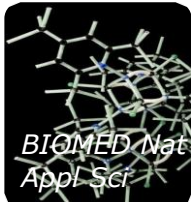


## RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Proximate, Minerals, and Amino Acid Compositions of Banana and Plantain Peels

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### ABSTRACT

The by-products of banana and plantain fruits, especially banana and plantain peels are usually thrown away by producers in plantations, and produce important quantities of post-harvest waste. The banana and plantain peels grown in Nigeria was assessed for their proximate, minerals and amino acid compositions. The proximate contents including moisture, ash, lipids, proteins, carbohydrates and crude fibres were determined using standard A.O.A.C methods. The amino acids by HPLC, and minerals by atomic absorption spectrophotometry. Results revealed that the total amino acid of 89.71±5.45 g/100g and 86.71±3.02 g/100g was recorded for plantain and banana peel. Glutamic acid 12.72±0.02 g/100g was the most abundant amino acid in plantain peel while glycine (3.02±0.82 mg/100g) was the most abundant amino acid in banana peel. Results revealed that sodium is the most abundant minerals contents of both the plantain (76.88±0.89 Mg/100g) and banana (58.16±2.73 Mg/100g) peel, while iron (7.89±0.79 Mg/100g and 5.06±0.07 Mg/100g) was the least minerals in the both samples. Carbohydrate is the most abundant proximate contents of both the plantain (74.12±0.565) and banana (63.82±0.32%) peel, followed by Crude fibre 8.36±0.04% and 12.67±0.08 %, crude ash (6.17±0.05% and 9.56±0.06%) for both plantain and banana peels respectively. While crude fat (3.01±0.06% and 0.89±0.04%) was the least proximate in the both samples. These peels could be considered good source of nutrients for production of human and animal feeds, and their utilization for this purpose should be encouraged, as this will also help in reducing the menace of nutrient deficiencies.

**Keywords:** Proximate composition, Minerals composition, Amino Acid profile, Banana and Plantain Peels

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### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Banana and plantain plants are the world's biggest herbs, grown abundantly in many developing countries. Bananas and plantains are one of the most important sources of energy in the diet of people living in tropical humid regions (Florenta, *et al.*, 2015). They belong to the family *Musaceae* and the genus *Musa*. *Musa paradisiaca*, are collectively known as banana (English), 'Ogede *agbagba*' (Yoruba), 'Ayaba' (Hausa) and 'Ogadejioké' (Igbo). The plant consists of long, overlapping leafstalks and bears a stem which is 1.22 to 6.10 m high (Oladiji *et al.*, 2010), with a life span of about 15 years (Philips, 1982).

The fruits grow in clusters, each separate banana of the cluster being about 1 inch in diameter and somewhat longer than a banana fruit. Banana and plantains fruit requires about two and a half to four months after shooting before the fruit becomes ready for harvesting or a total of about eight to twelve months after planting (Swennen, 1990).

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Banana and plantains contains high fibre content, and thus is capable of lowering cholesterol and helps to relieve constipation and hence prevention of colon cancer. Besides this, its high potassium content is found to be useful in the prevention of raising blood pressure and muscle cramp (Ng and Fong, 2000). Various parts of the plant such as the leaves, root, fruit stalk, bract and fruit have been used for medicinal and domestic purposes.

The fruit is consumed as food, the leaf juice is used in the treatment of fresh wounds, cuts and insect bites while the leaves act as an abortifacient. Its sap is used as a remedy for diarrhoea, dysentery, hysteria and epilepsy. A cold infusion of the root is used to treat venereal diseases and anaemia. In addition, the fruit has been reportedly used as antiscorbutic, aphrodisiac and diuretic (Gill, 1992). Adeniji, *et al.*, (2006) reported 100g edible portion of banana to contain 67.30 g moisture, 0.4 g crude fat, 31.15 g carbohydrate, 0.95 mg potassium, 35.1 mg sodium, 71.5 mg calcium, 28 mg phosphorus, 2.4 mg iron, and yielded 116 kcal of energy.

