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Toward a better identification of naringin and narirutin dispersion state in 1

grapefruit peel press liquor 2

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- Filtration-compression as downstream processing in flavonoid extraction from peel 8 •
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29

30 Abstract

The objective of this work was to describe the dispersion state of flavonoids (i.e. naringin and 31 narirutin) in the press liquor obtained after filtration-compression of fresh citrus (grapefruit) 32 peels. An original methodology for the quantification of the dispersion, based on a size 33 fractionation, and its evolution over time was proposed. Three fractions were identified: (i) a 34 particulate fraction, (ii) a large-colloidal fraction and (iii) a small-colloidal and soluble 35 36 fraction. Narirutin and naringin were initially found on small-colloidal/soluble form. During time, an aggregation of the compounds present in the press liquor, revealed by turbidity 37 measurements, was observed. This aggregation resulted in an increase of the particulate 38 39 fraction, at the expense of the colloidal one. This aggregation seemed to trap naringin, that progressively appeared in the particulate fraction, although that no evolution of narirutin 40 location was observed. The tendency to sediment of the formed aggregates was evaluated, by 41 a Turbiscan® optical analyser, in the objective of their future isolation. The stability study of 42 the press liquor over time showed that this suspension was physically stable; the 43 aggregates/flocs were not able to settle at room temperature, certainly because of interparticle 44 repulsion or other raisons as low floc density, porous floc structure... 45

46

47 Keywords

48 Naringin, Narirutin, Dispersion state, Grapefruit peel, Physical stability, Press liquor

50 **1. Introduction**

Processing operations of Citrus (orange, mandarin/tangerine, lemon/lime and grapefruit), one 51 of the largest cultivated fruit crops in tropical and subtropical regions (USDA, 2018), produce 52 53 significant wastes, as peels, pulp and seeds. These transformation coproducts have already shown numerous potential applications in foods (Galanakis, 2018; Galanakis et al., 2018a, 54 2018b; Goliomytis et al., 2015; Hu et al., 2020; Teng et al., 2018), cosmetics (Galanakis et al., 55 56 2018c, 2018d; Simitzis, 2018) and health (Chen et al., 2016; Cirillo et al., 2016). Thus, recovery of high added-value components (i.e. flavonoids, carotenoids, insoluble fibres, 57 pectin...) from food wastes have attracted the scientific community; further conventional and 58 59 new emerging technologies are proposed and described in some literature reviews (Deng et al., 2015; Galanakis, 2013, 2012; M'hiri et al., 2014). Concerning flavonoids extraction, due 60 to their hydrophobic nature, the conventional extraction is mainly based on the use of organic 61 solvents resulting in a negative impact on the environment (Lachos-Perez et al., 2018). In 62 consequence, green and sustainable technologies such as supercritical fluids, pressurized hot 63 64 water, pulsed electric field, enzyme-, ultrasound- and microwave-assisted extraction have emerged (Barba et al., 2015; Garcia-Castello et al., 2015; Giannuzzo et al., 2003; Li et al., 65 2006; Nayak et al., 2015; Plaza and Turner, 2015). 66

If Citrus peels are a source of potentially valuable bioactive compounds, as polyphenolic compounds (i.e. flavonoids), the recovery of flavonoids from peel is still limited by the absence of cost-effective and simple processes, more especially useful in developing countries, the main producers of Citrus (Putnik et al., 2017). Accordingly, it could be relevant to propose robust and easy to implement processes to facilitate the development of waste processing chain.

In a previous study (Zarate Vilet et al., 2020), it was demonstrated that filtration-compressionis of high interest as a preliminary step for the recovery of flavonoids from grapefruit peels.

