




## Perspective and potential of grape co-products for aquaculture

Cybele Pinheiro Guimarães<sup>1</sup> , Marcelo Borges Tesser<sup>1\*</sup> 

<sup>1</sup>Universidade Federal do Rio Grande  – Instituto de Oceanografia, Laboratório de Nutrição de Organismos Aquáticos – Rio Grande (RS), Brazil.

\*Corresponding author: mbtesser@gmail.com

### ABSTRACT

The growing demand for aquaculture feed, combined with environmental concerns, has driven the search for sustainable alternatives to conventional feed ingredients. Grape by-products, such as pomace, stalks, seeds, and skin, have great potential because of their nutritional properties, including high concentrations of dietary fiber, proteins, lipids, vitamins, and bioactive compounds, such as polyphenols. The compounds present in these by-products have bioactive properties that can benefit the health of aquatic organisms. Despite the significant discharge of these by-products into the environment, their inclusion in fish and shrimp diets can improve zootechnical parameters such as growth performance, health, and meat quality, while contributing to the sustainability of aquaculture, reducing waste, and promoting a more efficient production cycle. This article aimed to explore the applicability of viticulture by-products in aquaculture, highlighting the beneficial effects of the bioactive compounds present in these by-products and discussing their potential for use in aquaculture production.

**Keywords:** Viticulture; Co-products; Applications; Aquaculture.

### Perspectiva e potencial dos coprodutos da uva para aquicultura

### RESUMO

A crescente demanda por rações na aquicultura, associada às preocupações ambientais, tem impulsionado a busca por alternativas sustentáveis para ingredientes convencionais. Os coprodutos oriundos da uva, como o bagaço, engaço, sementes e cascas, apresentam grande potencial por causa das suas propriedades nutricionais, como a alta concentração de fibras alimentares, proteínas, lipídios, vitaminas e compostos bioativos, como os polifenóis. Tais compostos presentes nesses coprodutos possuem propriedades bioativas que podem beneficiar a saúde dos organismos aquáticos. Apesar do descarte significativo desses coprodutos no meio ambiente, sua inclusão na dieta de peixes e camarões pode melhorar parâmetros zootécnicos, como o desempenho de crescimento, a sanidade e a qualidade da carne, ao mesmo tempo que contribui para a sustentabilidade da aquicultura, reduzindo desperdícios e promovendo um ciclo produtivo mais eficiente. Este artigo visou explorar a aplicabilidade dos coprodutos da viticultura na aquicultura, destacando os efeitos benéficos dos compostos bioativos presentes nesses coprodutos e discutindo as potencialidades de sua utilização na produção aquícola.

**Palavras-chave:** Viticultura; Coprodutos; Aplicação; Aquicultura.

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## INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the food industry has experienced advancements driven by technological innovations in healthy and sustainable foods, ensuring a wide diversification of products that serve varied commercial interests, as well as improvements in processing, production, and distribution (Chakka et al., 2021), including the fruit sector, which has also followed this trend.

Fruit production is an important part of world agriculture (Nirmal et al., 2023) as it is dedicated to the production of fresh and processed products (Ding et al., 2023; Yadav et al., 2023). According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, 2021), global fruit production in 2021 reached 1.3 billion tons. In this scenario of growth in fruit production, processing fresh fruits into processed products for sale is essential because of their perishability (Davis et al., 2021).

However, during the production chain, losses are between 30 and 40% of the total volume of fruits (Viswanath et al., 2018; Villacís-Chiriboga et al., 2020). These losses are due to improper handling, poor infrastructure, and lack of technology for reusing the waste generated (Yadav et al., 2023). According to Pereira et al. (2022), 50% of the waste produced during the production chain of the Brazilian fruit agroindustry is discharged, and only 1% of this waste produced is reused. This situation results in economic, environmental, and social losses.

The waste produced during the processing stage is designated as a by-product or co-product (Zacharof, 2017; Rodríguez-Ramos et al., 2022). Compared to other food processing sectors, the fruit industry generates co-products such as seeds, stalks, pits, pulps, pomace, foliage, and solid and liquid parts (Nirmal et al., 2023; Teshome et al., 2023).

The large-scale improper disposal of these co-products entails a number of problems, including unpleasant odors, increased carbon dioxide emissions, visual pollution, and soil and groundwater contamination (Pereira et al., 2022; Plakantonaki et al., 2023). To ensure proper use of these co-products, it is essential to adopt preliminary measures aimed at successful integrated recovery (Plakantonaki et al., 2023).

The reuse of this organic matter in an integrated manner could contribute positively to obtaining secondary value-added products, to a sustainable circular economy (Campos et al., 2020; Pereira et al., 2022; Plakantonaki et al., 2023). The circular economy is premised on minimizing waste, preserving the value of resources, maintaining closed production cycles, and decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation by transforming co-products into reused resources (Cosenza et al., 2020; Villacís-Chiriboga et al., 2020; Zhu et al., 2023).

Despite these challenges, co-products are a valuable source of bioactive compounds of broad interest to the industry (Sánchez-Peña et al., 2018) and are currently suggested as substitutes for synthetic nutraceuticals (Fabjanowicz et al., 2024), due to their potential for application in medicines with antibacterial and antifungal properties (Onivogui et al., 2016; Cruz et al., 2019; Hassan et al., 2019).

Because of these possibilities, research is being conducted to explore the use of these co-products and their viability as a source of animal nutrition, while investigating their adverse effects (Huang et al., 2018; Peng et al., 2021, 2022b; Rosas et al., 2022), with the aim of directing and applying these co-products to other agricultural production chains.

Among animal production systems, aquaculture has the highest growth rate due to the technological level employed in the production process and the intensification of production systems (FAO, 2022). In this sense, the nutrition of aquatic organisms is a key factor in the success of the activity. However, there is still a problem with the commodities used in the production of feed industries, including fish meal and fish oil, which are the most expensive items (Câmara et al., 2020). In addition, commodities such as soybeans have been pointed out to generate problems related to increased deforestation, as well as an increased carbon footprint (Escobar et al., 2020).

