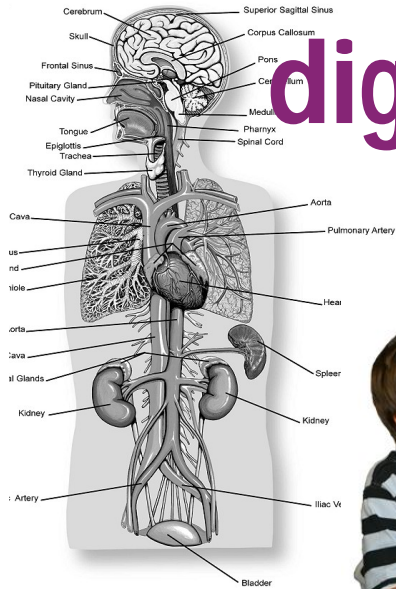




# Berry components inhibit digestive enzymes: A source of health benefits?



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# Berry research at the James Hutton

*We breed market-leading varieties*

- *Blackcurrants – the “Ben” series*
- *Raspberries – the “Glen” series*
- *Strawberry and Blueberries*
- Research into Health Benefits of Berries
- Feedback to direct breeding of new varieties



# Outline of talk

## Introduction

### *Berry polyphenols and digestive enzymes*

- MODEL *IN VITRO* SYSTEMS
- Polyphenol-enriched extracts
- Inhibition of enzymes relevant to
  - **Diabetes & Obesity**
- Correlate bioactivities with polyphenol composition using LC-MS techniques





- “Insufficient intake of fruit and vegetables increases the chances of developing cancers, cardiovascular disease and strokes” - World Health Organisation (2003)

- The 3 main causes of premature death in Scotland

Led to the “5 a day” programme -  
Government led Mass Intervention to  
alter o

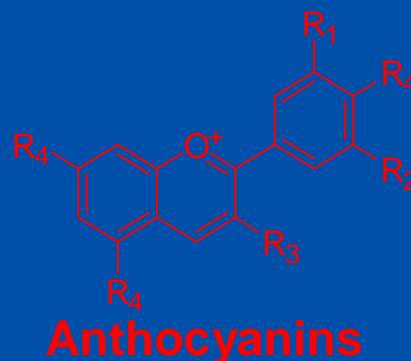
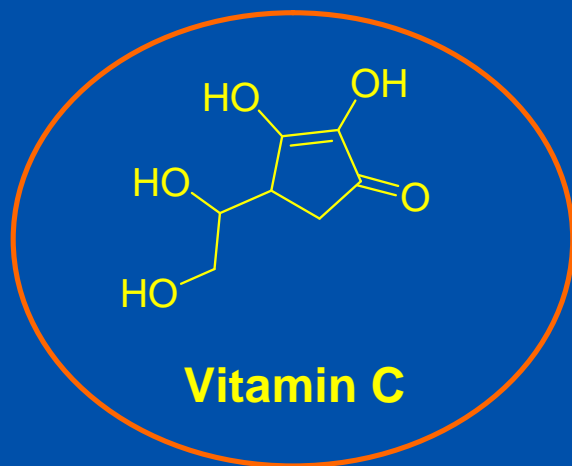
## How do FAV affect health?

Minerals (Zinc)? Vitamins (C and E)?  
Fibre? Displacement? Lower Fat?

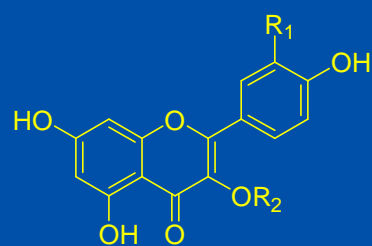
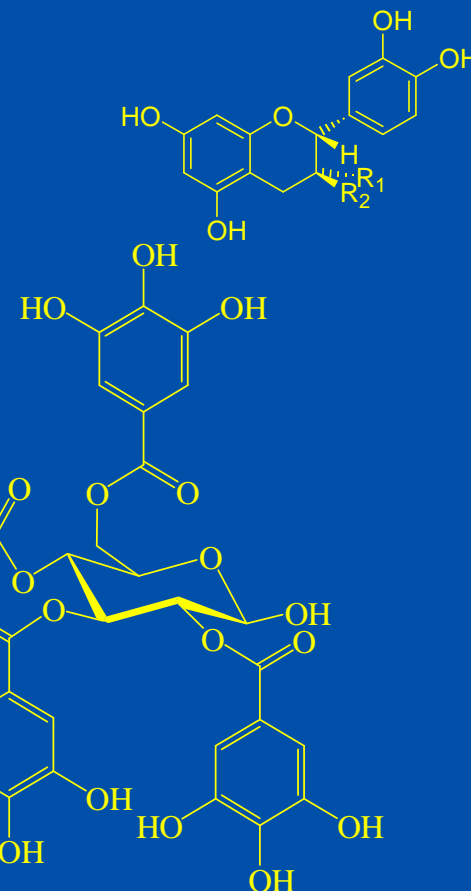
**Phytochemicals? Antioxidants?**



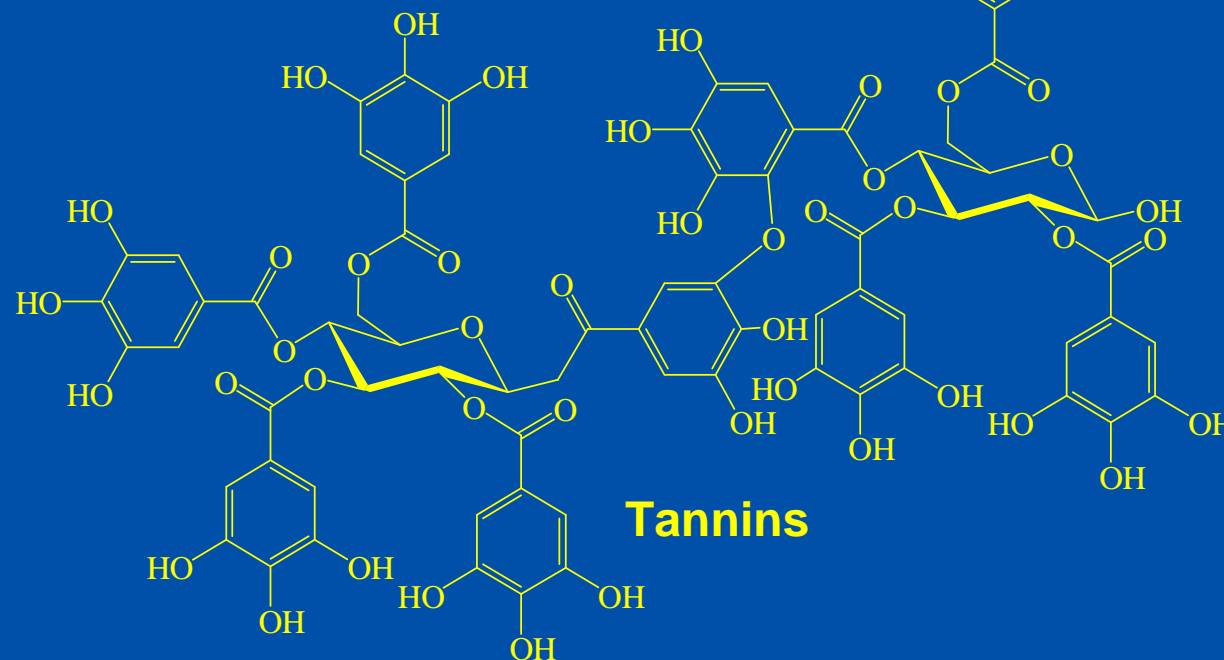
Berries contain a diverse and species specific mixture of antioxidants – the two main types are Polyphenols and **Vitamin C**



### Flavanols/PACs



### Flavonols





# How can polyphenols affect human health?



Antioxidant theory? Low serum bioavailability!

**Majority of polyphenols remain in gut**

Are these components inactive?

## Possible roles

Modulating colonic microbiota?

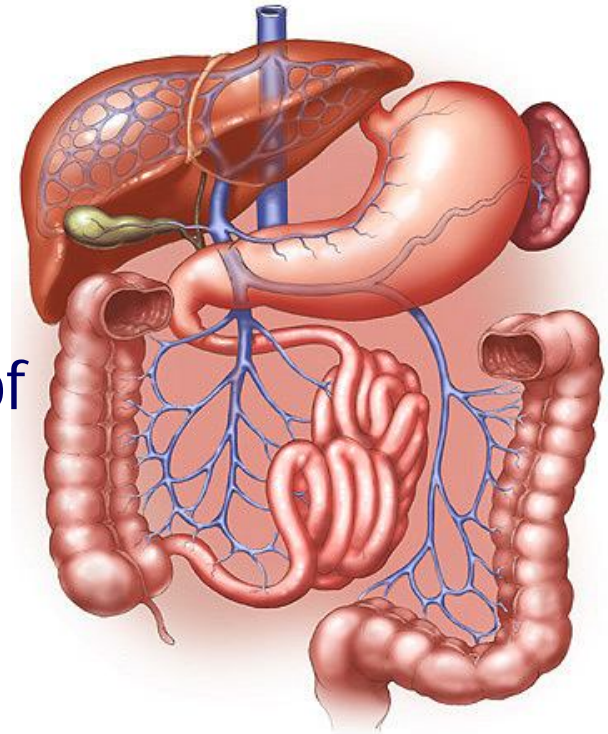
In-gut antioxidants?

Benefit gut epithelia function / colon cancer

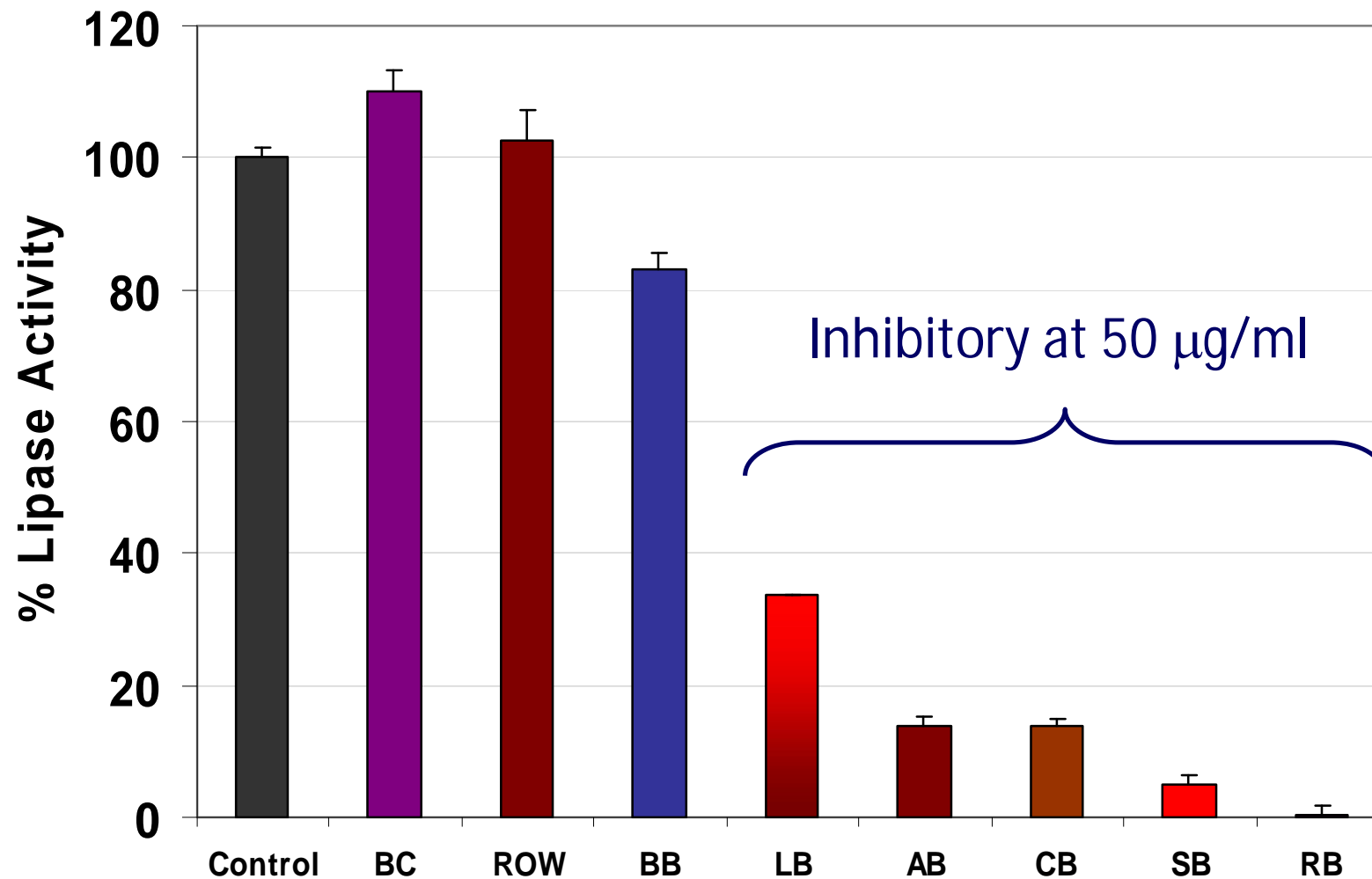
***Modulate digestive processes***

# Control of nutrient availability

- Polyphenols can inhibit digestive processes and slow or modulate nutrient release from food
- Inhibition of lipid digestion – control of hyperlipidemia, CVD, diabetes and obesity
- Inhibition of starch digestion – blood glucose control and type 2 diabetes



