



GREEN SYNTHESIS OPTIMIZATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF SILVER NANOPARTICLE USING AQUEOUS EXTRACT OF *CROCUS SATIVUS L.*

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ABSTRACT

Green chemistry means utilization of various plant resources for the synthesis of metallic nanoparticles. In the present study silver nanoparticles was synthesized in a single step by a green biosynthetic method using an extract of *Crocus Sativus L* act as a reducing and capping agents. The nanoparticles were characterized using UV-Vis, X-ray diffraction (XRD) and Dynamic light scattering (DLS). The prepared silver nanoparticles (AgNPs) showed surface Plasmon resonance centered at 440 nm. The XRD pattern showed the face centered cubic structure of silver nanoparticles. The size range from 19.9 nm to 28.1 nm was determined by using laser particle size analyzer. The current research work investigates the findings of optimization of different experimental variable conditions like time, temperature, reaction pH, silver nitrate concentration and the mixing ratio of the reactants on silver nanoparticles synthesized. The optimized condition for the synthesis of silver nanoparticles revealed that silver nitrate concentration was 1 mM, temperature was 70°C, PH was 9, incubation time 1 h and aqueous extract and silver nitrate ratio was 5:95.

KEYWORDS: *Crocus Sativus L*, silver nanoparticles, XRD, Dynamic light scattering



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1. INTRODUCTION

Nanotechnology is the field of science which involves the synthesis and development of various nanomaterials with size less than 100 nm⁽¹⁾. In the field of nanotechnology different concepts of engineering, electronics, and material science are applied in molecular or submicron level⁽²⁾. Colloidal particles are starting point for the generation of micro and nanostructures⁽³⁾. Metal nanoparticles have attracted much attention in the fields of physics, chemistry, electronics and biology⁽⁴⁾ because of their unique electrical⁽⁵⁾ chemical⁽⁶⁾, optical⁽⁷⁾ and photo electrochemical⁽⁸⁾ properties. Properties of metal nanoparticles are different from those of bulk materials made from the same atoms which could be attributed to their size, distribution and morphology⁽⁹⁾. Silver has the highest electrical and thermal conductivity among all metals⁽¹⁰⁾. Different physical, chemical and biological methods have been developed for synthesis of nanoparticles⁽¹¹⁾. Biological methods using fungi, bacteria, algae⁽¹²⁾ and plant extracts have advantages over other methods because of their systems are single step in nature, environment friendly (green chemistry), no need for, hazardous chemicals, high pressure, energy, power and simply scaled up for large-scale synthesis⁽¹³⁾. In biological synthesis the reducing agent can be any bio source⁽¹⁴⁾. Many plants are becoming probable sources for reducing and stabilizing agents for green synthesis of nanoparticles⁽¹⁵⁻¹⁷⁾. Silver nanoparticles have shown great attention because of their unusual physical, chemical, electronic, catalytic, magnetic antibacterial and biological activities⁽¹⁸⁾. Its were used in broad band of applications like biomedical⁽¹⁹⁾, drug delivery⁽²⁰⁾ food industries⁽²¹⁾, agriculture⁽²²⁾, water treatment⁽²³⁾, as an antioxidant⁽²⁴⁾, antimicrobial⁽²⁵⁾ and anti-cancer⁽²⁶⁾. Plant or plant extract, it is always more suitable than organisms as to avoid its pathogens, laborious, time consuming and hygiene maintenance procedures of cell culture⁽²⁷⁾. Synthesis of silver nanoparticles has been reported from different plant extracts⁽²⁸⁻³⁴⁾ Saffron, the dried stigma of *Crocus Sativus L.* is a plant widely used as herbal medicine or food coloring, and as a flavoring agent⁽³⁵⁾. The main substances

of saffron are crocins, picrocrocin, safranal, ketoisophorone, isophorone and glycosidic terpenoids⁽³⁶⁾. Beside its traditional medicine⁽³⁷⁻⁴⁰⁾ saffron have demonstrated its antitumor effects⁽⁴¹⁾, free radical scavenging properties⁽⁴²⁾, hypolipemic effects⁽⁴³⁾ and in neurodegenerative disorder accompanying memory impairment⁽⁴⁴⁾. In the present investigation, the synthesis of silver nanoparticles emphasizes the potentiality of *Crocus sativus* (saffron) in reducing and stabilizing silver nanoparticles.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Materials

Silver nitrate, AgNO₃, was obtained from SigmaAldrich and used without further purification. All other reagents were of analytical grade with maximum purity. All glassware's were properly washed with distilled water and oven dried before use. Saffron has been collected from the market.

