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Roberson Pauletto

**ISOLAMENTO DE ANTOCIANINAS MONOMÉRICAS DE ELEVADA
PUREZA UTILIZANDO TÉCNICA DE EXTRAÇÃO EM FASE SÓLIDA**

Santa Maria, RS
2019

Roberson Pauletto

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UTILIZANDO TÉCNICA DE EXTRAÇÃO EM FASE SÓLIDA**

Dissertação apresentada ao Programa de Pós-Graduação em Ciência e Tecnologia dos Alimentos, da Universidade Federal de Santa Maria (UFSM, RS), como requisito parcial para obtenção do título de **Mestre em Ciência e Tecnologia dos Alimentos**

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Coorientadora: Prof.^a Dr. ^a Vivian Caetano Bochi

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em Ciência e Tecnologia dos
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*“Sonhe com aquilo que você quer ser,
porque você possui apenas uma vida
e nela só se tem uma chance
de fazer aquilo que quer.
Tenha felicidade bastante para fazê-la
doce.
Dificuldades para fazê-la forte.
Tristeza para fazê-la humana.
E esperança suficiente para fazê-la feliz.”*

O Sonho - Clarice Lispector -

RESUMO

ISOLAMENTO DE ANTOCIANINAS MONOMÉRICAS DE ELEVADA PUREZA UTILIZANDO TÉCNICA DE EXTRAÇÃO EM FASE SÓLIDA

AUTOR: Roberson Pauletto

ORIENTADORA: Tatiana Emanuelli

COORIENTADORA: Vivian Caetano Bochi

Antocianinas são pigmentos de origem vegetal, pertencentes ao grupo dos flavonoides. Sua coloração pode variar do vermelho-alaranjado ao azul-violeta. As frutas vermelhas (morango, amora-preta, mirtilos, entre outras) são consideradas fontes ricas nestes compostos. As antocianinas isoladas de alta pureza são importantes na área de análises laboratoriais, sendo utilizados como padrões analíticos e em estudos que visam verificar o potencial bioativo das mesmas. Devido ao elevado custo e pouca disponibilidade dos padrões analíticos comerciais, pesquisas vêm sendo realizadas visando o isolamento de antocianinas de fontes vegetais. As técnicas existentes de separação e isolamento de antocianinas a partir de extratos vegetais requerem equipamentos sofisticados e de alto custo de manutenção. Devido a isso, o presente trabalho teve por objetivo desenvolver uma técnica de purificação de antocianinas monoméricas, utilizando cartuchos de extração em fase sólida (do inglês *Solid Phase Extraction*, SPE) para obter padrões de antocianinas de elevada pureza a partir de extratos aquosos de morango (*Fragaria x ananassa* Duch) e amora-preta (*Rubus* sp.). A metodologia desenvolvida utilizou a técnica de extração em fase sólida com cartuchos de SPE C18 1g e gradientes de água ultrapura e metanol (22%), ambos acidificados com 0,35% de ácido fórmico (v/v), com coleta de frações ricas em antocianinas. Os resultados obtidos demonstraram grande eficiência no isolamento de pelargonidina-3-O-glicosídeo (Pg3G) do extrato aquoso do morango, com elevada pureza ($\geq 95\%$), e com ótima estabilidade de armazenamento (60 dias). Também para o isolamento de cianidina-3-O-glicosídeo (Cy3G) do extrato de amora-preta, o método (com adaptações) demonstrou grande eficiência, possibilitando a obtenção de Cy3G de elevada pureza ($\geq 96\%$) e ótima estabilidade no armazenamento (90 dias). O método demonstrou ainda boa reprodutibilidade no isolamento de antocianinas de elevada pureza, quando testado em diferentes cultivares e em diferentes marcas de cartuchos. Os resultados apresentados nesta pesquisa demonstram a possibilidade de obtenção de padrões analíticos de forma rápida, prática e com elevada pureza, tornando-se uma alternativa viável para aplicação em estudos que possam avaliar com mais precisão os efeitos destas antocianinas e seus mecanismos de ação.

Palavras-chave: pelargonidina-3-O-glicosídeo; cianidina-3-O-glicosídeo; isolamento; pureza; método.

ABSTRACT

ISOLATION OF HIGH PURITY MONOMERIC ANTHOCYANINS USING SOLID PHASE EXTRACTION TECHNIQUE

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Anthocyanins are pigments of plant origin, belonging to the group of flavonoids. Their color may vary from orange-red to blue-violet. Red fruits (strawberry, blackberry, blueberries, among others) are considered rich sources in these compounds. High purity isolated anthocyanins are important in the area of laboratory analysis, being used as analytical standards and in studies that aim to verify their bioactive potential. Due to the high cost and low availability of commercial analytical standards, research has been carried out to isolate anthocyanins from plant sources. Existing anthocyanin separation and isolation techniques from plant extracts require sophisticated and costly maintenance equipment. Because of this, the present work aimed to develop a technique of purification of monomeric anthocyanins using solid phase extraction cartridges (SPE) to obtain high purity anthocyanin standard from aqueous extracts of strawberry (*Fragaria x ananassa* Duch) and blackberry (*Rubus* sp.). The methodology was based on the solid phase extraction technique with SPE C18 1g cartridges using ultrapure water and methanol (22%) gradients, both acidified with 0.35% formic acid (v/v), to obtain collection anthocyanin-rich fractions. The method exhibited great efficiency for the isolation of high purity ($\geq 95\%$) pelargonidin-3-O-glucoside from aqueous extract of strawberry, isolated anthocyanin exhibiting excellent storage stability (60 days). Great efficiency was also obtained for the isolation of high purity ($\geq 96\%$) cyanidin-3-O-glucoside (Cy3G) from blackberry extract, using the same method with some modifications. Cy3G had excellent storage stability (90 days). The method also demonstrated good reproducibility in the isolation of high purity anthocyanins when tested using different cultivars and brands of SPE cartridges. The results presented in this research demonstrate the possibility of obtaining analytical standards quickly, practically and with high purity, becoming a viable alternative for application in studies that can more accurately evaluate the effects of these anthocyanins and their mechanisms of action.

Key words: pelargonidin-3-O-glucoside; cyanidin-3-O-glucoside; isolation; purity; method.

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1 INTRODUÇÃO

As antocianinas são compostos fenólicos pertencentes ao grupo dos flavonoides, responsáveis pela coloração que varia do laranja, vermelho ao azul-violeta (WALLACE, *et al.*, 2015). Estes pigmentos são originados no metabolismo secundário das plantas, onde exercem atividades protetoras contra danos oxidativos e radiação solar, além de efeitos antimicrobianos. São encontrados em diversos tecidos vegetais, sendo abundantes em flores e frutos, especialmente, embora não exclusivamente, em frutas vermelhas (BAE *et al.*, 2015; GARCIA-DIAZ, *et al.*, 2015).

Do ponto de vista tecnológico, as antocianinas podem ser utilizadas como corantes naturais em alimentos, em substituição aos aditivos sintéticos. Estes últimos, além de não apresentar valor nutricional, são atualmente apontados como capazes de causar danos à saúde (SIGURDSON *et al.* 2017), com relatos de alergenicidade (FEKETEA, *et al.*, 2017), hiperatividade em crianças (McCANN, *et al.*, 2007), genotoxicidade e carcinogenicidade (OPLATOWSKA-STACHOWIAK, *et al.*, 2015). Isso contribui para o surgimento de uma crescente tendência na indústria de alimentos que visa a substituição de corantes artificiais por pigmentos naturais (SCOTTER, 2011).

Além da segurança para as aplicações tecnológicas, já que esses compostos são oriundos de fontes naturais e comestíveis, as antocianinas ainda apresentam uma série de evidências com relação a sua bioatividade e capacidade de proteção e promoção da saúde através da dieta humana, como efeito anticarcinogênico e antimutagênico (ANANTHARAMAN, *et al.*, 2014), prevenindo a diabetes e a obesidade, podendo atuar como agente neuroprotetor (PRIOR, *et al.*, 2006; TSUDA, *et al.*, 2012) e cardioprotetor (MAZZA, *et al.*, 2007).

As antocianinas isoladas diferem-se umas das outras em suas características estruturais, como no grau de metoxilação da parte aglicona, glicosilações e acilações. O efeito desta diferenciação pode ser mais visível na cor que as mesmas apresentam em pH ácido (cianidina= vermelho, pelargonidina= Laranja), e também estão relacionadas a sua polaridade, solubilidade, taxa de degradação entre outras interações (DAMODARAM, *et al.*, 2010).

No entanto, as pesquisas que evidenciam a ação de antocianinas isoladas (monômeros) são raros. Comumente os trabalhos são realizados utilizando extratos vegetais ricos em antocianinas, com perfis variados destes compostos. O que não possibilita evidenciar a real ação de um único composto(MATERA, *et al.*, 2015). Sendo assim, um dos maiores entraves em pesquisas com antocianinas está no elevado custo e pouca disponibilidade de padrões

analíticos. O que reflete também em resultados analíticos menos precisos, uma vez que são utilizados apenas um número reduzido de padrões, e os resultados são expressos em equivalentes do padrão disponível, o que pode não ser representativo(GOUVÊA, *et al.*, 2012).

Atualmente, um considerado número de trabalhos que visam o isolamento de monômeros de antocianinas de fontes vegetais vem sendo realizado. Geralmente empregam matrizes vegetais com perfil antociânico pouco complexo, onde o composto alvo é abundante. Dessa forma, a fonte mais utilizada para isolamento de pelargonidina-3-O-glicosídeo (Pg3G) tem sido o morango (CEREZO, *et al.*, 2010; ZOU, *et al.*, 2018). Já para o isolamento de cyanidina-3-O-glicosídeo (Cy3G), a amora-preta é uma fonte promissora à ser aplicada, pois este composto representa em torno de 90% do perfil de antocianinas totais (CHAVES, *et al.*, 2018).

As pesquisas de isolamento de isômeros de antocianinas de elevada pureza, a partir de extratos vegetais têm obtido êxito. No entanto, faz-se necessário a utilização de tecnologias de custo considerado elevado, como a cromatografia em de alta velocidade em contra-corrente (THORNTON, *et al.*, 2018; XU, *et al.*, 2017), ou cromatografia líquida com colunas preparativas e coletor de frações(WANG, *et al.*, 2014). Portanto, o desenvolvimento de metodologias mais acessíveis, que permitam a obtenção de monômeros de antocianinas isolados, com grau de pureza comparável a padrões comerciais, é de grande importância para pesquisas com estes compostos.

Estudos recentes demonstraram a possibilidade de separação de frações de antocianinas utilizando cartuchos de SPE. Ahmadiani, *et al.*, (2018) conseguiram desenvolver um método, empregando técnicas combinadas (fase reversa e troca iônica) capaz de promover a separação das antocianinas presentes no extrato de repolho roxo em dois grupos distintos: glicosiladas e aciladas. Devido as características do SPE, é possível que através da utilização de um gradiente de diferentes solventes possa se obter antocianinas isoladas de alta pureza, a partir de extratos vegetais. No entanto, faz-se necessário o desenvolvimento de tal metodologia, e consequentemente, análises de validação que comprovem sua eficácia.

Com base no exposto acima, o objetivo deste trabalho foi desenvolver uma metodologia de isolamento de monômeros de antocianinas de elevada pureza, utilizando extratos vegetais e cartuchos de SPE C18. De forma a obter um método prático, eficiente e que facilmente possa ser reproduzido em qualquer laboratório, sem necessitar de equipamentos e consumíveis de custos elevados.

2 OBJETIVOS

2.1 OBJETIVO GERAL

O objetivo geral deste trabalho foi o desenvolvimento de uma metodologia de isolamento de antocianinas visando à obtenção de padrões analíticos de elevado grau de pureza.

2.2 OBJETIVOS ESPECÍFICOS

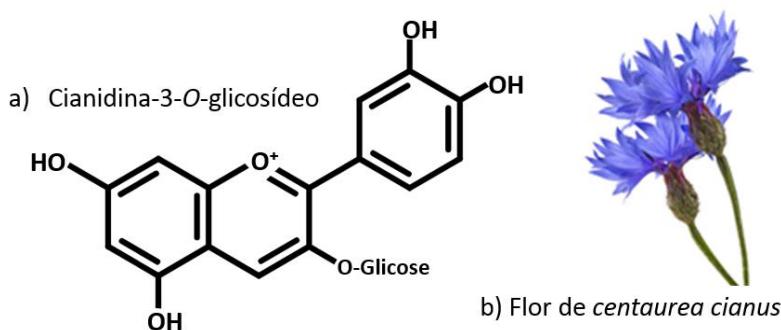
- Desenvolver uma metodologia de isolamento de pelargonidina-3-O-glicosídeo de elevada pureza a partir de morango, utilizando extração em fase sólida de fase reversa (C18);
- Desenvolver uma metodologia de isolamento de cianidina-3-O-glicosídeo de elevada pureza a partir de amora-preta, utilizando extração em fase sólida de fase reversa (C18);
- Avaliar a robustez dos métodos desenvolvidos;
- Avaliar a pureza, rendimento e estabilidade das antocianinas isoladas.

3 REVISÃO BIBLIOGRÁFICA

3.1 ANTOCIANINAS

O termo “antociano” é derivado das palavras gregas “*anthos*” e “*kianos*”, que significa “flor azul” e foi utilizado pelo farmacêutico alemão Ludwig Clamor Marquat (1804-1886) para identificar os pigmentos presentes em flores de *Centaurea cyanus*. Estudos posteriores demonstraram que estes pigmentos estavam combinados a açúcares, o que ocasionou a adição do sufixo “ina”, com isso passou a se designar “antocianinas”, abrangendo toda a classe de pigmentos vegetais derivados de sais de flavílio, independente da coloração apresentada. A primeira antocianina identificada foi a cianidina-3-O-glicosídeo (Figura 1a) extraída de flores de *Centaurea Cyanus* (Figura 1b) por Willstatter e Everst em 1913 (BUENO, et al., 2012; CHAVES, 2014).

Figura 1: Cianidina-3-O-glicosídeo (a), flor de *Centaurea cianus* (b)



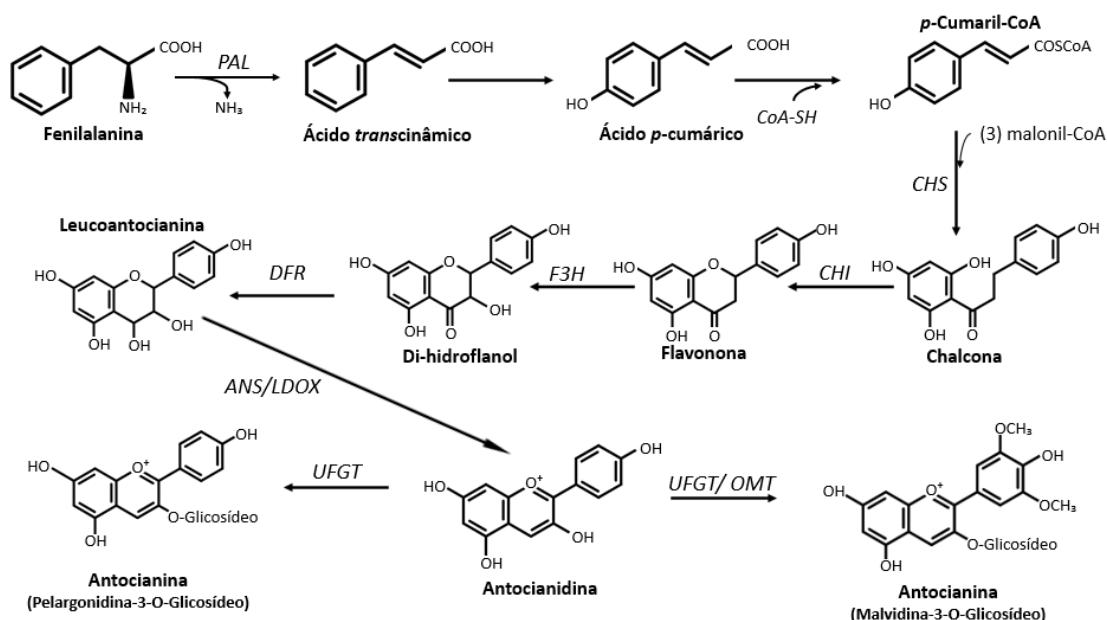
Fonte: Autoria pessoal

No reino vegetal, as antocianinas são responsáveis por uma grande variedade de cores, as quais podem variar em diversas tonalidades de laranja, vermelho, violeta e azul. Sua ocorrência pode ser observada em algumas folhas, caules e raízes, sendo abundantes em flores, frutos e pseudofrutos (WALLACE, et al., 2015). Esses pigmentos são metabólitos secundários das plantas, onde desempenham diversas funções, dentre elas, proteger os tecidos contra os danos causados pelo estresse oxidativo, pela radiação solar, ou pelo ataque de micro-organismos, visto que além de sua ação antioxidante e fotoprotetora, também possui ação antimicrobiana. Além disso, devido a capacidade de conferir cores intensas e atraentes em flores e frutos, as antocianinas desempenham um papel hormonal, atraindo polinizadores e

dispersores de sementes (EIBOND, *et al.*, 2004; HARBORNE, 1967; ONGKOWIJOYO *et al.*, 2018).

A Figura 2 ilustra a biossíntese das antocianinas em vegetais conforme descrito por De La Rosa *et al.* (2019). O processo é regulado pela enzima fenilalanina amonialiase (PAL), e tem como precursores a fenilalanina produzida via rota do ácido chiquímico, e o malonil-CoA derivado da rota do ácido malônico. Ressalta-se que a via metabólica descrita para antocianinas também é responsável pela produção de outros flavonoides como as flavonas, as isoflavonas e os flavonóis. A atividade da PAL está situada entre o metabolismo primário e o metabolismo secundário das plantas, sendo que sua ação catalítica, a qual promove a remoção da molécula de amônia da fenilalanina, produzindo o ácido cinâmico, é fundamental para a formação de muitos compostos fenólicos (ZEIGER, *et al.*, 2006; JAAKOLA, *et al.*, 2013).

Figura 2: Biossíntese das antocianinas em vegetais



Abreviação das enzimas: (PAL) Fenilalanina amonialiase; (CHS) Chalcona sintetase; (CHI) Chalcona isomerase; (F3H) Flavanona 3'-hidroxilase; (DFR) Dihidroflavonol-4-redutase; (ANS) Antocianidina sintetase; (LDOX) Leucoantocianidina dioxigenase; (UFGT) Uridina difosfato-glucose flavonoide 3-O-glucosiltransferase; (OMT) O-metiltransferase.

Fonte: Autoria pessoal

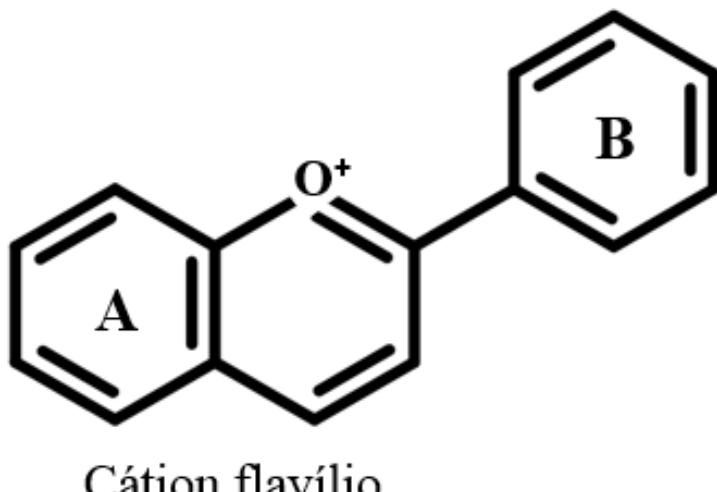
O estudo das antocianinas tem atraído a atenção de pesquisadores devido ao seu potencial poder corante e a possibilidade da aplicação em alimentos em substituição aos corantes artificiais, os quais tem se demonstrado nocivos à saúde. Além disso, diversas pesquisas associam o consumo de dietas ricas nesses compostos, com benefícios à saúde

humana, devido suas propriedades nutracêuticas, atuando como antioxidantes naturais e prevenindo doenças crônicas degenerativas, incluindo câncer e doenças cardiovasculares, entre outras (GOUVÊA, *et al.*, 2012; VEITCH, *et al.*, 2011; WALLACE, *et al.*, 2015).

3.1.1 Estrutura química das antocianinas e seus aspectos

As antocianinas são compostos fenólicos, pertencentes ao grupo dos flavonoides e são caracterizadas pela presença do núcleo básico flavílio que é composto de dois anéis aromáticos ligados por uma estrutura de três carbonos e condensados por um oxigênio conforme ilustrado na Figura 3 (ZHAO, *et al.*, 2017). Na forma livre, sem ligações com açúcares e ácidos, ou seja, sua forma aglicona, são conhecidas como antocianidinas, que diferem entre si de acordo com o grau de metilação e hidroxilação (Figura 4).

Figura 3: Núcleo básico das antocianinas

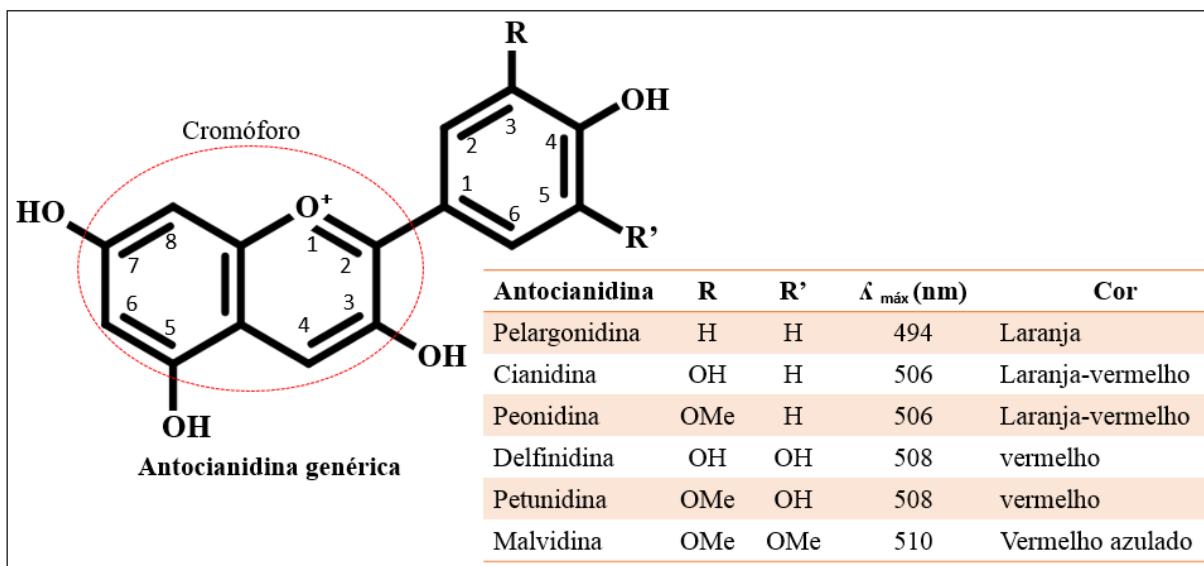


Fonte: Autoria pessoal

Sua ocorrência na natureza geralmente é na forma glicosilada, onde nos carbonos das posições 3 e 5, podem estar ligados a grupos substituintes de açúcares e/ou ácidos orgânicos ou alifáticos. Aproximadamente 90% de todas as antocianinas já identificadas possuem alguma glicosilação, sendo a glicose o monossacarídeo de maior ocorrência, mas podendo também conter outros monossacarídeos como galactose, frutose, arabinose, ramnose, entre outros. Por sua vez, as porções glicosiladas podem sofrer acilações com ácidos orgânicos,

formando as antocianinas aciladas, que já foram evidenciadas em mais de 65% das estruturas identificadas (ANDERSEN, *et al.*, 2006; GIUSTI, *et al.*, 2003).

Figura 4: Principais antocianidinas encontradas na natureza, grupos substituintes (R e R'), absorbância máxima e cor.



Legenda: (H) grupo hidrogênio; (OH) grupo hidroxi; (OMe) grupo metoxi.

Fonte: Autoria pessoal

Até o momento já foram identificadas 27 diferentes antocianidinas na natureza, sendo seis abundantes em alimentos: pelargonidina, cianidina, delfinidina, peonidina, petunidina e malvidina (Figura 4). Porém devido a diversidade dos padrões de glicosilação e acilação, as antocianinas formam o maior grupo de pigmentos vegetais hidrossolúveis presentes na natureza (HE, *et al.*, 2010; WALLACE, *et al.*, 2015), sendo já identificadas aproximadamente 700 estruturas diferentes (ANDERSEN, *et al.*, 2014; SIGURDSON, *et al.*, 2017).

A cor é o resultado da excitação de uma molécula pela luz visível e depende da mobilidade eletrônica relativa da estrutura. A presença de duplas ligações conjugadas nas antocianinas (cromóforo) é essencial para a cor, pois estas são facilmente excitadas. A intensidade da cor apresentada é afetada por interações hidrofóbicas entre antocianinas e outros fenólicos presentes em plantas (DAMODARAM, *et al.*, 2010).

