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### Short communication

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Transrutinosylation of tyrosol by flower buds of Sophora japonica

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- Journal Pre-proofs 1 Transrutinosylation of tyrosol by flower buds of Sophora japonica
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## 7 Abstract

Dried flower buds of Japanese sophora (*Sophora japonica*) comprising rutinosidase activity were tested in rutinosylation of tyrosol via transglycosylation process from rutin. Optimal conditions for transrutinosylation of tyrosol were 49 mM rutin and 290 mM tyrosol, giving maximum conversion up to 66.4 % and 24 % yield of isolated and purified rutinoside. The rutinosylation proceeded exclusively on the primary hydroxyl of tyrosol, thus forming rhamnosylated derivative of salidroside. This strict regioselectivity differentiates the sophora biocatalyst from microbial rutinosidases.

15

16 **Keywords:** rutinosidase; rutin, Sophora japonica; tyrosol rutinoside; transglycosylation

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## 18 1. Introduction

Tyrosol and hydroxytyrosol are low-molecular phenolic antioxidants occurring in olive oil and in by-products from olive production and processing (Wani *et al.*, 2018; Conde, Cara, Moure, Ruiz, Castro & Domínguez, 2009). Their esters may find use in stabilization of lipids and emulsions (Sun, Zhou & Shahidi, 2018; Akanbi & Barrow, 2018), while glycosides of tyrosol and hydroxytyrosol display wide spectra of pharmacological activities including anticancer (Sun, Wang, Zheng & Zhang, 2012), antiviral (Wang, Ding, Zhou, Sun & Wang, 2009), antiinflammatory (Guan *et al.*, 2011), antidiabetic (Li, Ge, Zheng & Zhang, Journal Pre-proofs 26 2000), neuroprotective (Nieto-Dominguez *et al.*, 2017), cardioprotective (Liang *et al.* 2010,

Zhang et al. 2009) and hepatoprotective (Wu, Lian, Jiang & Nan, 2009).

Enzymatic glycosylations catalyzed by glycosidases offer an effective, straightforward 28 29 and environmentally friendly alternative to rather complicated and oftentimes harmful chemical procedures. Generally, two methods may be employed in one-step enzymatic 30 preparation of glycosides catalyzed by glycosidases - transglycosylation and reversed 31 hydrolysis. Reversed hydrolysis is a thermodynamic process leading to equilibrium 32 between the target glycoside and starting monosaccharide while transglycosylation 33 employs partial transferase activity of glycosidases. Glycosidase thus catalyzes the 34 transfer of monosaccharide from the nonreducing end of the substrate (polysaccharide, 35 oligosaccharide, or glycoside) to a nucleophil (an alcohol or another molecule of the 36 saccharide) present in the reaction mixture (van Rantwijk, Woudenberg-van Oosterom & 37 Sheldon 1999). The presence of transferase activity is limited to retaining glycosidases 38 and its displayed level in particular enzyme varies depending on its origin and reaction 39 conditions. 40

Within our research on enzymatic syntheses of natural tyrosol glycosides and their new
derivatives, we have recently prepared salidroside (tyrosol β-D-glucopyranoside) and its αand β-D-galacto- and β-fructofurano- analogues by use of microbial enzymes (Potocká,
Mastihubová & Mastihuba, 2015; Karnišová Potocká, Mastihubová & Mastihuba, 2019).

Enzymatic synthesis of salidroside by reversed hydrolysis is a well studied process, employing usually plant  $\beta$ -glucosidases (Bi *et al.*, 2012) Recently published enzymatic preparations of pure glycosides of tyrosol and hydroxytyrosol such as  $\beta$ -glucosides (Méndez-Líter *et. al.*, 2019),  $\beta$ -galactosides (Qi, Gu, Xu, Xiao & Lu, 2017),  $\beta$ fructofuranosides (Míguez *et. al.*, 2018) and  $\beta$ -xylopyranosides (Nieto-Dominguez *et al.*, 2017) rely however on the more advantageous transglycosylation process.

<sup>51</sup> To extend the scale of glycosides of tyrosol for studies of their acylations toward natural <sup>52</sup> pharmacologically active substances, we focused on preparation of a structured <sup>53</sup> oligoglycoside of tyrosol, namely 2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl  $\beta$ -rutinoside (TR1), which would <sup>54</sup> be free of its structural analogue TR2 (Figure 1).



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Figure 1. Structure of isomers of tyrosol β-rutinosides.