Banana and plantain peels are by-products of the banana and plantain processing industry, which are normally dumped in landfills, rivers or unregulated grounds (Osma *et al.*, 2007). The peel of the fruit is discarded as waste after the inner fleshy portion has been eaten, thereby constituting a menace to the environment, especially where its consumption is common. Omole *et al* (2008) reported that the peel has the potentials of replacing corn starch in the diet of snail, while the bracts, fruit stalk and leaf at times are left in the farm as wastes. Leaves, pseudostems, fruit stalks and peels, after chopping, fermentation, and drying, yield a meal somewhat more nutritious than alfalfa press-cake. These waste materials have been considered for use as organic fertilizer in Somalia. In Malaya, pigs fed with pseudostems are less prone to liver and kidney parasites than those on other diets.

Banana and plantain peels are readily available agricultural waste that is underutilized as potential growth medium for yeast strain, despite their rich carbohydrate content and other basic nutrients that can support yeast growth (Lim, 2009). Based on research, banana and plantain peels are convenient, non-toxic and ecofriendly ash to compatible as matrix for producing mulching film. Reported in from study found that micronutrients such as iron and zinc were found in higher concentration in banana peels compare to pulps (Panda, 2013). Upon ripening, several degradative reactions caused by endogenous enzymes are believed to affect starch and hemicelluloses composition of the peels and this explains its elevated sugar content. This chemical conversion process makes biodegradation of waste banana peel easy when needed for other biotechnological use (Steven, 2012). In view of the need for waste management and upsurge in the prizes of livestock and human feeds coupled with their increasing demand, it become relevant to determine the nutrients compositions of banana and plantain peel for possible utilization as livestock feeds.

## **2.0 MATERIAL AND METHOD**

### **2.1 Sample Collection**

The plantain and banana peels were obtained from Bosso market in Minna, Niger state, Nigeria. Taxonomic authentication of the plant was conducted by at the Department of Biology, Federal University technology, Minna Niger State, Nigeria

### **2.2 Preparation of the plant**

The peels were washed, allowed to drain and placed on a foil paper. The peels were air dried for 2 weeks. The dried samples were pulverized using electronic blending machine and stored in plastic container prior to the analysis

### **2.3 Proximate Analysis**

The proximate analysis of the sample was carried out by the methods of AOAC, (1990)

#### **2.3.1 Moisture**

Moisture was determined by oven drying method. Two (2 g) of the sample was accurately weighed into a separate clean, dried crucible ( $W_1$ ). Each crucible was allowed in an oven at 100-105°C for 6 - 12 hrs until a

constant weight was obtained. Then the crucible was placed in the desiccator for 30min to cool. After cooling, it was weighed again ( $W_2$ ). The percentage moisture content was determined as follows:

$$\% \text{ Moisture} = \frac{W_1 - W_2}{\text{Weight of leaf}} \times 100$$

Where

$$W_1 = \text{Initial weight of crucible} + \text{Sample}$$

$$W_2 = \text{Final weight of crucible} + \text{Sample}$$

### 2.3.2 Ash

The determination of ash in the sample was carried by placing a clean empty crucible ( $W_1$ ) in a muffle furnace at  $550^\circ\text{C}$  for an hr, cooled in a desiccator. Two gram (2g) of the sample was placed in the crucible ( $W_2$ ) and was ignited over a burner, until it was charred. Then the crucible was placed in a muffle furnace for ashing at  $550^\circ\text{C}$  for 2-4 h. The appearance of gray white ash indicated complete oxidation of all organic matter in the sample. After ashing the crucible was cooled and weighed ( $W_3$ ). Percentage ash was determined as follows:

$$\% \text{ Ash} = \frac{\text{Difference in Weight of Ash} \times 100}{\text{Weight of leaf}}$$

