



**The impact of food processing on the phenolic content in products made from juneberry (*Amelanchier lamarckii*) fruits**

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**The impact of food processing on the phenolic content in products made from juneberry  
(*Amelanchier lamarckii*) fruits**

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**Short version of title: Food processing of juneberry fruits...**

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1 **ABSTRACT:** Sugars, organic acids and phenolic compounds were analysed in the fruits of  
2 juneberry (*Amelanchier lamarckii*). Different food products were made from fresh juneberry  
3 fruits: jam, liqueur, juice and tea. A detailed analysis of the phenolic component was performed  
4 using high pressure liquid chromatography coupled with mass spectrometry, and the content of  
5 phenolics in different products was compared with the control treatment (70% methanol). Four  
6 sugars and six organic acids were determined in the fruits. The main sugars were glucose (61  
7 g/kg FW) and fructose (64 g/kg FW) and the acids: malic (5.85 g/kg FW) and citric acid (2.6  
8 g/kg) were abundant. Hydroxycinnamic acids, anthocyanins and flavonol glycosides were the  
9 major phenolic groups in juneberry fruits. Fruit processing significantly affected the content of  
10 phenolic compounds in the different fruit products. Liqueur had 17% higher phenolic acid  
11 contents than the control and jam had 14% higher content than the control, calculated on the  
12 dry mass of fruit. Juneberry juice had the highest content of total analysed phenolics (298  
13 mg/100 ml), followed by liqueur (108 mg/100ml) and tea (8 mg/100 ml). Fruits of juneberry  
14 are rich in bioactive compounds and a useful source for the food industry for making various  
15 health snacks, jellies, marmalades, alcoholic drinks, juices etc.

16

17 **Keywords:** *Amelanchier lamarckii*, food processing, sugars, organic acids, phenolic  
18 compounds, health products

19

20 **Practical Application:**

21 Juneberry is becoming a desirable organically grown fruit species with many views as new  
22 functional food. The content of phenolic compounds have been measured in different food  
23 products made from juneberries. The results could be useful for food and nutraceutical industry.

24

25 **Introduction**

26 Twenty-five species belong to the *Amelanchier* Medik. genus, including juneberry  
27 (*Amelanchier lamarckii* F. G. Schroed.) (Adhikari, Francis, Schutzki, Chandra, & Nair, 2005).  
28 It belongs to the Rosaceae family. This plant originated in the forests of north-eastern North  
29 America. It is also sometimes called snowy mespilus or apple serviceberry or, in Canada,  
30 serviceberry or saskatoon. The following species grow in Europe: *Amelanchier ovalis* Med.,  
31 *Amelanchier alnifolia* Nutt., Canadian serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis* L.) and juneberry  
32 (*Amelanchier lamarckii* F. G. Schroed.) (Ochmian, Kubus, & Dobrowolska, 2013). The species  
33 differ from each other in terms of the shape of the inflorescences and the colour of the leaves.  
34 Juneberry has thicker inflorescences, while the Canadian serviceberry has rarer inflorescences  
35 (Gough, 2008). The fruits are not berries but pomes, which grown in clusters of 5-12 together.  
36 In Europe they ripen at the end of June and beginning of July. Mature fruits are dark- red to  
37 blue-violet, sweet, and about the size of peas (diameter 1-1.5 cm) with a waxy coating on long  
38 stems. The size of the fruit differs depending on the type, variety, soil and weather conditions  
39 etc. The fruits have been used in the traditional diet of indigenous people in the United States  
40 and Canada (Jurikova et al., 2012). Nowadays, fruits can be consumed fresh or can be used for  
41 juices, jams, syrups, wines, teas, pies etc (Opalko, Andrienko, & Opalko, 2016).  
42  
43 *Amelanchier* fruits have numerous required components. Ripe fruits are rich in minerals:  
44 calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, vitamins C, E, B6, proteins, cellulose and fibre  
45 (Jurikova et al., 2012). In comparison with blueberries (*Vaccinium corymbosum* L.), saskatoon  
46 fruits contain a higher content of calcium, fibre, proteins, magnesium, iron, thiamin and  
47 riboflavin (Mazza, 2005). In particular, the fruits contain a high level of anthocyanins (cyanidin  
48 derivatives) (Ozga, Saeed, Wismer, & Reinecke, 2007), flavonol glycosides (especially  
49 different quercetin glycosides) (Jurikova et al., 2013), tannins (Donno, Cerutti, Mellano,  
50 Prgomet, & Beccaro, 2016) and hydroxycinnamic acids (caffeic and coumaric acid derivatives)

51 (Lachowicz, Oszmianski, & Pluta, 2017). The composition of various chemical substances in  
52 fruits is known to depend on various factors, such as genotype, growth site, climatic conditions,  
53 degree of maturity etc.