Kinetically controlled transrhamnosylation of the corresponding glucoside, salidroside, is 57 not possible due to the inverting mechanism of  $\alpha$ -L-rhamnosidases and these enzymes 58 can therefore produce rutinosides only through reversed rhamnosylation. In addition to the 59 obvious problems of the reversed hydrolysis of glycosides (long reaction times, low 60 chemical yields), the price of rhamnose used in high starting concentration makes the 61 reversed rhamnosylation rather unpractical. A more convenient way how to obtain TR1 62 may be use of rutinosidase for direct rutinosylation of tyrosol. Rutinosidases (EC 63 3.2.1.168) belong to a special group of  $\beta$ -glycosidases, so-called diglycosidases, which are 64 specific to hydrolysis of diglycosides comprising  $\beta$ -D-glucose on the reducing end of the 65 glycone. Diglycosidases (rutinosidases, acuminosidases, vicianosidases. 66 primeverosidases) occur more typically in plant tissues, although they can be produced by 67 microorganisms as well. Their main role in the plant kingdom is an immediate hydrolysis of 68 diglycosides (such as cyanogenic or terpenyl glycosides) and fast liberation of toxic or 69 semiotic aglycones in one-step mechanism (Mizutani et al., 2002). Rutinosidases can be 70 found among plants and some filamentous fungi. They hydrolyze rutinosides like rutin and 71 hesperidin into rutinose and the corresponding aglycone. Some rutinosidases were found 72 to be able to perform also the transrutinosylation reactions, which means that they do not 73

Journal Pre-proofs transier monosacchange from the non-reducing end of present rutinoside, but whole 74 disaccharide (rutinose) is attached to the present aglycone, thus forming a new type of 75 rutinoside. Wide variety of  $\beta$ -rutinosides possessing arylalkyl and linear or branched 76 77 aliphatic aglycones has been so far prepared with rutin or hesperidin as sources of rutinose (Šimčíková et al., 2015; Zhou et al., 2009; Mazzaferro & Breccia, 2012; 78 Mazzaferro, Pinuel, Minig & Breccia, 2010; Minig, Mazzaferro, Erra-Balsells, Petroselli & 79 Breccia, 2011; Katayama et al., 2013). Various terpenyl rutinosides and phenolic 80 glycosides were also synthetized with use of rutinosidase from tartary buckwheat (Zhou et 81 al., 2009), Acremonium sp. (Mazzaferro & Breccia, 2012; Mazzaferro, Pinuel, Minig & 82 Breccia, 2010; Miniq, Mazzaferro, Erra-Balsells, Petroselli & Breccia, 2011) or Aspergillus 83 niger (Šimčíková et al., 2015). Recently, Bassanini reported enzymatic transplycosylations 84 of a set of arylalkyl alcohols, including tyrosol (Bassanini et al., 2017). The reactions were 85 catalyzed by rutinosidase from Aspergillus niger and rutin was used as the rutinose donor. 86 Rutinosylation of tyrosol provided however a hardly separable mixtures of isomers TR1 87 and TR2, since the rutinosylation proceeded either on the primary aliphatic or on the 88 phenolic hydroxyls of tyrosol in ratios ranging from 1:1 to 3:1. 89

High levels of rutin degrading enzymes were found also in flowers and flower buds of *Sophora japonica* (Kijima, Takahashi, Itozawa & Izumi, 2005; Bahchevanska & Koleva, 1996). Although the sophora enzyme possesses high hydrolytic activity towards rutin, it has never been tested in transglycosylations. In this Short communication, we present use of dry flower buds (DFBs) of *Sophora japonica* in transrutinosylations of tyrosol from rutin as a regioselective alternative to microbial rutinosidase.

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## 97 2. Materials and methods

Flower buds of *Sophora japonica* were collected from local sources, dried at laboratory
 temperature and homogenized to powder. The homogenized material was extracted for 1

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 nour by methanor in ratio 1:30 (w/v) to remove most or navonoids and chiorophyli, nitered
 and dried at laboratory temperature.

Tyrosol (97%) was purchased from Maybridge, and rutin 97 % from Acros Organics. 2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl acetate is product of the Institute of Chemistry, SAS in Bratislava. The standard of tyrosol rutinoside TR1 used in HPLC analyses was prepared by nonoptimized enzymatic transglycosylation.