This solid/liquid separation allowed to isolate a liquid phase (i.e. press liquor) containing the 75 76 target flavonoids and other compounds released by the disrupted plant tissue (e.g. sugars, remaining oils, proteins, pectin, cellulose, hemicellulose,...) (Baker and Cameron, 1999). 77 78 These compounds can be present in a solubilised form, e.g. sugars (present in high quantity) and electrolytes (essentially mineral salts), or in a dispersed one (colloids or particles). Due to 79 Brownian movements and/or agitation, dispersed compounds can get in contact, and interact 80 giving rise to new colloidal complexes (e.g. protein-pectin complexes, lycopene-pectin,...) 81 with different properties than the original compounds (Le Bourvellec and Renard, 2012). 82 Concerning some flavonoids (e.g. naringin from grapefruit peel), their low water solubility at 83 84 room temperature seems to indicate that only a small part should be in a soluble form in the press liquor; a great part of this type of flavonoids could be present either in a crystalline form 85 or complexed with other compounds present in the liquid (Galanakis, 2015). Mizrahi and 86 87 Berk, 1970 observed that hesperidin crystals were formed immediately after orange juice extraction. In another study, Ben-Shalom et al., 1985, by identifying pectin-hesperidin 88 89 colloidal complexes in orange juice, concluded that pectin molecules served as nucleation site 90 for hesperidin. In the same way, (Nagarajan 2019) describe the formation of colloidal complex between lycopene and pectin, favourable to a water extraction of lycopene. Proteins 91 can also interact with flavonoids and/or pectin in a reversible way contributing to form 92 complex aggregates (Shomer, 1991). The formation of such aggregates is usually detected by 93 simple methods such as turbidimetry, nephelometry, or dynamic light scattering (Le 94 Bourvellec and Renard, 2012; Shomer, 1991). 95

As it is developed above, if interactions between solutes, macromolecules and colloids, in fruit juices or peel extracts have been identified by various authors, to date, little information is available on the physical state of flavonoids in regards to the technologies to be implemented for their extraction and concentration. Indeed, depending on the dispersion state and physical-characterisation (size, density...) of these flavonoids, the type of process
(sedimentation, centrifugation, membrane separation, adsorption...) for the final isolation will
be different.

103 In the case of a downstream processing based on a filtration-compression stage, in order to 104 separate and concentrate flavonoids from the rest of the press liquor compounds, more 105 information about their dispersion state within this press liquor is required. The investigation 106 of the ability of flavonoids to interact with certain compounds is also essential to choose the 107 relevant following extraction/isolation process.

In this context, the aim of this work was to describe the dispersion state of flavonoids (naringin and narirutin) in the press liquor obtained after filtration-compression of fresh citrus (grapefruit) peels. An original methodology for the quantification of the dispersion, based on a size fractionation, and its evolution over time was proposed. The physical stability of this dispersion was also studied through Turbiscan (B) analyses.

114 **2.** Materials and Methods

115 2.1. Grapefruit peels supply and storage

Grapefruits (*Citrus paradisi*, Star ruby variety from Spain, provided by Terreazur, Saint-Jeande-Védas, France) were first bleached. Juice extraction was conducted using an electric juice extractor (ZX7000, Krups). Flavedo was manually removed from peel, as it can be valorised through the extraction of essential oils (Zema et al., 2018). Peels, consisting only of albedo and pulp rests (core, juice sacs and segment rests), were finally cut into small pieces (around 10 x 10 mm) and stored at -20°C.

122 2.2. Grinding and filtration-compression stages

123 2.2.1. Grinding stage

Peels were defrosted and grinded into a slurry by means of a hand blender (Moulinex DD873D10 Infiny Force ultimate, France) for 1.5 minutes at 1 kW (corresponding to $9.10^5 \text{ J} \cdot \text{kg}^{-1}$ of fresh peel). Prior to filtration-compression, a pectinolytic enzymatic treatment, causing a cell wall degradation resulting in a better slurry filterability and a larger release of flavonoids (Zarate Vilet et al., 2020), was proposed. The enzymes and the optimal operating conditions (mass, temperature, time) were provided by Soufflet Biotechnology®.

