Nero leaves extract showed a promising anti-proliferative activity against MDA/ADR cell
371 line with IC₅₀ value of 28.38 μ g/mL followed by Gaglioppo leaves extract (IC₅₀ value of 68.2
372 μ g/mL). A lower activity was observed in MCF-7 cells where Magliocco Dolce showed the higher
373 anti-proliferative activity with IC₅₀ value of 148.2 μ g/mL followed by Magliocco Canino (IC₅₀
374 value of 156.6 μ g/mL). Except Nocera sample, all investigated extracts inhibited lung carcinoma
375 A549 cells in a concentration-dependent manner. In particular, Gaglioppo and Greco Nero
376 samples exhibited IC₅₀ values of 96.4 and 102.7 μ g/mL. These values are 0.7-times higher than
377 that reported for the vinblastine used as positive control.

378 From the analysis of the results it is possible to highlight that all investigated samples at maximum
379 concentration tested were unable to have an effect on 3T3L1 cells used as control cells. This
380 inactivity is probably due to selective action of *V. vinifera* phytochemicals in mechanisms that
381 regulate cell proliferation. The anti-proliferative activity of different varieties of *V. vinifera* leaves
382 extracts in different cancer cells was previously investigated. Chakraborty et al. (2016) reported the
383 moderate anticancer activity against osteosarcoma cells MG63 of aqueous and methanol grape
384 leaves extracts.

385 Abed et al. (2015) evaluated the effects of grape leaves extracts collected from two locations in
386 Palestina against lung cell carcinoma A549. The better IC₅₀ values of 90 and 85 µg/mL were
387 recorded for Baituni variety collected in Beit Omar and Dahria, respectively, in comparison to
388 Shami variety extract collected in the same place (IC₅₀ values of 140 and 165 µg/mL, respectively).
389 The efficacy of different grape derived products including stem, skins, seeds, grape pomace and
390 lees against different cancer cell lines was largely investigated. Skins, seeds, grape pomace and lees
391 alcoholic extracts from the Arcaş grape variety influenced the proliferation of cervical cancer cells
392 in a concentration and time-dependent manner with the following trend: seed > grape pomace >
393 lees. In particular, seed extract inhibited the development of HeLa cells with 40.89% after a
394 treatment of 24 h, and 71.69% after a treatment of 48 h (Nechita et al., 2012). Sahpazidou et al.
395 (2014) used the SRB assay to investigate the antiproliferative activity of several grapes stem
396 extracts against colon cells (HT29), breast (MCF-7 and MDA-MB-231), renal cells (786-0 and
397 Caki-1) and thyroid (K1) cancer cells. Generally, Voidomato grape variety exerted the highest anti-
398 proliferative activity with IC₅₀ values of 120.5 and 121 µg/mL for MDA-MB-231 and MCF-7,
399 respectively. A similar effect was also observed with Mavrotragano against hormone independent,
400 ER negative breast carcinoma cells. A promising activity was also observed when kidney tumor
401 cells are treated with Voidomato grape variety extract with IC₅₀ value of 134 µg/mL. The
402 anticancer activity of grape products extracts should be attributed to the presence of high
403 concentrations of bioactive compounds with particular reference to polyphenols as predominate
404 phytochemicals, among them, rutin, quercetin, trans-resveratrol and myricetin. A positive Pearson's
405 correlation coefficient was found for rutin and A549, MCF-7, MDA-MB-231 with r values of 0.79,
406 0.88, and 0.91, respectively. With regard to our tested cells, a perusal analysis of the literature
407 revealed that rutin promotes the TNF- α -induced apoptosis in human lung carcinoma cells and it
408 should be able to regulate the expression of GSK-3 β protein in A549 cells (Wu et al., 2017).
409 Differently, quercetin exerted its anticancer effect by the disassembling effect on mitotic apparatus
410 with particular reference to actin depletion (Klimaszewska-Wisniewska et al., 2017). Moreover, this
411 dietary flavonoid induces apoptosis and cell cycle arrest via modification of Foxo3a signalling in
412 triple-negative breast cancer cells (Nguyen et al., 2017). Among the predominant compounds of
413 Calabrian grapes leaves extracts trans-resveratrol was also identified. This stilbene induced cell
414 cycle arrest in Sphase and induction of γ -H2AX, which is a hallmark of DNA damage after UV
415 irradiation in MDA-MB-231. Previously, Pozo-Guisado et al. (2002) showed that trans-resveratrol
416 was able to induce apoptosis in MCF-7 cells. Resveratrol exert its anti-proliferative effect against
417 A549 cells by a direct decreasing of rate proliferation and inducing cell cycle arrest and cell
418 apoptosis as a consequence of enhancement of ROS production in cancer cells. Moreover, this

