

Scientific paper

# Identification of Kiwellin-like Proteins in Fruits by Using *In Silico* Tools

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## Abstract

Identification of allergen proteins by using wet-lab technology is a time-consuming and also costly process. In recent years, thanks to the developments in the field of bioinformatics, it is now possible to estimate the allergen proteins by using *in silico* tools. In the present study, it is aimed to find kiwellin-like proteins from different fruits samples by using bioinformatics tools. According to the results of the study, six proteins from *Corchorus olitorius*, *Cucumis sativus*, *Cap-sicum chinense*, *Carica papaya*, *Morus notabilis* and *Jatropha curcas* were defined as the allergens. In conclusion, *in silico* tools developed under the field of bioinformatics can provide a big contribution to the estimation of unknown allergen proteins in different fruits. Based on the *in silico* results, physicians can suggest people who have allergenicity to kiwellin not to consume the fruits that contain kiwellin-like proteins.

**Keywords:** Allergen; *in silico* tools; kiwellin; kiwi; bioinformatics

## 1. Introduction

Fruits are very important for public health. On the other hand, some compounds in fruits can cause allergic reactions. Allergens are the substances that immune system recognizes them as foreign molecules and they cause undesirable reactions in the human body.<sup>1,2</sup> Many external factors such as dust and pollen may cause allergic reactions<sup>1</sup> and it is very difficult to stay away from these natural pollutants. In developed countries, the percentage of hy-

persensitive people for allergen proteins is around 15–20%.<sup>3</sup> Food allergy within European population was reported as up to 3.2%.<sup>3,4,5</sup> Generally, allergens are consisted of proteins and it is very important to investigate three-dimensional structures of the allergen proteins to estimate the possible allergic reactions in different populations.<sup>6</sup> Actually, studying of allergen proteins in wet lab conditions is a time consuming process and it is costly. On the other hand, the database developed for allergen proteins provides big contribution to the understanding of novel aller-

Table 1. Some selected online bioinformatics tools.

Name of Tool	Web address	Reference
AllergenOnline	<a href="http://www.allergenonline.org/">http://www.allergenonline.org/</a>	Jin et al 2017
AllerTOP v. 2.0	<a href="http://www.ddg-pharmfac.net/AllerTOP/">http://www.ddg-pharmfac.net/AllerTOP/</a>	Wold et al., 1993; Dimitrov et al., 2013
AlgPred	<a href="http://crdd.osdd.net/raghava/algpred/">http://crdd.osdd.net/raghava/algpred/</a>	Saha and Raghava, 2006
BIOPEP	<a href="http://www.uwm.edu.pl/biochemia/index.php/pl/biopep">http://www.uwm.edu.pl/biochemia/index.php/pl/biopep</a>	Minkiewicz et al., 2008
Allergen Nomenclature	<a href="http://www.allergen.org/">http://www.allergen.org/</a>	Larsen, 2006.
BLAST	<a href="https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi">https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi</a>	Johnson et al., 2007; Boratyn et al., 2013
ExPASy Bioinformatics Resource Portal	<a href="https://www.expasy.org/">https://www.expasy.org/</a>	Biasini et al., 2014
AllermatchTM	<a href="http://www.allermatch.org/">http://www.allermatch.org/</a>	Codex Alimentarius Commission, 2003.

gen proteins and also cross-reactivity. Many tools have so far been developed for estimation of allergen proteins in bioinformatics.<sup>7</sup> These *in silico* approaches can estimate if the protein can be considered as an allergen proteins or not. *In silico* tools can be used for filtering purposes to eliminate the proteins in a long list. Last developments and tools in this field have been reached to reflect the real results.<sup>7</sup> The properties used in these tools are protein physicochemical parameters, multiple sequence alignment and also 3 dimensional structure comparisons. Especially homology modelling shows superiority to other techniques inasmuch as there is a direct relationship between protein structures and functions. Some selected online tools for prediction of allergen proteins are given in Table 1.

