

Protective Effects of an Ethanol Extract of *Elaeagnus umbellata* Leaves on α -MSH-induced Melanin Production in B16-F0 Cells and UVB-induced Damage in CCD-986sk Cells

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This study was undertaken to investigate the effect of an ethanol extract of *Elaeagnus umbellata* leaves (EUL-EE) on skin-related biological activities. Previously, we have reported that gallic acid was the major phenolic compound in EUL-EE through quantitative analysis and that EUL-EE had an inhibitory effect against the proliferation of liver cancer HepG2 cells. In the present study, the inhibitory effects of EUL-EE on melanin production and tyrosinase activity in α -melanocyte-stimulated hormone-stimulated B16-F0 cells were determined to assess the effects of EUL-EE on skin whitening. The anti-wrinkle effect using UVB-irradiated CCD-986sk cells was examined by the expression of type I procollagen and metalloproteinase (MMP)-1 release. The EUL-EE significantly decreased intracellular melanin production (33.0% inhibition at 100 μ g/ml) when compared with untreated B16-F0 cells. Tyrosinase activities in the stimulated B16-F0 cells were also decreased by EUL-EE (47.8% inhibition at 100 μ g/ml). The EUL-EE also dose-dependently increased the production of type I procollagen (up to 1.74-fold at 250 μ g/ml) in CCD-986sk cells when compared with UVB-irradiated controls. EUL-EE showed no cytotoxicity at concentrations up to 500 μ g/ml. In addition, EUL-EE at 10-500 μ g/ml inhibited the release of MMP-1 to the medium from UVB-irradiated CCD-986sk cells. Taken together, these observations indicate that EUL-EE has high potential for use as inner beauty and cosmetic materials due to its whitening and anti-wrinkle effects.

Key words : Anti-wrinkle, *Elaeagnus umbellata* leaves, melanin production, reactive oxygen species, skin whitening

Introduction

As the aging of human skin progresses, the secretion of various hormones that regulate metabolism decrease and the activities of immune cells and skin cells are diminished, and thus, the biosynthesis of immune proteins and biologic proteins are reduced. Furthermore, it is known that wrinkles, skin dryness, and skin inelasticity are diminished and stain, freckles and age spot are produced due to intrinsic aging and extrinsic aging caused photo-aging and environmental pollutants [22, 23]. Melanin, a complex of black pigment and protein is responsible for the color of human hair. When

melanin biosynthesis increased in skin, the color of skin changes from yellowish brown to dark brown. This process may cause spots, freckles, skin spots, and other skin problems, or even cell death and skin cancer due to the toxic effects of melanin precursors produced in melanosomes located, which include tyrosine, 3,4-dihydroxyphenylalanine (DOPA), and dopaquinone [16]. Skin whitening agents are developed in three ways: by inhibiting melanin production in melanocytes, by controlling melanocyte stimulating substances, and by promoting melanin excretion [7]. In general, melanogenesis inhibitors reduce melanin production in skin through a series of redox reactions [9]. In the dermis, collagen affects skin moisturization and elasticity, and with increasing age, amounts of structural proteins such as dermal fibroblasts, collagen and elastin decrease and tissues loosen. Exposure to ultraviolet light, especially UVB, induces the production of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and that promote photo-aging [4]. ROS directly break down collagen and deactivate matrix metalloproteinase (MMP), which results in

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increase MMP production and collagen break down [2]. In addition, ultraviolet rays penetrate deeply into skin and can destroy or mutate DNA in skin cells [20]. The MMPs are a family of enzymes that function by degrading extracellular matrix and basement membranes, and are divided into four subfamilies, that is, interstitial collagenase, stromelysin, gelatinase, and membrane-type MMPs [12]. Therefore, to reduce skin wrinkling, it is important to inhibit the actions of collagenase and ROS and to enhance collagen synthesis.

Elaeagnus umbellata (Thunb.) is a deciduous shrub belonging to the *Elaeagnus* family and is native to Pakistan, China, India, Japan, and Korea [6]. The fruits and seeds of *E. umbellata* are edible, and in Korea were recently approved as an edible material. Its fruits have 7 to 17 fold more lycopene than tomatoes [3], and it is well known that lycopene consumption prevents various cancers, coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and osteoporosis [5, 19, 24]. The fruits of *E. umbellata* contain high levels of rutin and gallic acid, while its seeds contain high levels of chlorogenic acid and gallic acid [18]. On the other hand, little is known of the phenolic components of the leaves of *E. umbellata*. Previously, we reported that *E. umbellata* leaves ethanol extract (EUL-EE) has a potent anti-proliferative effects on liver cancer cells [8], but little is known of the biological properties of EUL-EE. To evaluate the skin-related efficacy of EUL-EE with respect to skin whitening and anti-wrinkle activities, we investigated its effects on melanin production and tyrosinase activity in a melanocyte cell-line. In addition, the effect on collagen biosynthesis and MMP-1 inhibition, which were viewed as surrogate anti-UVB-induced skin wrinkling, were also examined. Thus, this preliminary biological study was undertaken to investigate the effects of EUL-EE on skin health.