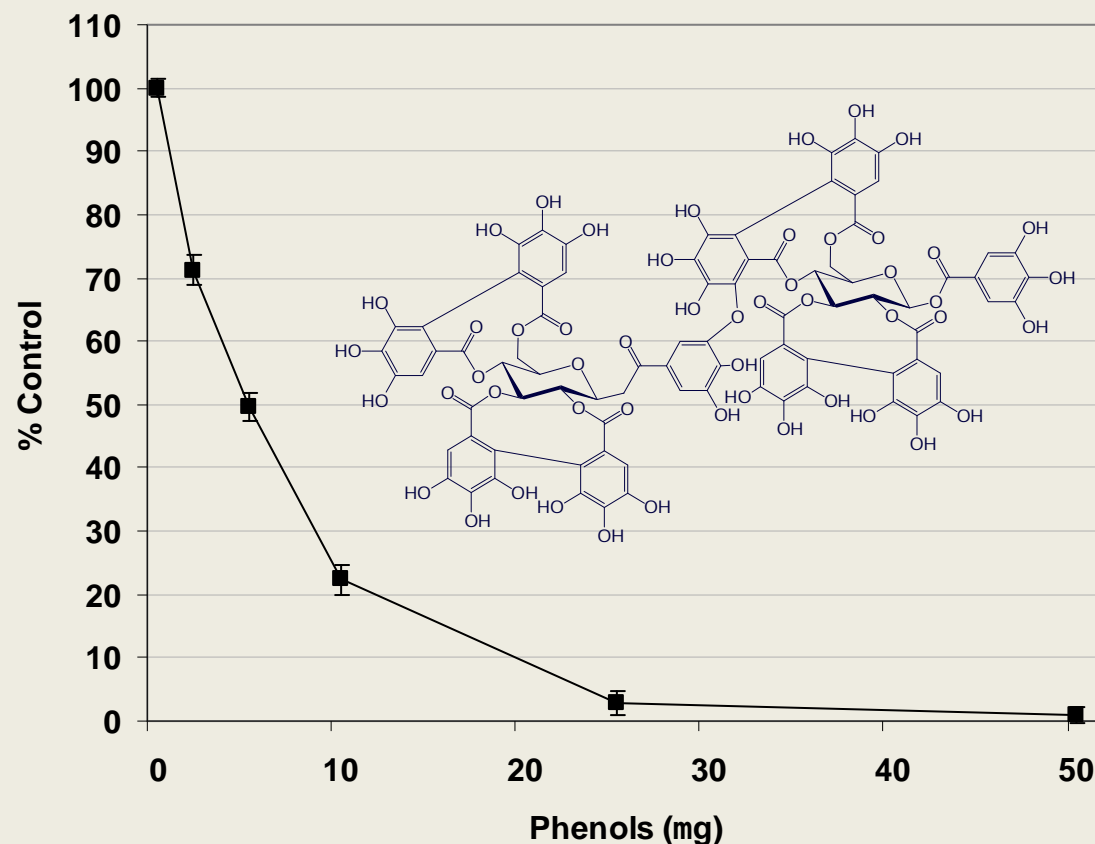
# Lipid digestion and lipase







# Lipase inhibition



Inhibition by cloudberry extracts is saturable

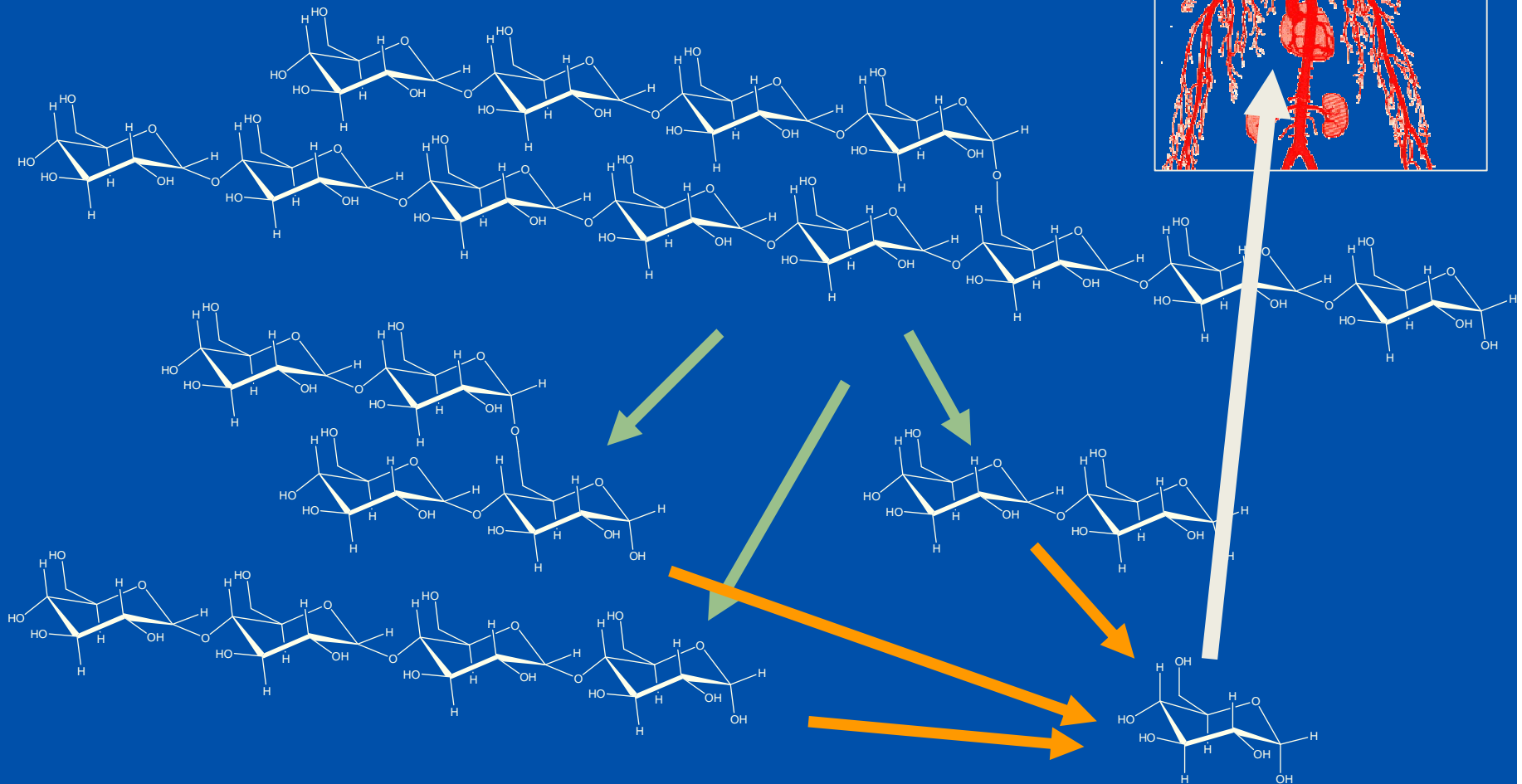
Caused by ellagitannins (ETs) in cloudberry, arctic bramble and raspberry and

