



RESEARCH ARTICLE



**QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF CAPSAICIN FROM CHILLIES AND CHILLI POWDER  
BY H.P.L.C METHOD.**

**P. SRIDHARA BABU<sup>1</sup>, M.GURAVIAH<sup>2\*</sup>, I. HATTI<sup>3</sup> AND K.SRIKANTH<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemistry, J.K.C College, Guntur-6, Andhra Pradesh, India

<sup>2</sup>Department of Biotechnology(P.G), J.K.C College, Guntur-6, Andhra Pradesh, India.

<sup>3</sup>Department of Chemistry, J.K.C College, Guntur-6, Andhra Pradesh, India

<sup>4</sup>Department of Chemistry, Vivek Vardhini day college, Hyderabad, Telangana state, India

\*Corresponding author: [gurubt1980@gmail.com](mailto:gurubt1980@gmail.com)

**Abstract**

Capsaicinoids are the compounds that are responsible for the pungency, aroma and flavor of the hot chili peppers. Chilli peppers are generally known as ripen fruits of various species of genus capsicum. They play an important role as one of the most commercial crops used both as condiment or culinary supplement and as vegetable. Capsaicinoids are soluble in moderate polar organic solvents e.g. chloroform, acetone, ethyl acetate, methylene chloride, methanol, ethanol, acetonitrile, and among others (Duarte *et al.*, 2004; Santamaria *et al.*, 2000). There are five levels of pungency classified using Scoville heat units (SHU): non-pungent (0–700 SHU), mildly pungent (700–3,000 SHU), moderately pungent (3,000–25,000 SHU), highly pungent (25,000–70,000 SHU) and very highly pungent (>80,000 SHU). The regarding with HPLC as mentioned above it is currently the most popular and reliable technique for the analysis of capsaicinoids. Capsaicin has been recognized as anti-cancer agent for many years (Surh, 2002).

**Keywords:** Capsaicinoids, Chilli, Scoville heat units (SHU), HPLC and anti-cancer.

**1. Introduction**

Capsaicinoids are the compounds that are responsible for the pungency, aroma and flavor of the hot chili peppers. Capsaicin is the most abundant capsaicinoid found in chili peppers. There are many varieties of capsaicinoids like nordihydrocapsaicin, hydrocapsaicin, homocapsaicin, nornorcapsaicin, nornornorcapsaicin, nonivamide (Barbero *et al.*, 2006). 90% of the total capsaicinoids are capsaicin and dihydrocapsaicin and capsaicin makes about 71% in total (Ravishankar *et al.*, 2003; geandFuruta, 1970). The commercial quality of hot peppers is solely determined by amount of capsaicin (hotness) present in them (Jarret *et al.*, 2007). There concentrations in different capsaicin

fruits is regulated by factors such as light intensity, age of fruit and plant's growing temperature.

**Synthesis of Mannich base, PBN**

Benzaldehyde, piperazine and nicodinamide were taken in 1:1:1 mole ratio. Piperazine 0.9mL (10mM), nicodinamide 1.22g (10mM) and then 1mL of benzaldehyde (10mM) was added and kept under microwave for 2min. As usual workup followed by purification under thin layer chromatography gave the compound, PBN. Yield: 79%., m.p. 169°C.

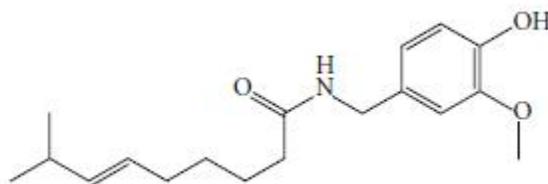


FIGURE 1: Molecular structure of capsaicin.

### Synthesis of Mannich base, PBB

Benzaldehyde, piperazine and benzamide were taken in 1:1:1 mole ratio. Piperazine 0.9mL (10mM), benzamides 1.2g (10mM) and then 1mL of benzaldehyde (10mM) was added and kept under microwave for 3min. As usual workup followed by purification under thin layer chromatography gave the compound, PBB. Yield: 79%., m.p. 167°C. All the compounds (PBA, PBN, and PBB) gave satisfactory spectral data like IR and 1H-NMR.

