

New study examines the health benefits of blue corn

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A new study shows that a rat model of metabolic syndrome fed a high-sugar and high-cholesterol diet and given blue maize extract showed significant improvement in systolic blood pressure, high density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol, and triglyceride levels compared to those not given the extract. The natural antioxidants present in blue maize may help protect against metabolic syndrome, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer, raising interest in using blue maize as a component of functional foods and nutraceuticals, according to an article published in *Journal of Medicinal Food*.

In the article "Blue Maize Extract Improves Blood Pressure, Lipid Profiles and Adipose Tissue on High-Sucrose Diet-Induced Metabolic Syndrome in Rats," Rosa Isela Guzman-Geronimo and coauthors from Universidad Veracruzana, Instituto Tecnológico de Veracruz, and Unidad Oaxaca/Calle Hornos, Mexico, report that the animals fed a high-sugar and high-cholesterol diet that received blue maize extract had a significantly smaller increase in abdominal fat compared to the abdominal fat gain in rats that did not receive the extract.

"Anti-obesity food materials are always in demand, and this study brings out not only the importance of blue maize in controlling adiposity, but also the potential role of cholesterol in the development of obesity," says Journal of Medicinal Food Editor-in-Chief Sampath Parthasarathy, MBA, PhD, Florida Hospital Chair in Cardiovascular Sciences and Interim Associate Dean, College of Medicine, University of Central Florida.

More information: Rosa Isela Guzmán-Gerónimo et al, Blue Maize Extract Improves Blood Pressure, Lipid Profiles, and Adipose Tissue in High-Sucrose Diet-Induced Metabolic Syndrome in Rats, *Journal of Medicinal Food* (2016). [DOI: 10.1089/jmf.2016.0087](https://doi.org/10.1089/jmf.2016.0087)

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