

Novel neuroprotective peptides derived from enzymatic hydrolysis of pea protein

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1 Novel neuroprotective peptides derived from enzymatic hydrolysis
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8

9 **Abstract**

10 The aim of this study was to purify and identify neuroprotective peptides
11 derived from Flavourzyme[®]-pea protein hydrolysate (FPPH). Cell viability
12 of β -amyloid peptide ($A\beta_{1-42}$)-induced oxidative damage in SH-SY5Y cells
13 was used to explore neuroprotective effects of pretreating the cells with or
14 without hydrolysate and its fractions. The higher cell viability represents the
15 better neuroprotective effect. The hydrolysate was sequentially purified by gel
16 filtration (GF) chromatography, reversed-phase (RP) chromatography and
17 cation-exchange (CE) chromatography to explore any fraction to increase
18 neuroprotective effects. The peptides were identified using a liquid
19 chromatography tandem mass spectrometer (LC/MS/MS). Three novel
20 neuroprotective peptides were obtained, and the amino acid sequences were
21 NKFGKFF, GGPFKSPF and RPVLGGSSTFPYP. The *in vitro* effect of

22 gastrointestinal proteases on neuroprotective effects of the three peptides were
23 also investigated. The result suggested that the gastrointestinal protease did
24 not affect neuroprotective effects of the three novel peptides, which reveal the
25 potential to ameliorate disease caused by neurodegeneration.

26 **Keywords:** Pea protein, Neuroprotective peptides, Cell viability, $A\beta_{1-42}$, SH-
27 SY5Y cells

28 29 **Introduction**

30 Ageing is the primary risk factor for most neurodegenerative diseases,
31 including Alzheimer disease (AD) and Parkinson disease. One in ten
32 individuals aged ≥ 65 years has AD and its prevalence continues to increase
33 with increasing age (Hou et al., 2019). AD is characterized by the extracellular
34 aggregation of amyloid- β peptide, intracellular inclusions of neurofibrillary
35 tangles and hyperphosphorylation of Tau protein in neurons (Hyman et al.,
36 2012). The brain of AD patients shows higher oxidative damage along with
37 abnormal amyloid- β peptide accumulation and neurofibrillary tangles
38 (Cassidy, et al., 2020). Memory and cognitive impairments/disorders are the
39 main clinical symptoms of neurodegenerative diseases. The prevalence of
40 such chronic conditions has increased over the past three decades. There is a

41 growing interest in the use of food-derived bioactive products as intervention
42 agents in functional foods and dietary supplements for the fights against these
43 human diseases (Wang, Waterhouse, Waterhouse, Zheng, Su, & Zhao, 2021).
44 Among many classes of compounds considers as neuroprotective agents,
45 peptides derived from natural materials or their synthetic analogs are good
46 candidates (Perlikowska, 2021).

47 Pea protein is a mainstream ingredient which can enhance the nutritional
48 and technological properties to formulate or reformulate innovative food and
49 beverages (Boukid, Rosell & Gastellari, 2021). Several enzymatic hydrolysis
50 of pea protein to release peptides with bioactive activities are also reported,
51 such as antioxidant activity (Girgih, Chao, Lin, He, Jung, & Aluko, 2015;
52 Ding, et al., 2020), angiotensin I-converting enzyme inhibitory activity
53 (Barbana & Boye, 2010) and angiotensin converting enzyme II up-regulating
54 activity (Liao, Fan, Liu, & Wu, 2019). However, considering the large variety
55 of peptides regarding size and amino acids sequences many of them still is
56 unexplored. According to recent review of food derived bioactive peptides on
57 neuroprotective effect, pea peptides have not yet been investigated (Wang,
58 Waterhouse, Waterhouse, Zheng, Su, & Zhao, 2021).

59 $A\beta_{1-42}$ is widely applied to induce or as a toxic agent to establish both *in*
60 *vitro* (Alghazwi, Charoensiddhi, Smid, & Zhang, 2020; Rajput, Nirmal,
61 Rathore, & Dahima, 2020; Sirin & Aslim, 2021) and *in vivo* (Zhang et al.,
62 2019; Giacomeli, Izoton, Santos, Boeira, Jesse, & Haas, 2019) models for
63 investigating neuroprotective effects. $A\beta_{1-42}$ -induced oxidative damage in
64 SH-SY5Y cells, human neuroblastoma, is one of the applications. It causes the
65 activation of several biochemical pathogenic mediators such as oxidative
66 stress, which activate the pathogenesis of AD (Sirin & Aslim, 2021). To study
67 neuroprotective effects, the cells are pretreated or preincubated with different
68 concentrations of target samples, and then subsequently expose to 1-10 μM of
69 $A\beta_{1-42}$, which induce oxidative damage to the cells (Rajput, Nirmal, Rathore,
70 & Dahima, 2020; Sirin & Aslim, 2021).

71 The objective of this study was to isolate neuroprotective peptides from
72 enzymatic pea protein hydrolysate through $A\beta_{1-42}$ -induced oxidative damage
73 in SH-SY5Y cells as well as to identify several new neuroprotective peptides.

74

75 **Materials and methods**

76 ***Chemicals***

77 Pea protein (PP) was obtained from JIU PU Enterprise Corporation (Taichung,

78 Taiwan), and its crude protein content was 80% by the Kjeldahl method.
79 Flavourzyme[®] 1000 MG (1000 unit/g), Sodium carbonate, dexamethasone
80 and insulin were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Missouri, USA). Standards
81 including cytochrome c, aprotinin, gastrin I, substance P and glycine with a
82 retention time of 13.0, 17.1, 20.0, 25.8 and 28.8 min in the HPSEC (high-
83 performance size-exclusion chromatography), respectively, were purchased
84 from Merck (Darmstadt, Germany) or Sigma-Aldrich (Missouri, USA).
85 Minimum essential medium (MEM), fetal bovine serum (FBS), trypsin-EDTA
86 and F-12 nutrient mixture for human neuroblastoma SH-SY5Y cell were
87 purchased from GIBCO (Grand Island, NY, USA). Retinoic acid and β -
88 amyloid ($A\beta_{1-42}$) were obtained from Cayman Chemical Com. (Michigan,
89 USA).

90

91 *Preparation of neuroprotective hydrolysate*

92 Neuroprotective hydrolysate was prepared according to our preliminary study.
93 Briefly, 6 % (w/v) PP and 1 % (w of enzyme/w of PP) Flavourzyme[®] were
94 mixed at 50°C for 6 h to produce hydrolysate with the highest neuroprotective
95 effect in $A\beta$ -induced oxidative damage in SH-SY5Y cells (ATCC[®], Missouri,
96 USA). Parts of FPPH was freeze-dried to assay for neuroprotective effect in

97 terms of cell viability of the cells. The rest of sample was subjected to
98 centrifugation at $8000 \times g$ in a micro-centrifuge for 15 min. The supernatant
99 was further fractionated by gel filtration chromatography.