A coloração típica das antocianinas em pH ácido se deve à presença do cromóforo, conforme identificado na Figura 4, o qual absorve luz na região do visível. Geralmente as antocianinas apresentam máxima absorção em pH ácido na faixa de 490-530nm. Por sua vez, a coloração e consequente absorção de luz, sofre influência direta dos grupos substituintes da

molécula: o aumento de metoxilas tende a aumentar a cor vermelha, enquanto o aumento de hidroxilas e glicosídeos intensificam a cor azul (ALKEMA, *et al.*, 1982; FÁVARO, *et al.*, 2008).

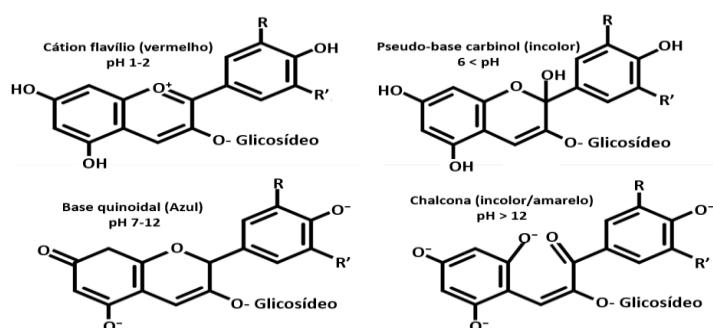
3.1.2 Fatores que afetam a estabilidade das antocianinas

As antocianinas são compostos altamente reativos devido à grande quantidade de hidroxilas livres, sendo relativamente instáveis estruturalmente e, consequentemente nas suas características de cor, o que muitas vezes inviabiliza sua aplicação como corantes naturais em alimentos. A degradação destes pigmentos implica na perda da cor característica e das atividades funcionais, e também, na formação de compostos insolúveis de cor marrom (SUI *et al.*, 2019; XU *et al.*, 2007).

A degradação destes pigmentos ocorre a partir da extração dos tecidos vegetais, durante o processamento e armazenamento. Este processo está diretamente relacionado com alguns fatores como: o aumento do pH, a temperatura, exposição à luz, concentração de oxigênio, presença de enzimas deteriorantes, principalmente a polifenol oxidase (PPO) (GURAK, *et al.*, 2010; WALLACE, *et al.*, 2015). No entanto, o aumento de glicosilações e acilações em uma antocianina, se correlaciona com o aumento da sua solubilidade e estabilidade, o que se deve à maior possibilidade de estabelecer pontes de hidrogênio (GIUSTI, *et al.*, 2003; ZHAO, *et al.*, 2017).

Devido à sua polaridade, estes compostos são insolúveis em óleos e gordura e solúveis em água e misturas aquosas alcoólicas. Em meio aquoso, as antocianinas se apresentam em um equilíbrio de uma mistura de quatro formas estruturais diferentes em função do pH (Figura 5): cátion flavílio, base quinoidal, pseudo-base carbinol, chalcona (DAMODARAM, *et al.*, 2010).

Figura 5: Estrutura das antocianinas em função do pH



Fonte: Autoria pessoal.

Conforme ilustrado na Figura 5, as antocianinas reagem às alterações de pH do meio, sendo mais estáveis em pH mais ácidos, ao passo que o aumento do pH, modifica sua estrutura, alterando o cromóforo, tornando-as mais instáveis e suscetíveis a degradação (LUNA-VITAL *et al.*, 2017; JIANG *et al.*, 2019). Dessa forma, em pH fortemente alcalino ($\text{pH} > 12$), pode ocorrer a quebra do anel pirílio, mudando a estrutura das antocianinas de forma irreversível para uma molécula de chalcona, apresentando-se incolor ou levemente amarelada (DAMODARAM, *et al.*, 2010)

O aquecimento também é responsável pela diminuição da estabilidade e consequente degradação das antocianinas. Dessa forma, a exposição das antocianinas a temperaturas $> 60^\circ\text{C}$ promove num primeiro momento a clivagem da fração glicosídica, seguida de outras clivagens, originando como produtos da degradação derivados de ácido benzoico e aldeídos. Contudo, a estabilidade das antocianinas é dependente do tipo de antocianina, dos substituintes da molécula, e da composição do meio (YANG, *et al.*, 2008.; ZHOU, *et al.*, 2017; COSTA *et al.*, 2018).

A presença de enzimas como a polifenol oxidase (PPO), comum em extratos antociânicos, também é responsável pela perda do conteúdo de antocianinas, pois ela catalisa reações de oxidação destes compostos gerando moléculas de ácidos derivados de *o*-difenóis e *o*-quinonas (SIDDIQ, *et al.*, 2017; FANG, *et al.*, 2007). Neste caso, a porção glicosilada da molécula protege o seu núcleo, dificultando a ação da enzima PPO, no entanto, a presença de enzimas glicosidases promovem a remoção do glicosídeo, deixando a molécula na sua forma aglicona, o que favorece a ação da PPO.

A coopigmentação é um fator conhecido no aumento da estabilidade das antocianinas. Ocorre através de interações de antocianinas com outros compostos (compostos fenólicos, alcaloides, ácidos orgânicos, entre outros) normalmente sem cor, formando complexos cuja configuração protegem o cátion flavílio de ataques nucleofílicos. Ainda, a coopigmentação apresenta um efeito hipocrômico e um deslocamento batocrômico no espectro de absorção do UV-visível. Este fenômeno também ocorre na associação de antocianinas que possuem a hidroxila livre no anel B, com íons metálicos (ferro, magnésio, alumínio, cálcio, estanho) formando complexos de maior estabilidade (KLISUROVA, *et al.*, 2018; GRAS, *et al.*, 2018; DAMODARAM, *et al.*, 2010).

3.1.3 Extração de antocianinas de matrizes vegetais

Os métodos de extração de antocianinas são essenciais para o desenvolvimento de trabalhos que envolvam a caracterização e quantificação destes compostos. A escolha do método de extração deve levar em conta o índice de recuperação do pigmento, diminuindo os interferentes e evitando a degradação ou alteração da conformação dos compostos (RODRIGUEZ-SAONA, *et al.*, 2001). Diversos métodos vêm sendo utilizados, geralmente empregando solventes orgânicos ou aquosos e energia mecânica, o que permite uma ótima extração (BOCHI, *et al.*, 2014; ADIL, *et al.*, 2007; CACACE, *et al.*, 2002).

A escolha do método de extração depende da finalidade da aplicação do extrato. Para fins de quantificação, os métodos exaustivos com utilização de solventes orgânicos são mais efetivos, porém geralmente estes extratos apresentam um teor baixo de antocianinas devido a necessidade de sucessivas extrações (ONGKOWIJOYO, *et al.*, 2018).

Pela característica hidrossolúvel das antocianinas, elas se tornam facilmente extraíveis em água e solventes alcoólicos acidificados. A adição de ácidos auxilia na extração das antocianinas por promover uma maior penetração nos tecidos vegetais, além de aumentar a estabilidade do extrato. No entanto, o uso de solventes ácidos deve ser cauteloso de forma a evitar a hidrólise das moléculas, o que pode ocasionar a formação de antocianidinas e outros flavonoides (ONGKOWIJOYO, *et al.*, 2018; LIU, *et al.*, 2012).

3.1.4 Purificação de antocianinas

Ao se trabalhar com análises de antocianinas, a aplicação de métodos de purificação dos extratos é muito importante, pois como o extrato tem origem em uma matriz complexa, geralmente contém vários interferentes. Desta forma, os métodos de purificação mais descritos na literatura abordam a utilização de partição líquido-líquido, utilizando solventes imiscíveis e de polaridades diferentes, como por exemplo uma partição metanol/acetato de etila, solução aquosa/ clorofórmio, solução aquosa/n-hexano. Onde a separação ocorre por afinidade dos compostos com os solventes, ficando as antocianinas na fração de solvente mais polar (CASTAÑEDA-OVANDO, *et al.*, 2009)

Também podem ser utilizados métodos cromatográficos preparativos, utilizando colunas ou cartuchos que contém recheio cromatográfico (SPE, coluna aberta, coluna preparativa), o que permite uma extração em fase sólida, onde ocorre o aprisionamento das antocianinas devido a sua interação com a fase estacionária, seguido de eluição dos

interferentes, utilizando os solventes adequados (RODRIGUEZ-SAONA, *et al.*, 2001; SIMMONS, 2012).

3.1.5 Purificação de antocianinas por extração em fase sólida (SPE)

A purificação e o fracionamento de antocianinas e compostos fenólicos, utilizando o método de extração em fase sólida (SPE), são apontados como eficientes e práticos. Neste método utiliza-se cartuchos de SPE preenchidos com resina cromatográfica, sobre o qual é colocada a solução contendo o analito. A separação dos compostos ocorre através das diferenças de polaridades e suas interações com a fase móvel, sendo possível usar diferentes solventes (RODRIGUES-SAONA, *et al.*, 2001; HE, 2008; PAVLOVIC, *et al.*, 2010). Utilizando esta metodologia é possível obter misturas de antocianinas purificadas de extratos vegetais com alta pureza, livre de outros interferentes, como compostos fenólicos não antociânicos, açúcares e ácidos orgânicos (HE, *et al.*, 2011; HE, 2008; SIMMONS, 2012).

3.1.6 Obtenção de padrões isolados de antocianinas

Os trabalhos que abordam métodos eficientes para isolamento de antocianinas, com alto teor de pureza, apontam para a utilização de cromatografia líquida de alta eficiência (HPLC) em fase reversa, utilizando coluna de C 18 preparativa com dimensões que podem variar de 250 mm×19 mm e 10 µm de tamanho de partícula (TANG, *et al.*, 2014) a 250 mm x 4,6mm, 5 µm (MONTILLA, *et al.*, 2010) e, acoplado a um cromatógrafo equipado com um coletor de frações, o qual permite a obtenção de isolados de alta pureza (MATERA, *et al.*, 2015; YANG, *et al.*, 2014).

O fracionamento para obtenção de compostos isolados também pode ser realizado utilizando a cromatografia de alta velocidade em contracorrente (HSCCC). Esta técnica apresenta como vantagem em relação a métodos de HPLC com coluna preparativa, o isolamento de maiores quantidades de antocianinas, em menor tempo, e condições de operação mais amenas, que diminuem a degradação dos compostos (MONTILLA, *et al.*, 2010).

As técnicas de isolamento de antocianinas por HPLC com coluna preparativa e por HSCCC, são eficazes na obtenção de isolados com alto teor de pureza. No entanto, sua utilização depende da aquisição de equipamentos e insumos de alto custo, o que pode ser um entrave na aplicação destas técnicas.

3.1.7 Métodos de análise de antocianinas

A quantificação de antocianinas totais em extratos de frutas pode ser feita por espectrofotometria na região do UV/Visível. As antocianinas mudam sua conformação estrutural em função do pH do meio, sendo possível verificar essa diferença no seu espectro de absorbância. Em pH 1,0 a absorbância é mais intensa enquanto no pH 4,5 a absorbância é baixíssima, devido as antocianinas se apresentarem na forma de hemiacetal. Desta forma, com base na reação sofrida pelas antocianinas em mudança de pH, o método do pH diferencial permite uma quantificação total precisa e rápida, mesmo que a amostra contenha pigmentos polimerizados, degradados ou outros interferentes (GIUSTI, *et al.*, 2001).

A identificação e quantificação de antocianinas monoméricas pode ser determinada por cromatografia em HPLC-UV/Visível ou HPLC-DAD através de uso de calibração externa com padrões analíticos, sendo comparados os tempos de retenção para identificação, e a equação da curva de calibração para a quantificação dos compostos. Porém, devido à baixa estabilidade, à pouca disponibilidade e os custos elevados dos padrões analíticos, o uso desta técnica torna-se limitada (SIMMONS, 2012).

A identificação e quantificação das antocianinas, com sensibilidade e eficiência requer o uso de técnicas modernas de análise, como a utilização da cromatografia líquida de alta eficiência (HPLC) com detecção de arranjo de diodos (DAD) e acoplada a espectrometria de massas (MS), sendo necessário, muitas vezes a remoção de interferentes através de purificações (SIMMONS, 2012; WANG, *et al.* 2014).

A espectrometria de massas (MS) disponibiliza excelentes informações sobre a fórmula molecular de uma antocianina, e quando acoplada a um HPLC-DAD, possibilita o cruzamento dos dados obtidos em ambos os equipamentos, permitindo a identificação do composto através da razão massa/carga (m/z), relacionando com o tempo de retenção gerado no chromatograma do DAD (BERNAL, *et al.*, 2015).

A análise de MS é realizada através da fragmentação da molécula, gerando íons que serão detectados e quantificados de acordo com a massa. Uma fonte de ionização comumente utilizada para a análise de antocianinas é a ESI (*Electrospray Ionization*). Na ionização das moléculas de antocianinas utilizando o ESI, a amostra é introduzida dissolvida em um solvente acidificado (positivamente carregado), o que torna possível o acoplamento com outras técnicas cromatográficas, como o HPLC ou UPLC (Cromatografia Líquida de Ultra Performance). Outra vantagem da espectrometria de massas está na capacidade de obtenção da fórmula molecular exata da substância mesmo que esta esteja presente em nível traço. A

presença de isômeros na amostra é um fator limitante na identificação por MS, podendo o analista incorrer em erros, fazendo-se necessário a adição de etapas prévias à análise, como a purificação e isolamento de compostos (JUNQUEIRA-GONÇALVES, *et al.*, 2015).

A pureza dos compostos isolados pode ser determinada por cromatografia em HPLC-DAD, com monitoramento nos comprimentos de onda de 520 e 280 nm, permitindo a identificação de interferentes como compostos fenólicos não antociânicos. Também pode ser utilizado o cálculo de absorção molar utilizando a lei de Lambert-Beer, conforme proposto por Giusti e colaboradores (1999). No entanto uma série de fatores deve ser levada em conta na aplicação desta metodologia, como a degradação da amostra devido aos processos de secagem, interferentes na aferição do peso da amostra, entre outros que possam comprometer os resultados. Desta forma é necessário ajustar a metodologia para obter resultados mais confiáveis (SIMMONS, 2012).

3.2 POTENCIAIS FONTES PARA OBTENÇÃO DE ANTOCIANINAS ISOLADAS

3.2.1 Frutas vermelhas

Frutas vermelhas é o termo comumente usado para designar pequenas frutas, geralmente de formato arredondado, e com alto teor de antocianinas, o que resulta na cor característica e muito atrativa desses frutos (BARBIERI, *et al.*, 2012). Sua comercialização e consumo podem ser na forma *in natura*, congeladas ou processadas como geleias, polpas e sucos. Devido à presença de altas concentrações de fitoquímicos, os quais possuem conhecidas propriedades nutracêuticas, o consumo e, consequentemente, a produção de frutas vermelhas, têm aumentado no Brasil. Neste cenário, destacam-se como mais relevantes os mirtilos, as amoras-pretas de cultivares nacionais (Tupy, Guarani e Caingangue), as framboesas e principalmente, o morango, que detêm a maior produção nacional (FERREIRA, *et al.*, 2010; ROCHA, 2009; SANTOS, *et al.*, 2014).

As frutas vermelhas já foram extensivamente caracterizadas na literatura internacional e cultivares de produção norte-americana e europeia possuem composição dependente da matriz. Em alguns casos, essas frutas são caracterizadas por um perfil antociânico pouco complexo, não contendo mais que 10 diferentes antocianinas. Além disso, a composição de antocianinas dessas frutas é caracterizada pela proporção elevada de um único composto majoritário, o qual pode exceder 50% da área relativa de um cromatograma em 520 nm. Esse é o caso do morango, que possui diversas cultivares cujo perfil antociânico é limitado a

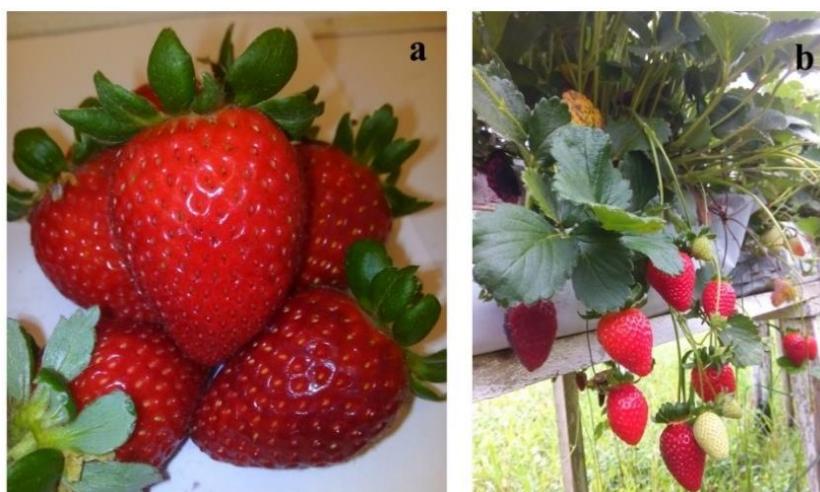
derivados de cianidina e pelargonidina, onde a pelargonidina-3-O-glicosídeo corresponde a mais de 60% do teor de antocianinas totais (BUCHWEITZ, *et al.*, 2013; AFRIN, *et al.*, 2017). O mesmo foi observado para diferentes cultivares de amoras-pretas, que apresentam não mais do que 4 antocianinas, dentre as quais a majoritária é a cianidina-3-O-glicosídeo (BOBINAITE, *et al.*, 2012; FERREIRRA, *et al.*, 2010).

Essas características facilitam o uso desses frutos no desenvolvimento de metodologias de isolamento de antocianinas empregando técnicas cromatográficas de bancada, como SPE. Já que os cartuchos possuem uma reduzida quantidade de C18, com tamanhos de partículas que reduzem a eficiência em pratos teóricos quando comparadas a colunas preparativas para a separação de frações em HPLC preparativo.

3.2.2 Morango

O morango (Figura 6a) é um pseudofruto produzido pelo morangueiro (Figura 6b) (*Fragaria x ananassa* Duch), da família Rosaceae. Sua origem se deu através do cruzamento espontâneo entre as espécies *Fragaria chiloensis* e *F. virginiana*, na França por volta de 1750. No Brasil, a produção de morangos é de cerca de 90.000 t por ano (REISSER, *et al.*, 2014), sendo concentradas na região sul e sudeste. Este cultivo destina-se ao mercado *in natura* e também a cadeia industrial, que utiliza o morango na fabricação de geleias, sucos, polpas e preparados para serem adicionados em outros alimentos (CALVETE, *et al.*, 2008; ANTUNES, *et al.*, 2013).

Figura 6: Morango (a), Morangueiro (b)



Fonte: Autoria pessoal

O consumo do morango está ligado a cor, aroma e sabor, além do formato e tamanho do fruto, sendo a cor vermelha intensa um importante componente na aceitação do morango (BORDIGNON, *et al.*, 2009). A cor desses frutos se deve a presença de antocianinas, com teores que podem variar de 13 a 56 mg/100 g de fruto, sendo a pelargonidina-3-O-glicosideo a majoritária, em concentrações que podem variar de 64% a 87% do total de antocianinas (CHAVES, 2014; AMARO, *et al.*, 2013; CEREZO, *et al.*, 2010; Ornelas-Paz, *et al.*, 2013).

3.2.3 Amora-preta

A amora-preta (*Rubus* sp.) é o nome dado ao pseudofruto da amoreira (Figura 7), pertencente à família *Rosaceae* que é formada por cerca de 500 espécies diferentes. O cultivo no Brasil vem crescendo, principalmente na região sul e sudeste, devido ao fato desta ser uma planta rústica, de clima temperado, com baixo custo de implantação e de produção, necessitando de reduzido uso de agrotóxicos (ANTUNES, *et al.*, 2002; TADEU, *et al.*, 2015). No Brasil, foram desenvolvidas várias cultivares adaptadas ao clima do sul do país pela Embrapa Clima Temperado sendo as mais comercializadas as variedades Tupy e Guarani (FERREIRA, *et al.*, 2010).

Figura 7: Amoreira



Fonte: Autoria pessoal

A amora-preta é conhecida por conter altos teores de polifenóis, que contribuem para a sua alta capacidade antioxidante. Diversos estudos confirmam a potente atividade biológica destes compostos, e seus benefícios à saúde (NILE, *et al.*, 2014; SHEN, *et al.*, 2017). Quanto ao teor de antocianinas presentes na amora-preta, estudos envolvendo diversas variedades demonstraram teores que variam de 67 mg à 248 mg/100 g, tendo a cianidina-3-O-glicosideo como majoritária (>90% do teor total de antocianinas) sendo, portanto, uma fonte com grandes concentrações destes compostos (JACQUES, *et al.*, 2010; FERREIRA, *et al.*, 2010).

4 METODOLOGIA

4.1 OBTEÇÃO DAS AMOSTRAS

O método de isolamento de antocianinas foi realizado em diferentes cultivares de morango (*Fragaria x ananassa* Duch.), e amora-preta (*Rubus* sp.) conforme descrição na Tabela 1.

Tabela 1: Cultivares e locais de amostragem

Amostra	Cultivares	Local de coleta	Anos de amostragem
Morango	Albion Camino Real San Andreas	Colégio Politécnico(UFSM), Santa Maria/RS	Dezembro de 2017
Amora-preta	Tupy Guarani Xavante	Embrapa, Pelotas/RS	Janeiro de 2018

Fonte: Autoria pessoal

Os morangos maduros e ausentes de defeitos foram selecionados e higienizados em água corrente. A remoção da umidade superficial foi realizada em capela de exaustão com circulação de ar por duas horas em sala climatizada 20°C. Após foram separados em porções e armazenados em freezer (-26,0±0,5°C). As amostras dos diferentes cultivares de amora-preta foram recebidas já congeladas e foram mantidas em freezer (-26,0±0,5°C) antes da realização das análises.

4.2 EXTRAÇÃO E PURIFICAÇÃO DE ANTOCIANINAS

4.2.1 Extração de antocianinas para caracterização das matrizes em estudo

A metodologia descrita por Bochi e colaboradores (2014) foi utilizada para a extração exaustiva das antocianinas presentes nas amostras. O processo foi realizado nas amostras maceradas sob congelamento. Como solvente utilizou-se uma solução aquosa contendo 20% de acetona (PA) e 0,35% de ácido fórmico (PA) (v/v). A amostra foi pesada, mantida em agitação por vinte minutos com 60 mL de solução extratora, seguido de filtração à vácuo (filtro Whatman nº 3), lavando a amostra com solução extratora para remoção completa das

antocianinas. Os extratos de antocianinas obtidos foram calibrados em 100 mL utilizando solução extratora. Após a extração, a acetona presente nos extratos foi removida por evaporação ($38\pm1^{\circ}\text{C}/10$ min) em rotaevaporador Büchi-R3TM conectado a uma bomba de vácuo. Os volumes foram ajustados utilizando água ultrapura acidificada (ácido fórmico 0,35%, v/v).

4.2.2 Obtenção de soluções concentradas de antocianinas: método de extração para isolamento

4.2.2.1 Extração aquosa de antocianinas do morango

Visando a redução do tempo de extração e recuperação rápida das antocianinas sem a necessidade de etapas de remoção de solventes, o método de extração de antocianinas em meio aquoso foi aplicado. Os morangos foram triturados congelados para redução da ação enzimática e da perda de suco, misturadas ao meio extrator (água destilada e deionizada acidificada com 0,35% de ácido fórmico, v/v) na razão sólido/líquido 1:3 (m/v), e agitadas por 20 minutos (200 rpm). Para a separação da solução concentrada de antocianinas, a mistura foi centrifugada ($2.100\times g/5\text{min}$) e o sobrenadante foi coletado e considerado o extrato rico em antocianinas. Os extratos obtidos nesta etapa foram utilizados para o desenvolvimento de método de isolamento de Pg3G.

4.2.2.2 Extração aquosa de antocianinas da amora-preta

Para a extração de antocianinas de amora-preta, a metodologia descrita acima foi aplicada com modificações. Com o objetivo de otimizar a técnica, testes foram realizados avaliando a performance da extração em relação as variáveis analisadas: razão amostra/solução extratora (1: 1, 1: 2, 1: 3, 1: 4, 1: 5 e 1: 6; m/v) x tempo de agitação (10, 20, 30 e 40 min). As amostras de amora-preta (cv. Guarani) foram trituradas, pesadas (3 g) em tubos Falcon, misturadas a solução extratora (água destilada e deionizada acidificada com 0,35% de ácido fórmico, v/v), agitadas em vórtice por 1 min, seguido por agitação (200 rpm) e centrifugação ($2.100\times g/5$ min. O sobrenadante foi coletado e considerado como um extrato aquoso de antocianinas.

Para fins de comparação, amostras paralelas foram exaustivamente extraídas conforme descrito na seção 4.1.2. Os extratos foram avaliados quanto ao teor de antocianinas monoméricas totais, utilizando a metodologia de pH diferencial descrita por Giusti, *et al.*,

(2005). Os extratos foram diluídos em tampão cloreto de potássio (0,025 M, pH 1,0) e tampão acetato de sódio (0,4 M, pH 4,5). As leituras de absorbância foram feitas em um espectrofotômetro (G1369C LAN-Interface; Agilent Technologies, Xangai, China) a 510 e 700 nm. O teor total de antocianinas monoméricas nos extratos foi calculado conforme descrito por Giusti, *et al.*, (2001), utilizando 26,900 como coeficiente de absorvidade molar (ϵ) e 449,2 como peso molar (MW).