2.2 Preparation of aqueous extract of *C. Sativus*

Fifty g of *C. sativus* stigmas (saffron stigmas) were macerated for 3 days in one liter of deionized water at room temperature. The aqueous extract was filtered using filter paper. The filtered extract was stored at room temperature for further use.

2.3 Preparation of silver nanoparticles

Silver nitrate aqueous solution (1 mM) was prepared and used for synthesis of silver nanoparticles. 5 ml of aqueous extract of *C. sativus* was added to 95 ml of aqueous solution of 1 mM Ag NO₃ and heated with stirrer at 70 °C for 60 min. The formation of brown color was indicated synthesis of silver nanoparticles. To study the optimum factors for silver nanoparticles synthesis, the experiments were carried out in different conditions are silver ion concentration (0.25, 0.5, 1, 2 and 3 mM) pH (1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11), temperature (40 °C, 50 °C, 60 °C, 70 °C and 80 °C), time (10 min, 20 min, 40 min, 60 min and 80 min) and the *C. sativus* aqueous extract to silver nitrate ratio (10:90, 5:95,

2.5 :97.5 ,1 : 99 and 0.5 :99.5). The pH of the reaction was adjusted by using 0, 1 N sodium hydroxide and 0.1 N Hydrochloric acid. The effect of these parameters on the synthesis of silver nanoparticles was monitored by UV-Vis spectrophotometer.

2.4 Characterization of green synthesis silver nanoparticles

2.4.1 By color change

The color change in the reaction mixture was recorded through visual observation. The color change from yellow to dark brown indicated that the silver nanoparticles were synthesized.

2.4.2 UV-Visible spectral analysis

The reduction of silver ions (Ag^+) to silver nanoparticles (Ag^0) was spectrometrically identified by double beam UV-Vis spectrophotometer (PD-303 UV) at different wavelength (300-800 nm) .The graph of wavelength on X-axis and absorbance on Y-axis. Using deionized water as a reference .

2.4.3 X- Ray diffraction studies (XRD)

The synthesized silver nanoparticles were centrifuged at 15,000 rpm for 15 min. and collect the pellet. The pellet was washed with distilled water to remove any purity and dried to get the powder. The X-ray diffraction assay was performed for the detection of crystalline nature of the metal nanoparticles was done by X-ray diffractometer Shimadzu XRD-6000 AS (3K .NOPC).

2.4.4 Dynamic light scattering,

Dynamic light scattering (DLS) is an important technique used to investigate the size distribution pattern and average particles size of the biosynthesis AgNPs present in suspension or solution⁽⁴⁵⁾. The prepared sample was dispersed in deionised water followed by ultrasonication. Dynamic light scattering (DLS) measurements were carried out on ABT-9000 Nano particle size analyzer

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Characterization of silver nanoparticles

3.1. By color change

The checking of formation of AgNPs was primary well known by the color change from yellow to brown (Figure 1) while adding *Crocus sativus* extract into silver nitrate solution. The color formation occurred within 10 minutes. This change in color due to the excitation of free electrons in nanoparticles⁽⁴⁵⁾ which gives the surface plasmon resonance (SPR) absorption band by the combined vibration of electrons of metal NPs in resonance with light wave⁽⁴⁶⁾. Metal nanoparticles exhibits different colors in solution due to their optical properties⁽⁴⁷⁾. The solution was stored at room temperature for 24 hours for the complete settlement of nanoparticles. After 24 hours the reaction mixture was centrifuged at 15000 rpm for 15 min and pellets were collected followed by washing with deionized water then freeze-dried, powdered and use for XRD.