Materials and Methods

Plant sample

EUL-EE was purchased from Bosamo Agricultural Association Corporation (Changnyeong-gun, Gyeongsangnam-do, Korea), and were stored at ambient temperature in the dark after dry of 30°C for 24 hr.

Chemicals and reagents

α -Melanocyte stimulated hormone (α -MSH), 3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine (IBMX), melanin, tyrosinase from mushroom (5,771 units/mg), Triton X-100, 4-phenylazobenzoyloxycarbonyl-pro-leu-gly-pro-d-ar, collagenase, 4',6-diamidino-

2-phenylindole (DAPI), 2,7-dichlorodihydrofluorescein diacetate (DCFDA), and L-DOPA were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich Inc. (St. Louis, MO, USA). Dimethyl sulfoxide, pre-tanol A, and ethanol were purchased from Duksan Science (Seoul, Korea). 3-(4,5-dimethyl-2-thiazolyl)p-2,5-diphenyl-2H-tetrazolium bromide (MTT) was purchased from AMRESCO Chemical (Solon, USA). And sodium dihydrogen phosphate and disodium hydrogen phosphate were purchased from Junsei Chemical (Tokyo, Japan).

Preparation of *E. umbellata* extract

Air-dried powder of EUL was extracted with 70% ethanol. Briefly, the ethanol extract (10 g) was extract with 2 l of solvent mixture at room temperature for 24 hr (two replicates). EUL was filtered and concentrated using a rotary evaporator (EYELA N-3010, Tokyo Rikakikai, Japan). And then the extract was lyophilized using a freeze dryer (FDU-2100, Tokyo Rikakikai, Japan).

Cell culture

B16-F0, a mouse melanoma cell lines was cultured in Dulbecco's modified eagle's medium (DMEM) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum, 1% non-essential amino acids (100 \times), 1% L-glutamine (200 mM), 1% vitamins (100 \times), 1% penicillin (10,000 μ m/ml) and 1% sodium pyruvate 100 mM. For all experiments, the cells were grown to 80~90% confluence, and were subjected to no more than 20 cell passages. CCD-986sk human fibroblasts (American Tissue Collection Center, ATCC, USA) were cultured in Iscove's modified Dulbecco's medium (IMDM) containing 10% fetal bovine serum, 1% antibiotics at 37°C in a humidified atmosphere of 5% CO₂.

Cytotoxicity of B16-F0 melanoma cells and CCD-986sk cells

Briefly, B16-F0 cells (5 \times 10⁵ cells per well) were seeded into a 24-well cell culture plate and incubated for 24 hr. The cells were treated with various concentration of EUL-EE (0, 25, 50, 100, and 250 μ g/ml), and then incubated for 48 hr. After incubation, 100 μ l of the MTT reagent in PBS (5 mg/ml) was added to each well. After 4 hr of incubation, the reacting color was measured at 550 nm using a microplate spectrophotometer (Molecular Devices, CA, USA).

Also, CCD-986sk cells (1 \times 10⁴ cells per well) were seed into a 24-well cell culture plate and incubated for 24 hr. The medium of the experimental groups was treated with varied

concentrations of EUL-EE (0, 10, 100, 250, and 500 $\mu\text{g/ml}$), followed by incubation for 24 hr within or without UVB irradiation (15 mJ/cm^2). After incubation, 100 μl of the MTT reagent in PBS (5 mg/ml) was added to each well. After the incubation continued for another 4 hr, the resulting color was assayed at 550 nm using a microplate spectrophotometer (Molecular Devices, CA, USA).

Melanin production in α -MSH treated B16-F0 melanoma cells

Briefly, B16-F0 cells (5×10^5 cells per well) were seeded into a 6-well cell culture plate and incubated for 24 hr. After 24 hr of incubation, the cells were treated with various concentration of EUL-EE (0, 25, 50, 100, and 250 $\mu\text{g/ml}$), containing 100 nM α -MSH and 100 mM IBMX. After incubation for 48 hr at 37°C, each medium were removed and washing the cells with PBS, the cell pellet was dissolved in 150 μl of 1 N NaOH with 10% DMSO, incubated at 60°C for 1 hr. After incubation, the resulting absorbance was measured at 405 nm using a microplate spectrophotometer. The amount of melanin production was determined by measuring sample absorbance at 405 nm against a synthetic melanin standard.