54  
55 Interest in different *Amelanchier* species is increasing year by year, mainly due to the high  
56 content of phenolic compounds in mature fruits. Phenolic compounds are extremely important  
57 in human nutrition because they have antioxidant, antimicrobial, antimutagenic and anti-  
58 inflammatory activity and thus have a positive effect on human health (Rop, Mlcek, Jurikova,  
59 Sochor, & Kizek, 2013). In addition to the above, they also contribute to resistance to the  
60 emergence of cancerous diseases (Folmer et al., 2014; Zengin, Sarikurkcu, Aktumsek, Ceylan,  
61 & Ceylan, 2014) and cardiovascular diseases (Zhao et al., 2014). The leaves and bark of  
62 serviceberry also have health effects and can be used in treatments against diabetes (Zhang,  
63 Rimando, Fish, Mentreddy, & Mathews, 2012) and as a disinfectant (Lim, 2012). Compounds  
64 derived from plants have recently been getting much attention as an alternative method for the  
65 inhibition and control of chronic degenerative disorders. Due to the increasingly fast human  
66 lifestyle, juneberry has great potential for production, because of its high nutritional and  
67 antioxidants properties (Donno et al., 2016). This fruit species will surely spread in home  
68 gardens and also in orchards, because it is a fairly undemanding plant species, which also  
69 thrives on poor soils and under hard weather conditions (high frost resistance). In Europe,  
70 juneberry has only a few diseases and pests. Birds are usually the major problem, so the fruit  
71 needs to be picked in time (Lim, 2012).

72  
73 Consumers are increasingly focusing on the fruit, which has a special taste, an appropriate  
74 chemical composition and is rich in antioxidants. In some parts of Europe, cultivation of  
75 saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) has recently been expanded, research having shown that it

76 contains many flavonoids that have positive health effects. In a review of scientific literature,  
77 we found that studies on *Amelanchier lamarckii* are lacking, so our aim was to analyse the  
78 content of bioactive compounds in the mature fruit of juneberry (sugars, organic acid and  
79 phenolic compounds). Additionally, we planned to examine how the different processes of  
80 product preparation affect the content of phenolic substances. It is known that different  
81 processing methods may affect the effectiveness of extraction from fruits. Extraction efficiency  
82 is affected by many elements, such as the kind of solvents and their concentration, time, pH,  
83 temperature etc. We therefore decided to perform an experiment to determine how different  
84 fruit processing procedures affect the content of phenolic compounds in a single processed  
85 product. For this purpose, we analysed the content of phenolics in fresh fruits and compared it  
86 with various food products: tea, juice, jam and liqueur. Due to the high content of natural  
87 colours (anthocyanins) in *Amelanchier* spp. fruits, this species could be useful in the future for  
88 the food industry, since synthetic colouring could be replaced by juneberry fruit extracts.

89

## 90 **Materials and methods**

91

### 92 Description of the experimental field and plant material

93 The fruits of juneberries were collected at edible maturity (8.6.2016) in the experimental  
94 plantation of the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia at Brdo pri Lukovici (latitude, 46° 10' N;  
95 longitude, 14°41' E). The soil texture is silty loam, rich in potassium and nitrogen and poor in  
96 phosphorus. Organic matter is high. The climate of the plantation is continental, with an excess  
97 of precipitation in spring and autumn. The annual sum of precipitation is about 1300 mm and  
98 average annual temperature 12.5 °C. We picked approximately 5 kilograms of mature fruits  
99 from different trees.

100

101 Measurements of fruit colour

102 The colour of the fruit was measured with a colorimeter (CR-10 Chroma, Minolta, Osaka,  
103 Japan) in the middle of the berry, by which we read C\* (colour intensity or chroma), h° (colour  
104 shade - 0-360 °: 0 ° - red , 90 ° - yellow, 180 ° - green, 270 ° - blue) and L\* (brightness: 0 -  
105 black, 100 - white). Measurements were made on fifty fruits.

106

107 Analysis of sugars and organic acids

108 Sugars and organic acids were extracted from the fresh juneberry. Ten repetitions were carried  
109 out (n = 10); each repetition included several fruits. Four grams of chopped fruit material were  
110 extracted in 16 ml of bidistilled water for half-an-hour at room temperature with frequent  
111 shaking, as reported by Mikulic-Petkovsek et al. (2019). The homogenate was centrifuged  
112 (Eppendorf Centrifuge 5810 R) at 10,000 rpm for 8 min at 10 °C. The supernatant was filtered  
113 through a 0.20 µm cellulose ester filter (Macherey-Nagel; Düren, Germany), transferred into a  
114 vial, and 20 µL of the sample was used for the analysis. The analysis of sugars and acids was  
115 done using a high-performance liquid chromatograph (HPLC) from Thermo Separation  
116 Products. For the sugars, we used a Rezex RCM-monosaccharide Ca<sup>+</sup> (2%) column (300 mm  
117 x 7.8 mm) and for organic acids a Rezex ROA – organic acid H<sup>+</sup> (8%) (300 mm x 7.8 mm)  
118 (Phenomenex). The mobile phase was bidistilled water for sugars and 4 mM sulfuric acid for  
119 the analysis of acids. We used the same parameters for both primary metabolites: flow rate 0.6  
120 mL min<sup>-1</sup>, column temperature 65 °C and total run 30 min. For identification and measurement  
121 of sugars, a refractive index (RI) detector was used and for acids a UV detector set at 210 nm.  
122 The concentration of an individual metabolite was calculated according to a calibration curve  
123 of corresponding standards and expressed as g kg<sup>-1</sup> FW.

