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Drum drying-and extrusion-black rice anthocyanins exert anti-inflammatory effects via suppression of the NF-κB /MAPKs signaling pathways in LPS-induced RAW 264.7 cells

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1 Abstract

2 Different processing methods significantly affect the content of bioactivities and
3 the anti-oxidant activities in food sources, including black rice, one of the world's
4 major food sources of black rice anthocyanin extract (BRAE). In this study, the effect
5 of drum-drying and extrusion processes on lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-induced
6 inflammatory responses by bioactive compounds and antioxidants from black rice
7 extract was determined. This study identified the total phenolic, flavonoid, and
8 anthocyanin contents and antioxidant activities in vitro. The phytochemical
9 constituent analysis of three anthocyanin-enriched extracts from raw (BRAE),
10 drum-dried (D-BRAE), and extruded black rice (E-BRAE) using
11 UPLC-LTQ-Orbitrap-MS/MS tentatively identified nine compounds.
12 Cyanidin-3-glucoside was the major anthocyanin in black rice extracts. In contrast,
13 significant reduced levels of cyanidin-3-glucoside and peonidin-3-glucoside were
14 found in D-BRAE and E-BRAE, and the content of protocatechuic acid was increased
15 obviously in E-BRAE. The anti-inflammatory effects of differently processed rice
16 extracts in LPS-stimulated RAW264.7 cells demonstrated that BRAE, D-BRAE, and
17 E-BRAE (400 μ g/mL) significantly inhibited NO and PGE2 secretion ($p<0.001$) by
18 down-regulating iNOS and COX-2 mRNA and protein expression levels. mRNA
19 expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines (TNF- α , IL-6 and IL-1 β) were also
20 decreased by BRAE, D-BRAE, and E-BRAE. Therefore, the anti-inflammatory
21 activities of BRAE were not affected by drum-dried or extrusion process. Activation
22 of MAPK and NF- κ B pathways were inhibited by BRAE that influenced the

23 regulation of the phosphorylation of JNK, ERK, p65, and I κ B α . These pathways were
24 not affected by the drum-dried process but were significantly enhanced by the
25 extrusion process. This study will provide scientific and meaningful basics for the
26 application of BRAE using different processing methods in anti-oxidant and
27 anti-inflammation.

28 **Keywords:** black rice, drum-drying, extrusion, UPLC-LTQ-Orbitrap-MS/MS,
29 anti-inflammatory activity

30 **1. Introduction**

31 Inflammation is a series of defense-based immune responses that are produced
32 by the body in response to various stimuli. Excessive inflammatory reactions may
33 lead to diabetes, insulin resistance, and cardiovascular and metabolic diseases (Liu, et
34 al., 2019). Several drugs have been approved for the treatment of inflammatory
35 patients, such as aminosalicylates, corticosteroids, antibiotics, and non-steroidal
36 anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). However, the long-term and high-dose usage of
37 these drugs may cause side effects such as gastrointestinal or renal damage (Montoya,
38 et al., 2019; Rainsford, 2003). Therefore, natural substances have been widely
39 investigated for anti-inflammatory treatment. Studies have shown that daily dietary
40 intake of fruits, vegetables and grains could prevent inflammation and other chronic
41 diseases caused by inflammation (Lee, et al., 2017; Limtrakul, et al., 2015; Peng, et al.,
42 2019; Teng, et al., 2017; Zhang, et al., 2019a).

43 Grains play important roles in daily dietary supplementation and possess various
44 biological functions including anti-inflammatory and antioxidant activities, et al.
45 Zhang et al., (2019b) found that colored maize anthocyanin-rich extracts restored
46 inflammation-mediated oxidative stress and insulin resistance in
47 macrophage-conditioned media-treated adipocytes. Roager et al., (2017) reported that
48 whole grain diet reduced body weight and systemic low-grade inflammation when
49 compared with refined grain diet. Wu et al., (2017) found that the anthocyanin in
50 black rice, black soybean, and purple corn could ameliorate diet-induced obesity by
51 alleviating both oxidative stress and inflammation in C57BL/6 mice fed a high-fat diet.

52 Black rice is a special rice cultivar mainly cultivated in Southeast Asia, having a
53 higher phenolic and anthocyanin contents than in white rice. Previous investigations
54 have shown that cyanidin-3-O-glucoside and peonidin-3-O-glucoside are the major
55 anthocyanins in black rice (Hao, et al., 2015; Pang, et al., 2018; Zhu, et al., 2018a).
56 Several studies have reported that black rice anthocyanin extracts possess antioxidants,
57 and anti-inflammatory activities, both *in vitro* and *in vivo* (Pang, et al., 2018;
58 Sangkitikomol, et al., 2010; Sirilun, et al., 2016; Wu, et al., 2017). Zhao et al., (2018)
59 reported that dietary black rice anthocyanin-rich extract and rosmarinic acid, alone
60 and in combination, alleviated the symptoms of inflammation in mice with dextran
61 sulphate sodium salt (DSS)-induced colitis.. Study reported by Limtrakul et al., (2015)
62 demonstrated that black rice anthocyanin extracts suppressed LPS-induced
63 inflammation by inhibiting the activation of the mitogen-activated protein kinases
64 (MAPK) signaling pathway and nuclear factor (NF)- κ B translocation, thereby
65 indicating that black rice anthocyanin extracts exhibit therapeutic potential in
66 inflammation-related diseases. With the accelerating rhythm of life, the consumption
67 of whole grain fast food for health benefits is gaining considerable attention by the
68 people. However, these processes may affect the bioactive compounds content and the
69 functional activities of grains. Surh et al., (2014) reported on a significant loss of
70 anthocyanin in black rice during roasting (94%), steaming (88%), pan-frying (86%)
71 and boiling (77%), while the phenolic compound content and
72 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) radical-scavenging activity decreased
73 drastically after cooking. Bhawamai et al., (2016) found that thermal cooking

74 decreased the total anthocyanin and cyanidin-3-glucoside (C3G) contents and the
75 Ferric ion reducing antioxidant power (FRAP) antioxidative capacity, but did not
76 affect the anti-inflammatory activity of black rice. Although several studies have
77 reported the effect of cooking on the polyphenolics, anthocyanin content, and
78 antioxidative activity of black rice, limited data is available regarding the changes in
79 bioactive compounds and biological activities of black rice by other food-related
80 processing methods, for example, drum-drying and extrusion.

81 Drum drying and extrusion are two important processing methods in the food
82 industry (Henríquez, et al., 2013). Extrusion is an important food processing
83 technology that is widely used for ready-to-eat breakfast cereals, puffed food, and
84 other snack foods. It was demonstrated that the extruded process would lead to the
85 gelatinization of starch, the protein denaturation, and heat-sensitive components such
86 as vitamins and antioxidant degradation (Ruiz-Gutiérrez, et al., 2015). A previous
87 study reported that the extrusion cooking treatment increased the total phenolic
88 content (TPC) and antioxidant activities of green banana flour (Sarawong, et al.,
89 2014). The total phenolics, anthocyanins, and antioxidant activity in black rice bran
90 were increased by extrusion but decreased in polished and brown rice (Ti, et al., 2015).
91 Additionally, drum drying is an economical technology with high drying efficiency
92 commonly used in grain-based baby foods, potato chips, and fruit slices (Henríquez,
93 et al., 2013). Soison et al., (2014) reported that drum-dried purple-flesh sweet potato
94 flours achieved the maximum phenolic content and antioxidant activities with
95 drum-dried temperature at 140 °C. The thermal degradation of anthocyanin and

96 phenolics in grains has been studied, and it was shown that their functional activities
97 could consequently be affected. Leem et al., (2014b) found that *Acanthopanax*
98 *senticosus* leaves (ASL) decreased mRNA expression of anti-inflammatory cytokines
99 and protein levels in HMC-1 cells, reduced nitric oxide (NO); malondialdehyde
100 (MDA); and tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α) levels in acute inflammatory rats, and
101 extrusion treatment increased the anti-inflammatory effects of ASL. Montoya-
102 Rodríguez et al., (2014) found that extrusion process treatment improved the
103 anti-inflammatory effect of amaranth pepsin/pancreatin hydrolysates in
104 LPS-stimulated human THP-1 macrophage-like and mouse RAW 264.7 macrophages
105 by decreasing TNF- α , NO, and Prostaglandin E2 (PGE2) secretion and inhibiting the
106 phosphorylation of NF- κ B signaling pathway. However, research on the effect of
107 extrusion and drum-drying on black rice extracts phytochemical contents,
108 anti-inflammatory activity, and underlying mechanism is limited.

109 The aim of the present study was to investigate the effects of drum-drying and
110 extrusion on the chemical constituents, and antioxidant and anti-inflammatory
111 activities of black rice extracts. The chemical constituents of black rice extracts were
112 identified by UPLC-LTQ-Orbitrap-MS/MS techniques, and the antioxidant activities
113 were determined by DPPH, ABTS, and FRAP assays. The inhibitory activities of
114 inflammatory mediators (NO, PGE2) and pro-inflammatory cytokines (TNF- α , IL-6,
115 IL-1 β) were investigated using ELISA kits, while the mRNA expression of
116 pro-inflammatory cytokines and inflammation-related enzymes (iNOS, COX-2) were
117 determined by RT-qPCR. The effect of black rice extracts on NF- κ B and MAPK

118 signaling pathways were investigated by western blotting. The results obtained from
119 this study can provide scientific evidence for the production of cereal convenience
120 foods and human daily dietary intake.

121 **2. Materials and methods**

122 *2.1. Chemicals*

123 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) and LPS
124 (Escherichia coli 055: B5) were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, USA). NO
125 assay kits were obtained from Beyotime Biotechnology (Shanghai, China).
126 prostaglandin E2 (PGE2), TNF- α , IL-6, IL-1 β ELISA kits was purchased from
127 Meimian Biotech (Yancheng, China). The JNK, phosphor-JNK (p-JNK), p38,
128 phosphor-p38 (p-p38), ERK, phosphor-ERK (p-ERK), p65, phosphor-p65 (p-p65),
129 I κ B α , phosphor-I κ B α (p-I κ B α) primary antibodies for western blot were obtained
130 from Cell Signaling Technology, Inc. (Beverly, MA, USA).

