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Determination of quality constituents in the young leaves of albino tea cultivars

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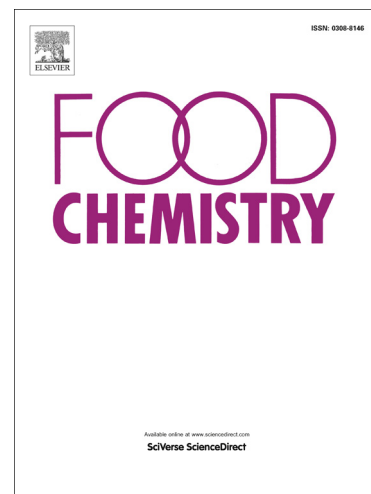
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1 **Determination of quality constituents in the young leaves of albino tea**
2 **cultivars**

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13 **ABSTRACT**

14 Albino tea has received increased attention due to its brisk flavour. To identify
15 changes in the key chemical constituents conveying important qualities to albino
16 tea, the metabolite profiles of four albino cultivars and one green tea cultivar were
17 analyzed. Compared to the green tea control, significantly decreased contents of
18 chlorophyll (Chl) ($p < 0.01$), total carotenoids ($p < 0.05$), caffeine ($p < 0.01$), and total
19 catechins ($p < 0.05$) were found in albino tea leaves with a few exceptions,
20 whereas increases were noted in the Chl a/b ratio and the contents of both
21 zeaxanthin and free amino acids, including theanine. Multivariate analysis
22 identified catechins and carotenoids as the most important contributors the

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