

1 **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

2 **Inhibitory effect of selected Indian honeys in colon cancer cell growth by**
3 **inducing apoptosis and targeting β -catenin/Wnt pathway**

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32 **1. Supplementary Material Method 1:**

33 **Biochemical analyses of honey**

34 *1.1. Sample preparation*

35 For this, 5 ml of both mustard (MS) and multi-floral (MF) honey were lyophilized to obtain the
36 powdered form of them. This lyophilized powder was either freshly used or kept at -20 °C before
37 their biochemical analyses. Then 200 mg of lyophilized powder was dissolved in 1 ml of methanol
38 and filtered through 0.45-micron filter and filtered methanolic extract was used for following
39 biochemical analyses.

40 *1.2. Estimation of total soluble sugar*

41 Total soluble sugar content was estimated by using anthrone reagent. Briefly, 200 µL of the filtered
42 methanolic extract was added into 800 µL of the anthrone solution (0.2% in concentrated H₂SO₄)
43 and then heated for 10 min in a boiling water bath followed by cooling down to room temperature.
44 The absorbance was then measured at 620 nm against reagent blank. The sugar content was
45 estimated from standard curve plotted with glucose as the standard. Total soluble sugar content
46 was expressed as gm glucose percentage (%) (gm glucose equivalent per 100 gm lyophilized
47 honey).

48 *1.3. Estimation of reducing sugar*

49 Reducing sugar content was estimated using Somagi's reagent and arsenomolybdate reagent. The
50 reaction was started by adding 250 µL of the methanolic honey extract and 250 µL of Somagi's
51 reagent (4 mL of reagent A and 1 mL of reagent B mixed well just before the reaction), mixed well
52 and then incubated at 100 °C for 10 min in a water bath. After cooling down the contents to room
53 temperature, 1 mL of arsenomolybdate reagent was added to it. The blue green colour was
54 developed which was measured by taking absorbance at 640 nm against reagent blank. The values
55 of reducing sugar were calculated from a calibration curve prepared using standard glucose
56 solution. Reducing sugar content was expressed as gm glucose percentage (%) (gm glucose
57 equivalent per 100 gm lyophilized honey).

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61 **1.4. Estimation of non-reducing sugar**

62 Non-reducing sugar content was estimated by subtracting the content of reducing sugar from the
63 total soluble sugar and expressed as gram glucose percentage (%) (gram glucose equivalent per
64 100 g lyophilized honey).

65 **1.5. Estimation of total phenolic and total flavonoid content**

66 Total phenolic content (TPC) was estimated by using Folin-Ciocalteu reagent. Briefly, 0.1 mL of
67 the methanolic extract was mixed with 0.5 mL of diluted Folin-Ciocalteu reagent (dilution 1:9
68 with water) and then after 5 min incubation at room temperature, 0.4 mL of sodium carbonate (5%
69 w/v) was added to the mixture. The entire mixture was then kept in dark at room temperature.
70 After 20 min of incubation, absorbance was measured at 765 nm against a reagent blank. TPC was
71 expressed as mg gallic acid equivalents (GAE) per 100 gm lyophilized honey (mg GAE/100 gm).
72 Total flavonoid content (TFC) was estimated by aluminum chloride method. To measure TFC, 0.5
73 mL of methanolic extract was added to 0.5 mL of 2% AlCl₃ solution (prepared in ethanol) and
74 incubated at room temperature for 1 h. After that the absorbance was measured at 420 nm. TFC
75 was expressed as mg quercetin (QE) equivalents per 100 gm lyophilized honey (mg QE/100 gm).

76 **1.6. Estimation of antioxidant activity by oxygen radical antioxidant capacity (ORAC) assay**

77 The ORAC assay was carried out by using the oxygen radical antioxidant capacity kit (ORAC kit,
78 ab233473, Abcam, Cambridge, MA, USA). The analyses were performed at 37°C using a pH 7.4
79 phosphate buffer. The peroxide radicals were produced by 2,20 -Azobis(2-amidinopropane)
80 dihydrochloride (AAPH), using fluorescein as substrate and Trolox as standard. Each well of the
81 plate reader contained in a final volume of 200 µL assay solutions: fluorescein (16.7 nM), 1–50
82 mg/mL of honey and AAPH 2.2 mg/mL (final concentration). The fluorescence intensity was
83 measured every 2 min for 1 h. A calibration curve of Trolox in the concentration range 10 to 100
84 µM was used in each plate read. All determinations were made in triplicates. ORAC values were
85 then calculated as area under the curve (AUC) and expressed as µmol Trolox equivalent (TE)/gm.
86 The blank wells in the experiments contained AAPH, fluorescein and phosphate buffer (pH 7.0).

