

Original Research Article

GC-MS analysis of the bioactive compounds in aqueous ethanol, dichloromethane, and n-hexane extracts of Pumpkin (*Cucubita pepo*) seed

ABSTRACT

AIM The study analysed the bioactive compounds (BACs) present in aqueous ethanol, dichloromethane, and n-hexane extracts of pumpkin (*Cucurbita pepo*) using Gas chromatography–mass spectrometry (GC-MS) technique.

METHODOLOGY The dried grounded seed *C. pepo* were successively extracted using the three solvents and GC-MS analysis was performed to identify the differential quantitative BACs in the extracts of *C. pepo* seeds.

RESULTS The GC-MS results revealed the presence of 5, 22, and 17 for aqueous ethanol, dichloromethane, and n-hexane extracts respectively. Of the over 434 bioactive compounds present in *C. pepo*, palmitic, stearic, linoleic compounds and their derivatives were the bioactive compounds found in all three extracts. Scientific evidences suggest that palmitic, stearic, linoleic, barbituric acids, and their derivatives have significant biological effects. Compounds without documented scientific evidence such as Silane, dimethyl(2-methoxyethoxy) octadecyl-, (22R)-6.alpha.,11.beta.,21 Trihydroxy-16.alpha.,17.alpha.-propylmethylenedioxy-pregna-1,4-diene-3,20-dione, and Galactopyranose, 1,2,3,4,6-pentakis-O-(trimethylsilyl)-, .beta.-d- were found in n-hexane extract, while 2-hydroxy-1-(hydroxymethyl)ethyl ester E, Z-1,3,12-Nonadecatriene was found in dichloromethane extract.

CONCLUSION Results of this study may provide a foundation for the application of *C. pepo* in nonclinical setting and the designing of new drug for several clinical purposes.

Keywords: Extracts, pumpkin (*Cucurbita pepo*) seed, aqueous ethanol, dichloromethane, n-hexane, GC-MS analysis.

Introduction

Plants have countless bioactive compounds (1), which their metabolites have been used as therapeutic agents across the globe. According to WHO, traditional medicine remains the oldest and most widely consulted medical intervention in the world today because it dates back to the age of man (2,3). It is an inseparable part of health management and most often likened to African traditional medicine (4,5) because of its widespread use in most common cultures in the continent (4,6).

Cucurbita pepo (Plate 1) is an herbaceous plant that belongs to the Cucurbitaceae family (1,7) commonly called ‘marrow’ (8). It is known as ‘*Ugbogulu*’ in the Eastern Nigeria, ‘*Gamon fatake*’ in Northern Nigeria, and ‘*Elegede*’ in Western Nigeria (8,9). The plant is known to be a good source of nutrients such as vitamin A and C (1). Several studies have provided insight into its use for health purposes such as urinary function and urodynamic effects (10–13), hyperplasia of the prostate gland (11–15), anti-inflammation and antioxidation (16–19), hypolipidemic and hepatoprotective activities (20–22), and antiparasitic effects (23).

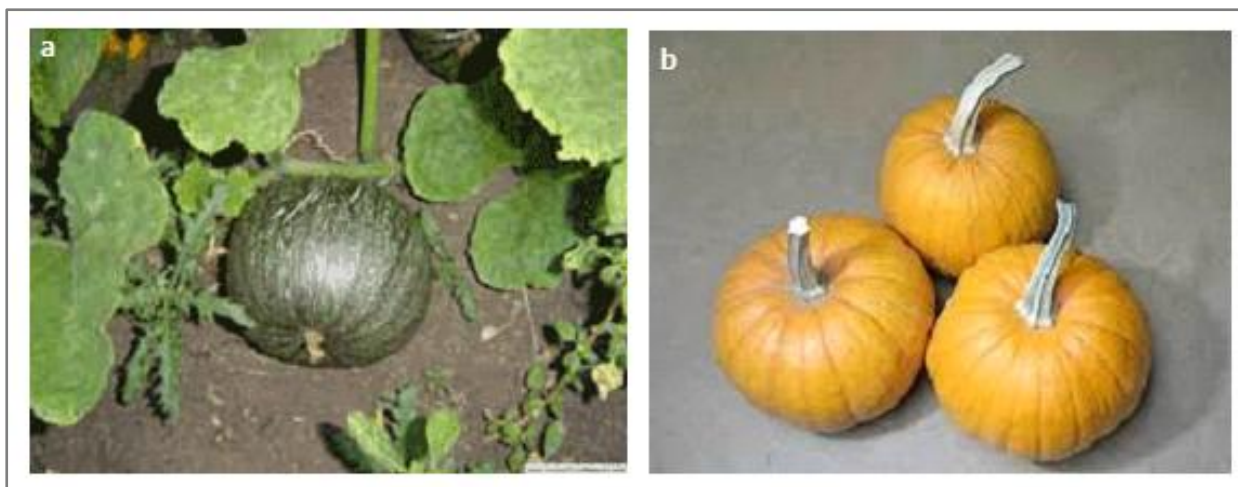


Plate 1: The pumpkin fruit (a) unripe and (b) ripe

Specimens of the same plant species that are cultivated in different regions show significant differences in the presence of the primary and secondary metabolites (24–26). This is because of the chemical interaction with their environment that brings about the biosynthesis of secondary metabolites, resulting in adaptive response for survival (25–28). Studying the variation in the plant bioactive components is very useful for the scientific characterization and documentation of the plant species obtained from different regions (26). Therefore, it is imperative to evaluate the bioactive compounds present in this n-hexane, aqueous ethanol, and dichloromethane extracts of *C. pepo* seed obtained from South-South, Nigeria.