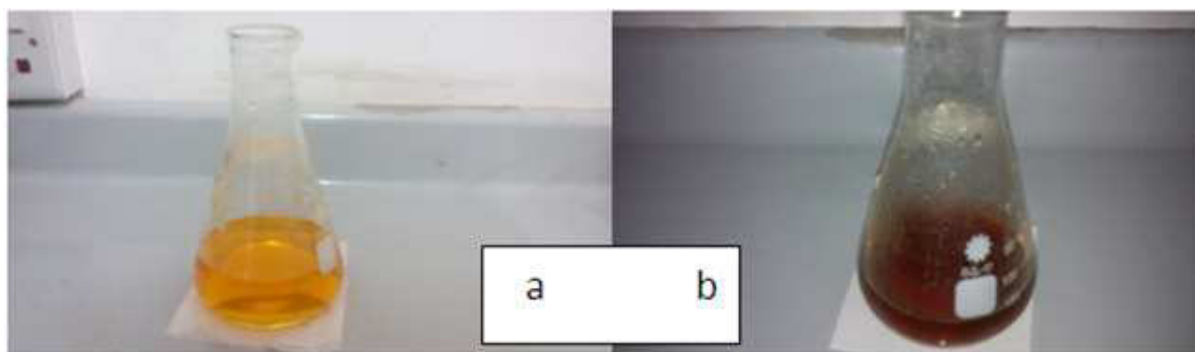


Figure 1
(a) *Crocus sativus*(saffron) extract ,(b) brown color indicate the formation of silver nanoparticles.

3.2. UV-Visible spectral analysis

3.2.1 Effect of silver ion concentration

The UV –Vis spectrum (Figure 2) shows the effect of silver nitrate concentration in the silver nanoparticles synthesis by using *Crocus sativus* extract .Characteristic surface Plasmon absorption band was observed at 440 nm for the brown coloured silver nanoparticles synthesized from the 1 mM silver nitrate. The absorption was increased while increasing the concentration of silver ions from 0.25 mM to 1mM ,but by increase the concentration of silver ion there was a fall in absorbance. The study of Srivastava et

al⁽⁴⁸⁾ has been found that the maximum peak was observed in 0.5 mM silver nitrate . In another study the optimum concentration of silver nitrate was observed 0.7 mM ⁽⁴⁹⁾. In the present study 1 mM concentration was the optimum condition for AgNPs as shown in (Figure 2). The study of Ravichandran et al⁽⁵⁰⁾ has been found that the maximum peak was observed in 1 mM silver nitrate solution support our data. Bashir et al⁽⁵¹⁾ was found that the optimum concentration of silver nitrate is 1mM, these observations were another study in agreement with our finding.

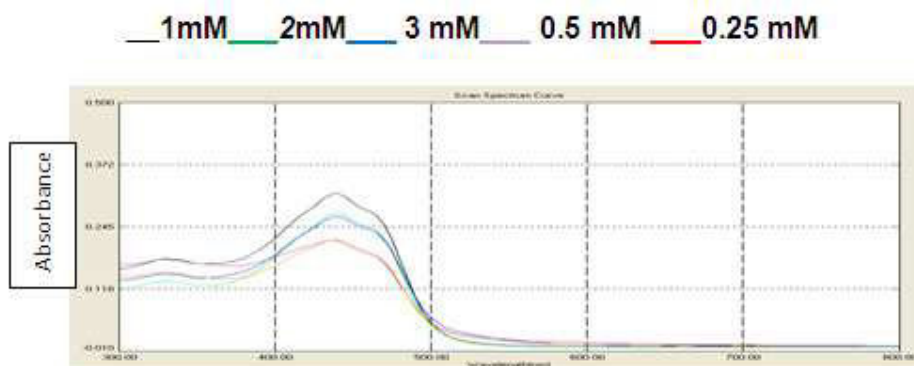
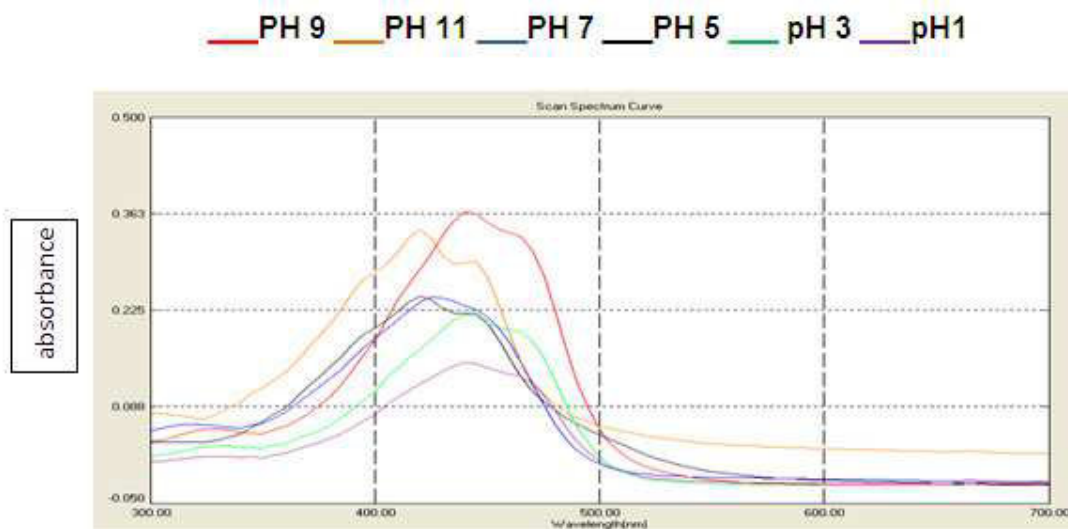