124

125 Preparation and extraction of juneberry products

126 For the extraction of phenolic compounds with the control treatment, we weighed 4 g of ground  
127 fruit and poured over 10 ml of 70% methanol containing 3% formic acid. Samples were  
128 extracted in an ice-cooled ultrasonic bath for 60 minutes. To prepare tea, we weighed 2.5 g of  
129 dried berries, ground them to a powder with liquid nitrogen and poured over 100 ml of boiling  
130 water. The extraction from powder of dry berries was done on a shaker for 15 minutes.  
131 Alcoholic liqueur was prepared by squeezing 12 grams of fresh fruit and adding 12 ml of  
132 bidistilled water. The sample was heated for 5 minutes at a temperature of 80 °C. After cooking,  
133 20 ml of 100% ethanol was added and the bottles were closed. Liqueurs were left for 7 days at  
134 room temperature. Juice was prepared from fresh fruits; they were pressed with a juicer and  
135 cooked for 7 minutes at 80 °C. To prepare jam, we used 60 g of ground fruits, added 10 ml of  
136 bi-distilled water and mixed. The fruit mixture was boiled for 12 minutes at 80 °C. For the  
137 extraction of polyphenolic compounds from jam, we weighed 4 g of jam, added 10 ml of 70%  
138 methanol containing 3% formic acid and transferred it to an ice-cooled ultrasonic bath for 1  
139 hour. All the prepared extracts were centrifuged for 12 minutes at 9000 rpm. The supernatant  
140 was filtered through polyamide filters (Chromafil® A-20/25, Macherey-Nagel) into vials, which  
141 were appropriately labelled. Fresh and dehydrated fruit samples were oven-dried at 105 °C for  
142 48 hours to determine DW (AOAC Method 934.06).

143  
144 For the extraction of phenolic substances during the control treatment, we weighed 4 g of  
145 ground fruit and added 10 ml of 70% methanol containing 1% formic acid. Samples were  
146 extracted in an ultrasonic bath for 60 minutes. Alcoholic liqueur was prepared by squeezing 12  
147 grams of fresh fruit and adding 12 ml of bidistilled water. The sample was boiled for 5 minutes  
148 at a temperature of 80 °C and a power of 400 W. After cooking, 20 ml of 100% ethanol was  
149 added and the bottles closed. The flasks were left for 7 days at room temperature. Juice from  
150 fresh fruits was pressed with a juicer and cooked for 7 minutes at induction at 400 W and 80

151 °C. To prepare the jam, we used 60 g of ground fruit, covered with 10 ml of bidistilled water  
152 and mixed. The mixture was boiled for 12 minutes at 80 °C. For the extraction of polyphenolic  
153 substances from the jam, we weighed 4 g of chilled jam, added 10 ml of 70% methanol  
154 containing 1% formic acid and transferred it to an ultrasonic bath for 1 hour. To prepare tea, we  
155 weighed 2.5 g of dried berries, ground them into powder with liquid nitrogen and added 100 ml  
156 of boiling water. The extraction took place on a shaker for 15 minutes. All the prepared extracts  
157 were centrifuged for 12 minutes at 9000 rpm. The supernatant was filtered through polyamide  
158 filters into vials, which were appropriately labelled.

159

160 Analysis of phenolic compounds on PDA - HPLC MS<sup>n</sup> system

161 Analysis of individual phenolic compounds in different extracts was performed on an HPLC  
162 (Thermo Scientific) system with a PDA detector at three wavelengths (280, 350 and 530 nm)  
163 using a mass spectrometer (MS). For mobile phase A, we used bidistilled  
164 water/acetonitrile/formic acid (96.9/3/0.1, v/v/v) and for mobile phase B: acetonitrile/bidistilled  
165 water/formic acid (96.9/3/0.1, v/v/v). Samples were eluted according to a linear gradient from  
166 5% to 20% B in the first 15 min, followed by a linear gradient from 20% to 30% B for 5 min,  
167 then an isocratic mixture for 5 min followed by a linear gradient from 30% to 90% B for 5 min,  
168 and then an isocratic mixture for 15 min before returning to the initial conditions. Measurements  
169 were made with a Gemini C18 (Phenomenex) column at 25 °C. Determination of phenolic  
170 compounds was carried out in positive (anthocyanins) and negative ionization (all other  
171 phenolic compounds). The analyses were carried out using full scan data-dependent MS<sup>n</sup>  
172 scanning from *m/z* 115 to 1900. The capillary temperature was 250 °C, the sheath gas and  
173 auxiliary gas were 60 and 15 units, the source voltage was 3 kV and normalized collision energy  
174 was between 20-35%. Spectral data were elaborated using the Excalibur software (Thermo  
175 Scientific). Identification of the phenolic compounds was established based on their retention

176 times and their PDA spectra in comparison with standard phenolics, and based on fragmentation  
177 patterns in different MS<sup>n</sup> modes compared with literature data. The content of individual  
178 phenolic compounds was calculated using standard curves of different phenolics and expressed  
179 in mg kg<sup>-1</sup> DW.

180

#### 181 Statistical analysis

182 The statistical analysis was done with the Statgraphics Plus 4.0 program (Manugistics, Inc.).

183 The analysis was performed with a one-way variance analysis (ANOVA). Statistically  
184 significant differences of sugars, acids and phenolic compounds between the juneberry products  
185 were compared with multiple comparison tests (Duncan test) at a 95% confidence interval and  
186 between juneberry beverages with LSD test. Means and standard errors are presented (mean ±  
187 SE) and statistical differences among treatments are denoted by different letters.

188

#### 189 **Results and discussion**

190

191 Fruit quality depends on external and internal quality parameters. Colour plays a very important  
192 role in external fruit quality since it is an indicator of maturity and a first characteristic in the  
193 consumer's decision to buy. The results of the colour parameters for juneberry were the  
194 following: C\* 35.32, h° 350.86 and L\* 14.16, which means that the fruits were red. In terms of  
195 internal fruit quality, the content of various chemical substances, such as sugars, acids and  
196 aromatic compounds, plays an important role. The average measured pH of juneberry juice  
197 prepared from mature fruits was 4.00, which means that is fairly acidic.