Materials and Methods

Collection of Plant material: The *C. pepo* (pumpkin) fruits were procured from Choba market (Latitude: 4°53'26"N and Longitude: 6°54'12"E in Obio/Akpor, Rivers State, and South-South, Nigeria. The fruit was identified and authenticated at the University of Port Harcourt herbarium with voucher specimen number UPH/PSB/2021/071.

Preparation and Extraction Process: The seeds were air dried on sacks in an aerated room for 2 weeks, then deshelled and ground into powder using a Vitamin E310 Explorian Blender. Fifty grams (50g) each of the powdered plant materials was soaked in 500ml of n-hexane, dichloromethane and aqueous ethanol in separate conical flasks and kept for 24hrs in a shaker, after which the mixture was filtered. The filtrate was evaporated at room temperature (29).

GC-MS Analysis: The GC-MS analysis was carried out at Giolee Global Resources LTD, number 18 Uyo Street, Rumuomasi, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria. The various solvent (aqueous ethanol, dichloromethane, and n-hexane) extracts of the biomass sample were analyzed using an Agilent 7890/5975 GC/MS. The equipment has the following features; a separation in Capillary column (HP-5), 30m x 0.25-0.32mm ID x 0.25µm film, and a 5% Phenyl Methyl Siloxane inner coating. A 99.99% pure Helium gas was used as the carrier gas at flow rate of 2.54 ml per minute in split less mode. 1 microliter of the sample was injected to the column at 250°C inlet Temperature. The oven temperature commenced at 50°C holds for 2 minutes, and then ramped at 15°C to 250°C held for 10 minutes, ramped again at 10°C for 280°C held for 25 minutes for 69 minute run time. The auxiliary temperature was kept at 280°C. The various mass spectrums detected were obtained by electron ionization at 70 eV and the detected operated in a scan mode 35 to 550Da atomic units. A 2 seconds scan interval and fragmentation were maintained at 35 to 550Da.

Identification of Compounds: Identification was based on the molecular structure, molecular mass, and calculated fragments elucidated by the MS Quadrupole mass analyser filtered on a mass to charge basis by the High energy diode (HE) (30). The compounds are qualitatively interpreted using the National Institute standard and Technology (NIST) spectrum database NIST 08 model. The name, molecular weight and structure of the components of the material were ascertained by use of the library (31). The spectrum of the unknown components was compared to the 2008 version, through which the various spectra extractions and interpretation were obtained. The relative percentage of amount of each component was estimated by comparing its average peak area to the total area (31,32). To be assured of accuracy, the obtained compound data were compared to the NCBI pubchem data base (33), and in the event that the compound was yet to be properly identified, hyphen (-) was input, suggesting further investigation.

Results

The results from the GC-MS Analysis, showed various bioactive compound in the aqueous ethanol extract (Table 1), dichloromethane extract (Table 2), and n-hexane extract (Table 3) of *C. pepo* seed. This was evident from the peaks in the GC-MS chromatogram, which were identified according to their retention time (Figs. 1, 2, & 3 for aqueous ethanol, dichloromethane, and n-hexane extracts respectively).

The compounds identified in the aqueous ethanol seed extracts were n-Hexadecanoic acid (41.01%), Hexadecanoic acid, ethyl ester and Tetradecanoic acid, ethyl ester (9.7%); 9,12-Octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z) - (39.11); 9,12-Octadecadienoic acid, ethyl ester, and Ethyl 9.cis.,11.trans.-octadecadienoate (7.22%); Octadecenoic acid, ethyl ester and Heptadecanoic acid, 15-methyl-, ethyl ester (2.95%).

The compounds identified in the dichloromethane seed extracts were 2,4-Decadienal, (E,E)- and 4-Ethylcyclohexanol (0.07%); Tetradecanoic acid (0.40%); 1-Hexadecanol, 2-methyl-, cis-11-Hexadecenal, and Cyclododecanol, 1-ethenyl- (0.11%); Hexadecanoic acid, methyl ester (Methyl-palmitate) and