131 *2.2. Sample preparation*

132 The raw, drum-dried, and extruded black rice powders were obtained from
133 JiangXi Guwuyuan Food Co., Ltd (JiangXi, China). The anthocyanin-rich fraction
134 extraction of black rice was performed as follows: black rice powder (2 g) was mixed
135 with 40 mL 0.1% HCl (v/v) in 80% methanol and incubated at 4°C for 12 h in the
136 dark. The mixture was centrifuged at 4500 \times g for 5 min. The residue was re-extracted,
137 and the supernatants were collected, evaporated at 25°C, , and dissolved in an aliquot
138 of methanol. The sample was then purified using Oasis[®] HLB 6cc (200mg) Extraction

139 Cartridges (WATERS, USA) and freeze-dried, stored at -80 °C until use. All
140 procedures were performed in the dark to avoid anthocyanin degradation. The
141 obtained freeze-dried black rice extract powder was named black rice
142 anthocyanin-rich extract (BRAE)., Prefix letters were used to distinguish the two
143 processing BRAEs as the drum-dried BRAE (D-BRAE) and the extruded BRAE
144 (E-BRAE).

145 *2.3. Total phenolic, flavonoid and anthocyanin contents*

146 The total phenolic content (TPC) of BRAEs was measured using the
147 Folin-Ciocalteu method (Ti, et al., 2015). TPC was expressed as milligram of gallic
148 acid equivalent per gram dry weight extract (mg GAE/g DW) using the gallic acid
149 calibration curve. The total flavonoid content (TFC) of BRAEs were carried out by
150 NaNO₂-AlCl₃ method using catechin as a standard. The TFC was expressed as
151 milligram of catechin equivalent in gram of dry weight (mg CAE/g DW). The total
152 anthocyanin content (TAC) of BRAEs was determined by the pH differential method
153 (Ti, et al., 2015). The TAC was expressed as milligrams of cyanidin-3-glucoside
154 equivalent per gram of dry weight (mg C3G/100 g DW). All samples analyzed in
155 triplicate.

156 *2.4. Qualitative and quantitative analysis*

157 *2.4.1 Liquid chromatographic and mass spectrometric conditions*

158 The UPLC-LTQ-Orbitrap-MS² consisted of a heated-electrospray ionization
159 probe (HESI-II; Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA) equipped with an ACQUITY UPLC

160 C18 column (2.1×100 mm, 1.7 μ m). The mobile phase consisted of 0.1% formic acid
161 in deionized water (A) and 0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile (B). The gradient elution
162 program was as follows: 0–2 min, 5% B; 2–11 min, 5%–43% B; 11–13 min, 43%–70%
163 B; 13–17 min, 70% B; 17–26 min, 70%–100% B; 26–26.1 min, 100%–5% B; 26.1–
164 30 min, 5% B. The flow rate was 0.3 mL/min, the injection volume was 1 μ L, and the
165 column temperature was 25 °C. ESI-MSⁿ experiments were performed using the
166 following conditions: negative ion mode, detection range of m/z was 100–1700.
167 source voltage 5 kV; tube lens voltage, –80 V; capillary voltage, –40 V; capillary
168 temperature, 275 °C; sheath and auxiliary gas flow (N2), 42 and 11 (arbitrary units).

169 *2.4.2 Quantification*

170 Cyanidin-3-glucoside, Syringic acid, Protocatechuic acid and Vanillic acid (1.0
171 mg; Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, USA) were accurately weighed and dissolved in 1 mL
172 methanol. Calibration curves were obtained by injecting standards (31.25, 62.5, 125,
173 500, and 1000 μ g/mL) thrice. The quantification of anthocyanin was expressed as
174 cyanidin-3-glucoside equivalents.

175 *2.5 Antioxidant assays*

176 The DPPH radical-scavenging capacity was determined according to Pan et al.
177 (2018). Briefly, 20 μ L of BRAEs and control solution were added to 280 μ L of 65 μ M
178 DPPH (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, USA) solution in methanol. The mixture was
179 shaken in a 96-well plate and incubated in the dark for 30 min at 25 °C. The
180 absorbance was determined at 540 nm using a microplate reader (Thermo Scientific

181 Varioskan Flash, Finland). ABTS and FRAP assays were measured using kits
182 (Beyotime Biotechnology, Shanghai) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

183 *2.6 Anti-inflammatory activities*

184 *2.6.1 Cell culture and viability assay*

185 RAW264.7 cells were purchased from the Cell Bank of the Chinese Academy of
186 Sciences (Shanghai, China). The RAW264.7 cells were cultured in Dulbecco's
187 modified Eagle's medium (DMEM, Solarbio Life Science, Beijing) supplemented
188 with 100 U/mL penicillin, 100 µg/mL streptomycin and 10% FBS (ExCell Biology,
189 Shanghai), and maintained in a humidified cell incubator at 37°C with 5% CO₂. Cell
190 viability on RAW264.7 cells was measured by MTT assay as described previously
191 (Sun, et al., 2015). Briefly, The RAW264.7 cells were seeded in 96-well plates (100
192 µL, 2×10⁴ cells/well) for 12 h, and different concentrations of BRAE samples (100
193 µL) were added and cultured at 37°C for 24 h, and MTT solution (10 µL, 5.0 mg/mL)
194 were added and incubated at 37°C for 4 h. Then, DMSO (150 µL) was added to
195 dissolve the formazan crystals, and the absorbance was determined at 490 nm using a
196 microplate reader (Thermo Scientific Varioskan Flash, Finland).

197 *2.6.2 Determination of nitric oxide (NO) production*

198 The RAW264.7 cells were seeded in 24-well plates (5×10⁵ cells/well) for 12 h,
199 after pre-treatment with BRAE, D-BRAE, or E-BRAE medium (50, 200, 400 µg/mL)
200 for 1 h, LPS (1 µg/mL) was added and cultivated for 24 h. NO production was
201 determined using the NO assay kit (Beyotime Biotechnology, China) at 540 nm in a

202 microplate reader. All assays were performed thrice.

203 *2.6.3 Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)*

204 The RAW264.7 cells were treated the same as the NO production program. Cell
205 supernatants were obtained for determination of PGE2, TNF- α , IL-6, and IL-1 β levels
206 using ELISA kits (Meimian Biotech, Yancheng, China) at 450 nm according to the
207 manufacturer's instructions.

208 *2.6.4 Reverse transcription and quantitative real-time PCR*

209 The RAW264.7 cells were seeded in 24-well plates (5×10^5 cells/well) overnight,
210 treated with BRAE, D-BRAE, E-BRAE medium (50, 200, 400 μ g/mL) 1 h before
211 LPS stimulation (1 μ g/mL) for 24 h. The cells were collected, and an RNA extraction
212 kit (Beyotime Biotechnology) was used for total RNA extraction according to the
213 manufacturer's protocol. The cDNA was synthesized using the Prime ScriptTM RT
214 reagent Kit (Takara, Japan) according to the manufacturer's protocol. Real-time PCR
215 of inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS), cyclooxygenase (COX)-2, Tumor Necrosis
216 Factor- α (TNF- α), Interleukin-6 (IL-6), Interleukin-1 β (IL-1 β) and β -actin was
217 performed on a CFX96 real-time PCR detection system (Bio-Rad, Singapore). The
218 reaction conditions were as follows: heating to 95°C retain for 30 s, followed by 39
219 cycles for 30 s at 95°C and 60°C, and extension at 65°C for 5 s and 95°C for 5 s. The
220 PCR primers were obtained from Sangon Biotech (Shanghai, China), and the
221 sequences are shown in Table 1. β -actin used as a standard to indicate the relative
222 expression levels of target mRNAs.

223 *2.6.5 Western blotting*

224 The RAW264.7 cells were plated with density of 2×10^6 cell/well in six-well
225 plates for 12 h. Then, the cells were treated with BRAE, D-BRAE, E-BRAE medium
226 (400 μ g/mL) for 1 h, and incubated with 1 μ g/mL LPS for 24 h. Cell lysis buffer (1
227 mL RIPA + 10 μ L PMSF, Beyotime Biotechnology) was used for total protein
228 extraction, and total protein concentration was detected using a BCA protein assay kit
229 (Solarbio Life Science). The protein samples were diluted and boiled for 10 min,
230 isolated on 10%-12% SDS-PAGE, and then transferred to a PVDF membrane
231 (Beyotime Biotechnology, China). The cells were incubated with 5% skim milk
232 powder for 2 h and then incubated with primary antibodies (iNOS antibody, COX-2
233 antibody, c-Jun NH₂-terminal kinase (JNK)/p-JNK antibody, p38/p-p38 antibody,
234 extracellular signal-regulated kinase (ERK)/p-ERK antibody, p65/p-p65 antibody,
235 Inhibitor of NF- κ B (IkB)/p-IkB antibody, β -actin antibody, and
236 glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH) antibody, all of which were
237 purchased from Cell Signaling Technology, MA, USA) at 4 °C overnight. The cells
238 were washed thrice with TBST and incubated with the secondary antibodies for 2
239 hours, and then washed with secondary antibody + TBST thrice. Protein bands were
240 scanned using the ChemiDoc™ Touch Imaging System (BIO-RAD, USA).

241 *2.6.6 Immunofluorescence staining*

242 The RAW264.7 cells were plated with density of 2×10^6 cell/well in six-well
243 plates for 12 h cells. The cells were then treated with BRAE, D-BRAE, E-BRAE

244 medium (400 μ g/mL) for 1 h, and LPS (1 μ g/mL) incubated for 24 h. The tablets were
245 washed twice with PBS, and incubated with 4% paraformaldehyde solution for 10
246 min. Then, the cells were incubated with the primary antibody (p65 antibody) at 4 °C
247 overnight. The cells were washed three times with cold PBS and incubated with
248 secondary antibodies at 37 °C for 1 h in the dark. Finally stained and image
249 acquisition.