Chilli peppers are generally known as ripen fruits of various species of genus capsicum. They play an important role as one of the most commercial crops used both as condiment or culinary supplement and as vegetable. Commonly, their hot sensory taste is due to capsaicinoids as the major group of organic compounds which is closely related to the family of alkaloids, and are known to be biosynthesized and accumulated in the placenta of Capsicum fruits (Pruthi, 1976; Tapia *et al.*, 1993; Prasad *et al.*, 2006). Capsaicinoids are soluble in moderate polar organic solvents e.g. chloroform, acetone, ethyl acetate, methylene chloride, methanol, ethanol, acetonitrile, and among others (Duarte *et al.*, 2004; Santamaria *et al.*, 2000). The major capsaicinoids present in most varieties of the chilli pepper are capsaicin (tran-8-methyl-N-vanillyl-6-nonenamide) and dihydrocapsaicin (8-methyl-N-vanillylnonanamide).

The levels of capsaicin in tip and ovaries are high and in seeds its concentration is low (Supalkavo *et al.*, 2007). 90% of the capsaicinoids are produced in placenta portion. Seeds are not source of capsaicinoids but absorb them from placenta (Andrews, 1984).

The determination of capsaicinoids in chilli peppers, topical cream (Kaale *et al.*, 2002), self-defense weapons (Reilly *et al.*, 2001a) and aerosol defense sprays (Spicer and Almirall,

2005) has been of increasing interest for many reasons. Extraction methods of the capsaicinoids from chilli pepper sample have been conducted using various extraction techniques including liquid-liquid extraction (LLE) (Tapia *et al.*, 1993; Kaale *et al.*, 2002; Spicer and Almirall, 2005), enzymatic extraction (Santamaria *et al.*, 2000), supercritical fluid extraction (SFE) (Sato *et al.*, 1999; Gnayfeed *et al.*, 2001; Kaale *et al.*, 2002; Duarte *et al.*, 2004; Uzunalic *et al.*, 2004), pressurized liquid extraction (PLE) (Barbero *et al.*, 2006a), magnetic stirring extraction (MSE) (Kaale *et al.*, 2002), solid-phase microextraction (SPME) (Spicer and Almirall, 2005), reflux heating (Peusch *et al.*, 1997), microwave assisted extraction (MAE) (Barbero *et al.*, 2006b), maceration (Titze *et al.*, 2002), Soxhlet extraction (Korel *et al.*, 2002) and ultrasonic assisted extraction (UAE) (Karnka *et al.*, 2002). The extraction of capsaicinoids in Capsicum plants is, in fact, influenced by their chemical nature, extraction method, sample particle size, storage time as well as the presence of interfering substances. Thus, the extracts of the plants are always a mixture of different classes of organic compounds that are soluble in the solvents used. Methanol, ethanol, propanol, acetone, ethyl acetate, n-butyl chloride, acetonitrile, dichloromethane, hexane and their combinations are frequently used for the extraction of capsaicinoids. Peusch *et al.* (1997) reported that SFE of capsaicinoids in some pepper samples led to a six-fold higher extraction yield compared to organic solvent extraction using various solvents. However, SFE is cost effective equipment and is not common in routine laboratories. Besides, an ordinary extraction method is still adopted with relative ease to carry out by using magnetic stirring solvent system (Kaale *et al.*, 2002). But it takes time, and then the extract containing the analyte is subjected for centrifugation and or filtration.

Previously, determination of total capsaicinoids have relied on direct measurement of ultraviolet absorption or colorimetric method using Folin-Ciocalteu reagent by UV-Visible spectrometry (Bajaj and Kaur, 1979; Perucka and Oleszek, 2000).

The regarding with HPLC as mentioned above it is currently the most popular and reliable technique for the analysis of capsaicinoids. The technique has been mainly associated with UV absorption detection (Hoffman *et al.*, 1983; Betts, 1999; Perucka and Oleszek, 2000; Santamaria *et al.*, 2000; Kaale *et al.*, 2002; Karnka *et al.*, 2002; Kim *et al.*, 2002; Korel *et al.*, 2002; Kurian and Starks, 2002; Duarte *et al.*, 2004; Materska and Perucka, 2005; Lui *et al.*, 2007), fluorescence detection (Gnayfeed *et al.*, 2001; Titze *et al.*, 2002; Barbero *et al.*, 2006a), photodiode array (PDA) (Cooper *et al.*, 1991; Constant *et al.*, 1995; Padilla and Yahia, 1998; Estrada *et al.*, 1999 & 2002) and or coupled with fluorescence detection (Cooper *et al.*, 1991; Peusch *et al.*, 1997; Uzumalic *et al.*, 2004; Barbero *et al.*, 2006b).