Pentadecanoic acid, 14-methyl-, methyl ester (2.3%); n-Hexadecanoic acid (31.2%); 9,12-Octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z)-, methyl ester (Methyl lineoleate), 11,14-Octadecadienoic acid, methyl ester, and 8,11-Octadecadienoic acid, methyl ester (3.56%); Octadecenoic acid, methyl ester, Heptadecanoic acid, 16-methyl-, methyl ester, and Octadecenoic acid, methyl ester (0.75%); 9,12-Octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z)- (46.58%); Octadecenoic acid (5.13%); Cyclopropaneoctanal, 2-octyl-, 11-Dodecen-1-ol trifluoroacetate (3.44%); Methyl 5,12-octadecadienoate (0.44%); (Z)6, (Z)9-Pentadecadien-1-ol (0.66%); 9,12,15-Octadecatrienoic acid, (Z,Z,Z)- (1.34%); Eicosanoic acid, Z,Z-10,12-Hexadecadien-1-ol acetate (0.90%); 9,17-Octadecadienal, (Z)- (0.27%); Quinoline, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-1-((2-phenylcyclopropyl) sulfonyl)-, trans-, Indan, 1-methyl-, and Silane, (1,2-dimethylpropoxy)trimethyl- (0.40%), Silane, dimethyl(2-methoxyethoxy)octadecyloxy-, Isophthalic acid, propyl undec-2-en-1-yl ester, and 1-Penten-3-one, 1-(2,6,6-trimethyl-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)- (0.28%); 4-(3,4,5,6-Tetrahydroxy-2-oxo-hexylamino)-benzonitrile, Cyclopropane, 2-bromo-1-methyl-1-phenyl-, and 5.beta.-Cholestane-3.alpha.,7.alpha.,12.alpha.,24.alpha.,25-pentol TMS (0.85%); 9,12-Octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z)-, 2-hydroxy-1-(hydroxymethyl) ethyl ester, Benzene, (2-methylcyclopropyl)-, and Benzene, 1-ethenyl-4-ethyl- (0.28%), 9,12-Octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z)-, 2,3-dihydroxypropyl ester, and 2-hydroxy-1-(hydroxymethyl)ethyl ester E, Z-1,3,12-Nonadecatriene (0.30%); Barbituric acid, 5-allyl-5-(cyclohex-2-en-1-yl)-, 5,6-Dihydroergosterol, and Benz[e]azulene-3,8-dione, 5-[(acetyloxy)methyl]-3a,4,6a,7,9,10,10a,10b-octahydro-3a,10a-dihydroxy-2,10-dimethyl-,3a.alpha.,6a.alpha.,10.beta.,10a.beta.,10b.beta.)-(+)- (0.10%), 3'-Chlorooxanilic acid N'-(3-ethoxy-4-hydroxybenzylidene)hydrazide, and 2-(Acetoxymethyl)-3-(methoxycarbonyl)biphenylene, and Silane, 1,4-phenylenebis[trimethyl] (0.08%).

The compounds identified in the n-hexane seed extracts were 2-Ethoxyethoxy-trimethylsilane 1-Butyl(dimethyl)silyloxypropane, and Silane, ethoxytrimethyl- (1.04%), Hexadecanoic acid, methyl ester (7.44%), n-Hexadecanoic acid (1.31%; 2.06%; and 1.50%); 9,12-Octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z) – and 9,17-Octadecadienal, (Z)- (14.5%; 11.3%), 9,12-Octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z) – (11.3%; 1.8%;), trans-13-Octadecenoic acid (1.80%), 1H-Indole-3-ethanamine,

trans-N-tert-Butoxycarbonyl-4-hydroxy-L-proline, and 2,3-Difluorophenol (5.35%); Hexane, 2,5-bis[(trimethylsilyl)oxy]-, 3-Dimethylsilyloxy-6-ethyloctane, and Benzoic acid, 2-amino-, 3-phenyl-2 (3.62%); Silane, dimethyl(2-methoxyethoxy)octadecyloxy-, (22R)-6.alpha.,11.beta.,21-Trihydroxy-16.alpha.,17.alpha.-propylmethylenedioxyprogna-1,4-diene-3,20-dione, and Galactopyranose, 1,2,3,4,6-pentakis-O-(trimethylsilyl)-, .beta.-d- (2.70%); Cyclopropane, 2-bromo-1-methyl-1-phenyl-, 4-(3,4,5,6-Tetrahydroxy-2-oxo-hexylamino)-benzonitrile, and 7-Oxo-1,3,5-cycloheptatriene-1-carbonitrile (13.76%); 1H-Indole, 1-methyl-, .alpha.-Ethyltryptamine (8.30%); 9,12-Octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z)-,2-hydroxy-1- (hydroxymethyl)ethyl ester (2-Linoleoylglycerol), Methyl 9,12-heptadecadienoate, and Z,E-7,11-Hexadecadien-1-yl acetate (5.06%); Quinolin-5(6H)-one, 7,8-dihydro-2-hydroxy-4,7,7-trimethyl-, and Benzeneacetonitrile, 3,4-diethoxy- (5.42%); 2,6,10,14,18,22-Tetracosahexaene, 2,6,10,15,19,23-hexamethyl-, (all-E)- (14.06%); Stigmasta-7,16-dien-3-ol, (3.beta.,5.alpha.)-, Quinazolin-4(1H)-one, 2,3-dihydro-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-ethyl-2 methyl-, and Chondrillasterol (1.14%).

Discussion

In this scientific report, some common bioactive compounds of significant therapeutic importance are highlighted. All three extracts had significant amount of Palmitic acid (n-Hexadecanoic acid, the -ethyl and -methyl esters with scientific evidences that show they potentiate inflammatory response through inhibition of the cyclooxygenase II and phospholipase A2 enzymes (34–37), as well as potentiates inflammatory response and apoptotic mechanisms through inflammasome-mediated secretion of IL-1 β (38,39) and TNF- α respectively (40). The antioxidant, hypocholesterolaemic, lubricant, and antiandrogenic effects have also been reported (41). Studies also found that that palmitic acid (PA) blocks the entry of the virus through specific inhibition of HIV-1 fusion (42,43).

Octadecenoic acid

Linoleic acid (9,12-Octadecadienoic acid) and associated compounds (the conjugated forms, cis-, and ester. Kiralan (2021) described the isomerization and bio hydrogenation of linoleic acid to formation of cis,trans-9,11-octadecadienoic acid and (or) trans,cis-10,12-octadecadienoic acid, trans-11-octadecaenoic acid and (or) trans-10-octadecaenoic acid, and lastly monoenoic acids to the saturated stearic acid (Octadecenoic acid) (44). α -Linoleic acid precursors that are members of ω -3 fats: eicosanoids eicosapentaenoic acid, and Docosahexaenoic acid. The 3 series prostaglandins, 5 series leukotrienes, and thromboxane A₃ from eicosapentaenoic acid exhibit anti-inflammatory, vasodilatory, and platelet anti-aggregatory abilities capable of controlling pulmonary and cardiac diseases (45,46). Docosahexaenoic acid produces resolvins, protectins, and maresins, which suppress inflammation and augment phagocytosis that reduces microbial loads; a very important activity in reducing the complications in COVID-19 and might be a preventive measure (47).