Kiwelin is the protein that constitutes one-third of the total kiwi proteins.<sup>8</sup> Although there have been many studies on kiwi fruit on its health effects, kiwi is considered as a strong allergen for some people.<sup>9,10,11,12</sup> The selection of the protein in this paper is associated with increased consumption of kiwi in Turkey because of increasing planting kiwi along the northern coastline of Turkey.<sup>13</sup> In this study, it was aimed to find proteins which are similar to kiwelin by using bioinformatic tools.

## 2. Methods

### 2.1. Sequences and Tools

In this study, we used database, which is accessible and publicly available on internet. We used WHO/IUIS Allergen Nomenclature Sub-Committee for finding allergen proteins.<sup>14,15</sup> Basic Local Alignment Search Tool for proteins (BLASTp) search was carried out by BLASTp tool of NCBI.<sup>16,17</sup> Physicochemical properties of the sequences such as individual amino acid number and percentage, molecular weight, theoretical pI values, total number of negatively and positively charged residues and instability index were calculated by ProtParam tool of ExPasy.<sup>18</sup> Clustal omega was used for multiple sequence alignment.<sup>19</sup> Swiss-MODEL was used for homology modeling.<sup>20</sup> Allergenicity estimation was carried out by using AlgPred.<sup>21</sup> AlgPred

estimates the allergen proteins by using the similarity of known epitope. IgE epitope mapping shows the location of epitope in the searched protein sequence. MEME/MAST allergen motifs are also used in AlgPred. One another feature in AlgPred is based on support vector machine modules which is based on amino acid or dipeptide composition. AlgPred tool also allows users to use above mentioned features together that is mentioned as “hybride systems”.

### 2.2. The Strategy for Identification of Kiwelin-like Proteins

The sequence of kiwelin kiwi fruit was retrieved from Allergen.org. Then kiwelin-like protein sequences were screened using BLASTp in NCBI website. After BLASTp search, the proteins with high similarity scores were listed in Table 2. These similar proteins were selected from 10 different and commonly used plants. The kiwelin-like proteins in Table 2 were compared by using following tools: 1) Clustal Omega for multiple sequence alignment, 2) ProtParam in ExPasy for physicochemical parameters, 3) SWISS-MODEL for homology modelling, 4) AlgPred is used for *in silico* allergenicity assessment of the proteins.

## 3. Results and Discussion

Kiwelin is one of the well-defined allergen proteins in *A. chinensis*. However, kiwelin-like proteins in other fruit have not been characterized yet. Developments in the bioinformatics tools can help researchers to find kiwelin-like protein in database easily. In our study, we searched kiwelin-like protein in NCBI database and we found 10 potential proteins which could be considered as candidate allergen proteins (Table 2). Maximum percent identity was found in Barwin-related protein as 95%. On the other hand, minimum identities were observed in the kiwelin like proteins of *C. sativus*, *P. persica* and *C. moschata* as 80%. E-values were maximum when % identity is low and they were minimum when % identity is high.

**Table 2.** List of kiwelin-like proteins according to the BLASTp analysis.

Species	Name of protein (UniProt)	NCBI Reference Sequence	E-value for BLAST	% identity
<i>Corchorus olitorius</i>	Barwin-related endoglucanase	OMO91533.1	5e-04	95
<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	unnamed protein product, partial (BLASTp)	CBI16343.3	0.007	85
<i>Cucumis sativus</i>	Uncharacterized protein	KGN46853.1	0.16	80
<i>Punica granatum</i>	hypothetical protein CDL15_Pgr026889	OWM73785.1	0.012	90
<i>Capsicum chinense</i>	Ripening-related protein grip22	PHU03889.1	0.012	85
<i>Prunus persica</i>	Receptor-like protein kinase (BLASTp)	XP_020413324.1	0.15	80
<i>Carica papaya</i>	Kiwelin-like (BLASTp)	XP_021896278.1	0.059	85
<i>Cucurbita moschata</i>	Kiwelin-like (BLASTp)	XP_022944715.1	0.22	80
<i>Morus notabilis</i>	Uncharacterized protein	XP_010109489.1	0.063	85
<i>Jatropha curcas</i>	Uncharacterized protein	KDP44018.1	0.064	85

### 3. 1. Multiple Sequence Alignment and Phylogenetic Tree

We used clustal omega to analyse the similarity of kiwelin-like proteins in this paper. The results were showed in Figure S1.