250 *2.7 Statistical analysis*

251 The data were analyzed using SPSS 25.0 and are expressed as mean \pm S.D.
252 One-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's test was used to assess the statistical
253 differences among groups. $p<0.05$ means significant statistically. All experiments
254 were performed in triplicate.

255 **3. Results**

256 *3.1 Characterization of the phytochemicals in BRAEs*

257 The composition of the 80% methanol extract of the three black rice samples was
258 identified by UPLC-LTQ-Orbitrap-MS/MS techniques. A total of nine compounds
259 were tentatively identified on the basis of retention times (t_R), m/z, and MS^2 data and
260 were compared to existing literature. The data regarding the identified compounds is
261 summarized in Table 2. The DAD chromatogram at 280 nm of BRAEs is shown in
262 Figure 1, and the MS^2 spectra and proposed fragmentation patterns of some identified
263 peaks are presented in Figure 2. The characterization of nine peaks is described as
264 follows.

265 Peak 1 (t_R 2.53 min) with m/z =197.81 and showed fragment ion at m/z =153.92
266 ($[M-H-COO]^-$) and 135.88 ($[M-H-H_2O-COO]^-$) (Donato, et al., 2016) was identified
267 as syringic acid. Peak 2 (t_R 3.48 min) showed the precursor ion at m/z =153.02 and
268 fragment ion at m/z =109.01 $[M-H-COO]^-$, identified as protocatechuic acid (Sun, et al.,
269 2015). Peak 3 (t_R 7.95 min) with m/z =609.15 and showed a fragment ion at
270 m/z =447.08 and 284.99, which were related to the loss of hexose moiety and two
271 hexose moieties, this compound was tentatively identified as
272 cyanidin-3,5-O-diglucoside (Hao, et al., 2015; Hou, et al., 2013; Pereira-Caro, et al.,
273 2013). Peak 4 (t_R 8.33 min) possessed the precursor ion at m/z 447.09, which
274 fragmented with a loss of hexose group to produce a daughter ion at m/z 285, peak 4
275 was tentatively identified as cyanidin-3-glucoside (Hao, et al., 2015; Hirawan, et al.,
276 2011; Hou, et al., 2013; Pereira-Caro, et al., 2013). Peak 5 (t_R 9.07 min) with
277 m/z =461.11 was tentatively identified as peonidin-3-glucoside (Hao, et al., 2015;
278 Hirawan, et al., 2011; Hou, et al., 2013; Pereira-Caro, et al., 2013) and produced
279 fragment ion at m/z 299.05, which correspond to the loss of a hexose moiety. Peak 6
280 (t_R 9.83 min) was tentatively identified as cyanidin (Hao, et al., 2015) with the
281 negatively charged molecular ion ($[M-H]^-$) at m/z 285.04 and fragment ion at
282 m/z =257.03 and 241.04. Peak 7 (t_R 10.12 min) with the precursor ion at m/z = 167.04
283 and fragment ions at m/z = 108.01, 123.00 and 151.96 was tentatively suggested as
284 vanillic acid (Wang, et al., 2014). Peak 8 (t_R 10.57 min) showed the precursor ion at
285 m/z = 463.09 and fragment ions at m/z = 301.01 (a loss of a hexose moiety), 281.23,
286 and 395.24, and tentatively identified as delphinidin-3-glucooside (Li, et al., 2012; Oh,

287 et al., 2008). Peak 9 (t_R 10.83min) was tentatively identified as gingerglycolipid B
288 (Sun, et al., 2017) based on the precursor ion at m/z = 723.50 and fragment ions at
289 m/z = 677.46, 397.17.

290 A UPLC-LTQ-Orbitrap-MS/MS method was established to quantify the
291 individual compounds in BRAEs. The calibration curves of cyanidin-3-glucoside,
292 syringic acid, protocatechuic acid and vanillic acid were $y=6.1959 x+4.2681$
293 ($R^2=0.9999$), $y=8.3515 x-46.26$ ($R^2=0.9999$), $y=4.2743 x-25.268$ ($R^2=0.9999$), and
294 $y=4.1554 x-40.082$ ($R^2=0.9997$), respectively. As shown in Table 2, the major
295 anthocyanin in BRAE, D-BRAE and E-BRAE was cyanidin-3-glucoside (Fig.1, peak
296 4; 27.45 ± 0.38 , 17.70 ± 0.41 and 7.45 ± 0.12 mg C3G/g DW, respectively.), along with
297 the following four minor components: peonidin-3-glucoside (3.22 ± 0.26 , 2.12 ± 0.03
298 and 1.32 ± 0.01 mg C3G/g DW, respectively.), cyanidin-3,5-diglucoside (not detected,
299 1.21 ± 0.11 and 1.39 ± 0.14 mg C3G/g DW, respectively.), cyanidin (not detected,
300 1.13 ± 0.03 and 0.36 ± 0.01 mg C3G/g DW, respectively.) and delphinidin-3-glucooside
301 (1.37 ± 0.04 , 0.62 ± 0.01 and 0.70 ± 0.01 mg C3G/g DW, respectively.). These results are
302 consistent with previous studies (Hao, et al., 2015; Zhu, et al., 2018b). Compared with
303 BRAE, the contents of cyanidin-3-glucoside and peonidin-3-glucoside decreased
304 significantly in D-BRAE by 35.52% and 34.16%, respectively ($p<0.05$), and in
305 E-BRAE by 72.86% and 59.01%, respectively. The content of protocatechuic acid
306 was increased obviously in E-BRAE by 3.1-fold. Cyanidin was found in D-BRAE and
307 E-BRAE (1.13 ± 0.03 and 0.36 ± 0.01 mg C3G/g DW, respectively), whereas BRAE did
308 not contain these anthocyanins. Anthocyanins were thermolabile, while the

309 drum-dried and extrusion were thermally processed. Cyanidin and protocatechuic acid
 310 are the degradation products of C3G.

311 *3.2 The TPC/TFC/TAC of BRAEs*

312 The TPC, TFC, and TAC of the BRAEs are shown in Table 3. The BRAE
 313 showed higher contents in total phenolic and anthocyanins (138.82 ± 4.21 mg GAE/g
 314 DW and 121.79 ± 8.28 mg C3G/100 g DW, respectively) than in D-BRAE and
 315 E-BRAE, while the TFC of E-BRAE (68.27 ± 2.78 mg CAE/g DW) was higher than of
 316 BRAE and D-BRAE. D-BRAE exhibited the lowest content of phenolics (59.74 ± 2.05
 317 mg GAE/g DW), flavonoids (10.30 ± 0.18 mg CAE/g DW), and anthocyanins
 318 (19.62 ± 0.89 mg C3G/g DW) among the different samples. Compared with BRAE, the
 319 TPC and TAC of D-BRAE and E-BRAE were significantly decreased.

320 *3.3 Antioxidant activities*

321 As shown in Table 3, D-BRAE and E-BRAE exhibited significant decrease in
 322 the DPPH radical scavenging activity (0.05 ± 0.01 mM trolox/g DW and 0.19 ± 0.07
 323 mM trolox/g DW, respectively) compared to that in BRAE (0.29 ± 0.10 mM trolox/g
 324 DW). The ABTS radical scavenging activity of BRAE was 3.27 ± 0.36 mM trolox/g
 325 DW, higher than that in D-BRAE and E-BRAE (0.30 ± 0.03 mM trolox/g DW and
 326 1.44 ± 0.02 mM trolox/g DW, respectively). The ferric reducing activity of BRAE
 327 (1.02 ± 0.16 mM FeSO₄/g DW) was significantly higher than that of D-BRAE and
 328 E-BRAE (0.24 ± 0.02 mM FeSO₄/g DW and 0.40 ± 0.03 mM FeSO₄/g DW,
 329 respectively, $p<0.05$). It is obvious that drum-dried and extruded treatment decreased

330 the anti-oxidant activities of BRAEs *in vitro*, and the the antioxidant activities of
331 E-BRAE significantly higher than those of D-BRAE.

332 *3.4 Anti-inflammatory activities*

333 *3.4.1 Cell Cytotoxicity*

334 The cytotoxic effects of BRAE, D-BRAE and E-BRAE were determined using
335 the MTT assay. As shown in Figure 3, the cell viability of the RAW 264.7 cells was
336 above 100% at a concentration of 50–400 μ g/mL among the three BRAEs, which
337 demonstrated that the survival rate of RAW 264.7 cells might be influenced by the
338 BRAEs. To investigate the relationship between concentration and anti-inflammatory
339 effect of BRAEs, three concentrations of BRAEs (50, 200, and 400 μ g/mL) were
340 selected for subsequent experiments.

341 *3.4.2 Effects of BRAEs on NO/PGE2 production, iNOS and COX-2 mRNA and*
342 *proteins expression in RAW264.7 cells*

343 NO and PGE2 are the important inflammatory signal transduction molecules,
344 which are generated by iNOS and COX-2, respectively (Meram & Wu, 2017; Oh, et
345 al., 2017). As shown in Fig 4A and B, compared to the untreated control group (NC),
346 LPS stimulation significantly increased the secretion of NO and PGE2 ($p<0.001$).
347 BRAE, D-BRAE and E-BRAE dose-dependently suppressed NO secretion in
348 LPS-stimulated macrophages. When treated with the highest concentration (400
349 μ g/mL), BRAE, D-BRAE and E-BRAE reduced the levels of NO in activated
350 macrophages by 66.5%, 41.8%, and 78.0%, respectively. BRAE (50, 200, 400 μ g/mL),

351 D-BRAE (200, 400 μ g/mL), and E-BRAE (50, 200, 400 μ g/mL) significantly
352 decreased the PGE2 production in LPS-induced RAW264.7 cells. Pretreatment with
353 400 μ g/mL BRAE and D-BRAE and 50 μ g/mL E-BRAE showed the highest
354 inhibitory activities of PGE2 secretion (29.5%, 31.8%, and 27.6%, respectively).
355 These results indicated that drum-dried and extruded BRAE did not affect the
356 anti-inflammatory effects of BRAE on NO and PGE2 secretion.