A concentração de antocianinas nos extratos aquosos foi comparada com a extração exaustiva e os resultados expressos em mg/100 mL de extrato. A eficiência de extração foi obtida pela comparação do teor total de antocianinas de cada extração (mg/100 g de amostra). A recuperação foi calculada como a porcentagem de antocianinas extraídas (%) em relação à extração exaustiva (considerada como 100%).

De acordo com os resultados dos testes, a razão sólido/líquido avaliada como mais eficiente foi de 1:5 (amostra:solução extratora, m/v), e o tempo de agitação de 30 minutos foi mais eficiente. Dessa forma, estes parâmetros foram modificados na metodologia original (Pauletto et al.2015) para a obtenção de extratos aquosos de amora-preta destinados para o estudo de isolamento de Cy3G.

4.2.3 Purificação dos extratos de antocianinas em SPE

A purificação de antocianinas totais dos extratos foi realizada por extração em SPE conforme metodologia descrito por Rodriguez-Saona e Wrolstad (2001) e com as mesmas modificações relatadas por Bochi e colaboradores (2014). Foram utilizados cartuchos de SPE C 18 (1g, 6 mL), conectados a um manifold com vazão ajustada para 50 ± 2 gotas/min.

Os cartuchos de SPE foram ativados com 5 mL de metanol (grau HPLC/UV) e então condicionados com 15 mL de água ultrapura contendo ácido fórmico 0,35% (v/v). Para os extratos exaustivos (item 4.1.2), 10 mL de extrato foram eluídos usando 15 mL de água ultrapura acidificada para remover compostos com maior polaridade do que as antocianinas. Compostos fenólicos não antociânicos e outros interferentes menos polares do que as antocianinas, foram removidos da amostra usando 15 mL de acetato de etila. As antocianinas foram então recuperadas utilizando metanol acidificado (ácido fórmico 0,35% (v/v), concentradas em rotaevaporador ($38 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}/10$ min) e o volume final foi ajustado para 2 mL, utilizando água ultrapura acidificada (ácido fórmico 0,35% (v/v)).

Para os extratos aquosos de antocianinas (item 4.1.3) foi empregada a mesma metodologia de purificação descrita acima, utilizando 8 e 9 mL de extrato aquoso, para

morango e amora-preta, respectivamente. O conteúdo de antocianinas, após a etapa de concentração, foi recuperado em 2 mL de água ultrapura acidificada (ácido fórmico 0,35%, v/v) e mantido refrigerado a 4,0±0,5°C, na ausência da luz.

4.3 DESENVOLVIMENTO DE MÉTODO DE ISOLAMENTO DE PELARGONIDINA-3-GLICOSÍDEO DE ELEVADA PUREZA UTILIZANDO SPE

4.3.1 Desenvolvimento de método de isolamento de Pg3G

A fração de antocianinas do extrato aquoso do morango (cv Albion), purificada e concentrada conforme descrito no item 4.2.3 foi utilizada para o desenvolvimento do método de isolamento de Pg3G em cartuchos de SPE. As etapas consideradas preliminares (ativação do cartucho, condicionamento da amostra e limpeza) foram realizadas conforme descrito no item 4.2.3. Os solventes utilizados foram: água ultrapura e metanol (grau HPLC), ambos acidificados com 0,35% de ácido fórmico (v / v). Avaliou-se as variáveis: Variável 1 = fluxo (gotas/min) e conteúdo de C18 no cartucho (g); Variável 2 = gradiente com diferentes porcentagens de metanol e água ultrapura, ambos acidificados (0,35% ácido fórmico, v/v).

O experimento contou com coleta e análise de diferentes frações, e diferentes volumes (mL). Todas as frações avaliadas foram evaporadas ($38 \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ / 10 min) em rotaevaporador para remoção do solvente e analisadas em HPLC-UV/Visível (item 4.4.1). A eficiência do isolamento de Pg3G foi monitorada como a porcentagem da área de pico de Pg3G em relação às áreas totais de pico no cromatograma (520 nm). Os testes foram realizados em triplicado ($n = 3$)

.4.3.1.1 Otimização do método de isolamento de Pg3G usando SPE

De acordo com os resultados obtidos nos testes de desenvolvimento de método de isolamento de Pg3G em SPE (item 4.3.1), as melhores condições de isolamento (frações que apresentaram maior percentual de Pg3G, e menor número de interferentes) foram escolhidas para a otimização e validação da metodologia.

O método otimizado utilizou 4mL de extrato aquoso de morango purificado conforme descrito no item 4.2.3. Os cartuchos utilizados foram SPE C18-1 g (6 mL; Strata®). Como fase móvel (FMA) utilizou-se água ultrapura acidificada (0,35% ácido fórmico, v/v) e água ultrapura com 22% metanol (grau HPLC/UV), ambos acidificados com 0,35% de ácido

fórmico (v/v) como fase móvel (FMB). Para a limpeza dos cartuchos foi empregado metanol (grau HPLC/UV) 0,35% ácido fórmico (v/v) (FMC). O fluxo foi ajustado em 50±5 gotas/min, utilizando manifold conectado a uma bomba de vácuo. As etapas do método são descritas como:

- a) Ativação do cartucho: 5 mL de metanol (grau HPLC/UV);
- b) Condicionamento do cartucho: 15 mL de FMA;
- c) Carregamento: 4 mL de extrato aquoso de morango purificado e concentrado;
- d) Limpeza: 10 mL de FMA;
- e) Eluição das antocianinas no cartucho: 20±5 mL de FMB;
- f) Remoção de interferentes: 10 mL de FMB;
- g) Coleta de Fração rica em Pg3G: 10 mL FMB;
- h) Limpeza do cartucho: 10 mL de FMC;

A fração rica em Pg3G (g) foi considerada apenas como o volume de 10 mL obtido somente após o descarte dos primeiros 10 mL que apresentaram pigmentação (f). O solvente da fração rica em Pg3G foi removido em rotaevaporador (10 min / 38 1) e o volume foi ajustado para 5 mL utilizando água ultrapura acidificada (0,35% de ácido fórmico, v/v).

4.3.2 Validação do método de isolamento de Pg3G em SPE

A robustez do método de isolamento Pg3G foi avaliada no método otimizado (item 4.3.1.1) utilizando cartuchos de duas marcas diferentes (Strata® e Waters®) e extratos de três cultivares de morango (Albion, Camino Real e San Andreas). A quantificação de Pg3G das frações isoladas foi realizada em HPLC-UV/Visível (item 4.4.1), com resultados expressos como Pg3G mg/100 mL de extrato aquoso de morango. A identificação dos compostos presentes na fração isolada foi determinada por análises de LC-PDA-MS / MS (item 4.4.2). O percentual de recuperação de Pg3G, em relação ao conteúdo presente no extrato foi calculado pela Eq. (1):

$$\text{Recuperação Pg3G(\%)} = \frac{\text{C2} \times 100}{\text{C1}} \quad (1)$$

Onde:

C1 = Conteúdo total de Pg3G determinado por HPLC/UV-Vis (mg) no extrato utilizado.

C2 = Conteúdo total de Pg3G determinado por HPLC/UV-Vis (mg) em fração isolada.

A pureza das frações ricas em Pg3G foi determinada por análise em HPLC-PDA com monitoramento em 520 e 280 nm para verificar a presença de outros compostos, que não são Pg3G, de acordo com Xu, *et al.*, (2018).

A pureza de Pg3G também foi determinada pelo cálculo do coeficiente de extinção molar, aplicando a lei de Lambert Beer. Para isto, o teor de Pg3G (mg/L) foi determinado por análise em espectrofotômetro (G1369C LAN-Interface; Agilent Technologies, Xangai, China) a 508 nm. Para esta análise, a fração rica em Pg3G rotaevaporada ($38\pm1^\circ\text{ C}/10\text{ min}$), seguido de secagem completa utilizando nitrogênio gasoso. O conteúdo de Pg3G foi transferido para frasco de vidro de peso conhecido utilizando acetona (grau HPLC) acidificada com 0,1% HCl (v/v), e colocado (overnight) em capela de exaustão, à temperatura ambiente para remoção do solvente. Após 12h, os frascos foram colocados em dessecador por 2 h e pesados. Posteriormente, o conteúdo de Pg3G seco foi dissolvido em um volume conhecido de metanol contendo 0,1% de HCl (v/v) e a absorbância foi medida em 508 nm. O teor de Pg3G foi calculado como dado pela Eq. (2):

$$\text{Pg3G (mg/L)} = \frac{A \times MW \times D \times 1000}{L \times \epsilon} \quad (2)$$

Onde:

A = valor de absorbância da amostra a λ 508nm

MW (peso molecular de Pg3G) = 433,2

D = razão de diluição da amostra

ϵ (coeficiente de absorção molar Pg3G) = $17.330\text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$

L (comprimento do caminho da célula) = 1 cm

A pureza então foi determinada utilizando a Eq. (2). Para fins de comparação, a pureza do padrão analítico comercial de Pg3G também foi avaliada como descrito para as amostras isoladas. Os resultados foram expressos em % de Pg3G por mg de peso seco da fração isolada (média \pm desvio padrão, n=3).

$$\% \text{ Pureza} = \frac{C \times 100}{W} \quad (3)$$

Onde:

C = Conteúdo total de Pg3G determinado na Eq. (2) e expresso em mg por 100 mg de fração isolada seca.

W = peso da fração isolada seca expressa em mg.

4.3.3 Desenvolvimento de método de isolamento de Cy3G

O estudo do isolamento Cy3G consiste numa adaptação do método de isolamento de Pg3G. Para isso, o método otimizado foi avaliado, substituindo o extrato aquoso purificado e concentrado de morango por extrato aquoso purificado e concentrado de amora-preta (item 4.2.3). Para os testes preliminares, as demais condições foram mantidas. Coletou-se diferentes frações (de 5 em 5 mL) a partir da presença de pigmento no eluído. As diferentes frações tiveram o solvente removido por evaporação ($38\pm1^{\circ}\text{C}/10\text{ min}$) e foram analisadas em HPLC-UV/Visível (item 4.4.1) para avaliar a pureza de cada fração. Foi considerada como fração rica em Cy3G, aquelas que apresentaram maior percentual deste composto e o menor número de interferentes nos cromatograma.

De acordo com os resultados das análises dos testes anteriores, o método de isolamento de Cy3G de alta pureza ficou definido como:

- a) Ativação do cartucho: 5 mL de metanol (grau HPLC/UV);
- b) Condicionamento do cartucho: 15 mL de FMA;
- c) Carregamento: 4,5 mL de extrato aquoso de amora-preta purificado e concentrado;
- d) Limpeza: 10 mL de FMA;
- e) Eluição das antocianinas no cartucho: 10 ± 2 mL de FMB;
- f) Coleta de Fração rica em Cy3G: 10 mL FMB;
- g) Limpeza do cartucho: 10 mL de FMC;

A fração rica em Cy3G (f) foi considerada como os primeiros 10 mL coletados que apresentaram pigmentação (avaliação visual). Esta fração foi rotavaporada ($38\pm1^{\circ}\text{C}/10\text{ min}$) e o volume calibrado para 5 mL utilizando FMA.

Estudos de robustez (repetibilidade e reprodutibilidade) do método foram realizados utilizando cartuchos de diferentes marcas (Strata® e Waters®), e diferentes cultivares de amora-preta (Guarani, Tupy, Xavante). Análises de pureza, recuperação, identificação e quantificação de Cy3G nas frações isoladas foram realizadas conforme descrito no item 4.3.2.

4.3.4 Estudo da estabilidade das antocianinas isoladas

A estabilidade das antocianinas isoladas (Pg3G e Cy3G) foram avaliadas durante 120 dias (tempo zero = dia 1, 30, 60, 90 e 120 dias) sob três diferentes condições de

armazenamento: amostra liofilizada armazenada a $4 \pm 0,5$ °C, amostra liofilizada armazenada $-26 \pm 0,5$ °C, solução aquosa acidificada (água ultrapura 0,35% de ácido fórmico, v/v) armazenada a $4 \pm 0,5$ °C.

Para este estudo, soluções contendo 24,0 ppm de Cy3G e outra contendo 8,0 ppm de Pg3G foram preparadas em água ultrapura (0,35% ácido fórmico, v/v) e divididas em alíquotas de volume conhecido em tubos de microcentrífuga (Eppendorf®, 2 ml). As amostras para análise em solução aquosa foram separadas, e as demais foram liofilizadas (Lyophilizer LS3000, Terroni®). Todos os tubos foram selados com parafilme e armazenados protegidos da luz. A estabilidade dos isolados nas amostras foi determinada por análise HPLC-UV/Vis (item 4.4.1). Os dados obtidos foram expressos como percentual (%) da respectiva antocianina em estudo (média ± desvio padrão, n = 3) em relação ao conteúdo inicial (dia 1).

4.4 ANÁLISES DE ANTOCIANINAS

4.4.1 Quantificação de antocianinas totais por HPLC-UV/Visível

Os extratos de antocianinas purificados (item 4.2.3), frações ricas em Pg3G (item 4.3.2), frações ricas em Cy3G (item 4.3.3), e amostras do estudo de estabilidade (item 4.3.4) foram filtrados (filtro de seringa PTFE, 22 µm, 25 mm; Analitica, SP, Brasil) e analisados em HPLC (high-performance liquid chromatography; Shimadzu, Columbia, MD, EUA) com detector UV-visível, utilizando coluna de fase reversa C18 (2.6 µm, 100 mm x 4.6 mm; Phenomenex, Torrance, EUA). Os dados foram analisados em software LC-Solutions (versão n° 3, Shimadzu).

Para a análise utilizou-se como fase móvel (A) água ultrapura (Milli-Q Gradient System, Millipore Corporation, Massachusetts, EUA) com 3% de ácido fórmico (PA) e fase móvel (B) acetonitrila (grau HPLC-UV). A separação dos compostos foi obtida utilizando eluição por gradiente a um fluxo de 0,9 mL/min, com temperatura do forno ajustada em 38°C. A fase móvel inicial era composta de 8% de B nos primeiros 5 min com aumento para 32% de B (25 min), subindo para 90% de B (27 min.), mantendo-se nessas condições por 10 minutos, e retornando as concentrações iniciais (8% B) em 2 minutos (39 min.) e aguardando por 5 minutos para restabelecer as condições iniciais da coluna antes de uma nova injeção. O volume de injeção utilizado foi de 20 µL e os cromatograma foram obtidos em λ 520 nm.

A quantificação das antocianinas presentes nos extratos foi realizada utilizando calibração externa de padrões analíticos de pelargonidina-3-O-glicosídeo e cianidina-3-O-

glicosídeo para extratos de morango e de amora-preta, respectivamente. Os resultados foram expressos em mg (equivalente a antocianina majoritária) por 100 g de fruta para os extratos exaustivos. Já para os extratos aquosos e frações isoladas os resultados foram expressos em mg/100 mL de extrato (média±desvio padrão, n=3).

4.4.2 Caracterização do perfil de antocianinas das amostras

O perfil de antocianinas foi analisado por HPLC-UV/Visível nas condições descritas no item 4.4.1. A identificação dos compostos foi realizada em LC-PDA-MS/MS (modelos: LCMS-8045, CBM-20A, LC-20ADXR, SIL-20ACXR, DGU-20A3R, CTO-20A, SPD-M20A, Shimadzu). Para estas análises, a coluna, a temperatura do forno e as fases móveis foram as mesmas descritas no item 4.4.1. No entanto, o gradiente foi otimizado para uma vazão de 0,3 mL/min. A separação das antocianinas no LC-PDA foi realizada com 10% de fase móvel B nos primeiros 5 min, aumentando 34% B (20 min), subindo para 90% B (25 min), permanecendo nessa condição por 5 min, e retornando às concentrações iniciais (10% B) em 5 min (35 min), aguardando 5 min para restaurar as condições iniciais da coluna antes de uma nova injeção. O volume de injeção utilizado foi de 5 µL e o cromatograma foi monitorado de λ 200 a λ 800 nm.

O sistema LC-PDA foi conectado à sonda do espectrômetro de massa usando tubos PEEK. A análise de massas foi realizada usando a interface ESI. Tanto o gás auxiliar como o de revestimento foram uma mistura de nitrogênio e argônio. Os parâmetros do MS foram: gás nebulizador a 3 L/min, fluxo do gás seco a 10 L/min, gás de aquecimento a 10 L/min, tensão de interface a 4000 V, temperatura da interface a 300 °C, temperatura da DL a 250 °C, temperatura do bloco de calor a 250 °C, conversão de tensão Dynod a 10000 V, voltagem do detector a 1780 V, vácuo IG a 2,0e-003 Pa, vácuo PG em 7,5 + 001 Pa, gás CID a 230 KPa e energia de colisão a 30 V.

A interpretação sequencial dos tempos de retenção, espectros do PDA e o padrão de fragmentação por espectrometria de massas foram utilizados na identificação das antocianinas. Os resultados obtidos foram comparados com os compostos já descritos na literatura para as amostras em estudo.

4.5 ANÁLISE ESTATÍSTICA

Os resultados dos testes de extração de antocianinas de amora-preta foram analisados por ANOVA de duas vias , onde foram avaliadas as interações entre razão (amostra/solução extratora, m/v) x tempo de extração. ANOVA de duas vias também foi utilizada para a análise dos resultados do teste de estabilidade das antocianinas isoladas (condição de armazenamento x tempo). Todos os demais resultados foram avaliados por Anova de uma via com nível de significância de 95%. Para a comparação de médias o teste de Tukey foi realizado. Todos os resultados são expressos em média \pm desvio padrão de três experimentos independentes (n=3).

5 ARTIGOS CIENTÍFICOS

MANUSCRITO 1

**DEVELOPMENT OF A SOLID PHASE EXTRACTION (RP-SPE) PROCEDURE TO
PREPARE HIGH PURITY PELARGONIDIN-3-O-GLUCOSIDE FROM DIFFERENT
STRAWBERRY CULTIVARS**

Este trabalho está em fase de revisão para ser submetido à revista Food Chemistry

1 **Development of a solid phase extraction (RP-SPE) procedure to prepare high purity**
2 **pelargonidin-3-O-glucoside from different strawberry cultivars**

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14

15 **ABSTRACT**

16 Strawberry is a rich source of pelargonidin-3-glucoside (Pg3G). However, isolation methods to
17 obtain high-purity anthocyanins from plant sources require sophisticated equipment. In this study, a
18 method to obtain high-purity Pg3G from strawberries using solid phase extraction cartridges (SPE,
19 C₁₈- 1g) was developed. The elution system consisted of an aqueous solution of methanol (88:22,
20 v/v) containing 0.35% formic acid. Method robustness was evaluated in three different strawberry
21 cultivars (Albion, San Andreas, Camino Real) and in two different cartridge brands. Pg3G purity
22 was higher than 95% by HPLC analysis. The stability of the isolates was evaluated in different
23 storage forms: dry 4°C, dry -26°C, dissolved in acidified water (0,35% formic acid) 4°C. Results
24 demonstrated excellent stability in 60 days of storage in all different conditions. Final purification
25 procedure is capable to yield a high purity and good stability Pg3G fraction using only SPE
26 cartridges.

27 **Keywords:** isolation, cartridge, HPLC-PDA-MS/MS

28 **1. Introduction**

29 Anthocyanins are water-soluble natural pigments that are responsible for orange-red to blue colors.
30 Currently, approximately 700 different anthocyanin structures were already elucidated (Sui, Zhang,
31 Jiang, & Zhou, 2018; Wallace & Giusti, 2015). Compound diversity is majorly due to the
32 possibility of different linkages of sugars and organic acids to the aglycone portion, known as
33 anthocyanidin. (Sigurdson, Tang, & Giusti, 2017; Jaakola, 2013). Identification is usually
34 performed by the combination of spectrometric tool with greater contribution of characteristic
35 maximal absorption bands at the visible range of the electromagnetic spectrum and the expected
36 fragmentation pattern by tandem mass spectrometry. Nonetheless, quantification is usually
37 performed by equivalence with the major anthocyanin in profile, decreasing results accuracy.
38 Isolation of plant anthocyanins for obtaining analytical standards has been conducted mostly
39 through preparative HPLC methods coupled to a fraction collector (Tang et al., 2014; Chorfa,
40 Savard, & Belkacemi, 2015; Wang, Yin, Xu, & Liu, 2014) and high-speed counter-current
41 chromatography (Zou et al., 2018; Montilla et al., 2010; Cerezo, Cuevas, Winterhalter, Garcia-
42 parrilla, & Troncoso, 2010; Xu, Hu, Li, Sun, & Chen, 2018). Although these high purity standards
43 that are obtained using preparative HPLC and counter-current-chromatography requires equipment
44 and consumable materials that are more expensive than preparative procedures.

45 Solid-phase extraction is a sample preparation technique used in semi-purification processes to
46 obtain fractions with similar chemical characteristics (Rodriguez-Saona & Wrolstad, 2001; Zhang,
47 Lin, & Ye, 2018). As the chromatographic efficiency of cartridges is reduced it is difficult to
48 develop purification techniques or obtaining fractions with high purity of a single compound using
49 only this methodological approach (Ahmadiani, Sigurdson, Robbins, Collins, & Giusti, 2018).

50 Although most plants have a complex profile of anthocyanins, some plant sources have a simpler
51 profile, being composed mostly by a major anthocyanin compound. This is the case of strawberry
52 (*Fragaria x ananassa* Duch.), where Pg3G represents more than 80% of the anthocyanin content
53 (Duarte et al., 2018; Chaves, Calvete, & Reginatto, 2017). Simple matrices in relation to the

54 anthocyanin profile could reduce the need of high efficiency separation methods to increase purity
55 of an anthocyanin

56 Methods of anthocyanin isolation that are performed using only preparative techniques reduce the
57 complexity of the purification process, making it possible to obtain analytical standards without the
58 need for investments in laboratory infrastructure which will be specific only compound isolation
59 (Wang et al., 2014; Gouvêa et al., 2012). Isolated high-purity anthocyanin fractions can be useful as
60 a way to obtain an analytical standard for food/plant composition studies, for investigating the
61 nutrkinetic, or for evaluation of these bioactive properties (Chorfa et al., 2015; Xu et al., 2018).

62 Many studies have evidenced the health benefits of anthocyanin-rich food diets (Baby, Antony, &
63 Vijayan, 2017), including antimutagenic and anticarcinogenic effects (Anantharaman,
64 Subramanian, Chandrasekaran, Seenivasan, & Siva, 2014), prevention of diabetes and obesity,
65 neuroprotective and cardioprotective effects (Lacombe & Wu, 2017)(Teng et al., 2017). However,
66 due to the difficulty for obtaining high-purity anthocyanin standards and their high cost, there is a
67 limited number of studies about nutrkinetic and bioactive effects of monomeric anthocyanins
68 (Wang et al., 2014). Thus, the preparation of high-purity monomeric anthocyanins, isolated from
69 plants, using a simple method, is challenging.

70 Therefore, the objective of this research was the development of a high-purity Pg3G isolation
71 procedure from strawberry samples applying only bench preparative solid-phase extraction
72 techniques.

73 **2. Materials and methods**

74 **2.1 Materials and chemicals**

75 Methanol (PA), formic acid (PA, 85%) and ethyl acetate (PA) were purchased from Dynamics®
76 (São Paulo, Brazil), hydrochloric acid (PA) from Vetec® (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil). Potassium
77 chloride (PA), sodium acetate (PA) and acetone (HPLC-UV) were obtained from Qhemis® (São
78 Paulo, Brazil). Methanol (HPLC-UV) and acetonitrile (HPLC-UV) were from J.T. Baker®
79 (Phillipsburg, New Jersey, USA). Analytical standard of pelargonidin-3-glucoside (market name:
80

82 callistephine chloride; purity $\geq 95\%$) was obtained from Sigma-Aldrich[®] (St. Louis, MO, USA).
83 STRATA[®] C₁₈ 1 g SPE cartridges (volume 6 mL) were purchased from Phenomenex (Torrance,
84 California, USA) and Waters[®] (Massachusetts, USA). Ultrapure water was obtained by Milli-Q
85 system (Direct-Q[®] 3UV, Millipore Corporation, Massachusetts, USA).

86 **2.2 Sample preparation**

87 Ripe strawberries (completely red) of the cultivars Albion, Camino Real, and San Andreas grown in
88 the Polytechnic College of the Federal University of Santa Maria, in Santa Maria city, State of Rio
89 Grande do Sul, Brazil ($29^{\circ}43'25.9''S$; $53^{\circ}43'04.2''W$). It was produced under a fertil-irrigated
90 system and harvested in December 2017. Samples were washed with tap water, followed by surface
91 water removal with air flow and stored at -22.0 ± 0.5 °C until the experiments were carried out.

