



**Keywords:** Ag NPs; X-ray diffraction; Transmission electron microscopy; Catalytic activity

## Introduction

Silver nanoparticles (NPs) have shown remarkable potential for numerous applications in chemical, electronic, medical, and biological fields due to their distinctive properties, when compared to their bulk counterparts [1-3]. Several physical properties of metal can be tailored for a specific application by controlling their shape, size, and morphology [4,5]. Consequently, there has been a growing need to replace the chemical synthetic procedures with clean, nontoxic, and environmentally suitable "green chemistry" methods. An environmentally benign solvent and eco-friendly capping and reducing agents are the three fundamental elements for a completely green synthesis technique. Accordingly, many researchers have turned toward biological systems such as microorganisms and plants to draw inspiration for green technologies [6-13]. Metal nanoparticles have proven to be the excellent catalysts for inorganic synthesis, pollution treatments and fuel cell, due to their quantum effect, high surface-to-volume ratio and surface energy [14-16]. In particular, the catalytic properties of the nanoparticles of noble metals such as gold [17-20], platinum [21-23] and palladium [24,25] have been extensively studied in recent years. Relatively, only a few investigations have been focused on the catalytic properties of the silver nanoparticles, although silver metal has already been applied as catalysts for commercial production of ethylene oxide [26,27]. The peel extracts function for bio-reduction of silver ions to yield metallic nanoparticles. Here, we report facile and cost effective biogenic synthesis of Ag NPs using aqueous extract of papaya peel and to investigate the bio molecules responsible for the synthesis of Ag NPs. Papaya botanical name *Carica papaya*, is an oblong tropical fruit. Papaya (*Carica papaya* L.) or pawpaw belongs to the family of the Caricaceae. This fruit, native to the tropics of America is now spread throughout the world [28]. Solo, Formose, Sunset, Golden and Sunrise are the most common varieties [29]. The fresh fruit is attractive to consumers due to its striking odours, high vitamin content (i.e., vitamin A and C) and high fiber content [30]. Moreover, the fruit's dietary value, papaya stems, leaves and fruits contain high levels of proteins and vitamins which are used in the elaboration of cosmetics and medications. Further, the catalytic activity of synthesized

Ag NPs in the reduction of 4-nitrophenol (4-NP) was studied by UV-vis absorption spectroscopy.

## Experimental Section

### Preparation of leaf extract from Papaya peel

Papaya peel is thoroughly rinsed with double distilled water to remove the fine dust particles and then the Papaya Peel is dried under shade at room temperature for 24 h under dust free condition. The dried Papaya peel was grinded with a mortar and pestle to make a powder. An amount of 10 g of Papaya Peel powder is mixed in to 100 mL double distilled water and refluxed for 1 h, at 80°C until the color of aqueous extract solution changes from watery to pale yellow. The resultant composition is cooled to room temperature and filtered with a Whatman No. 1 filter paper and the final extract is stored at 4°C for further use.

### Synthesis of silver nanoparticles

30 mL of 1 mM aqueous solution of silver nitrate was taken in Erlenmeyer flask and then 5.0 mL and 10 mL of Papaya Peel extract was added to the above solution separately at room temperature and stirred for 1 h. Then the reaction flask was kept at room temperature for Overnight. Finally, the color of solution changed from pale yellow to dark brown color was developed which indicates formation of Ag NPs. As the present method for the synthesis of Ag NPs with Papaya Peel

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extract in aqueous solution was made without any additional hazardous chemicals, this pathway satisfies pure green eco-friendly process.

### **Characterization techniques**

UV-Vis absorption spectra of the transparent colloid solution were performed on UV-Vis Spectrometer (Shimadzu 2400 UV-Vis double beam model) at a resolution of 1 nm in 200 - 800 nm wavelength range.

The FT-IR spectra of silver nanoparticles and Papaya peel extract was carried out with a Thermo Nicolet FTIR-200 thermo electron corporation. The phase purities of as synthesized compounds were checked by XRD technique. The X-ray diffraction measurements were recorded on a Seifert 3003 TT X-ray diffractometer with Cu K radiation with a wavelength of 1.52 Å. The morphology and diameter of silver nanoparticles were determined with a Phillips, TECHNAI FEI 12 transmission electron microscope (TEM) and the quantitative elemental analysis of the nanoparticles were carried out on Oxford instruments Inca Penta FET x 3 Energy dispersive spectrum (EDS).



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