357 Studies have shown that NO and PGE2 are synthesized by iNOS and COX-2,
358 respectively, in a pro-oxidant, pro-inflammatory environment (Vendrame &
359 Klimis-Zacas, 2015). Therefore, the changes in iNOS and COX-2 were detected by
360 RT-qPCR and Western blot in this study. Results are shown in Fig 4C, D, E, and F.
361 Compared with the NC group, the mRNA expression of iNOS and COX-2 was
362 dramatically upregulated by LPS ($p <0.001$). However, BRAE (200 and 400 μ g/mL),
363 D-BRAE (400 μ g/mL), and E-BRAE (50, 200, 400 μ g/mL) significantly suppressed
364 the mRNA expression of iNOS. Pretreatment with 400 μ g/mL BRAE and 200 μ g/mL
365 showed the highest inhibitory activities of iNOS mRNA expression (69.4%, 65.4%,
366 and 71.6%, respectively). BRAE (200 and 400 μ g/mL), D-BRAE (400 μ g/mL), and
367 E-BRAE (200, 400 μ g/mL) significantly decreased the mRNA expression in COX-2
368 dose-dependent manner. When treated with the highest concentration (400 μ g/mL),
369 D-BRAE and E-BRAE were more effective on COX-2 mRNA levels (0.20 ± 0.01 and
370 0.11 ± 0.01 , respectively) relative to BRAE (0.03 ± 0.01). Similarly, as shown in Fig. 4E
371 and F, incubation of macrophages with LPS alone dramatically increased the
372 expression of iNOS and COX-2 at the protein level than in the untreated cells (NC, p

373 <0.05). BRAE, D-BRAE, and E-BRAE inhibited the protein expression of iNOS and
374 COX-2 at 400 μ g/mL; BRAE and E-BRAE showed the optimal inhibitory ability of
375 iNOS expression (0.24 \pm 0.03) and COX-2 (0.33 \pm 0.12), respectively. In conclusion, it
376 was observed that BRAEs reduced NO and PGE2 secretion (Figure 4A and B) to
377 inhibit the inflammatory response by downregulating iNOS and COX-2 mRNA and
378 protein expression (Fig 4 C, D, E, and F). Furthermore, the inhibitory activities of
379 BRAE were not affected by drum-drying and extrusion.

380 *3.4.3 Inhibitory effects of BRAEs on inflammatory cytokines production in RAW 264.7*
381 *cells*

382 Studies have reported that several pro-inflammatory cytokines, such as TNF- α ,
383 IL-6, and IL-1 β , play important roles in the inflammatory response, and they can
384 activate macrophages when stimulated by LPS (Xie, et al., 2019). Furthermore, the
385 expression of COX-2 could be promoted by IL-1 β decisively, and the secretion of NO
386 could promote the release of pro-inflammatory cytokines, while IL-6 could directly
387 induce the expression of iNOS (Ren, et al., 2019). To explore the anti-inflammatory
388 ability of BRAEs, the release and mRNA expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines
389 including TNF- α , IL-6, and IL-1 β were determined by ELISA and RT-qPCR assays.

390 As shown in Figure 5 A-F, the production and mRNA expression levels of TNF- α ,
391 IL-6, and IL-1 β were significantly increased by LPS stimulation alone compared with
392 those in the NC group (p <0.01). Pretreatment with BRAE, D-BRAE (200 μ g/mL, 400
393 μ g/mL) and E-BRAE (400 μ g/mL) significantly decreased TNF- α production in
394 LPS-induced RAW264.7 cells. The TNF- α inhibitory activity of 200 μ g/mL BRAE

395 (33.4%) and 400 μ g/mL D-BRAE (41.2%) were obviously superior to 400 μ g/mL
396 E-BRAE (13.4%). BRAE, D-BRAE (200, 400 μ g/mL) and E-BRAE significantly
397 suppressed the mRNA expression of TNF- α (Fig 5 B). Furthermore, pretreatment with
398 400 μ g/mL BRAE and 50 μ g/mL showed the highest inhibitory activity of TNF- α
399 mRNA expression.

400 IL-6 and IL-1 β are macrophage activators and play important roles in
401 inflammatory diseases (Xie, et al., 2019). As shown in Fig 5 C, pretreatment with
402 BRAE (400 μ g/mL), D-BRAE, and E-BRAE (200 and 400 μ g/mL) dramatically
403 suppressed the secretion of IL-6. BRAE, D-BRAE, and E-BRAE dose-dependently
404 suppressed the mRNA expression of IL-6 (Fig 5 D). When treated at the highest
405 concentration (400 μ g/mL), BRAE and E-BRAE showed stronger inhibitory abilities
406 than D-BRAE at IL-6 mRNA level. As shown in Fig 5 E, pretreatment of D-BRAE
407 and E-BRAE at 200 μ g/mL significantly decreased IL-1 β production. Similarly, the
408 mRNA expression of IL-1 β was significantly downregulated by BRAE, D-BRAE, and
409 E-BRAE. BRAE at 400 μ g/mL, D-BRAE at 50 μ g/mL, and E-BRAE at 200 μ g/mL
410 showed the highest inhibitory activities of IL-1 β mRNA expression. Taken together,
411 the above results demonstrated that BRAEs could inhibit LPS-induced inflammatory
412 responses by suppressing the secretion and mRNA expression of TNF- α , IL-6 and
413 IL-1 β . Therefore, the anti-inflammatory activities of BRAE were not affected by
414 drum-dried and extrusion processes.

415 *3.4.4 Effects of BRAEs on NF- κ B and MAPK activation*

416 The MAPK and NF-κB are two important signaling pathways in inflammation
417 (Montoya, et al., 2019). The MAPK pathway includes three major subfamilies:
418 extracellular signal-regulated kinase (ERK) 1/2, c-Jun NH₂-terminal kinase (JNK),
419 and p38, which play important roles in regulating the production of pro-inflammatory
420 cytokines (TNF- α , IL-1 β , IL-6, IL-8) and inflammatory mediators (iNOS, COX-2)
421 (Wang, et al., 2018; Zhang, et al., 2019b). Therefore, MAPK and NF-κB signal
422 pathways were investigated to further clarify the anti-inflammatory mechanism of
423 BRAEs. The expression levels of phospho-JNK, JNK, phospho-ERK, ERK,
424 phosphor- I κ B α , I κ B α , phosphor-p65, and p65 were analyzed by western blotting. Fig
425 6A shows that LPS induced the phosphorylation of JNK and ERK ($p<0.001$).
426 However, BRAE, D-BRAE and E-BRAE at 400 μ g/mL dramatically inhibited the
427 phosphorylation of JNK by 62.43%, 26.28% and 82.24%, respectively ($p<0.001$). The
428 phosphorylation of ERK was significantly inhibited by 400 μ g/mL E-BRAE (48.26%,
429 $p<0.01$). However, the expression level of p-p38 was not affected in this study (data
430 not shown). E-BRAE (400 μ g/mL) treatment showed the highest inhibitory activities
431 in the phosphorylation of JNK and ERK among BRAEs.

432 The regulation of the NF-κB pathway of BRAEs was determined by western
433 blotting (Fig. 6B) immunofluorescence analysis (Fig. 6C). The phosphorylation of
434 I κ B α and p65 was dramatically upregulated by LPS ($p<0.001$), while the pretreatment
435 with BRAE, D-BRAE and E-BRAE (400 μ g/mL) significantly suppressed the
436 phosphorylation of I κ B α and p65 (52.19% and 20.46%, 24.43% and 40.14%, 75.92%
437 and 68.91%, respectively). Macrophages pretreated with 400 μ g/mL E-BRAE showed

438 the highest inhibitory activities in the phosphorylation of I κ B α and p65 among
439 BRAEs. As shown in Fig 6 C, compared with NC group, LPS stimulated significantly
440 increased the p65 nuclear translocation ($p<0.001$), while the pretreatment of BRAE
441 (-47.9%), D-BRAE (-31.3%) and E-BRAE (-25.9%) at 400 μ g/mL dramatically
442 inhibited the improvement ($p<0.01$). The results indicated that BRAEs could block
443 the phosphorylation of I κ B α via inhibition of NF- κ B p65 translocation into the
444 nucleus.

