

## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

### Comparative analysis of chemical constituents and bioactivities of the extracts from leaves, seed coats and embryoids of *Ginkgo biloba* L.

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#### Abstract:

A total of 25 compounds including terpenoids, flavonoids, biflavonoids and ginkgolic acids were identified and quantified with a reliable, simple, and simultaneous method from *Ginkgo* leaves, seed coats and embryoids with different tree ages (approximately identified as 25, 500, 1000, and 2000 years). Leaves had the highest amount of total bioactive compounds. Seed coats had moderate contents of flavonoids, which was 15 time higher than embryoids. Furthermore, the effects of tree ages on bioactive compounds differ in 3 parts. The contents of bilobalide, ginkgolide J, ginkgolide C, ginkgolide B, ginkgolide A in embryoids and seed coats were highest from 500-year-old tree, while in leaves were highest from 25-year-old tree. This work first investigated the extensive bioactive compounds in *Ginkgo* leaves, seed coats and embryoids from *Ginkgo* trees older than 500-year, it gives good reference for making better use of *Ginkgo* products.

**Keywords:** *Ginkgo biloba* L.; bioactive compounds;  $\alpha$ -glucosidase; antioxidant; tree ages; UPLC-Q-Extractive Orbitrap mass spectrometer

## Experimental

### Chemicals and reagent

HPLC-MS grade acetonitrile and formic acid were purchased from Aladdin Bio-Chem Technology Co., Ltd (Shanghai, China). Standards of flavonoids and terpenoids were purchased from Yuanye Biological Technology Company (Shanghai, China). All other chemicals were of analytical grade.

### Plant materials and extracts

The *Ginkgo* parts (leaves and seeds) were collected from Suizhou Ginkgo Valley of Hubei Province, China and identified by Dr. Changqing Shu (Huazhong Agriculture University, college of Horticulture and Forestry Sciences). The ages of *Ginkgo* trees were tentatively identified mainly based on the site conditions, tree size, tree height and crown width. The voucher specimens (No.2018091303, No.2018091350, No.2018091362, No.2018091364) have been deposited in the college of Horticulture and Forestry Sciences, Huazhong Agriculture University (Wuhan, China).

The geographical coordinates address of the four plant samples are as follows: #50: E 113°17'44.466", N 31°26'16.292". #64: E 113°17'45.571", N 31°26'05.903". #62: E 113°17'46.252", N 31°26'07.624". #3: E 113°17'46.255", N 31°26'29.782". As these plants are extremely close to each other, their site condition including soil, water and other environment factors can be regarded as identical.

*Ginkgo* leaves and seeds were harvested in September, 2018. A total of 12 samples, consisting of 3 different parts (leaf, seed coat and embryoid) with 4 different ages (approximately identified as 25, 500, 1000, and 2000 years) were collected. Each sample contains 100 seeds or 100 leaves randomly collected from four trees. Samples were recorded as L1: leaf of 25 years, L2: leaf of 500 years, L3: leaf of 1000 years, L4: leaf of 2000 years; S1: seed coat of 25 years, S2: seed coat of 500 years, S3: seed coat of 1000 years, S4: seed coat of 2000 years; E1: embryoid of 25 years, E2: embryoid of 500 years, E3: embryoid of 1000 years, E4: embryoid of 2000 years.

After collection, samples were air-dried outdoor for two days, then the seed coats were manually peeled, and the nutshell as well as mesosperms were removed and then the embryoids were obtained (Figure S1). Seed coats, embryoids and leaves were dried in a hot-air oven at 65 °C to constant weight. The extraction process was

performed referring to previous method with a slight change (Zhou G, Yao, et al. 2014). Each sample of 1.0 g of dry powder was mixed with 8 mL of 70% ethanol and extracted for 30 mins in the ultrasound device, and then in water bath at 60 °C for 1 hour. After 3 times of extraction, the filtrates were collected and centrifuged at 18900 g for 10 mins to collect the supernatant and filled with 70% ethanol to a final volume of 24 mL. The final extract was filtrated through 0.22 um reinforced nylon membrane filters prior to HPLC-MS analysis.

#### **Total flavonoids and total phenolic contents**

The total flavonoid content (TF) in *Ginkgo* samples was determined by the method described by (Gogna et al. 2015). 1 mL of leaf or embryoid or seed coat extract was added into 9 mL 70% (v/v) ethanol, 1 mL NaNO<sub>2</sub> (5%) was then added, the mixture was shaken well and then left in the dark for 6 min, followed by the addition of 4 mL NaOH (4%) and the distilled water was immediately added to reach the total volume of 25 mL, after shaken well, the mixture was put in dark again for 15 min. Absorbance was measured at 510 nm using a UV-spectrophotometer. The TF was expressed as mg rutin equivalent per gram of dry weight of *Ginkgo* samples.

The total phenolic (TP) content was evaluated by the Folin–Ciocalteu spectrophotometric method (Zhou KB et al. 2011). 1 mL of the sample extract was mixed with 1 mL of Folin–Ciocalteu phenol reagent, and then put in the dark for 3 min. Then 10 mL of 7% Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> solution were added, followed by addition of distilled water (25 mL) for dilution. The absorbance was measured at 750 nm after a 2 hours incubation period at room temperature. The standard curve was prepared using gallic acid. The total phenolic content was expressed as milligrams of gallic acid equivalent per gram of dry *Ginkgo* sample. All measurements were performed three times and the results were averaged.