419 stilbene compound inhibited lung cancer cells metastatic process (Yousef et al., 2017). A blockage
420 of the lung cancer cell metastatic process as consequence of interference on ERK signalling
421 pathway was also reported for myricetin (Shih et al., 2009). Moreover, Ci et al. (2018)
422 demonstrated that this flavonoid decreased the activities of MMP-2/9 and mRNA levels of
423 ST6GALNAC5 expression in breast cancer models. Analysis of data evidenced that although the
424 myricetin concentration in Calabrian grape leaves extracts was moderate, positive r values of 0.66,
425 0.77, 0.80 for A549, MCF-7 and MDA-MB-231 could be calculated. Since the cytotoxic effect
426 cannot be attributed to a single compound, a synergism between the different bioactive secondary
427 metabolites should be considered (Lazzè et al., 2009). For the above-mentioned reason all the
428 bioactive compounds found in high concentration in grape leaf extracts are potentially useful
429 candidates for combination therapy with conventional drugs acting as nucleic acid-directed agents
430 or novel cytoskeletal-directed agents.

431

432 3.4. Principal Component Analysis

433 Results were analyzed by a multivariate PCA method in order to reduce the number of artificial
434 variables (D'Agostino et al., 2014). According to the PCA results, four dimensions were necessary
435 for complete explanation of the data variability. As can be seen, most of the variance in leaves are
436 explained by PC1, PC2 and PC3 (Fig. 1). The first three components of the PCA showed 85% of
437 the total variance (48.55% for component 1, 21.15% for component 2 and 15.29% for component
438 3). The fourth component (PC4) explained a small percentage, while, the successive PCs could be
439 considered as not statistically significant.

440 The first component (PC1) has highly positively correlated with TCA, ABTS test, β -carotene
441 bleaching test at 30 and 60 min of incubation, and negatively correlated with MCF7, A549, MDA-
442 MB-231, TFC, rutin and myricetin. The second principal component (PC2) was found to be
443 positively correlated with TPC, catechin, quercetin, DPPH and ABTS tests and negatively
444 correlated with TFC, rutin, myricetin, MCF7 and MDA-MB-231. Finally, PC3 was found to be
445 positively correlated with gallic acid, catechin, and polydatin and negatively correlated with TCA.
446 The fourth principal component (PC4), showed a high positive correlation with FRAP and it was
447 the only component where A549 and MDA-MB-231 cell lines have a positive correlation, 0.185
448 and 0.075, respectively.

449 As shown in Fig. 1 for grapevine leaves, the cultivars could be divided into three groups based on
450 positions in the scores scatter plot of PCA. Group 1, includes the following cultivars Arvino,
451 Magliocco dolce and Nocera. This group was characterized by higher contents of DPPH, TPC,
452 ABTS test, FRAP test, β -carotene bleaching test at 30 and 60 min of incubation, TCA, resveratrol,

453 caffeic acid and syringic acid. Component 2 includes the Magliocco canino and Gaglioppo
454 cultivars, characterized by higher contents of gallic acid, rutin and myricetin and component 3,
455 which includes Greco nero cultivar, characterized by higher contents DPPH, TPC, ABTS, FRAP,
456 catechin, quercetin. The results obtained from the PCA analysis showed the existence of chemical
457 variability among samples obtained from leaves.