100

101 *Purification of neuroprotective peptide*

102 Neuroprotective hydrolysate was loaded on a SuperdexTM peptide 10/300GL
103 column (10 mm x 300 mm) (Illinois, USA) equilibrated with 0.02 M sodium
104 phosphate (pH 7.2) at a flow rate of 0.5 mL/min. Fractions were collected
105 every 0.5 min with a fraction collector. Elution curves were obtained by
106 measuring absorbance at 214 nm. The fractions that showed the highest
107 neuroprotective effect in the cells were collected and further purified on
108 InerSustain[®] reverse-phase (RP) C18 column (10 mm x 250 mm)(GL
109 Sciences, Tokyo, Japan). The fractions were eluted with 0.1% trifluoroacetic
110 acid at a flow rate of 1 mL/min. The eluate was detected at 214 nm. The
111 highest active fractions were collected and further purified on Luna[®] 5 μ m
112 SCX 100 Å column (10 mm x 250 mm)(Phenomenex, Madrid, USA) with a
113 linear gradient of 10 mM KH_2PO_4 25% ACN (pH 3.0)(0-40%) containing 350
114 mM KCl at a flow of 1 mL/min.

115

116 ***Cell culture and treatment***

117 Human neuroblastoma SH-SY5Y cells were seeded in 96-well plate at a final
118 concentration of 2.5×10^4 cells/well in MEM/F-12 supplemented with 10%
119 FBS and 2mM L-glutamine in a humid atmosphere of 5% CO₂ and 95% air
120 at 37 C. To induce differentiation, post-confluent SH-SY5Y cells were
121 stimulated for 48 h in MEM/F-12 containing 10 μ M retinoic acid. The medium
122 was changed every 2 days. After 7 days, cells were pretreated with or without
123 FPPH and its fractions at indicated concentration for 24 h. And then MEM/F-
124 12 containing 10 μ M A β_{1-42} was added to induce oxidative damage in SH-
125 SY5Y cells for another 24 h. The neuroprotective effects of FPPH and its
126 fractions was thus determined in cell viability assay.

127

128 ***Cell viability assay***

129 Neuroprotective effects in terms of cell viability were determined. Cell
130 viability of SH-SY5Y cells (control, CON) as well as A β_{1-42} -induce oxidative
131 damage cells pretreated with or without FPPH and its fractions were
132 investigated by using Alamar BlueTM (AB) assay (Thermo Fisher Scientific,
133 Waltham, USA). The AB assay was carried out according to manufacturer's
134 instructions. Briefly, control medium was removed. The cells were rinsed with

135 PBS and 2 mL of an 5% AB solution prepared in fresh medium were added to
136 each well. Following 3 h incubation, AB was reduced to pink color and
137 measured at 570 nm using a Thermo Scientific microplate reader. The
138 absorbance at 570 nm of the sample (A_{sample}) and control (A_{control}) against
139 the reagent blank was measured. Cell viability was calculated as

$$140 \quad \text{Cell viability (\%)} = (A_{\text{sample}} / A_{\text{control}}) \times 100 \quad (1)$$

141

142 *Amino acid sequence of peptide*

143 Amino acid sequence and molecular mass of each purified peptide were
144 determined using a liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometer
145 (LC/MS/MS) of Finnigan LTQ XL (Thermo Electron Co., Massachusetts,
146 USA) coupled with an electro-spray ionization source.

147

148 *Effect of gastrointestinal proteases digestion on neuroprotective effect*

149 The stability against in vitro gastric proteases was assessed as described by
150 Wu and Ding (2002) with some modification. One percent (w/v) of peptide
151 was treated in 0.1 M KCl-HCl buffer (pH 2.0) with pepsin for 4 h in a water
152 bath at 37 °C. The reaction was stopped by boiling in a water bath for 15 min
153 and neutralized to pH 7.0 with the addition of 2 N NaOH solution. One

154 milliliter of neutralized suspension was centrifuged (10,000×g, 40 min) and
155 the supernatant was then used for neuroprotective effect determination. The
156 remaining neutralized suspension was digested further by 2 % pancreatin at
157 37°C for 4 h. The enzyme was inactivated by boiling for 15 min followed by
158 centrifugation (10,000×g, 40 min). The supernatant was then used to
159 determine the neuroprotective effects.

160

161 *Statistical analysis*

162 All experiments were carried out three times, and the data were expressed as the
163 mean ± SD. Statistical analysis was performed by one-way analysis of variants
164 (SAS 9.4). Differences between means were analyzed by Duncan's multiple
165 range test. Data were considered statistically significant at $p < 0.05$.

166

167 **Results**

168 **Isolation of neuroprotective effect fractions from FPPH**

169 Neuroprotective effects of pretreating SY5Y cells with or without FPPH under
170 different concentrations before $A\beta_{1-42}$ -induced oxidative damage in terms of
171 cell viability were determined (Fig. 1). The higher cell viability represents the
172 better neuroprotective effect. The result showed that 10 μ M $A\beta_{1-42}$

173 significantly decreased the cell viability by 40% and successfully induced
174 damage of SH-SY5Y cells as compared with control (CON). Increase of cell
175 viability was not significantly observed as pretreating the cells with FPPH less
176 than 250 ppm until those greater than 500 ppm. Subsequently gel filtration
177 chromatography of FPPH resulted in six fractions of GF-1, GF-2, GF-3, GF-
178 4, GF-5 and GF-6 (Fig. 2a). The neuroprotective effect of pretreating SH-
179 SY5Y cells with FPPH and those six fractions before $A\beta_{1-42}$ -induced
180 oxidative damage, respectively, as presented on Fig. 2b. The result indicated
181 that all the fractions still had significant neuroprotective effects in the cells (p
182 < 0.05). Among them GF-3 had highest neuroprotective effect and significant
183 increase of cell viability from 55.0% to 79.3% ($p < 0.05$) after gel filtration of
184 FPPH. GF-3 was subjected to further fractionate using InerSustain[®] RP-
185 HPLC C18 column as depicted in Fig. 3a and two fractions were collected.
186 RP2 was identified as the most effect fraction to increase cell viability up to
187 89.9% against $A\beta_{1-42}$ -induced oxidative damage in SH-SY5Y cells (Fig. 3b),
188 and further fractionated by Luna[®] SCX cation-exchange column to obtain two
189 fractions (Fig. 4a). Only CE-2 could further significantly increase cell viability
190 up to 91.4% ($p < 0.05$), which was identified as the most potent fraction of
191 neuroprotective effect in the cells (Fig. 4b).