92 **2.2.1 Anthocyanins extraction from different cultivars**

93 For identification and quantification of all anthocyanins (TA) in strawberry samples, an optimized
94 extraction procedure (OE) was used (Bochi et al., 2014) with modifications. Crushed frozen
95 samples (5g) were stirred for 20 min in aqueous acetone solution (20% v/v) acidified with formic
96 acid (0.35% v/v) at 1:12 (m:v) as the sample to solvent ratio. The resulting extract was vacuum
97 filtered (Whatman paper filter, n. 3) and the residue was exhaustively washed with the extraction
98 solution for complete removal of anthocyanins. The obtained extract was concentrated (10 min/38 ±
99 1 °C) in a rotary evaporator (Büchi-R3TM, CE, CSA). Final volume was adjusted to 100mL with
100 acidified water (0.35% formic acid; v/v).

101 **2.2.2 Purification of anthocyanin extracts**

102 Anthocyanins obtained in the OE were purified according to the methodology described by
103 (Rodriguez-Saona & Wrolstad, 2001) modified by Bochy et al., (2014). C₁₈ SPE cartridges (1g, 6
104 cc, Strata, Phenomenex[®], USA), connected to a manifold (HyperSep Glass Block Manifolds, 16-
105 port, Thermo Scientific[®]), with flow rate adjusted to 50 ± 2 drops/min was used. Volumes used in
106 this work were 5 mL of methanol (HPLC) for cartridge activation, 15 mL of ultrapure water (0.35%
107 formic acid, v/v) for cartridge conditioning, 10 mL of anthocyanin extract (OE) for loading volume,

108 15 mL of ultrapure acidified water to wash out high polarity compounds, and 15 mL of ethyl
109 acetate to remove non-anthocyanin phenolics and other compounds that are less polar than
110 anthocyanins. Finally, the anthocyanins fraction was recovered using acidified methanol (0.35%
111 formic acid, v/v), concentrated in a rotary evaporator at 38±1°C for 10 min, and adjusted to 2 mL
112 using ultrapure acidified water (0.35% formic acid v/v).

113 **2.3 SPE Method development for Pg3G isolation**

114 **2.3.1 Aqueous extracts (AE) of strawberry phenolic compounds**

115 Aiming to obtain a concentrated solution of strawberry phenolic compounds an extraction
116 procedure free of organic solvents was performed using only acidified water (distilled and
117 deionized water containing 0.35% formic acid, v/v). This initial extraction procedure prior to
118 purification/isolation steps allowed the recovery of polar compounds without the need of
119 concentration steps to remove organic solvent; thus, avoiding the increment in compound instability
120 and degradation due to rotatory evaporation conditions. For this extraction, frozen fruits were
121 crushed in an ultra-turrax until obtaining a finely particulate sample (± 10 g) that was mixed with
122 acidified water (1:3, m/v, sample:solvent ratio). Mixture was vortex homogenized for 1 min and
123 shaken for 20 min on a shaker table, protected from light, followed by centrifugation
124 (2122.8g/10min). The supernatant was collected and considered as the aqueous anthocyanin extract
125 (AE).

126 **2.3.2 Fractionation of strawberry phenolic compounds**

127 AE of strawberry phenolic compounds (8 mL) were fractionated in 1g-C₁₈ SPE cartridges as
128 described in section 2.2.2 to obtain a concentrated fraction majorly composed with all strawberry
129 anthocyanins. Purified sample was reconstituted in 2 mL of ultrapure acidified water (0.35% formic
130 acid, v/v) from which 1 mL was used for Pg3G isolation and the remaining portion for HPLC and
131 MS analyzes.

132

133

134 **2.3.3 Tested conditions for Pg3G isolation using SPE cartridges**

135 The strawberry anthocyanins fraction obtained from AE (cv Albion) obtained as described in
 136 section 2.3.2 was used for gradient development to Pg3G isolation in SPE cartridges. Tests (T) were
 137 conducted in triplicate (n=3). The steps considered preliminary (cartridge activation, sample
 138 conditioning and cleaning) were performed as described in section 2.2.2. Solvents used were:
 139 ultrapure water and methanol (HPLC grade), both acidified with 0.35% formic acid (v/v). The
 140 variables evaluated were: Variable 1 = flow and C₁₈ content in the cartridge; Variable 2 = gradient
 141 with different percentages of methanol. The conditions evaluated in each experiment are described
 142 in Table 3. All fractions (F) evaluated had the solvent removed in a rotary evaporator (38±1°C/10
 143 min) and analyzed in HPLC-UV/Vis as described in section 2.4.2. The efficiency of Pg3G isolation
 144 was monitored as the percentage of Pg3G peak area relative to the total peak areas in the
 145 chromatogram (520 nm).

146 **2.3.4 Optimization and validation of Pg3G isolation using SPE**

147 According to the results obtained in the tests (Table 3), it was chosen T5 to be improved and used
 148 for validation of Pg3G isolation methodology using C₁₈ SPE cartridges. The conditions used were
 149 the same as those reported in T5 (Table 3), and the Pg3G-rich fraction was considered only as the
 150 10 mL volume obtained only after that the first 10 mL of pigmented eluted sample was discarded.
 151 The solvent of the Pg3G-rich fraction was removed on a rotary evaporator (10 min/38 ± 1°C) and
 152 the volume was adjusted to 5 mL using acidified ultrapure water (0.35% formic acid, v/v).

153 Robustness of the Pg3G isolation method was evaluated using two different cartridge brands and by
 154 three strawberry cultivars (Albion, Camino Real and San Andreas). The isolated fractions were
 155 analyzed for identification and purity by LC-PDA-MS/MS as described in section 2.4.1.
 156 Quantification was performed in HPLC-UV/Vis as described in section 2.4.2, with results expressed
 157 as Pg3G mg/100 mL of AE. The recovery of Pg3G was calculated as given by Eq.(1):

$$158 \quad \text{Recovery Pg3G}(\%) = \frac{C_2 \times 100}{C_1} \quad (1)$$

160 C1= total content of Pg3G determined by HPLC/UV-Vis (mg) in EA used.
 161 C2= total content of Pg3G determined by HPLC/UV-Vis (mg) in isolated fraction

162 2.3.5 Purity analysis of isolated Pg3G

163 Purity of Pg3G isolates was studied by HPLC-PDA data analysis. Thus, not only data from
 164 normalization at 520 nm were considered, but also its comparison with peaks that could absorb in
 165 280 nm of the UV-Visible spectra to verify the presence of other compounds than not Pg3G,
 166 according (Xu et al., 2018).

167 Yield (mg of Pg3G per L of isolated fraction) was analyzed by spectrophotometer (G1369C LAN-
 168 Interface; Agilent Technologies, Shanghai, China)) at 508 nm. For this analysis, the isolated
 169 fraction was dried in a rotary evaporator ($38\pm1^\circ\text{C}/10$ min) followed by a stream of nitrogen for
 170 complete drying. Samples were then transferred to glass vials of known weight using acetone
 171 (HPLC grade) containing 0.1% HCl (v/v) and dried in an exhaust hood (overnight) at room
 172 temperature to remove the solvent. Then the vials were placed in desiccator for 2 h and weighed.
 173 Thereafter, the dry and isolated Pg3G content was dissolved in a known volume of methanol
 174 containing 0.1% HCl (v/v), and the absorbance was measured at 508 nm. The Pg3G was calculated
 175 as given by Eq. (2):

$$\text{Pg3G (mg/L)} = \frac{A \times \text{MW} \times D \times 1000}{L \times \epsilon} \quad (2)$$

176 A = sample absorbance value at λ 508nm

177 MW (molecular weight of Pg3G) = 433,2

178 D = dilution ratio of sample

179 ϵ (Pg3G molar absorbance coefficient) = $17,330 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{cm}^{-1}$

180 L (cell path length) = 1 cm

181 Purity was also evaluated using spectrophotometer as shown in Eq. (2). Results were expressed as
 182 mg % of Pg3G per mg of dry weigh of the isolated fraction (mg/mg of isolate).

$$\% \text{ Purity} = \frac{C \times 100}{W} \quad (3)$$

183 C = total content of Pg3G determined in Eq. (2) and expressed as mg per 100 mg of dry isolated
184 fraction.

185 W = weight of dry isolated fraction expressed as mg.

186 For comparison purposes, the purity of the commercial analytical standard of Pg3G was also
187 assessed (n=3) as described for the isolated samples.

188 **2.3.6 Stability of the isolated Pg3G**

189 It was investigated during 120 days (time zero at day 1, 30, 60, 90 and 120 days) of storage under
190 three different conditions: lyophilized sample stored at 4 ± 0.5 °C, lyophilized sample stored at -26
191 ± 0.5 °C, aqueous acidified solution (ultrapure water containing 0.35% formic acid, v/v) stored at 4
192 ± 0.5 °C.

193 For this study, a solution containing 8ppm of isolated Pg3G (concentration assessed by HPLC-UV-
194 visible analysis) was prepared in ultrapure water containing 0.35% formic acid, and divided into
195 aliquots of known volume in micro centrifuge tubes (Eppendorf®, 2 mL) that were either used for
196 the storage experiment (aqueous acidified solution) or lyophilized (Lyophilizer LS3000, Terroni®)
197 prior to the storage experiment. All tubes were sealed with parafilm and protected from light.

198 Quantification of Pg3G during stability tests were determined by HPLC-UV/Vis analysis under the
199 same conditions described in section 2.4.2. Data obtained are expressed as % Pg3G content (mean \pm
200 standard deviation) relative to the initial content (day 1).

201 **2.4 Chromatographic analyzes of anthocyanins**

202 **2.4.1 Identification of anthocyanins by LC-PDA-MS/MS**

203 Purified anthocyanin's fraction obtained from OE (section 2.2.2.) and the aqueous extract AE
204 (section 2.3.2.) and Pg3G fractions isolated (section 2.3.4.) were filtered (PTFE syringe filter, 22
205 μm , 25 mm, Analítica, SP, Brazil) and analyzed in LC-PDA-MS/MS. It was performed in using an
206 ultra-high performance liquid chromatography (UHPLC) equipped with a PDA (photo diode array)
207 detector and coupled to a triple quadrupole mass spectrometer using an ESI (electrospray) source
208 for sample ionization and dessolvatation (LCMS-8045, CBM-20A, LC-20AD_{XR}, SIL-20AC_{XR},

209 DGU-20A_{3R}, CTO-20A, SPD-M20A models, Shimadzu). For this, a C18 reverse phase column (2.6
210 µm, 100 mm x 4.6 mm, Phenomenex, Torrance, USA) is used. Separation of the compounds was
211 performed at 38°C, with flow rate of 0.3 mL / min for adequate ionization. Mobile-phase (A)
212 composed of ultrapure water 0.1% formic acid (PA) (v / v), and acetonitrile (HPLC-UV grade) was
213 the mobile phase (B). The anthocyanins separation in the C18 column occurred through the
214 gradient: 10% mobile-phase B during the first 5 min, 10-34% of B from 5 to 20 min., 34-90% B
215 from 20 to 25 min), 90% of B from 25 to 30 min, 90-10% B from 30 to 35 min and from 35-40 min.
216 at the same initial condition. . 5 µL was the injection volume and PDA-chromatograms were
217 monitored from 200 to 800 nm.

218 The LC-PDA system was connected to the ionization source of the mass spectrometer via the PDA
219 cell outlet, using PEEK tubing without a flow rate splitter. MS was performed using ESI interface at
220 the positive mode. Both the auxiliary and sheath gas were a mixture of nitrogen and argon. MS
221 parameters were set as follows: nebulizer gas at 3 L/min, dry gas flow at 10 L/min, heating gas at
222 10 L/min, interface voltage at +4000 V, interface temperature at 300°C, DL temperature at 250°C,
223 heat block temperature at 250°C, CID gas pressure was at 230 KPa and collision energy at 30 V.
224 All samples were analyzed in full scan for precursor identification, than MRM experiments were
225 conducted to determined product ions.

226 **2.4.2 Quantification of total anthocyanins by HPLC/UV-Vis analysis**

227 Purified anthocyanin's fraction obtained from OE (section 2.2.2.) and the aqueous extract AE
228 (section 2.3.2.) and Pg3G fractions isolated (section 2.3.4.) were analyzed in a high performance
229 liquid chromatography HPLC (CBM-20A; LC-20AT; DGU-20A; CTO-20A model; Shimadzu,
230 Columbia, MD, USA) with an UV-visible detector (SPD-20AV; Shimadzu). The column and oven
231 temperature were the same as described in section 2.4.1. Data were analyzed in the LC-Solutions
232 software (Shimadzu).

233 Ultrapure water containing 3% formic acid (PA) (v/v) pH 2.0±0.1 was used as the mobile phase (A)
234 and acetonitrile (HPLC-UV grade) was the mobile phase (B). Separation of the compounds was

235 conducted at 0.9 mL/min, using the following gradient: 8% B in the first 5 min, increasing to 32%
236 B (5-25 min), increasing to 90% B (25-27 min), keeping it 10 min (27-37 min), and returning to the
237 initial concentrations (8% B) (37-39 min), and keeping it for 5 min to restore the initial conditions
238 of the column before a new injection. The injection volume used was 20 µL and the chromatogram
239 was obtained at 520 nm.

240 Anthocyanins were quantified using an external calibration curve of Pg3G. The HPLC method was
241 validated by determining the linearity of standard curve (12 equidistant points), precision, limit of
242 detection (LOD) and limit of quantification (LOQ) calculated according to (ICH guideline, 2005).
243 Linear least-square regression analysis was used to calculate the slope, intercept, and the correlation
244 coefficient of the calibration curve. LOD was determined as the amount of standard equivalent to 3
245 times the signal-to-noise ratio. The LOQ was calculated as the amount of standard equivalent to 10
246 times the signal-to-noise ratio. Precision was determined by the intraday analysis of the
247 repeatability of the analytical standard peak areas.

248 **2.5 Statistical Analysis**

249 All experiments were repeated at least three times, and data were expressed as means ± standard
250 deviations. Data on stability assays was analyzed using two-way ANOVA (storage condition vs.
251 storage time) followed mean comparison by Tukey's test ($P < 0.05$). For the other experiments, a
252 one-way analysis of variance was used followed by Tukey's test ($P < 0.05$). Statistica 7 software
253 was used.

254 **3 Results and discussion**

255 **3.1 Quantification and identification of anthocyanins in strawberry samples**

256 HPLC conditions were tested until proper resolution for quantification as recommended by ICH
257 (2005). Method is linear at the concentration range of 0.075 – 66 ppm ($r^2 = 0.999$), has as LOD and
258 LOQ values at 0.024 and 0.075 ppm, respectively. (Table 1, Table 2 supplementary materials).
259 Method sensitivity is proper for identification of anthocyanin in trace concentrations and also for
260 purity evaluation. Previous reports in literature have reported higher values for limits (0.15 ppm and

261 0.48 ppm for LoD and LoQ, respectively) in strawberry cultivars than our results, using the same
262 standard for quantification (Chaves et al., 2017).

263 Aiming to achieve a complete evaluation of the anthocyanin profile in strawberries' samples that
264 will be used in the next purification steps, the OE was characterized (Table 1). There was a
265 significant difference ($P < 0.05$) in total anthocyanin content among these cultivars. The strawberry
266 cv. Camino Real had the highest content of anthocyanins, while no differences were found between
267 the other two cultivars. A total of 14 different anthocyanins were detected in all samples of different
268 cultivars. However, the highest relative percentage of Pg3G was found in cv. San Andreas (P
269 < 0.05). Differences in the anthocyanin profile of strawberry cultivars is expected and it was already
270 reported in literature (Chaves et al., 2017).

271 Ten of the 14 detected peaks were tentatively identified as reported in Table 1. Only two minor
272 compounds were not identified (peaks 1, 8, 11 and 12). Peak 2 showed the ion (M^+) m/z 449 as a
273 cyanidin precursor (m/z 287). Loss of a m/z at 162 is characteristic as a hexose molecule which was
274 already reported as glucose I strawberries (Xu et al., 2018)(Zou et al., 2018). Therefore, peak one
275 was identified as cyanidin-3-glucoside. Two other peaks (peak 4 and 11) also exhibited cyanidin
276 product ions assigned as cyanidin-3-rutinoside and, at m / z 479 (peak 11), as a non-identified
277 compound.

278 Peaks 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 14 showed product ions that allowed identification as
279 pelargonidin derivatives (m/z 271). Peak 3 (m/z 519) loses 2 fragments with m/z values at 162
280 (hexose units) being assigned as pelargonidin-3-diglucoside. Peak 5 is the major anthocyanin found
281 in strawberry samples and had a mass fragmentation pattern that matches with the analytical
282 standard of Pg3G having the precursor ion at 433 amu and a product ion m/z 271. Peak 6 (m/z 579),
283 peak 13 (m/z 519), and peak 14 (m/z 475) were tentatively identified as pelargonidin-3-rutinoside,
284 pelargonidin-3-malonylglicoside and pelargonidine-3-acetylglucoside, respectively. These
285 compounds have an expected elution order in C-18 reverse-phase chromatography, a characteristic
286 UV-visible spectral data, and the same fragmentation pattern as previously reported in strawberries

287 (Xu et al., 2018)(da Silva, Escribano-Bailón, Pérez Alonso, Rivas-Gonzalo, & Santos-Buelga,
288 2007) Cyanidin-3-glucoside, pelargonidin-3-glucoside, pelargonidin-3-rutinoside, pelargonidin-3-
289 malonylglicoside and pelargonidine-3-acetylglucoside were also identified by (Aaby, Mazur, Nes,
290 & Skrede, 2012) when evaluating anthocyanins from 27 different strawberry cultivars.

291 Fragmentation pattern observed for peak 7 is the same as previously reported in strawberries
292 (Cerezo et al., 2010; Silva et al., 2002) for pelargonidin 3,5-dissacharide (pentoside+hexoside)
293 acilated with acetic acid. Peaks 9 and 10 are proposed as isomers of pelargonidin-3-p-
294 coumaroylhexoside linked to a CO adduct since the fragmentation of the precursor ion has resulted
295 in the deliver pelargonidin+hexoside (m/z 433) and pelargonidin+hexoside+CO (m/z 461). The
296 remaining m/z value from 461 linkage is equal to 146 which possibly is related to p-coumaric acid
297 residue. It agrees with the shorter retention time observed for this compound when it is compared to
298 the malonyl and the acetyl derivatives, organic acid with only one OH group instead of one two (p-
299 coumaric acid).

300 **3.2 Quantification and identification of anthocyanins in the initial solution for purification:
301 the aqueous extracts of strawberry samples**

302 Results obtained for the AE anthocyanin composition of different strawberry cultivars are presented
303 in table 2. No significant differences in the total anthocyanin concentration and in the Pg3G levels
304 were found between cv. Albion and cv. Camino Real and it was significantly higher than the values
305 observed in San Andreas. Results also showed that the AE of the cv. Albion extracted more Pg3-
306 rutinoside (Peak 6), Pg3-dissaccharide + acetic acid (peak 7) and Pg 3-malonylglicoside (Peak 13)
307 when compared to the other cultivars which resulted in a lower relative percentage of Pg3G than
308 values observed for the other two cultivars. The compounds detected in AE were the same as in EO.
309 The results of the LC-PDA-MS/MS did not differ from those obtained in the EO, and it was also
310 proposed to identify 10 of the 14 detected peaks.

311 **3.3 Pg3G isolation tests on C₁₈ SPE cartridge**

312 Results for the development of Pg3G isolation using Albion strawberry AE are shown in Table 3.
313 Loading volume in all tests were the same and have a concentration of 7,71 mg/100 ml of

314 anthocyanins (Table 2). T1 isolation that was conducted using an elution gradient with different
315 concentrations of methanol was not efficient to isolate Pg3G but demonstrated that methanol
316 concentrations in values closed to 20% are required to for the elution of anthocyanins. Thus, T2
317 isolation conditions were designed. Since SPE cartridges have limited chromatographic efficiency
318 for separation (theoric plates), solution flown rate was reduced from 50 drops per minute to a value
319 of 9 and the elution gradient has started at 18% methanol (F1) aiming to remove the first non Pg3G
320 anthocyanins. However, no pigmentation was observed neither any anthocyanin was detected in
321 F1. Next fraction (F2) has delivered from cartridge 4 major anthocyanins (Cy 3-hexoside, Pg 3-
322 glucoside, Pg 3-rutinoside, Pg 3-malonilhexoside) which are composed of 84.8% of pelargonidin-3-
323 glucoside. The next two fractions (F3 e F4) in a total of 2 mL of methanol 30% have resulted in
324 elution of 3 major anthocyanins in which Pg3G was increased in relative concentration to values
325 close to 97%. Thus, purity of Pg3G was increased in the first volumes (2 mL) of methanol 30%
326 elution. Fractions 5 and 6 have shown a high area relative percentage for Pg3G , but it contained six
327 other anthocyanins than not the target isolation compound. The main drawback this tested
328 condition (T2) is the low volume of the high purity Pg3G fractions. Thus, the next text was
329 designed to split profile in two fractions. The first one designed to have the 4 first anthocyanins and
330 a high concentration of Pg3G than the second which should be composed of all other anthocyanins
331 and a low relative percentage of the target compound.

332 Thus, in the T3 isolation test, the Albion AE was load and initially eluted with a methanol
333 concentration (22%). Flow rate was maintained the same as in test T3. In this condition, it was
334 possible to collect a larger volume of anthocyanins (F1) containing 4 different compounds that were
335 composed of 94% of only Pg3G. This data indicated that 22% methanol was a promising elution
336 solvent for the isolation of Pg3G. The next tested condition should investigate the increase in flown
337 rate to reduce time for isolation and in which fraction of 15 mL (F1 of T3) it is possible to reduce
338 the number of anthocyanins and maintain the hight Pg3G relative percentage Therefore,T4 isolation
339 test was designed in a cartridge with a higher content of C-18 resin as stationary phase (1000 mg)

340 which should have a greater loading and separation capacity than that used in previous tests (500
341 mg). Flown rate was increased to 50 drops/minute and anthocyanin recovery at 22% of methanol
342 was monitored at each 5 ml and until no pigment elution was observed. At T4 conditions it was
343 possible to obtain two fractions (F5 and F6) in a total of 10 mL in which composed of only three
344 anthocyanins in which purity of Pg3G was shown to be higher than 93%. No anthocyanins were
345 detected in F1 and F2and solvent has promoted band spreading with the formation of 3 separated
346 bands. The first eluted fractions (F3 and F4) have visible pigmentation, but low content of Pg3G
347 and a high relative percentage of Cy3G ($\geq 10\%$). Although F7 still had high relatively high purity of
348 Pg3G, the number of detected anthocyanins (4) were increased.

349 Finally, T5 isolation condition was an optimization of T4 for a simple elution order in a satisfactory
350 time for elution. Thus, by the results in T4, the first 20 mL of a colored band that were discarded
351 (F1) to remove the first anthocyanins of Albion AE with a low relative percentage and
352 concentration of Pg3G. Thereafter, the following 10mL (F2)which represented the central colored-
353 band of the cartridge was recovered an it should have a high relative percentage of Pg3G with only
354 a minor concentration and number of other anthocyanins. As it was presented in Table 3, these
355 results were achieved and F1 is absent of Pg3G, F2 is composed of 3 anthocyanins, and purity of
356 Pg3G is almost 96% (F2) (Figure 2 - supplementary data). 100% of methanol was chosen as the last
357 solvent to remove high retained compounds. Thus, conditions reported for T5 were considered as
358 the methodological procedures for the isolation of high purity Pg3G and it was used for the
359 robustness evaluation.

360 **3.4 Method robustness for Pg3G isolation method in C₁₈ SPE**

361 Cartridges from two different brands were used to determine the reproducibility of the isolation
362 method (Table 4). Compounds detected in isolated Pg3G using cartridges SPE were the same
363 detected in the commercially available analytical standard (Figure 3 and 4- supplementary data).
364 Purity of Pg3G analyzed by HPLC was lower for samples obtained using SPE isolation method
365 (cartridges A and B) when compared to the commercial analytical standard. However, by the

366 spectrophotometric method, which consider other substances than not only anthocyanins, purity did
367 not differ significantly ($P \geq 0.05$) between the two isolates obtained with different cartridge brands
368 and the commercial analytical one. Recovery percentage determined by comparison with the initial
369 Pg3G content in AE did not differ significantly ($P \geq 0.05$) between brands. Moreover, the isolate
370 total Pg3G content also did not differ ($P \geq 0.05$). These results demonstrate that the method has
371 reproducibility when brands is altered.

372 No significant differences ($P \geq 0.05$) were observed in purity, recovery, content, and number of
373 compounds in the isolated fraction of Pg3G among different strawberry cultivars (Table 4). Finally,
374 the PDA data obtained from injection of the isolated Pg3G fractions revealed that the max-Plot
375 from 280 to 520 nm has the presence of only cyanidin-3-glucoside (Peak 2) pelargonidin-3-
376 glucoside (Peak 5) and pelargonidin-3-rutinoside (Peak 6) (Figure 4- supplementary data).

377 **3.5 Stability of isolated Pg3G**

378 Table 5 shows the stability of the isolated Pg3g under three different storage conditions. No
379 significant differences ($P \geq 0.05$) were observed in the stability of Pg3G under the tested storage
380 conditions (aqueous acidified solution stored at 4 °C, lyophilized sample stored at 4 °C, lyophilized
381 sample stored at 26 °C) in the first 60 days of storage, and no significant degradation of Pg3G was
382 observed up to this storage time. There was significant degradation of Pg3G after 90 days of storage
383 under all conditions assessed. However, stability at 120 days did not show significant differences
384 compared to 90 days of storage. Degradation at 90 and 120 days was more severe in samples stored
385 in acidified water/refrigeration, since the remaining percentage of Pg3G was lower ($p < 0.05$) in this
386 group than that determined in the other two storage conditions.