$$\text{Difference in weight of ash} = W_3 - W_1$$

### 2.3.3 Crude Protein

Protein content of the sample was determined by Kjeldahl method. The beetle (0.25g) was taken into a digestion flask, with 6ml of concentrated  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  and a speck of Kjeldahl catalyst (mixture of 10g  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ +5g  $\text{CuSO}_4$ +0.05g selenium). The flask was swirled in order to mix the contents thoroughly then digested on the digestion block till the mixture became clear (colorless or greenish in color). The digest was cooled and transferred to a 100ml volumetric flask and volume was made up to mark by the addition of distilled water. Distillation of the digest was performed on a Markham Distillation Apparatus. Ten (10 ml) of digest was introduced into the distillation tube then 10 ml of 40 % NaOH was gradually added through the same way. Distillation was continued for at least 10 min and  $\text{NH}_3$  produced was collected as  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$  in a conical flask containing 5ml of 4% boric acid solution with few drops of methyl red indicator. During distillation yellowish color appeared due to  $\text{NH}_4\text{OH}$ . The distillate was then titrated against standard 0.1 N HCl till the appearance of pink color. A blank (40 % NaOH; 4% boric) was also run through all steps as above. The nitrogen was determined by micro Kjeldahl method and transfer to protein determination by multiplying by a factor of 6.25. All the proximate values were reported in percentage (%). Percentage crude protein content of the leaf was determined as follows:

$$\% \text{ Crude Protein} = 6.25 \times \%N_1$$

$$\%N_1 = \frac{(S-B) \times N_0 \times 0.014 \times D}{\text{Weight of the leaf} \times V} \times 100$$

Weight of the leaf x V

Where,

S = Crude protein titre value

B = Blank titration reading

$N_0$  = Normality of HCl

D = Dilution factor

V = Volume of the digest taken for

0.014=Milli equivalent weight of Nitrogen

distillation

6.25 = Conversion factor from nitrogen to protein

$N_1$  = Nitrogen content

### 2.3.4 Crude Lipid

Crude fat was determined by ether extract method using Soxhlet apparatus. Two gram (2g) of moisture free beetle was wrapped in filter paper, placed in fat free thimble and then introduced into the extraction tube. A weighed, cleaned and dried receiving flask was filled with petroleum ether and fitted into the apparatus. The Soxhlet apparatus was assembled and allowed to reflux for 6hrs; extract was transferred into clean glass dish with ether washing which was evaporated on water bath. Then the dish was placed in an oven at 105°C - 110°C for 1hr and cooled in a desiccator. The percentage crude fat was calculated using the following formula:

$$\% \text{ Crude Fat} = \frac{\text{Weight of ether}}{\text{Weight of plant leaf}} \times 100$$

### 2.3.5 Crude Fibre

Two grams (2 g) of the beetles were defatted according to 3.2.1.4 section; the defatted sample was subjected to reflux for 30 mins. The sample was introduced into 200 ml of solution A (2.50g of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> in 200 ml of distilled water). The solution was filtered through several layers of cheese cloth on fluted funnel, washed with boiling water until the washings are no longer acidic then the residues were transferred into a beaker and then boiled for 30min with 200ml of solution B (2.50 g of carbonate free NaOH in 200ml of distilled water). The final residues were filtered through a thin but close pad of washed and ignited asbestos in a Gooch crucible, then dried in an electric oven and weighed after which it was incinerated, cooled and reweighed. The percentage crude fibre was calculated using the following formula:

$$\% \text{ Crude fibre} = \frac{\text{Loss in weight after incineration}}{2 \text{ g}} \times 100$$

### 2.3.6 Carbohydrate Content

The carbohydrate content of the beetle was determined by calculation; as percentage difference of the summation of other proximate parameters.

$$\% \text{ carbohydrate} = 100 - (M + P + F + A + F_2 + L).$$

Where

M = % Moisture, P = % Protein,  $F_1$  = % Fat, A = % Ash,  $F_2$  = % Crude Fiber, L = % Crude Lipid