The amount of capsaicin in a given variety can vary depending on the light intensity and temperature at which the plant is grown, the age of the fruit, and the position of the fruit on the plant. The first test developed to measure pungency was the Scoville test, first developed in 1912 by Wilbur Scoville. There are five levels of pungency classified using Scoville heat units (SHU): non-pungent (0–700 SHU), mildly pungent (700–3,000 SHU), moderately pungent (3,000–25,000 SHU), highly pungent (25,000–70,000 SHU) and very highly pungent (>80,000 SHU)

### Anticancer activity:-

Capsaicin has been recognized as anti-cancer agent for many years (Surh, 2002). In an experiment capsaicin was seen to hinder the movement of breast cancer cells and to retard growth of prostate cancer cells. Also, in this experiment, dihydrocapsaicin was reported to kill HCT116 human cancer cells (Oh *et al.*, 2008; Thoennissen *et al.*, 2010; Yang *et al.*, 2010). Another study showed that leukemic cell's growth can be retarded by natural capsaicin (Ito *et al.*, 2004). Capsaicin attacks the abnormally dividing cells and hinders the proliferation of these malignant cells by cycle arrest, apoptosis, autophagy or through deactivating the cellular

metabolism (Choi *et al.*, 2010; Ghosh and Basu, 2010 and Thoennissen *et al.*, 2010). Isoform of enzyme cytochrome P450 is inhibited by capsaicin. This enzyme detoxifies many low molecular weight carcinogens (Singh *et al.*, 2001). Capsaicin identifies malignant cell lines and specifically attaches the immortal dividing cancerous cells and retards their growth (Kim and Moon, 2004). Studies show that cancer mutation in the DNA can be caused by the activity of metabolites of capsaicin (Baez *et al.*, 2010).

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1 Collection samples:-

A total of 12 Chilies samples were collected from Agricultural market yard, Guntur and chili powder were collected from Sri Lakshmi Ganapathi Chilli powder Industries, Guntur. samples were collected between January 2014 to April 2014. These samples were selected randomly and purchased in amounts greater than 0.5 kg. The samples were maintained at 04<sup>o</sup> C until arrival at the laboratory, where all samples were ground into powder and stored in plastic bags at 4<sup>o</sup>C until the onset of the analysis. The collected samples were different varieties namely 4884 , 273, 341, Teja Talu, Dabhi, Teja, 248, 334, Medium Teja Talu, Byadgi, 243 and 341 Talu

### 2.2 Method for measuring Capsaicin in chillies and chilli powder:- (ASTA ANALYTICAL MANUAL METHOD No. 21.3)

#### A. Apparatus

1. Standard flasks, 50 mL, 100 mL & 200 mL capacity
2. Heating mantle of 500 mL capacity, with regulator
3. HPLC system with accessories as mentioned under Instrument conditions
4. Micro litre syringe capable of injecting 1 - 20  $\mu$ L.
5. Pipette, 10 mL
6. Balance, readable to 0.01 g.
7. Glass beads.
8. Boiling flask, 500 mL.
9. Whatman No. 1 filter paper (90 mm)/ syringe filter 0.45  $\mu$ m.
10. Sample powdering mill or equivalent
11. Water cooled condensor.

**B. Reagents:**

1. Rectified spirit, (chromatographically pure): Whenever fresh batch is purchased check for purity by gas chromatography and if necessary distil the same before use for analysis.
2. Acetonitrile HPLC grade
3. Water HPLC grade
4. Acetic acid HPLC grade.
5. Acetone -HPLC grade.
6. Standard - N - Vanillyl - n - nonanamide, 97% (Sigma or equivalent).