387 These results demonstrated that it is possible to store the isolated fraction of Pg3G in acidified
388 aqueous solution under refrigeration, for up to 60 days without significant degradation of this
389 compound. Lyophilized Pg3G can be stored refrigerated or frozen up to 60 days.

390

391

392 **4 Conclusions**

393 Developed purification methodology is capable to prepare high purity Pg3G using reverse-phase
394 (C-18) solid phase extraction cartridges with similar quality to commercially available compounds.
395 Method can be performed using only equipment that are commonly used in chemical
396 characterization works of anthocyanins in vegetable extracts. Thus, it does not require the purchase
397 and lab facilities for other equipment that are only used for isolation of standards. SPE methods are
398 fast and easily reproduced as it was made by comparison with different brands and strawberry
399 extracts. . Pure anthocyanin standards are required in qualitative and quantitative analyzes and
400 necessary to reduce analytical errors due quantification by equivalence. They can also be used as
401 references in the evaluation of bioactive capacities of plant extracts.

402 To expand the application scope of our proposed method or for isolation of other anthocyanin from
403 plant extracts than not only Pg3G some adaptations should be tested. It could include the increase of
404 the cartridge chromatographic capacity and the combination of other solvents and gradients. This
405 study presents a practical and efficient technique for the preparation of high purity Pg3G.

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410 necessary equipment and laboratories for the analyzes.

411 **Conflict of interests**

412 The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest in the publication of the results presented in
413 this article.

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496

Table 1: Identification and quantification of anthocyanins in Strawberry samples using the exhaustive extraction method.

Strawberry cultivars									
		Albion		Camino Real		San Andreas			
		Total anthocyanins (mg/100g)*		19.17 ± 0.50 ^B		25.04 ± 1.46 ^A			
		Number of detected compounds (DC)*		14 ^A		14 ^A			
		Pg3G (%R)**		82.92 ± 0.26 ^B		82.94 ± 0.25 ^B			
LC-PDA-MS/MS data									
Retention Time			Precursor Ion	Product Ion					
Peak	Minutes	Tentative identification	$\lambda_{\text{Máx}}$ (nm)	[M ⁺] m/z	[M ⁺] m/z	Content* (mg/100 g)			
1	6.12 ± 0.08	N.I.	516	449/431	410/287	0.09 ± 0.00 ^A	0.07 ± 0.00 ^B		
2	7.01 ± 0.09	Cy 3-hexoside	516	449	287	0.79 ± 0.05 ^B	1.42 ± 0.11 ^A		
3	7.67 ± 0.07	Pg 3,5-dihexoside	502	595	433;271	< LOQ ^A	< LOQ ^A		
4	8.31 ± 0.07	Cy 3-rutinoside	520	595	449; 287	< LOQ ^B	0.16 ± 0.01 ^A		
5	9.98 ± 0.09	Pg 3-glucoside	501	433	271	15.90 ± 0.45^B	20.77 ± 1.15^A		
6	12.48 ± 0.03	Pg 3-rutinoside	504	579	433; 271	2.15 ± 0.05 ^A	2.39 ± 0.16 ^A		
7	12.64 ± 0.02	Pg 3,5-dissacharide (pentoside and hexoside) + acetic acid	505	607	433; 271	0.05 ± 0.01 ^A	< LOQ ^B		
8	13.26 ± 0.09	N.I.	504	461	433;271	< LOQ ^A	< LOQ ^A		
9	13.91 ± 0.05	Pg 3-p-coumaroylhexoside isomer + CO adduct	505	607	461 (433 +28amu);433;271	< LOQ ^A	< LOQ ^A		
10	14.21 ± 0.08	Pg 3-p-coumaoylhexoside isomer + CO adduct	505	607	461 (433 +28amu);433;271	< LOQ ^A	< LOQ ^A		

11	14.67 ± 0.09	N.I.	520	479;477	287	< LOQ ^A	< LOQ ^A	< LOQ ^A
12	15.01 ± 0.09	N.I.	504	607	519;271	< LOQ ^A	< LOQ ^A	< LOQ ^A
13	15.74 ± 0.01	Pg 3-malonylhexoside	504	519	433; 271	0.12 ± 0.00 ^A	0.12 ± 0.01 ^A	0.08 ± 0.00 ^B
14	17.71 ± 0.01	Pg 3- acetylhexoside	504	475	271	0.06 ± 0.01 ^B	0.11 ± 0.02 ^A	0.05 ± 0.00 ^B

497 * Results obtained by HPLC-UV/Vis analysis.

498 ** Relative percentage of area referring to Pg3G (Pelargonidin-3-glucoside) in chromatogram obtained at 520 nm.

499 Pg: Pelargonidin; Cy: Cyanidin; N.I.: Not identified; LOQ: Limit of quantification (0.075 ppm).

500 ^{A-C} Means with different superscripts in the same line are significantly different at $P < 0.05$. The results are expressed as Pg3G equivalents (mean \pm
501 standard deviation; n=3) per 100 g of fresh strawberry.

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504 **Table 2:** Identification and quantification of anthocyanins in strawberry aqueous extract.

							Strawberry cultivars		
							Albion	Camino Real	San Andreas
Total anthocyanins (mg/100 mL)*							7.71 ± 0.41^A	7.61 ± 0.29^A	5.22 ± 0.51^B
Number of detected compounds (DC)*							14^A	14^A	14^A
Pg3G (%R) **							82.43 ± 0.46^B	87.04 ± 0.31^A	86.67 ± 0.21^A
LC-PDA-MS/MS data									
Retention Time			Precursor Ion		Product Ion				
Peak	Minutes	Tentative identification	$\lambda_{\text{Máx}}$ (nm)	[M^+] <i>m/z</i>	[M^+] <i>m/z</i>		Content * (mg/ 100mL)		
1	6.10 ± 0.07	N.I.	516	705/449/431	410/287	0.04 ± 0.01^A	0.04 ± 0.00^A	0.03 ± 0.00^B	
2	7.01 ± 0.09	Cy 3-hexoside	516	449	287	0.11 ± 0.01^B	0.14 ± 0.01^A	0.03 ± 0.00^B	
3	7.65 ± 0.03	Pg 3,5-dihexoside	502	595	433;271	0.02 ± 0.00^A	0.02 ± 0.00^A	0.01 ± 0.00^B	
4	8.31 ± 0.07	Cy 3-rutinoside	520	595	449; 287	< LOQ ^B	0.01 ± 0.00^A	< LOQ ^B	
5	9.99 ± 0.07	Pg 3-glucoside	501	433	271	6.35 ± 0.34^A	6.62 ± 0.26^A	4.52 ± 0.45^B	
6	12.50 ± 0.03	Pg 3-rutinoside	504	579	433; 271	0.71 ± 0.03^A	0.61 ± 0.02^B	0.55 ± 0.04^B	
7	12.64 ± 0.02	Pg 3,5-dissacharide (pentoside and hexoside) + acetic acid	505	607	433; 271	0.02 ± 0.00^A	0.02 ± 0.00^B	0.01 ± 0.00^C	
8	13.26 ± 0.09	N.I.	504	461	433;271	< LOQ ^A	< LOQ ^A	< LOQ ^A	
9	14.01 ± 0.05	Pg 3-p-coumaroylhexoside isomer + CO adduct	505	607	461;433;271	< LOQ ^A	< LOQ ^A	< LOQ ^A	
10	14.21 ± 0.08	Pg 3-p-coumaoylhexaside isomer + CO adduct	505	607	461; 433;271	< LOQ ^A	< LOQ ^A	< LOQ ^A	
11	14.67 ± 0.09	N.I.	520	479 ;477	287	< LOQ ^B	0.01 ± 0.00^A	< LOQ ^B	

12	14.98 ± 0.07	N.I.	504	607	519;271	< LOQ ^A	< LOQ ^A	< LOQ ^A
13	15.75 ± 0.01	Pg 3-malonylhexoside	504	519	433; 271	0.41 ± 0.03 ^A	0.05 ± 0.00 ^B	0.04 ± 0.01 ^B
14	17.75 ± 0.05	Pg 3- acetylhexoside	504	475	271	0.036 ± 0.003 ^B	0.08 ± 0.0 ^A	0.02 ± 0.00 ^B

505 * Results obtained by HPLC-UV/Vis analysis.

506 ** Relative percentage of area referring to Pg3G (Pelargonidin-3-glucoside) in chromatogram obtained at 520 nm.

507 Pg: Pelargonidin; Cy: Cyanidin; N.I.: Not identified; LOQ: limit of quantification (0.075ppm).

508 ^{A-B} Means with different superscripts in the same line are significantly different at $P < 0.05$; The results are expressed as Pg3G equivalents (mean \pm standard deviation; n=3).

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510 Table 3: Tests of Pg3G isolation conditions using SPE

Test	Variable 1	Fractions	Variable 2	Eluted volume (mL)	Number of anthocyanins detected	Pg3G (%R)
T1	Flow: 50 ± 5 drops/min Cartridge: 500 mg C ₁₈	F1	5%	5	NA	-
		F2	10%	5	ND	-
		F3	20%	5	7	70.7 \pm 0.5
		F4	30%	5	7	75.3 \pm 1.2
		F5	40%	5	11	53.8 \pm 0.9
		F6	50%	5	NA	-
		F7	60%	5	NA	-
T2	Flow: 9 ± 1 drops/min Cartridge: 500 mg C ₁₈	F1	18%	10	ND	-
		F2	20%	5	4	84.8 \pm 3.1
		F3	30%	1	3	93.8 \pm 2.2
		F4	30%	1	3	96.4 \pm 0.9
		F5	30%	1	7	95.1 \pm 1.1
		F6	30%	1	7	95.2 \pm 0.2
		F7	30%	1	4	74.5 \pm 3.5
		F8	99%	5	NA	-
T3	Flow: 9 ± 1 drops/min Cartridge: 500 mg C ₁₈	F1	22%	15	4	94.0 \pm 0.1
		F2	30%	2	4	86.3 \pm 3.2
T4	Flow: 50 ± 5 drops/min Cartridge: 1000 mg C ₁₈	F1	22%	5	ND	-
		F2	22%	5	ND	-
		F3	22%	5	6	58.3 \pm 2.1
		F4	22%	5	5	78.1 \pm 1.3
		F5	22%	5	3	93.7 \pm 1.8
		F6	22%	5	3	96.0 \pm 0.5
		F7	22%	5	5	93.9 \pm 1.4
		F8	100%	10	NA	-
T5	Flow: 50 ± 5 drops/min Cartridge: 1000 mg C ₁₈	F1	22%	20 \pm 5	NA	95.9 \pm 1.9
		F2	22%	10	3	-
		F3	100%	10	NA	-

511 Pg3G (%R): Relative percentage of the normalization of the peak area of Pg3G in chromatogram
 512 obtained at λ 520nm; ND: Not Detected; NA: Not Analyzed; Variable 1: flow and C₁₈ content in the
 513 cartridge; Variable 2: gradient with different percentages of methanol.

514 Table 4: Results of the validation of the isolation method.

Pg3G isolated (cartridges of different brands)						
Cultivar	SPE	DC	Purity (%)	Recovery *	Content *	
			HPLC *	Spectrophotometer **	(%)	(mg/100 mL)
Albion	A	3 ^A	94.9±0.29 ^C	96.2±4.43 ^A	42.2±9.78 ^A	2.6±0.46 ^A
Albion	B	3 ^A	96.7±0.77 ^B	101.8±6.97 ^A	56.1±7.34 ^A	3.4±0.71 ^A
Analytical Standard		3 ^A	99.4±0.05 ^A	94.8±0.04 ^A	-	-
Pg3G isolated (diferentes cultivars)						
Cultivars	DC	HPLC*	Purity (%)	Recovery *	Content *	
			Spectrophotometer **	(%)	(mg/100 mL)	
Albion	3 ^A	94.9±0.29 ^B	96.2±4.43 ^A	42.2±9.78 ^A	2.7±0.46 ^A	
Camino real	3 ^A	94.5±0.10 ^B	94.3±2.98 ^A	36.2±3.06 ^A	2.4±0.29 ^A	
San Andreas	3 ^A	95.3±0.94 ^B	94.9±2.32 ^A	42.7±3.48 ^A	1.9±0.14 ^A	
Analytical standard	3 ^A	99.4±0.05 ^A	94.8±0.04 ^A	-	-	

515 DC: Number of compounds detected (Cy 3-glucoside, Pg 3-glucoside, Pg 3-rutinoside).

516 SPE: Solid-phase extraction cartridges (brands A e B).

517 * Results obtained in HPLC analyses (relative percentage of the total chromatogram area at 520 nm) .

518 ** Results obtained in spectrophotometric analyses (mg of Pg3G/100 mg of dry weight of the isolated fraction).

519 ^{A-C} Means with different superscripts within the same column are significantly different at $P < 0.05$.

520 The results are expressed as mean ± standard deviation (n = 3).

521

522

523 **Table 5:** Pg3G stability (% relative to the amount found in the start of storage) under different storage conditions

Storage conditions	Time (days)				
	1	30	60	90	120
Aqueous acidified solution stored at 4°C	100.0±2.3 ^{Aa}	100.2±2.9 ^{Aa}	97.3±2.7 ^{Aa}	83.6±2.7 ^{Bb}	80.0±0.0 ^{Bb}
Lyophilized sample stored at 4°C	100.0±3.3 ^{Aa}	99.7 ±3.6 ^{Aa}	97.5±2.7 ^{Aa}	89.4±1.7 ^{Ba}	84.6±1.8 ^{Ba}
Lyophilized sample stored at -26°C	100.0±3.3 ^{Aa}	98.7± 3.4 ^{Aa}	98.3±1.3 ^{Aa}	86.7±2.2 ^{Bab}	84.7±0.6 ^{Ba}

524 ^{A-B} Means values with different superscripts within the same line are significantly different at $P < 0.05$.525 ^{a-b} Means with different superscripts within the same column are significantly different at $P < 0.05$.

526 The results are expressed as mean ± standard deviation (n = 3).

527

Supplementary material

528 **Table S1.** Validation data for the HPLC analysis of perlargonidin 3-glucoside.

Method validation parameters	
Concentration range (mg/L)	0,075 - 66,03
Regression equation	$y = 66327x$
R^2	0.9992
LOD (mg/L)	0.024
LOQ (mg/L)	0.075
RSD for intraday repeatability (%)	0.0007

529 LOD: limit of detection; LOQ: limit of quantification; RSD: relative standard deviation (%).

530

531 **Table S2.** The analysis of variance (ANOVA) for the standard curve of pelargonidin-3-glucoside.

Analysis of variance (ANOVA)					
Factors	Df	SS	MS	F	p value
Concentration	1	6.433005E+13	6.433005E+13	1754.86	7.55E-31
Residual	34	1.24639E+12	36658505743		

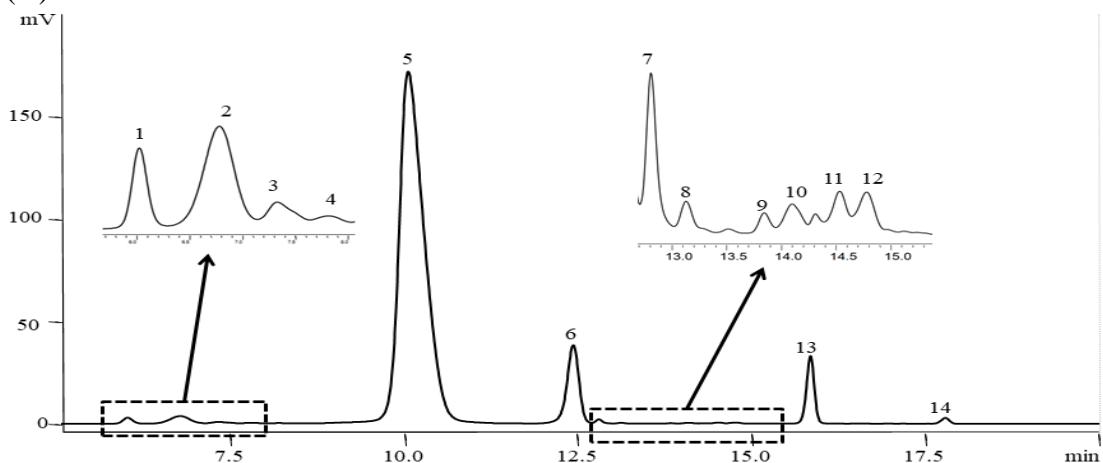
532 Df: degrees of freedom; SS: squares terms; MS: mean square; F: Statistical F

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534

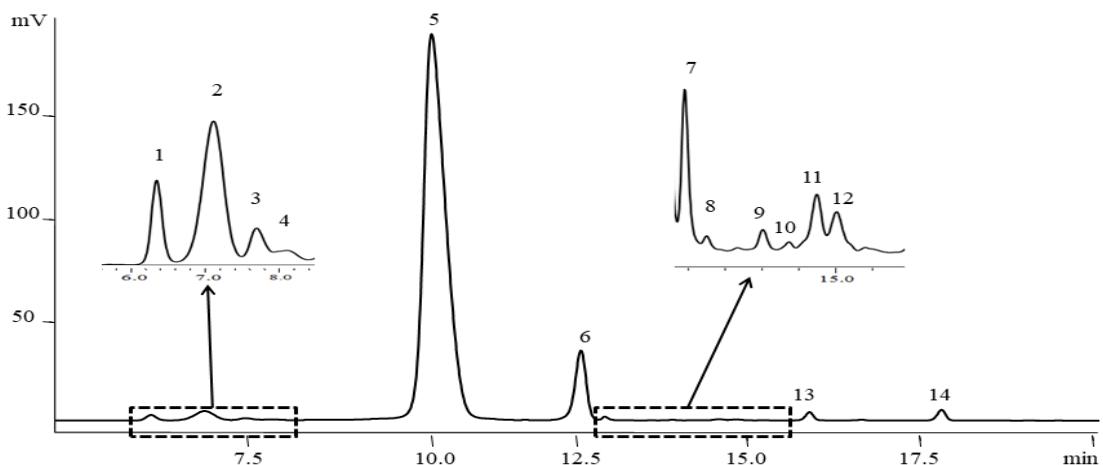
535 **Figure S1:** HPLC chromatograms of anthocyanins (λ 520nm) in the aqueous extract of strawberry.
 536 cv. Albion (A), cv. Camino Real (B), cv. San Andreas (C).

537 (A)



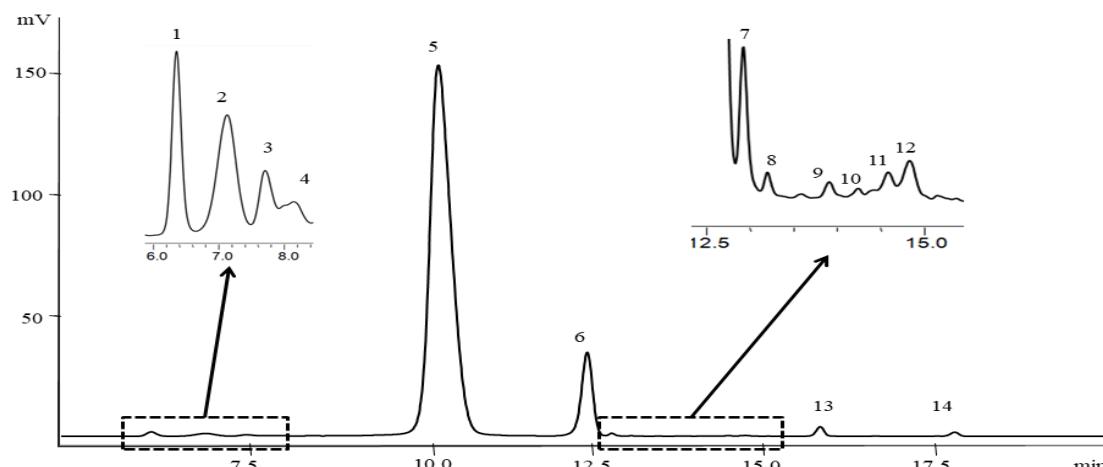
538

539 (B)



540

541 (C)

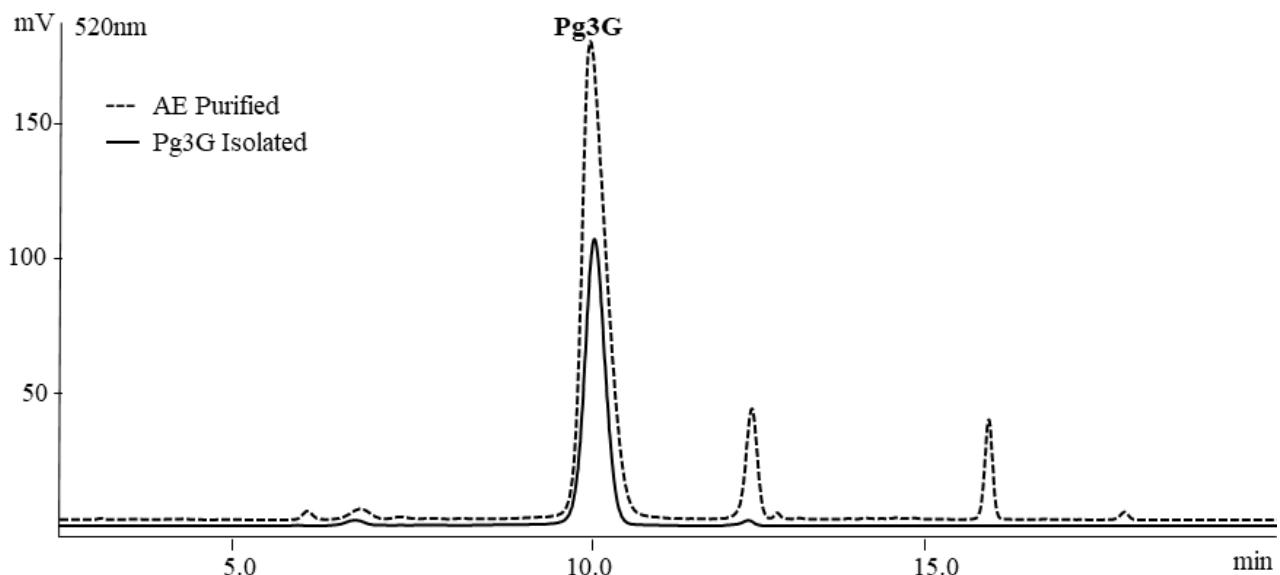


542

543 Tentative identification of peaks by LC-MS/MS: (2) Cy 3-hexoside; (3) Pg 3,5-dihexoside; (4) Cy
 544 3- rutinoside; (5) Pg3G; (6) Pg 3-rutinoside; (7) Pg 3,5 dissacharide +acetic acid; (9) Pg 3-p-
 545 coumaroylhexoside isomer +CO adduct; (10) Pg 3-p-coumaroylhexoside isomer+CO adduct; (13)
 546 Pg 3-malonylhexoside; (14) Pg 3-acetylhexoside; (1), (8), (11) and (12) were not identified.

547

548 **Figure S2:** Chromatogram test 5 (T5) isolation of Pg3G at 520nm.

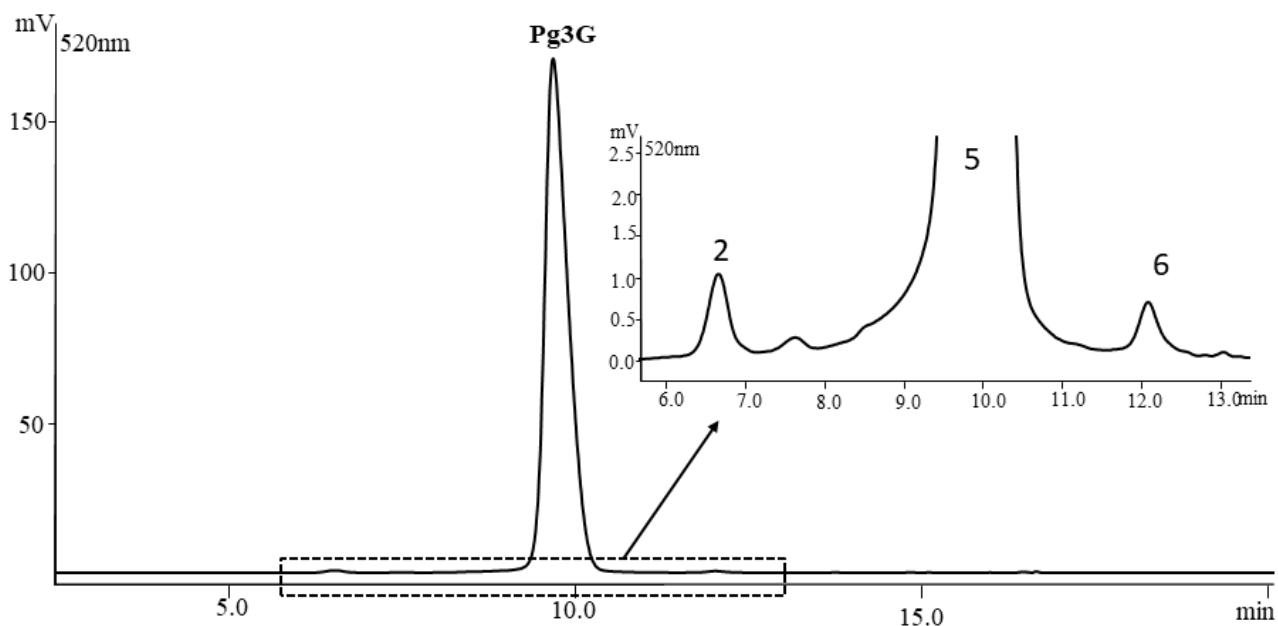


549

550 AE Purified: Aqueous extract of purified anthocyanins; Pg3G Isolated: Fraction 2 (F2) of test 5
551 (T5) rich in Pg3G.