## 2.4 Determination of Amino Acid Profile

The Amino acid compositions of the samples were determined using methods described by Benitez (1989). The known sample was dried to constant weight, defatted, hydrolyzed, evaporated in a rotary evaporator and loaded into the Applied Biosystems PTH Amino Acid Analyzer. The sample was defatted using chloroform/methanol mixture of ratio 2:1. About 500mg of the sample was put in extraction thimble and extracted for 15 hours in soxhlet extraction apparatus (AOAC, 1995). The defatted sample was weighed into glass ampoule. 7ml of 6NHCL was added and oxygen was expelled by passing nitrogen into the ampoule (this is to avoid possible oxidation of some amino acids during hydrolysis e.g methionine and cystine). The glass ampoule was then sealed with Bunsen burner flame and put in an oven preset at 105°C ± 5°C for 22 hours. The ampoule was allowed to cool before broken open at the tip and the content was filtered to remove the humins. It should be

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noted that tryptophan is destroyed by 6N HCL during hydrolysis. The filtrate was then evaporated to dryness using rotary evaporator (AOAC, 1995). The residue was dissolved with 5ml to acetate buffer (pH 2.0) and stored in plastic specimen bottles, which were kept in the freezer. A 60 microlitre of the sample was dispensed into the cartridge of the analyzer. The analyzer is designed to separate and analyze free acidic, neutral and basic amino acids of the hydrolysate (Benitez, 1989).

## 2.5 Analysis of Mineral composition

### 2.5.1 Calcium

The calcium content was determined based on the method of Perkin Elmer Corporation, USA (1994). A 1.0g sample was treated with 10ml of concentrated HNO<sub>3</sub> and 4 ml of 70 % HClO<sub>4</sub>. The resulting solution was evaporated to a smaller volume (7 ml) by careful heating and transferred to 50 ml volumetric flask. One millilitre (1 ml) of SrCl<sub>2</sub>.6H<sub>2</sub>O was added and made up to volume with distilled water. The solution was sprayed into atomic absorption spectrophotometer (Perkin Elmer, model 5100 PCAAS, USA) at 422.7nm to determine the concentration of calcium. The calcium standards used were 0ppm, 5ppm, 10ppm, 20ppm and 30ppm.

### 2.5.2 Iron

The iron content was determined based on the method described by Perkin Elmer Corporation, USA (1994). Ten milliliters (10 ml) of concentrated HNO<sub>3</sub> was added to 1 g of the sample and left overnight. The sample was carefully heated until the production of red nitrogen dioxide fumes ceased. The sample was cooled and 4 ml of 70 % HClO<sub>4</sub> was added and evaporated to a smaller volume (7 ml) by careful heating. The resulting solution was quantitatively transferred into 50 ml volumetric flask and diluted to the mark with distilled water. The solution was sprayed into an atomic absorption spectrophotometer (Perkin Elmer, model 5100 PCAAS, USA) at 248.3nm to determine the concentration of iron. The iron standards used were 0ppm, 1ppm, 2ppm, 3ppm and 4ppm.

### 2.5.3 Magnesium

Magnesium was determined by Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometry (AOAC, 1990). One gram (1 g) of the sample was dry ashed in a muffle furnace (Muffle furnace size 2, England) at 550°C for 5 hours until a white residue of constant weight was obtained. The minerals were extracted from the ash by adding 20.0 ml of 2.5 % HCl, heated to reduce the volume to 7.0 ml, and this was transferred quantitatively to a 50 ml volumetric flask. It was diluted to the mark (50 ml) with distilled water, stored in clean polyethylene bottles and magnesium content determined using atomic absorption spectrophotometer (Perkin Elmer model 5100 PCAAS, USA) at 285.2nm. Magnesium standards of 0ppm, 0.5ppm, 1ppm, 1.5, and 2 ppm were used.

### 2.5.4 Zinc

Zinc was determined after digestion of sample (about 2.0 g) by Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS) at 213.8 nm using air-acetylene as a source of flame for atomization (AOAC, 1990). Zinc level was then estimated from standard calibration curve (0.5 - 3.0 µg Zn/ml) prepared from ZnO.

