












Ten years of research on bioactive peptides in Brazil: a scientometric analysis

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Abstract

Peptides are biomolecules composed of amino acids linked through peptide bonds present in proteins. These peptides may have biological activities associated with their secondary structure, especially when released from the original protein sequence. The prospect of these biomolecules is the subject of study and research in various sectors, including the food and pharmaceutical industries. This is due to the possibility of using them as substitutes for traditionally marketed drugs, especially those with restrictive legislation on their use, or losing their effectiveness. A scientometric analysis of studies published from 2011 to 2021 by Brazilian researchers demonstrated the growing interest in basic research involving bioactive peptides from numerous protein sources, including food-based and agro-industrial residues. The antioxidant activity, followed by the antimicrobial potential, has been the most studied property of these biomolecules. Several other activities such as anxiolytic, anti-adipogenic, anticoagulant, anticonvulsant, antisclerotic, and cytheregulatory actions have been reported in a limited number of studies, highlighting the potential application of these biomolecules in the development of new products.

Keywords: bioactivity; biopeptide; Brazilian researchers; prospection; proteins.

1. Introduction

Bioactive peptides are a group of molecules derived from proteins with 2–50 amino acid residues connected by peptide bonds (Bhandari et al., 2019). These molecules have diverse compositions and arrangements of amino acids along the peptide chain, which define their unimodal or multimodal regulatory actions and lead to health benefits in the organisms consuming them (Akbarian et al., 2022; Liao et al., 2018).

The first study related to the bioactive properties of a peptide was published in 1950 when the receptor-activation ability for umami taste was reported (Chakrabarti et al., 2014). Numerous studies have since been conducted to explore new activities in various bioactive peptides, such as antioxidant, antimicrobial, immunomodulatory, antihypertensive, anticancer, cholesterolemic, and antidiabetic activities (Alberto-Silva et al., 2021; Nascimento et al., 2021b; Santos et al., 2021; Silva et al., 2021).

From a therapeutic point of view, bioactive peptides have shown more benefits than traditionally marketed drugs as they are derived from natural organic macromolecules and tend to have target-tissue-directed activity with little or no toxicity. Moreover, they can exert their biological activity at low concentrations and do not have a cumulative effect on the organisms (Akbarian et al., 2022).

These new revelations and the constant search of consumers for products of natural origin have raised the interest of researchers and industrial sectors to search for bioactive peptides in food sources and agro-industrial residues with high protein content (Acquah et al., 2019; Toldrá & Mora, 2021; Tu et al., 2018a). Therefore, several peptide prospection studies have focused on low-cost proteins, such as milk (Arruda et al., 2012; Silva et al., 2019b), collagen (Hexsel et al., 2017), animal viscera (Aguilar et al., 2020), legumes (Marques et al., 2015), algae (Silva et al., 2021), and yams (Nascimento et al., 2021a).

Peptides are inactive when encrypted in the protein chain; however, they are activated after the degradation of the protein chain (Toldrá & Mora, 2021). The cleavage process occurs *in vivo* through chemical-enzymatic digestion within the gastrointestinal tract, *in vitro* through food maturation, direct action of enzymes, microbial metabolism, or controlled chemical hydrolysis (Akbarian et al., 2022).

Controlled enzymatic hydrolysis is the most commonly used method in bioprocesses because of the possibility of controlling the physicochemical parameters (Liu et al., 2020). This method allows the optimization of the protein cleavage process and the consequent increase in the final yield of the hydrolyzed material. Moreover, standardization of the steps involving protein cleavage facilitates the reproducibility of the

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process (Cruz-Casas et al., 2021; Mohanty et al., 2016; Nascimento et al., 2021b).

The scientific literature reports the great possibility of methods and techniques for prospection, purification, recovery, and discovery of numerous activities associated with bioactive peptides (Campos et al., 2022). Therefore, evaluating the quantitative aspects of scientific production and the current state of study trends in the prospection of these substances is crucial, as it will facilitate the identification of relevant fields that require further scientific exploration (Parra et al., 2019).

Therefore, we conducted a scientometric analysis to identify trends in the scientific literature on the source and therapeutic purpose of bioactive peptides studied by Brazilian researchers during 2011–2021.

2. Material and methods

The data were obtained through a bibliographic survey involving research and analysis of the documents from September to December 2021. Two multidisciplinary scientific databases, Web of Science (www.webofknowledge.com) and Scopus (www.scopus.com), were used for this purpose. The keywords used were “Bioactive” and “Peptide”.