Cellular tyrosinase activity

Briefly, B16-F0 cells (5×10^5 cells per well) were cultured in 6-well plates, incubated with α -MSH (100 nM), IBMX (100 μM), and various concentrations of EUL-EE (0, 25, 50, 100, and 250 $\mu\text{g/ml}$) for 2 days, and then washed with ice-cold PBS, lysed with phosphate buffer (pH 6.8) containing Triton X-100.

Extracellular tyrosinase activity

The tyrosinase inhibitory activities of the EUL-EE was determined by the L-DOPA oxidation assay. Briefly, 80 μl of L-DOPA (2.5 mM), and various concentrations of EUL-EE (100 μl) by using sodium phosphate buffer (100 mM, pH 6.8) were added to 96-well plates. The mixture was incubated for 10 mins at 37°C. The mixtures were injected to 20 μl of tyrosinase from mushroom (1,500 units/ml). The solution was measured by the DOPochrome formation in optical density at 475 nm using UV-Vis spectra. The percent inhibition of tyrosinase activity was calculated as follows:

$$\% \text{ Inhibition} = [(A - B) / A] \times 100$$

Where A = absorbance at 475 nm without test sample [10 μl of solution (%), deionized water) and B = absorbance at 475 nm with test sample (10 μl of plant extract)].

Assay of collagen type I synthesis and collagenase inhibition

Collagen synthesis was evaluated using the Takara MK101 kit (Takara Bio Inc., Japan). CCD-986sk human fibroblasts were incubated into 24-well cell culture plate (1×10^4 cells per well) and cultured at 37°C in 5% CO_2 . After UVB irradiation (15 mJ/cm^2), cells were treated with the sample at a concentration of 0, 10, 100, 250 and 500 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ for 24 hr. After culturing, the supernatant was collected from each well, and the amount of pro-collagen type I was measured with a procollagen type I C-peptide assay kit (Takara Bio, Japan). Briefly for collagenase inhibition assay, 0.15 ml of collagenase (1 mg/ml) was added to the mixed solutions consisted of 2 mM 4-phenylazobenzyloxycarbonyl-pro-leu-gly-pro-d-ar 0.25 ml and 0.1 ml of EUL-EE (10, 100, 250, 500, 1000, 1500, 2000, and 3000 $\mu\text{g/ml}$) in 0.1 M Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.5) and then reacted for 20 mins at 37°C. After that, the reactions were stopped by adding 6% citric acid 0.5 ml. Absorbance was measured at 320 nm with a UV-visible spectrophotometer after addition of ethyl acetate 1.5 ml. The percentage of collagenase inhibitory activity was calculated from the following equation.

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{The percentage of collagenase inhibition (\%)} \\ & = (1 - S / C) \times 100 \end{aligned}$$

Where 'S' is the corrected absorbance of the samples containing collagenase inhibitor (the enzyme activity in the presence of the samples), and 'C' is the corrected absorbance of controls (the enzyme activity in the absence of the samples).

Matrix metalloproteinase-1 (MMP-1) inhibition assay

CCD-986sk cells were seeded at a density of 1×10^4 cells/well in 96-well culture plates and were cultured for 24 hr. After UVB irradiation (15 mJ/cm^2) and EUL-EE treatment, the supernatants were centrifuged at 12,000 \times g for 5 min, and stored at -80°C in fresh tubes. The activity of collagenase was measured with a MMP-1 human biotrak ELISA system (Amersham life science, USA).

4',6-Diamidino-2-phenolindole (DAPI) staining and intracellular reactive oxygen species (ROS) assay

For 4',6-diamidino-2-phenolindole (DAPI) staining, a 500 \times stock solution (5 mM) was diluted to 10 \times in PBS, and then 50 μl of this 10 \times DAPI solution was added to each well of cells to achieve a final DAPI loading solution of 10 μM . CCD-986sk cells were seeded at a density of 1×10^4 cells/well

in 24-well culture plates. After UVB irradiation (15 mJ/cm²) and treatment EUL-EE, the cells were washed. Cells were loaded with DCFH-DA (5 μ M) and DAPI (10 μ M) for 30 min, and then cells were washed twice with culture medium and images acquired by using fluorescence microscopy. The distribution of fluorescence was analyzed by fluorescence microscopy (Eclipse; Nikon, Tokyo, Japan) and analyzed by NIS-Elements software (Nikon). Fluorescence was measured with a spectrophotometer microplate reader where an excitation wavelength of 480 nm and an emission wavelength of 530 nm were used. Images captured using FITC and DAPI filters to determine the localization of intracellular ROS generation and nucleus, respectively.