#### **Determination of flavonoids, terpenoids, biflavonoids, and ginkgolic acids**

##### *UPLC-ESI-MS analysis*

UPLC-ESI-MS analysis was carried out using an Q Exactive UPLC system connected to a thermo scientific Q Exactive hybrid quadrupole-Orbitrap mass spectrometer via ESI interface (Thermo Fisher Scientific, CA, USA). Chromatographic separation was carried out on an Accucore UPLC a Q column (2.1 × 150 mm, 2.6 µm, Thermo Fisher Scientific, CA, USA). Gradient elution of acetonitrile (solvent A) and 0.1% formic acid solution (solvent B) was employed:

0-12 min, 5–20% B; 12–22 min, 20–35% B; 22–36 min, 35–60% B; 36–41 min, 60–95% B; 41–42 min, 95–5% B; 42–50 min, 5% B. The injection volume was 3  $\mu$ L, with a flow rate of 0.2 mL/min. The constant column temperature was 30 °C. The tandem mass experiment was performed in negative ESI ionization modes with the data acquisition ranging of m/z 50-1200. The capillary voltage was optimized to 3.8 kV, and the capillary temperature was 320 °C. The Probe Heater temperature was 350 °C and the cone voltage was 40 V. The results were analysed by the Xcalibur software.

#### *Quantitative analysis*

The MS signal of each compound was collected in the selected ion-monitoring mode (SIM) according to their molecular ions. All quantification was based on a peak area ratio of the SIM signal of the analyte and the commercial standard. For compounds with no available standards, similar compounds of the same flavonoid and terpenoid subgroup were selected. The results were expressed as micrograms of commercial standard per gram of dry weight.

#### **Assays of antioxidant activity in vitro**

##### *DPPH assay*

The ability to scavenge the 1, 1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) free radical was evaluated according to the method described by (Wan et al. 2012) with minor modifications. Ascorbic acid (vitamin C) was used as a positive control, and aqueous ethanol was used as a blank control. In this experiment, 1.0 mL of sample solution mixed with 3 mL of  $2 \times 10^{-4}$  mol/L DPPH radical solution in aqueous ethanol, after incubation in the dark at room temperature for 60 min. The absorbance of the solutions was measured at 517 nm. The analysis was performed in triplicate and the scavenging rate was calculated as equivalent ascorbic acid per gram dry weight samples (mg AAE/g DW).

##### *ABTS assay*

The 2,2-azino-bis (3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulphonic acid) (ABTS) assay was conducted according to the slightly modified method of (Wang Q et al. 2018). ABTS $\cdot^+$  reagent was produced by reacting 7 mM ABTS solution with 2.45 mM/L potassium persulphate aqueous solution in the dark at room temperature for 16 hours before use. The ABTS $\cdot^+$  solution was diluted with 50% (v/v) ethanol to the appropriate absorbance ( $0.70 \pm 0.02$ ) at 734 nm. Then 1 mL of sample solution was

mixed with 3 mL of ABTS solution, after incubated in the dark at room temperature for 1 hour, the absorbance of the solutions was measured at 734 nm. The analysis was performed in triplicate and the scavenging rate was calculated as equivalent ascorbic acid per gram dry weight samples (mg TE/g DW).

#### *TRP assay*

The total reducing power (TRP) of the 12 samples was evaluated by the previous method with a slightly modification (Wu et al. 2017). Extracts of Ginkgo leaves, seed coats and embryoids were used as reducers to convert  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  to  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  form in the assay system. In briefly, 2 mL of sample solution mixed with 2 mL of sodium phosphate buffer (0.2 mol/L, pH 6.6) and 2.0 mL of potassium ferricyanide (1%). Then, the mixtures were incubated in 50 °C water for 20 min, and cooled quickly by running cold water. 2 mL of trichloroacetic acid (10%) was added to end the reaction. After addition 2.5 mL distilled water and 0.5 mL ferric chloride (1%) solution, and reaction for 5 min, the absorbance was measured using a spectrophotometer at a wavelength of 700 nm. Each sample was repeated two times. Distilled water and vitamin C were used as blank and positive control, and the results were calculated as equivalent ascorbic acid per gram dry weight samples (mg AAE/g DW).

#### **$\alpha$ -Glucosidase inhibition assay in vitro**

For  $\alpha$ -glucosidase assays, the methods described by (Mojica et al. 2015) were followed with a modification. In a 96-well plate, 40  $\mu\text{L}$  of 100 times diluted sample extracts was added to 20  $\mu\text{L}$  of 0.25 u/mL  $\alpha$ -glucosidase solution in 0.1 M sodium phosphate buffer (pH 6.9) and incubated at 37 °C for 15 min. Then, 40  $\mu\text{L}$  of 0.5 mM pNPG in PBS (pH 6.9) was added briefly to each well and incubated at 37 °C for 20 min. Before reading of the absorbance at 405 nm, the reaction was stopped with 100  $\mu\text{L}$  of 0.1 M  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ . Acarbose was used as positive control and PBS as blank control. The inhibition activity was expressed as micromole acarbose per gram dry weight sample (mg/g DW). The  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibition percentage of samples and positive control was calculated using the following equation: Inhibition activity (%) =  $[(A_{\text{sample}} - A_2) / (A_{\text{control}} - A_1)] \times 100\%$  where  $A_{\text{control}}$  is the absorbance of PBS that replaces the samples;  $A_{\text{sample}}$  is the absorbance of the samples;  $A_1$  is the absorbance of PBS that replaces the samples and the enzyme; and  $A_2$  is the absorbance of PBS that replaces the enzyme.

#### **Statistical analysis**

All data was expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (SD) and represented using GraphPad Prism 5.0. Statistical analysis of the data was performed with SPSS (version 24.0). One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) Duncan's multiple range test was used to detect the statistical significance and differences were considered as significance, when  $P < 0.05$ .