In this search, documents published from 2011 to 2021 with Brazilian researchers as authors were considered.

Bibliographic review articles were excluded from the search criteria, and only articles of an experimental nature were considered, including full articles, brief communications, and scientific notes. Only the first 200 results found for each argument studied (“bioactive” and “peptide”) in each multidisciplinary scientific basis (“Web of Science” and “Scopus”) were considered, totaling 800 articles. Duplicate articles or articles that did not match the analysis criteria were discarded as they were characterized as search tools and not evaluation criteria.

The documents suitable for the purpose of this scientometric article were analyzed individually, and the data were systematized through Bardin’s content analysis (Bardin, 2006), where data are grouped by the frequency distribution method. In view of this, the following criteria were developed for data systematization: total number and publications related to the search criteria; the number of scientific publications distributed in the evaluated years; Brazilian regions and states; the number of publications in journals according to the factor range of impact, i.e., Journal Citation Reports (JCR); prospect source used; and biological activities tested. The results were exported to an Excel spreadsheet.

Among the evaluated articles, 31 therapeutic purposes were reported; thereafter, the data were grouped into 31 categories according to their functional similarity to facilitate the interpretation of the results (Table 1).

Table 1. Biological activities of bioactive peptides categorized as obtained by the scientometrically analyzing the data published by Brazilian researchers during 2011–2021.

Categories	Test Objective	Author
Antiadipogenic	Reduce or inhibit adipocyte formation and fat deposition	Grancieri et al. (2019)
Antiangiogenic	Inhibit the formation of new blood vessels	Silva et al. (2017a)
Antibacterial	Bactericidal and/or bacteriostatic action	Anaya et al. (2020); Baptista et al. (2018); Baptista et al. (2020a); Baptista et al. (2020b); Bassan et al. (2016); Brand et al. (2012); Brand et al. (2018); Brandelli et al. (2015); Castro and Sato (2016); Chaparro and Silva Junior (2016); Coelho et al. (2018); Conceição et al. (2020); Corrêa et al. (2011); Cruz et al. (2020); Dornelles et al. (2018); Fagundes et al. (2011); Ferreira et al. (2015); Fontenele et al. (2017); Galli et al. (2019); Games et al. (2016); Lima et al. (2018); Luz et al. (2017); Machado et al. (2012); Machado et al. (2016); Mandal et al. (2014); Meira et al. (2012); Migliolo et al. (2016); Nascimento et al. (2021b); Oliveira et al. (2019c); Sanches et al. (2021); Santana et al. (2020); Santos et al. (2021); Silva et al. (2019a); Torres-Rêgo et al. (2019); Zanutto-Elgui et al. (2019); Plácido et al. (2020); Oliveira Filho et al. (2021)
Anticancer	Inhibition of cancer cell proliferation	Arruda et al. (2017); Assis et al. (2016); Brand et al. (2019); Crusca Jr. et al. (2018); Daroit et al. (2012); Dematei et al. (2021); Figueiredo et al. (2015); Fontenele et al. (2017); Galli et al. (2019); Gomes et al. (2020); Lima et al. (2015); Lima et al. (2020); Magalhães et al. (2013); Martins et al. (2019); Massaoka et al. (2014); Matsuo et al. (2011); Mello et al. (2015); Mello et al. (2020); Montalvo et al. (2019); Nascimento et al. (2011); Quadros et al. (2019); Ramada et al. (2017); Silva et al. (2012); Silva-Stenico et al. (2011); Torres et al. (2018); Yekta et al. (2020)
Anticoagulant	Inhibition of blood clotting	Bezerra et al. (2019)
Anticonvulsant	Control and inhibition of seizures	Silva et al. (2020)
Antidepressant	Controlling levels of neurotransmitters associated with depression	Cruz et al. (2017)
Antidiabetic	Control of blood glucose levels (hyperglycemia and hypoglycemia)	Baptista et al. (2020b); Barati et al. (2020); Brandelli et al. (2015); Callegaro et al. (2018); Henaux et al. (2021); Landim et al. (2021); Martins-Santos et al. (2011); Ohara et al. (2020); Rocha et al. (2015); Vogel et al. (2021)
Antigenicity	Interaction with previously sensitized T and B lymphocytes	Landim et al. (2021)

Continue...

Table 1. Continuation.