Statistical analysis

Data were expressed as mean \pm SD determined from triplicate analysis. The results were subjected to analysis of variance (ANOVA) using Duncan's multiple comparison test to analyze differences, and $p < 0.05$ was considered to be significant.

Results and Discussion

Skin-whitening effects on α -MSH-stimulated B16-F0 melanoma cells

In the present study, the inhibitions of melanin production and tyrosinase activity in B16-F0 melanocytes were used as surrogates of skin whitening ability due to their involvements in the mechanism of whitening. The cytotoxicity of EUL-EE on B16-F0 melanocytes were investigated using a MTT assay. As shown in Fig. 1A, EUL-EE was not cytotoxic to α -MSH-stimulated B16-F0 cells in the concentration range 25~100 μ g/ml. In addition, arbutin (250 μ M; a positive control) was also showed no cytotoxic effect. To determine the effect of EUL-EE on melanin synthesis, B16-F0 cells were treated with EUL-EE at different concentrations and then melanin contents were determined by spectrophotometry. EUL-EE significantly decreased the production of intracellular melanin (133.8 μ g per 5×10^5 cells at 100 μ g/ml) as compared with untreated cells (199.7 μ g per 5×10^5 cells, Fig. 1B). Also, arbutin strongly suppressed melanin production (70.5 μ g per 5×10^5 cells). Arbutin is well known to inhibit melanin production in B16 cells induced with α -MSH and to reduce tyrosinase activity [14]. We next measured the tyrosinase activity by dopaquinone production in the L-DOPA present, which the tyrosinase is the main regulatory melano-

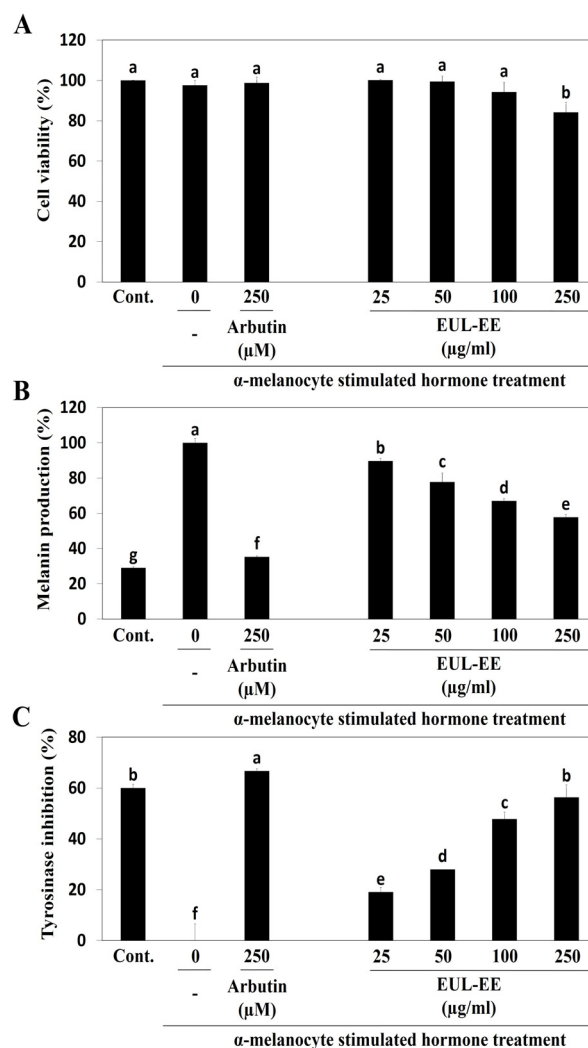


Fig. 1. Effects of EUL-EE on melanin production and tyrosinase activities in α -MSH-stimulated B16-F0 melanocytes. (A) The effects on cell viability, (B) melanin synthesis, and (C) inhibition on tyrosinase activity. Results were expressed as % of control and data were means \pm SD. Values with different superscript letters are significantly different ($p < 0.05$) by Duncan's multiple comparison test ($n=3$).

