

1 **Nutritional composition of velvet tamarind (*Dialium guineense*) pulps.**

2

3

4 **ABSTRACT**

5 The ash contents, minerals, anti nutritional factors, calorific value and
6 vitamin C of velvet tamarind pulps had been determined. The total ash
7 content was 1.47%. The water soluble ash content was 0.40% while the
8 acid insoluble ash content was 2.31% and the sulphated ash content was
9 1.95%. This indicates that the velvet tamarind would provide essential
10 valuable minerals needed for good body development. The minerals in the
11 sample include sodium, potassium, phosphorus, calcium, magnesium,
12 iron and zinc. Potassium was the highest with the value of 124mg/g, while
13 zinc was the lowest with the value of 11.8mg/g. The analysis of anti
14 nutritional factors shows that velvet tamarind fruit contains: oxalate
15 2.251mg/g, tannin 0.0076% phytate 112.82mg/g, cyanide 0.338%, phytin
16 3.380% and phytin P 0.956%. The value of vitamin C in the sample was
17 33.33mg/100g while the energy value was 761.4kJ/100g.

18

19 **Keywords: Nutritional, velvet tamarind, pulps**

20

21 **INTRODUCTION**

22 Foods are generally analyzed based on the amount of energy, protein,
23 vitamins and other nutrients. The major factors that initially influenced food
24 production were availability, acceptability, assurance of yield, easy storage
25 and transportation. Legumes are conceptually used to alleviate protein
26 malnutrition and food imbroglio in developing countries. Food that contain
27 correct and appropriate amount of minerals, vitamins, and essentials amino
28 acids have potentials to subjugate under nutrition in various categories of
29 people in both developed and underdeveloped countries. Malnutrition is still
30 prevalent in developing countries and continues to be a primary cause of
31 poor health ^{1,2}. Protein malnutrition is one of the serious predicament in

32 Africa continent especially Nigeria. The main reasons for these problems
33 are: scarcity and high prices of foods, low income, poor environmental
34 factors and dearth of knowledge about the underutilized farm products.
35 There is need therefore to educate urban and rural dwellers to exploit the
36 utilization of the farm produce domestically and industrially. Emphases
37 should be laid on how to turn correct farm produce to nutritionally
38 adequate products ³.

39 Velvet tamarind is a tall, tropical, fruit bearing tree. It belongs to the
40 leguminosae family that has small and grape-sized edible fruits with
41 brown hard inedible shells. It grows in savanna regions of West Africa and
42 widely spread in Nigeria ⁴. It is a hard wood that is economically valuable
43 for furniture and creative works. Its existence is threatened by human
44 activities especially deforestation, logging and building constructions. The
45 fruit is used as a candy-like snack food in Thailand, often dried, sugar
46 coated and spiced with chilies.

47

48 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

49 The velvet tamarind used for the present work was plucked from its tree
50 grown in Ikere - Ekiti, Ekiti State Nigeria in Africa continent. The pulp was
51 separated from the shell and the seed. The pulp was then dried and
52 grinded into a flour packaged and stored in freezer until used for the
53 analyses.

54 **Ash analysis**

55 The total ash content, water soluble ash, acid insoluble ash, sulphated ash
56 of the sample was determined as follows:

57 **Determination of total ash**

58 The total ash content was determined as described ⁵. The crucible for the
59 ashing was washed, dried in the air oven and allowed to cool in a
60 desiccator. The crucible was weighed and 2.0g of the sample flour was
61 added and weight determined. The crucible with its content was transferred

62 into a muffle furnace and its temperature was maintained between 500°C
63 and 600°C for 6 hours. The process was completed when there was no
64 black speck in the ash. The percentage ash content on wet evaluated as

$$65 \quad \% \text{ Ash} = \frac{\text{Weight of ash (g)} \times 100}{66 \quad \text{Weight of sample flour (g)}}$$

67 The experiment was done in triplicate.

68 Determination of water soluble ash

69 The procedure for the determination of the total ash was followed. The ash
70 obtained was boiled with 25cm³ distilled water and the liquid filtered through
71 an ashless filter paper was then ignited in the weighed ⁵.

72 Calculation:

$$73 \quad \text{Water-soluble ash (\%)} = \text{total ash (\%)} - \text{water insoluble ash (\%)}$$

74 Determination acid-insoluble ash

75 The procedure for the determination of total ash was followed ⁵. The ash
76 was boiled with 25cm³ of dilute hydrochloric acid (10% v/v) for 5 minutes,
77 then the liquid was filtered through an ashless filter paper and thoroughly
78 washed with hot water. The filter paper was then ignited in the original
79 crucible, cooled and weighed.