A first amino acid of kiwelin (I), was same in all candidate proteins except for *Prunus persica*, *Cucumis sativus*, *Carica papaya*. In these species, I was substituted with L. It was very interesting to note that the amino acids at the position of 2,4,6,8,12–14,16,18–20 were same in all studied sequences. It could be said that these regions must have been conserved. 3<sup>th</sup> amino acid (S) of kiwelin was same in all candidate proteins except for *C. chinense* and *C. olitorius*. S is substituted with Q. 17<sup>th</sup> amino acid (Q) of kiwelin is R in *C. moschata* and E in *V. vinifera*. The amino acid at the position of 25 is S in kiwelin of *A. chinensis*, however, it is C in other studied sequences. Similarly, the amino acid at the position of 27 is Q in kiwelin of *A. chinensis*, it is D in all studied samples. A phylogenetic tree was constructed based on multiple sequence alignment by clustal omega (Figure 1). Pairwise sequence alignment of P85261 and P84527 was shown in Figure 2. Phylogenetic tree reveals that the sequences can be classified under three clusters. Kiwelin of *A. chinensis* took place in the first cluster with receptor-like protein kinase of *P. persica*, hypothetical pro-

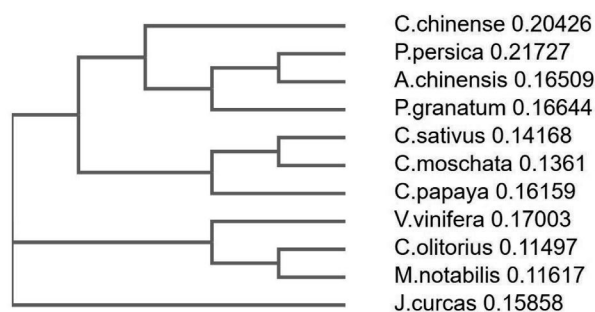


Figure 1. Phylogenetic tree of the studied sequences. (The name of the proteins in these species were given in Table 2).

tein CDL 15\_Pgr026889 of *P. granatum* and ripening-related protein grip22 of *C. chinense*. From Figure 1, it could be said that the proteins in *P. persica*, *P. granatum* and *C. chinense* are more close to *A. chinensis*. These three proteins have not been mentioned in allergen.org yet.

### 3. 2. ProtParam Results

ProtParam tool is used to characterize the physicochemical properties of proteins. The tool is available under expasy.ch developed by Swiss Bioinformatics Institute. By using this tool one can obtain the parameters such as amino acid length, molecular weight, theoretical pI values, negatively and positively charged residues, net charges and instability index (Table 3), number and percentage of amino acids (Table 4) in the studied samples. Kiwelin (P85261 (Uniprot), Act c 5 (Allergen.org)) in *Actinidia chinensis* (Gold Kiwi Fruit) was selected as a model allergen protein in this study. There is also one more kiwelin (P84527 (Uniprot), Act d 5 (allergen.org)) in *Actinidia deliciosa* in allergen.org. We selected P85261 instead of P84527 to find more matched candidate proteins in BLASTp search. Because the length of P85261 is shorter than that of P84527. Therefore, the protparam parameters of P85261 in Table 3 and 4 are quite different compared to other studied proteins because of its length. On the other hand, there is a problem regarding sequence of P85261. Although it is two separated fragments, it seems like it is consisted of just one fragment. According to Table 3, the maximum and minimum number of amino acids were found in *P. persica* and *A. chinensis*, respectively. Theoretical pI value of kiwelin in *A. chinensis* is 5.98 and it was found as 5.83 (data not shown). From this comparison it could be said that theoretical pI values can not be affected by sequence length. The maximum pI value was found in *C. moschata* as 8.54 and minimum value was found from *J. curcas* as 4.12. In Table 3, the net charges were calculated from the subtraction of negatively charged residues from positively charged residues. The net charges of P85261 and P84527 were