#### **Analysis of total flavonoid and phenolic content**

The total flavonoid (TF) and total phenolic (TP) content of *Ginkgo* samples were shown in Figure S2. Considering the plant part, leaves exhibited the highest TF with an average of 1.19 mg/g DW, followed by seed coats with 0.46 mg/g DW, whereas embryoids showed much lower contents with 0.18 mg/g DW. Among leaf samples, 2000-year old trees showed the highest TF, while leaves from 1000-year old trees had the lowest TF value. Seed coats from 25-year old trees showed the highest TF, followed by 2000 and 1000-year samples, while the 500 year exhibited the lowest TF content. The total phenolic content (TP) of *Ginkgo* parts displayed similar trends with TF except for seed coats. The TP in seed coats ranged from 5.15 to 7.06 with an average of 6.07 mg/g DW, which was similar to leaf samples (6.45 mg/g DW). With regard to tree age, the TP in seed coats increased with the tree age and the highest TP was found in 2000-year old trees. As for leaves, the lowest TF was observed from 500-year-old tree, that may because the degradation rate of the flavonoids decreased when the tree age become older than 500 years.

#### **Identification of the terpenoids, flavonoids, biflavonoids, and ginkgolic acids**

A total of 25 compounds, including 5 terpenoids (bilobalide, ginkgolides A, B, J and C), 17 flavonoids, 2 ginkgolic acids and 1 biflavonoid in *Ginkgo* leaves, seed coats, and embryoids were identified by comparing the retention time and MS/MS fragments with standards or references (Table S1).

As for terpenoids, compound 4, 7, 8, 16, 17 were identified as bilobalide, ginkgolide J, ginkgolide C, ginkgolide A and ginkgolide B. The loss of 56 amu  $[M-H-2CO]^-$ , was characterized as the most common fragment pathway. Compound 4 showed  $[M-H]^-$  precursor ion at  $m/z$  325.093, with the major fragments of  $m/z$  163, 251, 281, was identified as bilobalide. Compound 16 with the molecular ion at  $m/z$  407.135 and fragment of  $m/z$  351.15 was identified as ginkgolide A. Compound 8 with molecular weight at  $m/z$  440.398, and product ion at  $m/z$  383, was identified as ginkgolide C. Compound 7 and compound 17 had the same  $[M-H]^-$  precursor ion at

*m/z* 423.127 and the same product ion at *m/z* 367, but compound **7** occurred at a shorter retention time, so it can be tentatively determined that compound **7** was ginkgolide J and compound **17** was ginkgolide B (Zhou G, Pang, et al. 2014).

17 flavonoid constituents were identified. Compound **1**, **3**, **6**, **10**, **18** were tentatively identified as coniferin, caffeic acid, 4-coumaric acid, rutin, and quercetin according to the previous studies (Wang L-J et al. 2015) or comparing the [M-H]<sup>-</sup> ions and MS<sup>2</sup> fragmentations to standards.

Kaempferol (compound **19**) displayed the MS<sup>2</sup> fragmentation of the ion at *m/z* 285.041 gave fragment ions at *m/z* 213, 257, 133. These fragments were consistent with those found for its standard solution. Despite the fact that compound **2** gave the same [M-H]<sup>-</sup> ion as compound **5**, it occurred at a much shorter retention time. For the *m/z* 289.072 and the MS<sup>2</sup> fragments of 109,123, they can be identified as epicatechin (compound **2**) and catechin (compound **5**), which are isomers. Compound **11** owed a [M-H]<sup>-</sup> ion at *m/z* 463.376 and the fragment of *m/z* 300, 271, corresponding to the loss of a hexoside residue (163 amu) and was identified as isoquercetin (Wang L-J et al. 2015).

Compound **12** (*m/z* 593.151) showed the fragment of *m/z* 447, with the loss of 146 amu corresponding to the fraction of raminoside, and the fragment of *m/z* 285 was kaempferol, so it was tentatively identified as Kaempferol-3-O-rutinoside. Compound **13** (*m/z* 447.093) showed the *m/z* 285 fragment as a consequence of the loss of 162 amu (a hexose unit), so it was tentatively identified as Kaempferol-3-O-glucoside (Gouveia and Castilho 2011).

Compound **21** showed a [M-H]<sup>-</sup> ion at *m/z* 269.046, with the main MS<sup>2</sup> fragment ions at *m/z* 251, 225, 151 and was identified as apigenin [20]. Compound **9** gave a [M-H]<sup>-</sup> ion at *m/z* 431.099 and subsequent fragmentation showed the loss of 162 amu, which corresponds to a hexose. The fragmentation at *m/z* 269 is typical of apigenin, and the most common substitution position for flavonoids is the 7-OH, so compound **9** was tentatively identified as apigenin-7-O-hexoside (Gouveia and Castilho 2011).

Compound **20** yielded the characteristic ions at *m/z* 299.056 in negative ion mode and produced MS/MS fragment at *m/z* 284, by the loss of CH<sub>3</sub> fragment, suggesting it was diosmetin. Compound **15** generated [M-H]<sup>-</sup> ion at *m/z* 461.109 with 162 amu higher than that of diosmetin, speculating that it was diosmetin glycoside, and it

produced a key negative MS<sup>2</sup> ion at *m/z* 285 may correspond to the neutral loss of glucose, so it was tentatively identified as diosmetin-7-O-glucoside (Chen et al. 2019).

Compound **22** and **14** were tentatively identified as isorhamnetin and isorhamnetin-7-O-glucoside. Because compound **22** presented a [M-H]<sup>-</sup> ion at *m/z* 315.051 and had a major MS/MS fragmentation of *m/z* 269, the characteristic ion of isorhamnetin. Compound **14** showed a [M-H]<sup>-</sup> ion at *m/z* 477.104 and a product ion at *m/z* 315, a typical ion of isorhamnetin with the loss of 162 amu, a single glucoside assumed to be at the position of 7-OH (Ding et al. 2008).