552

553 **Figure S3:** Chromatogram of commercial standard Pg3G at 520nm.

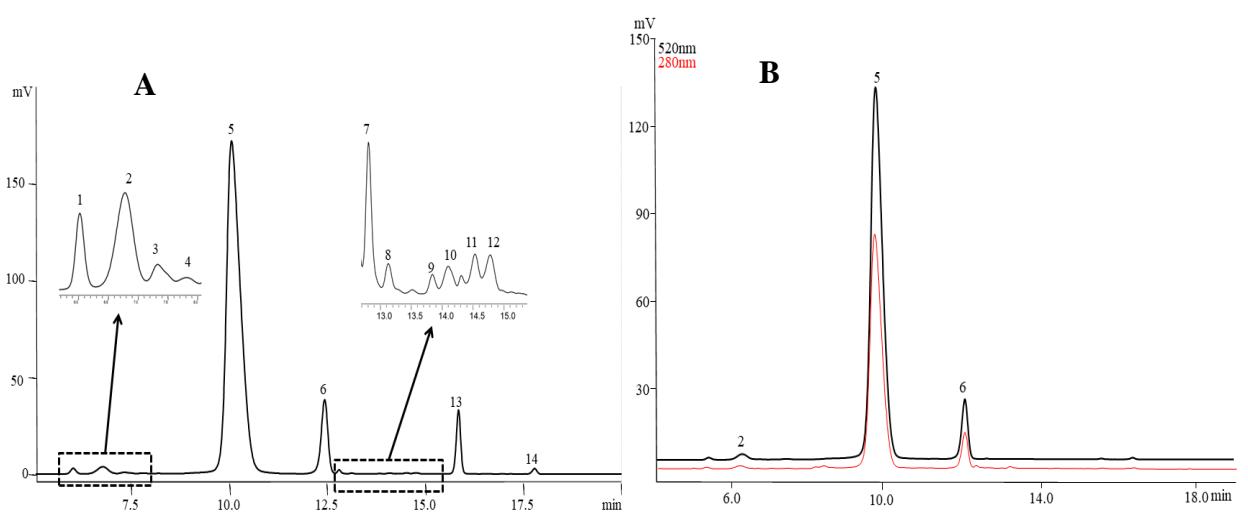


554

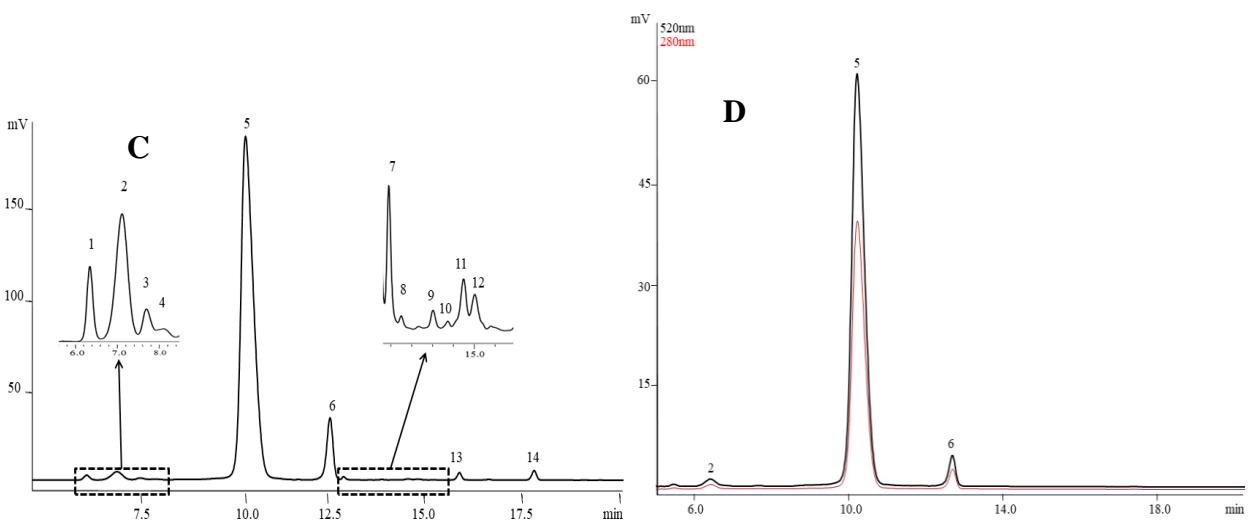
555 Tentative identification of peaks by LC-MS/MS: (2) Cy 3-hexoside; (5) Pg3G ; (6) Pg 3-rutinoside.

556 **Figure S4:** Chromatograms of the validation of the isolation method of Pg3G in SPE cartridge from
 557 differentes cultivars of strawberry.

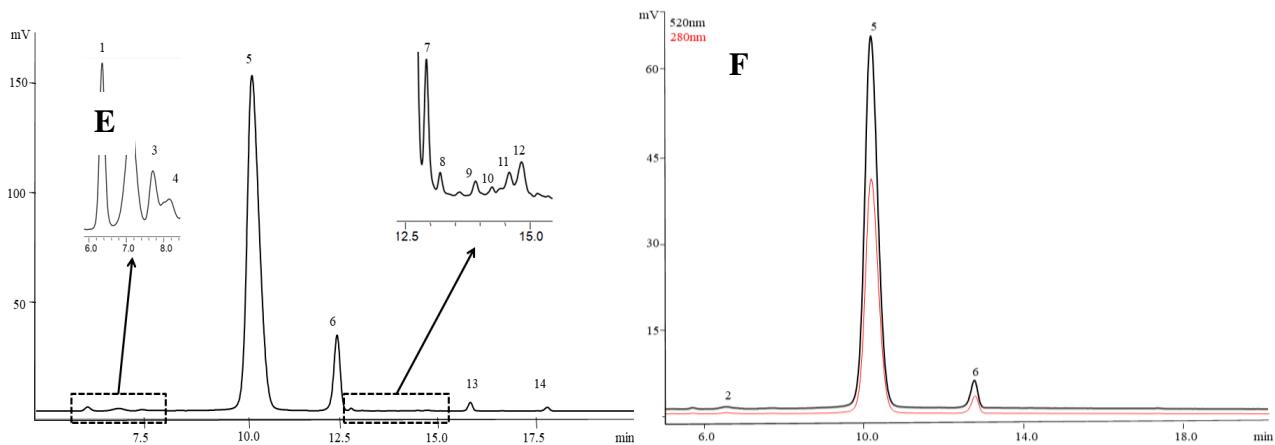
558



559



560



561 A: Aqueous extract cv. Albion; B: Pg3G fraction isolated cv. Albion; C: Aqueous extract cv.
 562 Camino Real; D: Pg3G fraction isolated cv. Camino Real; E: Aqueous extract cv. San Andreas; F:
 563 Pg3G fraction isolated cv. San Andreas. Tentative identification of peaks by LC-MS/MS: (2) Cy 3-
 564 hexoside; (3) Pg 3,5-dihexoside; (4) Cy 3- rutinoside; (5) Pg3G; (6) Pg 3-rutinoside; (7) Pg 3,5
 565 disasacharide +acetic acid; (9) Pg 3-p-coumaroylhexoside isomer +CO adduct; (10) Pg 3-p-
 566 coumaroylhexoside isomer+CO adduct; (13) Pg 3-malonylhexoside; (14) Pg 3-acetylhexoside; (1),
 567 (8), (11) and (12) werw not identified.

MANUSCRITO 2**AQUEOUS EXTRACT OF BLACKBERRY (*RUBUS SP*) AS A SOURCE TO OBTAIN
HIGH PURITY CYANIDIN-3-O-GLUCOSIDE FRACTION BY SPE-C18 (SOLID
PHASE EXTRACTION)**

Este trabalho está em fase de revisão para ser submetido à revista Food Chemistry

1 **Aqueous extract of blackberry (*Rubus* sp.) as a source to obtain high purity cyanidin-3-O-**
2 **glucoside fraction by SPE-C18 (Solid Phase Extraction)**

3

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16 **ABSTRACT**

17 Anthocyanin fractionation SPE cartridges has been used to separate acylated from non-acylated
18 pigment forms. However, the isolation of a single anthocyanin still requires the use of instrumental
19 analysis by preparative HPLC due to the complexity of polyphenol composition in natural sources.

20 Considering that blackberries are majorly composed of cyanidin-3-glucoside (Cy3G) corresponding
21 to approximately 90% of all anthocyanin compounds, this work has aimed to isolate Cy3G by SPE.

22 Maceration in acidified water (0.35% formic acid) was tested to recover anthocyanins from
23 blackberries. The isolation of Cy3G from the fruit extract was performed using C₁₈ SPE cartridges
24 using acidified methanol and water as mobile phases. Method robustness was evaluated as the
25 reproducibility of isolation performance for three different cultivars (Tupy, Guarani, Xavante) and
26 two different cartridge brands. The isolated fractions of Cy3G had higher than 96% purity,

27 cyanidin-3-rutinoside being the single contaminant compounds. The stability of isolated Cy3G
28 under three different conditions of storage during 120 days was also evaluated. Isolated Cy3G
29 showed good stability over 90 days under two storage conditions (acidified aqueous solution stored
30 at 4°C, lyophilized sample stored at 4°C). The proposed purification procedure is capable of
31 producing a Cy3G fraction of high purity and good stability using only SPE cartridges and
32 blackberry extracts.

33

34 **Keywords:** Blackberry, Anthocyanins, Isolation, Extraction

35

36 **1 Introduction**

37 Simple and effective methods for obtaining anthocyanins isolated from plant sources are rarely
38 reported. Efficient methods for obtaining high purity isolated anthocyanin monomers report the use
39 of preparative liquid chromatography coupled to a fraction collector (Chorfa, Savard, & Belkacemi,
40 2015; Wang, Yin, Xu, & Liu, 2014; Gouvêa, Araujo, Schulz, Pacheco, Godoy & Cabral, 2012).
41 Excellent results were also obtained using high-speed counter-current chromatography
42 (HSCCC)(Montilla, Hillebrand, Butschbach, Baldermann, Watanabe & Winterhalter, 2010; Xu, Hu,
43 Li, Sun, & Chen, 2018; Zoua, Ma, Xu, Liao, Chenb, Yang, 2018). However, these methodologies
44 require sophisticated equipment and consumables of high cost.

45 The application of solid phase extraction for anthocyanins is recommended to obtain purified
46 extracts of this natural pigments that are free of others interferents (Rodriguez-Saona & Wrolstad,
47 2001). The combination of different sorbents using exchange-cation/reverse-phase cartridges, water
48 gradients and organic buffers has been reported to be convenient for concentrating and enhancing
49 the purity of anthocyanin extract by eliminating sugars and other non-anthocyanin compounds from
50 plant extracts (He & Giusti, 2011). A recent study has combined different cartridges and suitable
51 solvents and was capable to segregate diacylated anthocyanins from the other that were present in
52 red cabbage (Ahmadiani, Sigurdson, Robbins, Collins, & Giusti, 2018). However, no previous

53 reports have tried to use plant matrices with a simple anthocyanin profile to isolate one compound
54 using this convenient technique. This procedure is fast and would enable obtaining in-house
55 standards, which have direct application for food analysis, and allow the evaluation of structure
56 relationships with biochemical properties of these compounds.

57 The use of matrices with low complexity profile, i.e. sources bearing a single major anthocyanin, is
58 advantageous for the isolation of anthocyanins from plant sources (Gouvêa et al., 2012). Blackberry
59 (*Rubus* sp.) is a rich source for anthocyanins (Chaves, Boff, Vizzotto, Calvete, Reginatto &
60 Simões, 2018; Pasquel, Machado, Barbero, Rezende, & Martínez, 2014), where the major one,
61 cyanidin-3-glucoside (Cy3G), corresponds to approximately 90% of total anthocyanin. The other
62 anthocyanins reported at low amounts in this fruit are: cyanidin-3-rutinoside, cyanidin-3-
63 malonylhexoid, pelargonidin-3-glucoside (Kim, Perkins-Veazie, Ma, & Fernandez, 2015).
64 Therefore, blackberry is a promising source for the isolation of Cy3G.

65 The objective of this study was to develop and evaluate a method of isolation of high purity Cy3G
66 through the application of reverse phase SPE technique (C18) using aqueous extract of blackberry.
67 The conditions for anthocyanin extraction, namely the sample/solvent ratio and stirring time, were
68 also evaluated. Finally, the stability of isolated Cy3G was evaluated under three different storage
69 conditions during 120 days.

70 **2 Materials and methods**

71 **2.1 Materials and chemicals**

72 Analytical standard of cyanidin-3-glucoside (market name: kuromarin chloride; purity \geq 95%) was
73 obtained from Sigma-Aldrich® (St. Louis, MO, USA). The ultrapure water was obtained by Milli-Q
74 system (Direct-Q® 3UV, Millipore Corporation, Massachusetts, USA). Methanol (PA), formic acid
75 (PA, 85%) and ethyl acetate (PA) were purchased from Dynamics® (São Paulo, Brazil),
76 hydrochloric acid (PA) was from Vetec® (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil). Potassium chloride (PA), sodium
77 acetate (PA) and acetone (HPLC-UV) were obtained from Qhemis® (São Paulo, Brazil). Methanol
78 (HPLC-UV) and acetonitrile (HPLC-UV) were from J.T. Baker® (Phillipsburg, New Jersey, USA).

79 SPE cartridges C₁₈ 1 g (volume 6 mL) were STRATA® from Phenomenex (Torrance, California,
80 USA) and Waters® (Massachusetts, USA).

81 **2.2 Samples**

82 Mature and frozen blackberries of the cultivars Guarani, Tupy and Xavante were provided by
83 Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária de Clima Temperado (EMBRAPA) from Pelotas/RS,
84 Brazil (31°40' 50.6'' S, 52° 26' 23.1'' W). The samples were collected in January 2018 and stored at
85 -26.0 ± 0.5 ° C until the experiments were carried out.

86 **2.3 Anthocyanin extraction and purification**

87 **2.3.1 Extraction of total anthocyanins from different cultivars**

88 The total anthocyanins extraction from three different cultivars of blackberry was performed as
89 described by (Bochi, Barcia, Rodrigues, Speroni, Giusti & Godoy, 2014) with modifications.
90 Approximately 3 g of frozen and macerated samples were extracted with aqueous solution of
91 acetone (20%, v/v) acidified with formic acid (0.35%, v/v) at sample solvent ratio of 1:20 (m:v)
92 under shaking for 20 min. The extract obtained was vacuum filtered (Whatman Paper Filter, N° 3)
93 and the residue was washed thoroughly with the extractive solution for complete removal of
94 anthocyanins. Finally, the extract obtained was concentrated (10 min/38 ± 1 ° C) on a rotary
95 evaporator (Buchi-R3 ™, CE, CSA) and the final volume was adjusted to 100 mL with acidified
96 water (0.35% formic acid, v/v). This extract was used for characterization and quantification
97 analyzes of total anthocyanins in the blackberry samples.

98 **2.3.2 Tests for aqueous extraction of blackberry anthocyanins**

99 With the aim of obtaining an extract of blackberry anthocyanins free of organic solvents, which
100 makes it unnecessary to evaporate solvents, the aqueous extraction method was tested.

101 Blackberry (cv Guarani) was used for these tests that were performed using distilled water acidified
102 with 0.35% formic acid (v/v) as the extractive solution. The variables evaluated were:
103 sample/extractive solution ratio (1:1, 1:2, 1:3, 1:4, 1:5 and 1:6, m/v) x shaking time (10, 20, 30 and
104 40 min). The frozen samples were crushed, then weighed and extracted in falcon tubes that were

105 vortexted for 1 min, followed by shaking and centrifugation at 2,100x g/5 min. The supernatant was
106 collected and considered as an aqueous extract of anthocyanins.

107 For comparison purposes, parallel samples were exhaustively extracted as described in the section
108 2.3.1. The extracts were evaluated for the total monomeric anthocyanins content using the
109 differential pH methodology as described by (Giusti & Wrolstad, 2001). The extracts were diluted
110 in potassium chloride buffer (0.025 M, pH 1.0) and sodium acetate buffer (0.4 M, pH 4.5). The
111 absorbance readings were made in a spectrophotometer (G1369C LAN-Interface; Agilent
112 Technologies, Shanghai, China) at 510 and 700 nm. The total content of monomeric anthocyanins
113 in the extracts was calculated as described by (Giusti & Wrolstad, 2001) using 26,900 as the molar
114 absorptivity (ϵ), and 449.2 as the molar weight (MW).

115 The concentration of anthocyanins in the aqueous extract was compared with the exhaustive
116 extraction and results expressed in mg/100 mL of extract. Extraction efficiency was obtained by
117 comparing the total anthocyanin content of each extraction (mg/100 g of sample). Recovery was
118 calculated as the percentage of extracted anthocyanins (%) in relation to the exhaustive extraction
119 (considered as 100%).

120 **2.3.3 Optimized aqueous extraction of anthocyanins**

121 According to the results (Table S1, Table S2 and Table S3; Supplementary material) of the aqueous
122 extraction tests (section 2.2.2), the best extraction conditions for blackberry anthocyanins were
123 defined as using approximately 3 g of frozen blackberry, macerating with acidified water
124 containing 0.35% formic acid (v/v) at 1:5 (m/v) sample/solvent ratio under stirring for 30 min.
125 Thereafter, samples were centrifuged (2,100x g/5 min), the supernatant was collected and named
126 aqueous extract (EA).

127 **2.3.4 Purification and concentration of anthocyanin extracts**

128 The extracts of total anthocyanins (TA) and aqueous extract (AE) were purified according to the
129 methodology described by (Bochi, Godoy, & Giusti, 2015) using C18 SPE cartridges (1g, 6 cc,
130 Strata, Phenomenex®, USA), connected to a manifold (HyperSep Glass Block Manifolds, 16 ports,
131 Thermo Scientific®), with flow rate of 50 ± 2 drops/min. Cartridges were activated by eluting 5 mL

132 of methanol (HPLC), followed by 15 mL of ultrapure water acidified water (0.35% formic acid,
133 v/v). Then, the extracts, 10 mL for TA (section 2.3.1.) and 9 mL for AE (section 2.3.3.), were eluted
134 with 15 mL of ultrapure acidified water for removal of compounds bearing greater polarity than
135 anthocyanins. Non-anthocyanin phenolic compounds and other interferents that are less polar than
136 the anthocyanins were removed from the sample using 15 mL of ethyl acetate. The anthocyanins
137 were then recovered using methanol (HPLC grade) acidified (0.35% formic acid, v/v), concentrated
138 on a rotary evaporator ($38 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}/10\text{ min}$) and the final volume was adjusted to 2 mL using
139 acidified ultrapure water (0.35% of formic acid, v/v).

140 **2.4 Development of a Cy3G isolation method using SPE cartridge**

141 The study of Cy3G isolation was based on the methodology developed by our research group
142 (unpublished data), where it was possible to obtain high-purity pelargonidin-3-glucoside from
143 aqueous strawberry extracts using SPE C18 (1 g) cartridges and an aqueous solution of 22%
144 methanol (HPLC grade) acidified with 0.35% formic acid (v/v).

145 **2.4.1 Test conditions for isolation of Cy3G**

146 For this study, we used the best conditions for fractionation and isolation of anthocyanins using C18
147 SPE cartridges found in previous studies (unpublished data). One mL of purified and concentrated
148 AE (cv. Guarani) obtained according to the section 2.3.4. was used. Cartridges C18 SPE 1g (Strata)
149 coupled to a manifold at flow rate of 50 drops/min. The cartridge was activated with 5 mL of
150 methanol (HPLC grade) and conditioned with 15 mL of acidified ultrapure water (0.35% formic
151 acid, v/v). Thereafter, purified and concentrated AE was eluted, followed by cleaning with 10 mL
152 of acidified ultrapure water. For the elution of anthocyanins, ultrapure water with 22% methanol
153 (HPLC grade) acidified with 0.35% formic acid (v/v) was used. Fractions (F1, F2, F3) were
154 collected every 5 mL. After F4 elution and collection, the residual fraction (RF) was obtained using
155 10 mL of methanol (HPLC grade) containing 0.35% formic acid (v/v) with the total cleaning of the
156 cartridge. The solvent was removed from the different fractions using rotary evaporator ($38 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}/10\text{ min}$), RF was recovered in 1 mL of ultra-pure acidified water (0.35% formic acid, v/v). All

158 fractions were analyzed on HPLC-UV/Vis (520 nm) as described in section 2.5.1., to evaluate the
 159 percentages of Cy3G of each fraction.

160 **2.4.2 Optimization and validation of Cy3G isolation method using SPE**

161 The results and obtained in the Cy3G isolation test (section 2.4.1, Figure 1, Table 1) showed that F2
 162 and F3 fractions had high content of Cy3G (> 95%) with only cyanidin-3-rutinoside as the single
 163 interfering compound. F1 was composed of the initial solvent volume that did not show
 164 pigmentation but was necessary for the elution of the anthocyanins by the chromatographic charge
 165 of the cartridge. Thus, purified blackberry AE obtained as described in section 2.3.4 was submitted
 166 to the following steps to isolate Cy3G: activation of the SPE C18 1 g cartridge with 5 mL of
 167 methanol (HPLC grade), followed by 15 mL of ultra-pure water containing 0.35% formic acid
 168 (v/v), elution of 1mL of purified and concentrated AE, followed by 10 mL of ultrapure water
 169 containing 0.35% formic acid to remove contaminants bearing higher polarity than anthocyanins.

170 Thereafter, anthocyanins were eluted using ultra-pure water solution containing 22% methanol
 171 (HPLC grade) and 0.35% formic acid (v/v). The initial fraction that did not show pigmentation was
 172 discarded (10 ± 2 mL), and the last 10 mL posterior (that presented pigmentation) were collected
 173 and considered as a Cy3G-rich fraction. This fraction was dried in a rotary evaporator (10
 174 min/ $38 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$) and reconstituted in 5 mL of acidified ultra-pure water (0.35% formic acid, v/v).

175 The robustness of the Cy3G isolation method was evaluated using two different brands of SPE
 176 cartridges and three blackberry cultivars (Guarani, Tupy and Xavante). Fractions rich in Cy3G were
 177 analyzed for identification and purity by LC-PDA-MS/MS as described in section 2.4.1.
 178 Determination of Cy3G content was performed on HPLC-UV/Vis as described in section 2.4.2, and
 179 results were expressed as mg of Cy3G/100 mL EA. The recovery of Cy3G was calculated as given
 180 by Eq.(1):

$$\text{Recovery Cy3G}(\%) = \frac{C_2 \times 100}{C_1} \quad (1)$$

181

182 C1= total content of Cy3G determined by HPLC-UV/Vis (mg) in EA used.

183 C2= total content of Cy3G determined by HPLC-UV/Vis (mg) in isolated fraction.
184 The purity of the Cy3G rich fractions was analyzed on HPLC-PDA. The chromatograms were
185 evaluated at 520 nm and 280 nm according (Xu *et al.*, 2018) to verify the presence of compounds
186 other than Cy3G.

187 **2.4.3 Stability of the isolated Cy3G**

188 The stability of the isolated Cy3G was evaluated during 120 days (zero time on day 1, 30, 60, 90
189 and 120 days) under three different storage conditions: lyophilized sample stored at 4 ± 0.5
190 °C, lyophilized sample stored -26 ± 0.5 °C), aqueous acid solution (ultrapure water containing
191 0.35% formic acid, v/v) stored at 4 ± 0.5 °C. For this study, a solution containing 24.0 ppm of
192 Cy3G was prepared in ultrapure water containing 0.35% formic acid, and divided into aliquots of
193 known volume in microcentrifuge tubes (Eppendorf®, 2 ml) which were used for the storage
194 experiment (acidified aqueous solution) or lyophilized (Lyophilizer LS3000, Terroni®) prior to the
195 storage experiment. All tubes were sealed with parafilm and protected from light. The stability of
196 Cy3G in the samples was determined by HPLC-UV/Vis analysis as in (section 2.5.1.). The data
197 obtained were expressed as Cy3G percentage (%) (mean \pm standard deviation, n=3) relative to the
198 initial content (day 1).