198

199 The content of sugars and acids in berries, and their relationship, contribute to the taste of fruit.

200 The main sugars in juneberry are glucose (61 g/kg FW), fructose (64 g/kg FW) and sorbitol (51

201 g/kg FW). Rogiers and Knowles (1997) also reported that the mentioned three sugars were  
202 major in saskatoon berry, accounting for approximately 99% of total sugars. Sucrose gave only  
203 about 3% of all analysed sugars content. Our results of sugar content in juneberry are a little  
204 higher than with saskatoon (Rogiers & Knowles, 1997). This difference is probably explained  
205 by the different maturity stages of the fruits or the different extraction or analytical protocols  
206 used. Organic acids from the fruits can also serve as natural preservatives for various food  
207 products and they have an impact on the colour and flavour of the product. Of organic acids in  
208 the fresh fruits of juneberry, we analysed malic, tartaric, oxalic, citric, succinic and fumaric  
209 acid. Approximately half of the total acid content was malic acid (5.85 g/kg FW), followed by  
210 citric acid (2.61 g/kg FW), oxalic (1.52 g/kg FW) and tartaric acid (1.28 g/kg FW). Succinic  
211 and fumaric acid were present only in traces. As previously reported by Rogiers and Knowles  
212 (1997), malic acid was also the major organic acid in *Amelanchier alnifolia* fruit and its level  
213 was similar to our results. Malic and citric acids have not been identified in the fruits of  
214 *Amelanchier canadensis* and the amount of tartaric acid (2.9 g/kg FW) was in the same range  
215 as in our samples of juneberry fruits (Donno et al., 2016). Comparing the content of total sugars  
216 with some other berry fruit species, it can be concluded that the total sugars in juneberry (183  
217 g/kg FW) are much higher than in red and black currants (46-118 g/kg FW) and gooseberries  
218 (78-96 g/kg FW) (Mikulic-Petkovsek et al., 2015) and in the same range as the sugar content in  
219 chokeberry (114 g/kg), rowanberry (218 g/kg FW) and eastern shadbush (159 g/kg FW)  
220 (Mikulic-Petkovsek, Schmitzer, Slatnar, Stampar, & Veberic, 2012). The high content of total  
221 sugars in juneberry is certainly due to the high content of sorbitol, which some berry species do  
222 not have. High sugar content and low acids are responsible for the high sugar:acids ratio, which  
223 gives the fruit a sweetish taste.  
224

225 Among the phenolics in the fruits, 8 hydroxycinnamic acid derivatives, 4 anthocyanins, one  
226 hydroxybenzoic acid, 6 flavanols, 2 flavones and 24 flavonol glycosides were identified (Table  
227 1). Derivatives of hydroxycinnamic acid are the major phenolic group, being approximately  
228 half of all analysed phenolic compounds in fresh juneberry fruits (control 3837 mg/kg DW).  
229 The second big group is flavonol glycosides, representing one quarter of total analysed phenolic  
230 content. Their content reached 1973 mg/kg DW berries. From the group of flavanols, catechin,  
231 epicatechin and four procyanidins were detected in the fruits. The content of all flavanols was  
232 15% of all phenolics. Only two substances were found in the group of flavones: apigenin  
233 dirhamnoside and apigenin hydroxyhexoside. Their analysed content was 246 mg/kg DW fruits.  
234  
235 In terms of content, hydroxycinnamic acids were the most important phenolic group,  
236 representing 47% of total analysed phenolics (Table 2). Similarly, Lavola et al. (2012) reported  
237 that hydroxycinnamic acids were the main phenolic acids in saskatoon fruit. Hydroxybenzoic  
238 acids were present only in small amounts (Lavola et al., 2012). The main phenolic acid was  
239 *trans* 5-*O*-caffeoylquinic acid (chlorogenic acid) (3594 mg/kg DW), which represented 93% of  
240 total hydroxycinnamic acids (Table 2). In other *Amelanchier* species, too, it has been reported  
241 that chlorogenic acid is the main component in their fruits (Jurikova et al., 2012; Lavola et al.,  
242 2012). It has been found that chlorogenic acid is the most valuable compound in various berries  
243 and it was confirmed that it has antioxidant properties (Agunloye et al., 2019). Two isomers of  
244 5-caffeoylquinic acid were identified in our samples. On the chromatogram, first 5-  
245 caffeoylquinic acid was confirmed with a commercial standard of *trans* 5-*O*-caffeoylquinic acid  
246 ( $\lambda_{\max}$  328 nm). We suggest that the other form is *cis* 5-*O*-caffeoylquinic acid; its content was  
247 88.5 mg/kg DW (Table 2). This isomer had a similar MS spectrum but a different UV spectrum  
248 ( $\lambda_{\max}$  319 nm) to chlorogenic acid. According to the finding of Jaiswal et al. (2010), chlorogenic  
249 acid exposed to natural UV light freely converts from the *trans* to the *cis* isomer in plants.

250 Various hexosides of *p*-coumaric, ferulic and caffeic acid, and two forms of 5-*p*-  
251 coumaroylquinic acids, were also identified in the juneberry (Table 1). The liqueur had a 17%  
252 higher content of total phenolic acids than the control and the jam had a 14% higher content  
253 than the control, calculated on the dry weight of the fruit (Table 2). In the tea, the content of  
254 hydroxycinnamic acids was only 314 mg/kg of DW fruits (Table 2). The results show that the  
255 procedure of fruit processing significantly affects the content of hydroxycinnamic acids in the  
256 final product, which was also reported by Makila et al. (2017). The consumer is certainly most  
257 interested in how many ingredients he can get by eating a particular product. Consequently, the  
258 contents were expressed per 100 ml and it was found that 205 mg of phenolic acids per 100 ml  
259 could be consumed with juice, only 42 mg/100 ml with liqueur and only 4.2 mg of phenolic  
260 acids/100 ml with aqueous extract (tea) (Figure 1A).