#### CLUSTAL O(1.2.4) multiple sequence alignment

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sp|P85261|KIWEL_ACTCH      -----ISSCNGPCRDLDNDCDGLICG----- 21
sp|P84527|KIWEL_ACTDE      MAQLALLLLSLFLTLISLAPPGASISSCNGPCRDLDNDCDGLICIKGKCNDPPQVGTHIC 60
                               *****

sp|P85261|KIWEL_ACTCH      --TTHSHQPGGCKPS----- 34
sp|P84527|KIWEL_ACTDE      RGTTPSPQPGGCKPSGTLTCRKGSYPTYDCSPPVTSSTPAKLTNNDFSEGGDDGGPSECD 120
                               ** * *****

sp|P85261|KIWEL_ACTCH      ----- 34
sp|P84527|KIWEL_ACTDE      ESYHNNNERIVALSTGWYNGGSRGCKMIRITASNGKSVSAKVVDCECDSDRHGCDKEHAGQP 180

sp|P85261|KIWEL_ACTCH      ----- 34
sp|P84527|KIWEL_ACTDE      PCRNIVDGSNAVWSALGLDKNVGVVDITWSMA 213

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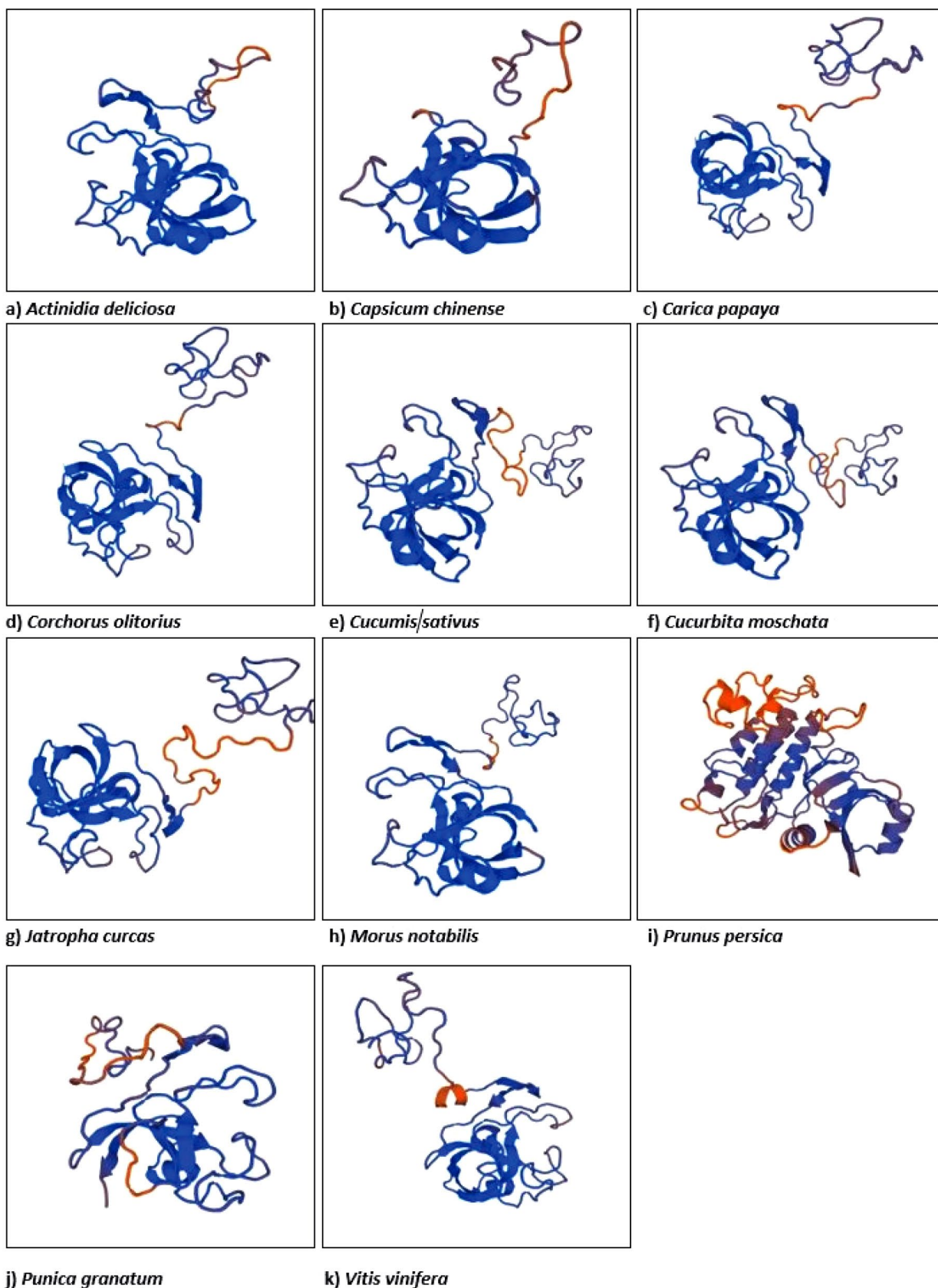
Figure 2. Pairwise sequence alignment of P85261 and P84527.