procyanidins and ETs in strawberry

Mainly procyanidins in lingonberry

Ties in with animal studies on obesity

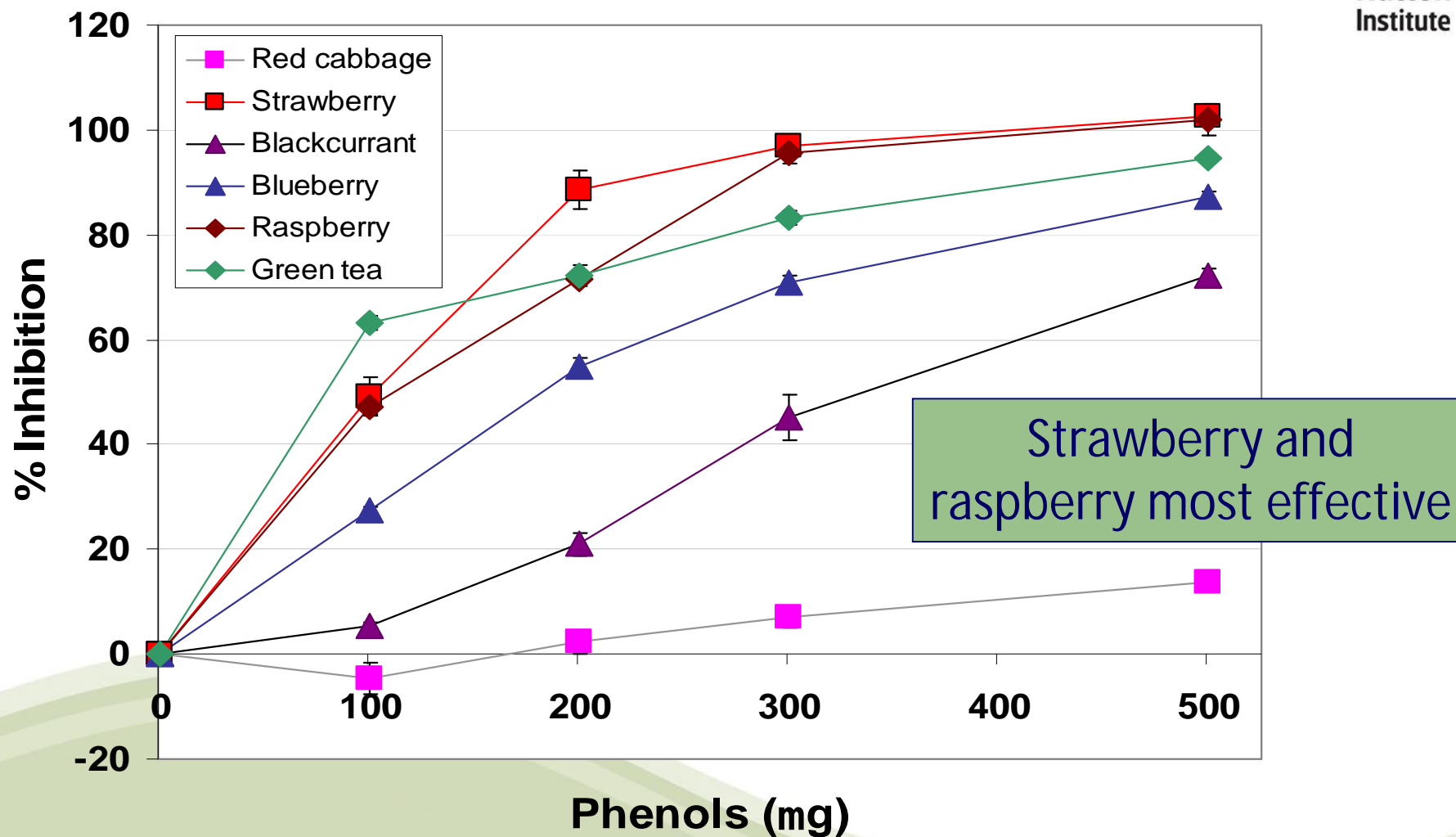
# Inhibition of starch digestion



Amylase chops into fragments

$\alpha$ -glucosidase nibbles off glucose

# $\alpha$ -amylase inhibition

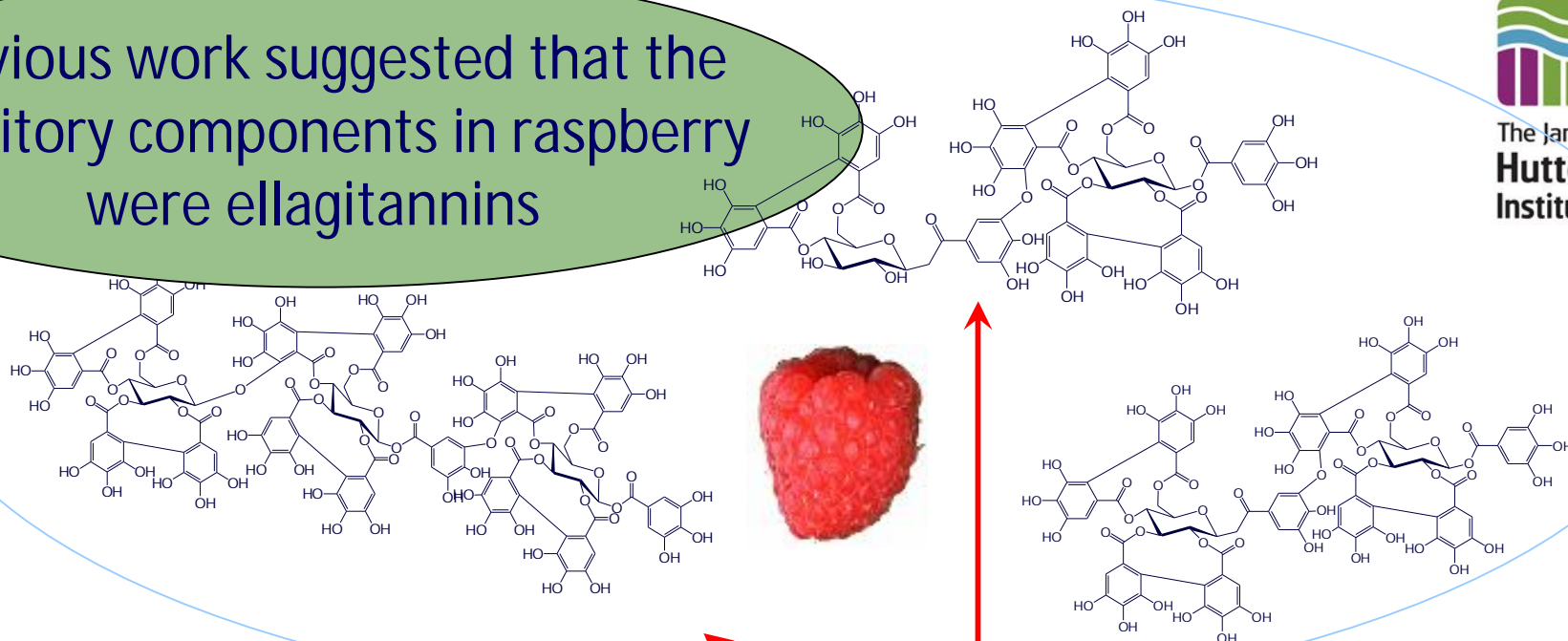


McDougall et al (2005) *JAFC* 53, 2760-2766

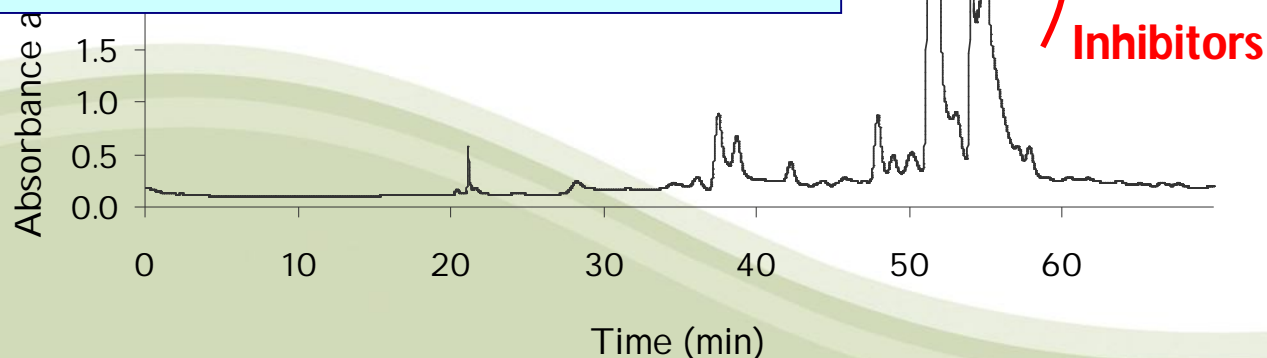


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Previous work suggested that the inhibitory components in raspberry were ellagitannins

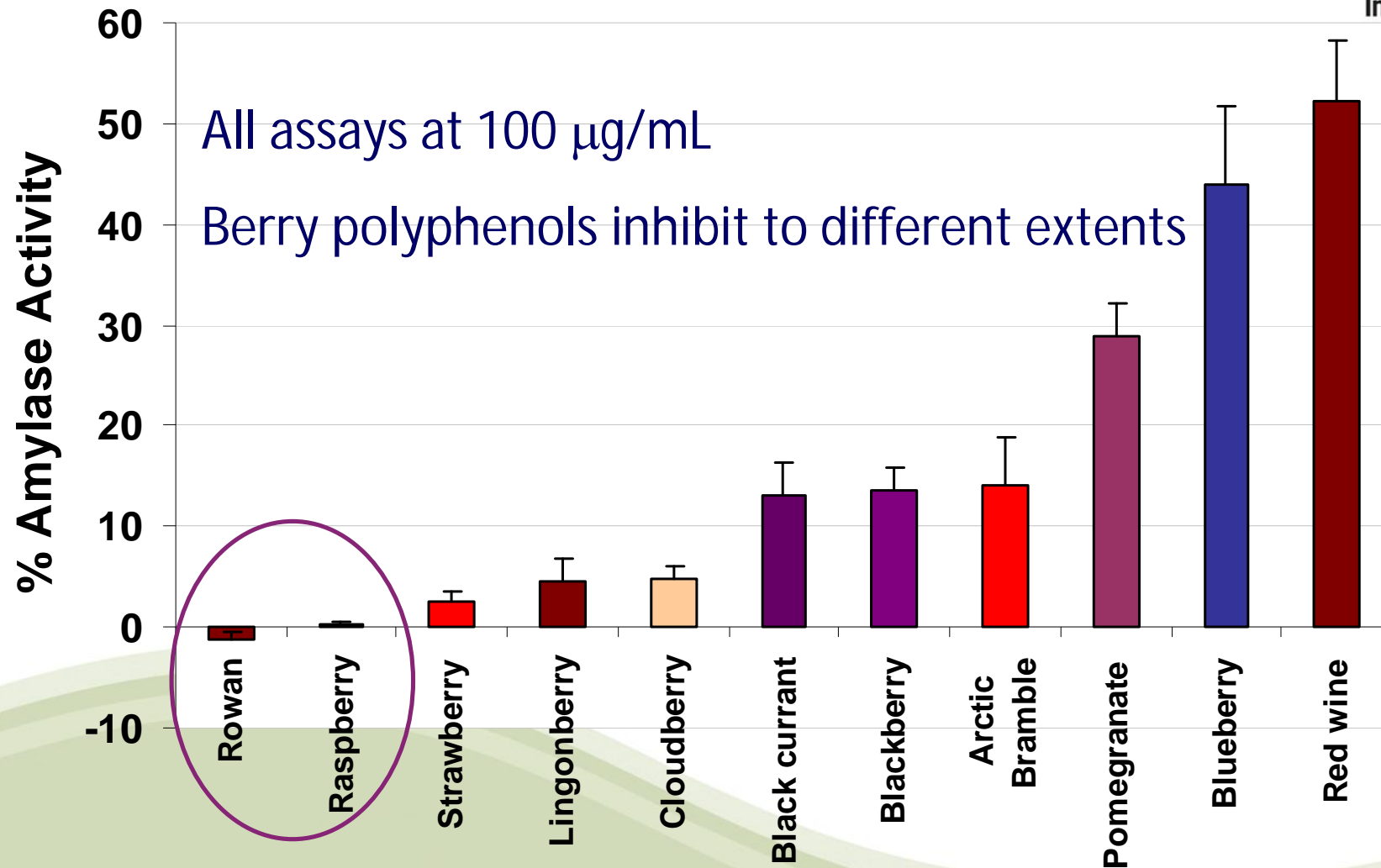


Tannins bind to amylase and prevent starch digestion?