261  
262 Another abundant group, in terms of content as well as the numbers of individual phenolics,  
263 was the group of flavonols. This group included one isorhamnetin derivative, 13 kaempferol  
264 and 10 quercetin derivatives (Table 1). In fresh fruits, the content of quercetin glycosides was  
265 1838 mg/kg DW, kaempferol glycosides 1133 mg/kg DW and isorhamnetin-3-rutinoside 11  
266 mg/kg DW. The major quercetin derivatives in terms of their content were quercetin  
267 dirhamnoside, two quercetin dirhamnosides, quercetin-3-galactoside, quercetin-3-rhamnoside,  
268 quercetin rhamnosyl pentoside, quercetin-3-arabinopyranoside and quercetin-3-rutinoside  
269 (Table 2). The total flavonol content in juneberry is comparable to that reported for saskatoon  
270 berry (Lachowicz et al., 2017). The highest content of quercetin (1432 mg/kg DW) and  
271 kaempferol derivatives (1852 mg/kg DW) was found in liqueur. In second position was jam,  
272 with 1521 mg/kg DW of kaempferol derivatives and 1134 mg/kg DW of quercetin derivatives.  
273 The lowest content of flavonol glycosides was found in juice and tea (Table 2). If the results of  
274 the prepared products are expressed per volume unit, it can be seen that the highest content of

275 total flavonol derivatives was found in juice (56.3 mg/100 ml), followed by liqueur with 30.8  
276 mg/100 ml and tea only 4.2 mg/100 ml (Figure 1B). The results show that the process of  
277 juneberry pressing in a juicer contributed to the highest yield of flavonols. In the preparation of  
278 liqueur, the success of flavonol extraction was about half that with the juicer (Figure 1B). This  
279 is probably because the juicer crushes the berry skin more effectively, since it is known that the  
280 main source of flavonols is the skin. Various publications have reported that the skin has a  
281 higher concentration of flavonol glycosides than does berry pulp (Inglett & Chen, 2011; Ribera,  
282 Reyes-Diaz, Alberdi, Zuniga, & Mora, 2010). Previous results have also shown that a fruit  
283 maceration process achieved the best effect of phenolic extraction (Cujic et al., 2016).

284  
285 The main anthocyanin in juneberry was cyanidin-3-galactoside, which represented 90% of the  
286 content of all anthocyanins analysed (Table 2). The other three anthocyanins (cyanidin-3-  
287 glucoside, cyanidin-3-xyloside and peonidin-3-glucoside) were present in a lower amount, 80  
288 mg/kg of DW fruits. In *Amelanchier alnifolia* fruits, too, the same anthocyanin glycosides were  
289 confirmed except peonidin-3-glucoside, which was absent (Mazza, 1986; Ozga et al., 2007).  
290 The procedures of fruit processing had a significant impact on the changed levels of  
291 anthocyanins (Lafarga et al., 2019; Zorenc, Veberic, & Mikulic-Petkovsek, 2018). Our results  
292 showed that the lowest content of anthocyanins was found in tea and juice (Table 2). Only  
293 cyanidin-3-glucoside was identified in tea, the other three anthocyanins were missing. In liqueur  
294 and jam, the total anthocyanins content was statistically the highest, since they had a 1.37- to  
295 1.43-fold higher content than the control. Previous studies have reported that the effect of  
296 anthocyanin extraction from fruits was poorest when 96% ethanol or water was used as the  
297 solvent. The maximum effect of anthocyanins extraction was achieved using 50% ethanol  
298 (Cujic et al., 2016). In our case, we used 62.5% ethanol for liqueur and the content of  
299 anthocyanins was highest in this treatment. The size of the particles of plant material also plays

300 an important role in the success of anthocyanins extraction. Cujic et al. (2016) found that the  
301 best effect of anthocyanins extraction was achieved when *Aronia melanocarpa* fruits were  
302 chopped into smaller particles (0.75 mm); with bigger particles the effect of extraction was  
303 worse. The reason is that smaller particles have a higher surface, which enables better mass  
304 transport.

305

306 Two monomeric forms, catechin and epicatechin, and three procyanidin dimers and one  
307 procyanidin trimer were identified among the group of flavanols in juneberry (Table 1). Total  
308 procyanidins in fresh fruits represented almost 60% of all flavanols, epicatechin accounted for  
309 30% and catechin was present in a minor share (Table 2). It has been reported that procyanidins  
310 and epicatechin have antioxidant properties, and also anticancer activity (Santos-Buelga &  
311 Scalbert, 2000). Ursini et al. (2001) found that the level of their polymerization has an impact  
312 on their antioxidant activity. Flavanols were not found in tea, in juice their content was very  
313 low, 58.4 mg/kg DW, while liqueur had significantly the highest flavanol content (2020 mg/kg  
314 DW) (Table 2). They have a very low content per unit volume (Figure 1C). The liqueur  
315 contained only 18.9 mg of flavanols/100 ml and juice 18.4 mg/100 ml. It can be concluded from  
316 this that the extraction of flavanols from the fruits and seeds of juneberry with different product  
317 preparation processes was fairly poor. This is actually very good, since a high content of  
318 flavanols in food products is not desired by consumers, because they contribute to a bitter and  
319 unpleasant astringent taste when consumed (Aron & Kennedy, 2008). It is known that high  
320 procyanidin content is characteristic of young and unripe fruits (Lesschaeve & Noble, 2005).