130 2.2.2. Filtration-compression stage

The mechanical separation of the press liquor from the slurry was performed on a 0.60 L 131 volume pressurized filtration-compression cell of 70 mm of internal diameter (Figure 1); a 132 cotton cellulose membrane of 6 µm average pore size (Whatman, Maidstone, UK) was used to 133 ensure the solid/liquid separation. 40 mL of slurry was poured into the cell and compressed at 134 an optimal transmembrane pressure of 5 bar by a pneumatically driven-piston dragged by N₂. 135 Filtration-compression was systematically stopped after the recovery of 25 mL of press 136 liquor; in this volume, obtained in a few minutes, 80% and 90% of naringin and narirutin 137 found in the filtrate at the end of the filtration were already present (Zarate Vilet et al., 2020) 138

139 *2.2.3. Characterisation of the press liquor*

Flavonoids (naringin and narirutin) content was measured in the press liquor. In addition, the press liquor was characterised through conventional physico-chemical parameters, as pH, dry matter content, °Brix. These conventional characterizations were completed by less conventional characterizations (turbidity, particle size distribution, physical stability), evaluated with an objective to broadly characterise the solids dispersion state in the press liquor.

146 Towards identifying with more accuracy this dispersion state, a size fractionation of the press147 liquor was also proposed.

148 2.2.3.1. Flavonoids quantification

Naringin and narirutin content was quantified by HPLC. Firstly, a solvent extraction of the 149 flavonoids from samples was performed based on a modified method by (Mouly et al., 1993). 150 151 This allowed the quantification of all flavonoids in the sample regardless of its physical state (soluble, crystallized or bounded). An aliquot of 500 µl of press liquor was mixed with 5 ml 152 153 of dimethylformamide (DMF) and 5 ml of ammonium oxalate (0.05 M) and heated at 90°C for 10 minutes. Then, samples were cooled and adjusted with distilled water to be within 154 calibration curve. Finally, solutions were filtered through 0.45 µm cellulose acetate syringe 155 filters (Whatman, Maidstone, UK) before injection. Quantification was performed on an 156 Agilent 1200 series HPLC system equipped with a diode array detector DAD and a C18 157 column (Uptisphere HDO 5 μ m, 250 mm × 4.6 mm, Interchim, Montluçon, France). The 158 mobile phase was constituted by an isocratic solvent system composed of solvent A 159 (water/acetic acid, 99/1, v/v), solvent B (acetonitrile) and solvent C (tetrahydrofuran) - A/B/C 160 80/16/4, v/v/v. Column was heated at 25°C and the flow was set at 1 mL/min. UV detector 161 was set at 280 nm and a sample aliquot of 20 µL was injected. 162

165 2.2.3.2. Conventional physico-chemical characterisation

pH was measured with an automatic Titroline apparatus (Schott Schweiz AG, St. Gallen,
Switzerland). Dry matter (DM) content was determined according to a modified method of
the AOAC (AOAC, 1990); samples contained in aluminium dishes were dried at 70°C for 48
h in a vacuum oven (Heraeus RVT 360, Hanau, Germany). °Brix were evaluated by digital
refractometry (Pocket PAL-1, 0-53% Brix, ATAGO®, Japan) to obtain an indirect
measurement of dissolved solids (essentially sugars for fruit extracts).

172 2.2.3.3. Solids and flavonoids dispersion state characterisation

Turbidity was evaluated to provide information on the presence of dispersed solids (e.g. colloids and other insoluble compounds) and on the aggregation phenomena in the press liquor. Turbidity measurement, expressed in nephelometric turbidity units (NTU), was done at 90° light scattering and 890 nm (LP 2000 Turbidimeter, Hanna instruments, Hungry). All measures were performed at 25°C and the apparatus was previously calibrated with three formazine standard solutions at 0, 10 and 500 NTU. Samples were diluted at 1/10 to fall in the turbidimeter range.