87 **1.7. Metabolite analyses of honey using HPLC-DAD**

88 Methanolic extract of honey was directly analyzed by high performance liquid chromatography
89 diode array detection (HPLC-DAD) system for detection of secondary metabolites. A Waters
90 (Milford, MA, USA) HPLC system consisting of 1525 binary pump and 2998 photodiode array

91 detector (PDA) was used for separation. Chromatographic separation was achieved on Waters C18
92 reversed-phase Xbridge column (150 x 4.6 mm, 5 μ m) with mobile phase consisting of 1% aqueous
93 trifluoroacetic acid (solvent A) and acetonitrile (solvent B). The flow rate was 0.7 mL/min and
94 injection volume were 20 μ L. A gradient elution was performed by varying the proportion of
95 solvent B to solvent A. The gradient elution was changed from 5% to 10% B for duration of 27
96 min, from 10 to 40% B in 75 min, 40% B from 75-80 min, 40 to 42% B in 82 min, then 100% B
97 in 84 min and finally 100% B up to 92 min. Data acquisition and an analysis was performed by
98 Empower 3 Software from Waters. All measurements were carried out at room temperature (~ 25
99 $^{\circ}$ C). The peaks were identified by matching with retention time and UV-spectrum with authentic
100 standards.

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102 **2. Supplementary Material and Method 2:**

103 **2.1. Sample preparation**

104 One mg of lyophilized honey powder was dissolved in 1 mL MeOH and then 2-Phenylphenol (50
105 μ L from 2 mg/mL 2-phenylphenol methanol stock) was added as internal standard to the sample
106 and vortexed vigorously for 5 min followed by overnight incubation at 26 $^{\circ}$ C at 200 RPM in
107 shaking incubator (Rivotek, India). The mixture obtained was further dried in vacuum concentrator
108 (Eppendorf Concentrator plusTM, Eppendorf, USA) at 37 $^{\circ}$ C until a dried powder was obtained.
109 Finally, the dried material was subjected to double derivatization, first with 35 μ L of
110 methoxyamine hydrochloride (20 mg/mL dissolved in pyridine) for 120 min at 37 $^{\circ}$ C and then
111 second derivatization with 50 μ L of MSTFA (N-Methyl-N-(trimethylsilyl)trifluoroacetamide) for
112 30 min at 37 $^{\circ}$ C. Finally, after the double derivatization, the mixture was centrifuged at 13000 x g
113 for 10 min, supernatant was then taken out in a GC glass vial and analysed by GC-MS.
114 Derivatization reaction prepared with empty tube without sample served as the control.

115 **2.2. GC-MS analyses**

116 GC- MS analysis was performed on Agilent 7890 gas chromatograph coupled with an Agilent
117 5977C mass detector (Agilent Technologies, CA, USA). For this, 1 μ L sample was injected using
118 an automatic sampler (7683 B series, Agilent Technologies, CA, USA) in spitless mode. HP-5 MS
119 column (5% phenyl methyl polysiloxane: 30 m x 0.25 mm i.d. x 0.25 μ m, Agilent Technologies,
120 CA, USA) was used for metabolite separation. The temperature program was as follows: initial

121 temperature of 70 °C for 5 min, followed by temperature increase to 270 °C at the ramp rate of
122 4°C /min and kept in hold for 1 min. Finally, the temperature was increased to 300 °C at the ramp
123 rate of 10 °C /min and kept on hold at 300 °C for 15 min. Total run time calculated was 74 min.
124 Helium was used as carrier gas at a flow rate of 1 mL/min. The inlet and MS transfer line
125 temperatures were set to 250 °C and 310 °C respectively. The MS unit was tuned to its maximum
126 sensitivity and the mass range for total ion current was m/z 40-600, and the detector voltage was
127 set at 1700 eV. Each sample was replicated three times. The scan was started after solvent delay
128 of 7 min with scan frequency of 3 S⁻¹ (2.0 Hz) and with mass range of 30-1000 m/z.