192

193 **Identification of neuroprotective effect peptides**

194 Peptide sequences of CE-2 was analyzed by LC/MS/MS. There were 3 peptide
195 sequences identified including NKFGKFF, GGPFKSPF and
196 RPVLGGSSTFPYP (Fig. 5). To ensure the neuroprotective effect of each
197 purified peptide against $A\beta_{1-42}$ -induced oxidative damage in SH-SY5Y cells,
198 the three peptides were synthesized and their effects were further investigated.
199 Fig. 6 compared neuroprotective effects of pretreating SH-SY5Y cells with or
200 without 500 ppm FPPH and 0.5-5 ppm of each synthetic peptide before
201 $A\beta_{1-42}$ -induced oxidative damage in terms of cell viability. Pretreating the
202 cells with FPPH and all three synthetic peptides showed significantly higher
203 neuroprotective effects as compared to without pretreating in $A\beta$ groups ($p <$
204 0.05). Both NKFGKFF and GGPFKSPF had significantly higher
205 neuroprotective effects than FPPH and RPVLGGSSTFPYP ($p < 0.05$)
206 regardless of concentrations. However, there were no significant difference of
207 the effects between NKFGKFF and GGPFKSPF at any concentration.
208 Neuroprotective effects of NKFGKFF and GGPFKSPF showed dose response
209 after pretreating the cells with concentration less than 1 ppm, respectively,
210 whereas no significant difference after those with concentration greater than 1

211 ppm. The above results indicated that NKFGKFF and GGPFKSPF proved to
212 be the major peptides responsible for neuroprotective effects in FPPH.

213

214 **Effect of gastrointestinal proteases digestion on neuroprotective effects**

215 Comparison of neuroprotective effects of pretreating the cells with or without
216 1 ppm of each synthetic peptide followed by digestion using gastrointestinal
217 proteases on cell viability before A β ₁₋₄₂-induced oxidative damage were
218 investigated (Fig. 7). All synthetic peptides showed significant
219 neuroprotective effect before and after digested by gastrointestinal proteases
220 ($p < 0.05$). Both NKFGKFF and GGPFKSPF showed little effect on cell
221 viability after pepsin digestion as well as after pepsin and pancreatin digestion.
222 Although the cell viability of RPVLGGSSTFPYP significantly decreased
223 from 72.5% to 61.5% after pepsin digestion, a stable neuroprotective effect of
224 RPVLGGSSTFPYP was still observed after pepsin and pancreatin digestion.
225 The above result suggested that gastrointestinal protease had little effect on
226 the neuroprotective effect of the three synthetic peptides.

227

228 **Discussion**

229 The peptides with neuroprotective effects were purified from FPPH

230 throughout a three-step purification procedure. The bioactive peptides were
231 identified to be NKFGKFF, GGPFKSPF and RPVLGGSSTFPYP. Pretreating
232 SH-SY5Y cells with functional ingredients before $A\beta_{1-42}$ -induced oxidative
233 damage has been widely applied as model for neuroprotective effect
234 measurement in several studies (Rajput, Nirmal, Rathore, & Dahima, 2020;
235 Sirin & Aslim, 2021). In our study, pretreating the cells with any of the three
236 peptides significantly showed increase of cell viability as compared to without
237 pretreating. To protect the cells from oxidative damage by $A\beta_{1-42}$ becomes a
238 potential to prevent oxidative stress mediated AD (Sirin and Aslim, 2021).
239 Since these peptides with neuroprotective effects have not been reported yet
240 to our best knowledge, they are thought to be novel active peptides for
241 neuroprotective effects.

242 Several reports have highlighted that peptides with antioxidant activities
243 could reveal and apply them as potential therapeutic agents to improve the
244 health benefits, especially in the context of neuroprotection (Sarmadi &
245 Ismaila, 2010; Cicero, Foppoli & Colletti, 2017; Nwachukwu & Aluko, 2019).
246 Since pea protein hydrolysates and their peptides showed a lot of antioxidant
247 activities (Pownall, Udenigwe & Aluko, 2011; Girgih, Chao, Lin, He, Jung, &
248 Aluko, 2015; Din et al., 2020), they might have the potential to reveal

249 neuroprotective effects. Furthermore, A β ₁₋₄₂-induced oxidative damage in
250 SH-SY5Y cells was applied to evaluate the neuroprotective effects in this
251 study, which closely correlated to the antioxidant activities of pea protein
252 hydrolysates. It has been postulated that peptides containing amino acid
253 residues such as Asp, Pro, Trp, Tyr, Met, Cys, Leu, Arg, Ala, Phe and His show
254 higher antioxidant activities (Liu et al., 2018). Since NKFGKFF contains three
255 Phe (F), GGPFKSPF contains two Pro (P) and two Phe as well as
256 RPVLGGSSTFPYP contains Tyr (Y), Leu (L), Arg (R), Phe and three Pro, all
257 these peptides are expected to reveal considerable antioxidant activities. In
258 general, hydrophobic amino acids such as Leu or Val (V) and aromatic amino
259 acid such as Phe or Tyr are able to enhance the radical scavenging abilities of
260 peptides (Sarmadi & Ismaila, 2010; Liu et al., 2018). Moreover, amino acids
261 with aromatic residues donate protons to electron-deficient radicals (Liu et al.,
262 2018). The presence of Tyr contributes antioxidant activity just like many
263 other phenolic compounds to donate protons to radicals via hydroxy group on
264 the benzene ring. Unlike Tyr, Phe contributes antioxidant activity due to its
265 easily abstracted by free radical hydrogen in the methyl group (Power,
266 Jakeman & FitzGerald, 2013). Among many hydrolysates and peptides
267 derived from natural materials exerted neuroprotective active by suppressing

268 free radicals and oxidative stress markers (Lee & Hur, 2019).