Figure (2)
UV spectrum of synthesis of silver nanoparticles at different concentration of $AgNO_3$

3.2.2 Effect of PH

PH play an important role in the nanoparticles synthesis ,the effect of pH on synthesis of silver nanoparticles was tested under a different pH range(PH1-11) as shown in Figure (3).



Figur (3)
UV spectra show the effect of PH in nano particles synthesis

The UV-Visible absorption spectra shows that the maximum absorption at PH 9. Increase in pH the observed decrease in absorption. So in current study the optimize pH observe was 9 .In low pH ,small with broadening shape of silver nanoparticles⁽⁵²⁾.Sathishkumer et al ⁽⁵³⁾SPR band was formed indicates formation of large size of nanoparticles⁽⁴⁷⁾,while the sharp peak indicates formation of spherical observations study the effect of pH on the shape and size of AgNPs and found that great number of particle formation in alkaline pH while in acidic pH increase aggregation of nuclei instead of formation .The present investigation indicates alkaline pH is more suitable for synthesis of silver nanoparticle , the blue shift in absorption pattern confirmed formation of relatively smaller NPs .G.Annadural et al⁽⁴⁷⁾reported that silver nanoparticles show maximum stability at the PH 8.2 (very close to our finding).

3.2.3 Effect of temperature

Temperature another physical factor which play an important role to control the nucleation process of nanoparticle formation. As shown in Figure 4 the absorbance increase by increase the temperature from 40° C to 70° C. and then decrease at higher temperatures.The study of Amit ,Abhishek and Uttam⁽⁵⁴⁾has been found that the absorbance increased with increase of temperature from 25 to 45°C and then decrease at higher temperature .these follow the same pattern as follow in our study.Again, our study finding was close agreement of the previous study ⁽⁵⁰⁾. The higher rate of reduction was occurred at higher temperature due to the consumption of silver ions in the formation of nuclei, whereas the secondary reduction was stopped on the surface performed nuclei ⁽⁵⁵⁾. Bashir et al⁽⁵¹⁾ was observed that the maximum formation of AgNPs was observed at75° C(very close to our finding).