### 2.5.5 Sodium

The sodium determination was done based on the method of AOAC (1995). Two grams of the sample was ashed in muffle furnace (Muffle furnace size 2, England) preheated to 600°C for 2 hours. The ash was dissolved in 5 ml of 5 M H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. Four millilitres (4 ml) of 2% ascorbic acid and 4 ml of 4% ammonium molybdate were added to the resulting solution and shaken for uniform mixing. The absorbance of each sample was determined with a UV spectrophotometer (UNICAM 929 AA Spectrophotometer, UK) at 420nm.

## 2.6 Statistical analysis

Data collected were subjected to statistical analysis using the statistical package for social science version 21.0 and express as mean ± standard error of mean (SEM). Statistical significance of the results between groups was determined using One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Duncans multiple range test (DMRT). Differences in mean were considered to be significant at p<0.05.

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### 3.0 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Proximate Compositions

The proximate compositions of plantain and banana peel are shown in Table 4.1: results revealed that carbohydrate is the most abundant proximate contents of both the plantain ( $74.12 \pm 0.565$ ) and banana ( $63.82 \pm 0.32\%$ ) peel, followed by Crude fibre  $8.36 \pm 0.04\%$  and  $12.67 \pm 0.08\%$ , crude ash ( $6.17 \pm 0.05\%$  and  $9.56 \pm 0.06\%$ ) for both plantain and banana peels respectively. While crude fat ( $3.01 \pm 0.06\%$  and  $0.89 \pm 0.04\%$ ) was the least proximate in the both samples. Banana peels contains higher moisture, ash and crude fiber contents than the plantain peel while plantain peel contains higher proteins, fat and carbohydrate contents (Table 1)

Table 1: Proximate composition of banana and plantain peels

	<b>Plantain peel (%)</b>	<b>Banana Peel (%)</b>
Moisture	$4.38 \pm 0.03$	$9.83 \pm 0.03$
Ash	$6.17 \pm 0.05$	$9.56 \pm 0.06$
Protein	$3.97 \pm 0.07$	$3.23 \pm 0.05$
Crude fibre	$8.36 \pm 0.04$	$12.67 \pm 0.08$
Fat	$3.01 \pm 0.06$	$0.89 \pm 0.04$
Carbohydrate	$74.12 \pm 0.56$	$63.82 \pm 0.32$

Data are Mean  $\pm$  SEM of triplicate determination

#### 3.2 Minerals Compositions

The minerals compositions of plantain and banana peel are shown in Table 4.2: Results revealed that sodium is the most abundant minerals contents of both the plantain ( $76.88 \pm 0.89$  Mg/100g) and banana ( $58.16 \pm 2.73$  Mg/100g) peel, followed by magnesium;  $45.21 \pm 4.36$  Mg/100g and  $49.32 \pm 0.74$  Mg/100g, potassium ( $26.14 \pm 2.68$  and  $38.22 \pm 0.16$ ) for both plantain and banana peels respectively. While iron ( $7.89 \pm 0.79$  Mg/100g and  $5.06 \pm 0.07$  Mg/100g) was the least minerals in the both samples. Banana peels contains higher manganese, magnesium, calcium and potassium while other minerals were higher in plantain peel (Table 2).

Table 2: Mineral composition of banana and plantain peels

	<b>Banana Peel (Mg/100g)</b>	<b>Plantain peel (Mg/100g)</b>
Copper	$1.35 \pm 0.05$	$0.59 \pm 0.83$
Iron	$5.06 \pm 0.07$	$7.89 \pm 0.79$
Manganese	$10.38 \pm 0.04$	$1.25 \pm 0.39$
Zinc	$11.60 \pm 0.03$	$13.30 \pm 0.57$
Calcium	$17.85 \pm 0.25$	$14.70 \pm 0.25$
Magnesium	$49.32 \pm 0.74$	$45.21 \pm 4.36$
Sodium	$58.16 \pm 2.73$	$76.88 \pm 0.89$
Potassium	$38.22 \pm 0.16$	$26.14 \pm 2.68$
phosphorus	$22.64 \pm 0.38$	$28.95 \pm 0.94$