Isoginkgetin (compound **23**) presented the [M-H]<sup>-</sup> ion at *m/z* 565.114 and produced the ion at *m/z* 533 in the MS/MS spectrum with a loss of CH<sub>3</sub>OH, suggesting a methoxyl group could be linked to C4 or C7, it was preliminarily identified as isoginkgetin (Yao et al. 2017).

Ginkgolic acid (C15:1) and ginkgolic acid (C13:0) (compound **24** and **25**) showed deprotonated molecule of [M-H]<sup>-</sup> at *m/z* 345.244 and *m/z* 319.228, and ginkgolic acid (C15:1) has two more CH<sub>2</sub> than ginkgolic acid (C13:0) (Zhou G, Yao, et al. 2014).

The identification analysis indicated that kaempferol, quercetin and isorhamnetin were the major flavonoid aglycone in *Ginkgo* parts. The terpenoids can increase the activities of the antioxidant enzymes (SOD and catalase) and improve cell viability (Mahadevan and Park 2008). Except for ginkgolide A, ginkgolide B and ginkgolide C, ginkgolide J was found as a dominant terpenoids in *Ginkgo* in this work. Ginkgolic acid has been demonstrated to be a potent multi-target inhibitor of key enzymes in the biosynthesis of pro-inflammatory lipid mediators and was also abundant in *Ginkgo* leaves and seed coats.

#### **Antioxidant activity and $\alpha$ -Glucosidase inhibitory activity**

The DPPH radical scavenging capacities ranged from 0.16 to 9.05 mg AAE/g DW (Figure S3, A). Leaves and seed coats showed great DPPH radical scavenging capacities with average values of 6.89 and 5.79 mg AAE/g DW, while embryoids presented the lowest value with an average of 0.17 mg AAE/g DW. Leaves had the highest value from 2000-year-old tree (9.054±0.02 mg AAE/g DW), and the lowest from 500-year-old tree (4.861±0.04 mg AAE/g DW). As for seed coats, the highest DPPH value was from 25-year-old tree (7.65±0.06 mg AAE/g DW) and the weakest

value was from 500-year-old tree ( $4.58 \pm 0.10$  mg AAE/g DW). The DPPH radical scavenging capacities of embryoids varied without significant differences ( $p < 0.05$ ).

The ABTS antioxidant activities of the 12 samples presented the similar trends with DPPH (Figure S3, B). The highest value was found in leaves of 2000-year-old tree ( $27.71 \pm 0.07$  mg TE/g DW) and the lowest value was observed in embryoids of 500-year-old tree ( $1.44 \pm 0.09$  mg TE/g DW). The ABTS antioxidant activities in leaves and seed coats were significantly higher than embryoids, with an average of 22.27 mg TE/g DW in leaves and 16.50 mg TE/g DW in seed coats and only 1.66 mg TE/g DW in embryoids.

The TRP-based antioxidant activities ranged from 2.38 to 21.25 mg AAE/g DW (Figure S3, C). The leaves and seed coats showed much greater TRP values than embryoids. As for seed coats, the TRP-based antioxidant activities presented the highest value in 2000-year old ( $21.25 \pm 0.27$  mg AAE/g DW) and the lowest in 500-year-old tree ( $9.167 \pm 0.080$  mg AAE/g DW). Similarly, the 2000-year old leaves had the highest TRP-based antioxidant activity of  $20.45 \pm 0.07$  mg AAE/g DW.

As the inhibition rate of embryoids was too low and the data was not presented. Seed coats and leaves exhibited strong  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibition values. The results showed that the inhibitions of seed coats were significantly stronger, with an average of 7.04 mg acarbose/g DW, about 3 times of leaves (2.25 mg acarbose/g DW). The 25-year-old seed coats presented the highest  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibition capacity, whereas the 500-year-old seed coats showed the lowest. The  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibition capacity of leaves from different tree ages had slightly differences, with the highest in 2000-year-old tree (2.48 mg acarbose/g DW) and the lowest in 25-year-old tree (2.05 mg acarbose/g DW).