269 Recently, peptides with neuroprotective activities have been reviewed
270 and concluded that their amino acid compositions were related to
271 neuroprotective activities. Eighty-eight peptides with neuroprotective
272 activities reported in the literature were compared. The compositions of
273 neuroprotective peptides showed that the percentage of the peptides
274 containing hydrophobic, non-aromatic hydrophobic and aromatic
275 hydrophobic amino acids reached 92%, 74% and 64%, respectively (Wang,
276 Waterhouse, Waterhouse, Zheng, Su, & Zhao, 2021). In our finding, the three
277 novel peptides were all containing hydrophobic amino acids. Among them
278 NKFGKFF only had one type of hydrophobic and aromatic amino acid, Phe.
279 Except Phe, both GGPFKSPF and RPVLGGSSTFPYP had Pro. Val and Leu
280 were only found in RPVLGGSSTFPYP. The hydrophobicity of peptides
281 enabled their penetration into the cells to reach and act on their specific targets,
282 as well as increasing the solubility of the peptides in lipids facilitated in
283 contact with hydrophobic radical species (Vo, Ryu & Kim, 2013; Perlikowska,
284 2021). Furthermore, basic amino acids found in 50% of the neuroprotective
285 peptides also contributed to neuroprotective functions (Wang, Waterhouse,

286 Waterhouse, Zheng, Su, & Zhao, 2021). Basic amino acids, especially Lys (K)
287 and Arg (R), were found to reduce the acetylcholinesterase (AchE) activity
288 via forming stable complexes with the peripheral anionic site of AchE
289 (Havekes, Vecsey & Abel, 2012; Su et al., 2016). Due to AchE activity,
290 the pathophysiology of AD was related to the reduction of the neurotransmitter
291 acetylcholine, a key signaling molecule that regulated memory and learning
292 functions in brain (Sussman et al., 1991; da Silva et al., 2011). As matter of
293 fact, GGPFKSPF and RPVLGGSSTFPYP containing Lys and Arg,
294 respectively, might contribute to their neuroprotective functions through
295 binding and inactivating AchE.

296 Because of the increasingly strict ethics regulations on animal studies and
297 high costs of clinical trials, *in vitro* simulated gastrointestinal digestion model
298 has become a rapid and well-accepted approach to mimic the digestion process
299 of peptides prior to conducting *in vivo* studies (Wu and Ding, 2002). In this
300 study, the synthetic peptides were conducted for their effects *in vitro* by
301 treating it with gastrointestinal proteases, including pepsin and a combination
302 of pepsin and pancreatin, respectively. The results indicated that
303 gastrointestinal proteases had no significant effect ($p > 0.05$) on the
304 neuroprotective effects of NKFGKFF and GGPFKSPF. Significant decrease

305 of cell viability was observed for RPVLGGSSTFPYP after pepsin digestion,
306 while significant increase of its cell viability was recovered after pepsin and
307 pancreatin digestion.

308 In summary, three novel peptides, NKFGKFF, GGPFKSPF and
309 RPVLGGSSTFPYP, were successfully purified and identified from the
310 Flavourzyme[®]-pea protein hydrolysate. Pretreating SH-SY 5Y cells with any
311 of these peptides exhibited a notable neuroprotective effect as compared to the
312 oxidative damage A β group. Simulated gastrointestinal digestion did not
313 affect their neuroprotective effect, which make these peptides have the
314 potential to act as supplementary food ingredients for neurodegenerative
315 diseases such as AD. In order to further confirm the identified peptides with
316 neuroprotective effects, *in vivo* tests are needed.

317

318 **Abbreviations**

319 PP: Pea protein; FPPH: Flavourzyme[®]-pea protein hydrolysate; A β ₁₋₄₂: β -
320 amyloid peptide; GF: gel filtration; RP: reversed-phase; CE: cation-exchange;
321 LC/MS/MS: liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometer; AD:
322 Alzheimer disease; MEM: Minimum essential medium; FBS: fetal bovine
323 serum; AB: Alamar Blue[™]; CON: control.

324 **Declarations**

325 **Ethics approval and consent to participate**

326 Not applicable.

327

328 **Consent for publication**

329 The authors approved the consent for publishing the manuscript.

330

331 **Availability of data and materials**

332 The data generated and analyzed during this study are available from the
333 corresponding author on reasonable request.

334

335 **Competing interests**

336 The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or
337 personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported
338 in this paper.

339

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344

345 **Authors' contributions**

346 **Wen-Dee Chiang:** Super-vision, Conceptualization, Formal analysis,

347 Investigation, Writing-review & editing. **Yun-Chi Hsu:** Methodology,

348 Investigation, Data curation and analysis.

349

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352

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470 Fig. 1 Neuroprotective effects of pretreating SH-SY5Y cells with or without
471 FPPH under different concentrations before $A\beta_{1-42}$ -induced oxidative damage
472 in terms of cell viability. Data expressed as mean \pm SD (n=3). Means with
473 different letters represent significant differences ($p < 0.05$) by Duncan's multiple
474 range test.

475

476 Fig. 2 **a** Gel filtration chromatography of FPPH and **b** neuroprotective effect of
477 pretreating SH-SY5Y cells with or without the fractions obtained from FPPH
478 before $A\beta_{1-42}$ -induced oxidative damage. Bars represent means \pm SD, n=3.
479 Means with different letters represent significant differences ($p < 0.05$) by
480 Duncan's multiple range test.

481

482 Fig. 3 **a** Reverse-phase chromatography and **b** neuroprotective effects of
483 pretreating SH-SY5Y cells with or without the fractions of GF-3 obtained from
484 gel filtration chromatography before $A\beta_{1-42}$ -induced oxidative damage in terms
485 of cell viability. Bars represent means \pm SD, n=3. Means with different letters
486 represent significant differences ($p < 0.05$) by Duncan's multiple range test.

487

488 Fig. 4 **a** Cation-exchange chromatography and **b** neuroprotective activity of
489 pretreating SH-SY5Y cells with or without the fractions of RP-2 obtained from
490 reverse-phase chromatography before $A\beta_{1-42}$ -induced oxidative damage in
491 terms of cell viability. Bars represent means \pm SD, n=3. Means with different
492 letters represent significant differences ($p < 0.05$) by Duncan's multiple range
493 test.

494

495 Fig. 5 The mass spectrum of CE-2 obtained from the cation exchange
496 chromatography.

497

498 Fig. 6 Comparison of neuroprotective effects of pretreating SH-SY5Y cells with
499 or without 500 ppm FPPH and three synthetic peptides, NKFGKFF (NF),
500 GGPFKSPF (GF) and RPVLGGSSTFPYP (RP), under different concentrations
501 before $A\beta_{1-42}$ -induced oxidative damage in terms of cell viability. Bars
502 represent means \pm SD, n=3. Means with different capital letters represent
503 significant differences within peptides at same concentration (p <0.05) and
504 different lowercase letters represent significant differences within different
505 concentrations of the same peptide (p <0.05).