genic enzyme in melanin synthesis pathway. Fig. 1C shows that tyrosinase activities in α -MSH-stimulated B16-F0 cells were dose-dependently reduced by EUL-EE (47.8% inhibition at 100 μ g/ml). The whitening activity of a number of active components isolated from plants has been previously reported, as have the anti-wrinkle effects of many bioactive compounds [15, 26]. Especially, kaempferol and gallic acid, which were found to present in EUL-EE, are known to inhibit tyrosinase activity and melanin inhibition, and to inhibit wrinkle formation [13]. It is, however, unclear whether

the key active components of the extract for its anti-melanogenesis activity are kaempferol and gallic acid, and a clear identification is needed. We then investigated the direct effect of EUL-EE on mushroom tyrosinase activity [6]. EUL-EE weakly inhibited mushroom tyrosinase activity with an IC₅₀ value of 1.717 mg/ml (Fig. 2). The tyrosinase inhibitory activity of EUL-EE (34.5% at 1 mg/ml) was higher than that of the *Rhododendron mucronulatum* Turcz extracts (24% at 1 mg/ml) [1].

Anti-wrinkle effects on UVB-irradiated CCD-986sk human dermal cells

The inhibitory effects of EUL-EE on collagenase activities were examined. Upon UVB irradiation, collagenase activity was dramatically increased and this was strongly suppressed by EGCG (10 μM, a positive control). As shown in Fig. 3, collagenase activity was also significantly inhibited by EUL-EE (IC₅₀ value of 1.818 mg/ml). These results show EUL-EE significantly inhibited collagenase activity. Su et al. reported kaempferol and gallic acid are both strong inhibitors of collagenase [21]. Moreover, kaempferol showed good anti-oxidative and anti-inflammatory activities, which suggested its use in anti-aging cosmetic products [17, 25].

The effects of EUL-EE on cell viability were tested using

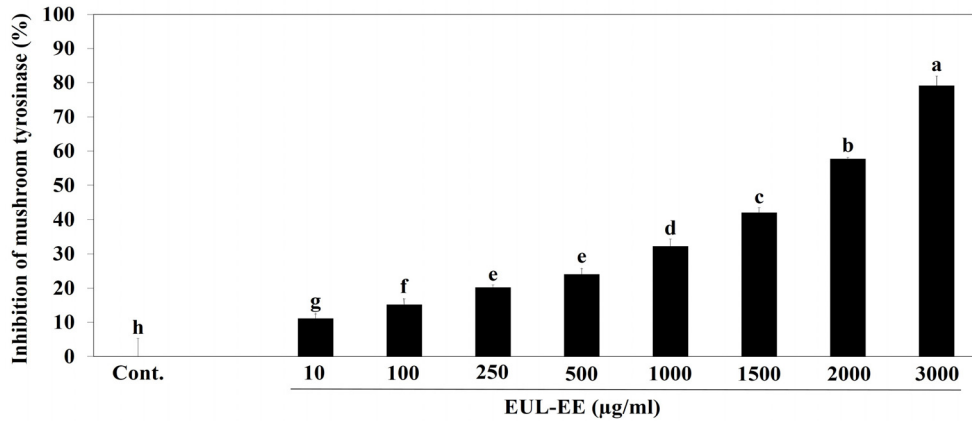


Fig. 2. Inhibition of EUL-EE on mushroom tyrosinase. L-DOPA (2.5 mM), and various concentrations of EUL-EE (0, 10, 100, 250, 500, 1,000, 1,500, 2,000, and 3,000 μg/ml) with 100 mM sodium phosphate buffer (pH 6.8) were added to 96-well plates. The mixture was incubated for 10 mins at 37°C, and then, the mixtures were injected to 20 μl of tyrosinase from mushroom (1,500 units/ml). Absorbance was measured at 475 nm. Values with different superscript letters are significantly different (p<0.05) by Duncan’s multiple comparison test (n=3).