289 Table S1. Compounds tentatively identified in extracts of *Ginkgo* samples by UPLC-ESI-MS in negative ion mode.

| NO. | Rt(min) <sup>a</sup> | Tentative identification   | Mw      | [M-H] <sup>-</sup> | MS/MS fragments      | Molecular formula                               | Error (ppm) | References                  |
|-----|----------------------|----------------------------|---------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 1   | 2.89                 | Coniferin                  | 342.341 | 341.109            | 179.06               | C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>22</sub> O <sub>8</sub>  | 0.93        | (Zhou G, Yao, et al. 2014)  |
| 2   | 7.69                 | Epicatechin                | 290.268 | 289.072            | 109.03, 123.04       | C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>6</sub>  | -0.16       | Standard <sup>b</sup>       |
| 3   | 8.74                 | Caffeic acid               | 180.157 | 179.034            | 135.04               | C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>4</sub>    | 0.15        | standard                    |
| 4   | 8.82                 | Bilobalide                 | 326.299 | 325.093            | 281,251,237,163      | C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>18</sub> O <sub>8</sub>  | 0.59        | (Zhou G, Yao, et al. 2014)  |
| 5   | 9.22                 | Catechin                   | 290.268 | 289.072            | 109.03, 123.04       | C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>6</sub>  | 0.27        | standard                    |
| 6   | 10.97                | 4-coumaric acid            | 164.158 | 163.039            | 119.05               | C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>3</sub>    | -0.93       | standard                    |
| 7   | 11.37                | Ginkgolide J               | 424.399 | 423.127            | 367.14               | C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>24</sub> O <sub>10</sub> | 1.51        | (Ding et al. 2008)          |
| 8   | 11.68                | Ginkgolide C               | 440.398 | 439.124            | 383.13               | C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>23</sub> O <sub>11</sub> | -1.14       | (Ding et al. 2008)          |
| 9   | 11.81                | Apigenin-7-O-hexoside      | 432.378 | 431.099            | 269.05,251.11        | C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>20</sub> O <sub>10</sub> | 0.18        | (Soares et al. 2019)        |
| 10  | 11.97                | Rutin                      | 610.518 | 609.147            | 300.03               | C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>30</sub> O <sub>16</sub> | 0.51        | standard                    |
| 11  | 12.38                | Isoquercetin               | 464.376 | 463.088            | 300.03,271.03        | C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>20</sub> O <sub>12</sub> | 1.31        | Standard                    |
| 12  | 13.25                | Kaempferol-3-rutinoside    | 594.518 | 593.151            | 285.04,255.03,227.04 | C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>30</sub> O <sub>15</sub> | 1.52        | (Kelebek 2016)              |
| 13  | 13.79                | kaempferol 3-O-glucoside   | 448.377 | 447.093            | 255.03,227.03,284.03 | C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>20</sub> O <sub>11</sub> | 1.20        | (Soares et al. 2019)        |
| 14  | 14.10                | Isorhamnetin-7-O-glucoside | 478.403 | 477.104            | 243.03,271.03,314.04 | C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>22</sub> O <sub>12</sub> | 2.61        | (Ding et al. 2008)          |
| 15  | 15.91                | Diosmetin 7-O -glucoside   | 462.044 | 461.109            | 299,243,227          | C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>22</sub> O <sub>11</sub> | 0.50        | (Chen et al. 2019)          |
| 16  | 16.30                | Ginkgolide A               | 408.399 | 407.135            | 351.15               | C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>24</sub> O <sub>9</sub>  | 1.30        | standard                    |
| 17  | 16.31                | Ginkgolide B               | 424.399 | 423.127            | 367.14               | C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>24</sub> O <sub>10</sub> | 2.45        | (Ding et al. 2008)          |
| 18  | 18.59                | Quercetin                  | 302.236 | 301.035            | 149.02,191.03        | C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>7</sub>  | 0.27        | standard                    |
| 19  | 22.18                | Kaempferol                 | 286.236 | 285.041            | 133.03               | C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>6</sub>  | 1.09        | standard                    |
| 20  | 24.78                | Diosmetin                  | 300.263 | 299.056            | 284,256              | C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>6</sub>  | 2.31        | (Chen et al. 2019)          |
| 21  | 29.09                | Apigenin                   | 270.237 | 269.046            | 251.11,227.03        | C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>5</sub>  | 0.97        | (Gouveia and Castilho 2011) |

|    |       |                        |         |         |                      |                                                 |      |                            |
|----|-------|------------------------|---------|---------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------|----------------------------|
| 22 | 31.12 | Isorhamnetin           | 316.262 | 315.051 | 300.03,269.12        | C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>7</sub>  | 0.53 | (Ding et al. 2008)         |
| 23 | 31.60 | Isoginkgetin           | 566.511 | 565.114 | 374.04,117.03,533.03 | C <sub>32</sub> H <sub>22</sub> O <sub>10</sub> | 1.62 | (Yao et al. 2017)          |
| 24 | 37.33 | Ginkgolic acid (C15:1) | 346.504 | 345.244 | 301.25               | C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>34</sub> O <sub>3</sub>  | 0.92 | (Zhou G, Yao, et al. 2014) |
| 25 | 41.25 | Ginkgolic acid (C13:0) | 320.466 | 319.228 | 275.24,121.03,106.04 | C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>32</sub> O <sub>3</sub>  | 0.02 | (Zhou G, Yao, et al. 2014) |

<sup>a</sup> Rt, retention time.

<sup>b</sup> The compounds marked with ‘standard’ mean that they were identified by coelution with their corresponding standards and MS data.

**Table S2.** Quantification of terpene lactones, flavonoids, biflavonoid, and ginkgolic acids in extracts of *Ginkgo* embryoids, seed coats and leaves (µg/g of dry weight).