445 **4. Discussion**

446 Black rice is a special cultivar of rice mainly cultivated in Southeast Asia. It has
447 a higher content of phenolic and anthocyanin compounds than white rice. Many
448 studies have shown that cyanidin-3-O-glucoside and peonidin-3-O-glucoside are the
449 major anthocyanins in black rice (Pang, et al., 2018; Pedro, et al., 2016;
450 Sangkitikomol, et al., 2010; Shao, et al., 2014; Sompong, et al., 2011; Sumczynski,
451 Kotásková, et al., 2016; Zhang, et al., 2015). Studies have shown that anthocyanins
452 exert strong biological activities, including antioxidant (Sompong, et al., 2011; Zhang,
453 et al., 2015), anti-inflammatory (Limtrakul, et al., 2015; Zhao, et al., 2018), anticancer
454 (Chen, et al., 2015; Hui, et al., 2010), anti-diabetes (Kang, et al., 2013; Sirilun, et al.,
455 2016), and anti-obesity activities (Kwon, et al., 2007). Drum drying and extrusion are
456 two important processing methods in the food industry (Riaz, et al., 2009). Studies
457 have shown that the bioactive composition and functional properties of dietary
458 compounds could be affected by processing (Bhawamai, et al., 2016; Fischer, et al.,
459 2013; Hiemori, et al., 2009). Nonetheless, the chemical constituents, antioxidant and

460 anti-inflammatory abilities of BRAE with different processing methods remain poorly
461 investigated. In this study, the chemical constituents of BRAE, D-BRAE and
462 E-BRAE were analyzed using UPLC-LTQ-Orbitrap-MS² techniques. The results
463 showed that the major anthocyanin in BRAE, D-BRAE and E-BRAE was
464 cyanidin-3-glucoside (Fig.1, Peak 4) along with four minor components:
465 peonidin-3-glucoside, cyanidin-3,5-diglucoside, cyanidin and
466 delphinidin-3-glucooside. This is consistent with previous research in black rice (Hao,
467 et al., 2015; Zhu, et al., 2018a). Compared with BRAE, the contents of
468 cyanidin-3-glucoside and peonidin-3-glucoside were evidently decreased in D-BRAE
469 and E-BRAE, and the protocatechuic acid was increased obviously in E-BRAE.
470 Cyanidin was found in D-BRAE and E-BRAE, but not in BRAE. Drum drying and
471 extrusion were thermal processes, whereas anthocyanins were thermolabile, which
472 may be the possible reason for the reduced anthocyanin content in D-BRAE and
473 E-BRAE. Cyanidin and protocatechuic acid are the degradation products of C3G.
474 Interestingly, these results were the same as those of a previous study, which showed
475 that thermal cooking decreased total anthocyanin and C3G contents, but increased the
476 content of protocatechuic acid in black rice (Bhawamai, et al., 2016). Hiemori et al.,
477 (2009) showed that thermal cooking significantly decreased the content of
478 cyanidin-3-glucoside, while the content of protocatechuic acid was higher than that of
479 raw black rice. In the present study, compared with BRAE, the TPC and TAC of
480 D-BRAE and E-BRAE were significantly decreased. Studies have shown that
481 polyphenol and anthocyanins are labile to heat cooking, and the anthocyanin content

482 is reduced after thermal cooking in phenol and anthocyanin-rich foods such as black
483 rice and blueberry juice (Bhawamai, et al., 2016; Buckow, et al., 2010; Fischer, et al.,
484 2013). The results obtained by Ti et al. (2015) determined that the TPC and TAC
485 were significantly decreased after extrusion in black rice, which was similar to our
486 results. Results obtained by Surh et al. (2014) indicated that the anthocyanin content
487 was dramatically decreased by roasted, steamed, pan-fried and boiled treatments.
488 Therefore, drum-dried and extrusion significantly decreased the contents of phenolic
489 and anthocyanins in black rice, which was expressed as the loss of C3G and the
490 increase in degradation products including cyanidin and protocatechuic acid.

491 Research has indicated a high correlation between phenolic content and
492 antioxidant activity (Shao, et al., 2018), owing to the antioxidant activities of
493 anthocyanins. Results indicated that BRAE showed the strongest antioxidant activities,
494 as measured by DPPH, ABTS, and FRAP assays among the three groups. The
495 antioxidant activities of E-BRAE were significantly higher than those of D-BRAE.
496 The results of antioxidant activities were similar to those of TPC and TAC (Table 3).
497 The bioactive compounds in black rice were heat-labile and degraded during
498 drum-drying and extrusion, which may be related to the reduction of antioxidant
499 activities. A study by Mora-Rochin et al. (2010) confirmed that 55% of anthocyanins
500 were lost by extrusion in blue maize, and ORAC decreased by 6.8-24.8%.

501 Additionally to assess the antioxidant capacity, studies have shown that black
502 rice anthocyanin extracts possess extremely anti-inflammatory effects (Hao, et al.,
503 2015; Limtrakul, et al., 2015; Zhu, et al., 2018a). During inflammation, the secretion

504 of pro-inflammatory cytokines such as TNF- α , IL-6, IL-1 β , and inflammatory
505 mediators, including NO and PGE2, were increased (Du, et al., 2018). iNOS and
506 COX-2 are essential enzymes that generate NO and PGE₂. In this study, it was
507 observed that BRAE decreased the production of NO and PGE2 (Fig 4A and B) by
508 downregulating the iNOS and COX-2 expression at the protein and mRNA levels (Fig
509 4 C-F). The production and mRNA expression of proinflammatory cytokines,
510 including TNF- α , IL-6, and IL-1 β , were dramatically suppressed by BRAE (Fig
511 5A-F). Additionally, the processes of drum-dried and extrusion did not influence the
512 anti-inflammatory activities of BRAEs on pro-inflammatory cytokines and
513 inflammatory mediator production. The results were similar to those of a previous
514 study by Bhawamai et al. (2016), who reported that both raw and thermal cook black
515 rice extracts possessed similar anti-inflammatory activities on NO, IL-6, and TNF- α
516 secretion in LPS-stimulated RAW264.7 cells. A study by Min et al. (2010) confirmed
517 that black rice extracts, C3G and its metabolites cyanidin and protocatechuic acid
518 dramatically inhibited the secretion of NO, PGE2, TNF- α and IL-1 β , as well as the
519 mRNA expression of iNOS and COX-2 in RAW264.7 cells.

520 Studies have shown that the activated MAPK signaling pathway plays an
521 important role in regulating the production of pro-inflammatory cytokines (TNF- α ,
522 IL-1 β , IL-6, IL-8) and inflammatory mediators (iNOS, COX-2) (Wang, et al., 2018;
523 Zhang, et al., 2019b). Moreover, it has been determined that MAPK signaling
524 pathway could regulate the activation of downstream NF- κ B pathway (Cai, et al.,
525 2018). In this study, BRAE, D-BRAE, and E-BRAE (400 μ g/mL) exerted

526 anti-inflammatory effects by inhibiting the phosphorylation of JNK, ERK, I κ B α and
527 p65, and inhibiting NF- κ B p65 translocation into the nucleus in LPS-induced
528 RAW264.7 cells (Fig 6). The drum-dried and extrusion processes did not reduce the
529 inhibitory consequences. Moreover, the inhibitory activities of BRAE on the
530 phosphorylation of JNK, ERK, I κ B α , and p65 was significantly enhanced by the
531 extrusion process. The results were similar to those of a previous study by Leem et al.,
532 (2014a), who found that *Acanthopanax senticosus* leaves possessed strong
533 anti-inflammatory activities in HMC-1 cells, thereby decreasing the serum NO, MDA,
534 and TNF- α levels in acute inflammatory rats, and the extruded process enhanced the
535 anti-inflammatory activities in a dose-dependent manner. Bhawamai et al., (2016)
536 reported that thermal cooking decreased the anthocyanin content and antioxidant
537 abilities, but did not affect the anti-inflammatory activities of black rice in
538 LPS-induced macrophages. In brief, it could be considered that although drum-dried
539 and extrusion decreased the contents of anthocyanins in black rice, the enhance of its
540 metabolites cyanidin and protocatechuic acid could also exert anti-inflammatory
541 activities directly.

542 In conclusion, this study analyzed the effects of drum-drying and extrusion on
543 the contents of bioactive substances, which were related to the antioxidant and
544 anti-inflammatory activities in black rice. First, the extracts of the three black rice
545 samples were identified by UPLC-LTQ-Orbitrap-MS/MS techniques. Compared with
546 BRAE, the species of major bioactive substances were not altered by drum-dried and
547 extrusion; the contents of cyanidin-3-glucoside and peonidin-3-glucoside were

548 significantly decreased in D-BRAE and E-BRAE, while protocatechuic acid was
549 increased obviously in E-BRAE. Cyanidin was found in D-BRAE and E-BRAE,
550 whereas BRAE was not. Meanwhile, the TPC and TAC were significantly decreased
551 by drum-drying and extrusion, while the antioxidant activities exerted the similar
552 trends. The D-BRAE was inferior to E-BRAE in terms of TPC, TAC and antioxidant
553 activities. Moreover, cell assays suggested that the pro-inflammatory cytokines,
554 inflammatory mediators, and enzymes were dramatically suppressed by BRAE while
555 drum-dried and extrusion did not inhibit the anti-inflammatory abilities. BRAE
556 inhibited the inflammatory response via regulating the activation of MAPK and
557 NF- κ B inflammatory signaling pathways, which was not affected by drum-dried and
558 extrusion processes. The results obtained may provide scientific guidance for
559 whole-grain resource utilization and daily healthy food intake to regulate oxidant or
560 inflammation-related diseases.

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568 **ABBREVIATIONS**

569 BRAE, Black rice anthocyanin extracts; D-BRAE, Drum dried Black rice
 570 anthocyanin extracts; E-BRAE, Extruded Black rice anthocyanin extracts; LPS,
 571 Lipopolysaccharide; NO, nitric oxide; PGE2, prostaglandin E2; ELISA,
 572 enzyme-linked immunosorbent; iNOS, nitric oxide synthase; COX-2,
 573 cyclooxygenase-2; TNF- α , tumor necrosis factor- α ; IL-6, interleukin-6; IL-1 β ,
 574 interleukin-1 β ; MAPK, mitogen-activated protein kinases; NF- κ B, nuclear
 575 factor-kappa B; JNK, jun-amino-terminal kinase; ERK, extracellular signal-regulated
 576 kinase; I κ B α , inhibitory factor kappa B alpha; SDS-PAGE, sodium dodecyl sulfate-
 577 polyacrylamide gel; TPC, total phenolic content; GAE, gallic acid equivalent; TFC,
 578 total flavonoid contents; CAE, catechin equivalent; TAC, total anthocyanin contents;
 579 C3G, cyanidin-3-glucoside equivalent; MTT,
 580 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide; FRAP, Ferric reducing
 581 antioxidant power; FBS, Fetal Bovine Serum; DMSO, Dimethylsulfoxide.

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806

1 **Table 1.** Primer sequences of the genes used in RT-PCR.