80 Calculation:

$$81 \quad \text{Acid insoluble ash (\%)} = \frac{\text{acid insoluble ash}}{82 \quad \text{Weight of sample (g)}} \times 100$$

83 Determination of sulphated ash

84 The procedure for the determination of total ash was used⁵. The ash
85 obtained was moistened with concentrated H₂SO₄ and ignited gently to
86 constant weight.

$$87 \quad \text{Sulphated ash (\%)} = \frac{\text{weight of sulphated ash (\%)}}{88 \quad \text{weight of sample (g)}} \times 100$$

89 Mineral Analysis

90 The minerals were analyzed by dry ashing the sample at 550°C to constant weight and
91 dissolving the ash in 100 ml standard flask using distilled deionized water with 3ml of
92 3M HCl. Sodium and potassium were determined by using a flame photometer (model

93 405, corning, U.K). All other minerals were determined by Atomic Absorption
94 Spectrophotometer (Perkin & Elmer model 403, USA).

95 Determination of Anti nutrients

96 Oxalate: 1g of the sample was taken into 100ml conical flask, 75ml of 1.5N H₂SO₄ was
97 added and the mixture was stirred for 1 hour and then filtered. 25ml of sample filtrate
98 was titrated against 0.1NKMnO₄ solution until faint color persisted for 30 seconds⁶.

99 Tannins: 200mg of the sample was added to 10ml of 70% aqueous acetone and
100 properly covered. The mixture was put in an ice bath and shaken for 2hours at 30⁰c.
101 The mixture was later centrifuged at 3,600rpm; 0.2ml of the mixture was pipetted into
102 test tubes and 0.8ml of distilled water was added. Standard tannic acid solutions were
103 prepared from a 0.5mg/ml stock and the solution made up to 1ml with distilled water.
104 0.5ml Folin reagent was added to both sample and standard solution and then followed
105 by the addition of 2.5ml of 20% Na₂CO₃. The solutions were then vortexed and allowed
106 to incubate for 40minutes at room temperature after which absorbance was measured
107 at 725nm⁶.

108 Phytate was determined on Spectronic 20 colorimeter (Gallenkamp,UK) using the
109 method described^{7,8}. The amount of phytate in the sample was calculated as
110 hexaphosphate equivalent using the formula:

$$111 \qquad \qquad \qquad 112 \qquad \qquad \qquad K \times A \times 20 / 0.282 \times 1000 - \text{-----}(3)$$

113
114 where A is the absorbance, mean K = standard P.

115
116 Phytate = 28.2% P

117 Determination of calorific value

118 Five grammes of each sample was ignited electrically in Ballistic bomb calorimeter
119 (Gallenkamp CBB-330-030F) and burned in the excess of oxygen (with recommended
120 oxygen pressure of 25 atmospheres) in the bomb calorimeter. The maximum
121 temperature rise of the bomb calorimeter was measured with the thermocouple and
122 galvanometer system. The rise in temperature obtained was compared with that of
123 benzoic acid to determine the calorific/energy value of the sample.

124 Determination of vitamin C

125 The non-spectrophotometric method described by⁹ was
 126 used for the determination of vitamin C.

127 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

128 **Table 1: Ash contents of velvet tamarind pulps**

PARAMETER	
Total ash	1.47
Water soluble ash	0.40
Acid insoluble ash	2.31
Sulphate ash	1.95

129

130 The results of the ash analysis are presented in Table 1. The total ash
 131 (1.47%) was found to be lower than those of African yam bean (AYB)
 132 (2.06-2.30%)¹⁰, *Adenopus breviflorus benth* flour protein concentrate
 133 (2.06%)¹¹, lima bean flour (3.1%-3.6%)¹², pigeon pea flour (5.76%)¹³,
 134 *Leucaena leucocephala* (3.40%) and *Prosopis africana* (4.16%)
 135 reported¹⁴ but higher than that of the total ash reported for 100% whole
 136 wheat flour (1.43%)¹⁵ but comparable with that of fortified weaning food
 137 (1.47%)¹⁵. The ash value has been regarded as an indicator for food
 138 quality evaluation. The water – soluble ash of the sample was 0.40%.
 139 This value was lower than that of gourd seed (5.25%)¹⁶ while the acid –
 140 soluble ash (2.31%) was higher than that of yellow melon (1.80%)¹⁶.
 141 The sulphated ash (1.95%) was lower than the range reported for some
 142 edible seeds (2.80 – 3.95%)¹⁶. Egan et. al.¹⁷ observed that the
 143 sulphated ash gives a more reliable ash figure for food containing
 144 varying amounts of volatile compounds which may be lost at ignition
 145 temperature used. The ash obtained during the analysis has not exactly
 146 the same composition as the mineral matter, as there may have been
 147 losses due to volatilization interaction between constituents. The ash
 148 composition can be regarded as an index to measure the quality of

149 food.