**Standard stock solution** - Weigh accurately 0.1 g of the above standard and dissolve and make upto 100 mL with rectified spirit. Keep this solution as stock solution (1000 ppm) in standard flask wrapped in black cover. Shelf life is one year under refrigeration.

**Working standard 100 ppm** - From the stock solution pipette 10 mL to the 100 mL standard flask and make up to the mark with rectified spirit. Keep under refrigeration in standard flask wrapped in black cover. Shelf life is six months under refrigeration.

**C. Procedure :****Sample preparation :**

**Whole chillies:** After mixing & quartering, powder 100 g of the sample and pass Through the sieve ASTM No. 20. (850  $\mu$ m).

**Entire sample:-**

1. Weigh accurately 25.0 g of the above sample in duplicate into 500 mL boiling flask.
2. Add 200 mL rectified spirit and then several glass beads to aid boiling.
3. Reflux gently for 5 hours.
4. Allow to cool and then filter 3 to 4 mL through whatman no.1 filter paper pre-wetted with rectified spirit or 0.45 $\mu$ m syringe filter into stoppered test tubes.

**Oleoresins:** Accurately weigh 1 to 2 g oleoresin (increase sample size if total Capsaicinoid concentration is below 1%) into 50 mL volumetric flask, being sure not to allow any

oleoresin to coat the sides of the flask. Add 5 mL of acetone to flask and swirl acetone until sample is completely dispersed as evidenced by

observing no oleoresin coating bottom of flask with neck at 45° angle. Slowly add rectified spirit, mixing completely by swirling with acetone while adding. Continue adding and mixing until solution becomes cloudy. Dilute to volume and mix well. Filter 3 to 4 mL through Whatman no. 1 filter paper pre-wetted with rectified spirit or 0.45  $\mu$ m syringe filter into stoppered test tubes.

**Instrument condition:**

HPLC System - Water -TM 600 system controller  
Waters TM 486 tunable absorbance detector

\* Waters 746 Data module / Waters millennium 32 software

\* Waters U6K injector / Rheodyne injector  
\*Waters 717 plus Autosampler.

HPLC Column - 5  $\mu$ m Waters Symmetry TM C18 (4.6x250 mm) steel column

**Note :** Use either degassed eluent or sparge with Helium before run. All solvent should be HPLC grade. Eluent used - Freshly prepared 60 % acetonitrile + 40 % water with 1 % acetic acid at 0.8 mL / minute flow.

**Absorbance** - 280 nm

**Volume for injection** - 5 to 10  $\mu$ L

1. Switch on the instrument.
2. Wait for system configuration .
3. Press the set up function key to display the pump set up screen.
4. Enable sparging if necessary (appropriate reservoirs A/B/C/D)
5. Press the direct function key and sparge helium at 100 mL/min. for first 20 mts then reduce flow to 30 mL / min. for acetonitrile + water system. (If helium is used for sparging)
6. Vent the eluent by keeping the small glass bottle under the open vent tubing (injection port) to cut on the vented eluent.
7. Turn the load/ inject handle to the inject (left) position and then the sample loading plug handle to the open ( vertical) position to open the vent port.
8. From the direct function key at the % A field, type a value of 100 to set the flow to 100 % for eluent reservoir A.
9. Increase the flow by 0.1 mL / min upto 0.8 mL / min .

10. Attach the priming syringe, open the eluent drain - off valve (turn the knurled knob counter clockwise) and draw off 10 mL of eluent.
11. Repeat the above step, if air bubble is trapped in the delivery system (tube).
12. Close the eluent draw - off valve and remove the primary syringe keep an empty bottle at the eluent outlet waste tube.
13. Keep the flow of eluent (0.8 mL / min) through the HPLC column
14. When the pressure indicated in direct control screen becomes steady, the system is ready for injection.
15. Load the sample ( 5 to 10  $\mu$ L) into waters U6K manual injector or rheodyne injector (with 5 or 20  $\mu$ L sample loops), using micro litre syringe after rinsing in pure rectified spirit not less than 10 times.
16. Turn the load / inject handle to the load (right) position and turn the sample loading plug handle to the open (vertical) position.
17. Remove the sample loading plug.
18. Insert the syringe with sample / standard into the sample loading port until the syringe bottoms and empty the syringe fill the loop.
19. Remove the syringe, replace the sample loading plug and turn the sample loading plug handle to the closed (horizontal) position.
20. Chromatograms are stored in respective BINS of data module.
21. Make a file with run time parametrs.
22. Reprocess the chromatograms of samples and take the report. (Calculation is made based on area of standard capsaicin.)
23. Run the system in pure acetonitrile at least half an hour before switching off the system. Always prime the system when eluent is changed.
24. Switch off the detector, system controller at the unit and then main power of the above. Keep the plastic plunger to the eluent draw off valve.
25. Switch off the data module at the main power.
26. Discard the eluent from the waste bottle.
27. Change the prepared eluent from the