As against the understanding that saturated fatty acids in general, and palmitic acid (C16:0) in particular elevates LDL cholesterol and increases the risk of atherosclerosis (48–50). Dietary stearic acid (C18:0), on the other hand, is not associated with atherosclerosis risk, but with the reduction of LDL cholesterol by increasing endogenous cholesterol excretion, reducing reabsorption of cholesterol, without altering the bile concentration (51–54).

Barbituric acid and its derivatives are well known for their anticancer, antibacterial, and anti-sclerotic, anticonvulsant, antispasmodic, hypotensive hypnotic and sedative. There are recognised matrix metalloproteinase inhibitors, anticonvulsants, and anti-inflammatory and anxiolytic agents, as well as being used in local anaesthesia (55–58).

Conclusion

Of the over 434 activities present in *C. pepo*, palmitic, stearic, linoleic compounds and their derivatives were bioactive compounds found in all three extracts. Scientific evidences suggest that palmitic, stearic, linoleic, barbituric acids, and their derivatives have significant biological effects. Compounds without

documented scientific evidence such as Silane, dimethyl(2-methoxyethoxy)octadecyl-, (22R)-6.alpha.,11.beta.,21 Trihydroxy-16.alpha.,17.alpha.-propylmethylenedioxypregna-1,4-diene-3,20-dione, and Galactopyranose, 1,2,3,4,6-pentakis-O-(trimethylsilyl)-, .beta.-d- were found in n-hexane, while 2-hydroxy-1-(hydroxymethyl)ethyl ester E, Z-1,3,12-Nonadecatriene was found in dichloromethane extracts. Results of this study may provide a foundation for the application of *C. pepo* in nonclinical setting and the designing new drug for several clinical purposes.

ETHICAL APPROVAL.

Ethical approval was obtained from the university of Port Harcourt research ethics committee with Reference number UPH/CEREMAD/REC/MM83/038

Table 1: Chemical composition of aqueous ethanol extracts of *C. pepo* seed.

Extracts	S/N	Compound(s)	Molecular weight	Formulae	Retention Time (min)	Peak Area (%)
Aqueous ethanol	1	n-Hexadecanoic acid (Palmitic acid)	256.4	C ₁₆ H ₃₂ O ₂	13.18	41.01
	2	Hexadecanoic acid, ethyl ester (Ethyl-palmitate)	284.5	C ₁₈ H ₃₆ O ₂	13.351	9.7
	3	Tetradecanoic acid, ethyl ester (Ethyl-Myristate)	280.4	C ₁₈ H ₃₂ O ₂	14.327	39.11
	4	9,12-Octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z) - (Cis-Linoleic acid)	308.5	C ₂₀ H ₃₆ O ₂	14.457	7.22
		9,12-Octadecadienoic acid, ethyl ester (Linoleic acid ethyl ester)				

Ethyl 9.cis.,11.trans.-octadecadienoate (C1a 9C,11TR free fatty acid)

Octadecenoic acid, ethyl ester (Stearic acid)