Data are Mean  $\pm$  SEM of triplicate determination

#### 3.3 Amino acid compositions

The amino acid compositions of plantain and banana peel are shown in Table 3: Results revealed that the total amino acid of  $89.71 \pm 5.45$  g/100g and  $86.71 \pm 3.02$  g/100g was recorded for plantain and banana peel. Glutamic acid  $12.72 \pm 0.02$  g/100g was the most abundant amino acid in plantain peel followed by leucine ( $7.76 \pm 0.05$  g/100g) and lysine ( $7.90 \pm 0.03$  g/100g), however, in banana peel, glycine ( $3.02 \pm 0.82$  mg/100g) was the most abundant amino acid followed by aspartic acid ( $9.06 \pm 0.05$  g/100g) and lysine ( $6.71 \pm 0.06$  g/100g).



**Table 3:** Amino acid composition of banana and plantain peels

Amino Acid	Plantain peel (g/100g protein)	Banana Peel (g/100g protein)
Leucine	7.76±0.05	0.01±0.00
Lysine	7.90±0.03	6.71±0.06
Isoleucine	5.24±0.05	8.06±0.04
Phenylalanine	4.79±0.06	4.98±0.07
Norleucine	0.02±0.00	5.23±0.06
Tryptophan	0.58±0.03	0.01±0.00
Valine	5.67±0.01	0.52±0.02
Methionine	1.60±0.03	5.79±0.03
Proline	3.25±0.02	1.71±0.02
Arginine	4.99±0.03	3.25±0.05
Tyrosine	3.96±0.06	5.50±0.03
Histidine	2.11±0.04	3.96±0.01
Cystine	0.85±0.02	2.24±0.03
Alanine	6.22±0.05	0.85±0.04
Glutamic acid	12.72±0.02	5.31±0.01
Glycine	3.94±0.01	13.02±0.82
Threonine	5.38±0.06	6.10±0.03
Serine	4.05±0.04	4.59±0.04
Aspartic acid	8.68±0.02	9.06±0.05
Total	89.71±5.45	86.71±3.02

Data are Mean ± SEM of triplicate determination

#### 4.0 Discussion

The moisture content of foods or its processed products gives an indication of its freshness and shelf life, and high moisture content subjects food items to increased microbial spoilage and short shelf life, which can lead to its deterioration (Adepoju and Onasanya, 2008). The high moisture contents of banana peel as compared with plantain peel is an indication that plantain peel would be less susceptible to microbial attacked and thus the shelf-life of the plantain peel would be higher than that of the banana peel

Protein is an essential component of diet needed for survival of animals and human being, their basic function in nutrition is to supply adequate amount of required amino acids. The protein contents of both plantain and banana peel was high in crude protein when compared with other sources of plant protein. They are higher than that of Shea butter fruit pulp (Ketiku, 1973), amaranthus and cocoyam leaves (Adepoju *et al.*, 2006). However, the protein content of banana ripe peel and plantain peel was low compared with that of other widely eaten staple roots, tubers and fruits (Aurand, 1987) and fluted pumpkin pod and pulp (Essien *et al.*, 1992).

The crude fat content of the banana and plantain peels were very low and may not be good source of fat-soluble vitamins nor can contribute significantly to energy content of the feeds that can be prepared with the wastes. These low-fat contents will increase the storage life of the peels by reducing the chances of developing rancidity.

Results of the present study indicated that carbohydrate is the most abundant proximate contents of both the plantain (74.12±0.565) and banana (63.82±0.32%) peel. These high carbohydrate contents are an indication of good sources of energy for the humans and animals. The ash content of the samples was comparatively higher than those reported by previous researchers for agricultural hull (Adebowale and Bayer, 2002) and banana peels (Adeyi and Oladayo, 2010). The high values of the ash were indicative of high mineral (especially the macrominerals) content of the peels.

