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COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE MINERAL COMPOSITION OF THE PEELED AND WHOLE FRUIT OF CUCUMBER FRUIT USING ATOMIC ABSORPTION SPECTROPHOTOMETER

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Cucumber (*cucumis sativus*) belongs to the family *Cucurbitaceae* originated from South Asia. They are vegetable crop worldwide; cucumber is the fourth most important vegetable crop after tomato, cabbage and onion. They are generally grown in Caribbean, Malaysia, Indonesia, West African and tropics generally. It is best grown in fertile, light well-drained soil. Secret of growing crisp mild cucumber is to keep them growing rapidly. Slow growing cucumber becomes bitter and pithy. From India, the plant spread quickly to China and it was reportedly much appreciated by the ancient Greeks and Romans. The Romans used highly artificial methods of growing the cucumber when necessary to have it for the emperor Tiberius out of season. Botanically, the fruit is a false berry elongated and round triangular in shape. Its size, shape, and colour vary according to the cultivar. In the immature fruit, chlorophyll in the cells under the epidermis causes the fruits to be green, but upon maturity, it turns yellow to white. The epidermal layer may have proliferated areas, each bearing a spiky, the fruit cavity contains

soft issue (placenta) in which the seeds are embedded. The regular cucumber bears actual seeds or barely distinguishable atrophic seeds. Regular cucumber are short about (15-25cm) and uniformly cylindrical. Their thick, deep green skin has light green stripes and a rough surface with strong trichome. Their skin is bitter in taste and not easily digested, so the fruit needs to be peeled before eating. The cucumber fruit, like that of the cucurbitaceous, is noted for its high water content which is around 95% of its fresh weight. The objective of this is to investigate the comparative study on the mineral content composition of the peeled and whole portion of cucumber fruit. Also to determine the mineral contents in both the peeled and whole portion of cucumber fruits.

Biography

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