High-performance liquid chromatography was performed on an Agilent 1200 Series 106 apparatus (Agilent technologies, Inc., Santa Clara, California, USA). Flash 107 chromatography was performed on Isolera One from Biotage (Uppsala, Sweden), with UV 108 detection. <sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz) and <sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz) spectra were recorded with a 400 109 MHz Bruker AVANCE III HD 400 MHz equipped with a Prodigy CryoProbe. 110

Production of tyrosol rutinoside was monitored by HPLC on Zorbax Eclipse XBD-C18 column (3 x 100 mm, 3  $\mu$ m) equilibrated and eluted at 30 °C with gradient of methanol in H<sub>2</sub>O at flow rate of 0,4 mL/min. Tyrosol and tyrosol rutinoside were detected at 275 nm, while rutin and quercetin were detected at 254 nm.

Optimization of transglycosylation yielding to tyrosol rutinoside was performed according to concentration of rutin (16 – 49 mM) and concentration of tyrosol (72 – 434 mM) in 1 mL reaction volume at 1000 rpm and 40 °C. Reactions were monitored in 50  $\mu$ L aliquots of reaction mixture withdrawn in predefined time intervals after centrifugation ca. 2 min., mixed with 200  $\mu$ L of methanol to quench the reaction and filtered through 0.22  $\mu$ m syringe filter. 100  $\mu$ L of the diluted filtrate was mixed with 100  $\mu$ L of distilled water and used for analysis by HPLC. Each reaction was performed in triplicates.

Reactions in preparative scale were performed at 40 °C, 175 rpm in volume of 50 mL. Concentrations of tyrosol and rutin were 290 mM and 49 mM, respectively. The reaction was started by addition of 1 g of pre-extracted DFBs. After 30 hours, a sample for HPLC was withdrawn and the reaction was stopped by boiling in water bath for 10 minutes,

Journal Pre-proots Journal or number reduced pressure. Filination cake was washed with ca to me or 126 water and the filtrate was evaporated in vacuo. Dried filtrate was resolubilised in 15 mL of 127 distilled water and applied on Diaion HP-20 column. Sample was separated in gradient of 128 129 methanol in water. Fractions containing product were collected and evaporated in vacuo. Dry material was solubilised in methanol, adsorbed to ca 5 g of silica gel, dried *in vacuo* 130 and applied on 50 g silica gel in chloroform. The column was eluted by gradient of 131 methanol in chloroform by flash chromatography. Fractions containing the product were 132 checked by TLC for purity, collected, evaporated and dried from methanol:toluene solution 133 to give 0.26 grams (24 %) of pale yellow amorphous powder. Structure of the purified 134 product was examined by NMR spectroscopy. 135

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<sup>1</sup>H NMR (400 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD)  $\delta$  7.07 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H, H-Ph), 6.70 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H, H-Ph), 4.75 (d, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1H, H-1'), 4.28 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H, H-1), 4.02 – 3.93 (m, 2H, 0.5xCH<sub>2</sub>, H-6a), 3.84 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 1.7 Hz, 1H, H-2'), 3.75 – 3.65 (m, 3H, 0.5xCH<sub>2</sub>, H-5', H-3'), 3.61 (dd, *J* = 11.2, 6.0 Hz, 1H, H-6b), 3.42 – 3.32 (m, 3H, H-5, H-4'), 3.30 – 3.25 (m, 1H, H-4), 3.17 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 7.8 Hz, 1H, H-2), 2.84 (td, *J* = 7.4, 2.4 Hz, 2H, CH<sub>2</sub>), 1.26 (d, *J* = 6.3 Hz, 3H, CH<sub>3</sub>).

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<sup>13</sup>C NMR (101 MHz, CD<sub>3</sub>OD) δ 156.7 (C-Ph), 130.9 (CH-Ph), 130.7(C-Ph), 116.2 (CH-Ph), 145 104.4 (C-1), 102.2 (C-1'), 78.0 (C-3), 76.8 (C-5), 75.1 (C-2), 74.0 (C-4'), 72.3 (C-3'), 72.2 146 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 72.2 (C-2'), 71.6 (C-4), 69.8 (C-5'), 68.1 (C-6), 36.4 (CH<sub>2</sub>), 18.0 (CH<sub>3</sub>).

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### 148 **3. Results and discussion**

DFBs were used for rutinosylation of tyrosol according to Scheme 1. Besides the transglycosylation, hydrolysis of rutin to rutinose and quercetin occurred in the presence of water.