The size distribution of dispersed particles present in the press liquor was studied by laser 180 diffraction. Measurements were performed by a Mastersizer 3000 (Malvern Instruments 181 Limited, UK) equipped with a HydroMV® cell. This particle size analyser can provide 182 theoretical particle size distribution from 10 nm to 3500 µm. Refractive indices of 1.73 and 183 1.33 were respectively used for cloud particles and dispersion phase; 0.1 was used as the 184 absorption index of cloud particles (Dahdouh et al., 2018). Samples were pumped into the 185 optical cell until 40% of obscuration. The absence of modifications in the particle size 186 distribution due to stirring and pumping was verified. 187

The physical stability of the press liquor was characterized by a Turbiscan® TOWER 188 (Formulation, France). Based on the multiple light scattering principle, this analysis allowed 189 an accurate detection of the main aggregation and destabilization phenomena affecting the 190 191 homogeneity of the suspension without physico-chemical disturb and dilution (Mengual et al., 1999). A sample of 10 ml was poured into a glass tube and kept inside the analysis cell for a 192 given time (48 hours) and temperature (10 and 25°C). Inside this cell, a near infrared light (λ 193 = 880 nm) was emitted and backscattered by particles. Destabilization phenomena were 194 related with changes in the percentage of the backscattered light along the static tube over 195 time (1 measure per 0.02 mm and per minute). 196

197 2.2.3.4. Press liquor fractionation

Press liquor was successively fractionated with an Amicon[®] filtration cell (model 8050, Millipore Corporation, U.S.A.) on polyethersulfone (PES) membranes of 0.8 and 0.1 μ m (Supor, Pall Corporation, USA). This methodology allowed to separate the press liquor compounds in three fractions: (i) *particle fraction* (particles > 0.8 μ m), (ii) *large-colloidal fraction* (particles between 0.1 and 0.8 μ m) and (iii) *small-colloidal and soluble fraction* (particles < 0.1 μ m).

The evolution over 24 h of these different fractions was based on the same fractionation methodology, as the press liquor was stored at 25 °C under continuous rotational mixing (10 mL, 20 rpm).

207

208 **3. Results**

- 209 3.1. Press liquor characterisation
- 210 *3.1.1. Physico-chemical characteristics and flavonoids content*

The physico-chemical characteristics of the press liquor obtained immediately after filtrationcompression are presented in Table 1. The pH of the filtrate (3.4 ± 0.2) is close to that of grapefruit juice (Rouquié et al., 2019) as similar components (i.e. pulp residues and juice bags) are found in both suspensions. The press liquor Brix degree was equal to 7° Brix; this
value, representing dissolved solids (essentially sugars for fruit extracts), was very closed to
the dry matter, representing the totality of solids, and equal to 7.4 g of dry matter per 100 g of
press liquor. Consequently, the press liquor dry matter was mainly constituted of soluble
compounds, as it is usually observed in fruit juices.

Press liquor naringin and narirutin content, expressed in g/litre, are given in Table 1. Around
85% (corresponding to 4.5 g/100 g peel dry matter) of the flavonoids present in the initial
slurry were recovered in the total press liquor (Zarate Vilet et al., 2020).

Naringin and narirutin contents in the press liquor were in accordance with literature data for grapefruit albedo, with naringin content approximately 10 times higher than narirutin content (Jourdan et al., 1983; Nogata et al., 2006). Other authors (Garcia-Castello et al., 2015; Victor et al., 2018) found similar naringin concentrations using hot methanol extraction (4.1 g/100 g peel dry matter) and ultrasound-assisted extraction (3.6 g/100 g peel dry matter), which confirmed the good efficiency of the filtration-compression stage in terms of flavonoids extraction.

229 Naringin and narirutin contents were compared with their respective solubility limit. Considering the low concentration in narirutin (0.4 g/L) and its relatively high solubility in 230 water (3 g/L at 20°C, "VCCLAB, Virtual Computational Chemistry Laboratory," 2005), it 231 could be supposed that this compound was entirely on solubilised form in the press liquor. 232 Concerning naringin, considering its low water solubility (0.5 g/L at 20°C, Pulley, 1936) and 233 its high concentration in the press liquor (8.2 times higher), it could be envisaged that a great 234 part of naringin was in an insoluble form in this liquor. To confirm this initial hypothesis, the 235 value of the naringin solubility was experimentally verified at 25°C; naringin solubility was 236 237 measured not only in water but also in aqueous sugar solution of 7°Brix, corresponding to the ^oBrix of the press liquor. The experimental data, presented in Table 2, confirmed the poor 238

solubility of naringin. The presence of sugar tended to decrease this solubility, which
supported the hypothesis that naringin could be found on crystallized forms, complexed to
colloids or tissue fragments or auto-associated (Le Bourvellec and Renard, 2012).