Production changes for aquatic organisms must be sustainable to relieve the pressure of overfishing and reduce the cost of feed with alternative ingredients available on the market, mainly from the fruit industry, which has beneficial properties. Although fruit co-products may have their own uses and value, they are generally not direct substitutes for commodities in feed production, as each commodity has unique properties and specific applications in feed formulations for organisms. Therefore, despite their properties, fruit co-products cannot necessarily meet all the needs or functions of other plant commodities such as soybeans, wheat, and corn. However, they can contribute significantly to the improvement of the immune and antioxidant system of animals in production (Hassan et al., 2019; Baldissera et al., 2019a; Harikrishnan et al., 2021).

Supplementation and/or inclusion of plant-based co-products in animal diets can improve growth, health, and immunity (Chakka et al., 2021; Rosas et al., 2022; Molosse et al., 2023). They can also help improve the nutritional quality of end-consumers (Sławińska & Olas, 2023). However, the results vary according to the species to be studied, rearing system, and amount included in the diet. Therefore, further investigation is needed to understand its effects in different contexts during animal production.

The intensive production of aquatic organisms can provide a stressful environment for animals, which can consequently affect their health and zootechnical parameters (FAO, 2022). To avoid loss in production and, consequently, commercial unviability, it is necessary to apply promising alternatives, such as nutritious and safe foods, thus ensuring animal welfare and food safety for the consumer.

The inclusion of bioactive compounds in the diets of aquaculture organisms is a promising alternative (Dawood & Koshio, 2019) because of the benefits of the physiological, metabolic, and immunological activities of animals (Morante et al., 2021). To this end, plant-based co-products must be processed and included as food sources for animal nutrition (Leal, 2018).

This review presents an overview of the various reported applications of grape by-products in aquaculture. The main bioactive phenolic compounds that have been reported in recent years are listed. In addition, we discuss the use of grape by-products in the aquaculture sector, their applications, and promising effects.

## VITICULTURE

Viticulture is a branch of agriculture dedicated to the cultivation of grapes, mainly for wine production. This type of production is disseminated across several regions worldwide. According to data obtained from the FAO (FAOSTAT, 2025), China led the production, contributing with 29,009,441,73 tons of the global total between 2022 and 2023, followed by Italy, accounting for 15,106,800 tons, while Spain reached 10,724,800 tons. Brazil ranks 13<sup>th</sup> position, with 3,208,629 tons (FAOSTAT, 2025).

Grape (*Vitis vinifera*) is widely recognized as the predominant species in global wine production, accounting for approximately 50% of wine production (International Organization of Vine and Wine, 2022). Belonging to the Vitaceae family, originally from

the Mediterranean and Central Asia, this variety is extensively cultivated in various wine regions due to its remarkable adaptation to a wide range of climatic conditions and soil types (Reynolds et al., 2017; Khan et al., 2020).

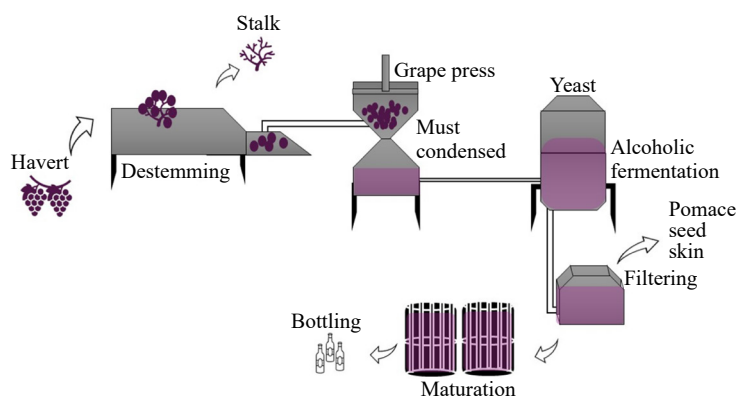
The production of wine during its production chain generates several co-products, such as foliage, stems, pomace, bark, seeds, liquid parts that contain lees, and vinasse. It is worth noting that, for each liter of wine produced, approximately 4 and 14 kg of stems and pomace are generated, respectively, and with the constitution of the pomace, the skins have 40–45% and seeds have 20–25% (Spinei & Oroian, 2021).

With the continuous progress in viticulture production, there is concern about the management of the co-products generated, which results in significant amounts of this organic matter, whose improper disposal can cause adverse environmental impacts (Barros et al., 2021). However, these co-products are rich in a variety of bioactive compounds such as polyphenols, antioxidants, fiber, and essential nutrients, which have the potential to be used in a variety of industries. The reuse of these co-products not only contributes to the sustainability of viticulture but also opens up business and innovation opportunities.

## CO-PRODUCTS OF WINE PRODUCTION

The disposal of co-products can contaminate rivers and soils (Ferrari et al., 2019). This is because these products have high concentrations of organic matter, which during their fermentation forms organic acids, which provide a potential to trigger environmental problems (Gopinathan & Thirumurthy, 2012). Zhao et al. (2018) report that the co-products of grape processing have significant amounts of alcohol (ethanol) and that, through acidification, these can contaminate soils (Fig. 1).

Advanced recovery technologies are rarely used in the wineries and grape processing industries because of challenges



**Figure 1.** Wine production chain and generation of its co-products: pomace, stalks, seeds, and skins.

such as the need for specific technologies for each type of co-product, variation in their composition, complexity in extraction and purification methods, and the high cost involved (Montalvo et al., 2020). These obstacles limit large-scale application and hinder the economic viability of companies in the sector.

Currently, different sustainable strategies are used to recover by-products from the wine industry. However, it is important to note that proper management of grape by-products requires the implementation of an efficient system for collecting, sorting, and processing these materials (Righi et al., 2020). Companies in the sector must be aware of environmental regulations and invest in technologies that allow the minimization of co-products and the maximization of their use. In addition, awareness and education programs are key to encouraging the adoption of sustainable practices in relation to the management of grape by-products (Tonon et al., 2018).

The significant production of by-products by the agroindustry, in general, has increased due to the continuous expansion of the sector (Zacharof, 2017). To deal with the challenges of improper disposal, studies indicate the feasibility of using these by-products as valuable resources in other areas, such as the aquaculture industry. The incorporation of these materials in feed formulations can reduce production costs, thanks to their high biological value and economic viability.