28. reservoirs only when the system is used next time.

\* **Autosampler** :-The autosampler is switched on and the sample extracts taken in the vials are loaded in the carousel. In the Millenium32 software, the system is selected and the functions to be carried out are entered in samples set of the run mode.

#### D. Calculations :

1.Scoville Heat Units (SHU) are the sum of SHU of three major capsaicinoids.

Calculate SHU as follows:

- a) Nordihydrocapsaicin,  $SHU = (N/A) \times (Cs/WX) \times (HN/RN)$ .
- b) Capsaicin,  $SHU = (C/A) \times (Cs/WX) \times (HC/RC)$ .
- c) Dihydrocapsaicin,  $SHU = (D/A) \times (Cs/WX) \times (HD/RD)$ .

Where: A = average peak area of standard;  
 N, C, and D = average peak areas for respective capsaicinoids from duplicate injections;  
 Cs = concentration of std in mg/mL;  
 WX = wt of sample in mg/mL;  
 HN, HC, and HD = heat factors for respective capsaicinoids;  
 RN, RC, and RD = response factors of respective capsaicinoids relative to standard.

2.Accepted heat factors and response factors:

Nordihydrocapsaicin	- HN = 9.3 E + 06;	RN = 0.98
Capsaicin	- HC = 16.0 E + 06;	RC = 0.89
Dihydrocapsaicin	- HD = 16.0 E + 06;	RD = 0.93

3. Relative retention times:

Nordihydrocapsaicin	0.90
N-vanillyl-n-nonanamide	1.00
Capsaicin	1.00
Dihydrocapsaicin	1.58

4. Capsaicin content in percentage is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Capsaicin content (\%)} = \frac{\text{Total SHU}}{16 \times 10000}$$

### E. Result and Reporting :

Result is given in SHU or in percentage as requested in laboratory information sheet.

During the reporting in scoville heat unit correct the value to the nearest hundred and for percentage, correct the value to 2 decimals.

### G. Environmental aspects:

1. N-Vanillyl-n-nonanamide is an extreme irritant - handle with care - Do not inhale.

### 3. Results and Discussion

The samples were collected from agricultural market yard and S.L.C, Guntur, India .The samples were shown very highly pungent and highly pungent.

**Table: 01 Collection of samples and content of pungent (Capsaicin) in Scoville Heat Unit (S.H.U)**

S.NO	DATE	NAME OF VARIETY	RESULTS (IN S.H.U)
1.	04/01/2014	4884 (Chilies)	74400
2	05/01/2014	273 (Chilies)	95671
3	07/01/2014	341 (Chilies)	64893
4	04/02/2014	TEJA TALU (Chilies powder)	53002
5	15/02/2014	DABHI (Chilies powder)	68907
6	17/02/2014	TEJA (Chilies)	<b>99698</b>
7	24/03/2014	248 (Chilies powder)	76890
8	05/03/2014	334 (Chilies powder)	76549
9	07/03/2014	MEDIUM TEJA TALU (Chilies)	56897
10	14/03/2014	BYADGI (Chilies powder)	85670
11	15/04/2014	243 (Chilies powder)	73490
12	17/04/2014	341 TALU (Chilies)	<b>48762</b>

### 3.2 Analysis of Capsaicin by HPLC Method:-

The HPLC was standee, after inject the blank (Acetonitrile). The acetonitrile was given only one peak. the peaks were analyzed with standard .