458

459 4. Conclusions

460 Results presented in this study demonstrated that Gaglioppo and Magliocco Dolce leaves extracts
461 have shown to increase the defences against an excessive production of free radicals and exert a
462 promising anti-proliferative activity against human Caucasian breast adenocarcinoma.
463 These extracts are rich in bioactive compounds, mainly phenols that are known for their healthy
464 properties. For this reasons their use in nutraceuticals or as ingredients in functional foods may
465 support sustainable agricultural production and offer a new opportunity for byproducts reutilization.

466

467 Conflicts of interest

468 The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

469

470 Abbreviations used

471 ABTS 2,2'-azinobis (3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid) diammonium salt

472 BETA 30 β -carotene bleaching test at 30 min incubation; BETA 60, β -carotene bleaching test at 60
473 min incubation

474 BHT Butylated hydroxytoluene

475 DPPH 2,2-Diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl

476 FRAP Ferric Reducing Ability Power

477 GAS Global Antioxidant Score

478 HPLC High Performance Liquid Chromatography

479 RACI Relative Antioxidant Capacity Index

480 SRB sulforodamine B

481 TPC total phenolic

482 TFC total flavonoid

483 TCA total carotenoid

484

485 Transparency document

486 Transparency document related to this article can be found online at

487 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fct.2019.03.007>.

488

489 Appendix A. Supplementary data

490 Supplementary data to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fct.2019.03.007>.

491

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Table 1
 Extraction yield, total content of phenols, flavonoids and anthocyanins of different
 Calabrian *V. vinifera* leaves extracts.

Sample	Extraction Yield ^a	TPC ^b	TFC ^c	TAC ^d
G	4.4	111.7 ± 1.9	26.2 ± 1.2	0.1 ± 0.04
MD	4.2	87.6 ± 1.2	23.9 ± 1.0	0.9 ± 0.05
MC	4.1	39.1 ± 1.0	11.1 ± 0.9	0.4 ± 0.09
A	6.3	200.6 ± 2.2	2.6 ± 0.4	0.7 ± 0.07
GN	7.9	294.5 ± 2.5	2.1 ± 0.5	0.4 ± 0.04
N	6.2	201.6 ± 2.1	2.2 ± 0.4	0.9 ± 0.06
		**	**	**

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 617

G: Gaglioppo; MD: Magliocco Dolce; MC: Magliocco Canino; A: Arvino; GN:
 Greco Nero; N: Nocera. TPC: Total phenols content; TF: Total flavonoids content;
 TA: Total antocyanins content.

618 a : %.
 619 b mg Chlorogenic acid equivalents per g FW.
 620 c mg Quercetin equivalents per g FW.
 621 d mg Cyanidin-3-O-glucoside equivalents per g FW.

622
 623
 624 Table 2
 625 Determination of total phenols, flavonoids and anthocyanins content and relative determination by
 626 HPLC-DAD of Gaglioppo, Magliocco Dolce and Canino, Arvino, Greco Nero and Nocera leaves
 627 extracts (mg/Kg).
 628