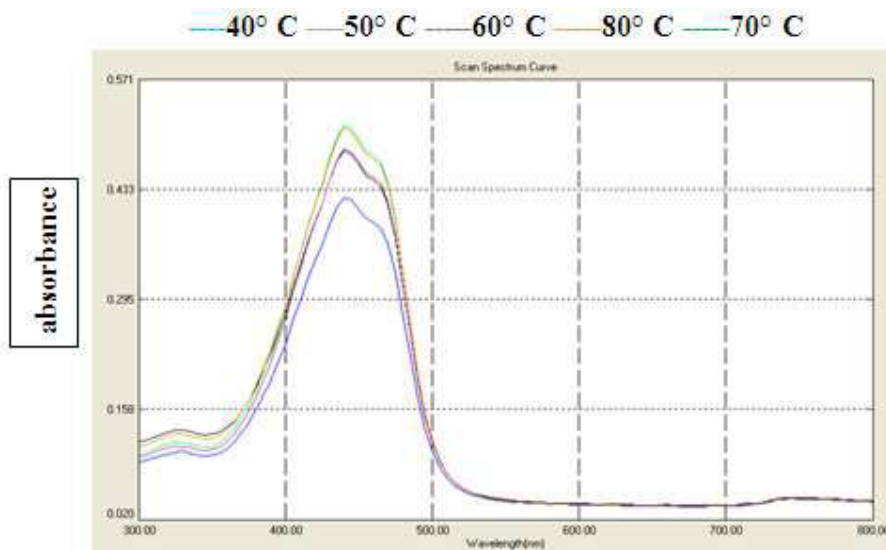


Figure 4

UV-Visible spectra of AgNPs showing effect of different reaction temperature

3.2.4 Effect of time

Time is another factor which effect the formation of silver nanoparticles. Figure 5 shows the increasing of reaction time resulted in gradual increasing of absorbance spectrum with SPR at 440 nm and the color intensity increased with the duration of incubation and the maximum absorbance was investigated at 1 h of reaction time. The intensity of the SPR peak increased as the reaction time increased which indicated the increased concentration of the silver nanoparticles. This result means that the silver nanoparticles prepared by this green synthesis method is very stable without aggregation. The study of Chandran et al⁽⁵⁶⁾ found that absorbance of silver colloid solution increased with span of time and maximum absorption was observed after 12 hrs of reaction. In the present study the optimum duration condition 60 min..Preeti,D. et al⁽⁵⁷⁾ was found The formation of AgNPs within 30 min incubation. The intensity of SPR increase up to 8 hrs and there was no change in SPR within the reaction time period Another study⁽⁵⁰⁾ the optimum duration necessary for the end of

reaction was 60 min, which is a close agreement to our finding.

3.2.5 Concentration ratio of silver nitrate and saffron extract

The effect of extract concentration in the mixed solution on the biosynthesis of silver nanoparticles was investigated. The difference concentration of extract in the mixed solution was obtained by changing the volume of the added extract solution different volumes (0.5 - 10 ml) of extract were added to 100ml of 1 mM silver nitrate. Optimization of concentration ratio of silver nitrate and extract was observed at ratio 5: 95 and at high ratio (10:90), the absorption was decreased as shown in Figure 6. It was reported in literature⁽⁵⁰⁾ that optimal extract and metal salt ratio was necessary for the symmetrical nanoparticles preparation is 1:19, these observation was a close agreement to our results. Another study reported⁽⁵⁸⁾ that the optimal 6 ml of leaves extract and 50 ml of 1 mM silver nitrate. It was reported that⁽⁵⁰⁾ 5:95 ratio of leaves extract in the mixture of reaction was efficient for the synthesis of silver nanoparticles (a close to our finding).