Primer name	Forward (5'-3')	Reverse (5'-3')
β-actin	ATC ACT ATT GGC AAC GAG CG	TCA GCA ATG CCT GGG TAC AT
iNOS	CCC TCC TGA TCT TGT GTT GGA	TCA ACC CGA GCT CCT GGA A
COX-2	TGC TGT ACA AGC AGT GGC AA	GCA GCC ATT TCC TTC TCT CC
IL-6	TAG TCC TTC CTA CCC CAA TTT CC	TTG GTC CTT AGC CAC TCC TTC
IL-1β	CAA CCA ACA AGT GAT ATT CTC CAT G	GAT CCA CAC TCT CCA GCT GCA
TNF-α	TGT CTA CTC CTC AGA GCC CC	TGA GTC CTT GAT GGT GGT GC

3 **Table 2.** Characterization of chemical constituents of BRAEs by UPLC-LTQ-Orbitrap-MS²

N o.	t _R (min)	Formula	[M-H] ⁻ ions (m/z)	Fragment ions (m/z)	Identification	Concentration (mg/g DW)		
						RAW	Drum-dried	Extruded
1	2.53	C ₉ H ₁₀ O ₅	197.81	153.92 [M-H-COO] ⁻ , 135.88[M-H-H ₂ O-COO] ⁻ , 152.99, 170.0	Syringic acid	1.95±0.14 ^c	3.24±0.07 ^b	3.89±0.06 ^a
2	3.48	C ₇ H ₅ O ₄	153.02	124.94, 109.01 [M-H-COO] ⁻	Protocatechuic acid	2.31±0.08 ^c	2.64±0.12 ^b	9.50±0.10 ^a
3	7.95	C ₂₇ H ₂₉ O ₁₆	609.15	284.99 [M-H-2hexose] ⁻ , 563.36 [M-H-HCOOH] ⁻ , 447.08[M-H-hexose] ⁻ , 499.12	Cyanidin 3,5-diglucoside	\	1.21±0.11 ^a	1.39±0.14 ^a
4	8.33	C ₂₁ H ₁₉ O ₁₁	447.09	285.01[M-H-hexose] ⁻ , 279.21	Cyanidin-3-glucoside	27.45±0.38 ^a	17.70±0.41 ^b	7.45±0.12 ^c
5	9.07	C ₂₂ H ₂₁ O ₁₁	461.11	299.05[M-H-hexose] ⁻ , 279.22	Peonidin-3-glucoside	3.22±0.26 ^a	2.12±0.03 ^b	1.32±0.01 ^b
6	9.83	C ₁₅ H ₉ O ₆	285.04	257.03, 241.04	Cyanidin	\	1.13±0.03 ^a	0.36±0.01 ^b
7	10.12	C ₈ H ₇ O ₄	167.04	123.00[M-H-COO] ⁻ , 151.96,108.01	Vanillic acid	2.52±0.23 ^a	1.53±0.08 ^b	1.85±0.12 ^b
8	10.57	C ₂₁ H ₁₉ O ₁₂	463.09	301.01[M-H-hexose] ⁻ , 281.23, 395.24	Delphinidin-3-glucoside	1.37±0.04 ^a	0.62±0.01 ^b	0.70±0.01 ^b
9	10.83	C ₃₄ H ₆₀ O ₁₆	723.50	677.46[M-H-HCOOH] ⁻ , 397.17	Gingerglycolipid B	\	\	\

5 **Table 3.** Main Antioxidant Components and Antioxidant Activities in Black Rice Extracts

Extracts	TPC ^B	TFC	TAC	DPPH assay	ABTS assay	FRAP assay
	(mg GAE/g DW)	(mg CAE/g DW)	(mg C3G/100 g DW)	(mM trolox/g DW)	(mM trolox/g DW)	(mM FeSO ₄ /g DW)
BRAE ^A	138.82±4.21 ^a	45.97±3.45 ^b	121.79±8.28 ^a	0.29±0.10 ^a	3.27±0.36 ^a	1.02±0.16 ^a
D-BRAE	59.74±2.05 ^c	10.30±0.18 ^c	19.62±0.89 ^c	0.05±0.01 ^c	0.30±0.03 ^c	0.24±0.02 ^b
E-BRAE	113.75±6.24 ^b	68.27±2.78 ^a	33.68±1.95 ^b	0.19±0.07 ^b	1.44±0.02 ^b	0.40±0.03 ^b

6 A: BRAE, D-BRAE and E-BRAE represent Raw, Drum-dried and Extruded Black Rice Extracts, respectively.

7 B: TPC, total phenolic acid contents; TFC, total flavonoid acid contents; TAC, total anthocyanins contents;

1 **Figure captions**

2 **Figure 1. HPLC chromatogram of the BRAE, D-BRAE and E-BRAE detected at**
3 **280 nm.**

4 **Figure 2. MS² spectra and the possible fragmentation patterns.** (A) Protocatechuic
5 acid, (B) Cyanidin 3,5-diglucoside, (C) Cyanidin-3-glucoside, (D)
6 Peonidin-3-glucoside.

7 **Figure 3. Effect of BRAE, D-BRAE and E-BRAE on cell viability of RAW264.7**
8 **cells.** Cells were treated with different concentrations (25-500 μ g/mL) of BRAE,
9 D-BRAE and E-BRAE for 24 h, cell cytotoxicity was analyzed by MTT assay. Data
10 are expressed as mean \pm S.D. from three independent experiments.

11 **Figure 4. Effect of BRAE, D-BRAE and E-BRAE on NO/PGE2 production,**
12 **iNOS/COX-2 mRNA and protein expression in LPS-stimulated RAW264.7 cells.**
13 (A) NO production. (B) PGE2 production. (C) iNOS mRNA expressions. (D) COX-2
14 mRNA expressions. (E, F) iNOS and COX-2 protein expressions. Cells were
15 pretreated with various concentrations of BRAEs for 1 h before stimulation of LPS (1
16 μ g/mL) for 24 h. The mRNA levels were detected with real-time PCR. The protein
17 expression was analyzed by Western blot. β -actin served as protein control. Data are
18 expressed as mean \pm SD. Bars with different letters in the same group indicate
19 statistical difference compare with LPS group ($p < 0.05$); * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, ***
20 $p < 0.001$ compare with the control group.

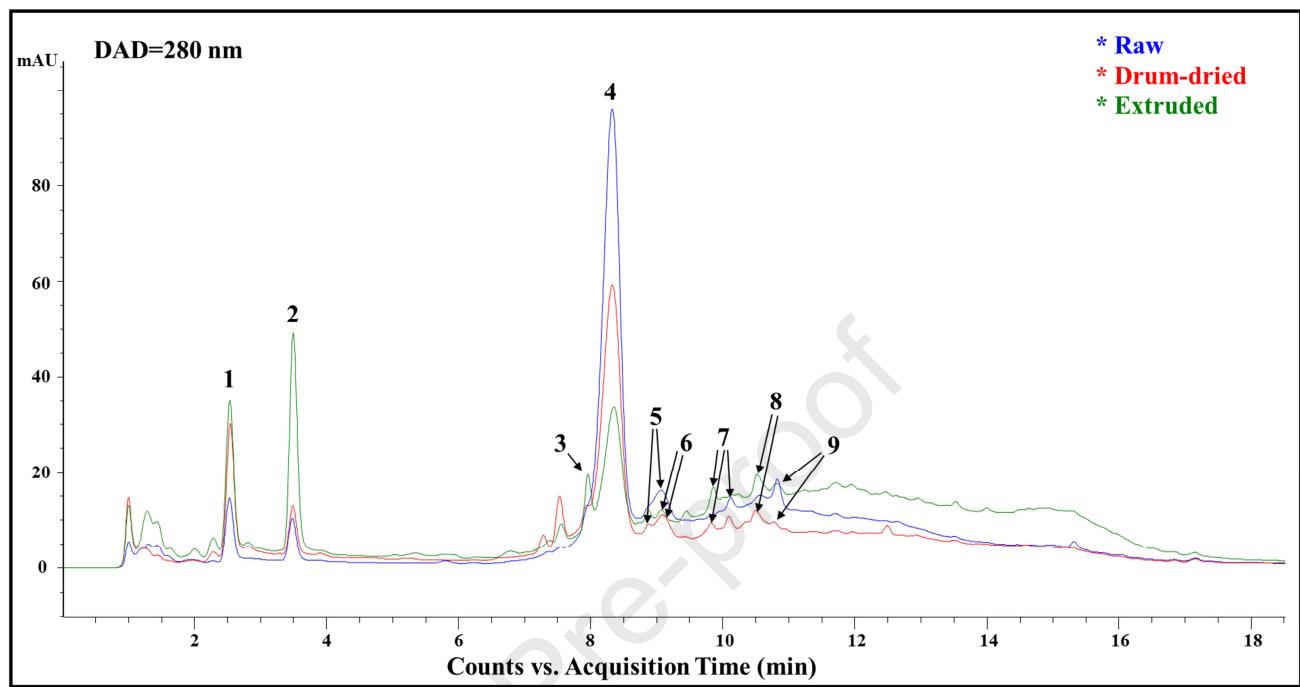
21 **Figure 5. Effect of BRAE, D-BRAE and E-BRAE on production and mRNA**
22 **expressions of pro-inflammatory cytokines.** Cells were pre-treated with different