McDougall et al (2005) *JAFC* 53, 2760-2766

# $\alpha$ -amylase inhibition



*Grussu et al (2010) JAFC 53, 2760-2766*

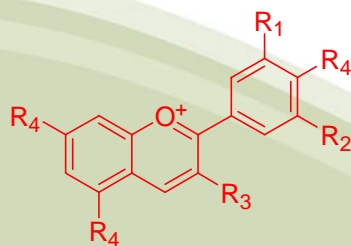


# Yellow vs. Red Raspberries

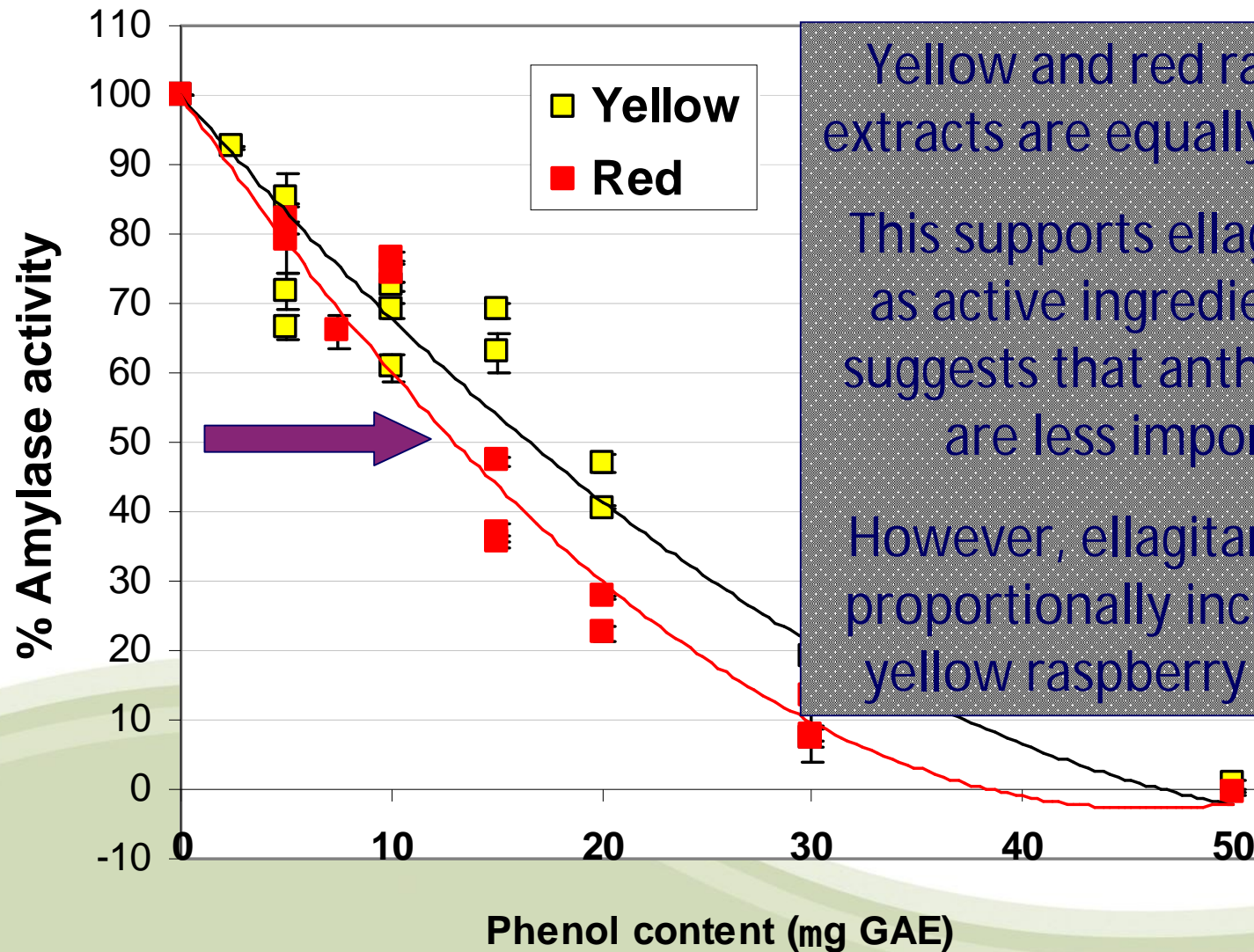


Re-examine inhibition by raspberry by comparing extracts of red raspberry (Glen Ample) with yellow raspberry (selection 97134B1)

These have similar polyphenol profiles but yellow raspberries effectively lack anthocyanins



# $\alpha$ -amylase inhibition



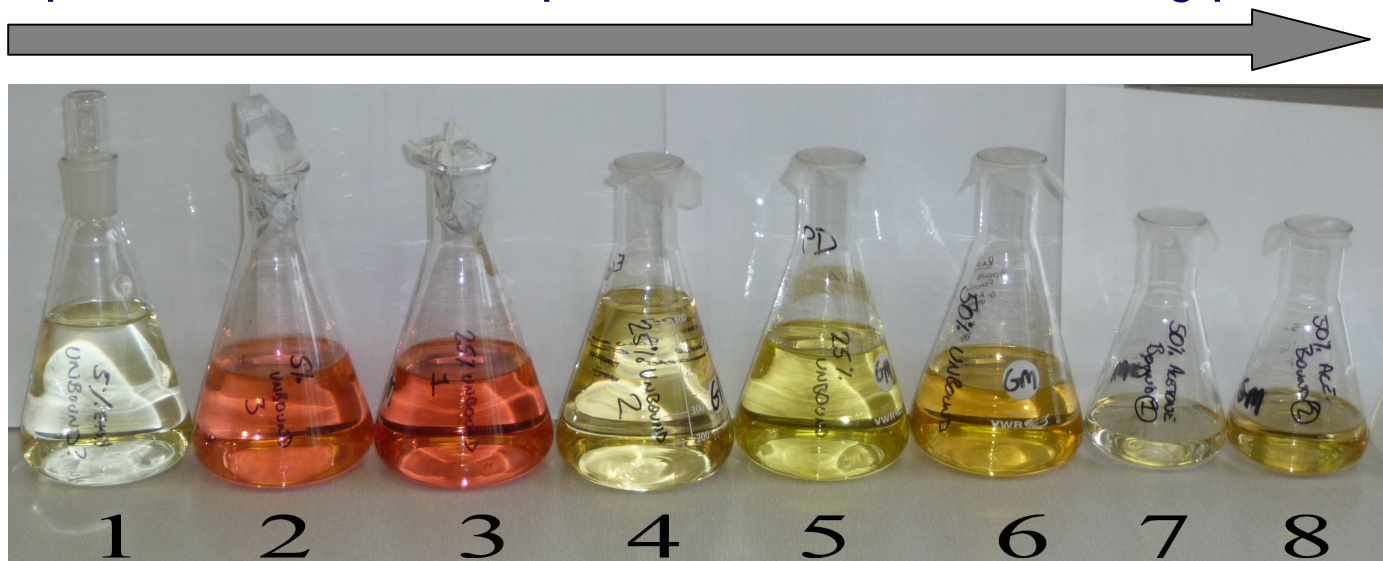
Yellow and red raspberry extracts are equally effective

This supports ellagitannins as active ingredients and suggests that anthocyanins are less important

However, ellagitannins are proportionally increased in yellow raspberry extracts

# Rowan fractionation & amylase inhibition

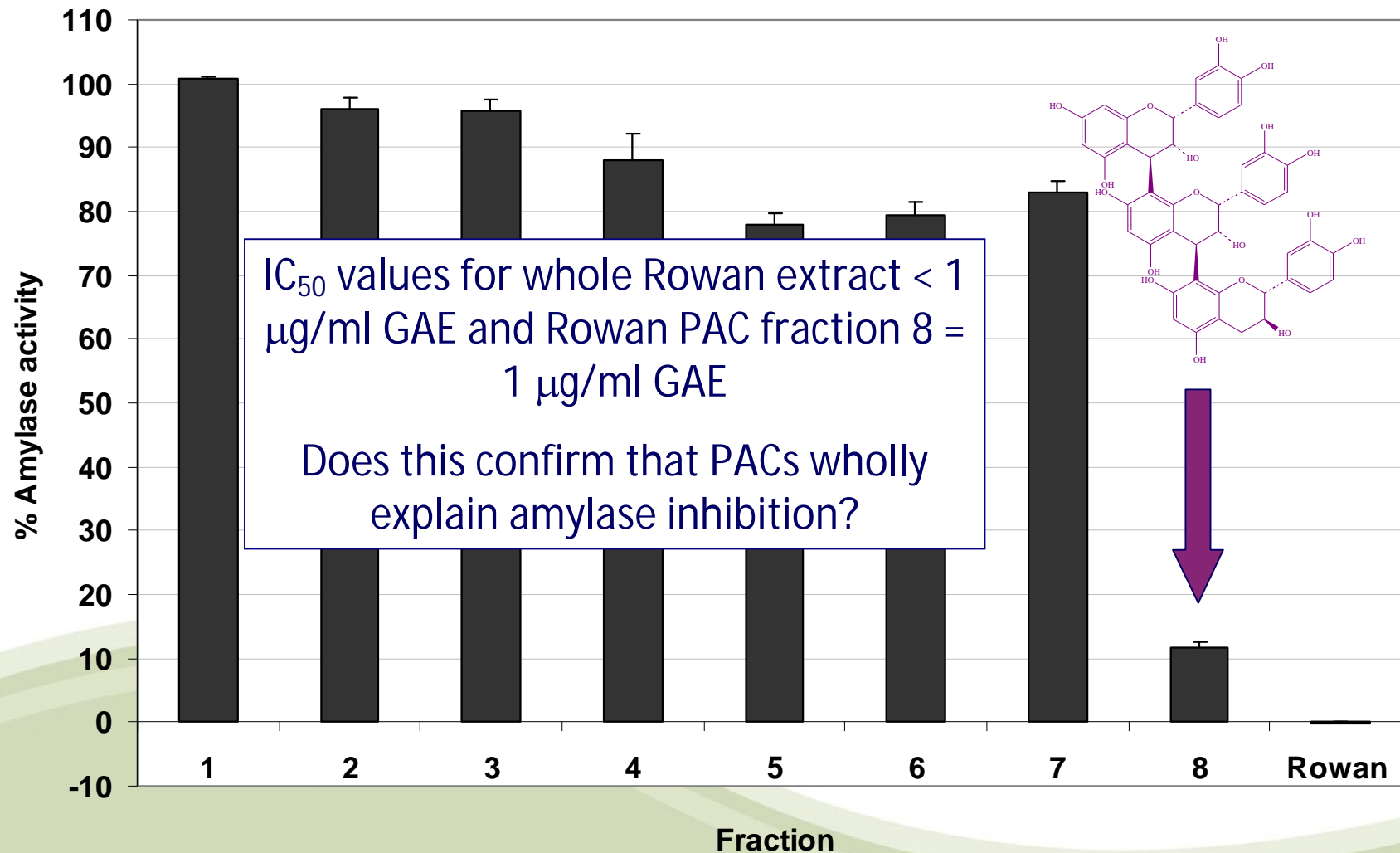
Sephadex LH-20 – step elution with decreasing polarity



1. Chlorogenic acids
2. Mainly chlorogenic acid (CGA)
3. Anthocyanins + CGA
4. Quercetin hexoses
5. Undefined Flavonols
6. Unknowns
7. Quercetin coumaroyl hexoses
8. Procyanidins