Categories	Test Objective	Author
Antihistamine	Control of histamine release	Rádis-Baptista et al. (2020) Aguilar et al. (2020); Alberto-Silva et al. (2020); Amorim et al. (2018); Amorim et al. (2019); Baptista et al. (2018); Baptista et al. (2020a); Baptista et al. (2020b); Barati et al. (2020); Bassan et al. (2016); Bezerra et al. (2019); Brandelli et al. (2015); Callegaro et al. (2018); Campeiro et al. (2015); Cavalheiro et al. (2020); Corrêa et al. (2011); Corrêa et al. (2014); Coutinho-Neto et al. (2013); Da Silva et al. (2011); De Oliveira et al. (2020); De Oliveira et al. (2021); Fontenele et al. (2017); Freitas et al. (2020); Fucase et al. (2017); Galli et al. (2019); Latorres et al. (2021); Meira et al. (2012); Mezzomo et al. (2021); Michelon et al. (2021); Miltenburg et al. (2021); Nascimento et al. (2021b); Oliveira Filho et al. (2021); Piotrowicz et al. (2020); Pucca et al. (2016); Ribeiro et al. (2021); Silva et al. (2019a); Vanzolini et al. (2018); Yesmine et al. (2017)
Antihypertensive	Blood pressure control	Brand et al. (2019); Grancieri et al. (2019); Henaux et al. (2021); Lima et al. (2019); Michelon et al. (2021); Rosa et al. (2012); Vernaza et al. (2012)
Anti-inflammatory	Inhibition of pro-inflammatory substances and cells	Galli et al. (2019); Oliveira et al. (2019a); Ribeiro et al. (2013)
Antinociceptive/ antalgic	Inhibition of sensitivity to painful stimuli	Aguilar et al. (2020); Barati et al. (2020); Barbosa et al. (2018); Bassan et al. (2016); Bertolini et al. (2021); Bezerra et al. (2013); Bezerra et al. (2020); Brandelli et al. (2015); Callegaro et al. (2018); Corrêa et al. (2011); Corrêa et al. (2014); Corrêa et al. (2019); Cruz et al. (2020); Daroit et al. (2012); Delgado-García et al. (2019); Duarte Neto et al. (2017); Fontenele et al. (2017); Fontoura et al. (2019); Graziani et al. (2021); Latorres et al. (2018); Latorres et al. (2021); Lima et al. (2015); Lima et al. (2018); Mandal et al. (2014); Marson et al. (2020); Matos et al. (2021); Meira et al. (2012); Michelon et al. (2021); Montalvo et al. (2019); Moura et al. (2016); Nascimento et al. (2021a); Nascimento et al. (2021b); Hamin Neto et al. (2019); Ohara et al. (2020); Oliveira Filho et al. (2021); Oliveira et al. (2017); Oliveira et al. (2019b); Pazinato et al. (2013); Pereira et al. (2019); Piotrowicz et al. (2020); Plácido et al. (2020); Quadros et al. (2019); Ribeiro et al. (2021); Romani et al. (2020); Sbroggio et al. (2016); Silva et al. (2012); Silva et al. (2019a); Silva et al. (2019b); Silva et al. (2021); Sousa et al. (2020); Venancio et al. (2013); Vernaza et al. (2012); Vogel et al. (2021); Yekta et al. (2020); Zanutto-Elgui et al. (2019)
Antioxidant	Reduction of free radical oxidation and lipid peroxidation	Boelter et al. (2020); Mendes et al. (2019); Mongui et al. (2015); Rádis-Baptista et al. (2020); Traoré et al. (2013)
Antiparasitic	Broad-spectrum endo- and ectoparasiticide	Santana et al. (2020)
Antiproliferative	Inhibition of proliferation of non-cancerous cells and benign prostatic hyperplasia	Alves et al. (2016)
Antisclerotic	Inhibition of loss of arterial compliance	Bassan et al. (2016); Michelon et al. (2021)
Antithrombotic	Control of the formation and eradication of intravenous thrombi	Cruz et al. (2019)
Anxiolytic	Reduce anxiety and tension	Fialho et al. (2018); Mariano et al. (2021); Santos et al. (2012); Sanz et al. (2015)
Characterization of the peptide profile	Characterization of the structural chain at the amino acid composition level	Bassan et al. (2016); Câmara et al. (2020); Coelho et al. (2018); Lima et al. (2019); Marques et al. (2015); Silva et al. (2018); Soares et al. (2015)
Cholesterolemic	Control of blood cholesterol and lipoprotein levels	Cruz et al. (2019)
Cytoregulatory	Regulation of mitotic and meiotic processes	Cancelarich et al. (2020); Corrales-Ureña et al. (2020); Martins et al. (2020); Naman et al. (2017); Pinto et al. (2016)
Cytotoxicity	Test for the evaluation of the cytotoxicity of peptides	Michelon et al. (2021); Rádis-Baptista et al. (2020)
Hemolytic	Control and regulation of intravascular and extravascular hemolytic processes	Baptista et al. (2020b); Barati et al. (2020); Carvalho et al. (2014); Fontenele et al. (2017); Galli et al. (2019); Michelon et al. (2021); Monte et al. (2017); Moura et al. (2017)
Immunomodulator	Migration of leukocytes and/or macrophages in immune processes and increased immunoglobulin synthesis	Montalvo et al. (2019)
Metal chelator	Chelation of metal ions	Alberto-Silva et al. (2021); Campeiro et al. (2015); Sousa et al. (2020)
Neuroprotective	Elevation of brain tolerance to ischemia, inhibition of cholinesterase, and reduction of deleterious effects of toxic substances	Michelon et al. (2021)
Protease activator	Activation of proteases	Nascimento et al. (2021a)
Protection from DNA damage	Protection against DNA strand structure damage and consequent mutagenic errors	Michelon et al. (2021)
Protein inhibitor	Inhibition of specific proteins	Kuniyoshi et al. (2017); Michelon et al. (2021)
Proteolytic	Assessment of proteolytic activity associated with peptide chains	