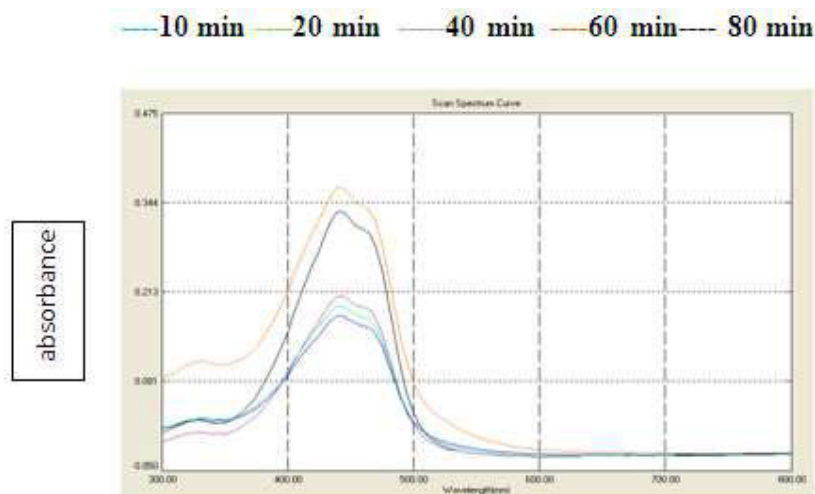


Figure 5
UV-Visible spectra of AgNPs showing effect of reaction time

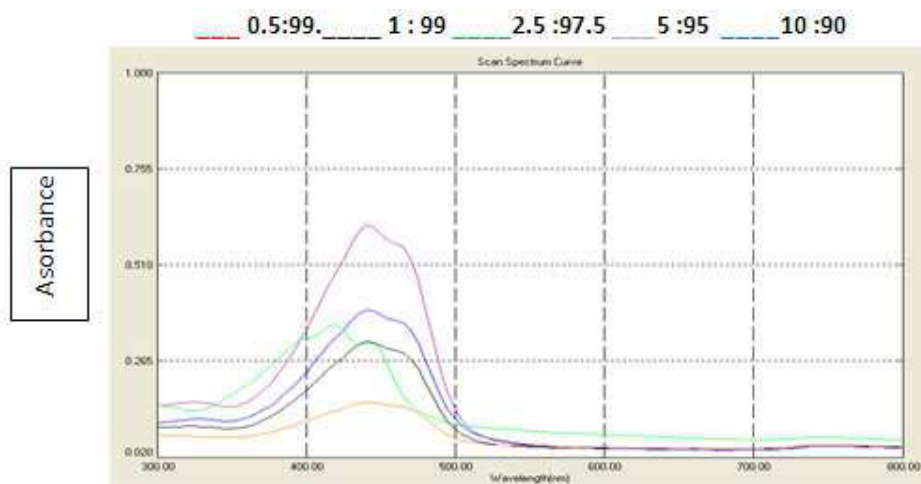


Figure 6
UV-Visible spectra of AgNPs showing the effect of saffron extract and AgNO₃

3.3 X-ray diffraction (XRD)

Figure 7 shows the X-ray diffraction (XRD) patterns of dried silver nanoparticles synthesized using saffron extract. The diffracted intensities from 30° to 80° at 2θ . The XRD patterns of Ag/ extract indicate that the structure of silver nanoparticles is face-centered cubic (fcc)⁽⁵⁹⁾. In addition, the XRD peaks at 2θ of 38.17° , 44.31° , 64.44° , 77.34° and 81.33° could be attributed to the 111, 200, 311 and 222 crystallographic planes. XRD

pattern confirmed that the silver particles formed in our experiment were in the form of nanoparticles, as evidence by the peaks at 2θ values and planes for silver respectively. The present study is inconsistent with Mustafa et al, where silver nanoparticles were synthesized using olive leaf extract⁽⁶⁰⁾. The crystalline like particles were synthesized using various plant extracts and also reported by Jagtap and Bapa⁽⁶¹⁾, Das et al⁽⁶²⁾, Edison and Sethuraman⁽⁶³⁾ Bindhu and Umadevi⁽⁶⁴⁾.

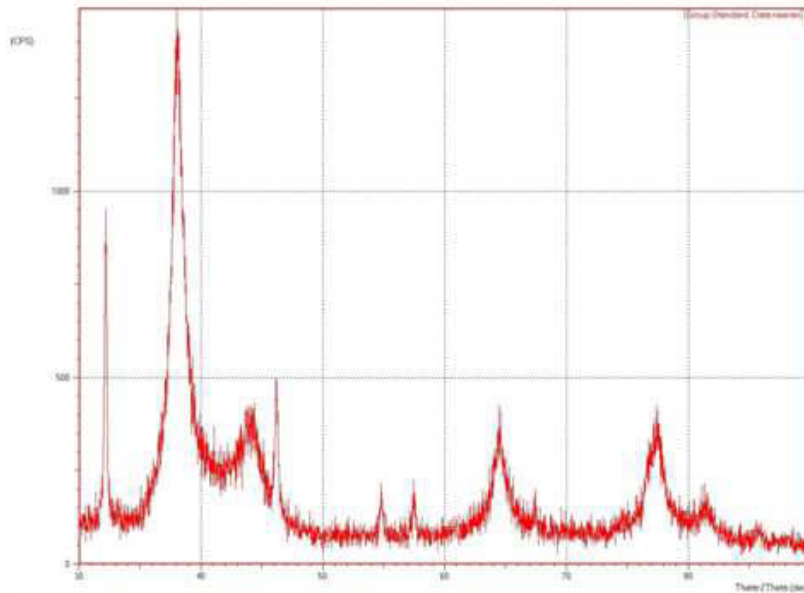


Figure 7
XRD patterns of silver nanoparticles .The XRD pattern showed 4 intense peaks in the whole spectrum of 2θ values ranging from 30-80.