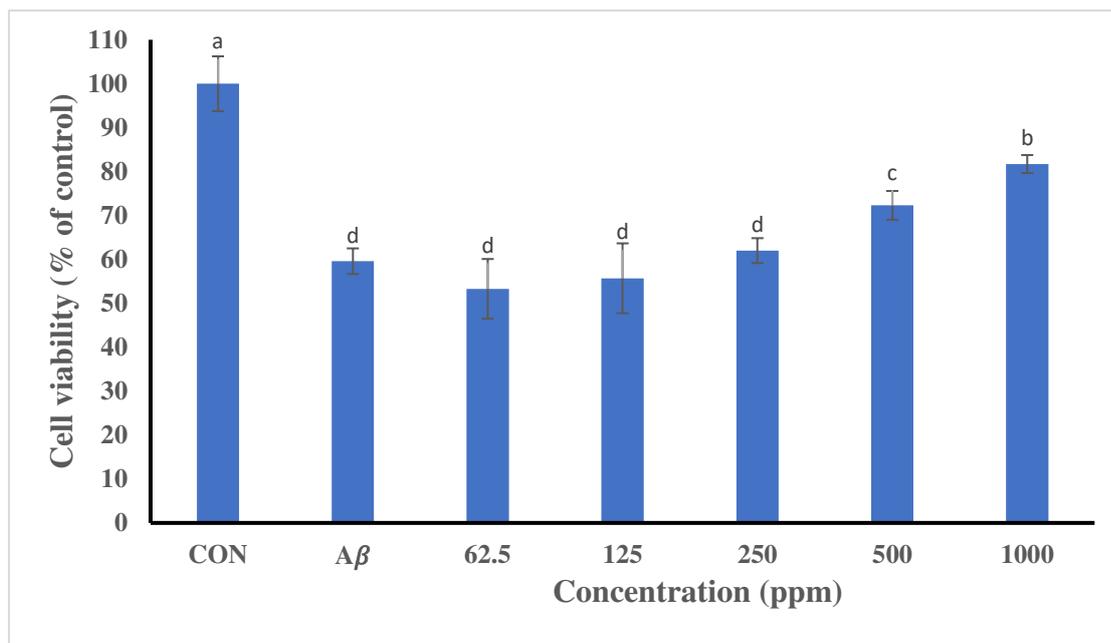
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507 Fig. 7 Comparison of neuroprotective effects of pretreating SH-SY5Y cells with
508 or without 1 ppm of NKFGKFF (NF), GGPFKSPF (GF) and
509 RPVLGGSSTFPYP (RP) following digested by gastrointestinal proteases,
510 respectively, before $A\beta_{1-42}$ -induced oxidative damage in terms of cell viability.
511 Bars represent means \pm SD, n=3. Means with different capital letters represent
512 significant differences within treatment at the same peptide (p <0.05) and
513 different lowercase letters represent significant differences within different
514 peptides of the same treatment (p <0.05).

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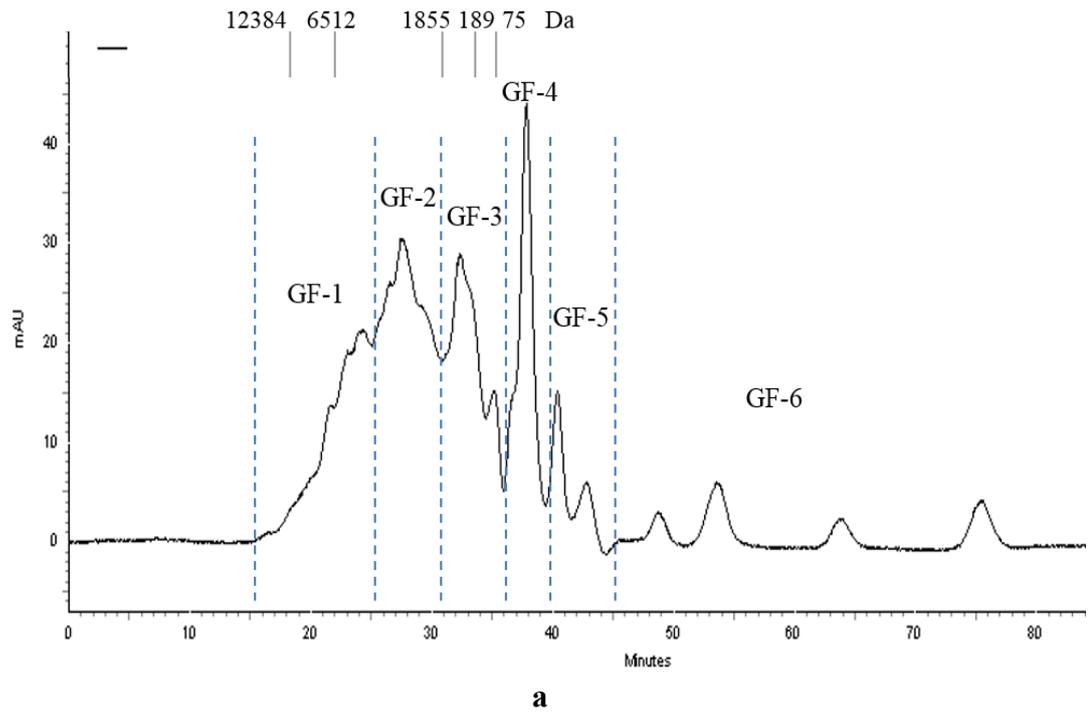
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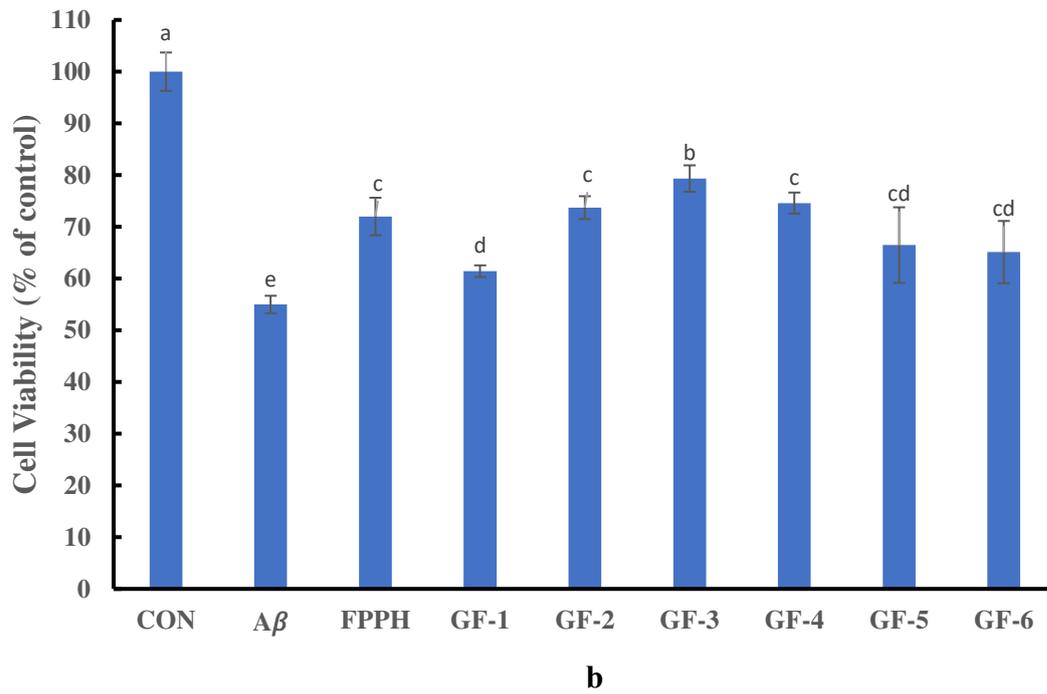
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519 Fig. 1