Results of the present study indicated that the crude fibre 8.36±0.04% and 12.67±0.08 % was the second most abundant proximate contents of banana and plantain peels, these values were comparably higher than the value obtained for plant products such as Ube (*Dacryodes edulis*) (2.1g/100g, Adepoju and Adeniji, 2008) and fruit pulp, (4.3g/100g). High fibre content in diets have been reported to result in increased removal of potential

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mutagens, steroids and xenobiotics by binding or absorbing to dietary fibre components and thereby aids digestion; hence these banana and plantain peels will have health promoting benefits for human, livestock and fish farming (Haslinda *et al.*, 2009).

The analysis of mineral content of the peels indicated that sodium is the most abundant minerals contents of both the plantain ( $76.88 \pm 0.89$  Mg/100g) and banana ( $58.16 \pm 2.73$  Mg/100g) peel, followed by magnesium;  $45.21 \pm 4.36$  Mg/100g and  $49.32 \pm 0.74$  Mg/100g, potassium ( $26.14 \pm 2.68$  and  $38.22 \pm 0.16$ ) for both plantain and banana peels respectively. While iron ( $7.89 \pm 0.79$  Mg/100g and  $5.06 \pm 0.07$  Mg/100g) was the least minerals in the both samples. Calcium and phosphorus are very important in the formation of strong bones and teeth, for growth, blood clotting, heart function and cell metabolism (Rolfe *et al.*, 2009). Potassium is an important raw material in soap production and in soil neutralization (Adeolu and Enesi, 2013). The iron level of the peel was higher than the values recorded for dry guinea corn leaf extracts ( $1.2\text{mg} - 2.1\text{mg}/100\text{g}$ , Adepoju, 2007) and fresh and roasted *Dacryodes edulis* fruit ( $7.0\text{mg}$  and  $3.0\text{mg}/100\text{mg}$  respectively) (Adepoju and Adeniji, 2008). Therefore, banana and plantain peels been rich in macrominerals, it can also be formulated into instant flours for convalescence and in the formulation of baby foods as these categories of humans require high levels of minerals for growth and repair.

This study indicated that the plantain and banana peels contain all the essential amino acids when referred to the classification of the FAO/WHO Committee (FAO/WHO, 2001). Results revealed that the total amino acid of  $89.71 \pm 5.45$  g/100g and  $86.71 \pm 3.02$  g/100g was recorded for plantain and banana peel. Glutamic acid  $12.72 \pm 0.02$  g/100g was the most abundant amino acid in plantain peel followed by leucine ( $7.76 \pm 0.05$  g/100g) and lysine ( $7.90 \pm 0.03$  g/100g), however, in banana peel, glycine ( $3.02 \pm 0.82$  mg/100g) was the most abundant amino acid followed by aspartic acid ( $9.06 \pm 0.05$  g/100g) and lysine ( $6.71 \pm 0.06$  g/100g). Hence, these values obtained corroborate those observed by Sheng *et al.*, (2010), who noticed that banana peels contained all the essential amino acids. This suggests that the powders of these banana and plantains peels could be introduced like food supplements into the pap of children in order to enrich their feeding

## 5.0 Conclusion

The banana and plantain peels were rich in crude fibre, carbohydrates and ash and can serve as basal materials or components of human animal feed. The banana peel was high in sodium, magnesium, potassium, calcium and phosphorus, and can be good source of these minerals. Banana and plantain peels pose to be potential good sources of nutrients for production of human and animal feeds, and their utilization for this purpose should be encouraged, as this will also help in reducing the menace of nutrient deficiencies and environmental waste management. Based on results obtained in this study, it is recommended that studies on the bioavailability of nutrients in banana and plantains peels are needed. Similarly, antinutrients compositions of these peel should be evaluated. The use of these peels in nutrients formulation should be carried out and evaluated for vivo malnutrition study

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