Sample	Gallic acid	(+)-Catechin	Caffeic acid	Syringic acid	Rutin	Quercetin	Mirycetin	trans-Resveratrol	Polydatin
G	3.5 ± 0.07	55.2 ± 0.17	3.6 ± 0.07	108.37 ± 0.22	115.3 ± 0.22	128.7 ± 0.24	5.2 ± 0.06	16.6 ± 0.10	77.4 ± 0.20
MD	1.5 ± 0.08	27.0 ± 0.18	3.4 ± 0.05	112.36 ± 0.17	143.7 ± 0.37	136.8 ± 0.25	6.7 ± 0.09	12.2 ± 0.05	50.1 ± 0.17
MC	1.2 ± 0.04	34.4 ± 0.23	5.5 ± 0.05	177.75 ± 0.33	119.0 ± 0.40	142.6 ± 0.31	5.8 ± 0.08	22.0 ± 0.11	42.4 ± 0.30
A	2.9 ± 0.11	56.9 ± 0.28	4.1 ± 0.07	186.86 ± 0.37	55.9 ± 0.33	153.4 ± 0.27	3.8 ± 0.06	26.6 ± 0.08	75.9 ± 0.18
GN	2.1 ± 0.07	68.4 ± 0.31	3.7 ± 0.04	139.74 ± 0.17	73.8 ± 0.28	187.3 ± 0.30	4.0 ± 0.02	17.9 ± 0.09	56.3 ± 0.22
N	2.0 ± 0.04	33.9 ± 0.22	4.6 ± 0.08	157.11 ± 0.20	87.5 ± 0.18	127.5 ± 0.20	5.1 ± 0.06	21.9 ± 0.07	52.9 ± 0.27
	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**

629
 630 G: Gaglioppo; MD: Magliocco Dolce; MC: Magliocco Canino; A: Arvino; GN: Greco Nero; N:
 631 Nocera.
 632

633
 634 Table 3
 635 Antioxidant activity of Gaglioppo, Magliocco Dolce and Canino, Arvino, Greco Nero and Nocera
 636 leaves extracts and related RACI and GAS.
 637

Sample	DPPH test	ABTS	FRAP test	β-Carotene bleaching test		RACI	GAS
	IC ₅₀ (µg/mL)	IC ₅₀ (µg/mL)	µM Fe(II)/g ^a	IC ₅₀ (µg/mL)			
				30 min	60 min		
G	7.19 ± 0.8	19.12 ± 1.6****	81.36 ± 2.8***	28.15% ^b	23.72% ^b	-0.33	0.43
MD	12.47 ± 0.9**	23.80 ± 1.9****	100.41 ± 4.6****	43.36% ^b	25.29% ^b	-1.64	1.14
MC	35.30 ± 2.4****	31.02 ± 2.5****	67.06 ± 3.5	34.85% ^b	29.30% ^b	-0.11	0.57
A	32.99 ± 1.8****	86.33 ± 4.7****	86.56 ± 2.7****	41.80 ± 1.7****	45.70 ± 1.9****	0.29	3.39
GN	77.88 ± 3.4****	78.85 ± 3.5****	93.35 ± 3.9****	50.76% ^b	41.02% ^b	0.23	2.68
N	30.28 ± 1.9****	69.47 ± 2.9****	80.64 ± 3.9****	43.34 ± 1.8****	95.22 ± 3.6****	0.72	3.48
Positive control							
Ascorbic acid	5.0 ± 0.8	1.7 ± 0.4					
BHT			63.2 ± 4.3				
Propyl gallate				1.0 ± 0.04	1.0 ± 0.06		