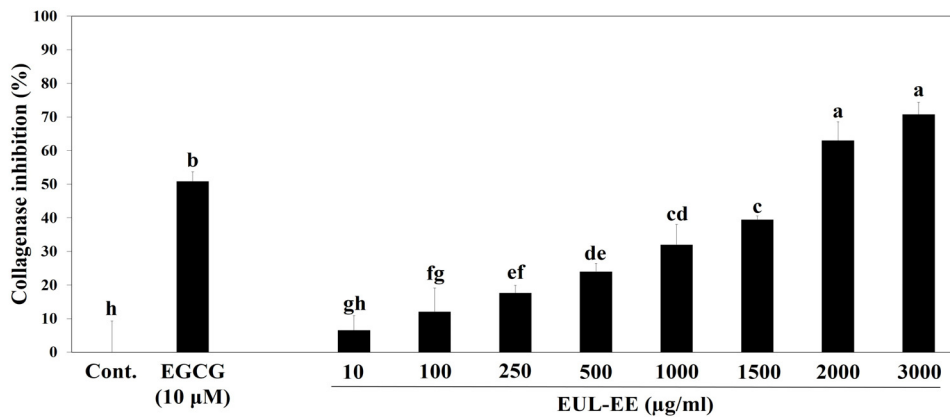


Fig. 3. Inhibition of EUL-EE on the collagenase activity. The collagenase (1 mg/ml) was added to the mixed solutions consisted of 2 mM 4-phenylazobenzoyloxycarbonyl-pro-leu-gly-pro-d-ar and EUL-EE (0, 10, 100, 250, 500, 1,000, 1,500, 2,000, and 3,000 μg/ml) in 0.1 M Tris-HCl buffer (pH 7.5) and then reacted for 20 mins at 37°C. After reaction, the reactions were stopped by adding 6% citric acid 0.5 ml. Absorbance was measured at 320 nm after addition of ethyl acetate. Values with different superscript letters are significantly different (p<0.05) by Duncan’s multiple comparison test (n=3).

a MTT assay using within or without UVB-irradiated CCD-986sk cells. EUL-EE was not cytotoxic to CCD-986sk cells in the concentration range 10~500 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ (Fig. 4A). Exposure to UVB dramatically reduced cell viability by >50%. As shown in Fig. 4B, treatment with EUL-EE (10, 100, 250, and 500 $\mu\text{g/ml}$) reduced UVB-induced cell death. To evaluate collagen synthesis, we used a procollagen type I C-peptide assay kit. As procollagen type I amino- and carboxy terminal propeptide (procollagen type I amino propeptide and PICP) are cleaved from procollagen molecules to produce mature collagen fibers, amount of PICP secreted into culture medium provide a measure of collagen synthesis. EUL-EE increased the production of type I collagen in UVB-irradiated CCD-986sk cells in a dose-dependent manner (up to 1.74-fold at 250 $\mu\text{g/ml}$) as compared with 15 mJ/cm^2 UVB-irradiation controls (Fig. 4C). These results show EUL-EE enhanced collagen synthesis effectively in UVB exposed cells. MMPs are enzymes that play a major role in normal and pathological tissue remodeling [10]. EUL-EE highly inhibited the release of MMP-1 from UVB-irradiated CCD-986sk cells at concentrations of 10~500 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ as well as EGCG (Fig. 4D). The result demonstrated that the promotion of collagen production by EUL-EE and that it do so by inhibiting MMP-1 expression.

Oxidative stresses can be generated in connective tissues and in skin cells by photo-damage or inflammatory processes. UV-induced ROS induces the activation of mitogen-activated protein kinase, activator protein 1, phosphorylation of c-Fos and c-Jun, and upregulation of MMP-1 that contribute for skin collagen degradation. To test the effects of EUL-EE on intracellular ROS generation induced by UVB exposure in CCD-986sk cells, the changes of ROS signal were observed qualitatively by fluorescence staining. EUL-EE was found to reduce UVB-induced ROS generation in CCD-986sk skin dermal cells (Fig. 5). Our data suggested that EUL-EE might effectively protect skin against UVB-induced oxidative damage. In addition, EGCG, a positive control, was known to block UV-induced increases of collagen degradation and collagenase mRNA levels in fibroblast culture [10].

Taken together, EUL-EE was found to downregulate melanin production and to inhibit tyrosinase in α -MSH-stimulated melanocytes. Furthermore, EUL-EE significantly inhibited collagenase activity, inhibited ROS generation, and increased collagen production in UVB-exposed CCD-986sk fibroblast. These results collectively show EUL-EE has potential use as cosmeceutical and/or functional food ingredient