**Table 4:** Amino acid number and percentages in kiwelin-like proteins from different fruits (The name of the proteins in these species were given in Table 2).

	<i>Actinidia chinensis</i>	<i>Corchorus olerius</i>	<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	<i>Cucumis sativus</i>	<i>Punica granatum</i>	<i>Capsicum chinense</i>	<i>Prunus persica</i>	<i>Carica papaya</i>	<i>Cucurbita moschata</i>	<i>Morus notabilis</i>	<i>Jatropha curcas</i>											
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#											
Ala (A)	0	0.0	12	5.6	18	4.7	10	4.6	13	6.6	10	4.8	53	6.2	11	5.2	11	5.0	13	6.1	12	5.5
Arg (R)	1	2.9	6	2.8	9	2.4	3	1.4	5	2.5	8	3.8	35	4.1	5	2.4	12	5.5	11	5.2	4	1.8
Asn (N)	2	5.9	12	5.6	19	5.0	15	6.9	10	5.1	17	8.1	52	6.1	21	10.0	14	6.4	12	5.6	15	6.9
Asp (D)	3	8.8	16	7.4	19	5.0	16	7.4	13	6.6	15	7.2	40	4.7	13	6.2	14	6.4	19	8.9	19	8.7
Cys (C)	5	14.7	14	6.5	20	5.2	15	6.9	14	7.1	10	4.8	36	4.2	14	6.7	14	6.4	14	6.6	14	6.4
Gln (Q)	2	5.9	9	4.2	9	2.4	7	3.2	4	2.0	5	2.4	22	2.6	4	1.9	5	2.3	5	2.3	7	3.2
Glu (E)	0	0.0	6	2.8	14	3.7	5	2.3	8	4.0	8	3.8	44	5.2	7	3.3	5	2.3	6	2.8	9	4.1
Gly (G)	5	14.7	22	10.2	28	7.3	34	15.7	17	8.6	24	11.5	72	8.4	30	14.3	30	13.7	24	11.3	29	13.3
His (H)	2	5.9	2	0.9	11	2.9	8	3.7	5	2.5	2	1.0	15	1.8	5	2.4	7	3.2	4	1.9	3	1.4
Ile (I)	2	5.9	10	4.7	20	5.2	13	6.0	7	3.5	13	6.2	60	7.0	11	5.2	12	5.5	11	5.2	8	3.7
Leu (L)	2	5.9	13	6.0	40	10.5	17	7.8	13	6.6	13	6.2	58	6.8	13	6.2	15	6.8	14	6.6	15	6.9
Lys (K)	1	2.9	10	4.7	11	2.9	8	3.7	8	4.0	11	5.3	43	5.0	8	3.8	12	5.5	7	3.3	6	2.8
Met (M)	0	0.0	5	2.3	8	2.1	3	1.4	4	2.0	5	2.4	17	2.0	6	2.9	2	0.9	4	1.9	3	1.4
Phe (F)	0	0.0	6	2.8	15	3.9	7	3.2	2	1.0	2	1.0	31	3.6	10	4.8	6	2.7	4	1.9	4	1.8
Pro (P)	3	8.8	12	5.6	32	8.4	10	4.6	13	6.6	13	6.2	47	5.5	12	5.7	10	4.6	9	4.2	9	4.1
Ser (S)	4	11.8	26	12.1	37	9.7	21	9.7	30	15.2	19	9.1	76	8.9	17	8.1	24	11.0	22	10.3	27	12.4
Thr (T)	2	5.9	15	7.0	27	7.1	10	4.6	13	6.6	13	6.2	60	7.0	7	3.3	6	2.7	13	6.1	16	7.3
Trp (W)	0	0.0	3	1.4	6	1.6	3	1.4	2	1.0	4	1.9	7	0.8	3	1.4	4	1.8	3	1.4	3	1.4
Tyr (Y)	0	0.0	4	1.9	11	2.9	1	0.5	4	2.0	3	1.4	28	3.3	1	0.5	1	0.5	6	2.8	4	1.8
Val (V)	0	0.0	12	5.6	28	7.3	11	5.1	13	6.6	14	6.7	58	6.8	12	5.7	15	6.8	12	5.6	11	5.0
Pyl (O)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0