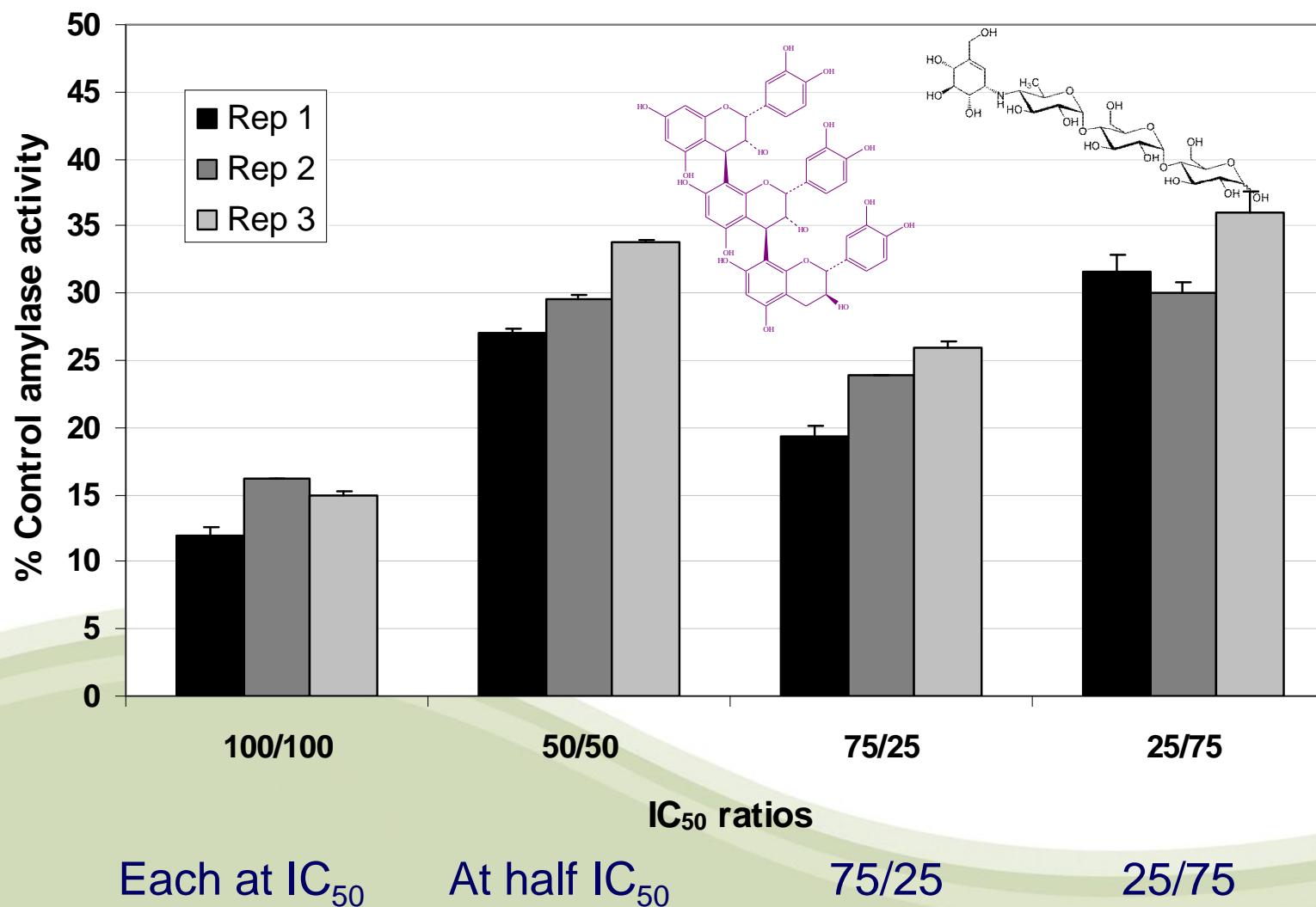
By LC-MS analysis

# Inhibition by procyanidin-rich fraction



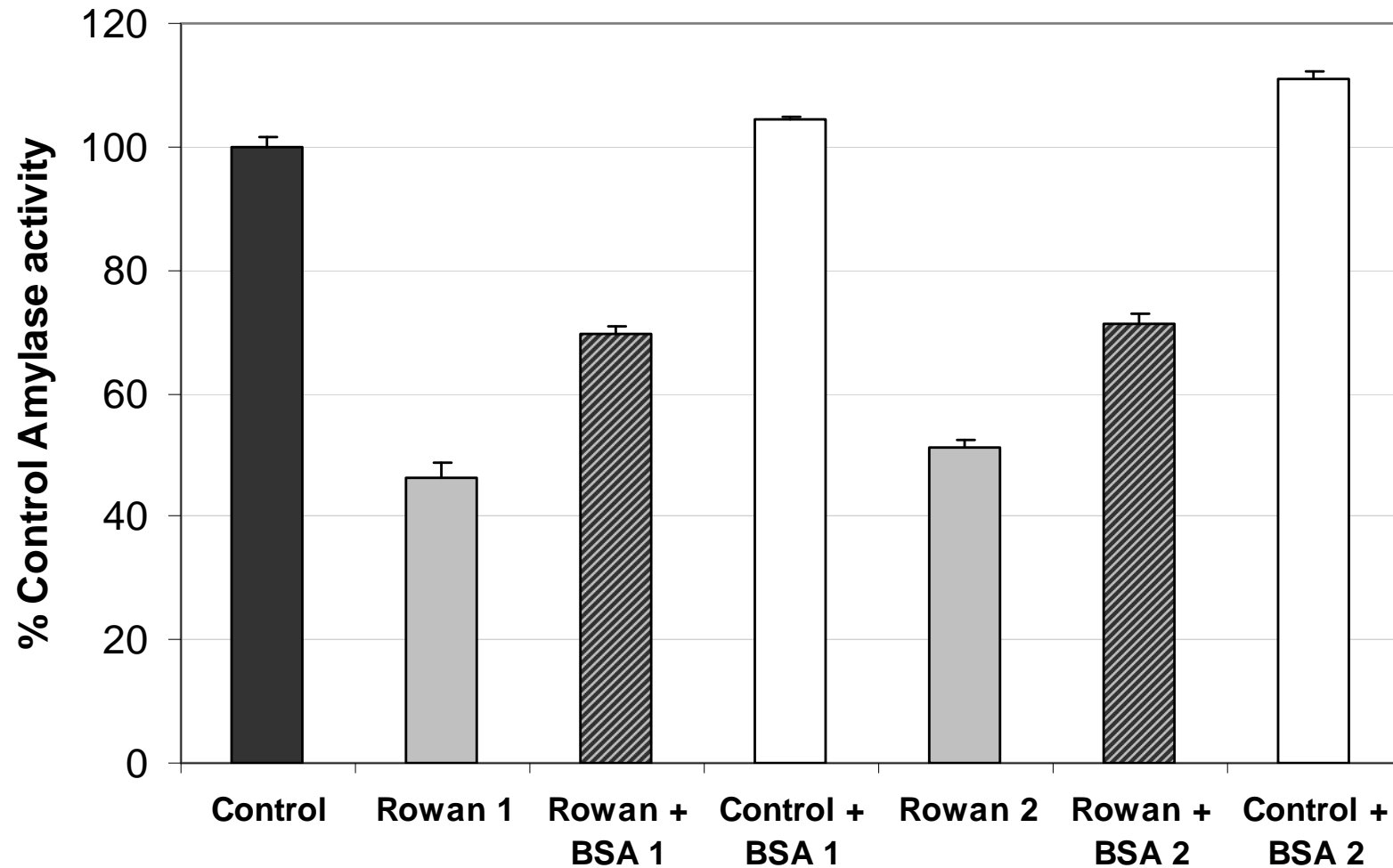
# Co-incubation with acarbose

Co-incubations at ratios of  $IC_{50}$  – rowanberry PACs first

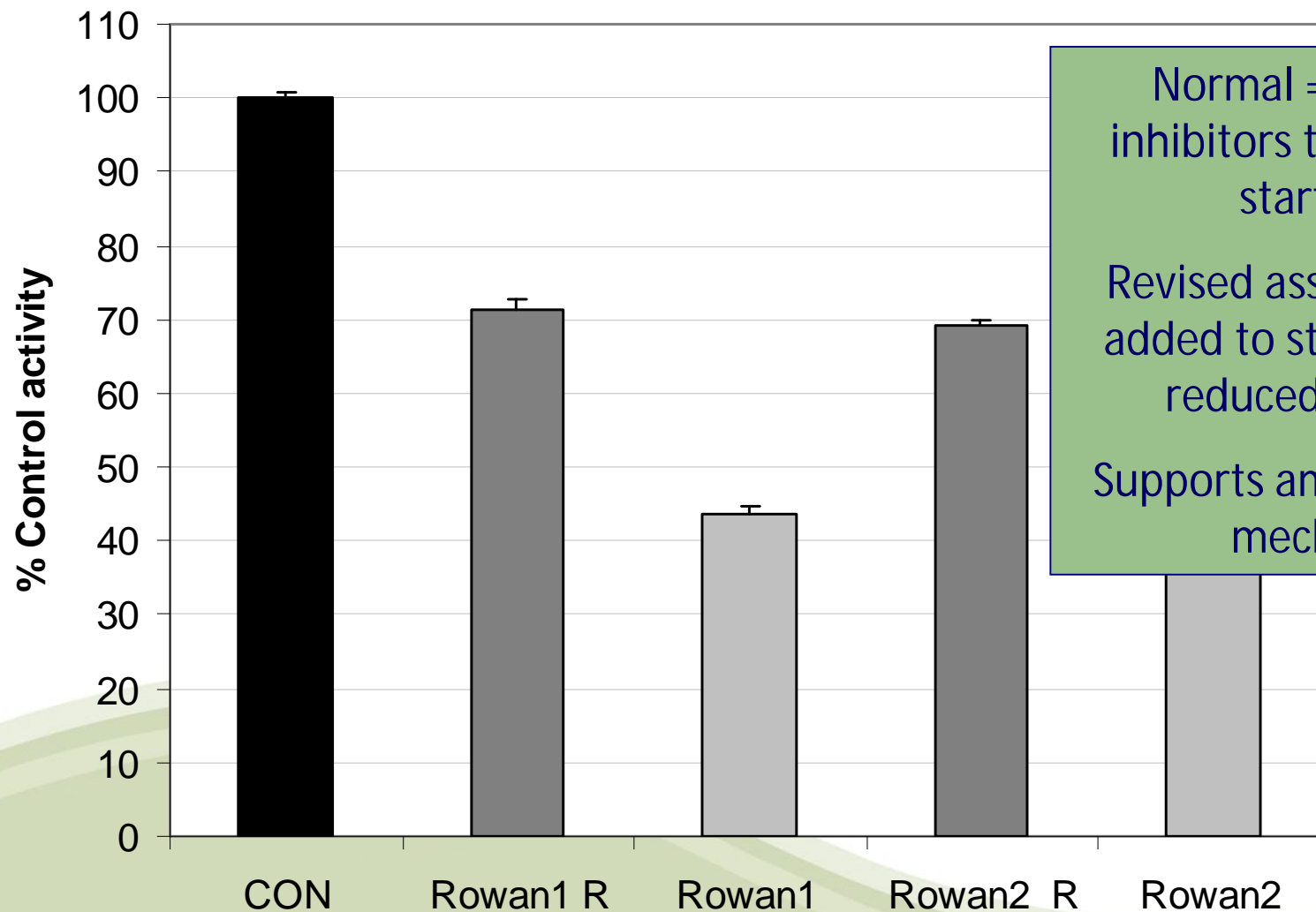




# Addition of protein reduces inhibition



# Order of addition assays



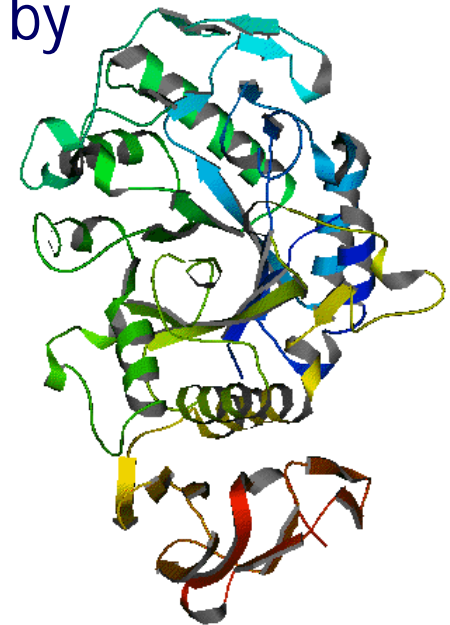
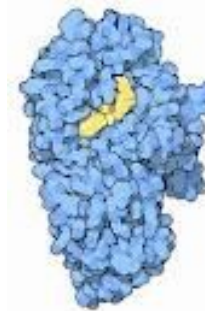
Normal = amylase +  
inhibitors then starch to  
start assay