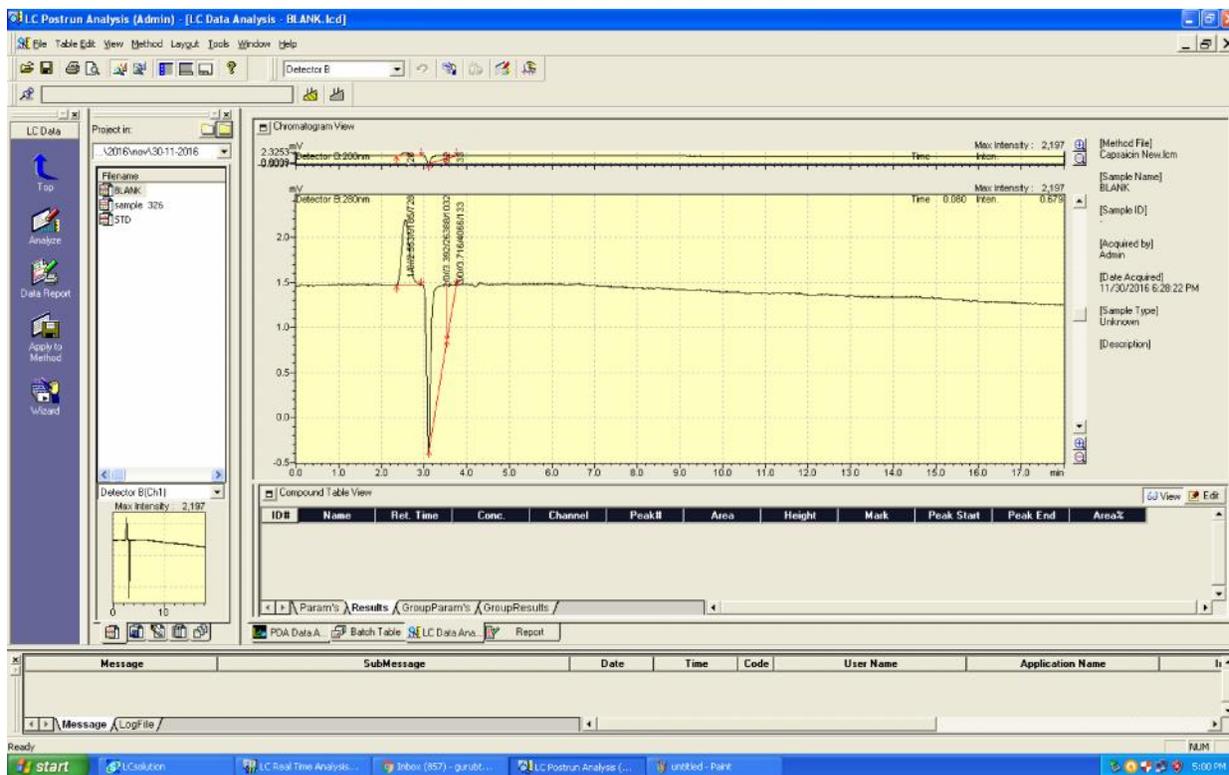


Figure:-02 Blank chromatogram

The blank (Acetonitrile) peaks were collected, after inject the standard .the standard were given only one peak (Figure:-03)