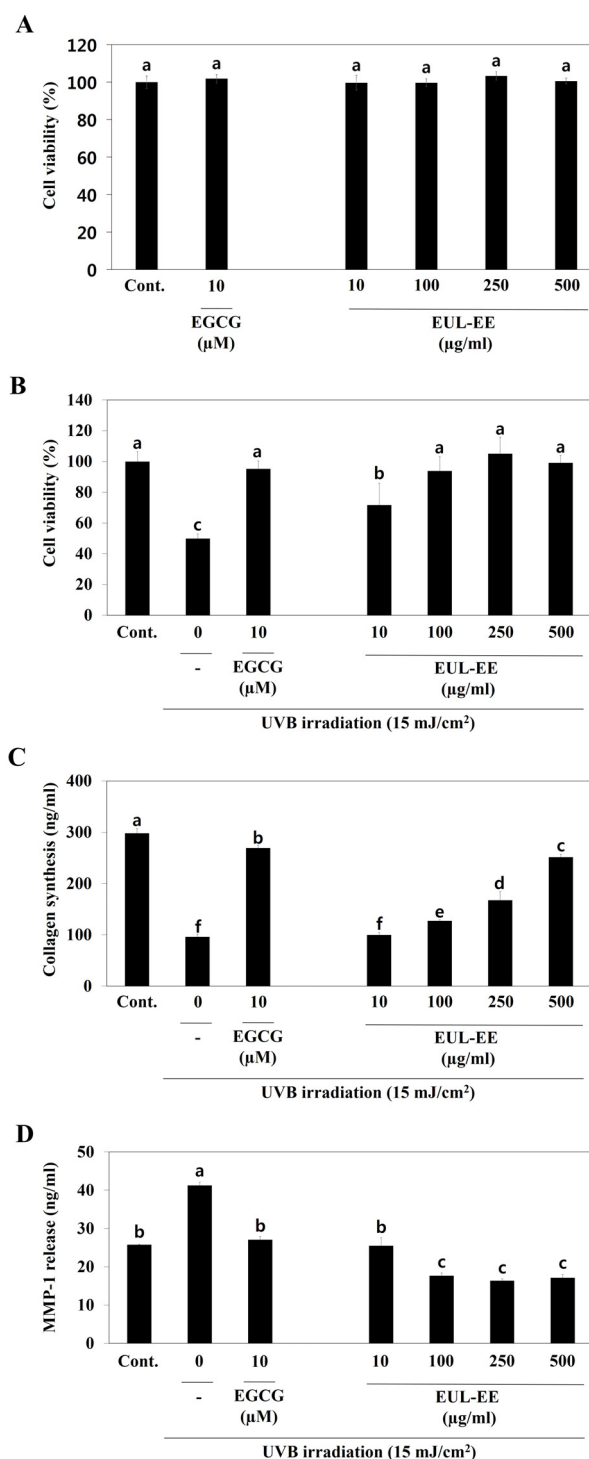


Fig. 4. Anti-wrinkle effects of EUL-EE in UVB-irradiated CCD-986sk human dermal cells (15 mJ/cm^2). (A) The effects on CCD-986sk cell viability without UVB irradiation, (B) cell viability within UVB irradiation, (C) collagen production, and (D) the release of MMP-1 into the culture media. Values with different superscript letters are significantly different ($p < 0.05$) by Duncan's multiple comparison test ($n=3$).