In addition, several studies highlight the potential of by-products in different segments. In the agroindustrial and environmental sectors, the by-products have proven to be useful resources for improving the sustainability of the production chain (Monteiro et al., 2021; Falcone et al., 2022). According to Kabir et al. (2015), recovered by-products have high nutritional value, while Albuquerque et al. (2019) emphasize that green by-products are rich in soluble fibers and phenolic compounds with functional properties.

## BIOACTIVE COMPOUNDS

Polyphenolic compounds are groups of phytochemicals widely distributed in the plant kingdom (Bordiga et al., 2019). These are secondary products synthesized by plants in response to different environmental stimuli, such as abiotic and biotic stress (Das & Bhattacharjee, 2020; Jiang et al., 2023). Phenolics include not only a wide variety of molecules with a polyphenolic structure (hydroxyl groups in aromatic rings), but also molecules with a phenolic ring, such as phenolic acids and alcohols.

The phenolic compounds contained in grapes are classified into flavonoids and non-flavonoids (Shahab et al., 2023). Flavonoids include flavan-3-ols, flavonols, and anthocyanins,

while non-flavonoids encompass hydroxybenzoic acids, hydroxycinnamic acids, and stilbenes (Brenes et al., 2016; Jiang et al., 2023). Flavan-3-ols, such as catechin and epicatechin, are present in both the skins and seeds of grapes (Unusan, 2020). Anthocyanins, which are responsible for the color of grapes, accumulate mainly in the skins, while procyanidins are located in the seeds (Teixeira et al., 2018). The main anthocyanins in grape skins are the 3-O-glycosides of malvidin, cyanidin, delphinidin, peonidin, and petunidine (Tang et al., 2018). The pomace and peels also contain phenolic acids, such as caftaric acid, coumaric acid, and transferic acid, as well as flavonols, such as quercetin 3-glucuronide and myricetin 3-glucuronide (Shahidi & Ambigaipalan, 2015). In addition, grapes are a rich source of monomeric phenolic compounds, including catechins, epicatechins, and their dimeric, trimeric, and tetrameric proanthocyanidins (Riebel et al., 2017).

The recovery and use of these bioactive compounds have been studied for their beneficial health properties, including antioxidant and antimicrobial activities (Baldissera et al., 2019a; Brenes et al., 2016), anti-inflammatory properties (Bucić-Kojić et al., 2020), cardiac protection, and cancer prevention (Peixoto et al., 2018), in addition to their neuroprotective, chemopreventive, and antiallergic functions (Balea et al., 2020).

In addition, studies have reviewed the functional bioactive components of these co-products, exploring the interactions of phenolics with other food ingredients, as well as their functionalities. An example is the study conducted by Terzi et al. (2023) that investigated the effect of grape seed extract on liver damage caused by the consumption of oxidized oil in the diet of rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). They observed that supplementation with 0.1% extract had a significant effect on reducing liver damage caused by the consumption of oxidized fish oil, evidenced by biochemical parameters and liver histology. That is, the addition of the extract to the diet has been shown to be beneficial in preventing the adverse effects of consuming oxidized fish oil on the liver of rainbow trout.

On the other hand, fermentation using fungi can potentiate the phenolic compounds present in grape pomace. Bucić-Kojić et al. (2020) investigated that the fungus *Trametes versicolor*, after 15 days of grape pomace fermentation, increased its content of phenolic compounds and its anti-inflammatory potential. This application suggests being environmentally friendly to improve the nutritional and functional properties of the co-product. Filipe et al. (2023) monitored functional stability in diets supplemented with a bioactive extract from grape pomace. This extract was produced by the fungus *Aspergillus ibericus* through fermentation, added

to feed and stored at room temperature and 4°C for four months. The diets that received the bioactive compound maintained their stability by reducing lipid peroxidation.

## Grape pomace

The composition of phytochemicals in grape pomace can vary depending on factors such as grape variety, growing conditions, and stage of ripeness, for example, with different levels of sugars, pigments, and phenolic compounds among grape varieties. The solid part contains bacterial biomass, undissolved carbohydrates, phenolic compounds, lignin, proteins, metals, inorganic salts, and other materials (Zacharof, 2017), and the liquid part is mainly composed of fermentation broth, which is rich in organic acids and ethanol (Sousa et al., 2014).

Phenolic compounds present in grape pomace are divided into two main categories: simple phenols, and polyphenols. Simple phenols are composed of hydroxycinnamic acids (such as p-coumaric, ferulic, caffeic, and synapic acids) and hydroxybenzoic acids (such as gallic, protocatechuic, syringic, and vinyl acids). Polyphenols include flavonoids (flavonols,

flavanols, and anthocyanins), stilbenes (e.g., resveratrol), and tannins (proanthocyanidins, gallotannins, and ellagitannins) (Gil-Sánchez et al., 2017; Zacharof, 2017; Salgado et al., 2019; Sirohi et al., 2020; Monteiro et al., 2021; Plakantonaki et al., 2023; Sinrod et al., 2023).

Additionally, grape pomace is composed of 60–70% water and alcohols, such as ethanol, aldehydes, esters, volatile acids, proteins, cellulose, pectins, mineral salts, and sugar residues (Butnariu & Butu, 2019). In summary, Table 1 shows that the typical composition of grape pomace is 61.85% moisture, 2.04% ash, 5.08% protein, 7.66% lipids, 6.87% fibers, and 16.48% carbohydrates (Oliveira et al., 2016).