129 **2.3. Metabolite identification**

130 Data acquisition, automatic peak detection, mass spectrum deconvolution, and library search were
131 done by Agilent ChemStation™ software and Wsearch pro (www.wsearch.com.au). The
132 metabolites were identified by matching the mass spectra of target metabolite with the NIST-17
133 mass spectral library (National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD, USA),
134 and our in-house mass spectral database that includes several secondary metabolites, amino acids,
135 organic acids, and sugar standards. Metabolites having matching similarity of 80% or more in
136 library search were only considered. All artifact peaks such as plasticizers, column bleed,
137 derivatizing agent peaks were not considered in final calculation. To obtain accurate peak areas
138 for each metabolite, unique quantification masses were considered and specified. Each mass
139 spectrum was carefully analyzed for co-elution detection.

140 **2.4. Multivariate analyses**

141 Raw GC-MS data files were deconvoluted by using Automated Mass Spectral Deconvolution and
142 Identification System (AMDIS) tools available with WsearchPro (www.wsearch.com.au).
143 Resulting peak area data were converted into comma separated values (.csv) format and then
144 uploaded in Metaboanalyst 3.0 (<http://www.metaboanalyst.ca>) for processing. The data were used
145 with log transformation and pareto scaling. To detect the differences in metabolite profiling
146 between MH and MF honey samples, multivariate method of Partial Least Squares Discriminant
147 Analysis (PLS-DA) were conducted. The PLS-DA is a supervised method which was used to
148 maximize the difference of metabolites between stages to detect those metabolites which were
149 demonstrating key role in discriminating the groups. The output for PLS-DA (PC1 Vs PC2) was
150 presented as 2D scores plots. Variable importance in projection (VIP) scores were used to screen

151 PLS-DA data for important features. Heat maps were created using Metaboanalyst 3.0 by applying
152 Euclidean distance measure, the Ward clustering algorithm, autoscale feature under
153 standardization tool and using original data source.

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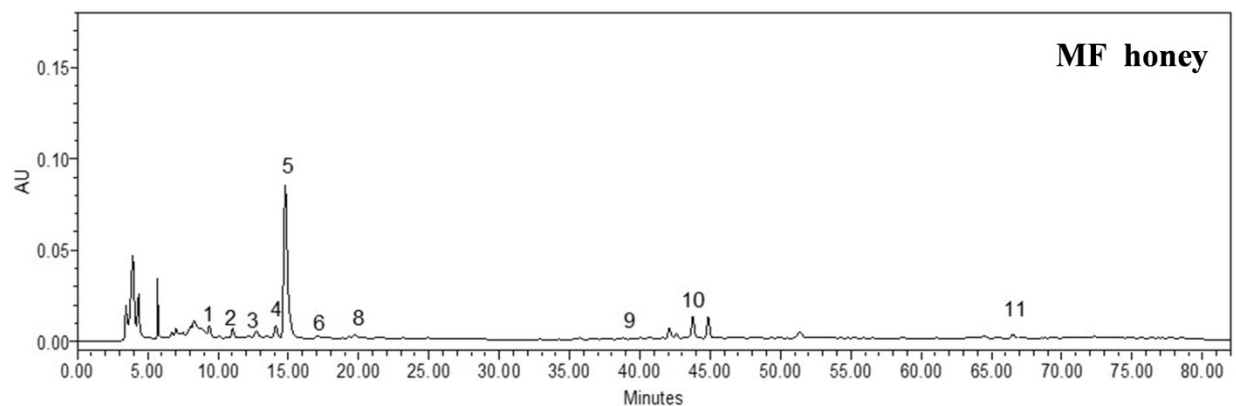
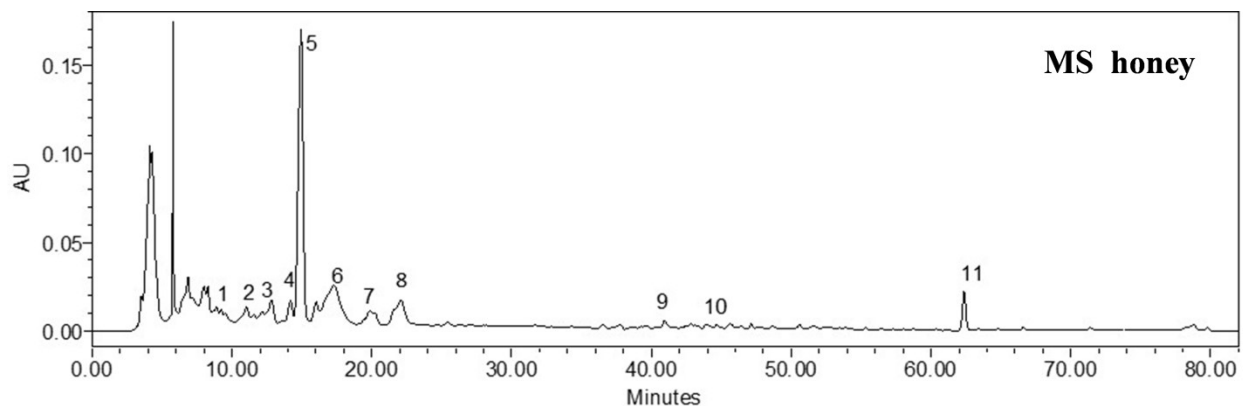
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169 **Supplementary Figure S1.** HPLC chromatogram showing separation of major polyphenols from
 170 honey samples. Key to peak identity: 1, gallic acid; 2, pinocembrin; 3, protocatechuic acid; 4,
 171 caffeic acid; 5,6, unidentified; 7, vanilic acid; 8, vanillin; 9, 4-coumaric acid; 10, syringic acid; 11,
 172 chrysin.