321

322 Two flavones, apigenin dirhamnoside and apigenin hydroxyhexoside, and gallic acid from the  
323 group of hydroxybenzoic acids provide a minor share of the total phenolic content. All three  
324 phenolics together represent only 3% of total phenolics in fresh juneberry. We did not identify

325 any of the listed phenolics in tea, only apigenin dirhamnoside was found in juice, while liqueur  
326 had the highest content of all of these phenolics. Fresh juice contained per 100 ml 6.72 mg of  
327 apigenin derivatives and liqueur 5.05 mg apigenin derivatives/100 ml (data not shown). The  
328 effectiveness of polyphenolic extraction is influenced by various factors, such as the method of  
329 plant grinding or maceration, the type of solvent, the ratio between the organic and the aqueous  
330 phases of the solvent, the temperature and the time of extraction. Cujic et al (2016) reported  
331 that the effect of total phenolics extraction from chokeberry fruits was greatest with 50%  
332 ethanol, while it was reduced by increasing the concentration of ethanol in the extraction  
333 solvent. The results of some studies suggest that the use of an aqueous-organic solvent mixture  
334 is a better choice for good and efficient extraction of phenolic substances than using only  
335 organic solvent or only water (Felix et al., 2018; Yang, Ou, Zhang, Zhou, & Ma, 2017).  
336 Different procedures for the preparation of food products certainly affect the content of  
337 chemical substances in the final product (Kim et al., 2018; Shinwari & Rao, 2018). Michalczyk  
338 and Macura (2010) found that pasteurization drastically decreases the total phenolic content of  
339 the final product in comparison with freezing.

340

### 341 **Conclusion**

342 Juneberry fresh fruits are rich in sugar content and bioactive compounds, especially in the  
343 content of chlorogenic acid, cyanidin-3-galactoside and in different kaempferol- and quercetin  
344 glycosides. The fruits of juneberry (*Amelanchier lamarckii*) can therefore be used as a source  
345 of important bioactive components in various food products, such as tea, juice, food  
346 supplements, alcoholic beverages etc. The results of the study showed that the different methods  
347 of fruit processing of various products significantly affect the changes in the content of certain  
348 bioactive substances. The results showed that alcoholic liqueur had the highest content of  
349 phenolic substances per unit of the used fruit weight, followed by jam. The lowest phenolic

350 content was found in the aqueous extract (tea). The results of our research on the content of  
351 chemical components in the fruits of juneberry open new possibilities of introducing this fruit  
352 species into orchard production and its use in the food, nutraceutical and pharmaceutical  
353 industries.

354

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359

### 360 **Authors contributions**

361 D. Koron collected plant material. M. Mikulic-Petkovsek and D. Rusjan performed the  
362 experiment, interpreted the results and prepared the manuscript.

363

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For Peer Review

## 505 TABLES

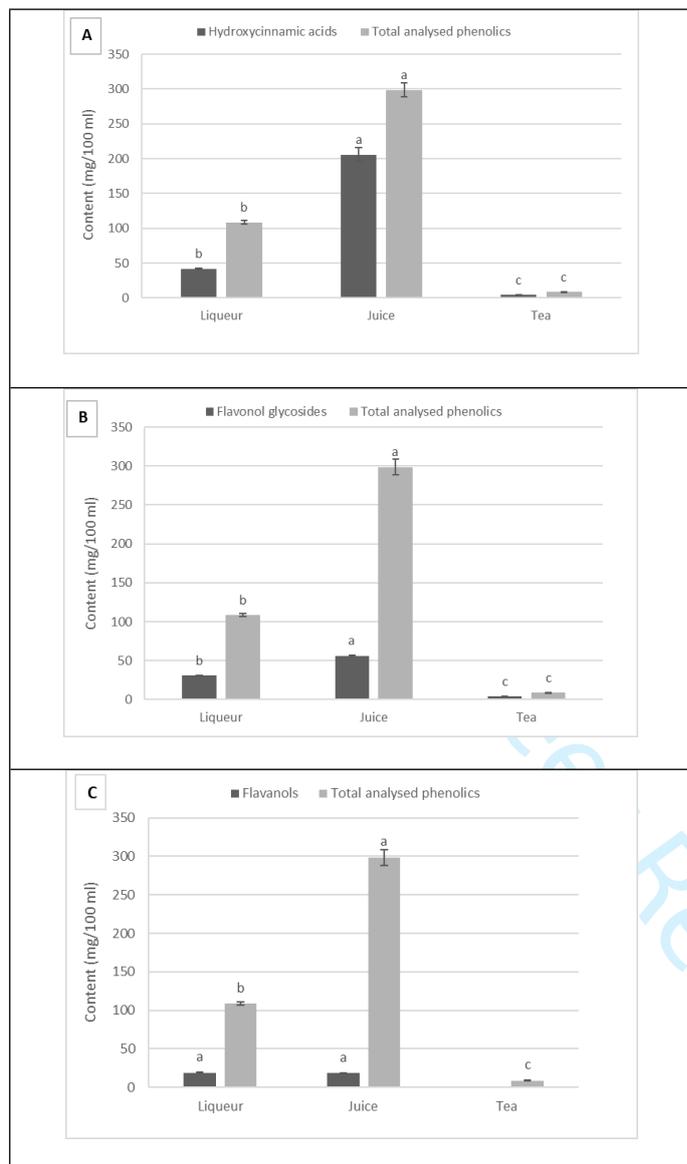
506 Table 1: Identification of phenolic compounds and their presence in different junberry products in negative and positive ions with HPLC-MS and MS<sup>2</sup>.