| Category         | Compounds             | E1            | E2             | E3              | E4            | S1             | S2             | S3            | S4             | L1              | L2              | L3              | L4             |
|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Terpene lactones | Bilobalide            | 22.66±1.52a   | 45.8±5.53b     | 31.6±8.28a      | 22.02±0.95a   | 20.42±3.01a    | 28.86±27.78a   | 29.72±10.70a  | 39.26±10.22a   | 1021.34±141.18b | 470.2±176.51a   | 181.56±33.03a   | 278.07±5.98a   |
|                  | Ginkgolide J          | 34.35±3.86ab  | 47.26±1.10b    | 36.68±15.60ab   | 15.11±0.68a   | 85.7±6.87b     | 93.67±5.36b    | 79.46±14.15b  | 37.32±0.70a    | 234.27±16.55a   | 175.03±22.78ab  | 148.22±25.31b   | 141.88±20.00b  |
|                  | Ginkgolide C          | 472.26±0.05c  | 599.82±57.95c  | 329.68±75.63b   | 151.99±14.45a | 1334.69±16.93d | 1142.15±21.4c  | 891.1±2.65b   | 464.84±40.52a  | 2894.96±203.48c | 1179.75±35.81b  | 834.23±6.94a    | 796.7±47.54a   |
|                  | Ginkgolide A          | 1.88±0.12b    | 3.38±0.21c     | 0.92±0.02a      | 3.47±0.46c    | 55.73±3.86a    | 93.13±7.55c    | 73.26±4.90b   | 54.27±3.69a    | 268.54±10.23c   | 171.61±22.75b   | 91.09±10.03a    | 170.93±11.36b  |
|                  | Ginkgolide B          | 984.54±21.38b | 1987.79±42.12d | 1525.28±170.09c | 575.22±69.37a | 2419.33±128.6c | 2754.52±91.88d | 1773.66±6.15b | 1261.13±72.13a | 6281.60±397.10d | 5240.01±396.83c | 2642.28±113.67a | 3524.04±66.10b |
|                  | sum                   | 1515.69       | 2684.05        | 1924.16         | 767.81        | 3915.87        | 4112.33        | 2847.20       | 1856.82        | 10880.71        | 7236.46         | 3897.38         | 4929.62        |
| Flavonoids       | Coniferin             | 0.59±0.06b    | 0.6±0.06b      | 0.28±0.08a      | 1.05±0.04c    | 1.02±0.07a     | 0.79±0.42a     | 0.77±0.23a    | 0.99±0.1a      | 0.62±0.88a      | 0.89±0.49a      | 1.08±0.45a      | 0±0a           |
|                  | Epicatechin           | nd            | nd             | nd              | nd            | 2.58±0.74a     | 3.66±3.41a     | 2.69±2.90a    | 12.39±0.93a    | 72.11±0.03c     | 64.67±0.70b     | 40.62±0.66a     | 153.76±3.85d   |
|                  | Caffeic acid          | 1.72±1.49a    | 0.9±1.28a      | 1.58±0.11a      | 0.86±0.12a    | 15.98±2.52a    | 30.53±3.22c    | 19.36±0.85ab  | 23.79±2.38b    | 27.03±3.60b     | 28.21±3.60b     | 20.3±2.92b      | 3.54±0.59a     |
|                  | Catechin              | 0.22±0.01ab   | 0.6±0.27b      | 0.14±0.19ab     | nd            | 2.87±0.02c     | 1.54±0.17b     | 0.39±0.22a    | 1.23±0.07b     | 47.58±1.69b     | 43.40±1.55b     | 37±1.09a        | 62.85±3.52c    |
|                  | 4-coumaric acid       | nd            | 0.31±0.44a     | 0.53±0.04a      | 0.41±0.01a    | 2.94±0.26b     | 3.1±0.12b      | 3.74±0.24c    | 1.98±0.17a     | 33.42±2.99a     | 91.83±12.44b    | 108.52±6.33b    | 39.01±3.04a    |
|                  | Apigenin-7-O-hexoside | nd            | nd             | nd              | nd            | nd             | nd             | nd            | nd             | 11.83±1.16b     | 13.8±2.05b      | 7.09±0.10a      | 11.85±0.29b    |

|                |                          |               |               |               |              |                 |               |               |               |                 |                 |                  |                  |
|----------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
|                | Rutin                    | nd            | nd            | 1.79±0.07a    | 1.90±0.08a   | 38.95±2.85d     | 31.15±0.79b   | 10.74±0.94c   | 24.29±1.82a   | 1443.77±99.36b  | 1090.62±48.37a  | 1202.89±96.26ab  | 1242.97±94.68ab  |
|                | Isoquercetin             | nd            | nd            | nd            | nd           | 7.00±3.04a      | 4.85±0.55a    | 2.45±1.71a    | 4.31±0.20a    | 433.37±33.69c   | 248.08±8.35a    | 233.24±1.85a     | 354.54±6.29b     |
|                | Kaempferol-3-rutinoside  | 0.4±0.02a     | 0.34±0.03a    | 0.35±0.08a    | 0.32±0.05a   | 8.67±0.40d      | 6.34±0.13c    | 2.82±0.14a    | 5.37±0.34b    | 1062.12±47.61b  | 721.11±2.43a    | 753.18±12.13a    | 757.80±26.53a    |
|                | kaempferol 3-O-glucoside | nd            | 0.06±0.01c    | 0.49±0.15b    | 0.29±0.02a   | 2.79±0.01b      | 1.63±0.16a    | 1.58±0.09a    | 1.68±0.02a    | 441.81±3.73c    | 289.01±8.48a    | 257.81±21.45a    | 358.24±7.15b     |
|                | Isorhamnetin-3-glucoside | nd            | 0.39±0.42c    | 0.12±0.05b    | 0.09±0.02a   | 7.24±0.23d      | 4.45±0.08c    | 2.65±0.70b    | 1.56±0.16a    | 405.00±8.06c    | 209.53±7.17a    | 176.81±14.73a    | 253.63±20.25b    |
|                | Diosmetin 7-O-glucoside  | nd            | nd            | nd            | nd           | nd              | nd            | nd            | nd            | 116.92±13.08b   | 75.07±1.62a     | 92.53±2.09a      | 79.17±3.07a      |
|                | Quercetin                | nd            | nd            | nd            | nd           | 0.06±0.02a      | 0.16±0.02b    | 0.24±0.02c    | 0.19±0.01b    | 1016.99±26.53a  | 2635.70±690.16b | 1807.23±349.93ab | 1356.41±118.21a  |
|                | Kaempferol               | nd            | nd            | nd            | nd           | 0.01±0.02a      | 0.69±0.09c    | 0.01±0.01a    | 0.35±0.01b    | 0.63±0.13a      | 2.65±0.32b      | 2.17±0.37b       | 1.31±0.09a       |
|                | Diosmetin                | 0.11±0.02ab   | 0.22±0.04c    | 0.15±0.02b    | 0.07±0.01a   | 0.51±0.02a      | 1.5±0.42b     | 0.1±0.01a     | 0.28±0.01a    | 1.53±0.27a      | 2.11±0.17b      | 2.17±0.10b       | 1.15±0.05a       |
|                | Apigenin                 | nd            | nd            | nd            | nd           | 0.46±0.05ab     | 0.62±0.1a     | 0.37±0.07a    | 0.39±0.02b    | 6.85±0.37a      | 10.41±0.77b     | 14.21±0.51c      | 8.72±1.03ab      |
|                | Isorhamnetin             | nd            | 3.51±0.20b    | 1.19±0.18a    | 0.87±0.10a   | 2.7±0.05b       | 1.38±0.12a    | 1.74±0.08a    | 1.9±0.58a     | 2.69±0.01a      | 6.02±2.76a      | 5.57±2.02a       | 3.00±0.34a       |
|                | <b>sum</b>               | <b>3.04</b>   | <b>6.93</b>   | <b>6.62</b>   | <b>4.86</b>  | <b>93.77</b>    | <b>92.39</b>  | <b>49.65</b>  | <b>80.70</b>  | <b>5123.07</b>  | <b>5533.06</b>  | <b>4762.42</b>   | <b>4687.95</b>   |
| Biflavonoids   | Isoginkgetin             | nd            | nd            | nd            | nd           | 252.68±137.87ab | 424.42±7.76b  | 179.87±16.87a | 353.21±9.20ab | 1982.78±380.93b | 648.26±242.05a  | 1142.85±705.47ab | 1680.03±162.71ab |
| Ginkgolic acid | Ginkgolic Acid (C15:1)   | 0.31±0.02b    | 0.19±0.03a    | 0.17±0.03a    | 0.17±0.01a   | 39.76±3.61a     | 43.5±4.06a    | 49.77±7.80a   | 43.27±6.73a   | 14.12±2.32a     | 13.96±12.93a    | 6.16±0.55a       | 3.98±0.40a       |
|                | Ginkgolic Acid (C13:0)   | 143.19±9.94b  | 171.98±14.78b | 166.58±23.05b | 56.36±17.49a | 387.7±31.16a    | 463.35±5.12ab | 547.61±0.82b  | 445.4±73.89ab | 1475.97±46.61bc | 1276.81±51.58a  | 1610.8±99.67c    | 1364.23±48.27ab  |
|                | <b>sum</b>               | <b>143.50</b> | <b>172.17</b> | <b>166.75</b> | <b>56.53</b> | <b>427.46</b>   | <b>506.85</b> | <b>597.38</b> | <b>488.67</b> | <b>1490.07</b>  | <b>1290.77</b>  | <b>1616.96</b>   | <b>1368.21</b>   |