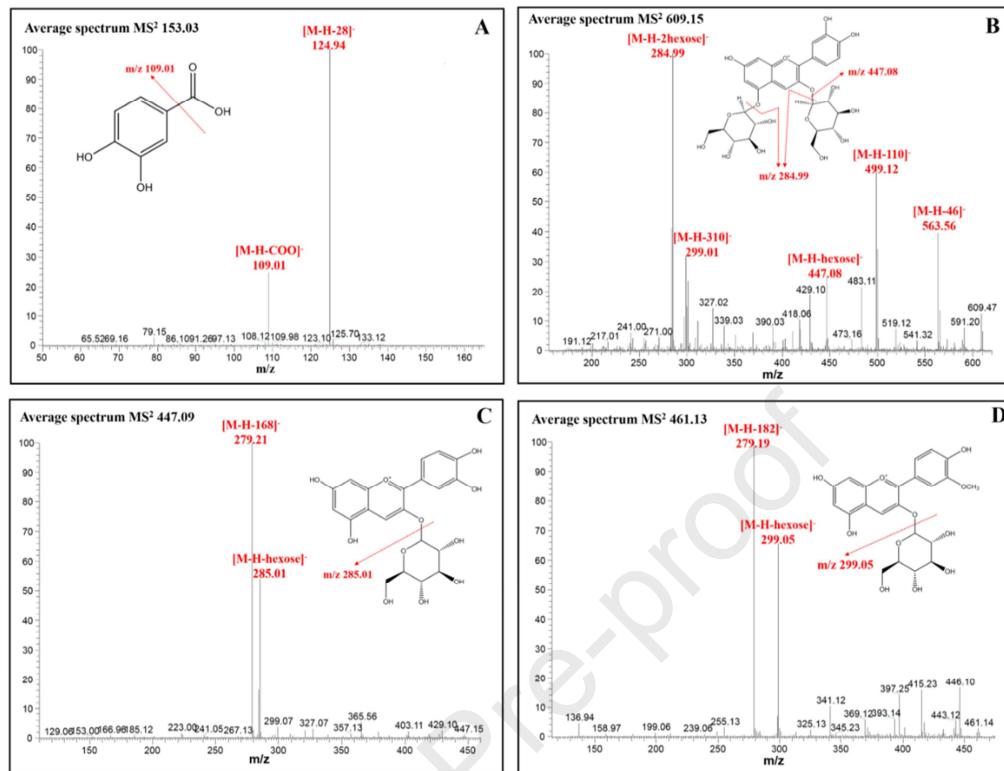
23 concentration of BRAE, D-BRAE or E-BRAE for 1 h. The secretion of TNF- α (A),
24 IL-6 (C), and IL-1 β (E) in the culture media were detected by ELISA after LPS (1
25 μ g/mL) stimulated for 24 h. (B, D, F) The mRNA levels were detected with real-time
26 PCR. Data are expressed as mean \pm S.D. Bars with different letters in the same group
27 indicate statistical difference compare with LPS group ($p<0.05$); * $p<0.05$, ** $p<0.01$,
28 *** $p<0.001$ compare with the control group.

29 **Figure 6. BRAE, D-BRAE and E-BRAE inhibit LPS-induced inflammatory**
30 **effects through MAPK and NF- κ B pathways in RAW264.7 cells.** (A)
31 Phosphorylated JNK and ERK protein expression levels, (B) Phosphorylated I κ B α
32 and p65 protein expression levels. (C) NF- κ B p65 subunit nuclear translocation
33 determined by Confocal laser-scanning microscopy. RAW264.7 cells were pretreated
34 with 400 μ g/mL of the BRAE, D-BRAE and E-BRAE for 1 h, followed by 1 μ g/mL
35 LPS stimulated 1 h for JNK/p-JNK and ERK/p-ERK, 2h for I κ B α /p-I κ B α and
36 p65/p-p65. Data are expressed as mean \pm S.D. Bars with different letters in the same
37 group indicate statistical difference compare with LPS group ($p<0.05$); * $p<0.05$, **
38 $p<0.01$, *** $p<0.001$ compare with the control group.

