Rooibos Tea (Aspalathus linearis): Comparison of Antioxidant Activity between Authentic and Commercial Samples along with Their UHPL Finger Printing in Order to Address the Issue of Adulteration

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Rooibos tea is an extremely beneficial beverage to consumers because it’s rich in minerals, has low tannin contents, and is caffeine free. Rooibos tea also contains a plethora of antioxidants, and antioxidants are important in maintaining good health. In this project, the antioxidant potential of rooibos tea was determined in its original plant and its commercial samples through the oscillating reaction. Also a novel UHPLC based chemical fingerprinting profile of authentic and commercial samples of rooibos tea was determined in order to address the issue of adulteration, which could happen mistakenly or intentionally. This novel method can be applied, by the FDA, for the quality control of rooibos tea products on the market.

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