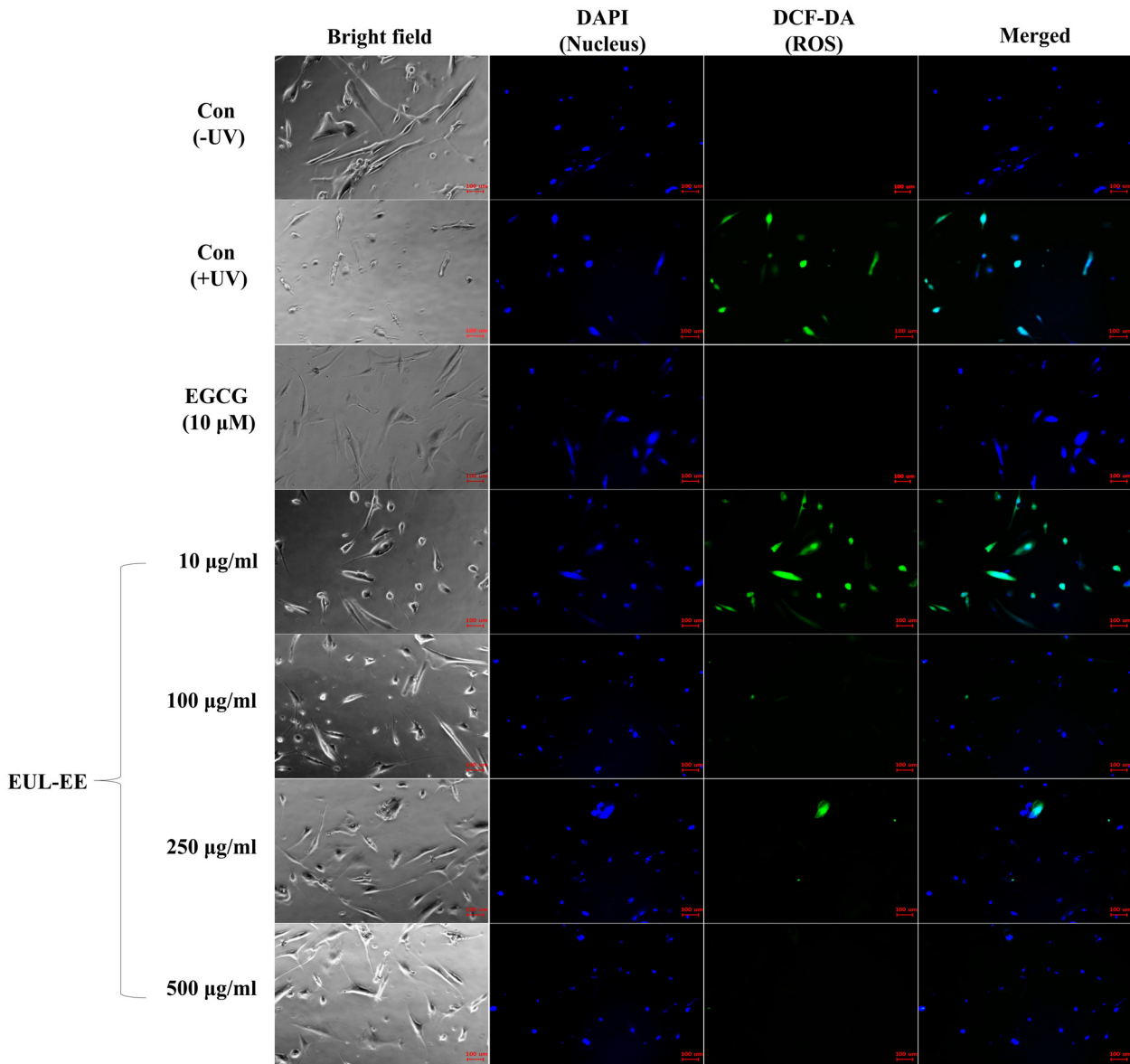


Fig. 5. Inhibitory effects of EUL-EE on ROS generation in UVB-irradiated CCD-986sk human dermal cells. The cells were treated with EUL-EE after UVB-irradiation (15 mJ/cm²) and stained using DAPI (nuclear staining, blue signal) and DCF-DA ROS indicators (intracellular oxygen free radical, green signal).

with skin-whitening and anti-wrinkle activities for the first report.

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초록 : 보리수나무 잎 에탄올 추출물이 α -MSH 유도 B16-F0 세포의 멜라닌 생성 및 UVB 유도성 CCD-986sk 세포 손상에 미치는 효과

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본 연구는 보리수나무 잎 에탄올추출물의 피부와 관련된 생리활성을 보고하였다. 선행 연구에서 보리수나무 잎 에탄올 추출물의 정량 분석을 통해 갈산이 중요한 페놀 화합물임을 확인하였고 HepG2 간암 세포의 증식에 대한 억제 효과를 보고한 바 있다. 본 연구에서는 α -멜라닌 세포 자극 호르몬으로 유도된 B16-F0 세포에서의 멜라닌 생성 및 타이로시나제 활성에 대한 보리수나무 잎 에탄올 추출물의 억제 효과를 측정하여 보리수나무 잎 에탄올 추출물이 피부 미백에 미치는 영향을 평가하였다. 또한 UVB가 조사된 CCD-986sk 세포를 사용하고, type I procollagen과 metalloproteinase-1 (MMP-1) 방출을 측정하여 보리수나무 잎 에탄올 추출물의 주름 개선 효과를 조사하였다. 보리수나무 잎 에탄올 추출물이 처리되지 않은 B16-F0 세포와 비교하였을 때 세포 내 멜라닌 생성을 유의적으로 감소시켰다는 것을 나타내었다(100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ 에서 33.0% 억제). α -멜라닌 세포 자극 호르몬으로 유도된 B16-F0 세포에서의 타이로시나제 활성은 보리수나무 잎 에탄올 추출물에 의해 감소되었다(100 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ 에서 47.8% 억제). 또한, 보리수나무 잎 에탄올 추출물을 처리하였을 때 UVB 조사 대조군에 비해 CCD-986sk 세포에서 용량 의존적으로 type I procollagen (250 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ 에서 1.74배)의 생산을 증가시켰다. 또한, 보리수나무 잎 에탄올 추출물은 10-500 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ 의 농도에서 UVB가 조사된 CCD-986sk 세포의 MMP-1 방출을 억제했다. 이상의 결과로부터, 보리수나무 잎 에탄올추출물이 피부미백 및 주름 생성 억제 활성을 나타내는 피부 건강에 유용한 식용 소재임을 확인하였다.