Phenolic compounds	[M] <sup>+</sup> or [M-H] <sup>-</sup> ( <i>m/z</i> )	MS <sup>2</sup> ( <i>m/z</i> )	Control	Juice	Jam	Liqueur	Tea
<b>Hydroxycinnamic acid derivatives</b>							
<i>cis</i> -5-Caffeoylquinic acid	353	191, 179	+	+	+	+	+
Caffeic acid hexoside	341	179, 161	+	+	+	+	+
<i>p</i> -Coumaric acid hexoside	325	163	+	+	+	+	+
Ferulic acid hexoside 1	355	193	+	+	+	+	+
Ferulic acid hexoside 2	355	193	+	nd	+	+	nd
Chlorogenic acid	353	191, 179, 173, 135	+	+	+	+	+
5- <i>p</i> -Coumaroylquinic acid 1	337	191, 163	+	+	+	+	+
5- <i>p</i> -Coumaroylquinic acid 2	337	191, 163	+	+	+	+	+
<b>Hydroxycinnamic acid derivatives</b>							
Gallic acid	169	125	+	nd	nd	+	nd
<b>Flavones</b>							
Apigenin dirhamnoside	561	269	+	+	+	+	nd
Apigenin hydroxyhexoside	449	269	+	nd	+	+	nd
<b>Flavanols</b>							
Epicatechin	289	245	+	+	+	+	nd
Catechin	289	245	+	nd	+	+	nd
Procyanidin dimer 1	577	451, 425, 407, 289	+	nd	nd	+	nd
Procyanidin dimer 2	577	451, 425, 407, 289	+	nd	+	+	nd
Procyanidin dimer 3	577	451, 425, 407, 289	+	nd	+	+	nd
Procyanidin trimer	865	577, 425, 407, 289	+	+	+	+	nd
<b>Flavonol derivatives</b>							
Isorhamnetin-3-rutinoside	623	315	+	nd	nd	+	nd
Kaempferol-3-galactoside	447	285	+	+	+	+	nd
Kaempferol-3-glucoside	447	285	+	+	+	+	+
Kaempferol-3-rutinoside	593	285	+	nd	nd	+	nd
Kaempferol pentoside 1	417	285	+	+	+	+	+

508 **Table 2.** The content of phenolic compounds analysed in different juneberry products (mg/kg DW).