3. Results and discussion

According to the search criteria used, only 174 out of 800 publications were analyzed. A total of 594 studies were repeated, and 32 did not fit the research objective; therefore, they were disregarded from the analysis. Figure 1 shows the distribution of scientific publications on bioactive peptides studied by researchers from the Brazilian States during 2011–2021.

Figure 1 shows the authorization of publications based on the study of bioactive peptides during 2011–2021 in Brazil. With time, the data demonstrated an increasing trend in the relevant studies, as evidenced by a gradual rise in the annual publication numbers, with the highest number of researcher engagements and published articles in 2020.

The general trend of promoting research on the prospection of bioactive peptides can be justified by a change in the lifestyle of consumers, who prefer to include new natural-origin products in their diet (Toldrá et al., 2018). Therefore, research institutions and industrial sectors have intensified their studies to obtain novel potential bioactive compounds with beneficial biological activities *in vivo* and *in vitro* (Khedri et al., 2021; Mohanty et al., 2016; Toldrá & Mora, 2021).

However, the results indicated a decline in the total number of publications related to the topic in 2021, with only 22 articles (a reduction of 40.55%) compared to the year 2020 with 37 articles; this was in stark contrast to the upward trend observed during previous years. In 2020, the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic began, which affected the world population in terms of public health and negatively impacted the industrial, scientific, and technology-based sectors, especially in developing countries such as Brazil and in underdeveloped countries (Candido et al., 2021).

While analyzing the data from each suitable publication, Brazilian researchers from five regions were verified to have contributed to the research related to the prospection and evaluation of the biological activities of peptides during 2011–2021.

The data demonstrate that the Southeast region led the publication ranking, followed by the South, Northeast, and Midwest regions,

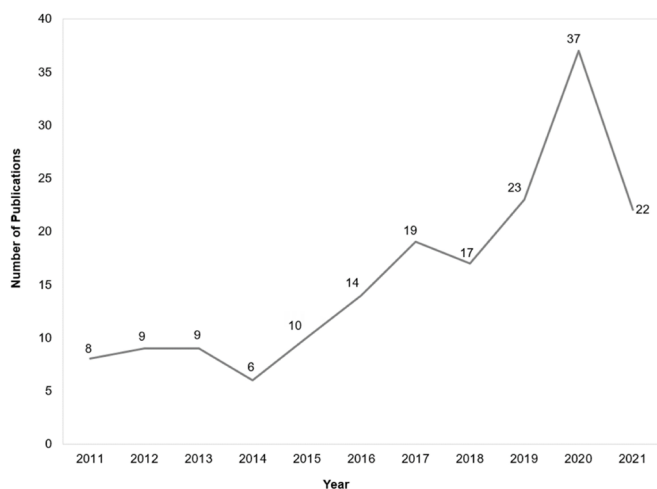


Figure 1. Number of publications on bioactive peptides studied by researchers from the Brazilian during 2011–2021.

with 98, 35, 21, 19, and 1 scientific publications about bioactive peptides, respectively. In fact, studies about this theme have gained significant prominence in the number of publications over time. This is primarily due to increased investments in basic research and partnerships and collaborations with good scientific institutions, such as those located in the Southeast region (Sidone et al., 2016).