199 **2.5 Anthocyanin analyses**

200 **2.5.1 Quantification anthocyanins by HPLC-UV/Visible**

201 The fraction of purified anthocyanins obtained from TA and AE extract (section 2.3.4) and Cy3G
202 isolated (section 2.4.2) were diluted (suitable dilution) in ultra-pure acidified water 0.35% formic
203 acid (v/v), filtered (PTFE syringe filter, 22 µm, 25 mm, Analytical, SP, Brazil) and analyzed on a
204 high performance liquid chromatography HPLC (CBM-20A; LC-20AT; DGU-20A; model CTO-
205 20A; Shimadzu, Columbia, MD, USA) with an UV-visible detector (SPD-20AV; Shimadzu). A
206 C18 reverse-phase column (2.6 µm, 100 mm x 4.6 mm, Phenomenex, Torrance, USA) was used to
207 separate samples (20 µL) at 0.9 mL/min, at 38°C, using ultra-pure water containing 3% formic acid
208 (PA) (v/v), pH 2.0 \pm 0.1 as mobile phase (A) and acetonitrile (HPLC-UV grade) as mobile phase
209 (B). Separation gradient was: 8% B in the first 5 min, increasing to 32% B (5-25 min), increasing

210 to 90% B (25-27 min), keeping it 10 min (27-37 min), and returning to the initial concentrations
211 (8% B) (37-39 min), and keeping it for 5 min to restore the initial conditions of the column before a
212 new injection. The chromatogram was obtained at 520 nm, data were analyzed in the LC-Solutions
213 software (Shimadzu) and results were expressed as Cy3G (mg) equivalents using an external
214 calibration curve of Cy3G. The HPLC method was validated by determining the linearity of
215 standard curve (6 equidistant points), precision, limit of detection (LOD) and limit of quantification
216 (LOQ), calculated according to (ICH guideline, 2005). Linear least-square regression analysis was
217 used to calculate the slope, intercept, and the correlation coefficient of the calibration curve.
218 Precision was determined by the intraday analysis of the repeatability of the analytical standard
219 peak areas.

220 **2.5.2 Identification anthocyanins by LC-PDA-MS/MS**

221 Ultra-performance liquid chromatography (UPLC) equipped with a photodiode array detector
222 (PDA) coupled to a triple quadrupole mass spectrometer (MS/MS) was used to identify the
223 anthocyanins in the samples. The equipment used was: LCMS-8045, CBM-20A, LC-20ADXR,
224 SIL-20ACXR, DGU-20A3R, CTO-20A, SPD-M20A (Shimadzu), and the data obtained were
225 treated using Lab Solutions software (Shimadzu).

226 The fraction of purified anthocyanins obtained from TA and AE extract (section 2.3.4) and Cy3G
227 isolated (section 2.4.2) were filtered (PTFE syringe filter, 22 µm, 25 mm, Analytical, SP, Brazil)
228 and injected (5 µL) onto a C18 reverse-phase column (2.6 µm, 100 mm x 4.6 mm, Phenomenex,
229 Torrance, USA) at 38 °C, at 0.3 mL/min. The mobile phase (A) was composed of ultra-pure water
230 containing 0.1% formic acid (PA) (v/v) and mobile phase (B) was acetonitrile (HPLC-UV grade).
231 The separation of anthocyanins occurred using the gradient: 10% mobile phase B during the first 5
232 min, 10-34% B (5-20 min), 34-90% B (20-25 min), 90% B (25-30 min), 90-10% from 30 to 35 min
233 and from 35 to 40 min in the same initial condition. The chromatograms of the PDA were
234 monitored between 200 and 800 nm.

235 The MS analyzes was performed using the positive-mode ESI interface. The LC-PDA system was
236 connected to the ionization source of the mass spectrometer through the output of PDA cells, using
237 PEEK tubes without a flow rate divider. Both the auxiliary gas and the coating were a mixture of
238 nitrogen and argon. The MS parameters were defined as follows: nebulizer gas at 3 L/min, dry gas
239 flow at 10 L/min, heating gas at 10 L/min, interface voltage at +4000 V, interface temperature at
240 300 °C, DL temperature at 250 °C, block temperature at 250 °C, CID gas pressure at 230 KPa and
241 collision energy at 30 V. All samples were analyzed by complete scanning to identify the precursor,
242 MRM experiments were conducted for specific product ions.

243 **2.6 Statistical analysis**

244 All experiments were repeated at least three times, and data were expressed as means ± standard
245 deviations. Two-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Tukey's test (to determine
246 significant differences, $P < 0.05$) were used for the aqueous extraction test (sample:solvent ratio vs.
247 stirring time) and for the stability tests (storage condition vs. storage time). For the other
248 experiments, a one-way ANOVA was used followed by Tukey's test (to determine significant
249 differences, $P < 0.05$). Statistica 7.0 software was used.

250 **3 Results and discussion**

251 **3.1 Quantification and identification of anthocyanins in blackberry samples**

252 HPLC method for quantification of anthocyanins in blackberry showed good separation of the
253 compounds (Figure 2) and the results of method validation for cyanidin-3-glucoside (Table S4 and
254 S5, Supplementary material) indicate a good sensitivity. The total anthocyanin content of
255 blackberry was assessed by HPLC-UV/vis (Table 2). There was a significant difference ($P < 0.05$) in
256 the total anthocyanin content and in the number of compounds detected in the Guarani blackberry in
257 relation to the other two cultivars. The blackberry cv. Guarani had the highest anthocyanin content
258 (158 mg/100 g) ($P < 0.05$) and the highest number of anthocyanins were detected in its extract (6).
259 Five anthocyanins were detected in cv. Tupy and Xavante, that had similar total anthocyanin
260 content ($P > 0.05$), which amounted to 88.6 and 86.8 mg/100 g, respectively. The relative
261 percentage of Cy3G was higher for Guarani (93.7%) and Xavante (94.5%) cultivars than for Tupy

262 cultivar (84.5%) ($P < 0.05$). Guarani cultivar had 6 compounds in its chromatographic profile,
263 however peak 4 was not detected in cv Tupy, and peak 5 was not detected in cv. Xavante. Different
264 anthocyanin levels have been reported for blackberries, ranging from 168 - 205 mg/100 g
265 (ZielinskiI, Goltz, Yamato, Ávila, Hirooka, Wosiacki, et al., 2015), and it may also be found values
266 ranging from 68 to 78 mg/100 g of fresh fruit (Hirsch, Vizzotto, Aboy, & Emanuelli, 2013).

267 Analysis of LC-PDA-MS/MS data allowed to identify 5 among 6 peaks detected blackberry
268 samples (Table 2). Only a minor compound could not be identified (peak 6). Peak 1 showed the ion
269 (M^+) m/z 449 as a cyanidin precursor (m/z 287). Loss of a m/z at 162 is characteristic as a hexose
270 molecule which was already reported as glucose I blackberry (Reátegui, Machado, Barbero,
271 Rezende, Martíneza, 2014; Fernandes, Rocha, Santos, Brás, Oliveira, Mateus *et al.*, 2018; Gowd,
272 Bao, & Chen, 2019). Therefore, peak one was identified as cyanidin-3-glucoside. Other 4 peaks
273 (peak 2, 3, 4 and 5) also exhibited cyanidin product ions (m/z 287). Peak 2 was identified as
274 cyanidin-3-rutinoside (m/z 595). Peak 3 presented (m/z 535) and ions products (M^+) of dehydrated
275 malonic acid (m/z 86) and a dehydrated hexose (m/z 162), which characterizes a cyanidin-3-
276 malonylhexoside (-2H₂O). Peak 4 presented (m/z 523) and ions products (M^+) of malonic acid (m/z
277 104) and a dehydrated pentose (m/z 132), which characterizes cyanidin-3-malonylpentoside (-H₂O).
278 Peak 5 showed (m/z 593) cyanidin-3-dioxarylglucoside.

279 The anthocyanins: Cy3G, cyanidin-3-rutinoside, cyanidin-3-malonylglucoside and cyanidin-3-
280 dioxarylglucoside were already identified in extracts of blackberry bagasse (Reátegui *et al.*, 2014)
281 and purees (Fernandes *et al.*, 2018).

282 **3.2 Tests for aqueous extraction of blackberry anthocyanins**

283 There was a significant difference ($P > 0.05$) in the concentrations of anthocyanins of the extracts
284 obtained using different sample:solvent ratio and times for extraction (Table S1, Supplementary
285 material). As expected, increasing the sample dilution in the solvent decreases the concentration of
286 anthocyanins in the extract but all sample:solvent ratios evaluated for the aqueous extraction
287 yielded higher total anthocyanin concentration than exhaustive extraction.

288 The extraction time also affected the content and the recovery of anthocyanins extracted from
289 samples (Tables S2 and S3, Supplementary material). Anthocyanin content and percentage of
290 recovery (Tables S2 and S3, Supplementary material) for the extracts was lower for sample:solvent
291 ratios of 1:1, 1:2, 1:3 and 1:4 at all evaluated times, showing that the increase of sample:solvent
292 ratio reduces the extraction power, which may be likely due to solvent saturation. When compared
293 to the exhaustive extraction, aqueous extraction at sample:solvent ratios of 1:5 and 1:6 yielded
294 similar anthocyanin content and recovery up to 30 or 20 min of extraction, respectively. In this
295 context, sample:solvent ratio of 1:5 is advantageous as it requires smaller amount of solvent.
296 Although extraction times up to 30 min had similar extractive efficiency at this sample:solvent
297 ratio, higher time (40 min) decreased the total anthocyanins concentration, content and recovery,
298 which is likely associated to anthocyanin degradation by increased exposure time. Thus, the best
299 condition for aqueous extraction of anthocyanins was sample:solvent ratio of 1:5 with stirring
300 during 30 min.

301 **3.3 Quantification and identification of anthocyanins in aqueous extracts of blackberry**

302 The chromatograms of the aqueous extract of the blackberry of different cultivars obtained in
303 HPLC-UV/visible are shown in Figure 2. The compounds identified by LC-PDA-MS/MS (Table 3)
304 did not differ from those obtained in the blackberry samples using organic solvent (section 3.1.).
305 The content of total anthocyanins (mg/100 mL) was higher for cv. Guarani (87.4) compared to cv.
306 Tupy (55.6) and cv. Xavante (63.5) ($P < 0.05$). However, the relative percentage of Cy3G was
307 higher for the aqueous extract of cv. Xavante (93%) than for cv. Tupy (83%) and cv. Guarani
308 (91%).

309 **3.4 Cy3G isolation tests on C₁₈ SPE cartridge**

310 The aqueous extract used for Cy3G isolation (Guarani cv.) had 91% Cy3G and 5 different
311 anthocyanins (Table 3). During extract elution in C18 SPE cartridges, the fractions that had higher
312 purity of Cy3G were F2 (98%) and F3 (95%) that had a single interfering compound, cyanidin-3-
313 rutinoside (Figure 1, Table 1). The initial volume eluted, F1, did not show pigmentation and
314 therefore it was not analyzed. F4 and F5 showed reduction in the percentage of Cy3G. Compounds

315 more tightly bound to the C₁₈ were released when methanol concentration increased to 100% (FR).
316 Thus, all anthocyanins found in aqueous extract were recovered in the RF fraction, which reduced
317 the relative amount of Cy3G (52%). Elution tests indicated that F2 and F3 can be chose to compose
318 the high purity Cy3G fraction, presenting only interfering cyanidin-3-rutinoside.

319 **3.5 Validation of Cy3G isolation method using C₁₈ SPE cartridge**

320 The reproducibility of Cy3G isolation method was evaluated using cartridges of two different
321 brands (Table 4). Data on the purity of isolated Cy3G obtained in HPLC-PDA (280-520 nm)
322 showed only the presence of cyanidin-3-rutinoside as a contaminant (Figure 3). Both brands of C₁₈
323 SPE cartridges yielded high purity isolated Cy3G. However, brand B yielded slightly higher purity
324 than brand A ($P < 0.05$), whereas brand A yielded higher concentration and recovery of Cy3G in
325 the isolated sample.

326 The robustness of the method was evaluated using extracts of different cultivars of blackberry
327 (Table 4). No significant difference was observed for the recovery of Cy3G, which was higher than
328 82%. However, the purity of Cy3G was higher for samples isolated from Guarani and Xavante cv.
329 compared to Tupy cv. ($P < 0.05$). The highest concentration of Cy3G was obtained for isolate from
330 Guarani cv., followed by Xavante and Tupy cv.. As the recovery of Cy3G did not differ among, the
331 difference in the concentration and purity of Cy3G for the different cultivars is related to the content
332 of Cy3G in the extracts used. Thus, the method demonstrated good reproducibility being useful for
333 various blackberry cultivars.

334 **3.6 Stability of isolated Cy3G**

335 Table 5 shows the stability of isolated Cy3G store three different conditions. No significant
336 degradation of isolated Cy3G was observed in the first 60 days of storage regardless of the storage
337 condition tested (acidified aqueous solution stored at 4°C, lyophilized sample stored at 4°C,
338 lyophilized sample stored at -26°C). There was significant degradation of the Cy3G after 90 days of
339 storage ($P < 0.05$) for the samples stored in freezer (-26°C), with significant difference of the other
340 storage conditions, where no degradation was evidenced. The degradation monitored between the
341 periods of 90 and 120 days was more severe in samples stored in a freezer (-26°C) and acidified at

342 4° C ($P < 0.05$) than in freeze-dried samples stored in refrigeration (4°C). These results demonstrated
343 that it is possible to store the isolated fraction of lyophilized Cy3G or acidified aqueous solution
344 under refrigeration (4°C) for up to 90 days without significant degradation of this compound.
345 Lyophilized Cy3G can be stored frozen (-26°C) for up to 60 days.

346 **4 Conclusions**

347 The method of obtaining aqueous extract of blackberry anthocyanins demonstrated similar
348 efficiency to methods using organic solvent. Thus, the extract can be used without the need to
349 remove solvents that may interfere with the results. The method proposed for isolating Cy3G from
350 the aqueous extract of blackberry using C₁₈ SPE cartridges presented optimum performance,
351 yielding good recovery index (> 65%), high purity isolated fractions(> 96%) and good storage
352 stability (90 days/4°C). The method allowed to obtain isolated fractions of high purity Cy3G
353 without the need of sophisticated equipment as the insulation technique is applicable in bench and it
354 is possible to be performed in any laboratory. Obtaining high purity isolated compounds in a
355 practical way becomes an alternative to the use of commercial standards, which have a high cost
356 and low availability, which makes it difficult to use them in experiments.

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360 Technology, the Rural Science Center of the Federal University of Santa Maria, for providing the
361 necessary equipment and laboratories for the analyzes.

362 **Conflict of interests**

363 The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest in the publication of the results presented in
364 this article.

365

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445 **Table 1:** Purity of cyanidin-3-glucoside in the eluted fractions during the isolation tests in SPE
 446 cartridges

Conditions	Fraction	Solvent	Vol. (mL)	NDA*	Cy3G (%)**
Cartridge SPE C ₁₈ 1g	F1		10±2	NA	-
Flow: 50±5 drops/min	F2	22% methanol	5	2	98.7±0.3
Solvent: (H ₂ O +	F3		5	2	95.8 ± 0.5
MetOH) + 0.35%	F4		5	2	91.1± 1.2
formic acid	F5		5	2	84.4 ± 0.9
	RF	100% methanol	10	6	52.4±1.2

447 *Number of detected anthocyanins; ** Relative percent of Cyanidin-3-glucoside (Cy3G) in
 448 chromatogram obtained in at 520 nm; NA: not analyzed. F: fraction collected; RF: residue
 449 fraction. Experiments were performed in triplicate (n = 3) and results were expressed as mean
 450 ± standard deviation

451 **Table 2:** Identification and quantification of anthocyanins in the aqueous extract of blackberry

Blackberry cultivars							
				Guarani	Tupy	Xavante	
		Total anthocyanins (mg/100 mL)*		87.4 ±2.8 ^A	55.6±3.3 ^B	63.5±4.8 ^B	
		Number of detected compounds*		6 ^A	5 ^B	5 ^B	
		Cy3G (%R)**		91.4±0.3 ^B	83.8±0.4 ^C	93.0± 0.1 ^A	
LC-PDA-MS/MS data							
Retention Time		Precursor Ion	Product Ion	Content* (mg/100 mL)			
Peak	Minutes	Tentative identification	λMáx(nm)	[M ⁺] m/z	[M ⁺] m/z		
1	6.7±0.1	Cyanidin-3-glucosideo (-H ₂ O)	516	449	287	75.3±2.6 ^A	43.3±2.5 ^C
2	9.0±0.1	Cyanidin-3-rutinoside	519	595	449/287	6.3±0.1 ^A	4.9±0.2 ^B
3	14.4±0.0	Cyanidin-3-malonylhexoside(-H ₂ O)	534	535	449/287	1.9±0.0 ^B	2.8±0.1 ^A
4	15.2±0.0	Cyanidin-3-pentosylhexoside	533	524	477/287	1.4±0.3 ^A	ND ^B
5	15.4±0.0	Cyanidin-3-dioxarylglucoside	519	593	477/287	1.4±0.0 ^B	3.5±0.3 ^A
6	16.4±0.0	NI	534	505	477/287	1.1±0.0 ^C	1.2±0.01 ^B
							1.3±0.0 ^A

452 * Results obtained by HPLC-UV/vis analysis.

453 ** Relative percentage of area referring to Cy3G (Cyanidin-3-glucoside) in chromatogram obtained at 520 nm.

454 NI: Not identified; ND: Not detected.

455 ^{A-C} Means that have no common superscript letter within the same line are significantly different at *P*<0.05.

456 The results are expressed as Cy3G equivalent (mean ± standard deviation; n=3) per 100 mL of aqueous extract

457 .

458 **Table 3** : Validation data for the method of isolation of cyanidin 3-glucoside (Cy3G)
 459 from blackberry

Effect of different cartridge brands					
Cultivar	SPE	DC	Purity (%)	Recovery *	Cy3G *
			HPLC *	(%)	(mg/100 mL)
Guarani	A	2 ^A	97.5±0.3 ^B	84.8±1.6 ^A	13.8±0.7 ^A
Guarani	B	2 ^A	98.5±0.1 ^A	66.9±1.3 ^B	10.6±0.8 ^B

Effect of different blackberry cultivars					
Cultivar	SPE	DC	Purity (%)	Recovery *	Cy3G *
			HPLC *	(%)	(mg/100 mL)
Guarani	A	2 ^A	97.5±0.3 ^A	84.8±1.6 ^A	13.8±0.7 ^A
Tupy	A	2 ^A	96.1±0.3 ^B	82.0±1.4 ^A	7.9±0.4 ^C
Xavante	A	2 ^A	97.9±0.2 ^A	89.3±6.2 ^A	10.9±0.4 ^B

460 DC: Number of detected compounds.

461 SPE: Solid-phase extraction cartridges (brands A e B).

462 * Results obtained in HPLC analyses.

463 ^{A-C} Means with different superscripts within the same column are significantly different
 464 at $p < 0.05$.

465 The results are expressed as mean \pm standard deviation (n = 3)

466 **Table 4:** Cy3G stability (% relative to the amount found in the start of storage) under different storage conditions

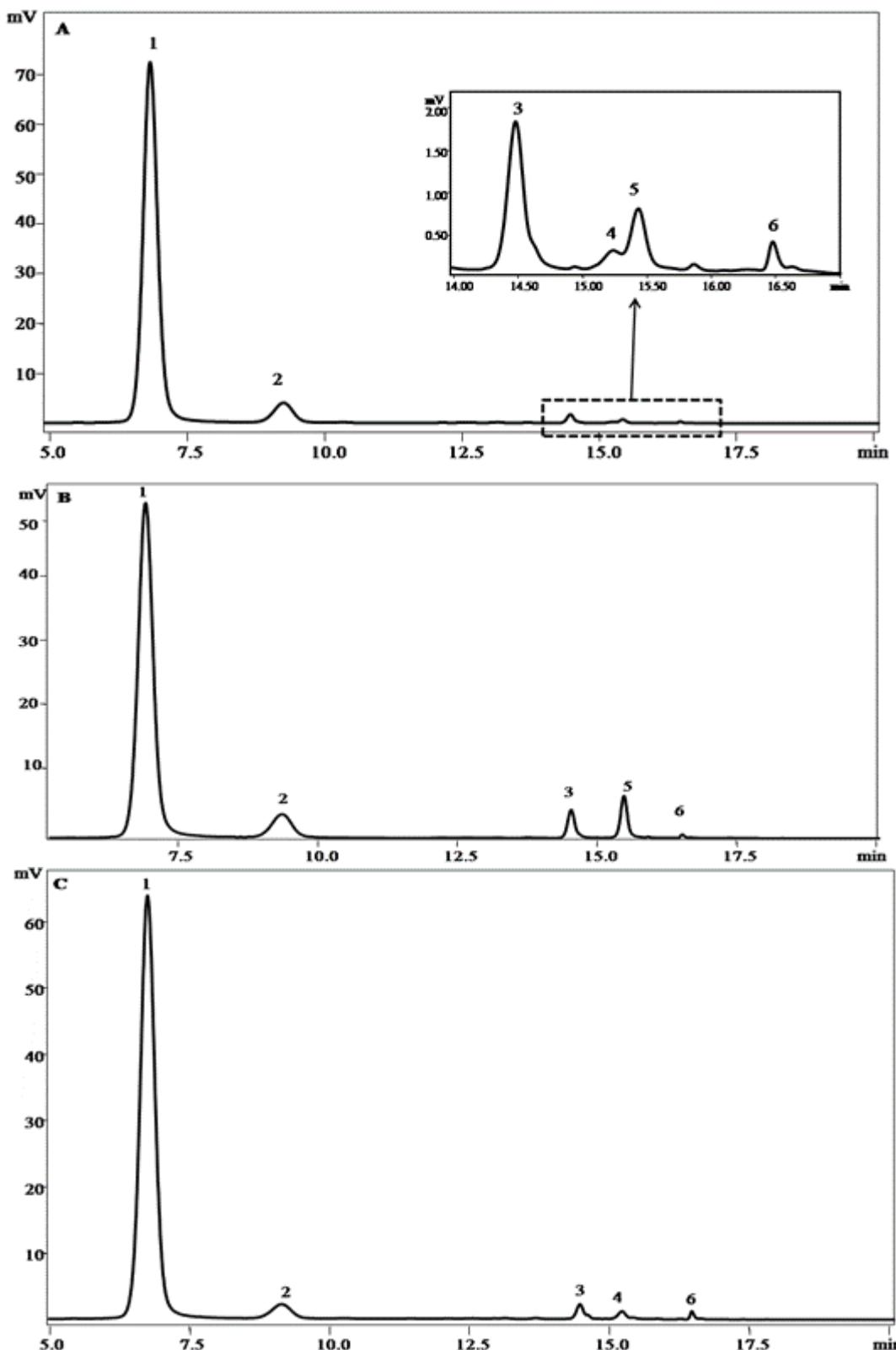
Storage conditions	Time (days)					⁴⁶⁷ ⁴⁶⁸
	1	30	60	90	120	
Aqueous acidified solution stored at 4°C	100.8±1.0 ^{Aa}	97.4±1.3 ^{Bb}	99.1±0.6 ^{ABa}	98.0±2.1 ^{ABa}	85.4±0.6 ^{Cab}	⁴⁷⁰ 471
Lyophilized sample stored at 4°C	100.8±1.0 ^{Aa}	96.7±1.6 ^{ABb}	96.2±2.0 ^{ABa}	98.8±6.8 ^{ABa}	90.6±2.5 ^{Ba}	⁴⁷² 473
Lyophilized sample stored at -26°C	100.8±1.0 ^{Aa}	101.7±1.4 ^{Aa}	96.3±3.3 ^{ABa}	91.7±0.6 ^{Ba}	79.7±4.5 ^{CB}	⁴⁷⁴ 475

476 ^{A-C} Means values with different superscripts within the same line are significantly different at $P < 0.05$.477 ^{a-b} Means with different superscripts within the same column are significantly different at $P < 0.05$.

478 The results are expressed as mean ± standard deviation (n = 3).

479

480 **Figure 1:** Chromatograms of aqueous extracts of blackberries (A) Guarani cv., (B) Tupy cv., (C)
 481 Xavante cv.