5	Heptadecanoic acid, 15-methyl-, ethyl ester (Margaric acid methyl ester)	312.5	$C_{20}H_{40}O_2$	14.645	2.95
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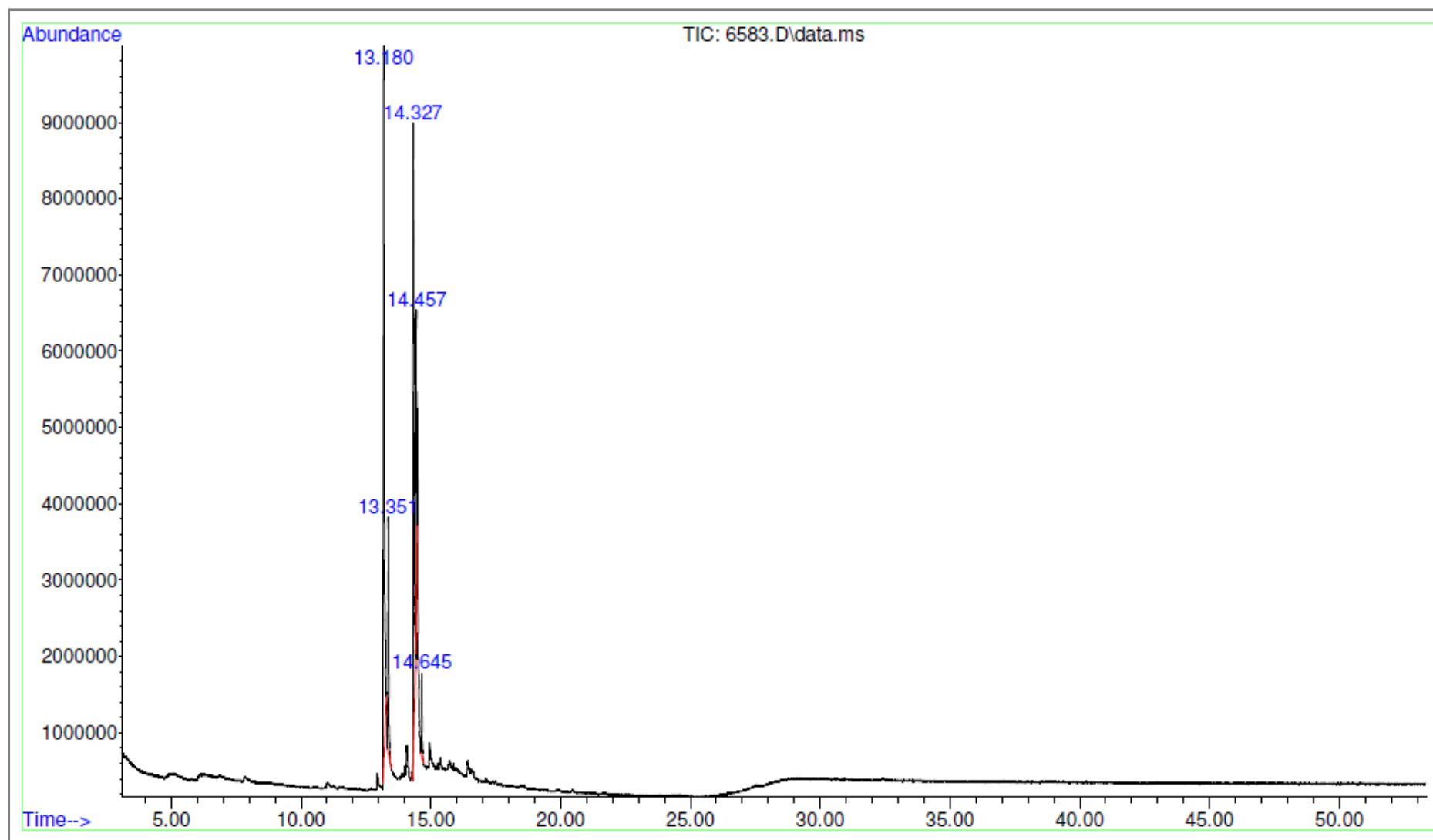


Figure 1: GC-MS chromatogram of aqueous ethanol extract of *C. pepo* seeds

Table 2: Chemical composition of aqueous dichloromethane extracts of *C. pepo* seed.

Extracts	S/N	Compound(s)	Molecular weight (g/mol)	Formulae	Retention Time (min)	Peak Area (%)
Dichloromethane	1	2,4-Decadienal, (E,E)- 2,4-Decadienal	152.2	C ₁₀ H ₁₆ O	8.075	0.07
	2	4-Ethylcyclohexanol Tetradecanoic acid (Mysteric acid)	128.21 228.37	C ₈ H ₁₆ O C ₁₄ H ₂₈ O ₂	11.769	0.40
	3	1-Hexadecanol, 2-methyl- cis-11-Hexadecenal	256.5 238.41	C ₁₇ H ₃₆ O C ₁₆ H ₃₀ O	12.575	0.11
	4	Cyclododecanol, 1-ethenyl- Hexadecanoic acid, methyl ester (Methyl-palmitate)	210.36 270.5	C ₁₄ H ₂₆ O C ₁₇ H ₃₄ O ₂	12.875	2.03
	5	Pentadecanoic acid, 14-methyl-, methyl ester n-Hexadecanoic acid (Palmitic acid)	256.4	C ₁₆ H ₃₂ O ₂	13.48	31.22
	6	9,12-Octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z)-, methyl ester (Methyl lineoleate) 11,14-Octadecadienoic acid, methyl ester	294.5	C ₁₉ H ₃₄ O ₂	14.045	3.56
	7	8,11-Octadecadienoic acid, methyl ester Octadecenoic acid, methyl ester (Methyl stearate)	298.5	C ₁₉ H ₃₈ O ₂	14.227	0.75
	8	Heptadecanoic acid, 16-methyl-, methyl ester Octadecenoic acid, methyl ester	280.4	C ₁₈ H ₃₂ O ₂	14.633	46.58
	9	9,12-Octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z)- (Cis-Linoleic acid) Octadecenoic acid (Stearic acid)	284.5	C ₁₈ H ₃₆ O ₂	14.874	5.13
	10	Cyclopropaneoctanal, 2-octyl- 11-Dodecen-1-ol trifluoroacetate	280.5 280.33	C ₁₉ H ₃₆ O C ₁₄ H ₂₃ F ₃ O ₂	14.992	3.44
	11	Methyl 5,12-octadecadienoate	294.5	C ₁₉ H ₃₄ O ₂	15.404	0.44
	12	(Z)6, (Z)9-Pentadecadien-1-ol	224.38	C ₁₅ H ₂₈ O	15.492	0.66
	13	9,12,15-Octadecatrienoic acid, (Z,Z,Z)- (alpha-Linolenic acid)	278.4	C ₁₈ H ₃₀ O ₂	15.627	1.34
	14	Eicosanoic acid (Arachidic acid) Z,Z-10,12-Hexadecadien-1-ol acetate	312.5 280.4	C ₂₀ H ₄₀ O ₂ C ₁₈ H ₃₂ O ₂	15.821	0.90