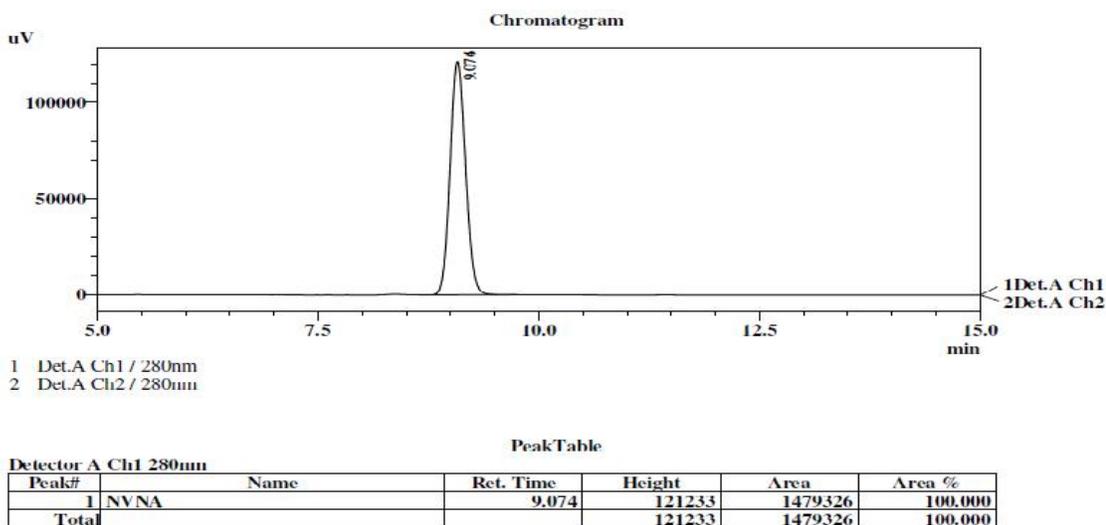
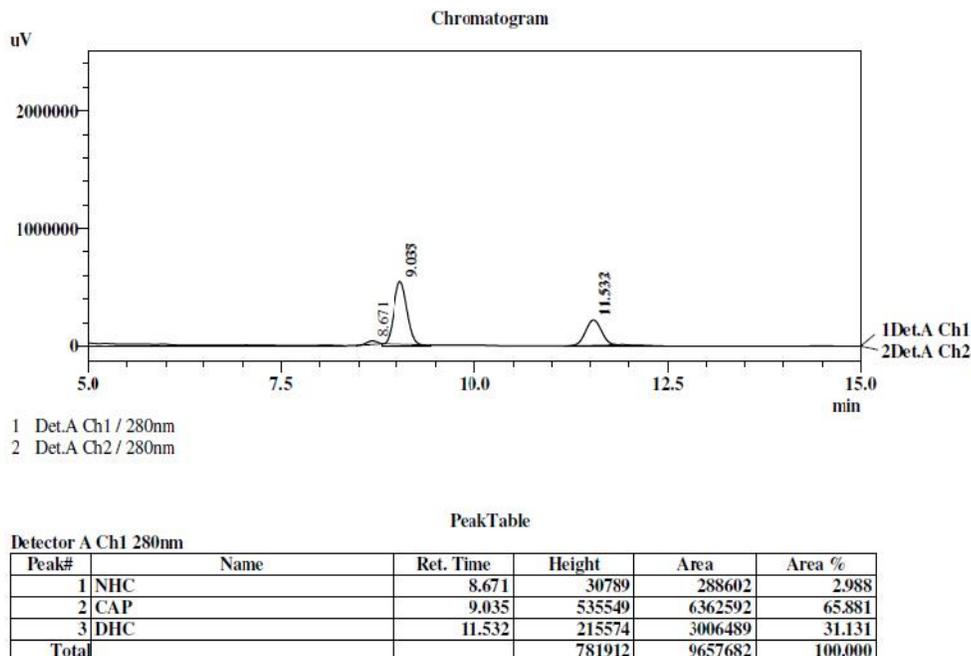


Figure:-03 Capacin Standard Chromatogram

The standard peaks were collected ,after inject the sample .the sample were given three peaks (Figure:-04)



**Figure:- 04 Sample Chromatogram**

In the present study Capsaicin concentration were based on pungent and moisture content .the Teja variety was given high pungent (**99698 S.H.U** ) and 341 Talu were given low pungent (**48762 S.H.U**). Any Talu variety was given low pungent **so** the Talu varieties were affected diseased .

Finally the exporters and house holders will purchase only dried red chillies .the dried chillies will not have any aflotoxins . if aflotoxins level is high it affect cancer.

### Conclusion

The proposed HPLC method was found to be precise, specific, accurate, rapid and economical for extraction of capsaicin from Chillies and chilli powder . The method development and validation process for the analysis of extraction of capsaicin from Chillies and chilli powder and its estimation by HPLC has been investigated in the study. The mobile phase is simple to prepare and it's economical. The optimized method showed appropriate retention time for the respective peaks and good system suitability. The parameters which are validated for the developed method offered

satisfactory results within acceptable limits, which reveal that developed method is valid table, transferable, robust, reliable, accurate and precise.

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