## Grape stalks

Grape stalks have high fiber content (lignin, 20–30%; cellulose, 20–30%; hemicellulose, 15–25%) (Prozil et al., 2014), phenolic compounds (6%) (Bustamante et al., 2009; Ping et al., 2011; Atatoprak et al., 2022), and nutritional mineral elements, especially nitrogen and potassium (Nerantzis & Tataridis, 2006). The other elements are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

**Table 1.** Nutritional composition of grape co-products.

Co-product	% dry matter					Reference
	Crude protein	Fatty acids	Ash	Carbohydrates	Crude fiber	
Grape pomace	15.50	10.30	7.00	6.90	-	Pedras et al. (2020)
	5.38	1.14	2.53	90.18	-	Jiang et al. (2011)
	12.34	6.33	7.79	73.73	-	
	11.44	5.80	6.93	-	-	Rosa et al. (2019)
	13.31	8.47	12.15	-	-	
	8.49	8.16	4.65	29.20	46.17	Spinei and Oroian (2021)
	12.10	5.87	9.09	29.24	35.40	Deamici et al. (2016)
	7.70	2.49	21.75	29.64	30.35	Beres et al. (2019)
	13.80	4.20	5.50	10.90	51.40	Beres et al. (2017)
	8.49	8.20	4.65	29.20	46.17	Sousa et al. (2014)
	12.78	5.50	6.89	-	-	Chedea et al. (2017)
8.49	3.80	2.92	44.54	40.25	Rosas et al. (2022)	
Seeds	9.33	6.26	2.76	-	-	Basalan et al. (2011)
	6.70	-	18.30	-	-	Mendes et al. (2013)
Skin	5.38	1.14	2.53	1.34	17.28	Deng et al. (2011)
	12.34	6.33	7.59	77.53	56.31	
Staks	6.10	-	7.00	-	-	Prozil et al. (2012)
	7.20	9.00	8.60	-	-	Filippi et al. (2022)
	-	-	2.70	-	-	Atatoprak et al. (2022)
	6.92	1,22	7.64	-	-	Basalan et al. (2011)

-: Not evaluated.



**Table 2.** Composition of phytochemicals of grape co-products.

Phytochemical	Co-product (µg/g extract)				Reference	
	Pomace		Seed	Stalk		Skin
	Simple	Fermented				
Flavanoids (flavan-3-ol)						
Catechin			149.0		Peixoto et al. (2018)	
	280.0	370.0			Gil-Sánchez et al. (2017)	
			43.0		Mousavi et al. (2021)	
					56.1 Pulgar et al. (2021)	
Epicatechin	3.5×10 <sup>3</sup>				Bucić-Kojić et al. (2020)	
			984.0		Peixoto et al. (2018)	
	103.0	1100.0			Gil-Sánchez et al. (2017)	
			30.0		Mousavi et al. (2021)	
					13.5 Pulgar et al. (2021)	
		0.21			Pertuzatti et al. (2020)	
Gallocatechin gallate	0.9×10 <sup>3</sup>				Bucić-Kojić et al. (2020)	
Epigallocatechin	0.7×10 <sup>3</sup>					
Flavanoids (flavon-3-ol)						
Procyanidin-B1			2.4		Mousavi et al. (2021)	
	1.1×10 <sup>3</sup>				Bucić-Kojić et al. (2020)	
Procyanidin-B2			2.0		Mousavi et al. (2021)	
	0.5×10 <sup>3</sup>				Bucić-Kojić et al. (2020)	
Procyanidin B3			1.45		Mousavi et al. (2021)	
					36.1 Pulgar et al. (2021)	
Procyanidin-B4			4.5		Mousavi et al. (2021)	
Procyanidin-B5			3.12			
Procyanidin-C1			3.1			
Procyanidin gallate				9.6	Pulgar et al. (2021)	
Procyanidin trimer				64.7		
Procyanidin dimer				24.2		
Kaempferol		160.0		160.0	Gil-Sánchez et al. (2017)	
Myricetin		250.0		260.0		
Myricetin 3 galactoside				68.5	Pulgar et al. (2021)	
Myricetin 3 glucoside				140.8		
Quercetin	340.0	300.0			Gil-Sánchez et al. (2017)	
	12.22				Baldissera et al. (2019a)	
Quercetin 3-glicoside			253.0	343.5	Peixoto et al. (2018)	
				7.3	Pulgar et al. (2021)	
	216.84				Pertuzatti et al. (2020)	
Quercetin 3-galactoside				7.3	Pulgar et al. (2021)	
Quercetin 3-rutinoside				10.3		
	10.99				Baldissera et al. (2019a)	
Quercetin-3-O-glucuronide		230.0			Gil-Sánchez et al. (2017)	
Total phenolic acids						

Continue...



Continuation.

Phytochemical	Co-product ( $\mu\text{g/g}$ extract)				Reference	
	Pomace		Seed	Stalk		Skin
	Simple	Fermented				
Gallic acid			313.0		104.0	Peixoto et al. (2018)
			2,860.0			Gil-Sánchez et al. (2017)
			5.2			Mousavi et al. (2021)
					120.0	Pulgar et al. (2021)
		1,396.0				Pertuzatti et al. (2020)
	55.11				(Baldissera et al. 2019a)	
Protocatechuic acid					17.3	
Syringic acid					1.2	Pulgar et al. (2021)
Caftaric acid					22.5	
Coutaric acid					9.6	
Ellagic acid	564.0	6,010.0				Gil-Sánchez et al. (2017)
Caffeic acid	30.09					Baldissera et al. (2019a)
Coumaric acid					729.0	Peixoto et al. (2018)
Anthocyanins						
Malvidin-hexoside			0.010		0.783	
Malvidin-rutinoside			0.024		2.335	
Malvidin-dihexoside					0.267	
Malvidin-acetylhexoside					0.192	Peixoto et al. (2018)
Delphinidin-rutinoside					1.60	
Petunidin-3-O-rutinoside					2.65	
Peonidin-3-O-rutinoside					0.115	
Cyanidin-3-O-glucoside	23.32					Pertuzatti et al. (2020)
Total Phytochemicals (mg/g)						
Tannins					6.04	Deng et al. (2011)
					19.89	
		159.0				
Resveratrol					3.4	Mendes et al. (2013)
		69.09				Baldissera et al. (2019a)
		303.0				Prozil et al. (2012)
Cellulose					15.0	Pedras et al. (2020)
					12.5	Mendes et al. (2013)
				5.19		Atatoprak et al. (2022)
				19.43		
		210.0				
	11.3				Pedras et al. (2020)	
Hemicellulose					8.36	Atatoprak et al. (2022)
					8.01	
					7.76	
					8.22	
					39.16	
Lignin					48.47	Prozil et al. (2012)
		174.0				

## Seeds and skins (husks)

The seed (Table 1) contains 10–20% lipids (Nicolai et al., 2018), 10–20% phenolic compounds (Passos et al., 2009), 10–11% protein, 60–70% carbohydrates, and non-phenolic antioxidants (Yu & Ahmedna, 2013), such as tocopherols, which can vary from 357 to 578 mg/kg of seed depending on the extraction method (Baydar & Akkurt, 2001). The seed is rich in extractable phenolic antioxidants, such as phenolic acids, flavonoids, procyanidins, and resveratrol (Yu & Ahmedna, 2013), and contains important compounds comprised of monomers, oligomers, and polymers or proanthocyanidins (Nazima et al., 2015).