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183 **Supplementary Table T1.** Sequences of primers used in this study

184	TRAF-2	Forward primer	5'-TCTTCTCCCCAGCCTTCTACAC-3'
		Reverse Primer	5'-GGCCCTTCATCACCACAAAG-3'
185	CAS-3	Forward primer	5'-GGTTCATCCAGTCGCTTTGTG-3'
186		Reverse Primer	5'-GCGTCAAAGGAAAAGGACTCA-3'
187	CAS-8	Forward primer	5'-CTGCCTACAGGGTCATGCTCTA-3'
		Reverse Primer	5'-AGCAGGTTTCATGTCATCATCCA-3'
188	CAS-9	Forward primer	5'-AGCACTGTCCCTTGCCTCAAT-3'
		Reverse Primer	5'-AGTGGTTGTCAGGCGAGGAA-3'
189	PARP-1	Forward primer	5'-TACCATCCAGGCTGCTTTGTC-3'
190		Reverse Primer	5'-CCTCTGTAGCAAGGAGGCTGAA-3'
191	β actin	Forward primer	5'-GCATGGGTCAGAAGGATTCCTA-3'
		Reverse Primer	5'-TGTAGAAGGTGTGGTGCCAGAT-3'

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209 **Supplementary Table T2.** Details of antibodies used in this study

Antibodies	Company	Product code	Dilutions
Bax	Santacruz Biotechnology, Inc	SC-20067	1:500
Bcl-XL	Santacruz Biotechnology, Inc	SC-8392	1:1000
p53	Thermo Fisher scientific	MA5-12453	1:1000
β -catenin	Santacruz Biotechnology, Inc	sc-7963	1:1000
p- β -catenin	Santacruz Biotechnology, Inc	sc-57535	1:500
GSK 3 β	Santacruz Biotechnology, Inc	sc-81462	1:500
Axin-1	Thermo Fisher scientific	34-5900	1:1000
Cyclin D1	Thermo Fisher scientific	RM- 9104	1:500
c-Myc	Thermo Fisher scientific	MA1-980	1:500
Survivin	Santacruz Biotechnology, Inc	sc-17779	1:500
GAPDH	Santacruz Biotechnology, Inc	sc-47724	1:1000
β -actin	Santacruz Biotechnology, Inc	sc-47778	1:1000

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225 **Supplementary Table T3.** Estimation of IC₅₀ values of different honey varieties towards
226 HCT15 cell lines after 24 h of incubation

Honey varieties	IC ₅₀ (in mg/mL)
Litchee	101.4 ± 0.77
Tulsi	105.7 ± 0.26
Mustard	57.55 ± 0.52*
Jujube	111.1 ± 0.25
Eucalyptus	97.47 ± 0.15
Multifloral	73.74 ± 0.29*

227 Data are the mean ± SEM of three independent experiments. *, indicates significantly different
228 from all other varieties of honey at p<0.05.

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