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The plant material was extracted with methanol before use to remove chlorophyll, 155 flavonoids and other substances potentially hampering purification of the product. The 156 flower buds naturally contain also rutin in levels reaching almost 23% (Couch, Naghski & 157 Krewson, 1952) and therefore the unextracted material was also tested for the 158 glycosylation of tyrosol without extra added rutin. TLC analysis of reaction mixture 159 confirmed both autohydrolysis of rutin and formation of tyrosol rutinoside. The same 160 161 products were formed by extracted DFBs supplemented with rutin (Supplementary material, Figure S1). To eliminate the effect of the naturally included rutin in the buds, only 162 extracted DFBs were used in further studies. 163

Initial rutin concentration positively influences formation of the target glycoside. 164 Formation of TR1 was monitored at three different rutin concentrations (Figure 2a). The 165 product was synthesized rapidly within 24 hours, after which time its concentration 166 remained practically unchanged. Increase of the initial concentration of rutin resulted in 167 higher productivity per volume, but the time of reaching the maximum product 168 concentration was prolonged. Final conversion of rutin to the product however slightly 169 decreased at the highest rutin concentration (Figure 2b). It is worth to note that all three 170 171 rutin concentrations were above its solubility in water. The reaction mixtures were

suspensions conunually dissolving rule to media as the reaction proceeded, so the actuar
 concentration of rule was in all cases similar and enabled to reach similar conversions.
 Concentration of rule 49 mM was used in following optimizations.

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Figure 2. (a) Time course of production of tyrosol rutinoside at varying rutin concentration; (b) Conversion of rutin to tyrosol rutinoside at varying rutin concentration. Reaction conditions: 16 (- $\blacklozenge$ -), 33 (- $\Box$ -), 49 (- $\blacktriangle$ -) mM rutin in water, 145 mM tyrosol, 20 mg/mL of catalyst (extracted flower buds of *S. japonica*), 40 °C, 1000 rpm.

Increasing initial concentration of tyrosol had positive effect on the conversion of rutin 180 to tyrosol rutinoside (Figure 3a) with conversions remaining unchanged after 30 hours for 181 initial tyrosol concentrations 290 mM and lower. The highest tested acceptor concentration 182 183 (434 mM) however suppressed the final conversion, while the concentration 362 mM had slowed down the transrutinosylation, reaching conversion of rutin to tyrosol rutinoside 53 184 % after 30 hours and 69% after 48 hours (Figure 3b). The highest conversion after 30 185 hours (66.4%) has been observed for starting concentration of tyrosol 290 mM and the 186 level of product (ca. 33 mM) in the reaction mixture stayed practically unchanged within 187 another 18 hours. 188



**Figure 3.** (a) Effect of initial tyrosol concentration on the production tyrosol rutinoside expressed as time course of the conversion from rutin. Reaction conditions: 49 mM rutin; 72 (- $\diamond$ -), 145 (- $\blacksquare$ -), 217 (- $\triangle$ -), 290 (- $\bullet$ -), 362 (- $\square$ -), 434 mM (- $\diamond$ -) tyrosol, 20 mg/mL of catalyst (flower buds of *S. japonica*), 40 °C, 1000 rpm.; (b) Effect of initial tyrosol concentration on the maximal conversion of rutin to tyrosol rutinoside in 30th (- $\bigcirc$ -) and 48th (- $\triangle$ -) hour.

Tyrosol concentration 290 mM was selected for preparative reaction in 50 mL scale to 196 achieve the maximum conversion in shorter reaction time. The final conversion of rutin to 197 tyrosol rutinoside within 30 hours was above 60%, separation and purification of the 198 product were however complicated due to high content of the plant material and 199 precipitated guercetin in the reaction mixture and yielded 260 mg (24 %) of the product. Its 200 structure was evaluated by NMR spectroscopy. To assign all <sup>1</sup>H chemical shifts and most 201 of <sup>13</sup>C chemical shifts in the product spectra techniques of 2D NMR (H-H COSY and 202 HSQC) were applied. 203

The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of TR1 (Figure S2) showed  $\alpha$ -anomeric L-rhamnopyranoside signal at  $\delta$  4.75 ppm (H-1'; J<sub>1,2</sub> 1.6 Hz) and  $\beta$ -anomeric D-glucopyranoside signal at  $\delta$  4.28 ppm (H-1; J<sub>1,2</sub> 8.1 Hz). The signals at  $\delta$  7.07 ppm and 6.70 ppm typically fit with the *ortho* and *meta* H-aromatic signals of a tyrosol residue linked to glucose on aliphatic OH and having free phenol function (Bassanini *et al.*, 2017). The <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of free tyrosol

