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The optimized traditional shea butter as a potential organic fat for personalized medicine

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Traditional shea butter has increasing demand throughout the world which is directly linked to its intrinsic biochemical properties. There are various processes that induced several qualities of shea butter, but author has set up the optimized traditional processes which lead to shea butter in conformity with international standards and presenting interesting nutritive and cosmetic/pharmaceutical potentials. It consists of a creamy fat which is UV-visible and infrared spectra revealed anti-UV compounds, carotenoids and chlorophyll. Tocopherols (3788.44 ± 1.90 ppm), vitamin A equivalent ($0,065\pm 0,001$ g/100g), and various fatty acids (oleic, linoleic, linolenic, arachidic, palmitic and stearic) and exaltolide which is an unusual compound of shea butter were also found. pH (06.78 ± 0.30) was nearby neutral and unsaponifiable ($17.61\pm0.01\%$) content is very high. Above all, its moisture (0.15%), acid (0.280 ± 0.001 mg KOH/g) and peroxide (0.960 ± 0.001 mEgO$_2$/kg) indexes were at far lower than those ($8.36\pm0.02\%$, 14.97 ± 0.33 mg KOH/g and 17.92 ± 0.50 mEgO$_2$/kg, respectively) of ordinary traditional shea butter. These potentials would place the optimized shea butter at the level of valuable organic (Bio) vegetable fat exploitable in preventive and curative medicine. Moreover, it would contribute to improve rural woman-producers living standard.

Biography

Megnanou Rose-Monde is an Associate Professor in Biochemistry at University Félix Houphouët-Boigny, where she has completed her PhD in Biochemistry/Food Sciences. She has more than 30 scientific publications about various biological materials (shea butter, yellow cassava, qp maize, plantain, vegetable-leaves and cow-milk) published in reputed scientific journals. She has skills in statistical analyses (descriptive statistic, ANOVA, ACP, CAH, AFD), microbiology tests (germs numeration and identification), molecular biology techniques (DNA extraction, enzymatic digestion, western blot, etc.) and various biochemical and physicochemical parameters determination.

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