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524 Fig. 2

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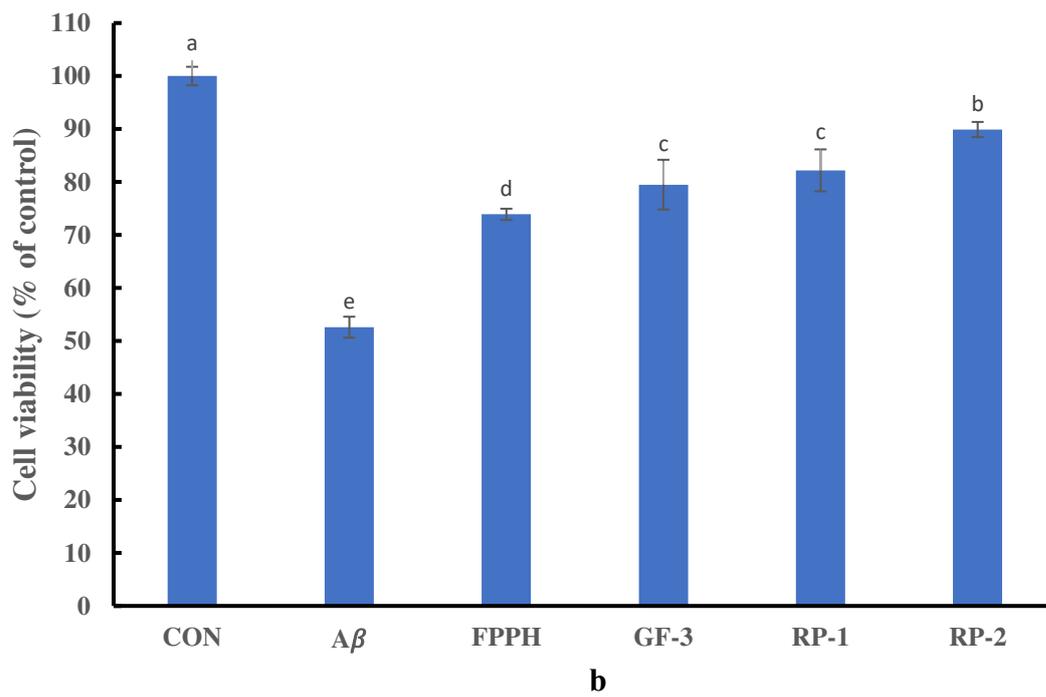
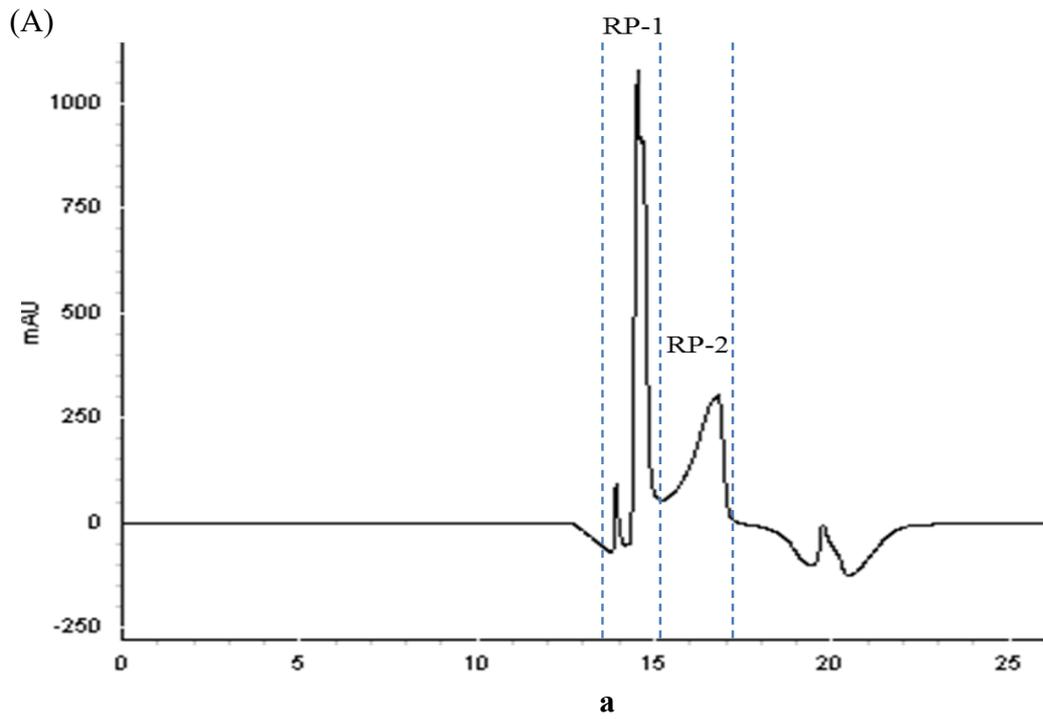
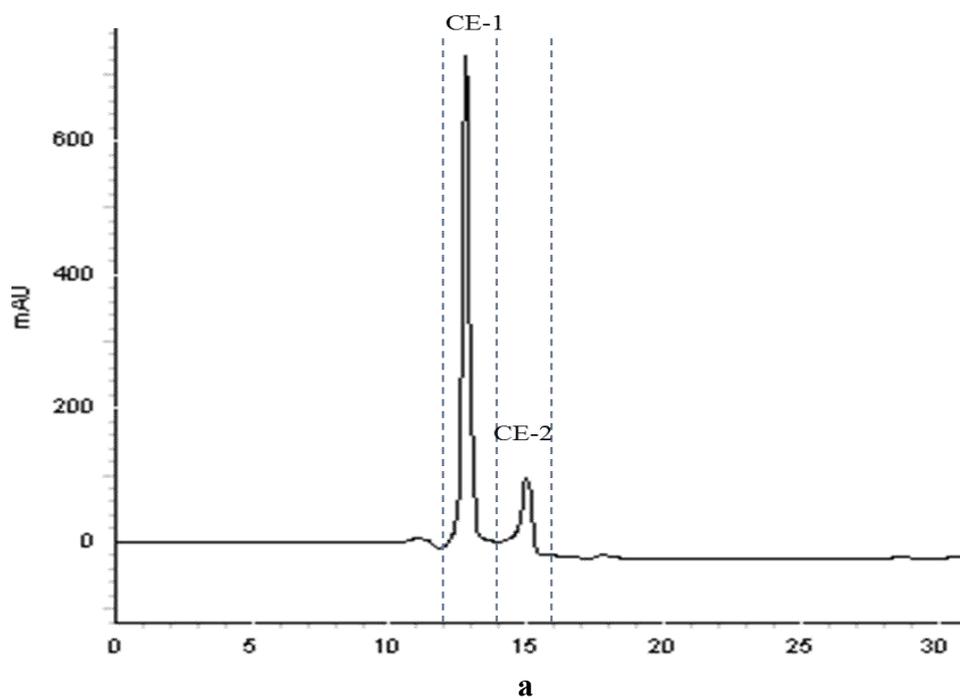
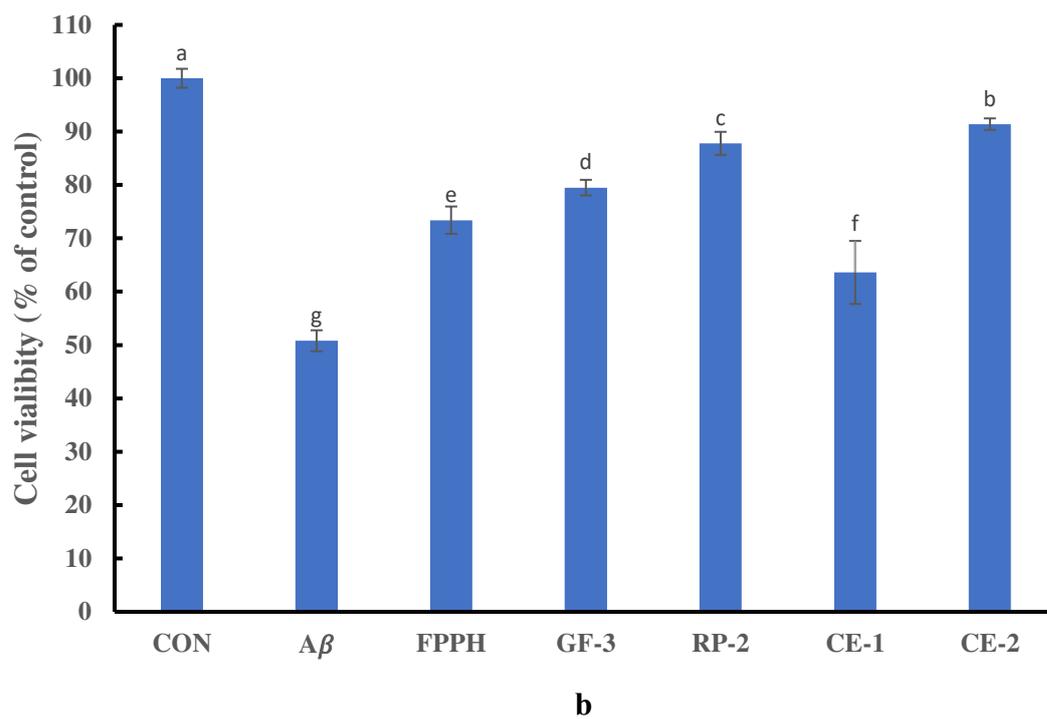