242 *3.1.2. Characterisation of solids and flavonoids dispersion state*

243 *3.1.2.1 Press liquor particle size distribution and turbidity*

Figure 2 presents the dispersed particle size distribution (in volume density, ranged from 0.01 244 to 3500 μ m) of the press liquor obtained immediately after filtration-compression (t = 0). This 245 246 distribution revealed a trimodal volumetric size distribution consisting of an important colloidal population of particles ($< 1 \mu m$) and a bimodal particulate population with average 247 248 diameters around 5 and 20 µm. The presence of this latter population, higher than the pore filter size (around 6 µm), could be explained by the soft character of pulp particles that could 249 so be deformed and pass through the filter. Rapid floc formation or colloidal particles 250 aggregation could also explain the presence of such size-class of particles (Genovese et al., 251 2007). 252

253 The presence of colloidal and particles in the press liquor was also identified through turbidity measurements (Table 1); indeed, their presence could possibly contribute to the cloudiness of 254 the suspension (Beveridge, 2002; Jethra, 1993). A relatively high turbidity (tap water turbidity 255 256 is lower to 1 NTU (WHO, 2017) of 1481 NTU was measured in the press liquor. According to the particle size distribution, this high turbidity could be attributed to the presence of colloids 257 or particles, despite their low mass fraction. As literature states, the turbidity of citrus juices 258 known as "cloud" is the result of fine particles (Mizrahi and Berk, 1970) containing 259 polysaccharides (mainly pectin), protein, lipids and flavonoids (Beveridge, 2002). 260

261 *3.1.2.2 Size fractioning and flavonoids distribution*

In order to obtain a more in-depth information on the presence of colloids and particles andthe location of the flavonoids, a fractionation of the press liquor was proposed. Although a

fractionation of various polyphenolics compounds by membrane filtration is described in literature (Galanakis et al., 2013), the fractioning of the press liquor is a relatively original approach to identify of naringin and narirutin dispersion state in this press liquor,

Three fractions were identified: (i) a *particulate fraction*, containing particles higher to 0.8 μ m, (ii) *large-colloidal fraction*, with colloids between 0.1 and 0.8 μ m and (iii) *small-colloidal and soluble fraction*, regrouping the smallest colloids, lower to 0.1 μ m, and the solutes.

Table 3 presents the repartition of the total flavonoids (in % of the total flavonoids content)and turbidity in each of this fraction.

The results showed that 94% of narirutin were in the small-colloids/soluble fraction. Only 4%
of the narirutin were in the large colloidal fraction and 2% in the particulate fraction, sorbed
or complexed with other compounds.

Concerning naringin, as for narirutin, the main part (86%) was located in the smallcolloids/soluble fraction. Considering the low naringin water solubility, a great part of naringin, could be on an insoluble form in this fraction. The remaining part is distributed in the particulate (9%) and the large-colloidal fraction (5%). The part of naringin on smallcolloidal form could be estimated from the solubility experimentally measured: according to the obtained values, 2% of naringin would be on solubilised form although the remaining (84%) would be on small-colloidal form.

The turbidity of the particulate fraction (around 1346 NTU) appeared to be higher to the one of the other fractions (Table 3): this turbidity was 7 and 100 times higher than the largecolloids and small colloids /solutes one respectively. Thus, the particles higher to 0.8 µm and present in a large amount (in terms of volume density of the total dispersed compounds, see Figure 2) provided a great part of the turbidity of the press liquor. The large-colloidal fraction (identified on Figure 2) generating a significant turbidity (around 200 NTU), could be attributed to the enzymatic action. The degradation of pectin by pectinases could reduce the electrostatic repulsion of protein-pectin complex (negatively charged pectin layer around positively charged proteins) and promote the aggregation between pectin fragments, proteins and probably some flavonoids (Sorrivas et al., 2006). In addition, this turbidity could also be the result of other compounds interaction (pectinlycopene) (Nagarajan et al., 2019).