**Table 3.** Protein parameters for kiwelin-like proteins in different fruits (The name of the proteins in these species were given in Table 2).

Species	#aa	Mw (KDa)	Theoretical pI	# Negatively Charged Residues (Asp + Glu)	# Positively Charged Residues (Arg + Lys)	Net Charge	Instability Index
<i>Actinidia chinensis</i>	34	3501.86	5.98	3	2	-1	34.23
<i>Corchorus olerius</i>	215	22690.36	4.82	22	16	-8	39.49
<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	382	41391.41	5.18	33	20	-13	44.58
<i>Cucurbita moschata</i>	219	23086.07	8.54	19	24	+5	72.97
<i>Punica granatum</i>	198	20615.93	4.95	21	13	-8	62.58
<i>Capsicum chinense</i>	209	22148.87	5.18	23	19	-4	36.94
<i>Prunus persica</i>	854	92694.39	6.25	84	78	-6	79.79
<i>Carica papaya</i>	210	21995.70	5.06	20	13	-7	38.89
<i>Jatropha curcas</i>	218	22461.42	4.12	28	10	-18	47.05
<i>Morus notabilis</i>	213	22664.24	4.98	25	18	-7	48.58
<i>Cucumis sativus</i>	217	22343.93	5.00	21	11	-10	73.23



**Figure 3.** 3-Dimensional visualization of each protein by Swiss-MODEL a) *Actinidia deliciosa*, b) *Capsicum chinense*, c) *Carica papaya*, d) *Corchorus olitorius*, e) *Cucumis sativus*, f) *Cucurbita moschata*, g) *Jatropha curcas*, h) *Morus notabilis*, i) *Prunus persica*, j) *Punica granatum*, k) *Vitis vinifera* (The name of the proteins in these species were given in Table 2).

found as -1 and -4, respectively, which show that kiwellin is a negatively charged protein. Only positive value was observed in *C. moschata* as +5. The highest and lowest instability index were found in the proteins of *P. persica* and *A. chinensis*. The correlation test was carried out for the data in Table 3. But no meaningful correlation was found among the data. When the amino acid numbers and percentages were compared, it was found that glycine and serine were dominant amino acids in the sequences apart from the protein of *V. vinifera*.

### 3. 3. The Homology Modelling

The homology modelling was carried by using Swiss-MODEL. 3-D structures of proteins are essential and important for understanding biological systems. 3-D homology models also reveal that the kiwellin-like proteins in these species may exhibit similar allergenicity in human. The created 3-D structures were given in Figure 3. Except for the proteins of *P. granatum*, *P. persica* and *V. vinifera*, the proteins include similar barrel-like structure formed by beta-sheets. The pore-forming property of the kiwellin might be associated with these structures. From these homology modelling results, one can estimate the allergenicity of the proteins by comparing the 3-D structures since there is a direct relationship between function and structures of the proteins. Because there is a direct relationship between structure and function in proteins. It is important to note that the structure of kiwellin belongs to P84527 in Figure 3 due to the sequence length of P85261 is shorter than P84527.