295 Values are means ± standard deviation.

296 Mean values within a line with different letters are significantly different at  $p < 0.05$ , and the significant analysis was made among four samples in one part (E1, E2,

297 E3, E4 form the embryoid part, S1, S2, S3, S4 form the seed coat part, L1, L2, L3, L4 form the leaf part).

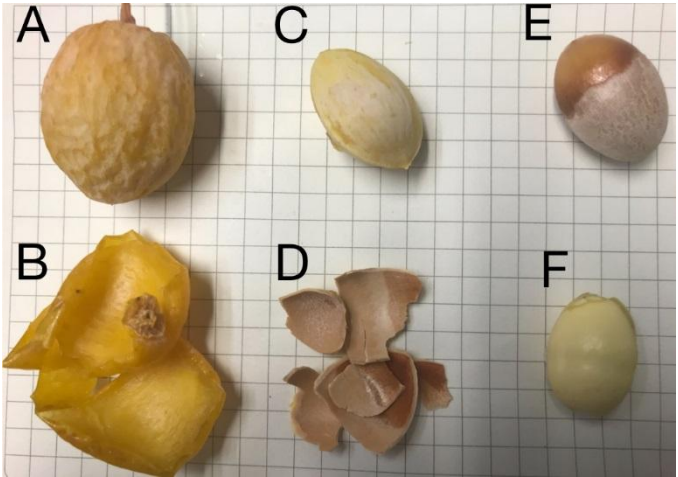
298 **Table S3.** Correlation matrix between chemical compositions and antioxidant activity  
 299 and inhibitory activity of  $\alpha$ -glucosidase

|                          | DPPH    | ABTS    | TRP     | $\alpha$ -glucosidas |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------------------|
| TP                       | 0.930** | 0.937** | 0.948** | 0.632*               |
| TF                       | 0.803** | 0.865** | 0.772** | 0.096                |
| Ginkgolide C             | 0.477   | 0.474   | 0.425   | 0.226                |
| Ginkgolide A             | 0.714** | 0.751** | 0.727** | 0.131                |
| Ginkgolide B             | 0.604*  | 0.616*  | 0.545   | 0.014                |
| Ginkgolide J             | 0.653*  | 0.731** | 0.625*  | 0.065                |
| Bilobalide               | 0.393   | 0.421   | 0.464   | -0.164               |
| Ginkgolic Acid (C15:1)   | 0.468   | 0.393   | 0.43    | 0.932**              |
| Quercetin                | 0.539   | 0.624*  | 0.501   | -0.163               |
| Rutin                    | 0.576   | 0.691*  | 0.621*  | -0.18                |
| kaempferol 3-O-glucoside | 0.571   | 0.663*  | 0.616*  | -0.187               |
| Ginkgolic Acid (C13:0)   | 0.683*  | 0.819** | 0.736** | 0.031                |
| Kaempferol-3-rutinoside  | 0.547   | 0.656*  | 0.602*  | -0.191               |