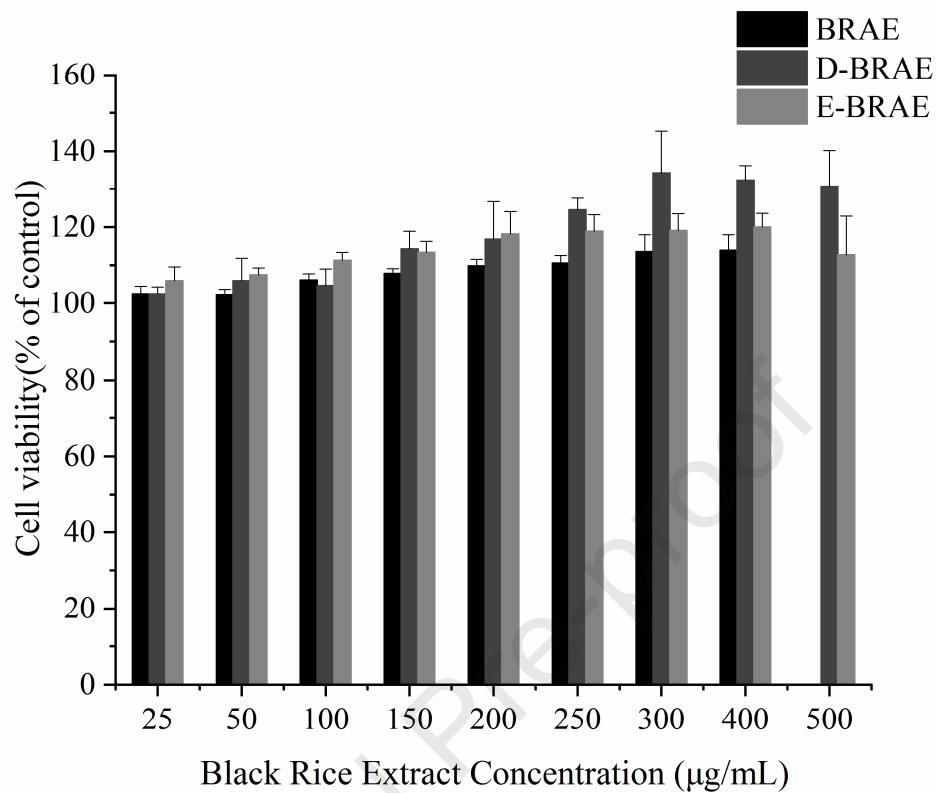
39 **Figure 1.**

40

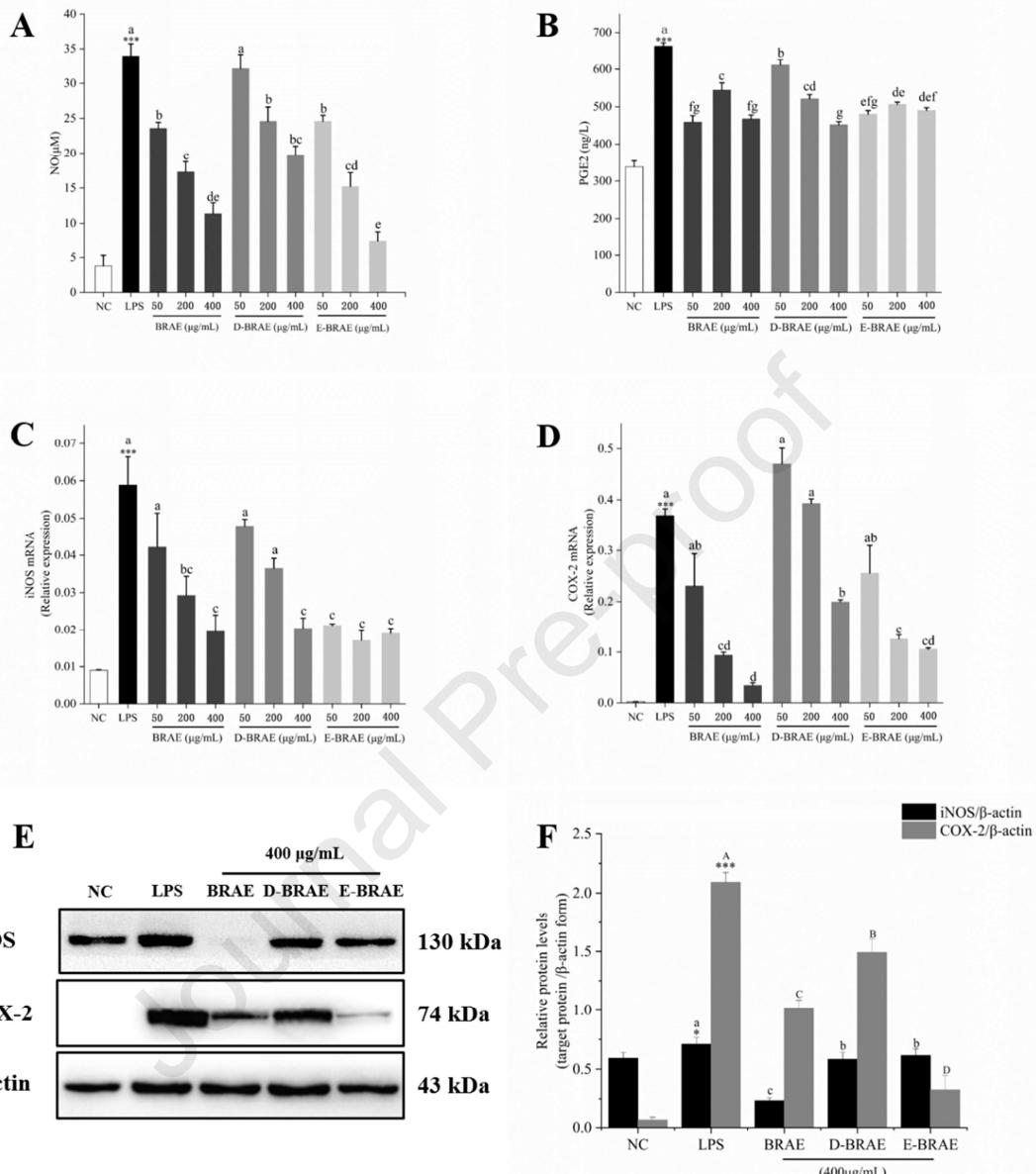


41 **Figure 2.**

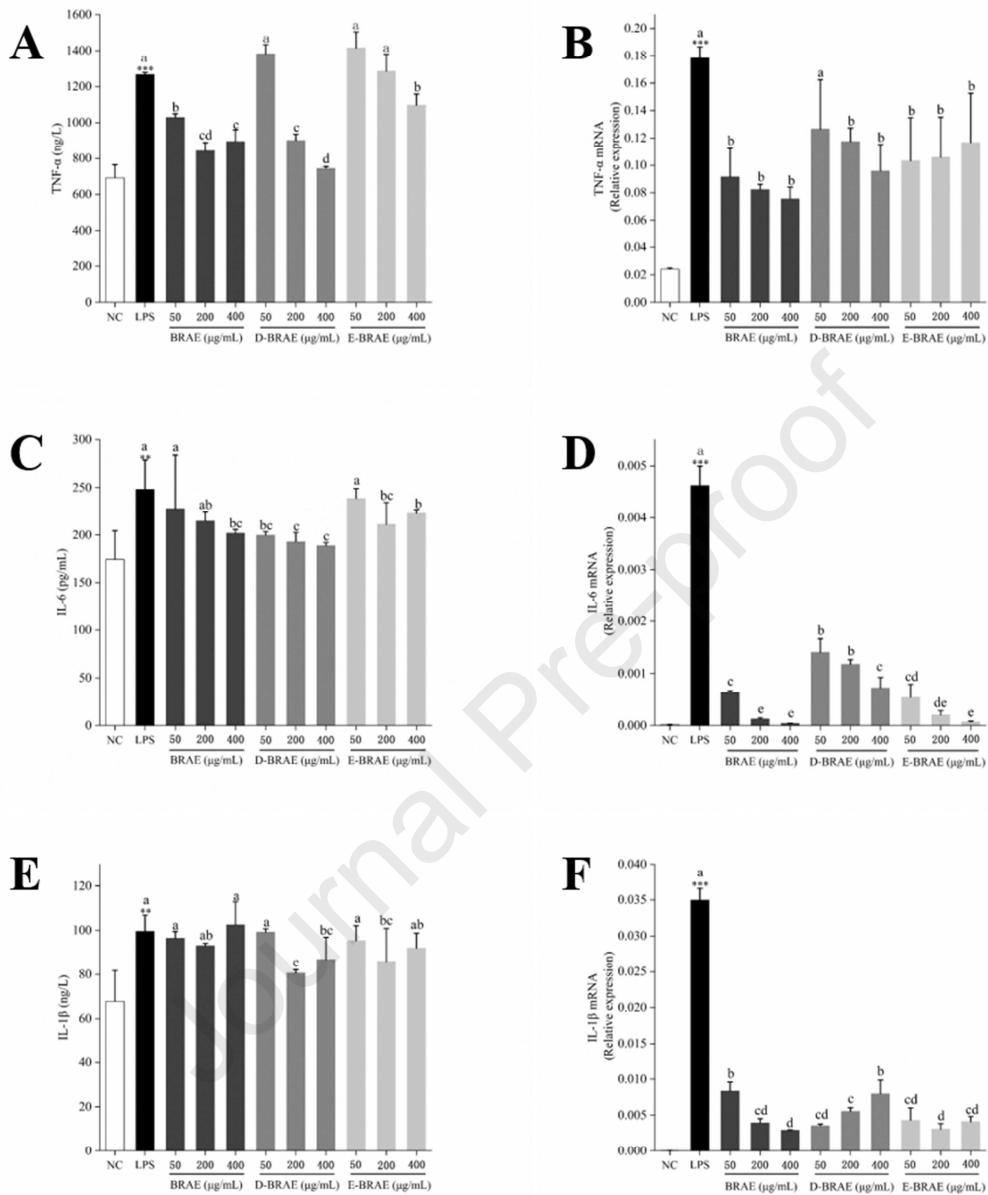
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43 **Figure 3.**

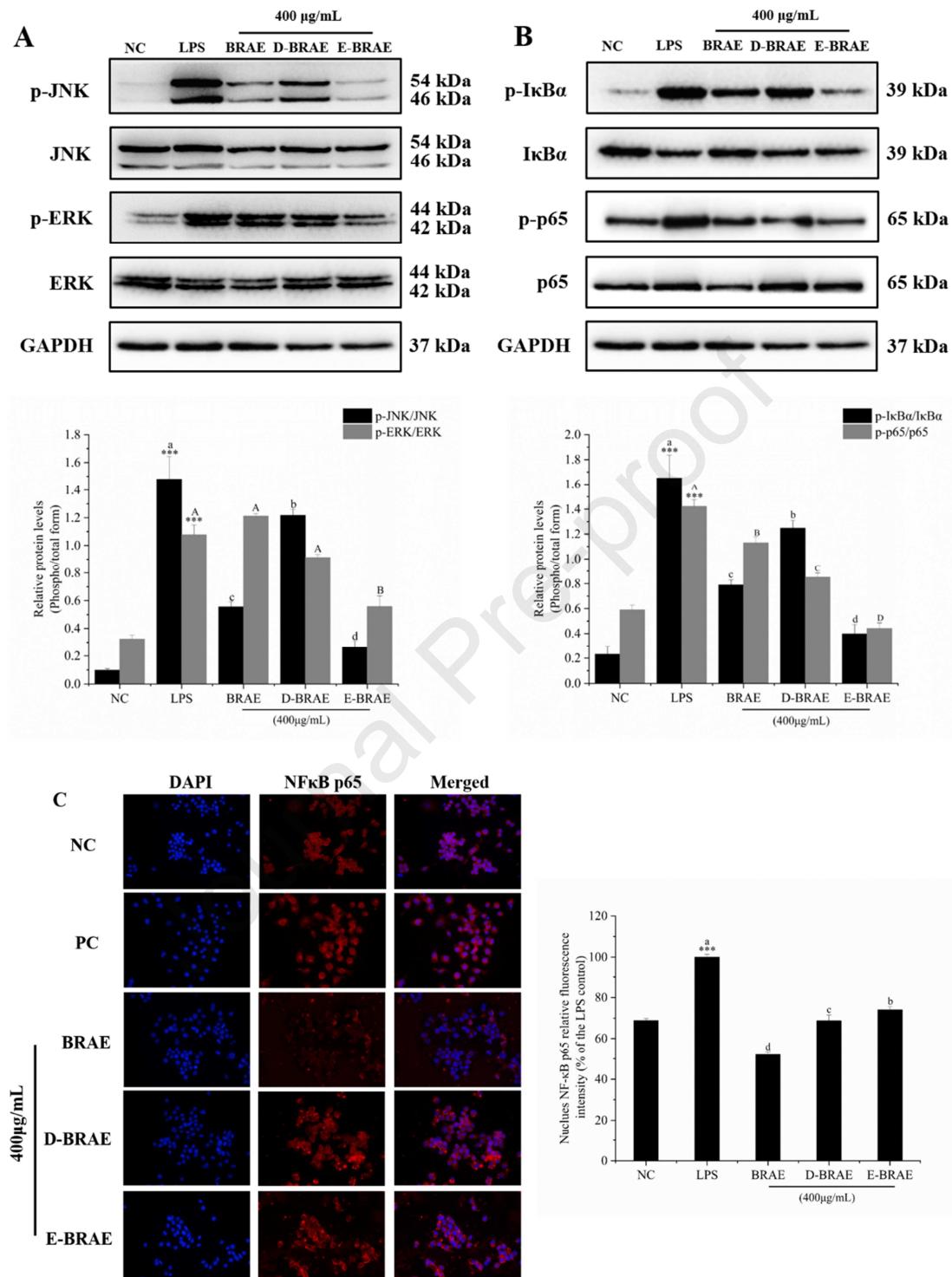
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45 **Figure 4.**

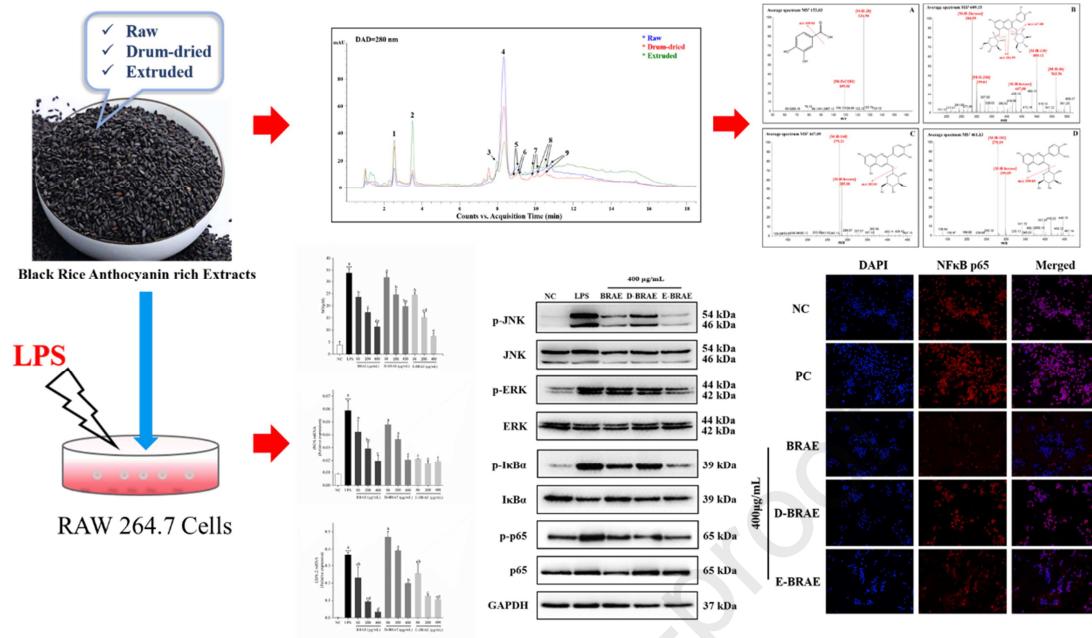
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47 **Figure 5.**

48

49 **Figure 6.**

52 The Abstract Figure



53

Conflict of interest

The authors declared that they have no conflicts of interest to this work.

We declare that we do not have any commercial or associative interest that represents a conflict of interest in connection with the work submitted.



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