482

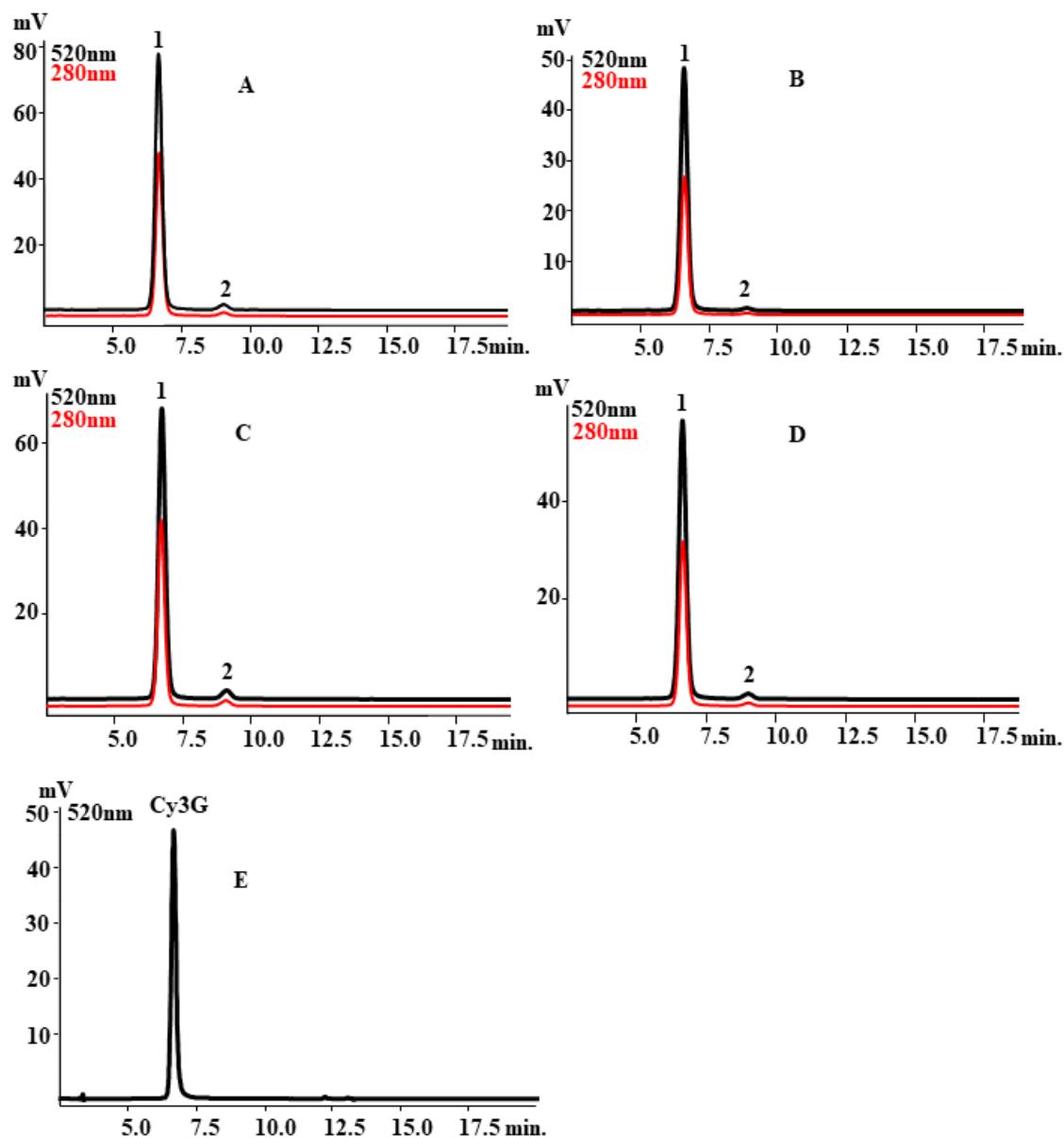
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485 Peaks identified by LC-PDA-MS/MS: (1) Cy3G; (2) cyanidin-3-rutinoside; (3) cyanidin-3-
 486 malonylhexoside; (4) cyanidin-3-pentosylhexoside; (5) cyanidin-3-dioxalylhexoside; (6) not
 487 identified

488

489

490 **Figure 2:** Chromatograms obtained in 280 and 520nm of Cy3G isolated

491

492 (A) Guarani cv. cartridge A ; (B) Guarani cv. cartridge B; (C) Tupy cv.;(D) Xavante cv.; (E) Cy3G
493 market standard; Peaks identified by LC-PDA-MS/MS: (1) Cy3G; (2) cyanidin-3-rutinoside.

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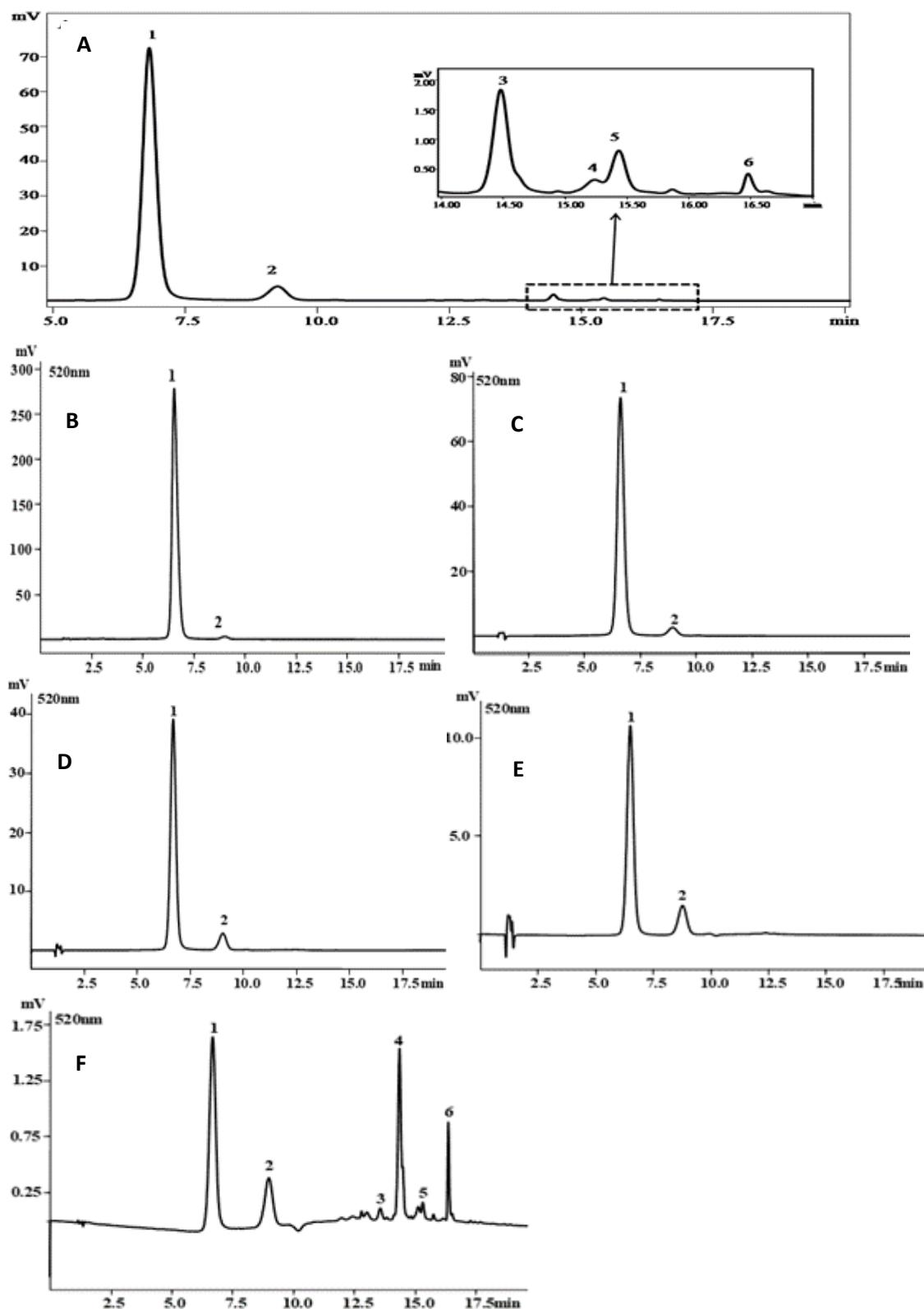
Supplementary material503
504**Figure S1:** Chromatograms obtained from the blackberry extract and eluted fractions collected in the isolation test.

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A: aqueous extract of anthocyanins of Guarani blackberry; B: fraction 2; C: fraction 3; D: fraction 4; E: fraction 5; F: fraction residue. Peaks identified by LC-PDA-MS/MS: (1) Cy3G; (2) cyanidin-3-rutinoside; (3) cyanidin-3-malonylhexoside; (4) cyanidin-3-pentosylhexoside; (5) Cyanidin-3-dioxalylhexoside; (6) not identified

513 **Table S1:** Anthocyanin concentration in the extracts of blackberry obtained using distilled water containing 0.35% formic acid (v/v) at different
 514 sample:solvent ratios and different extraction times compared to the exhaustive extraction using organic solvent (aqueous solution of 20% acetone, v/v,
 515 acidified with 0.35% formic acid, v/v). .

Total anthocyanin concentration (mg/100 mL of extract) *							
Time (Minutes)	Sample:solvent ratio (m/v)						
	1:1	1:2	1:3	1:4	1:5	1:6	Exhaustive (1:33)
10	34.7±2.9 ^{Aa}	27.1±0.2 ^{Ba}	23.3±0.1 ^{BCa}	19.1±1.9 ^{Ca}	17.0±2.5 ^{Ca}	16.9±0.5 ^{Ca}	3.6±0.2 ^{Fa}
20	35.5±2.1 ^{Aa}	26.5±0.0 ^{Ba}	24.5±3.1 ^{Ba}	18.0±0.2 ^{Ca}	18.8±0.9 ^{Ca}	15.7±0.2 ^{Eb}	3.6±0.2 ^{Fa}
30	35.7±2.5 ^{Aa}	28.8±1.7 ^{Ba}	22.2±0.4 ^{Ca}	16.3±3.1 ^{Da}	19.2±0.9 ^{CDa}	14.4±0.0 ^{Ec}	3.6±0.2 ^{Fa}
40	35.5±0.4 ^{Aa}	29.1±1.3 ^{Ba}	23.3±0.7 ^{Ca}	19.1±0.4 ^{Da}	15.3±0.1 ^{Eb}	15.3±0.1 ^{Eb}	3.6±0.2 ^{Fa}

516 *Results obtained in spectrophotometer (differential pH method) and expressed as Cy3G equivalents (mean ± standard deviation; n=3).

517 A-E Means that have no common superscript letter within the same line are significantly different at P<0.05.

518 a-c Means that have no common superscript letter within the same column are significantly different at P<0.05.

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521 **Table S2:** Anthocyanin yield for the extraction from blackberry using distilled water containing 0.35% formic acid (v/v) at different sample:solvent
 522 ratios and different extraction times compared to the exhaustive extraction using organic solvent (aqueous solution of 20% acetone, v/v, acidified with
 523 0.35% formic acid, v/v).

524

Total anthocyanins content (mg/100 g of blackberry)*

Time (Minutes)	Sample:solvente ratio (m/v)						
	1:1	1:2	1:3	1:4	1:5	1:6	Exhaustive (1:33)
10	69.4±5.9 ^{Da}	81.2±0.7 ^{Ca}	93.1±0.5 ^{BCa}	95.7±9.5 ^{Ba}	101.9±14.8 ^{Aba}	118.4±3.5 ^{Aa}	120.8±5.4 ^{Aa}
20	71.1±2.2 ^{Da}	79.5±0.0 ^{CDa}	97.9±12.5 ^{Ba}	90.1±0.8 ^{BCa}	113.0±5.4 ^{Aba}	109.8±1.2 ^{ABb}	120.8±5.4 ^{Aa}
30	71.2±4.9 ^{Da}	86.4±5.2 ^{BCa}	88.9±1.6 ^{BCa}	81.5±15.7 ^{BCa}	115.1±5.3 ^{Aa}	100.6±0.0 ^{Bc}	120.8±5.4 ^{Aa}
40	71.0±0.8 ^{Da}	87.2±3.8 ^{BCa}	93.0±2.6 ^{BCa}	95.3±2.2 ^{BCa}	91.8±0.8 ^{BCb}	106.9±0.6 ^{Bb}	120.8±5.4 ^{Aa}

525 *Results obtained in spectrophotometer (differential pH method) and expressed as Cy3G equivalents (mean ± standard deviation; n=3).

526 A-E Means that have no common superscript letter within the same line are significantly different at P<0.05.

527 a-c Means that have no common superscript letter within the same column are significantly different at P<0.05.

528

529

530 **Table S3:** Recovery of anthocyanins in the extraction from blackberry using distilled water containing 0.35% formic acid (v/v) at different
 531 sample:solvent ratios and different extraction times compared to the exhaustive extraction using organic solvent (aqueous solution of 20% acetone, v/v,
 532 acidified with 0.35% formic acid, v/v).

533

Recovery of total anthocyanins extracted blackberry (%) *							
Time	Sample:solvente ratio (m/v)						
(Minutes)	1:1	1:2	1:3	1:4	1:5	1:6	Exhaustive (1:33)
10	57.5±4.9 ^{Ca}	67.2±0.6 ^{BCa}	77.1±0.4 ^{Ba}	79.3±7.8 ^{Ba}	84.4±12.3 ^{ABab}	98.0±2.9 ^{Aa}	100.0±4.7 ^{Aa}
20	58.9±1.8 ^{Da}	65.8±0.1 ^{CDa}	81.1±10.4 ^{BCa}	74.6±0.7 ^{BCa}	93.6±4.5 ^{Aba}	90.9±1.0 ^{ABa}	100.0±4.7 ^{Aa}
30	59.1±4.1 ^{Ca}	71.5±4.3 ^{BCa}	73.7±1.3 ^{BCa}	67.5±13.0 ^{BCa}	95.3±4.4 ^{Aa}	83.3±0.0 ^{Bc}	100.0±4.7 ^{Aa}
40	58.8±0.6 ^{Ea}	72.2±3.2 ^{Da}	77.0±2.2 ^{CDa}	78.9±1.9 ^{Ca}	75.9±0.7 ^{CDb}	88.6±0.5 ^{Bb}	100.0±4.7 ^{Aa}

534 *Results obtained in spectrophotometer (differential pH method) and expressed as the percent of total content of anthocyanins recovered in the extract
 535 relative to the amount recovered in the exhaustive extraction (mean ± standard deviation; n=3).

536 ^{A-E} Means that have no common superscript letter within the same line are significantly different at $P<0.05$.

537 ^{a-c} Means that have no common superscript letter within the same column are significantly different at $P<0.05$

538 **Table S4.** Parameters of linear regression, LOD, LOQ and precision for anthocyanin quantification
 539 by HPLC analysis.

Method validation parameters		540
Compound	Cyanidin-3- glucoside	541
Concentration range (mg/L)	8-40	542
Regression equation	$y = 0.000016875x - 3.8826$	543
R ²	0.9820	544
LOD (mg/L)	0.020	545
LOQ (mg/L)	0.068	546
RSD for intraday repeatability (%)	0.44	547
		548

549 LOD: limit of detection; LOQ: limit of quantification; RSD: relative standard deviation (%).

550

551

552 **Table S5.** The analysis of variance (ANOVA) of the cyanidin-3-glucoside validation curve.

553 Analysis of variance (ANOVA)					
Factors	df	SS	MS	F	P-value
Concentration	1	8,26E+11	8,26E+11	767,51	6,02E-13
Residual	13	13995780860	1076598528		557

558 Df: degrees of freedom; SS squares terms; MS: mean square; F: Statistical F

559 **Table S6:** Identification and quantification of anthocyanins in blackberries samples

							Blackberry cultivars			
							Guarani	Tupy	Xavante	
							Total anthocyanins (mg/100 g)*	158.8 ±9.6 ^A	88.6±1.1 ^B	86.8±0.4 ^B
							Number of detected compounds*	6 ^A	5 ^B	5 ^B
							Cy3G (%R)**	93.7±0.1 ^A	84.6±0.6 ^B	94.5± 0.1 ^A
LC-PDA-MS/MS data										
Retention Time			Precursor Ion		Product Ion					
Peak	Minutes	Tentative identification	λ _{Máx} (nm)	[M ⁺] m/z	[M ⁺] m/z		Content* (mg/100 g)			
1	6.7±0.1	Cyanidin-3-glucoside (-H ₂ O)	516	449	287	139.7±9.3 ^A	63.9±1.0 ^B	72.6±0.5 ^B		
2	9.0±0.1	Cyanidin-3-rutinoside	519	595	449/287	11.1±0.3 ^A	8.9±0.1 ^B	5.9±0.0 ^C		
3	14.4±0.0	Cyanidin-3-malonylhexoside(-2H ₂ O)	534	535	449/287	4.5±0.0 ^B	5.7±0.2 ^A	4.5±0.1 ^B		
4	15.2±0.0	Cyanidin-3-pentosylhexoside	533	523	477/287	<LOQ	ND	<LOQ		
5	15.4±0.0	Cyanidin-3-dioxalylhexoside	519	593	477/287	<LOQ	6.6±0.3 ^A	ND		
6	16.4±0.0	NI	534	505	477/287	3.6±0.1 ^A	3.6±0.0 ^A	3.7±0.2 ^A		

560 * Results obtained by HPLC-UV/Vis analysis.

561 ** Relative percentage of area referring to Cy3G (Cyanidin-3-glucoside) in chromatogram obtained at 520 nm.

562 NI: Not identified; ND: Not Detected; LOQ: Limit of quantification (0.068ppm).

563 A-C Means that have no common superscript letter within the same line are significantly different at P<0.05. The results are expressed as Cy3G

564 equivalents (mean ± standard deviation; n=3) per 100 g of fresh blackberry.

6 DISCUSSÃO GERAL

Para o desenvolvimento do método de isolamento de antocianinas, foi necessário conhecer o perfil antociânico das matrizes em estudo. Desta forma, os resultados obtidos revelaram o perfil de antocianinas em sua composição e quantificação em três diferentes cultivares de morango (Albion, Camino Real, San Andreas) e também em três cultivares de amora-preta (Guarani, Tupy e Xavante).

As análises realizadas em morangos evidenciaram uma diferença ($P<0,05$) nos teores de antocianinas nos três cultivares. O maior teor de antocianinas totais foi encontrado na cv. Camino Real (25 mg/100 g), seguido da cv. Albion (19 mg/100 g) e cv. San Andreas (14 mg/100 g). Outra variação foi bastante relevante em relação ao percentual de Pg3G na composição do perfil antociânico. O morango cv. San Andreas apresentou o maior percentual relativo de Pg3G (86%) diferindo das outras cultivares, Albion e Camino Real (82%). Esta variação nos teores e no perfil de antocianinas já é bastante relatada na literatura, pois a diferença de cultivar é um dos fatores responsáveis por esta característica.

Os extratos de morango analisados em LC-PDA-MS/MS apresentaram 14 diferentes antocianinas em sua composição. Destas, dez foram identificadas: cianidina-3-hexosídeo, pelargonidina-3,5-dihexosídeo, cianidina-3-rutinosídeo, Pg3G, pelargonidina-3-rutinosídeo, pelargonidina-3,5-acetildissacarídeo, 2 isômeros de pelargonidina-3-p-coumaroilhexosídeo, pelargonidina-3-malonilhexosídeo, pelargonidina-3-acetylhexosídeo.

As cultivares de amora-preta apresentaram um perfil mais simples, composto por no máximo 6 diferentes antocianinas, e um elevado teor de antocianinas totais (> 86 mg/100 g). O maior teor foi encontrado na cv Guarani (158 mg/100 g), que foi superior a cv. Tupy (88 mg/100 g) e cv Xavante (86 mg/100 g). O maior percentual relativo de Cy3G foi identificado nas cv. Guarani e Xavante, 93 e 94% respectivamente, sendo que a cultivar Tupy apresentou apenas 84%. A cv. Guarani apresentou 6 diferentes antocianinas, sendo cinco identificadas: Cy3G, cianidina-3-rutinosídeo, cianidina-3-malonilhexosídeo, cianidina-3-pentosilhexosídeo, cianidina-3-dioxalilglicosídeo. Destas apenas cianidina-3-pentosilhexosídeo não foi detectado na cv. Tupy, e cianidina-3-dioxalilglicosídeo não foi detectado na cv. Xavante.

A extração aquosa de antocianinas da amora-preta apresentou eficiência similar a extração exaustiva com solvente orgânico quando empregado a razão amostra/solução extratora (m/v) de 1:5, e o tempo de agitação de 30 minutos. Ainda apresentou um extrato com maior teor de antocianinas, e livre de solventes o que foi favorável para a aplicação do método de isolamento.

O método de isolamento de Pg3G utilizando SPE e extrato aquoso do morango apresentou resultados satisfatórios. A pureza da Pg3G isolada foi superior a 94%, não diferindo do padrão comercial. Os interferentes encontrados nos isolados (outros compostos que não são Pg3G) também se assemelham ao encontrado no padrão comercial. Pois estes foram identificados como Cy3G e pelargonidina-3-rutinosídeo. O método proposto demonstrou considerável taxa de recuperação, em torno de 42%. Também foi verificada uma ótima reproduzibilidade, quando aplicado em diferentes cultivares e diferentes marcas de cartuchos.

Estes resultados são importantes, pois demonstram que o método desenvolvido, pode ser aplicado e ter seus resultados reproduzidos com mais facilidade, podendo o analista dispor de diferentes cultivares de morango e também optar por cartuchos com preços mais acessível. No entanto, a realização da técnica (em uma única aplicação) permite a obtenção de uma fração rica em Pg3G contendo apenas aproximadamente 0,1 mg (peso seco). Para a obtenção de quantidades maiores, seria necessário a repetição da técnica.

A adaptação do método proposto para isolamento de Pg3G para isolar Cy3G de elevada pureza de extrato aquoso de amora-preta também foi bem sucedida. As análises das frações isoladas ricas em Cy3G demonstraram elevada pureza (>96%), tendo apenas como interferente a presença de cianidina-3-rutinosídeo. O método também demonstrou boa reproduzibilidade quando aplicado a diferentes cultivares e diferentes marcas de cartuchos. A recuperação de Cy3G foi satisfatória (>66%). Outro dado relevante, é que o emprego desse método permite a obtenção de teores maiores dos que os obtidos no isolamento de Pg3G, possibilitando a obtenção de 0,3 à 0,6 mg (peso seco) de Cy3G, em uma única aplicação. Estes resultados são reflexo da baixa complexidade do perfil antociânico da amora-preta e do alto teor de Cy3G.

A estabilidade das antocianinas isoladas (Pg3G e Cy3G) também foi avaliada em diferentes formas de armazenamento. Os resultados demonstraram que é possível armazenar Pg3G por um período de 60 dias apenas em solução aquosa acidificada (0,35% ácido fórmico) sob refrigeração (4°C), não sendo necessário a secagem completa das frações, ou o emprego de mais frio. Mas no caso de frações secas, o armazenamento sob refrigeração (4°C) ou em freezer (-26°) também pode ser realizado no mesmo período de tempo, sem que ocorram perdas significativas.

Os resultados do teste de estabilidade da Cy3G demonstraram que é possível armazenar a fração seca ou em solução aquosa acidificada sob refrigeração (4°C) por um período de 90 dias. No caso de empregar temperaturas mais baixas (até -26°C) o recomendado

seria o tempo máximo de 60 dias. Dessa forma, é possível afirmar que a Pg3G e a Cy3G apresentam uma ótima estabilidade nas condições acima descritas.

Por fim, para ampliar o escopo de aplicação do método proposto, algumas adaptações devem ser testadas. Podendo incluir o aumento da capacidade cromatográfica dos cartuchos e a combinação de outros solventes e gradientes. Além disso, a adaptação para obter outros monômeros de antocianinas de elevada pureza a partir de outras matrizes vegetais pode ser investigada.

7 CONCLUSÕES

Este trabalho apresenta uma nova metodologia de obtenção de frações isoladas de antocianinas de alta pureza, utilizando cartuchos de SPE C18. O método foi desenvolvido inicialmente em extrato aquoso de morango cv Albion, visando o isolamento de Pg3G. Após testes de otimização do método, o mesmo foi aplicado em extratos de morango das cv. Camino Real e San Andreas. A fração de Pg3G isolada apresentou elevada pureza (>94%), comparável a padrões comerciais. As análises de validação do método demonstraram boa reproduzibilidade nos diferentes cultivares de morangos e nas diferentes marcas de cartuchos testadas.

Para o isolamento de Cy3G de elevada pureza, a extração em solvente aquoso foi testada em diferentes razões (amostra:solução extratora) e diferentes tempos de agitação. Os resultados demonstraram que a razão 1:5 (amostra:solução extratora; m/v) e o tempo de agitação de 30 min produz resultados similares a extração com solventes orgânicos, o que possibilita a aplicação do extrato sem etapas preliminares de remoção de solventes.

O método de isolamento de antocianinas utilizando SPE C18 também foi aplicado em extrato aquoso de amora-preta, visando a obtenção de frações isoladas de Cy3G de alta pureza. O método foi adaptado utilizando o extrato aquoso de amora-preta cv Guarani, após foi testado em outras duas cultivares, Tupy e Xavante. Os resultados demonstraram que o método é eficiente permitindo a obtenção de Cy3G com elevada pureza ($\geq 96\%$), com uma considerável taxa de recuperação (>66%). Além disso, o método demonstrou boa reproduzibilidade nos ensaios de validação (diferentes cultivares, diferentes marcas de cartucho de SPE).

Os compostos isolados apresentaram boa estabilidade no armazenamento, o que possibilita a utilização das antocianinas por um período maior de tempo, sem que ocorra uma degradação significativa, o que poderia interferir nos resultados experimentais.

O método de isolamento de antocianinas de alta pureza utilizando SPE, proposto neste trabalho, pode ser aplicado em qualquer laboratório, pois não requer o uso de equipamentos sofisticados e consumíveis de elevado custo. Como vantagem, a obtenção de frações isoladas é reproduzida de forma rápida e fácil, uma vez que foram realizadas comparação com diferentes marcas de cartuchos e diferentes cultivares.

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