### 3. 4. AlgPred

There are three types prediction algorithms to estimate allergenicity: i) Mapping of IgE epitopes and PID, ii) support vector machine module based on amino acid composition and iii) support vector machine module based on

dipeptide composition. The results of these algorithms are given in Table 5. The mapping of IgE epitopes and PID estimated that none of 10 different proteins were identified as potential allergen. According to SVM based on amino acid results all protein except *V. vinifera* are showed allergen. Considering the SVM based on dipeptide composition results, six protein *C. olitorius*, *C. sativus*, *C. chinense*, *C. papaya*, *M. notabilis* and *J. curcas* were identified allergen. There are six proteins (*C. olitorius*, *C. sativus*, *C. chinense*, *C. papaya*, *M. notabilis*, *J. curcas*) in which the two SVM algorithms give positive results.

It should be noted that % identity might not be used as an important criteria to evaluate if a protein is allergen or not. When we compare all results, we see that only 6 of 10 potential allergens are classified as an allergen. When BLASTp results were examined, the proteins in *C. olitorius* (95%) and *C. sativus* (80%) were classified as allergen proteins. However, even if the protein in *P. granatum* has high similarity (90%), it was not identified as an allergen protein. From these results, it could be said that the similarity index can not be used as a criteria. When Swiss-MODEL results are considered, 3-D structures are different. AlgPred contains different algorithms to evaluate the submitted protein sequences.<sup>21</sup> Three of them are mapping of IgE epitopes and PID, support vector machine module based on amino acid and dipeptide compositions. So the methods are based on different algorithms. Six proteins in this study were evaluated as allergen proteins inasmuch as they were identified by support vector machine module based on amino acid and dipeptide compositions (Table 5).

## 4. Conclusions

The aim of the paper is to find kiwellin-like proteins by using allergen based *in silico* tools. Based on the results of the study, it might be said that identified kiwellin-like proteins in this study might show similar allergenicity in

Table 5: AlgPred analysis of different allergens in fruits (The name of the proteins in these species were given in Table 2).

AlgPred Parameters Species	Mapping of IgE epitopes and PID	SVM module based on amino acid Composition				SVM module based on dipeptide Composition			
		Allergen prediction	Score	Positive predictive value (%)	Negative predictive value (%)	Allergen predictive	Score	Positive predictive value (%)	Negative predictive value (%)
<i>Corchorus olitorius</i>	X	√	0.43526052	81.83	74.03	√	-0.048627	63.10	85.56
<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	X	X	-0.74099846	22.82	92.94	X	-0.676397	13.26	74.19
<i>Cucumis sativus</i>	X	√	0.91145594	85.64	67.96	√	0.004279	74.14	79.04
<i>Punica granatum</i>	X	√	-0.14027725	64.55	86.61	X	-0.643383	13.26	74.19
<i>Capsicum chinense</i>	X	√	0.83191078	85.64	67.96	√	-0.034468	63.10	85.56
<i>Prunus persica</i>	X	√	0.37866622	74.81	76.94	X	-0.652229	13.26	74.19
<i>Carica papaya</i>	X	√	0.77608681	87.05	71.53	√	0.320983	85.88	72.01
<i>Cucurbita moschata</i>	X	√	-0.13002118	64.55	86.61	X	-0.256085	39.40	89.34
<i>Morus notabilis</i>	X	√	0.25337214	74.81	76.94	√	-0.028054	63.10	85.56
<i>Jatropha curcas</i>	X	√	0.78994643	87.05	71.53	√	0.304532	85.88	72.01