Fig. 3

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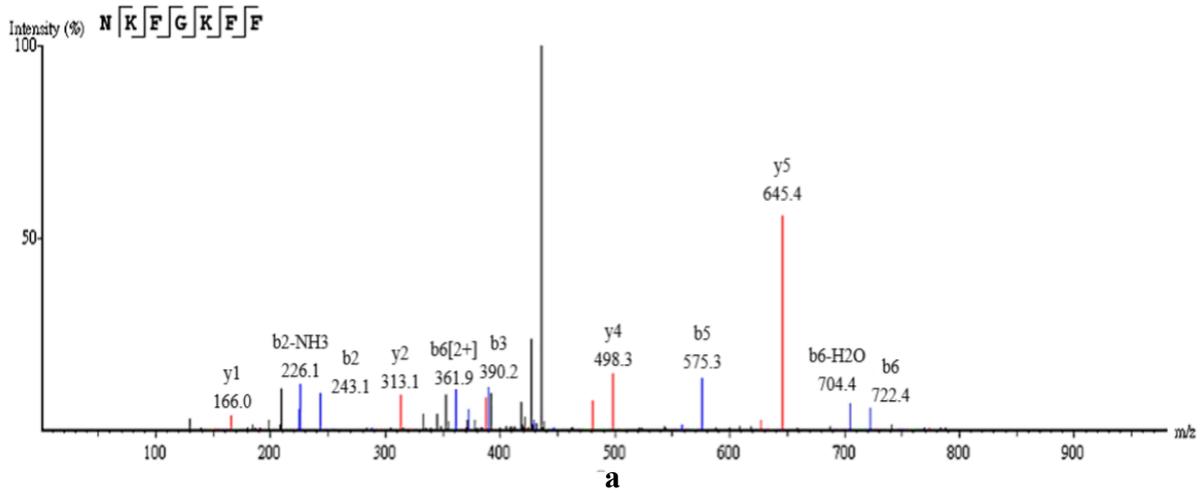
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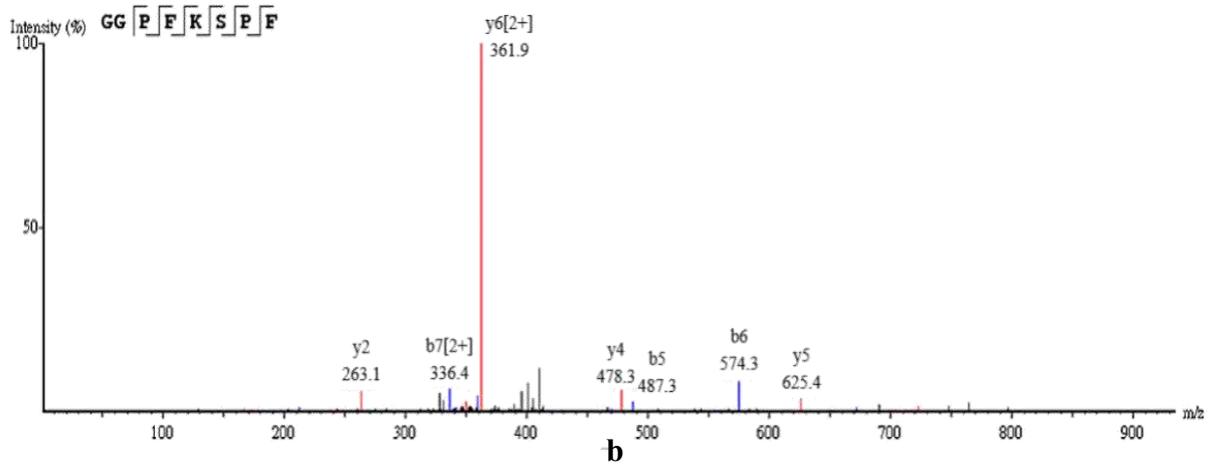
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536 Fig. 4