If these results refined the characterisation of the press liquor, the relation between the solids dispersion and the flavonoids location was not easy to identify, due to the great presence of these flavonoids on small-colloidal and solubilised forms; indeed, this class of particle doesn't generate turbidity (see Table 3).

In the second time, it was proposed to study the potential evolution of the solids and flavonoids dispersion during time. Indeed, given the heterogeneity and the complex composition of the press liquor, it was supposed that its characteristics could change over time. In consequence, the evolution of the turbidity and flavonoids location in the press liquor were studied over a period of 24 h at 25°C. The dispersed particle size distribution after these 24 h was also measured.

305 *3.2. Characterisation of the press liquor and fractions over time*

306

307 *3.2.1.* Press liquor particle size distribution and turbidity after 24 h

The particle size distribution of the press liquor maintained 24 hours at 25°C under rotational agitation is presented in Figure 2. A sort of homogenisation of the size distribution could be observed with a predominant presence of particles around 5 μ m. A great part of the submicrometric compounds has globally disappeared, certainly to agglomerate themselves and form the 5 μ m- particles. The initial turbidity, around 1481 ± 233 NTU (Table 1), was multiplied by the factor three and reached a value of 4144 ± 180 NTU (Figure 3). These results seemed in accordance with the size distribution change since some authors have noted that particles between 0.5 and $10 \mu m$ conferred the great part of the cloud of citrus suspensions (Beveridge, 2002). What is more, the turbidity of citrus suspensions being the result of heterogeneous particles (e.g. pectin, proteins, oils and flavonoid crystals) dispersed in a liquid medium, any change in the composition or structure of these heterogeneous particles could result in a change in turbidity.

Therefore, these results demonstrated that, on mixing and at 25°C, changes in the structure of the dispersed (i.e. colloidal or particular) compounds of the press liquor occurred; these changes could potentially modify the flavonoids dispersion state in the press liquor.

323 *3.2.2. Turbidity and flavonoids distribution over time*

The evolution over time of the turbidity in the three fractions defined above is presented Figure 3.

It can be noticed that, the particulate fraction of the press liquor still generated the greatest part of turbidity. The turbidity of this fraction increased all along the 24 h until a final value of 4144 NTU; during the first 5 hours, the turbidity increased substantially from 1346 to 3576 NTU. The contribution of the two other fractions on turbidity remained at a low level. Progressively, the turbidity of the small-colloids and solutes became insignificant (from approximately 10 NTU to 0 NTU), although the one of the large colloids decreased over time (from approximately 200 NTU to 60 NTU).

These observations could be the result of simultaneous phenomena, including an aggregation between pectin, proteins and flavonoids, potentially promoted by the contact between these compounds under continuous agitation (Bordenave et al., 2014; Le Bourvellec and Renard, 2012; Whitaker, 1984). Thus, this type of aggregation could explain the progressive disappearance of small colloids, reinforcing the presence of particles, as it could be visualisedon the size distribution curves (Figure 2).

The evolution over time of naringin and narirutin concentration within the different fractions was quantified and presented on figure 4. As previously discussed, naringin and narirutin were initially mainly present in the small-colloidal/soluble fraction. However, their behaviour during time differed significantly.

Narirutin dispersion state remained relatively stable over time with the same concentration in the different fractions over the studied period. Thus, around 94% of narirutin remained on soluble form or linked to small-colloids; the relatively low concentration of narirutin in the press liquor and its relatively high solubility could indicate that a great part of this 94% corresponded to solubilised narirutin. A small part of narirutin (around 6%) seemed associated to large-colloids or particles.

349 Naringin dispersion state evolved over time. In the 5 first hours, a significant decrease of naringin content in the small-colloidal/soluble fraction (from 86% to 46% of the total content) 350 was observed for the benefit of an increase of the content in the particulate fraction (from 351 10% to 49% of the total content). This change of naringin location subsisted the following 352 hours of the experiment, resulting in the presence, after 24 h, of 62% of the naringin in the 353 particulate fraction and 34 % in the small-colloidal/soluble one. No change of flavonoids 354 content was observed in the large-colloidal fraction where between 4 and 5 % of the 355 356 flavonoids were present. According to this last result, it could be supposed that naringin moved directly from small-colloidal form to particulate form; naringin seemed to have a great 357 affinity with compounds present in particulate fraction, favoring its sorption or complexation 358 359 with particles.