Journal Pre-proofs In acetone- $a_6$  snowes two triplets of nyarogens on alipnatic chain (3.69 ppm for CH<sub>2</sub>- $\alpha$  and 209 2.66 ppm for  $CH_2-\beta$ ). Signals splitting of the aliphatic moiety of our product is completely 210 different and more complicated. The CH<sub>2</sub>- $\beta$  (td) are shifted at 2.84 ppm, while protons of 211  $CH_2-\alpha$  are completely separated and they are parts of multiplets at 3.98 and 3.69 ppm. 212 The <sup>13</sup>C NMR shifts (Figure S3) for C-1 at δ 104.4 ppm and C-1' at δ 102.2 ppm were 213 derived mostly from the HSQC. The ortho and meta aromatic CH signals of tyrosol are 214 215 shifted at 116.2 ppm and 130.7 ppm. Glucose residue showed a signal for C-6 at 68.1 ppm. Two carbon signals of aliphatic residue of the tyrosol are shifted at 72.2 and 36.4 216 ppm respectively. The <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of free tyrosol in acetone-d<sub>6</sub> showes signals of 217 aliphatic carbons at 64.3 and 39.7 ppm. So, the signal of aliphatic C- $\alpha$  is shifted to higher 218 magnetic field. The signal at 18.0 ppm was assigned to the methyl group of rhamnoside 219 220 moiety. The structural analysis therefore definitely confirmed that tyrosol was glycosylated on the primary hydroxyl. 221

Rutinosylation of tyrosol by rutinosidase from *Aspergillus niger* has been recently reported by Bassanini (Bassanini *et al.*, 2017). The published reaction provided high yield of a mixture of regioisomers containing 25 % of TR2 in addition to TR1. The mixture was difficult to separate and yields of purified products are not declared.

To confirm that the sole production of TR1 in our long time experiments is the result of 226 DFBs selectivity and is not caused by re-hydrolysis of TR2 which could be produced in 227 early stages, we compared rutinoslyation of tyrosol and its primary monoacetate, 2-(4-228 hydroxyphenyl)ethyl acetate (TA1). In TA1, the primary hydroxyl (target of rutinosylation in 229 production of TR1) is blocked by acetylation, while the phenolic hydroxyl is free 230 (Supplementary material, Figure S2). TLC analysis of reaction mixtures after 2 and 4 hours 231 proved notable rutinosylation of tyrosol, while only products of rutin hydrolysis were formed 232 in the reaction mixture comprising TA1 (Supplementary material, Figure S3). These results 233 support the evidence that sophora flower buds are not able to glycosylate phenolic moiety 234

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   or the tyrosol skeleton, thus onening a more practical regioselective alternative to recently
   published bioproduction of TR1.
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### 238 **4. Conclusion**

Synthesis of glycosylated oligosaccharides is a challenging process in which regioselectivity and anomeric specificity of glycosylation are the crucial factors. Glycosidases are regularly used with advantage in syntheses of glycosides, but demand for glycosylated disaccharides provokes wider use of more specific enzyme class – diglycosidases. Besides microbial sources, diglycosidases (such as rutinosidase) occur in various plant materials.

In our attempts to prepare rhamnosylated derivative of salidroside, we used dry flower buds from an abundant ornamental tree *Sophora japonica*. This material catalyzed direct transfer of  $\beta$ -rutinosyl moiety from rutin to the primary hydroxyl of tyrosol while the phenolic hydroxyl of tyrosol remained untouched. The reaction thus provides solely one of two possible product isomers, which is the main advantage of this reaction over the yet published rutinosylation of tyrosol catalyzed by microbial rutinosidase.

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HC HO Ġн

H<sub>3</sub>C O HO O OH

2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl β-rutinoside (tyrosol rutinoside TR1)

4-(2-hydroxyethyl)phenyl β-rutinoside (tyrosol rutinoside TR2)

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- 365 Vladimír Mastihuba: Conceptuation, Supervision, Writing manuscript reviewing and finalization,
- 366

## 367 Declaration of interests

58	Journal Pre-proofs
59 70	The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.
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72 73 74	<b>x</b> The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests:
	Groups of <b>Prof. Segio Riva</b> , Istituto di Chimica del Riconoscimento Molecolare (ICRM), C.N.R., via Mario Bianco 9, Milano, 20131, Italy and <b>Prof. Vladimír Křen</b> , Institute of Microbiology, Czech Academy of Sciences, Vídeňská 1083, Praha 4, CZ-14220, Czech Republic are our competitors on the field of enzymatic acylations and glycosylations, including rutinosylations of tyrosol.
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