150 Table 2: Mineral content of velvet tamarind pulps

Minerals	
Sodium (Na)	47.1
Potassium (K)	124
Phosphorus (P)	25.9
Calcium (Ca)	44.1
Magnesium (Mg)	11.8
Cobalt (Co)	N.D
Iron (Fe)	19.1
Zinc (Zn)	1.18
Cadmium (Cd)	N.D
Copper (Cu)	N.D
Na/K	0.38
Ca/P	1.70

151 The results of mineral analysis of velvet tamarind pulps are presented in
 152 Table 2. The most concentrated mineral was potassium (124mg/g)
 153 followed by sodium (47.0mg/g) while calcium (44.1mg/g) took the
 154 third position. Zinc was the least concentrated mineral with the value of
 155 11.8 mg/g. Co, Cd and Cu were not detected in the sample. Both calcium
 156 and magnesium are mostly found in the skeleton. In addition to its
 157 structural role, magnesium is an activator of various enzymes. The
 158 calcium is an essential component in bone formation. The value of
 159 calcium (44.1 mg/g) was greater than those values reported for African
 160 mango seeds (0.14 mg/g)¹⁸, African nutmeg (2.03 mg/g)¹⁹. This
 161 suggests that the amount of calcium present in the sample would be
 162 adequate for infant development of bones and teeth. Sodium and
 163 Potassium control water equilibrium level in the body tissue and are also
 164 important in the transportation of some non-electrolyte. The Na/K ratio
 165 was 0.38. The ratio of 0.60 is recommended for intake²⁰. The value

166 reported for the sample was lower than the recommended value. This
167 indicates that velvet tamarind would not support hypertension.
168 Phosphorus concentration of 1235.29mg/g is required for most chemical
169 reactions in the body especially in the teeth. The Ca/P ratio of >0.5 is
170 required for favourable calcium absorption in the intestine for bone
171 formation²⁰. The Ca/P greater than 0.5 obtained for the sample may lead
172 to high calcium absorption in the digestive system. The imbalance of
173 calcium and phosphorus may also lead to adult rickets called
174 osteomalacia and deficiency of calcium may equally result to bone
175 thinning called osteoporosis, which is common among older people²¹.
176 This indicates that when the daily consumption of calcium is insufficient,
177 the body utilizes the available calcium in the blood serum and bones to
178 maintain constant body activities. Therefore, consumption of calcium
179 should be maintained at optimal level over human life span. The value of
180 iron (191.118mg/g) was higher than those of bouillon cubes (6.83 mg/g),
181 chicken seasoning (18.43 mg/g) reported²² and benniseed (0.138 mg/g)²³.
182 Iron is essential for the formation of blood. Iron deficiency anaemia (IDA)
183 is a major cause of low birth weight and maternal mortality and has been
184 identified as an important cause of cognitive deficit in infants and young
185 children^{22,24}. Bassa et. al.²⁵ reported that IDA is one of the major public
186 health diseases in the world at large, most especially in Asia, sub-saharan
187 African countries; Nigeria inclusive. The iron level in velvet tamarind will
188 enhance the formation of red blood cells in the body and therefore,
189 alleviating IDA when fortify with other human foods of low iron value. Iron
190 element is essential for blood cell particularly haemoglobin. Zinc is an
191 element found in virtually every cell of the human body and plays a vital
192 role in the development and healthy growth of the body²². The value of
193 Zinc (1.18mg/g) was lower than that of beef seasoning (12.48mg/g)²² but
194 higher than date palm fruit (0.29mg/g)¹⁹. Zinc has been found to possess a
195 recognized action in more than 300 enzymes by participating in the
196 structure or in their catalytic and regulatory action²². Zinc rich foods are

197 known to be very expensive. Zinc fortification is very important in food
 198 industries because its daily intakes appear to be more useful
 199 physiologically than in intermittent doses clinical recommendations²⁶. Zinc
 200 deficiency in body may cause loss of appetite, taste, skin and bowel
 201 irritation, difficulty in wound healing, poor growth rate, sexual maturation,
 202 fertility, immune system deterioration and elevation of blood pressure
 203 during pregnancy ²⁷. Akhter et. al.²⁸ also reported that the overload of zinc
 204 (> 100 mg/day) may be dangerous. It can depress immune, cause
 205 anemia, copper inadequacy and decrease high density lipoprotein
 206 cholesterol in blood (HDLP). The amount of zinc (1.18 mg/g) may not be
 207 enough per day for the consumers. Therefore, it is suggested that
 208 fortification may be necessary so as to cater for the short fall of zinc in the
 209 sample.