Grape skins contain several types of polyphenols, including anthocyanins, hydroxycinnamic acids, catechins, and flavonols, which comprise 28–35% polyphenols (Ribeiro et al., 2015). As can be seen in Table 2, grape skins contain esters and tartaric hydroxycinnamic acids (6–45 mg/kg of grapes), monomeric and dimeric flavan-3-ols (9–96 mg/kg), and flavonols (25–197 mg/kg) (Rodríguez Montealegre et al., 2006), reaching total phenolic levels of 9,661 to 16,742 mg gallic acid equivalents/100 g of fresh mass (Yilmaz et al., 2015).

In its composition, moisture and ash correspond to 7.73 and 8.15%, respectively, protein to 3.62%, lipid content 3.36%, carbohydrates 77.13%, and fiber 19.67% (De Alencar et al., 2022). Grape skin is a complex lignocellulosic material that contains large amounts of hemicellulosic sugars and produces solutions containing a wide variety of xylose and glucose monomers (Devesa-Rey et al., 2011).

## INCLUSION OF GRAPE CO-PRODUCTS IN AQUACULTURE

Grape co-products contain a significant amount of active ingredients that confer important properties (Trošt et al., 2016), such as phenolic compounds, in the diet of aquatic organisms, demonstrating the following benefits: immune response (Morante et al., 2021; Peng et al., 2022b), zootechnical performance (Arslan et al., 2018; Rosas et al., 2022), nutritional digestibility (Peña et al., 2020), antioxidant actions (Dawood et al., 2020; Mohammadi et al., 2021; Peng et al., 2022b), and antimicrobial properties (Baldissera et al., 2019b). However, studies are needed to indicate the percentage of inclusion of grape co-products as a dietary ingredient in feed formulations and the species to be used (Table 3).

## POTENTIAL OF GRAPE CO-PRODUCTS IN THE NUTRITION OF AQUATIC ORGANISMS

### Zootechnical performance

The mechanisms by which grape co-products affect the growth performance of aquatic species remain unclear. The results observed in the literature regarding the use of grape co-products may be related to the quantity included in the feed owing to differences in their polyphenolic content, experimental duration, species, and size of the animal. According to Erinle and Adewole (2022), the ability of grape co-products to improve growth performance depends on the form of the coproduct and the quantity incorporated into the diet. Tannins are considered anti-nutritional factors that can affect animal metabolism. According to Brenes et al. (2016), the main obstacles to the inclusion of grape co-products in monogastric nutrition are the high level of fiber in the cell wall and the high tannin content.

However, Peng et al. (2020) documented that the inclusion of condensed tannins up to 1 g/kg in diets for sea bass, *Lateolabrax maculatus*, did not affect growth performance. According to Kesbiç and Yigit (2019), including different levels of aqueous grape seed extract, which contains tannins, in the diets enabled better growth performance for rainbow trout (*O. mykiss*). Rosas et al. (2022) verified the zootechnical performance of marine shrimp, *Litopenaeus vannamei*, with the inclusion of grape pomace. In the current study, the authors reported that it is feasible to add up to 25 g·kg<sup>-1</sup> of the co-product to shrimp diets without affecting zootechnical parameters. Peña et al. (2020) concluded that the inclusion of grape pomace as a component of the feed for *O. mykiss* could be included at levels of up to 180 g·kg<sup>-1</sup> without negative effects on growth, and the level of 60 g·kg<sup>-1</sup> showed a positive effect on digestibility and increased feed efficiency. Selecting highly digestible ingredients and improving feed formulation, palatability, digestibility, and nutrient retention can potentially improve feed efficiency (Kokou & Fountoulaki, 2018).

In the contexts presented, some studies have investigated the impact of different additives and dietary components on feed efficiency in various animal species. The results of Arslan et al. (2018) showed that feed conversion was significantly lower in trout fed with 1 g·kg<sup>-1</sup> of grape seed oil extract, that is, a smaller amount of feed is needed to produce the same gain in body weight compared to the other groups. However, Chen et al. (2022) reported that, in a study with Chinese sea bass (*Lateolabrax maculatus*), diets supplemented with 2 g·kg<sup>-1</sup> of condensed tannins from grape seeds resulted in reduced final body weight, weight gain rate, specific growth rate,