15	9,17-Octadecadienal, (Z)- (Linolenic acid)	264.4	C ₁₈ H ₃₂ O	16.186	0.27
	Quinoline, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-1-((2-phenylcyclopropyl)sulfonyl)-, trans-	313.4	C ₁₈ H ₁₉ NO ₂ S		
16	Indan, 1-methyl-	132.2	C ₁₀ H ₁₂	16.692	0.40
	Silane, (1,2-dimethylpropoxy)trimethyl-	160.33	C ₈ H ₂₀ OSi		
	Silane, dimethyl(2-methoxyethoxy)octadecyloxy-	402.7	C ₂₃ H ₅₀ O ₃ Si		
17	Isophthalic acid, propyl undec-2-en-1-yl ester	360.5	C ₂₂ H ₃₂ O ₄	17.715	0.28
	1-Penten-3-one, 1-(2,6,6-trimethyl-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-	206.32	C ₁₄ H ₂₂ O		
	4-(3,4,5,6-Tetrahydroxy-2-oxo-hexylamino)-benzonitrile	280.28	C ₁₃ H ₁₆ N ₂ O ₅		
18	Cyclopropane, 2-bromo-1-methyl-1-phenyl-	211.1	C ₁₀ H ₁₁ Br	18.151	0.85
	5.beta.-Cholestane-3.alpha.,7.alpha.,12.alpha.,24.alpha.,25-pentol TMS	813.6	C ₄₂ H ₈₈ O ₅ Si ₅		
	9,12-Octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z)-, 2-hydroxy-1-(hydroxymethyl) ethyl ester (2-Linoleoylglycerol)	354.5	C ₂₁ H ₃₈ O ₄	18.374	0.28
19	Benzene, (2-methylcyclopropyl)-	132.2	C ₁₀ H ₁₂		
	Benzene, 1-ethenyl-4-ethyl-	132.2	C ₁₀ H ₁₂		
	9,12-Octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z)-, 2,3-dihydroxypropyl ester	354.5	C ₂₁ H ₃₈ O ₄		
20	2-hydroxy-1-(hydroxymethyl)ethyl ester E, Z-1,3,12-Nonadecatriene	-	-	19.845	0.3
21	Barbituric acid, 5-allyl-5-(cyclohex-2-en-1-yl)-	248.28	C ₁₃ H ₁₆ N ₂ O ₃		
	5,6-Dihydroergosterol	398.7	C ₂₈ H ₄₆ O		
	Benz[e]azulene-3,8-dione, 5-[(acetyloxy)methyl]-			29.985	0.1
	3a,4,6a,7,9,10,10a,10b-octahydro-3a,10a-dihydroxy-2,10-dimethyl-,3a.alpha.,6a.alpha.,10.beta.,10a.beta.,10b.beta.)-(+)-	348.4	C ₁₉ H ₂₄ O ₆		
	3'-Chlorooxanilic acid N'-(3-ethoxy-4-hydroxybenzylidene)hydrazide	361.8	C ₁₇ H ₁₆ ClN ₃ O ₄		
22	2-(Acetoxymethyl)-3-(methoxycarbonyl)biphenylene	282.29	C ₁₇ H ₁₄ O ₄	30.768	0.08
	Silane, 1,4-phenylenebis[trimethyl	222.47	C ₁₂ H ₂₂ Si ₂		