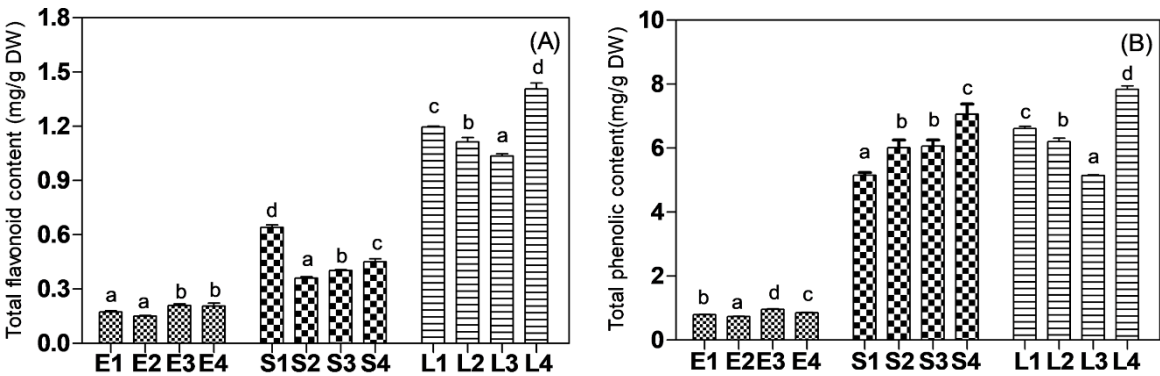
300 Note. \*\* mean the correlated with each other significantly at  $p < 0.01$  level.

301 \* mean the correlated with each other significantly at  $p < 0.05$  level.

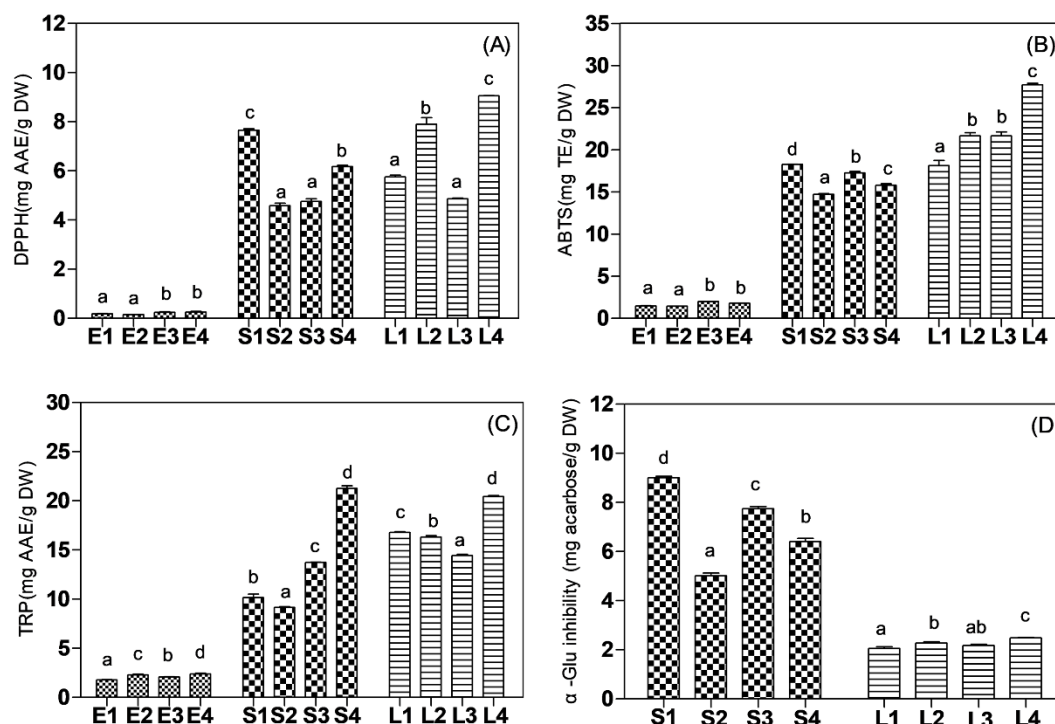
# Figures



**Figure S1.** Dissection of *Ginkgo* seed. A: entire seed, B: seed coat, C: peeled seed, D: nutshell, E: seed nut with mesosperm, F: embryoid. Note: B and F were included in this assay.



**Figure S2.** Contents of total flavonoids (A) and total phenolics (B) in *Ginkgo* embryoid, seed coat and leaf with different ages. (E1: embryoid of 25 years, E2: embryoid of 500 years, E3: embryoid of 1000 years, E4: embryoid of 2000 years; S1: seed coat of 25 years, S2: seed coat of 500 years, S3: seed coat of 1000 years, S4: seed coat of 2000 years; L1: leaf of 25 years, L2: leaf of 500 years, L3: leaf of 1000 years, L4: leaf of 2000 years). Data displays average of triplicate treatments  $\pm$  SE. Different letters denoted the significant difference at  $p < 0.05$  level within each part.



**Figure S3.**

Antioxidant activity and  $\alpha$ -Glucosidase inhibitory activity of 12 Ginkgo samples. (E1: embryoid of 25 years, E2: embryoid of 500 years, E3: embryoid of 1000 years, E4: embryoid of 2000 years; S1: seed coat of 25 years, S2: seed coat of 500 years, S3: seed coat of 1000 years, S4: seed coat of 2000 years; L1: leaf of 25 years, L2: leaf of 500 years, L3: leaf of 1000 years, L4: leaf of 2000 years). Data displays average of triplicate treatments  $\pm$  SE. Different letters denoted the significant difference at  $p < 0.05$  level within each part.

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