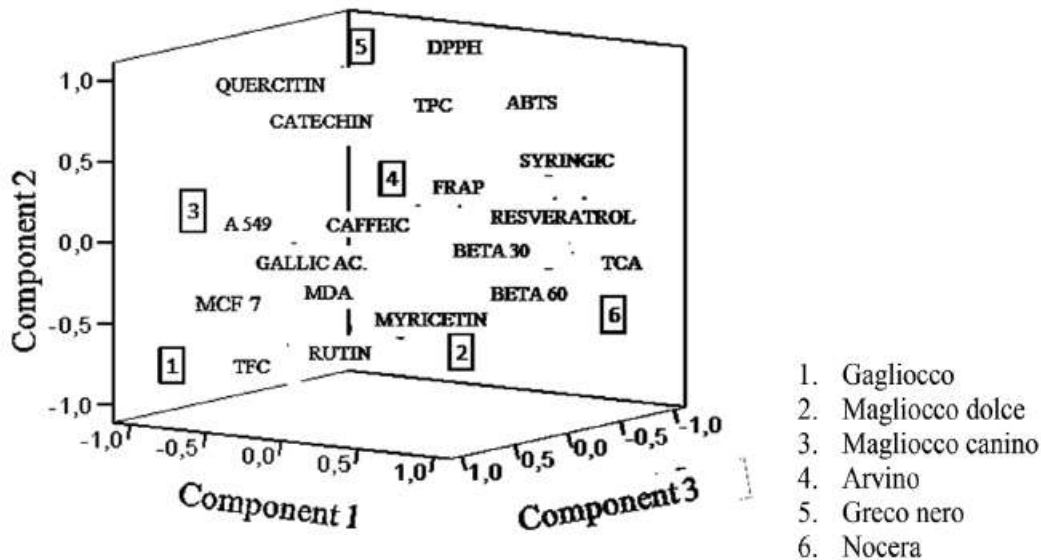
638
 639 G: Gaglioppo; MD: Magliocco Dolce; MC: Magliocco Canino; A: Arvino; GN: Greco Nero; N:
 640 Nocera. a: at the concentration of 2.5 mg/mL b: sample tested at 100 µg/mL; DPPH test: One-way
 641 ANOVA followed by a multicomparison Dunnett's test ($\alpha = 0.05$): ****p < 0.0001, **p < 0.05
 642 compared with ascorbic acid. Antioxidant Capacity Determined by Radical Cation (ABTS+): One-
 643 way ANOVA followed by a multicomparison Dunnett's test ($\alpha = 0.05$): ****p < 0.0001 compared
 644 with ascorbic acid. Ferric Reducing Ability Power (FRAP): One-way ANOVA followed by a
 645 multicomparison Dunnett's test ($\alpha = 0.05$): ****p < 0.0001, ***p < 0.001 compared with BHT. β-
 646 Carotene bleaching test 30 and 60 min incubation: One-way ANOVA followed by a
 647 multicomparison Dunnett's test ($\alpha = 0.05$): ****p < 0.0001 compared with propyl gallate.
 648

649 Table 4
 650 Anti-proliferative activity (IC₅₀ µg/mL) of Gaglioppo, Magliocco Dolce e Canino, Arvino, Greco
 651 Nero and Nocera leaves extracts.
 652

Sample	MCF-7	A549	MDA-MB-231	COR-L23	3T3L1
G	170.5 ± 2.1****	102.7 ± 1.9****	68.2 ± 1.5****	12.9% ^a	> 200
MD	148.2 ± 2.0****	145.9 ± 2.3****	92.6 ± 2.4****	5.8% ^a	> 200
MC	156.6 ± 2.5****	131.6 ± 2.0****	95.8 ± 2.6****	5.9% ^a	> 200
A	> 200	> 200	38.1% ^a	16.6% ^a	> 200
GN	13.6% ^a	96.4 ± 1.7****	28.4 ± 1.2****	> 200	> 200
N	20.5% ^a	> 200	41.8%	16.9% ^a	> 200
Positive control					
Vinblastine		67.3 ± 2.0		45.5 ± 1.9	37.6 ± 1.7
Taxol	0.1 ± 0.006		2.0 ± 0.5		

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G: Gaglioppo; MD: Magliocco Dolce; MC: Magliocco Canino; A: Arvino; GN: Greco Nero; N: Nocera. MCF-7, human breast cancer cells; MDA-MB-231 breast adenocarcinoma cells; A549, human lung carcinoma; COR-L23 lung large carcinoma. Data are obtained by nonlinear regression analysis of three independent experiments, with triplicate samples and are expressed as the mean ± SD (n=3). ***p < 0.0001 compared with positive controls (Vinblastine and Taxol). a Sample tested at 200 µg/mL. One-way ANOVA followed by a multicomparison Dunnett's test (α=0.05).



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Fig. 1. Principal Component Analysis (PCA) of six grapevine leaves. Loadings plot and Scores scatter plot. The first three components of the PCA show 85% of the total variance: 48.55% for component 1, 21.15% for component 2 and 15.29% for component 3.