210 TABLE 3: Anti nutritional factors of velvet tamarind pulps

211

ANTINUTRIENT	
Phytate (mg/g)	112.8
Oxalate (mg/g)	2.251
Tannin (%)	0.076
Cyanide (%)	0.338
Phytin (%)	3.380
Phytin p (%)	0.956

212

213 Table 3 presents the phytate, oxalate, tannin, cyanide, phytin and phytin
 214 P. The phytate level (112.8mg/g) was higher than those of *Colocynthis*
 215 *citrullus* (110 mg/100g) ⁸, nicker bean (6.59mg/g), sorghum (5.34mg/g)
 216 and millet (4.41mg/g) ²⁹ but lower than those of *Azalia africana* (135.9
 217 mg/g) ³⁰, walnut flour (201.8 mg/g) ³¹, cassava (530mg/g) and white yam
 218 (694 mg/g) ³². The Oxalate (2.251mg/g) was lower than those of walnut
 219 flour (1.13 mg/g) ³¹, antelope meat (0.27 mg/g) ³³, nicker bean 3.15mg/g,

220 sorghum (5.22mg/g) and millet (4.06 mg/g) ²⁹. It has been suggested that
 221 dietary phytic and oxalic acids may perturb the maximum usage of some
 222 essential minerals such as calcium, zinc and magnesium which result to
 223 formation of rickets during the consumption of some cereals and legumes
 224 ^{33,34}. The tannin and cyanide levels were: 0.076% and 0.338%
 225 respectively. Tannins have been shown to contribute some degree of
 226 resistance to pre-harvest germination ³⁵. The tannin value of the sample
 227 was fairly lower than those of faba bean (2.6%) ³⁶, date palm fruit (3.0%) ³⁷
 228 and cooked walnut (2.33%) ³¹ while the cyanide value (0.338%) was
 229 higher than *Azelia africana* (2.19%) ³⁰. Cyanide is highly capable of
 230 binding to haemoglobin which results to cyano-haemoglobin and cause
 231 serious disorders in the blood system. It is note worthy that velvet
 232 tamarind has low level of cyanide which makes it good for consumption
 233 since it possesses little or no negative effect in the blood when consumed.
 234 The phytate which was high, this indicates that the velvet tamarind pulps
 235 may be processed chemically as a source of phytic acid
 236 while tannin which is very low makes it important medicinally and as
 237 astringent in intestinal tubules ³⁸. It can also be taken to counteract alcohol
 238 intoxication.

239 Table 4: Energy and vitamin C contents of velvet tamarind pulps

PARAMETER

Energy Value (KJ/100g) 761.4

Vitamin C (mg/100g) 33.33

240 Table 4 shows the energy evaluation of velvet tamarind. The calorific value
241 of the sample was 763.4 KJ/100g. The human body needs considerable
242 energy when at rest. The amount required has been determined to be
243 about 1 Kcal per kg of body weight per hour or 1,500 – 2,000 Kcal per day.
244 This depends on the individual's metabolism. The largest part of human
245 energy consumption via food is used for manufacturing essential life
246 processes and body temperature ³⁹. The energy that the body derived from
247 food is lower than the amount of energy produced when food is burned or
248 completely oxidized in a bomb calorimeter. This is due to calorie producing
249 nutrients, which are mainly protein, fats and carbohydrates are not
250 completely digested, absorbed or oxidized to yield energy in the body³⁹ .
251 The present value (763.4 KJ/100g) was lower than those of gourd
252 seed (1265KJ/100g), *Cucumeropsis edulis* (1122KJ/100g) and bulma
253 cotton seed (1645KJ/100g) ⁸. The calorific value dictates the level of
254 combustion and their rate of digestion in the body when combined with
255 oxygen, and the energy thus released may be useful for normal
256 mitochondria electron transport. The free energy available from oxidation is
257 utilized in a series of steps to promote three moles of ATP from ADP and
258 phosphate which is used in a range of ways in the cell for mechanical work,
259 biosynthesis and transport of metabolites. Based on the required amount
260 per day recommended (1,500 – 2,000 Kcal per day) ³⁹. Velvet tamarind
261 may only supply half of energy required per day when consumed.
262 The value of vitamin C in velvet tamarind was 33.33mg/100g. The major
263 vitamin in the velvet tamarind is vitamin C called ascorbic acid. The deficiency in
264 man may cause scurvy. The value currently reported for the sample was in
265 close agreement with those values reported for paprika seed (36.52 mg/100g)⁴⁰
266 and mucuna seed (34.63 mg/100g ⁴¹ but higher beach pea (1.60 mg/100g) and
267 green pea (6.50 mg/100g) reported ⁴². The vitamin C value for velvet tamarind
268 was also lower than that of cashew apple (203.5mg/100g) ⁴³. The high value of
269 ascorbic acid in velvet tamarind pulp makes it useful in the prevention of scurvy,
270 bleeding gums, limbs pain and blindness.

271 CONCLUSION

272 The results showed that velvet tamarind would provide essential valuable

273 minerals needed for body growth, low levels of anti nutrients, high vitamin c
274 content and energy value for body metabolism
275

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