**Table 3.** Different methods of using grape co-products and their effects on aquatic organisms.

Bioinput extract	Aquatic organism	Dose/concentration	Best results	Reference
Grape seed extract	Sea bass ( <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> L.)	100 and 200 (mg/kg)	The inclusion of 200 mg/kg boosted renal melanomacrophage activity, strengthening the fish's immune response.	Arciuli et al. (2017)
Grape seed extract	Rainbow trout ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> )	0.0, 0.5, 1.0, and 2.0 (‰)	The concentration of 1‰ presented the best zootechnical performance and quality of trout fillet.	Kesbiç and Yigit (2019)
Grape seed extract	Rainbow trout ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> )	0, 100, and 200 (mg/kg)	The 100-mg/kg dose improved gene expression and histological structures of the immune system in fish mucosal tissues.	Mousavi et al. (2021)
Grape seed extract	Rainbow trout ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> )	0.0% (oxidized fish oil), 0.1% (extract), 11.0% (oxidized fish oil) + 0.3% (extract), 0.0% (fresh fish oil); 11.0% (fresh fish oil) + 0.1% (extract) and 11.0% (fresh fish oil) + 0.3% (extract)	Supplementing with 0.1%-grape seed extract protected the liver from oxidized fish oil damage, improving liver and biochemical indicators.	Terzi et al. (2023)
Grape seed condensed tannin extract	Chinese seabass ( <i>Lateolabrax maculatus</i> )	0.0, 1.0, 2.0 (g/kg), 2.0 (extract) + 4.0 (polyethylene glycol) (g/kg)	The inclusion of 1.0 g/kg of condensed tannin extract improved antioxidant and immune capacity, as well as zootechnical performance, gut health, and enzyme activity.	Chen et al. (2022)
Grape seed condensed tannin extract	Chinese seabass ( <i>Lateolabrax maculatus</i> )	0, 1 mg/kg of aflatoxin B1, and 1 mg/kg of aflatoxin B1 + 1 g/kg (extract)	The inclusion of 1 g/kg of condensed tannin extract protected against aflatoxin B1 toxicity, enhancing performance, antioxidant response, intestinal health, and microbiota.	Peng et al. (2022a)
Grape seed condensed tannin extract	Chinese seabass ( <i>Lateolabrax maculatus</i> )	0.0, 1.0, 2.0 (extract) (g/kg), and 2.0 (extract) + 4.0 (polyethylene glycol) (g/kg)	Supplementation of 1 g/kg of condensed tannin in diets improved serum antioxidant and immunological activity.	Peng et al. (2022b)
Grape seed proanthocyanidin extract	Grass carp ( <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> )	250 mg/kg (extract)/animal body weight	It reduced triglycerides in hepatocytes, lowered serum cholesterol, increased anti-inflammatory cytokines, and prevented liver fat accumulation.	Lu et al. (2020)
Grape seed proanthocyanidin extract	Nile tilapia ( <i>Oreochromis niloticus</i> )	0, 100, 200, and 400 (mg/kg)	The inclusion of 280 mg/kg increased zootechnical performance, myofibrillar growth, antioxidant activity and improved the sensory quality and centesimal composition of the fillet.	Yang et al. (2023)

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Bioinput extract	Aquatic organism	Dose/concentration	Best results	Reference
Grape seed proanthocyanidin extract	Common carp ( <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> )	0, 200, 400, 600, 800, and 1,500 (mg/kg)	The inclusion of 200 mg/kg improved zootechnical performance, antioxidant activity, fillet quality, and serum biochemical properties.	Mohammadi et al. (2021)
Grape seed proanthocyanidin extract	American eel ( <i>Anguilla rostrata</i> )	Commercial diet supplemented 400 mg/kg (extract)	Decreased total cholesterol and triglyceride levels.	Wang et al. (2020)
Grape seed proanthocyanidin extract	Nile tilapia ( <i>Oreochromis niloticus</i> )	0, 200, 400, 600, and 800 (mg/kg)	The inclusion of 200 mg/kg improved growth, reduced triglycerides and cholesterol, increased lysozyme, albumin, and protein levels, and lowered crude lipids in the fillets.	Zhai et al. (2014)
Dry grape extract	Shrimp ( <i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i> )	0, 150, 250, 375, and 500 (ppm)	The inclusion of 375 ppm provided the best zootechnical performance, with an increase in antioxidant potential due to the presence of procyanidins.	Chien et al. (2023)
Grape crude extracts	Tambaqui ( <i>Colossoma macropomum</i> )	0, 20, 40, 60, and 80 (g/kg)	The inclusion of 80 g/kg in the diet improved zootechnical performance and immunity.	Morante et al. (2021)
Grape seed ethanolic extract	Rainbow trout ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> )	0, 10, and 50 (g/kg)	The inclusion of 10 g/kg improved zootechnical performance, biochemical parameters and antioxidant activity.	Mousavi et al. (2021)
Microencapsulated grape pomace extract	Rainbow trout ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> )	Commercial diet (low soy content) + 2.0% (maltodextrin); commercial diet (high soy content) + 2.0% (maltodextrin) and commercial diet (high soy content + 1.2% (maltodextrin) + 0.8% (extract).	The inclusion containing the extract (0.8%) obtained positive results in antioxidant capacity.	Pulgar et al. (2021)
<b>Grape pomace</b>				
Grape pomace	Grass carp ( <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> )	0, 150, and 300 (mg/kg)	The dosages improved immunological and inflammatory responses during <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> infection.	Baldissera et al. (2019a)
Grape pomace	Grass carp ( <i>Ctenopharyngodon idella</i> )	0, 150, and 300 (mg/kg)	The 300-mg/kg dosage improved bioenergetic dysfunction caused by <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> by enhancing antioxidant properties and phosphoryl transfer enzymes, preserving energy balance and health.	Baldissera et al. (2019b)
Grape pomace	Rohu ( <i>Labeo rohita</i> )	0, 100, 200, and 300 (mg/kg)	Inclusion of 200 mg/kg in the diet increased growth, improved antioxidant status and strengthened immune defenses.	Harikrishnan et al. (2021)