UNDER PEER REVIEW

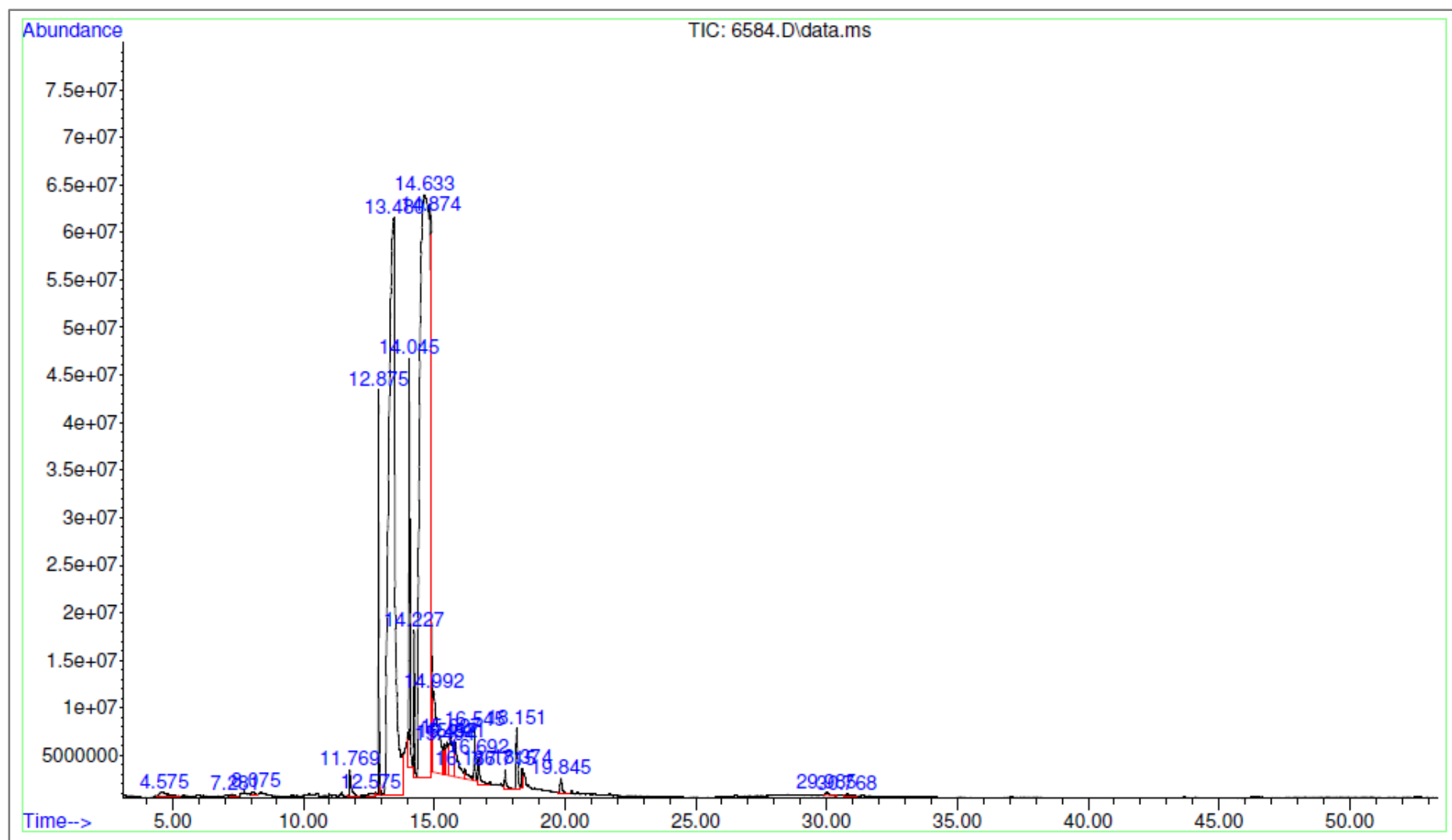


Figure 2: GC-MS chromatogram of dichloromethane extract of *C. pepo* seeds

Table 3: Chemical composition of aqueous n-hexane extracts of *C. pepo* seed.

Extracts	S/N	Compound(s)	Molecular weight (g/mol)	Formulae	Retention Time (min)	Peak Area (%)
n-hexane	1	2-Ethoxyethoxy-trimethylsilane	162.30	C ₇ H ₁₈ O ₂ Si	4.240	1.04
		1-Butyl(dimethyl)silyloxypropane	174.36	C ₉ H ₂₂ OSi		
		Silane, ethoxytrimethyl-	118.25	C ₅ H ₁₄ OSi		
	2	Hexadecanoic acid, methyl ester (Methyl-palmitate)	270.50	C ₁₇ H ₃₄ O ₂	12.886	7.44
		Pentadecanoic acid, 14-methyl-, methyl ester				
		Hexadecanoic acid, methyl ester				
	3				13.374	1.31
	4	n-Hexadecanoic acid (Palmitic acid)	256.40	C ₁₆ H ₃₂ O ₂	13.527	2.06
	5				13.757	1.50
	6	9,12-Octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z) - (Cis-Linoleic acid)	280.40	C ₁₈ H ₃₂ O ₂	14.598	14.15
		9,17-Octadecadienal, (Z)-	264.40	C ₁₈ H ₃₂ O		
	7	9,12-Octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z) - (Cis-Linoleic acid)	280.40	C ₁₈ H ₃₂ O ₂	14.704	11.30
			280.40	C ₁₈ H ₃₂ O ₂		
	8	trans-13-Octadecenoic acid	282.50	C ₁₈ H ₃₄ O ₂	15.239	1.8
		1H-Indole-3-ethanamine	160.22	C ₁₀ H ₁₂ N ₂		
	9	trans-N-tert-Butoxycarbonyl-4-hydroxy-L-proline	231.25	C ₁₀ H ₁₇ NO ₅	16.662	5.35
		2,3-Difluorophenol	130.09	C ₆ H ₄ F ₂ O		
	10	Hexane, 2,5-bis[(trimethylsilyl)oxy]-	262.54	C ₁₂ H ₃₀ O ₂ Si ₂	16.815	3.62
		3-Dimethylsilyloxy-6-ethyloctane	215.43	C ₁₂ H ₂₇ OSi		
		Benzoic acid, 2-amino-, 3-phenyl-2	253.29	C ₁₆ H ₁₅ NO ₂		
		Silane, dimethyl(2-methoxyethoxy)octadecyloxy-	-	-		
	11	(22R)-6.alpha.,11.beta.,21-Trihydroxy-16.alpha.,17.alpha.-propylmethylenedioxypregna-1,4-diene-3,20-dione	-	-	17.809	2.7
		Galactopyranose, 1,2,3,4,6-pentakis-O-(trimethylsilyl)-.beta.-d-	-	-		
		Cyclopropane, 2-bromo-1-methyl-1-phenyl-	211.10	C ₁₀ H ₁₁ Br		
	12	4-(3,4,5,6-Tetrahydroxy-2-oxo-hexylamino)-benzonitrile	280.28	C ₁₃ H ₁₆ N ₂ O ₅	18.256	13.76
		7-Oxo-1,3,5-cycloheptatriene-1-carbonitrile	131.13	C ₈ H ₅ NO		

