

Chemical and histochemical characterisation of cell wall polysaccharides in almond seeds in relation to lipid bioavailability.

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Abstract:

Almond seeds are a rich source of nutrients and phytochemicals, some of which may be protective against disease, such as cancer and coronary heart disease. (12) They are particularly rich in intra-cellular lipids, (3.4) comprising mainly monounsaturated fatty acids, and dietary fibre, the latter reflecting the cell wall tissue structure. The current study focuses on the physical and chemical characteristics of almond seed cell walls, which consist mainly of non-starch polysaccharides. This work will be of considerable importance in providing information on factors that influence the bioavailability of nutrients in almond seeds, including the digestion and absorption of lipids.