Phenolic compounds	Control	Juice	Jam	Liqueur	Tea
<b>Hydroxycinnamic acid derivatives</b>					
<i>cis</i> -5-Caffeoylquinic acid	88.5 ± 3.0 c	11.0 ± 0.4 d	127 ± 5.0 b	194 ± 6.0 a	9.59 ± 0.56 e
Caffeic acid hexoside	41.7 ± 2.4 c	6.94 ± 0.64 e	64.9 ± 3.3 b	85.1 ± 5.1 a	10.6 ± 1.0 d
<i>p</i> -Coumaric acid hexoside	9.25 ± 0.17 c	1.71 ± 0.04 e	12.4 ± 0.6 b	15.9 ± 0.4 a	4.33 ± 0.23 d
Ferulic acid hexoside 1	45.8 ± 2.3 c	6.27 ± 0.11 d	57.2 ± 2.1 b	64.5 ± 2.1 a	4.64 ± 0.59 d
Ferulic acid hexoside 2	6.62 ± 0.27 c	-	10.3 ± 0.4 b	15.0 ± 0.5 a	-
Chlorogenic acid	3594 ± 219 a	559 ± 34 b	4060 ± 234 a	4024 ± 134 a	279 ± 10 c
5- <i>p</i> -Coumaroylquinic acid 1	23.1 ± 1.4 c	2.85 ± 0.09 d	32.5 ± 1.2 b	49.3 ± 2.3 a	2.85 ± 0.44 d
5- <i>p</i> -Coumaroylquinic acid 2	28.1 ± 2.0 c	3.47 ± 0.11 d	38.4 ± 1.5 b	50.3 ± 2.5 a	3.75 ± 0.40 d
<b>Hydroxycinnamic acid derivatives</b>					
Gallic acid	8.11 ± 0.56 b	-	-	16.4 ± 2.5 a	-
<b>Flavones</b>					
Apigenin dirhamnoside	223 ± 9.0 c	21.4 ± 1.3 d	348 ± 14 b	507 ± 16.0 a	-
Apigenin hydroxyhexoside	23.5 ± 0.8 c	-	29.1 ± 1.5 b	34.0 ± 0.9 a	-
<b>Flavanols</b>					
Epicatechin	353 ± 26.0 b	30.8 ± 0.8 c	502 ± 14.0 a	530 ± 50 a	-
Catechin	154 ± 8.0 b	-	183 ± 8.0 a	107 ± 5.0 c	-
Procyanidin dimer 1	157 ± 10 b	-	-	312 ± 14 a	-
Procyanidin dimer 2	204 ± 7.0 b	-	243 ± 14 b	380 ± 24 a	-
Procyanidin dimer 3	126 ± 7.0 c	-	157 ± 6.0 b	337 ± 11 a	-
Procyanidin trimer	215 ± 12 c	27.6 ± 1.0 d	268 ± 11 b	355 ± 13 a	-
<b>Flavonol derivatives</b>					
Isorhamnetin-3-rutinoside	11.1 ± 1.1 c	-	-	16.8 ± 1.0 a	-
Kaempferol-3-galactoside	40.5 ± 1.9 c	2.58 ± 0.06 d	56.9 ± 2.3 b	76.4 ± 2.8 a	1.57 ± 0.15 e
Kaempferol-3-glucoside	81.8 ± 3.5 c	5.46 ± 0.14 d	113 ± 5.0 b	139 ± 2.0 a	-
Kaempferol-3-rutinoside	1.05 ± 0.02 b	-	-	1.48 ± 0.02 a	-
Kaempferol pentoside 1	87.6 ± 4.1 c	5.14 ± 0.13 d	120 ± 5.0 b	158 ± 5.0 a	3.46 ± 0.39 e
Kaempferol pentoside 2	27.6 ± 0.8 c	1.86 ± 0.04 d	35.6 ± 1.5 b	44.4 ± 1.1 a	-
Kaempferol dirhamnoside	288 ± 15 c	26.3 ± 0.4 e	393 ± 16 b	499 ± 16 a	40.4 ± 4.0 d
Kaempferol coumaroyl acetylramnoside	80.4 ± 4.7 c	6.40 ± 0.10 d	99.1 ± 4.7 b	130 ± 12 a	-
Kaempferol rhamnoside	48.3 ± 2.2 b	3.38 ± 0.10 d	73.4 ± 3.7 a	74.9 ± 6.6 a	3.95 ± 0.17 c
Kaempferol rhamnosyl pentoside 1	112 ± 5.0 c	12.2 ± 0.2 e	149 ± 6.0 b	172 ± 2.0 a	24.2 ± 2.0 d
Kaempferol rhamnosyl pentoside 2	49.0 ± 1.3 c	-	58.3 ± 2.4 b	69.3 ± 1.0 a	11.7 ± 1.0 d
Kaempferol rhamnosyl hexoside 1	106 ± 4.0 c	10.9 ± 0.1 e	139 ± 5.0 b	154 ± 3.0 a	27.8 ± 2.6 d
Kaempferol rhamnosyl hexoside 2	175 ± 8.0 c	19.6 ± 0.3 e	235 ± 10 b	277 ± 6.0 a	39.9 ± 3.7 d
Kaempferol rhamnosyl hexoside 3	35.6 ± 1.1 c	3.15 ± 0.05 e	49.6 ± 2.1 b	57.2 ± 1.7 a	8.49 ± 0.55 d
Quercetin-3-galactoside	74.7 ± 3.9 c	6.81 ± 0.11 d	102 ± 4.0 b	129 ± 4.0 a	-
Quercetin-3-glucoside	32.0 ± 0.7 c	2.91 ± 0.04 d	37.9 ± 1.5 b	45.2 ± 0.7 a	-
Quercetin-3-rutinoside	69.2 ± 2.2 c	6.17 ± 0.12 e	86.4 ± 3.7 b	95.2 ± 1.8 a	25.3 ± 1.3 d
Quercetin-3-rhamnoside	66.4 ± 4.8 b	6.71 ± 0.67 c	87.6 ± 2.4 b	195 ± 17 a	8.71 ± 1.28 c
Quercetin-3-arabinopyranoside	72.6 ± 3.4 c	4.63 ± 0.11 d	102 ± 4.0 b	137 ± 5.0 a	-
Quercetin dirhamnoside	103 ± 5.0 c	11.1 ± 0.2 e	136 ± 5.0 b	157 ± 2.0 a	22.1 ± 1.9 d
Quercetin glycoside 1	110 ± 4.0 c	11.0 ± 0.2 e	143 ± 6.0 b	179 ± 4.0 a	26.3 ± 2.9 d
Quercetin glycoside 2	127 ± 6.0 c	14.2 ± 0.4 d	173 ± 7.0 b	189 ± 3.0 a	26.6 ± 3.2 d
Quercetin rhamnosyl pentoside	160 ± 7.0 c	17.2 ± 0.3 e	236 ± 10 b	262 ± 7.0 a	36.9 ± 2.1 d
Quercetin coumaroyl acetylramnoside	14.3 ± 1.0 b	1.45 ± 0.15 c	19.0 ± 0.5 b	42.2 ± 3.8 a	1.89 ± 0.28 c
<b>Anthocyanins</b>					
Cyanidin-3-galactoside	787 ± 75 a	21.8 ± 1.3 b	921 ± 64 a	870 ± 35 a	23.4 ± 1.2 b
Cyanidin-3-glucoside	24.7 ± 1.9 c	7.24 ± 0.49 d	105 ± 5.0 b	176 ± 7.0 a	-
Cyanidin-3-xyloside	41.4 ± 3.2 b	5.86 ± 0.40 c	127 ± 2.0 a	152 ± 3.0 a	-
Peonidin-3-glucoside	13.4 ± 1.0 b	1.90 ± 0.13 c	41.0 ± 0.8 a	49.2 ± 1.1 a	-

## 510 FIGURES



511

512 **Figure 1.** The content of some phenolic groups and total analysed phenolics analysed in different junberry  
 513 beverages (mg/100 ml). Different letters (a-c) indicate significant differences in each phenolic group or in total  
 514 analysed phenolics among different products by LSD test.