The southeast region of Brazil accounted for approximately 54% of the total bioactive peptide studies published by Brazilian researchers. Additionally, this region also ranks the highest for the most diverse scientific and technological topics owing to the high level of financial investment (Oliveira, 2016). The interaction between universities, research institutes, and the private sector occurs in a punctual and concentrated manner in some regions of the country. This helps meet the demand for interests aligned with specific regional economic activity segments (Camargo et al., 2021).

Although the distribution map elucidated increased research on bioactive peptides in Brazil, the focus on specific regions shows a significant gap in the investments and interests of Brazilian researchers in terms of scientific studies aimed at prospecting peptides across different states and countries. Notably, only one work was reported from the North region, corresponding to 0.57% of the total scientific publications. The primary factor contributing to the slow evolution of scientific and technological development in this region is the delayed implementation of the industrialization process (Spíndola et al., 2015).

While analyzing the data from each suitable publication, Brazilian researchers from 17 states and the Federal District were verified to have contributed to the research related to the prospection and evaluation of the biological activities of peptides during 2011–2021, according to the data shown in Figure 2.

Researchers affiliated with the institutions in São Paulo State had the most publications, with 72 publications during the study period. In general, the growth trend of Brazilian scientific outcomes is closely correlated with public sector investments, which in turn are directed toward the education of human capital and the improvement of the infrastructure of universities and research institutes (Helene & Ribeiro, 2011; Souza et al., 2020).

The Universidade Estadual de Campinas and the Universidade de São Paulo, located in the State of São Paulo, had the highest number of publications nationwide, with 23 (13.21%) and 19 (10.91%), respectively. The leading institutions are located in the Southeast and South regions, followed by the Northeast region (Universidade Federal de Pernambuco) and the Center-West region (Universidade de Goiás) of Brazil.

Regarding the periodicals used for publications, a total of 95 journals were used for collecting data on bioactive peptides studied by Brazilian researchers during 2011–2021. The lowest value of the JCR impact factor was 0.579 for the “Brazilian Archives of Biology and Technology”. The highest was 9.642 for “Bioresource Technology”, each journal having only one published article. Figure 3 shows an overview of the 174 scientific publications on bioactive peptides published by Brazilian researchers according to the JCR impact factor intervals for the journals.