3.4 Dynamic light scattering, DLS

Size analysis by DLS utilizes the Brownian motion that particles, emulsions, and molecules in suspension undergo as a result of bombardment by solvent molecules⁽⁶⁵⁾. If the particles are illuminated by a laser, the intensity of the scattered light fluctuates at a rate that is dependent upon the size of the particles. This is because smaller particles are “hit” more frequently by the solvent

molecules and move more rapidly. Analysis of these intensity fluctuations yields the velocity of the Brownian motion and hence the particle size using the Stokes-Einstein relationship⁽⁶⁶⁾. Based on the DLS analysis (table 1) that about 63% of the particles are smaller than 20 nm. The smaller the particle is the faster the movement is, so the range is bigger. The bigger the particle is, the slower the movement, so the range is smaller.

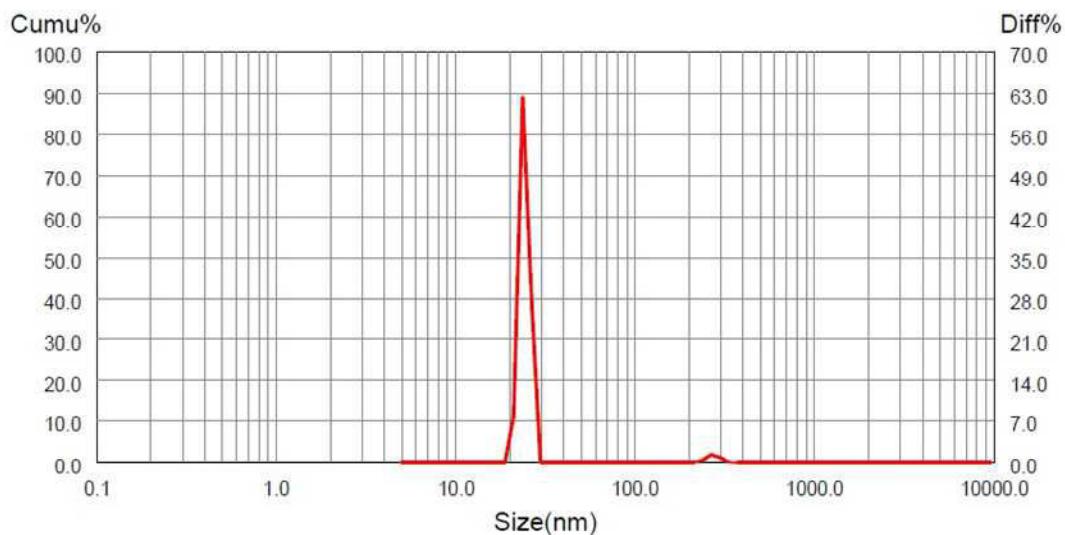


Figure 8
Histogram of particle size distribution of silver nanoparticles

Figure 8 shows the DLS pattern of the biologically synthesized nanoparticles after separating them from the reaction mixture by ultracentrifugation. It clearly shows that the colloidal solution of silver nanoparticles contains particles with the average size range of nanoparticles varied within 19.9 to 28.1

Table 1
shows the percent of particles distribution according to their size

Diam nm ofAgNPS	Diff %	Cumu %
19.9-22.3	7.86	7.86
22.3-25.0	62.38	70.24
25.0-28.1	27.15	97.39
223-250	0.34	97.73
250-281	1.35	99.08
281-315	0.86	99.94
315-353	0.06	100

Based on the DLS analysis (Table 1)that about 63% of the particles with a range of 22.3-15 NM then 27% of the particles have the range 25-28 nm .The smaller the particles the faster the movement is, so the range is bigger. The bigger the particle is ,the slower the movement,so the range is smaller. Sizes and shape of metal nanoparticles are influenced by a number of factors, including PH, Precursor concentration, reductant concentration, time of incubation , temperature as well as the method of preparation ⁽⁶⁵⁾.

4. CONCLUSION

The biosynthesis of silver nanoparticles using *crocus sativus* extract were shown to be rapid and produce particles of fairly uniform size and shape. Following the addition of extracts to the silver nitrate solution, silver nanoparticles began to form within 10 min and the reaction neared completion at 1 h, as shown by the UV-Vis spectroscopy. The reduction of silver ions to silver nanoparticles was to be optimized at a ratio of 5:95 extract to 1 mM silver nitrate and at 70°C with alkaline PH .The synthesized particles ranged in size from 19.9-28.1 nm as shown in DLS. This green synthesis method is rapid, less time consuming and environmentally safe can be used in various biotechnological applications.

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