The joint analysis of turbidity and naringin evolution over time demonstrated that the increase 360 361 of naringin in the particulate fraction seemed simultaneous to the increase of the turbidity of this fraction. Figure 5 represents the evolution of naringin concentration as a function of the 362 turbidity in the particulate fraction over the 24-hour period. A quasi-linear relation was 363 observed between the turbidity and naringin concentration. Although the standard deviations 364 amplitude did not allow us to identify a particular evolution model, a correlation seemed 365 effective between these two parameters. If turbidity changes in the press liquor could be the 366 consequence of some compound's crystallization and/or aggregation, it seemed evident that 367 these phenomena involved naringin; the formed aggregates or crystals promoted the transition 368 of naringin from small-colloidal to particulate fraction. Several authors have already 369 described the interaction between flavonoids and macromolecules present in citrus fruits, 370 particularly pectin, one of the most abundant polysaccharides of the albedo. Interactions 371 372 between pectin and flavonoids was demonstrated by (Le Bourvellec and Renard, 2012) and (Ben-Shalom et al., 1985) reported that pectin fragments should serve as a nucleation site for 373 374 naringin to form physically stable particles.

In brief, over time, aggregation between some compounds, including naringin, occurred in the 375 press liquor, shifting naringin from small-colloidal form to particulate one. This change in the 376 377 naringin location could be on great interest, since this location could orientate the choice of the following extraction/isolation process. For instance, on particle form, naringin could be 378 separated from the liquid phase by a simple sedimentation. However, this possibility depends 379 on the stability character of the dispersed forms, notably without stirring. With the objective 380 to study this stability, Turbiscan® experiments, allowing fast and sensitive identification of 381 382 destabilization mechanisms (such as creaming, sedimentation, flocculation, coalescence...), were carried out. 383

384 *3.3.Physical stability of the press liquor*

Figure 6 presents the % of backscattering along the tube height, all along the experimental time (48 h). According to the principle of the turbiscan ® technology, this backscattering is directly correlated to the turbidity of the sample.

At 25°C (figure 6.a), a constant backscattering signal throughout the tube, i.e. a homogeneous 388 turbidity in the sample, was initially observed. Over time, turbidity increased gradually in the 389 tube, corroborating the aggregation of particles. However, the turbidity remained relatively 390 constant all along the tube height, indicating a relatively stable character of the press liquor. 391 After 48 hours, a slight difference in % backscattering between the bottom and the surface of 392 the tube was observed, indicating a slight settling of the greater aggregates. It was also noticed 393 a slight creaming at the tube surface probably due to the flotation of the less dense particle, 394 e.g. oil globules. 395

Turbiscan® experiments were carried out also at 10 °C with the objective to verify if this 396 397 stability could be modified by a lower temperature. At this temperature, turbidity of the press liquor evolved during time along the tube, with a net increase of the turbidity at the bottom of 398 399 the tube. This gradually turbidity increase all along the tube, from the surface to the bottom, is 400 characteristic of the settling behaviour of flocculated suspension. This observation could be coherent with an aggregates/flocs size increase, resulting from some attractive electrostatic 401 interactions (Benitez et al., 2007; Pinelo et al., 2010); above a certain size, aggregates/flocs 402 could no longer be maintained in suspension by Brownian movements and could settle 403 (Siebert, 2009). In flocculated suspension, the particles interfere each other and the velocity 404 gradient of each particle is affected by the close presence of other particles, it is question of 405 406 hindered settling (Major, 1978).