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Bioinput extract	Aquatic organism	Dose/concentration	Best results	Reference
Grape pomace	Silver catfish ( <i>Rhamdia quelen</i> )	10 g/kg	The inclusion of 10 g/kg increased plasma glucose, favoring metabolism, cellular respiration, ATP production and maintenance of homeostasis.	Lazzari et al. (2019)
Grape pomace	Rainbow trout ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> )	Experiment I: 0, 20, 40, and 60 (g/kg); Experiment II: 0, 60, 120, and 180 (g/kg)	The inclusion of 60 g/kg in both experiments improved apparent digestibility and feed conversion, resulting in better zootechnical performance.	Peña et al. (2020)
Grape pomace	Shrimp ( <i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i> )	0.0, 2.5, 5.0, 10.0, and 15.0 (g/100 g)	The inclusion of 2.5% grape pomace in the diet did not negatively affect zootechnical performance, antioxidant capacity or lipid peroxidation.	Rosas et al. (2022)
<b>Seed</b>				
Grape seed	Japanese sea bass ( <i>Lateolabrax japonicus</i> )	0.0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8, and 1.0 (g/kg)	The inclusion of up to 1 g/kg in the diet improved antioxidant capacity, immunity and resistance to copper sulfate stress, without compromising zootechnical performance and <i>in-vivo</i> digestibility	Peng et al. (2020)
Grape seed	Shrimp ( <i>Litopenaeus vannamei</i> )	0.0, 0.5, 1.0, 2.0, and 4.0 (g/kg)	The inclusion of grape seed extract up to 4 g/kg increased growth, without impacting nutrient digestibility, antioxidant activity or intestinal histomorphology.	Peng et al. (2021)
<b>Oil</b>				
Grape seed oil	Rainbow trout ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> )	0, 250, 500, and 1000 (mg/kg)	Supplementation of 1,000 mg/kg of grape seed oil in the diet improved growth, fatty acid composition and antioxidant enzyme activity, promoting the health of the organisms.	Arslan et al. (2018)
<b>Others</b>				
Grape seed extract with dried macroalgae ( <i>Ulva lactuca</i> )	Abalone ( <i>Haliotis laevis</i> )	Commercial diet (control); commercial diet + 5% grape seed extract; commercial diet + 30% dry lean seaweed; commercial diet + 5% grape seed extract + 30% dry macroalgae and 100% macroalgae	The addition of 5% grape seed extract and 30% macroalgae to the diet provided the best results, increasing the survival rate and improving serum activity.	Lange et al. (2014)
Grape seed extract with dried macroalgae ( <i>Ulva lactuca</i> )	Abalone ( <i>Haliotis laevis</i> )	Commercial diet (22°C); commercial diet (25°C); commercial diet + 5% extract (25°C); macroalgae (22°C) and macroalgae (25°C)	The diet with 5% extract showed the highest survival rate under heat stress, both at 22 and 25°C, compared to the other diets.	Shiel et al. (2017)

and feed intake, compared to other diets. The researchers suggested that the inclusion of tannins at this level may compromise feed efficiency, which presented a value of 1.2, higher than that observed in the other groups.

In aquaculture, feed efficiency plays a crucial role, influencing not only the profitability of the business but also the environmental sustainability and quality of the fish produced. Using alternative foods efficiently reduces costs, minimizes environmental impacts, and improves the growth and health of organisms, and is a key objective for producers and researchers (Arslan et al., 2018). Tannins present in grape seeds show potential health benefits, but their effects need to be fully understood (Unusan, 2020).

In another study, the effects of dietary grape seed extract on growth performance in rainbow trout were investigated for 60 days, showing that feeding with extract improved growth parameters, including specific growth rate, at a lower dosage (10 g·kg<sup>-1</sup>) (Mousavi et al., 2021). The researchers justified that the increase in digestive enzymes after administration of different dosages could accentuate this performance. An increase in digestive enzymes, such as proteases and lipases, increases the efficiency of digestion by breaking down proteins and lipids, facilitating the absorption of nutrients essential for the growth and maintenance of the organism. Furthermore, Arslan et al. (2018) indicated that the combination of greater feed efficiency, antioxidant effects, nutritional benefits, and potential immunostimulatory properties of grape seed oil may contribute to better growth performance.

Wang et al. (2022) describe that grape seed extract influenced the lipid metabolism of the American eel *Anguilla rostrata* through the metabolic regulation of linoleic and arachidonic acids. Linoleic and arachidonic fatty acids are important for the growth, development, immunity, and health of organisms, as they are essential polyunsaturated fatty acids that play crucial roles in biological processes, including regulating inflammation and acting on the structure and function of cell membranes, helping to maintain their integrity and fluidity.

### The use of grape co-products to prevent oxidative stress

In aquaculture, aquatic organisms are susceptible to attacks by reactive oxygen species (ROS), which can compromise growth and health (Ardiansyah & Fotedar, 2016). During cultivation, organisms may encounter stressful environments that trigger oxidative stress. Potential stressors for fish include temperature variation, photoperiod, water quality, nutrition, predation, exposure to toxins, sound effects, isolation, and persecution

(Cheng et al., 2015). The immune and antioxidant systems have protective effects against these stresses. Antioxidant defenses can detoxify ROS and reactive nitrogen metabolites (RNMs) that can modify and damage almost all cellular and tissue components under different conditions (Kruidenier et al., 2003).

During electron transport in mitochondria, oxygen can be partially reduced, generating ROS such as superoxide anions (O<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>), hydrogen peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>), and hydroxyl radical (OH<sup>-</sup>). These compounds can cause damage to DNA, RNA, lipids, and proteins. This damage causes the repair system to malfunction and contributes to the development of various diseases. However, grape co-products have been studied as natural antioxidants to prevent or delay the actions of free radicals (Cruz et al., 2019; Adeshina & Abdel-Tawwab, 2020).

Phenolic compounds, flavonoids, and phenolic acids have a structural function in scavenging free radicals because of their high antioxidant and metal-chelating activities (Brenes et al., 2016)). The antioxidant properties of polyphenols result mainly from their ability to donate hydrogen from the hydroxyl groups positioned along the aromatic ring to terminate the oxidation of lipids and other biomolecules by free radicals (Foti et al., 1996).

Morante et al. (2021) reported that the inclusion of 80 g of crude grape pomace extract per kg of feed in the diet of the tambaqui *Colossoma macropomum* improved the metabolic, immunological, and antioxidant functions of the fish. In this study, a qualitative phytochemical analysis was carried out, which revealed the presence of lignans, monoterpenes, sesquiterpenes, and terpenes in higher concentrations in the raw extracts of pomace, which are known to have bioactive and antioxidant properties. Furthermore, fish fed with this concentration showed higher plasma triglycerides, in addition to increased values of albumin and lysozyme activity, indicating a possible improvement in the metabolic and immunological function of the organisms and suggesting a viable and effective alternative as a feed additive in tambaqui aquaculture.

Environmental changes during the cultivation of aquatic organisms can be considered stressors that compromise the growth performance, survival rate, health, and immunity of animals. According to a study by Lange et al. (2014), high water temperature conditions in the summer affect the productivity of abalone farming farms. The use of diets containing grape seed extract proved to be effective in significantly increasing abalone survival compared with the standard commercial diet. Furthermore, inclusion also resulted in a significant increase in the activity of serum superoxide dismutase, an important

antioxidant enzyme associated with the body's defense against oxidative stress (Shahab et al., 2023).