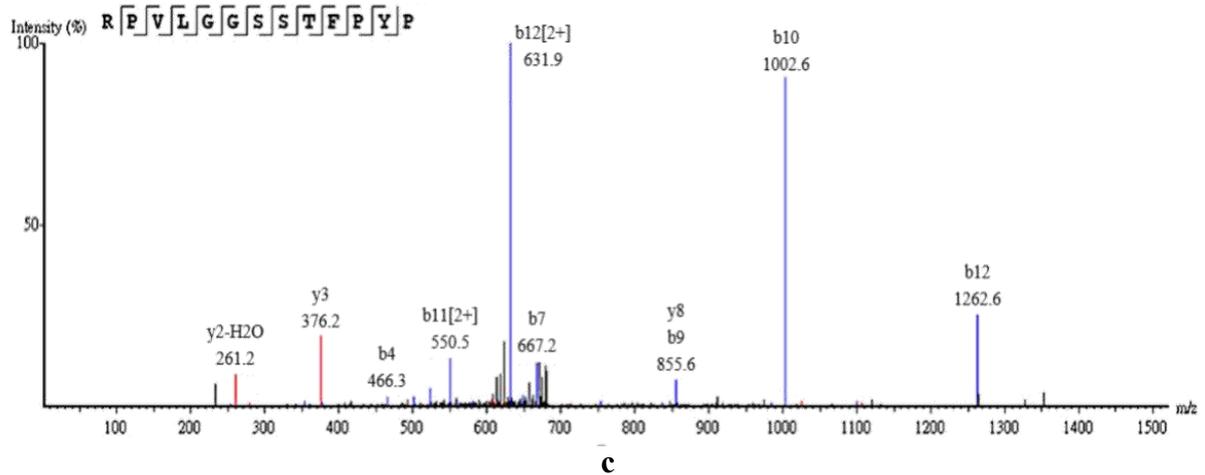
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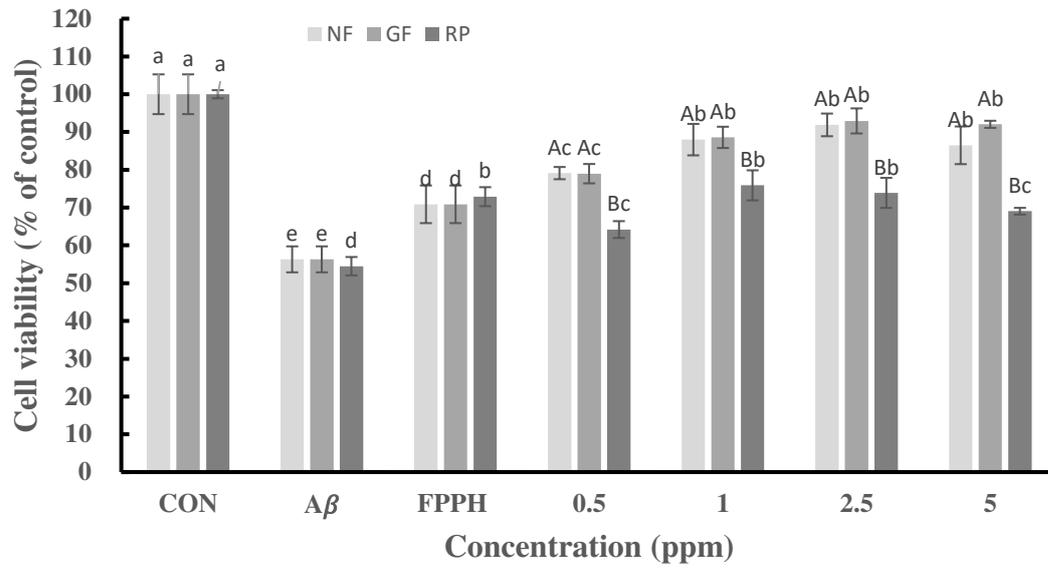


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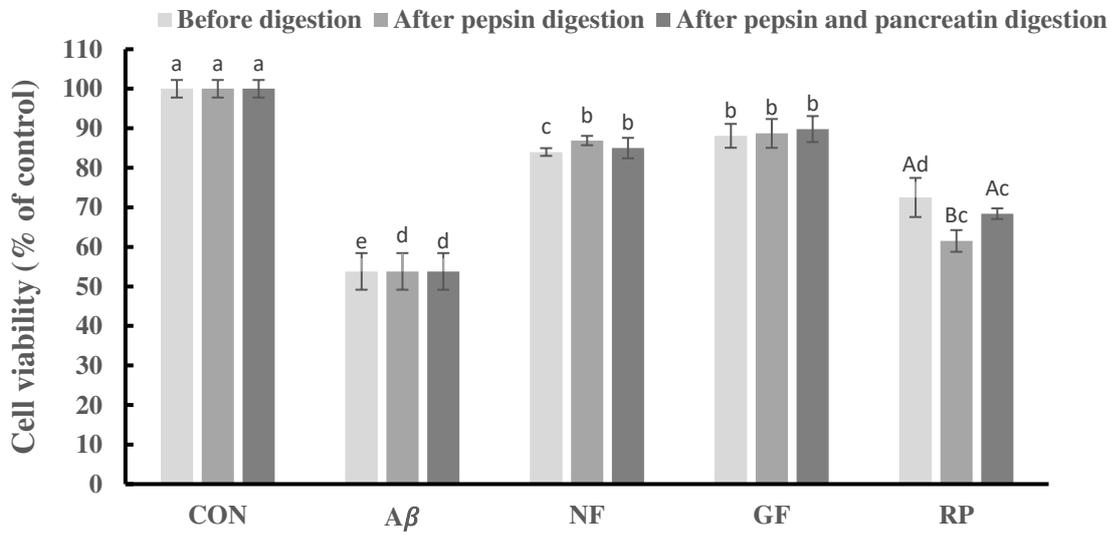


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Fig. 5



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547 Fig. 6
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552 Fig. 7
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