13	1H-Indole, 1-methyl-	131.17	C ₉ H ₉ N	18.527	8.3
	.alpha.-Ethyltryptamine	188.27	C ₁₂ H ₁₆ N ₂		
14	9,12-Octadecadienoic acid (Z,Z)-,2-hydroxy-1- (hydroxymethyl)ethyl ester (2-Linoleoylglycerol)	354.50	C ₂₁ H ₃₈ O ₄	18.874	5.06
	Methyl 9,12-heptadecadienoate	280.40	C ₁₈ H ₃₂ O ₂		
	Z,E-7,11-Hexadecadien-1-yl acetate	280.40	C ₁₈ H ₃₂ O ₂		
	Quinolin-5(6H)-one, 7,8-dihydro-2-hydroxy-4,7,7-trimethyl-	205.25	C ₁₂ H ₁₅ NO ₂		
15	Benzeneacetonitrile, 3,4-diethoxy-	205.25	C ₁₂ H ₁₅ NO ₂	19.939	5.42
	2,6,10,14,18,22-Tetracosahexaene, 2,6,10,15,19,23-hexamethyl-, (all-E)- (Squalene)	410.70	C ₃₀ H ₅₀		
	Stigmasta-7,16-dien-3-ol, (3.beta.,5.alpha.)-	412.7	C ₂₉ H ₄₈ O		
	Quinazolin-4(1H)-one, 2,3-dihydro-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-ethyl-2-methyl-	300.8	C ₁₇ H ₁₇ ClN ₂ O		
17	Chondrillasterol	412.7	C ₂₉ H ₄₈ O	29.991	1.14

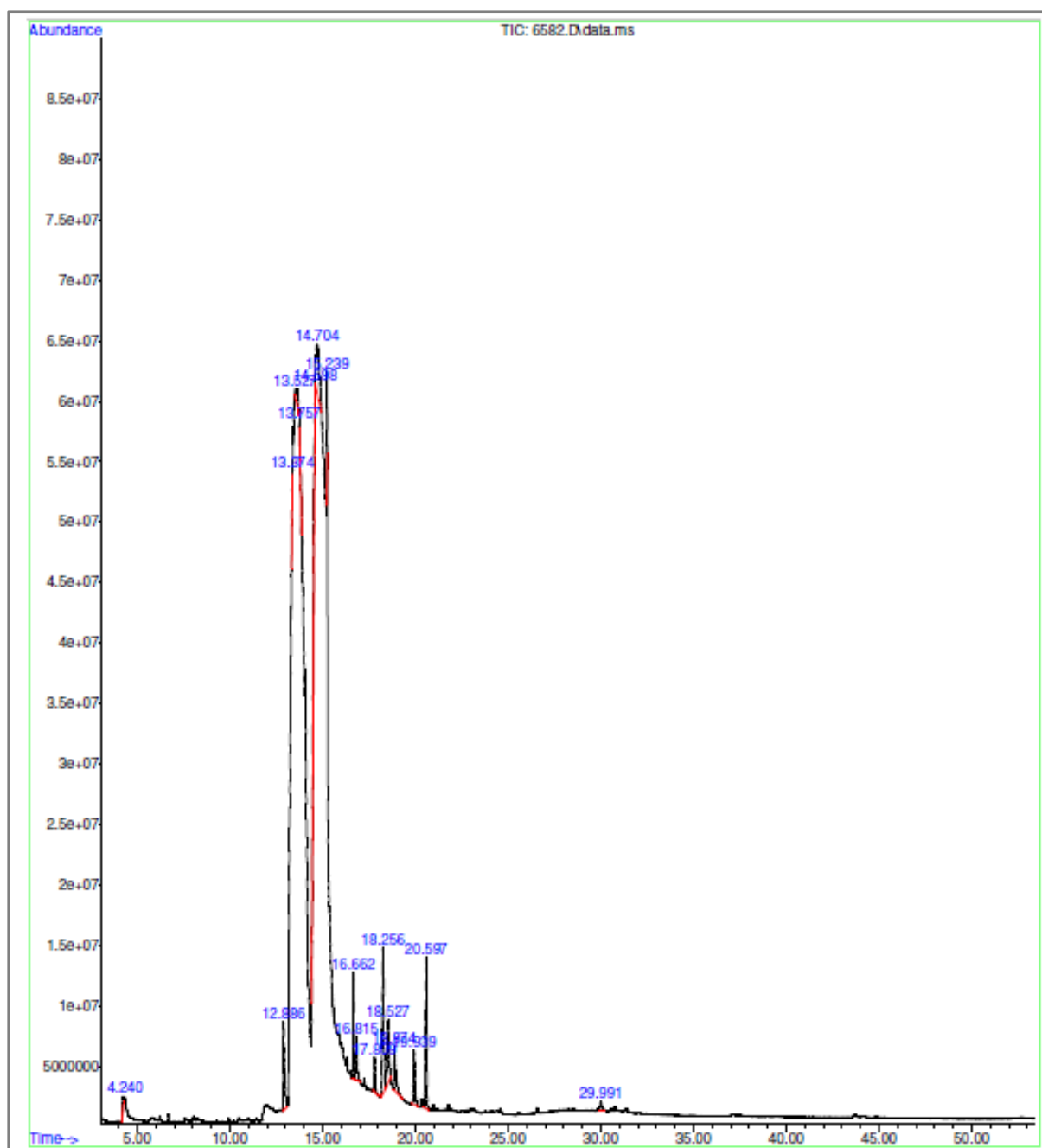


Figure 3: GC-MS chromatogram of n-hexane extract of *C. pepo* seeds

COMPETING INTERESTS DISCLAIMER:

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist. The products used for this research are commonly and predominantly used products in our area of research and country. There is absolutely no conflict of interest between the authors and producers of the products because we do not intend to use these products as an avenue for any litigation but for the advancement of knowledge. Also, the research was not funded by the producing company rather it was funded by personal efforts of the authors.

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AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

'Anyanwu .C.F designed the study, performed the statistical analysis, the protocol, and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. 'O.A managed the literature searches, while 'U.O' and 'E.A' managed the analyses of the study. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.'

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