Harikrishnan et al. (2021) evaluated the effects of grape pomace on growth, antioxidant activity, anti-inflammatory activity, innate-adaptive immunity, and the expression of immunological genes in carp *Labeo rohita* in the presence of the bacterium *Flavobacterium columnare*. According to this study, for both groups (healthy fish and affected fish), the results for the parameters evaluated with diets enriched with 200 and 300 mg of grape pomace were satisfactory. Diets with 200 mg of grape pomace showed a higher growth rate, antioxidant capacity, and immune defense mechanisms, while the results for the 300 mg of grape pomace diet were more effective against *F. columnare*. Proanthocyanidins are considered disease reducers. According to Unusan (2020), proanthocyanidins inhibit bacterial adhesion and congestion, biofilm formation, and inflammation. Research has shown that phenolic compounds exhibit beneficial effects against diseases owing to their redox properties (capacity to reduce pathological microorganisms).

### Relationship of grape co-products and fillet quality

The increasing consumption of fish is linked to their nutritional characteristics. This type of protein is a source of polyunsaturated fatty acids (omega-3 and omega-6), vitamins (B12 and C), and mineral salts (iron, zinc, calcium, magnesium, selenium, phosphorus, and copper) (Ouriveis et al., 2020). Therefore, these characteristics are considered to be important quality parameters.

The use of plant-based by-products in animal diets has demonstrated a positive impact on meat quality, especially due to the presence of antioxidant compounds, such as polyphenols. These compounds help reduce lipid oxidation, contributing to the preservation and improvement of the sensory and nutritional characteristics of meat products. Brenes et al. (2016) highlighted that supplementing animal feed with grape-derived by-products resulted in superior apparent digestibility of nutrients, promoting potential improvements in the final quality of meat.

In Kesbiç and Yigit (2019), grape seed extract offered as a food supplement for rainbow trout at concentrations of 0.0, 0.5, 1.0, and 2.0% showed positive effects on the protein content in fish fillets, which was significantly higher in the 0.5% concentration group than in the control. The increase in protein content in rainbow trout fillets was attributed to changes in the intestinal microbiota induced by the inclusion of grape seed extract in the diet. These changes optimized protein digestibility and increased feed utilization efficiency. These findings highlight the potential

of grape seed extract as a promising functional supplement in diets for farmed fish (Kesbiç & Yigit, 2019).

Lazzari et al. (2019) evaluated the addition of several plant co-products, including grapes, in the feed for jundiá *Rhamdia quelen*. The authors observed an effect on the proximate composition of the animal carcass in the group that included grapes. Lipid levels were lower than those in the other groups. According to this study, the content of phenolic compounds can affect the digestibility of nutrients and, consequently, increase or reduce lipid levels. In general, proteins contribute to the muscle structure, texture, and firmness of meat through the formation of muscle fibers, while lipids contribute to the flavor, juiciness, and tenderness of meat. Furthermore, adequate amounts of lipids in meat can improve palatability (Gonçalves, 2011). A balance between these components is essential to guarantee the quality of fish meat. Zhai et al. (2014) found higher protein levels and lower lipid levels in *Oreochromis niloticus* tilapia fillets that were fed a diet containing grape seed proanthocyanidin levels of up to 200 mg·kg<sup>-1</sup>. The researchers' report indicated that the high protein levels in all groups that received the diet were related to a decrease in lipid levels.

Mohammadi et al. (2021) demonstrated that grape seed extract, rich in proanthocyanidins, improved the growth performance of the common carp *Cyprinus carpio*, in addition to a possible increase in the crude protein content of the fillets and antioxidant effects in reducing free radicals in the liver. According to the authors, the performance of improving the protein content in fillets depends on the applied degree of polymerization and concentration of the extract, as it affects biodegradation and protein absorption. Oligomeric proanthocyanidins are less effective for digestion and absorption, whereas high-grade polymerized proanthocyanidins have been shown to affect protein biodegradation. The authors concluded that the concentration of 200 mg·kg<sup>-1</sup> in the diet may affect the proximate composition of the carcass.

Pazos et al. (2005) investigated the ability of phenolic compounds obtained from grape pomace to inhibit lipid oxidation in different systems such as fish oils, emulsions and fatty fish during frozen storage. The researchers fractionated the phenolics and tested their antioxidant efficacy, observing that different fractions had variable efficacy depending on the system tested, with an emphasis on flavanol oligomers, which showed greater potential in frozen fish fillets, resulting in oxidative stability and increasing shelf time.

## CONCLUSION

The use of grape by-products, such as pomace, stalks, and seeds, in diets for aquatic organisms offers significant benefits for both aquaculture production and environmental sustainability. These by-products, which are rich in bioactive compounds such as polyphenols, have shown positive effects on several zootechnical parameters, including health and meat quality, in addition to promoting improvements in palatability, protein digestibility, feed efficiency, and reduction of lipid levels in fillets. Such beneficial effects have been observed in fish and shrimp, demonstrating the viability of their application in different production systems. However, the application of these grape by-products still faces challenges, particularly regarding determining the optimal inclusion levels that maximize their positive effects in aquaculture.

Therefore, it is essential to advance our understanding on the multifunctional potential of the active compounds present in these plant by-products and their interactions with the nutrition of aquatic organisms. Future studies should focus on optimizing the inclusion concentrations, considering their effects on growth parameters, fillet quality, and the overall sustainability of aquaculture production. This will enable these ingredients to become effective and widely adopted solutions in the aquaculture sector.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nothing to declare.


## DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Data sharing is not applicable.


## AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

**Conceptualization:** Guimarães, C.P., Tesser, M.B.; **Writing – original draft:** Guimarães, C.P.; **Data curation:** Guimarães, C.P.; **Resources:** Tesser, M.B.; **Writing – review & edition:** Tesser, M.B.; **Supervision:** Tesser, M.B.; **Final approval:** Tesser, M.B.


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