These results showed that, at 10°C, the stability was lowest than the one observed at 25°C, which allowed a hindered settling of the aggregates. Various physico-chemical phenomena are impacted by a decrease of the temperature. Among these phenomena, it can be noted (i) the decrease of thermal motion, limiting the diffusion and the aggregation, (ii) the increase in viscosity, (iii) the solubility decrease of some compounds. It is obvious that the first two phenomena could not explain the amplification of the sedimentation à 10°C. The increase of insoluble compounds and/or the generation of different aggregates could explicate the settling improvement; particles with different settling properties (e.g. density, size, structure...) could more interfere, favouring a hindered-type settling.

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- 417

418 **4.** Conclusion

In grapefruit peels, naringin and narirutin, flavonoids with a wide spectrum of beneficial 419 effects on health, are present in quite great quantity and could be recovered from the peel by a 420 first filtration-compression as downstream process. The recovered liquid phase obtained after 421 422 a filtration-compression of grinded peel is a complex mixture containing also polysaccharides, proteins, cellular fragments and organelles.... The properties of flavonoids are such that they 423 424 could be found in the press liquor on different forms, i.e. linked with some particles and/or 425 colloids or free in the suspension. The objective of this work was to study the dispersion state of naringin and narirutin in the press liquor, and notably to identify their presence in the 426 different press liquor compartments (particulate, colloidal and soluble fractions). The 427 evolution of this location over time was also studied, in order to orientate the choice of the 428 429 subsequent extraction step.

Narirutin, less present in the press liquor than naringin, was mainly found on soluble form. No evolution of this location was observed during time. Naringin was found in the press liquor with higher concentration than its solubility limit. In the press liquor, naringin was initially essentially found free or linked to some small colloids. During time, an aggregation of the compounds present in the press liquor, revealed by turbidity measurements, was observed. This aggregation resulted in an increase of the particulate fraction, at the expense of the colloidal ones. This aggregation seemed to trap naringin, that progressively appeared in the particulate fraction.

The stability study of the press liquor over time showed that this suspension was physically stable; the aggregates/flocs were not able to settle at room temperature, certainly because of interparticle repulsion or other raisons as low floc density, porous floc structure...

441 If flocculation is a process that is widely used in industrial applications in order to facilitate the separation of particle by physical methods (e.g. filtration, sedimentation...), the natural 442 flocculation observed in the press liquor seemed to not generate flocs easily settleable. In this 443 case, with an objective to isolate naringin on particulate form, some other post-treatment 444 could be proposed (e.g. addition of destabilizing agent, addition of thickening agent, 445 446 temperature change...) to destabilise the press liquor, so that repulsion between aggregates could be reduced, or to modify the floc structure. Further investigations will be proposed in 447 448 this sense.

449

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458 **Declaration of interest**

459 The authors report no declarations of interest.

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Figure 2. Particle size distribution at t = 0 h and t = 24 h of the press liquor













Figure 5. Naringin evolution as a function of turbidity in the particulate fraction



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 Table 1

 Physico- and biochemical characteristics of the press liquor

Physicochemical	рН	3.4 ± 0.2
characteristics	Dry matter g/100 g press liquor	7.4 ± 0.1
	° Brix g sucrose/100 g press liquor	7.0 ± 0.5
	Turbidity NTU	1481 ± 223
Biochemical characteristics	Narirutin g/L press liquor	0.40 ± 0.02
	Naringin g/L press liquor	4.1 ± 0.6

691 Table	2.	Naringin
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692	(<10 kDa fraction)		Water	7 °Brix water
~~~		Naringin (g/L)	$0.11 \pm 0.01$	$0.07 \pm 0.01$
693	-			

	Soluble/ small colloidal fraction < 0.1 μm	Large colloidal fraction 0.1 – 0.8 µm	Particulate Fraction > 0.8 μm
Narirutin (%)	$93.6 \pm 2.0$	$3.6 \pm 0.7$	$2.5 \pm 2.0$
Naringin (%)	$86.3 \pm 1.6$	$5.2 \pm 1.4$	$9.6 \pm 2.1$
8 - Turbidity (NTU)	13 ± 3	191 ± 80	$1346 \pm 261$

**697** Table 3. Flavonoids dispersion state in the press liquor (initial time, t = 0 h)