Revised assay = Amylase  
added to start reaction –  
reduced inhibition

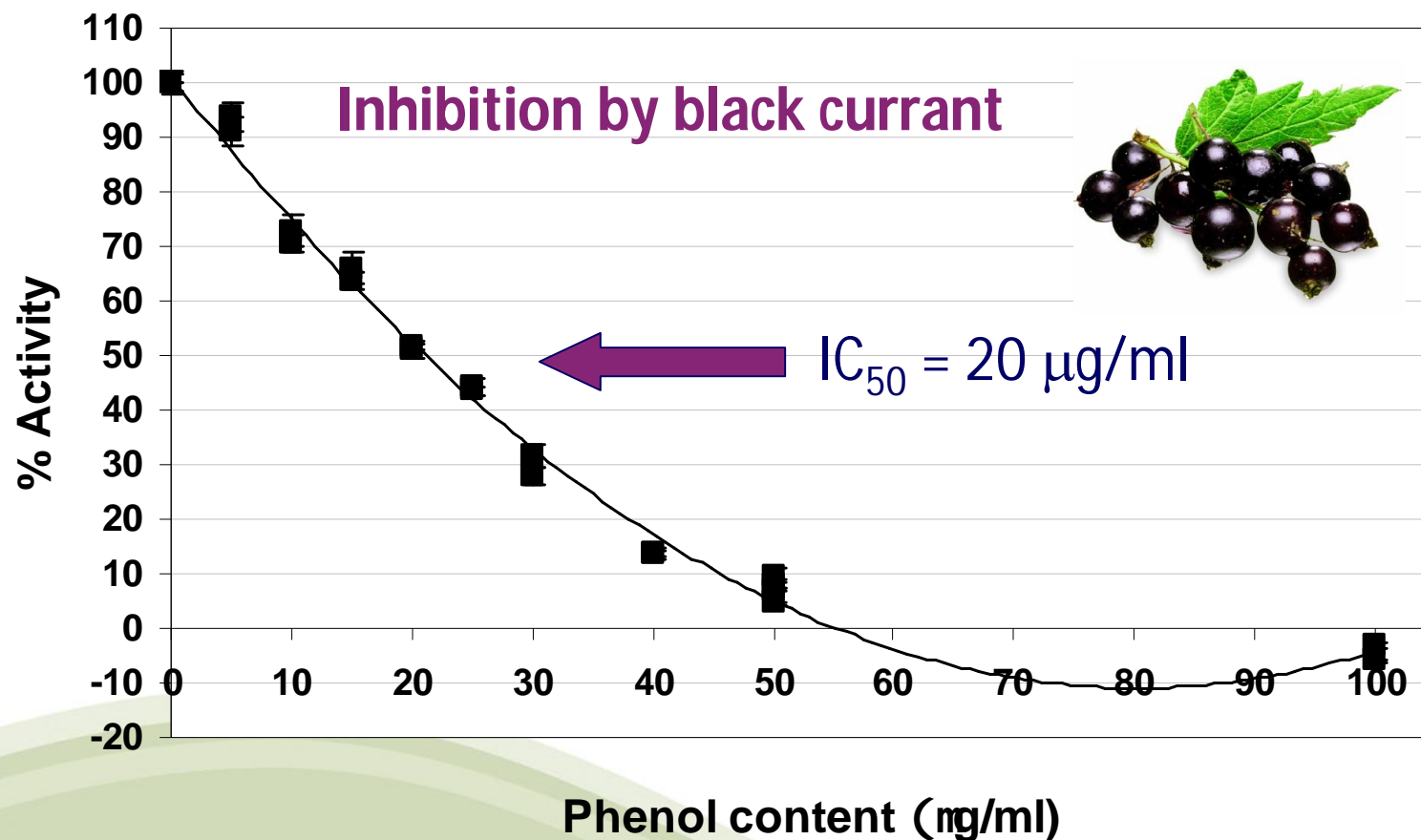
Supports amylase-binding  
mechanism

# Amylase inhibition

- Berry polyphenols inhibit amylase activity *in vitro* at low levels
- The degree of inhibition depends on the polyphenol composition
- Tannins seem important but inhibition influenced by other components
- Proteins interfere – astringency/enzyme binding mechanism?
- Polyphenols can potentiate inhibition caused by acarbose & could substitute for acarbose and maintain inhibition

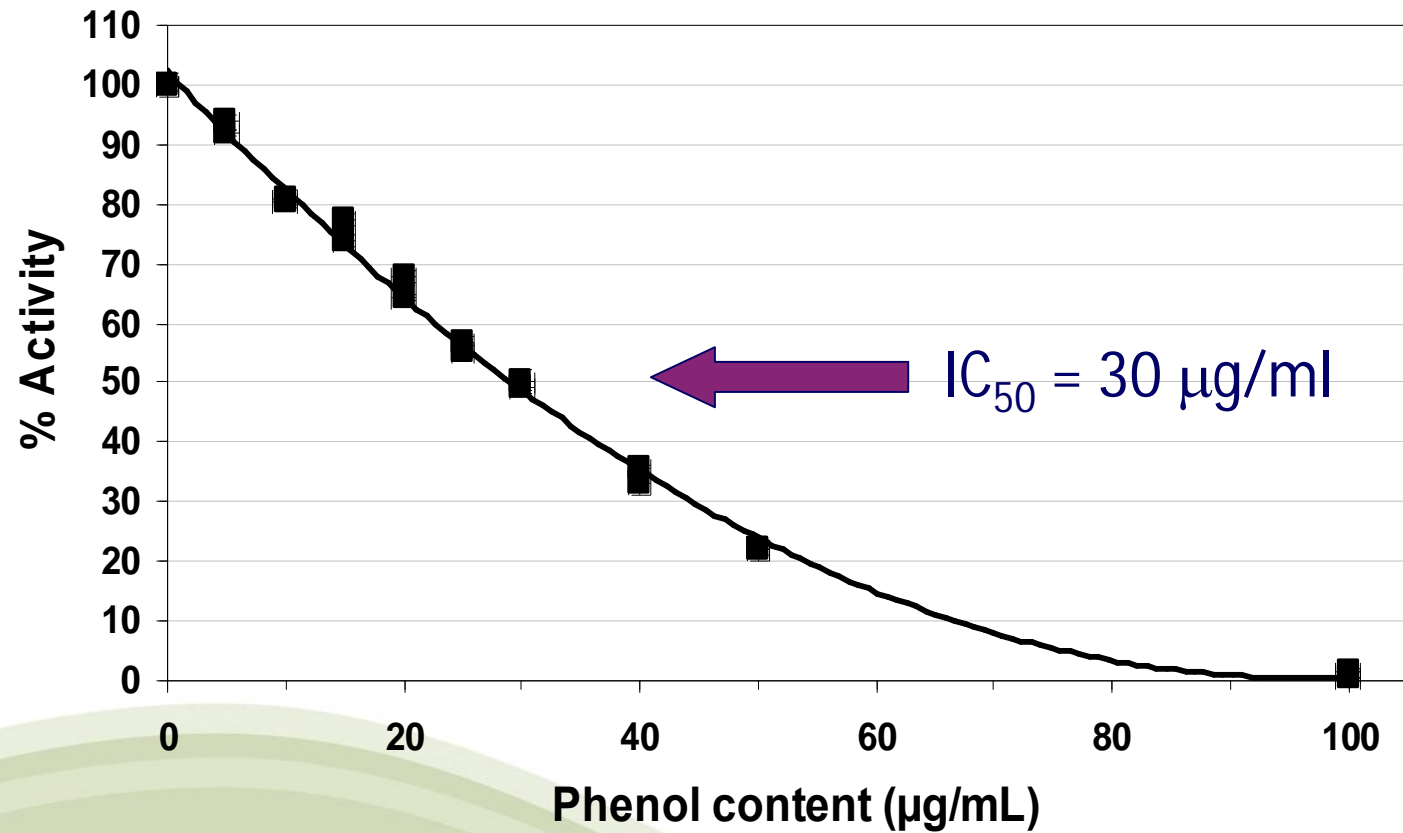


# $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibition by berries



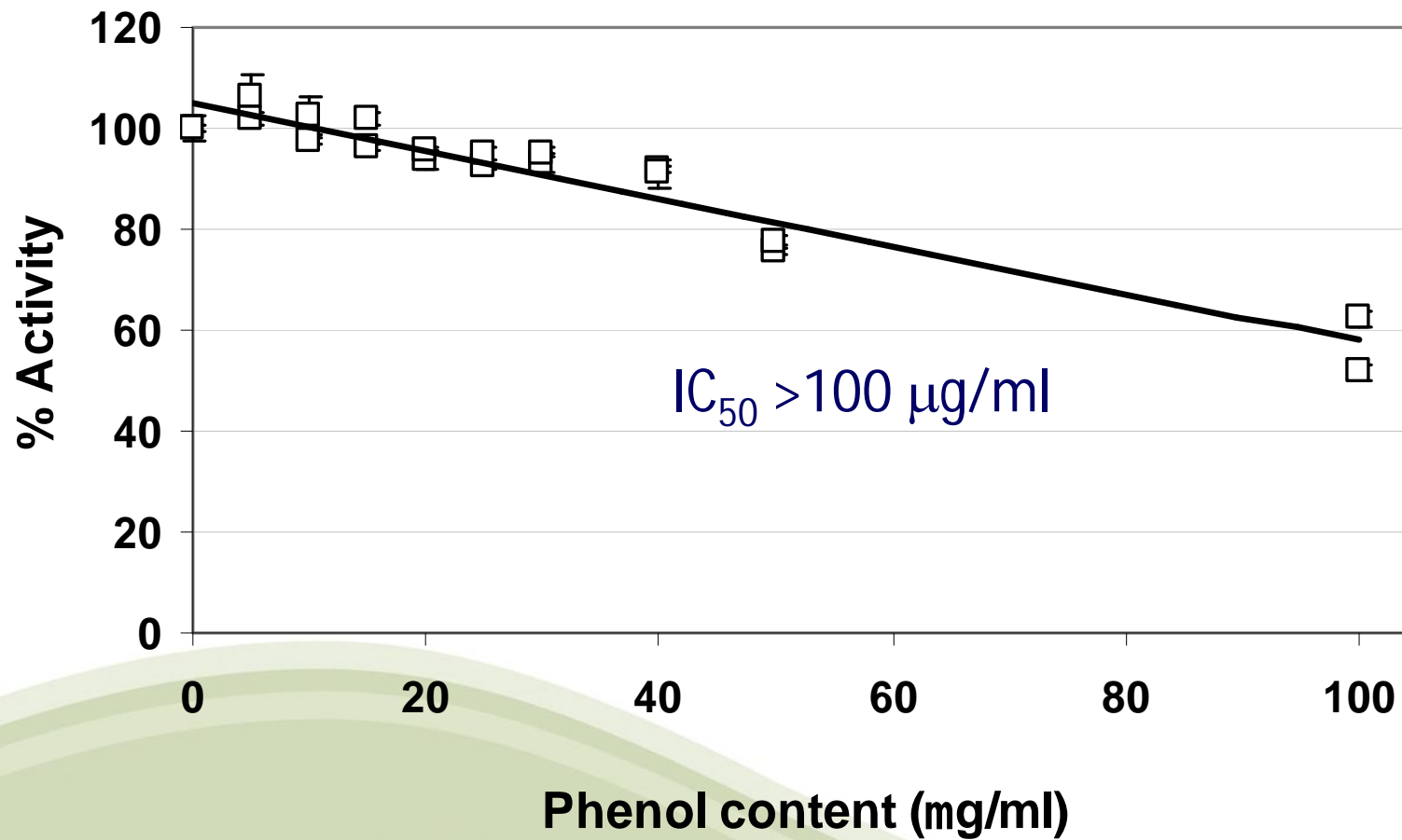
*Boath et al. submitted; & Whitson et al. Funct. Plant Sci. & Biotech. 4, 34-38 (2010)*