people who have kiwelling allergenicity. The identification of an unknown protein in a fruit sample by using *in silico* tools is so easier to estimate its allergenicity compared to wet-lab methodology. This strategy can reduce the cost of medicine and/or therapy costs spent for allergenicity. Therefore, there is a great need for development of novel allergenicity tools with better accuracy. Kiwi is an important and highly consumed fruit because of its rich ingredients such as vitamins and antioxidant molecules. Natural production place of kiwi is China. On the other hand, kiwi is also produced in Italy, New Zealand, Iran and Chile. According to FAOSTAT, total production of kiwi is 4,274,840 ton.<sup>22</sup> Although kiwi is known as a healthy fruit, it has 13 allergen proteins in it, according to allergen.org. Kiwi has also been started to produce in different country. For example, kiwi trees have been planted in the northern part of Turkey and now the production are significantly increasing. Since some people have not consumed this fruit previously, people should be informed about the possible allergenicity of the allergen proteins of kiwi. In the present study, 10 kiwelling-like proteins have been studied in 10 different plants based on the similarities. It is very important to note that these proteins have still not been taken place in allergen.org. Many scientific studies have been published on kiwi. Tamburrini et al.<sup>8</sup> purified kiwelling and defined it as an allergen protein. They also mentioned that kiwelling is one third of the total protein of kiwi fruit. In their study, it is selected because of high abundance in kiwi fruit compared to other allergen proteins. They proved its allergenicity by using Scin Prick test, western blot, specific IgE and total IgE tests. Tuppo et al.<sup>23</sup> also showed that kissper part of kiwelling is a proteolysis-resistant protein and also it constitutes pore-forming in lipid membrane of cell. pH dependent and thionine containing Kissper also shows its function in ion-channels. These functions cause allergenicity in human. Ciardiello et al.<sup>24</sup> identified two domains in kiwelling. First one is known as kissper consisted of first 39 amino acids and 6 of them is Cys. Kissper is located in the N-terminal. Second domain is known as KiTH and located in C-terminal. The residue number of this location is between 40–189. 8 Cys were also reported for this residue. Ciardiello et al.<sup>24</sup> mentioned that kiwelling based ion channel disruption can be associated with cystic fibrosis. Offerman et al.<sup>25</sup> reported X-crystallography of kiwelling protein in *A. deliciosa* (Act d 5). Pore forming structure of kiwelling was also explained by Offerman et al.<sup>25</sup>. Hamiaux et al.<sup>26</sup> investigated crystal structure of kiwelling and they found that there is a binding region on the surface of kiwelling for endogenous ligands. Uberti et al.<sup>27</sup> studied 13 allergen proteins in kiwi. They defined 3 of them as major allergen proteins (Act d 1, Act d 2, Act d 6). Act d 5 and Act d 8/11 were defined as minor allergen proteins by Uberti et al.<sup>27</sup> Jenkins et al.<sup>28</sup> analysed the plant genomes to study allergen proteins. It is reported that 65% of the food allergens are originated from 4 different protein family. According to an interesting paper by Ciacci et al.<sup>29</sup> they

explained antioxidant and anti inflammatory effects of kissper peptide. In this study, 6 proteins were defined as allergens. by using *in silico* tools in 10 different fruits. From the outputs of this paper and also published papers in this field, it is most likely to be said that *in silico* tools will be of great importance in the life sciences.<sup>3,7,28,30,31</sup>

In conclusion, kiwelling like proteins can be existed in not only kiwi but also in different fruits. By using *in silico* tools, it is more easier to define possible allergen proteins. Since *in silico* tools have recently been developed, more input will be released in near future. The outputs from *in silico* based investigations will most likely decrease number of allergen based disorders. More scientific researches will be needed for development of new *in silico* tools and also application them to find allergen proteins in foods. Developments in the field of artificial intelligence will most likely to increase the quality of *in silico* tools in near future.

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## Povzetek

Identifikacija alergeni beljakovin z uporabo tako imenovane wet-lab tehnologije je zamuden in tudi drag proces. V zadnjih letih, zahvaljujoč razvoju na področju bioinformatike, je zdaj mogoče oceniti alergene beljakovine z uporabo računskih orodij. V tej študiji je bil cilj, da bi z uporabo bioinformatičnih orodij našli kivelinu podobne beljakovine iz različnih vzorcev sadja. Glede na rezultate študije je bilo šest beljakovin iz *Corchorus olitorius*, *Cucumis sativus*, *Capsicum chinense*, *Carica Papaya*, *Morus notabilis* in *Jatropha curcas* opredeljenih kot alergeni. Skratka, računski orodja, razvita na področju bioinformatike, lahko zagotovijo velik prispevek k oceni neznanih beljakovinskih alergenov v različnih plodovih. Na podlagi teh *in silico* rezultatov zdravniki lahko priporočajo ljudem, ki so alergični na kivelin, da ne uživajo sadja, ki vsebuje kivelinu podobne beljakovine.



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