# Inhibition by rowanberry

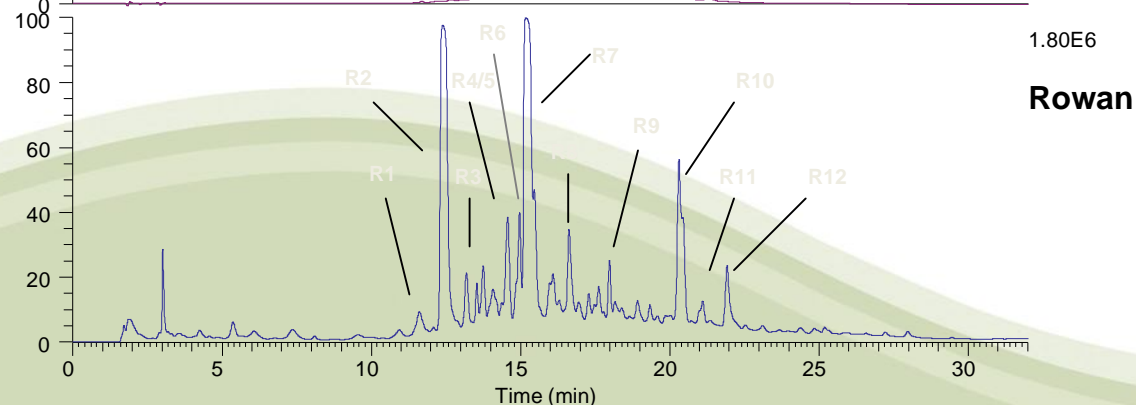
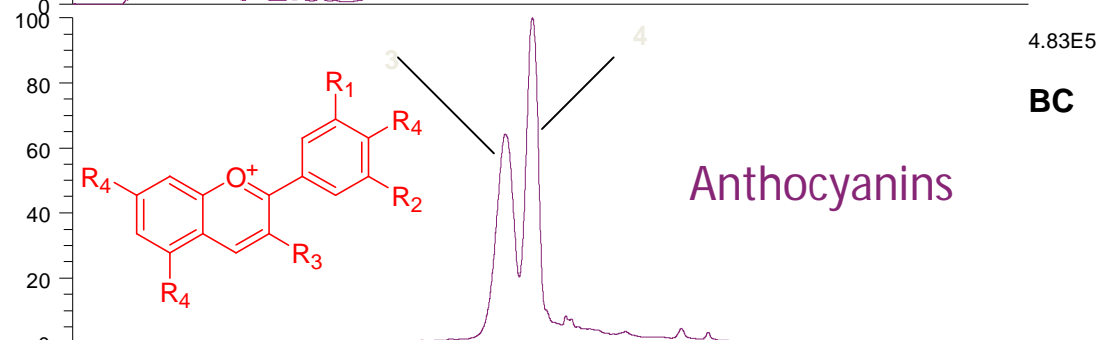
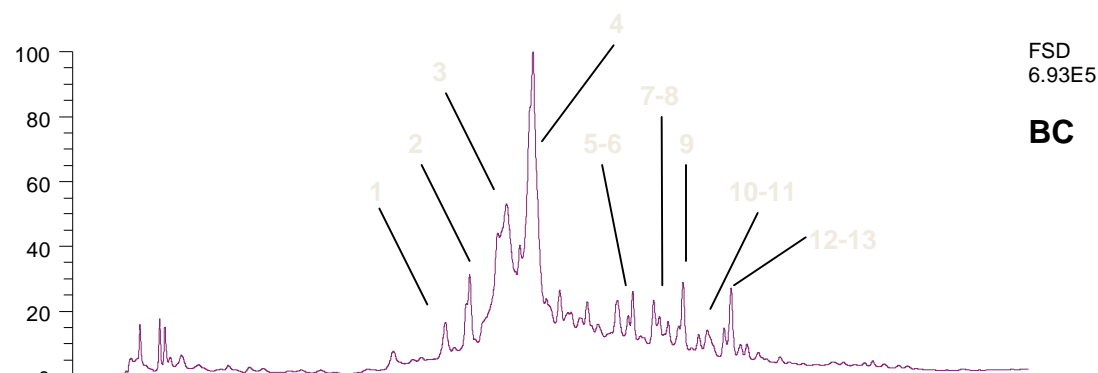




# Rowanberry proanthocyanidins



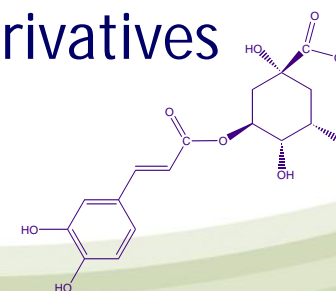
# Polyphenol composition



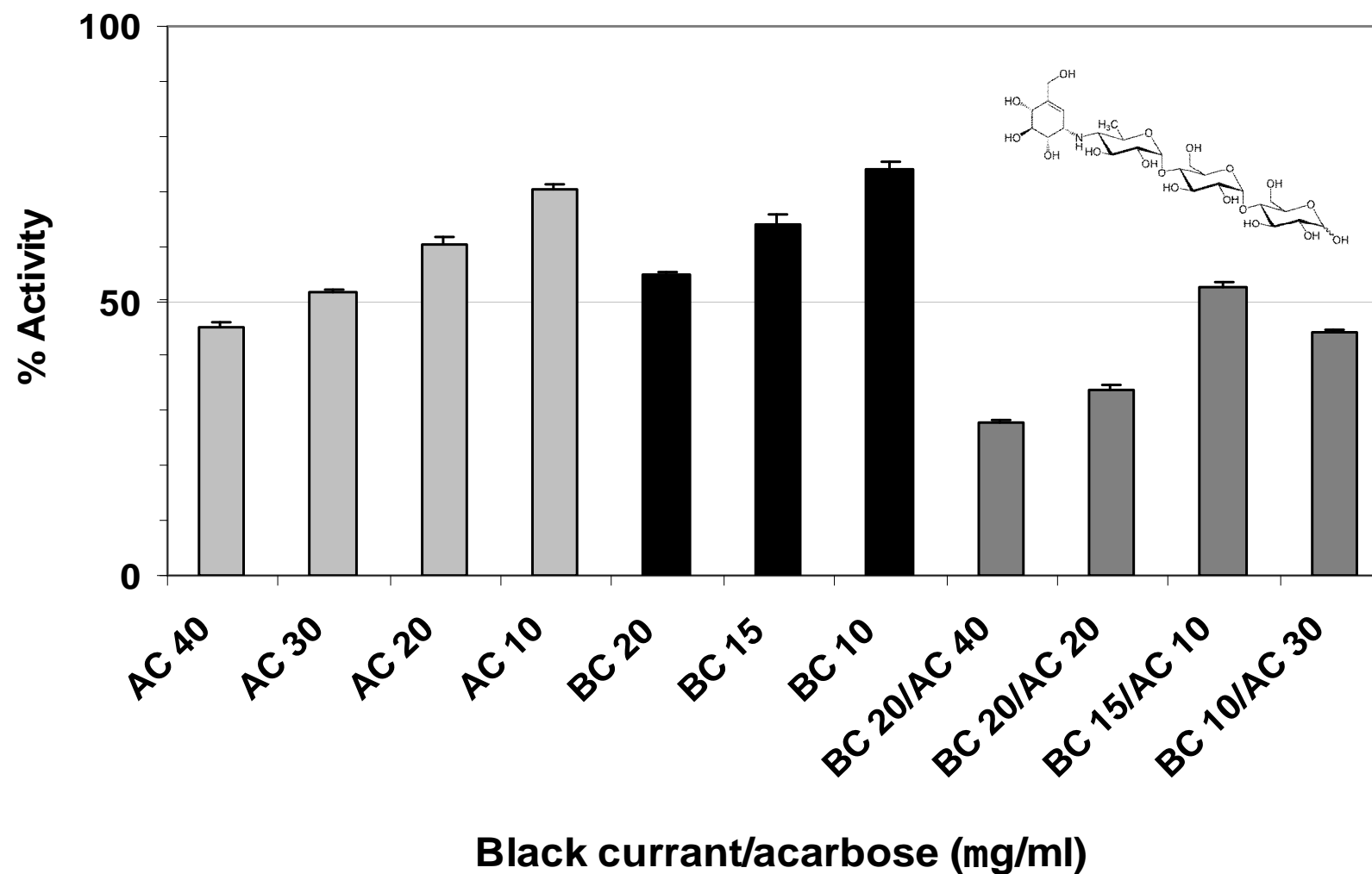
LC-MS analysis shows that the black currant & rowanberry extracts differ greatly in their polyphenol composition

BC is rich in anthocyanins

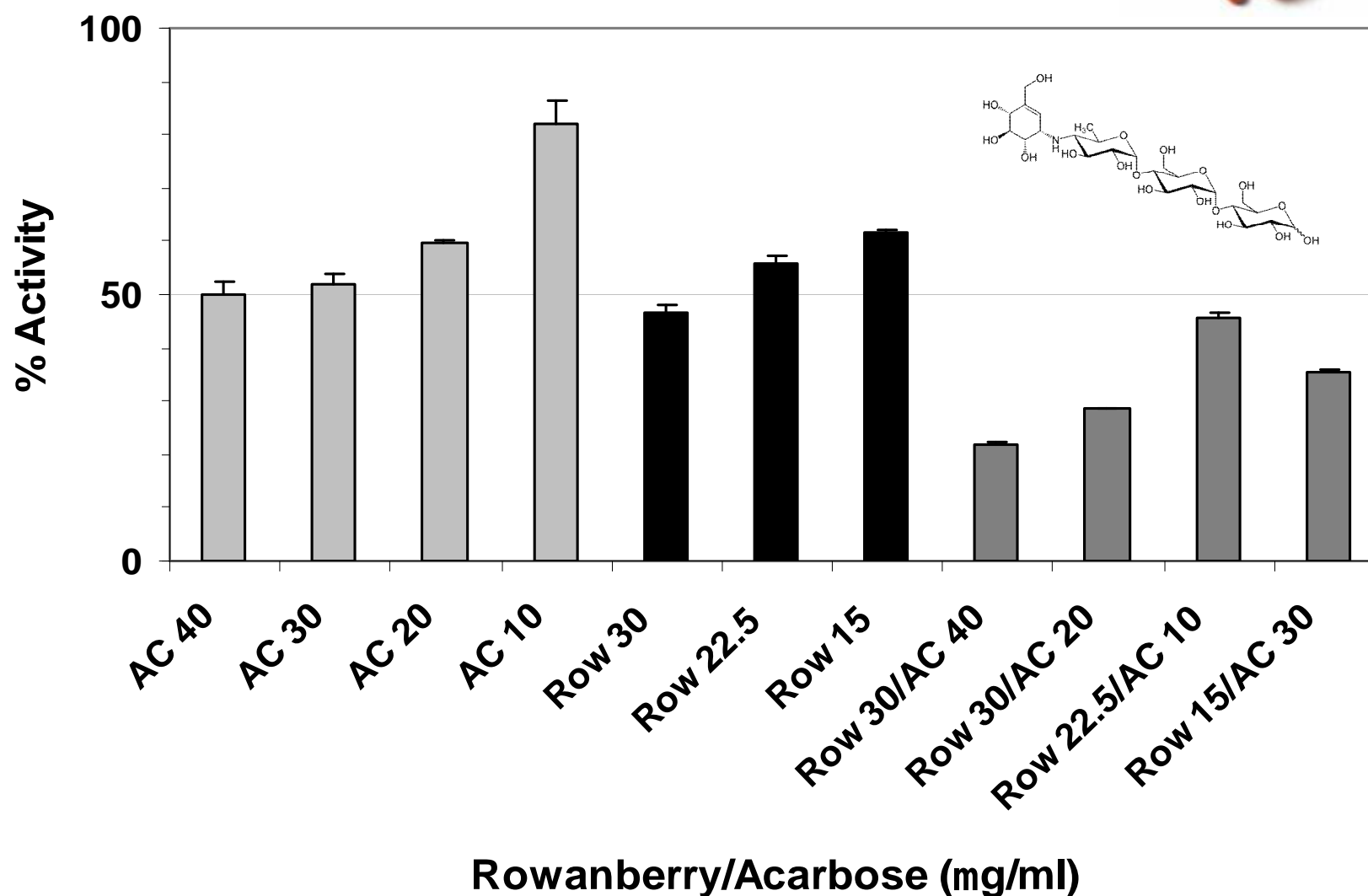
Rowan is rich in chlorogenic acid derivatives



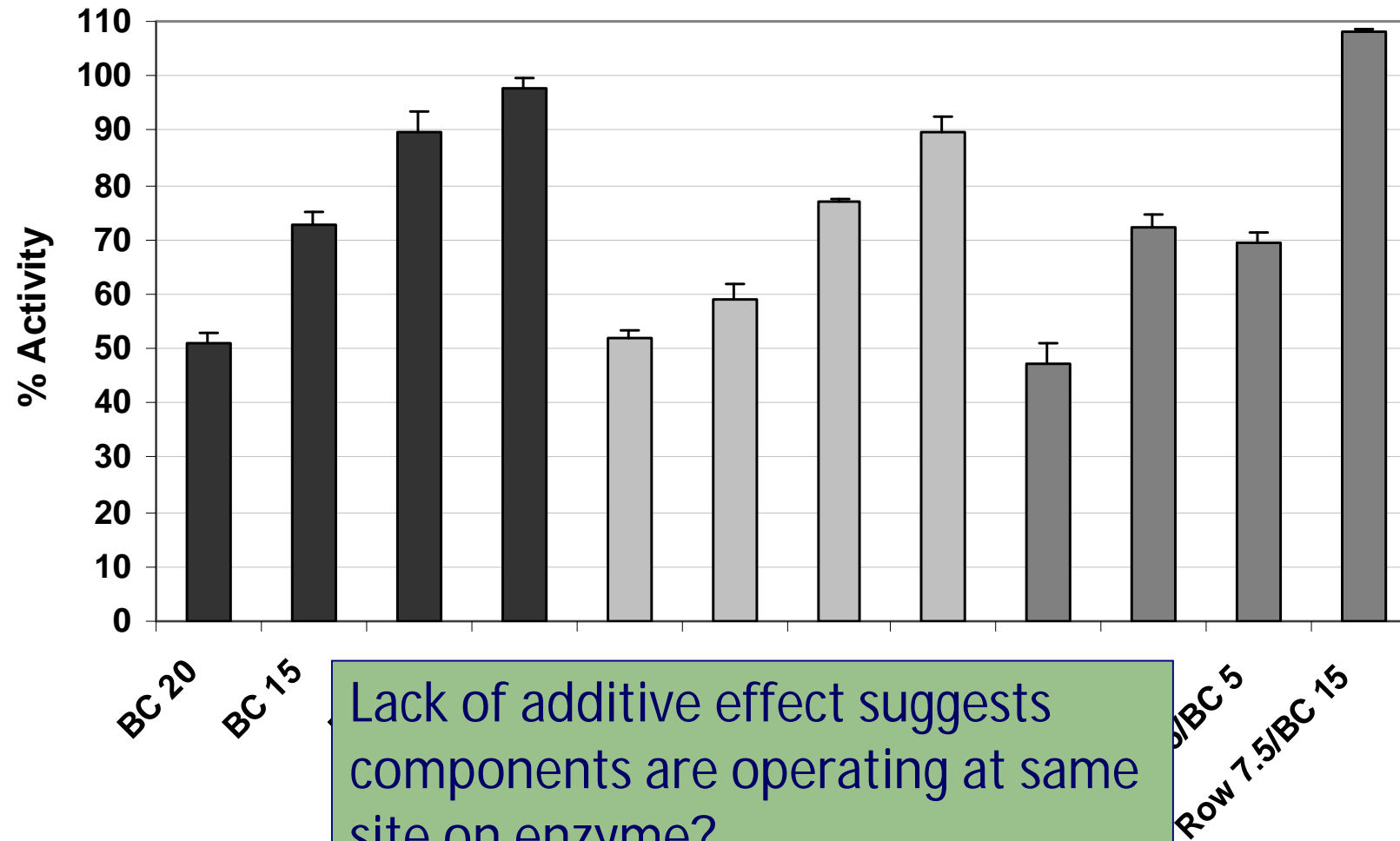
# Co-incubation with acarbose



# Co-incubation with acarbose



# Mixing of berry extracts



Lack of additive effect suggests components are operating at same site on enzyme?



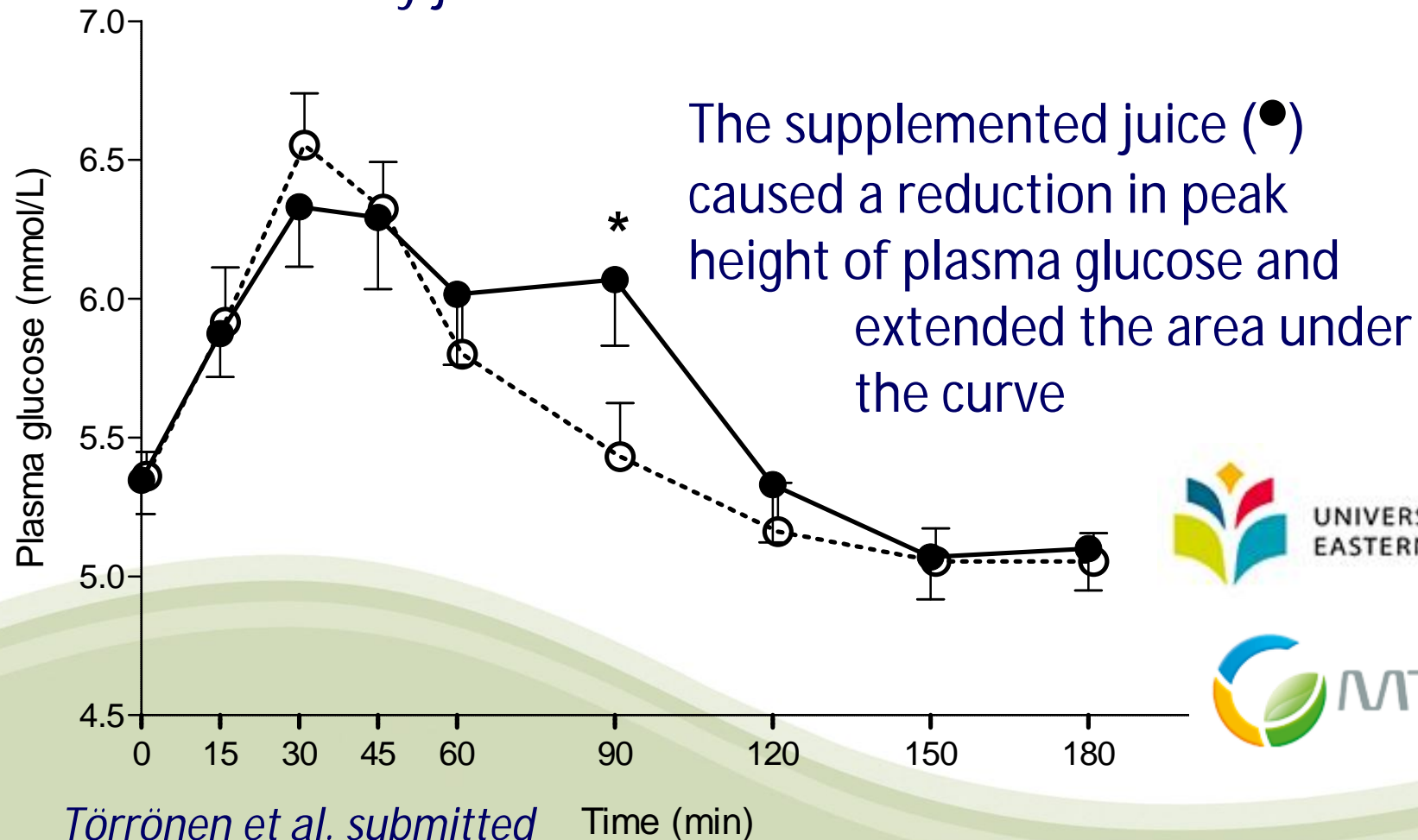
# Summary – $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibition

- Berry polyphenols inhibit glucosidase activity *in vitro* at low levels
- Inhibition depends on polyphenol composition
- Tannins are not important and astringency is probably not the main mechanism
- Anthocyanin-rich and chlorogenic acid-rich black currant and rowanberry are similarly effective
- The active components potentiate effect of acarbose but different berries do not act additively – sites of action?



# Human trial – modified glyceimic response

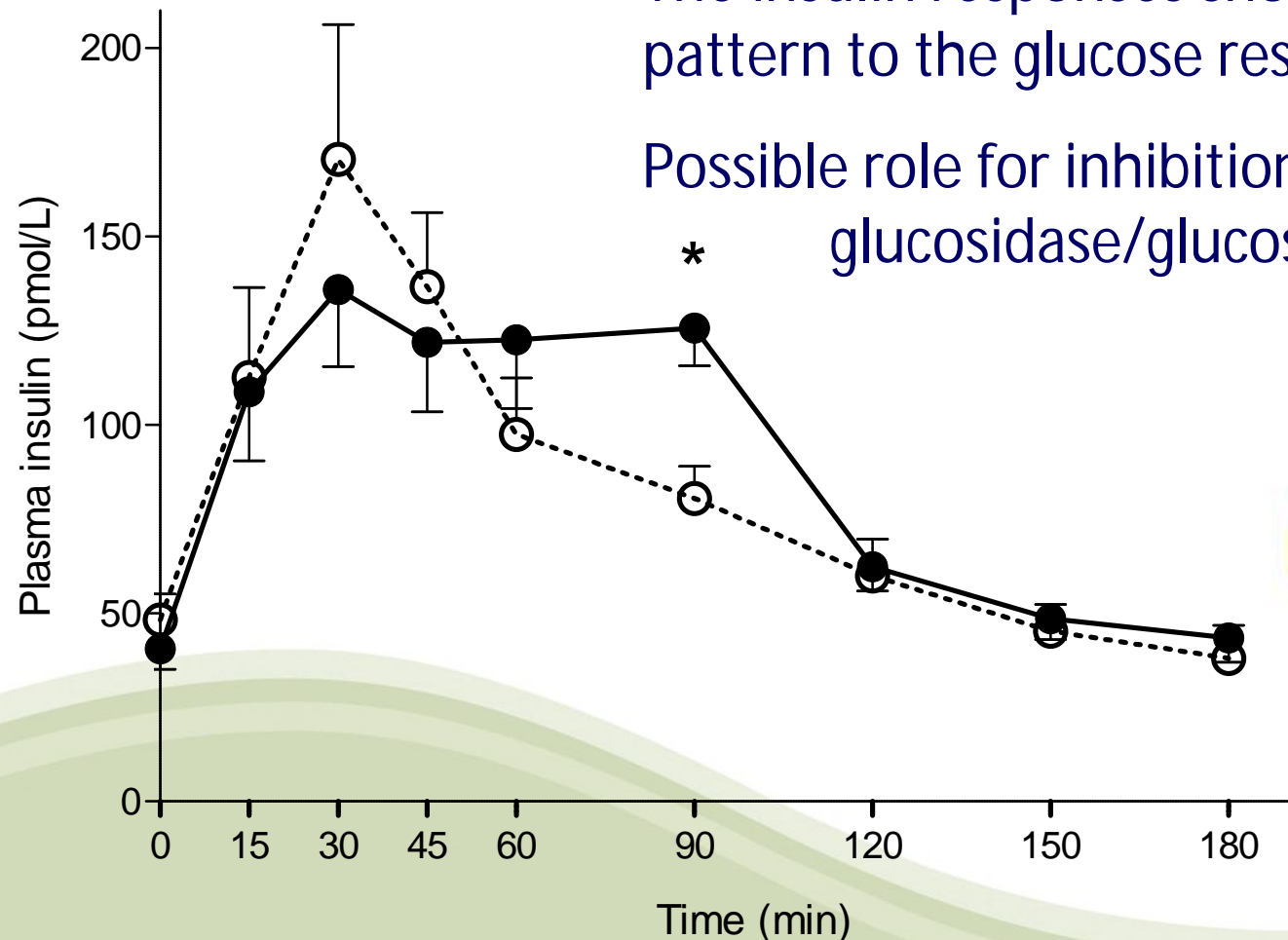
Volunteers given sucrose-loaded black currant (BC) juice or sucrose-loaded BC juice supplemented with crowberry juice



# Human trial – insulin response

The insulin responses showed a similar pattern to the glucose response

Possible role for inhibition of  
glucosidase/glucose transport?



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# Summary

- Berry polyphenols inhibit enzymes involved in starch and lipid digestion *in vitro*
- The inhibition occurs at concentrations easily reached in the GIT
- The active components are unknown but differ between enzymes and in potential mechanisms (↑ synergy?)
- Berry components can potentiate inhibition by acarbose at low levels
- Initial human studies show promise



# Acknowledgements



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University



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*Nikki Jennings (MRS Ltd) for yellow raspberries; Dr Harri Kokko  
(Kuopio) for Nordic berries; Pat Dobson (JHI) for technical help*



# Thank you for your attention



*JHI at Invergowrie on the north bank of the River Tay*



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