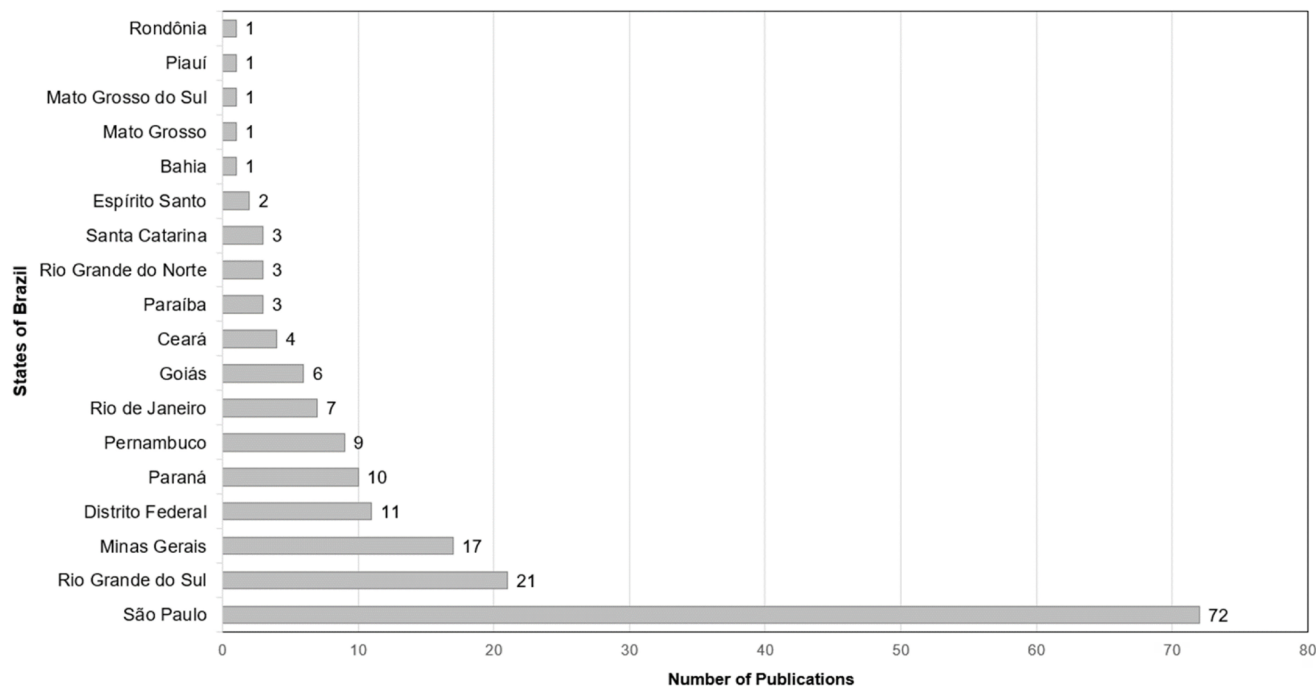


Figure 2. Number of publications on bioactive peptides studied by researchers affiliated from Brazilian States during 2011–2021.

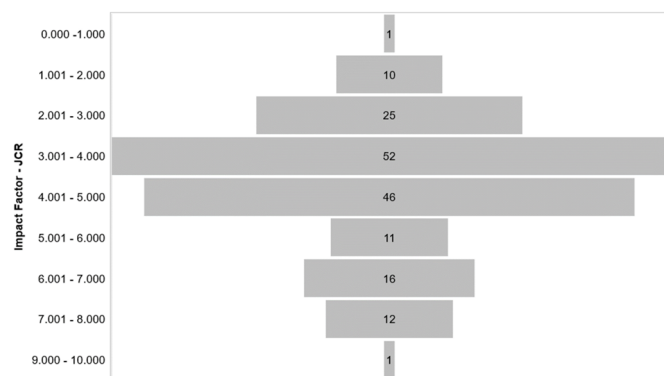


Figure 3. Frequency distribution of scientific articles published by Brazilian researchers on bioactive peptides during 2011–2021 according to JCR impact factor intervals.

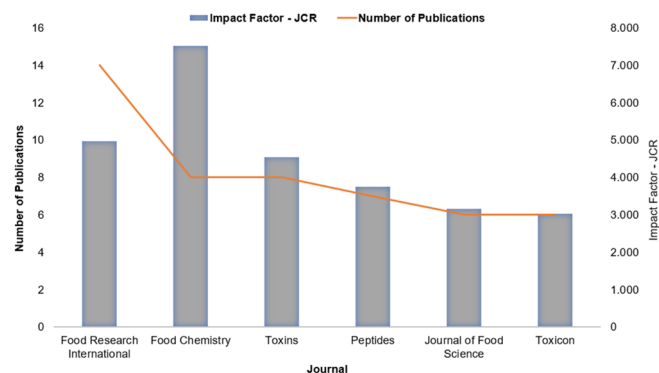


Figure 4. Frequency distribution of scientific articles published by Brazilian researchers on bioactive peptides in seven leading journals with their respective JCR impact factors during 2011–2021.

A total of 52 and 46 articles on the topic studied were published in journals with a JCR value between 3.001–4.000 and 4.001–5.000, respectively. These results suggest that the studies conducted by Brazilian researchers on bioactive peptides over the last 10 years have been gaining strength and recognition in the scientific environment. Among the 95 journals included in the present study, seven with the highest number of publications were selected (Figure 4), along with their respective JCR scientific impact factors.

Our results demonstrated that the “Food Research International” journal published 14 articles with the highest publication rate and currently has an impact factor of 4.972. The impact factor is a bibliometric indicator commonly used to assess the relative quality of a journal within its field of study and measure

the frequency with which a journal article was cited in each period (Sharma et al., 2014).

The prospecting sources studied in the 174 scientific articles evaluated in the present study are shown in Figure 5.

Our observations based on 108 (62.06%) publications suggested that Brazilian researchers used animal products as the primary source of bioactive peptides. In contrast, protein matrices of plant, microbial, and synthetic origin were discussed in 35 (20.11%), 18 (10.35%), and 13 (7.48%) publications, respectively.

Over the years, different animal protein sources have been investigated for bioactive peptide production owing to their high concentration of essential amino acids and bioavailability

(Wen et al., 2019). These animal sources include bovine milk (Silva et al., 2019b), goat milk (Nascimento et al., 2021b), whey (Amorim et al., 2018), buffalo cheese (Moura et al., 2016), collagen (Hexsel et al., 2017), snake venom (Alberto-Silva et al., 2021), shrimp (Proksch et al., 2014), fish (Quadros et al., 2019), and industrial waste (Bassan et al., 2016).

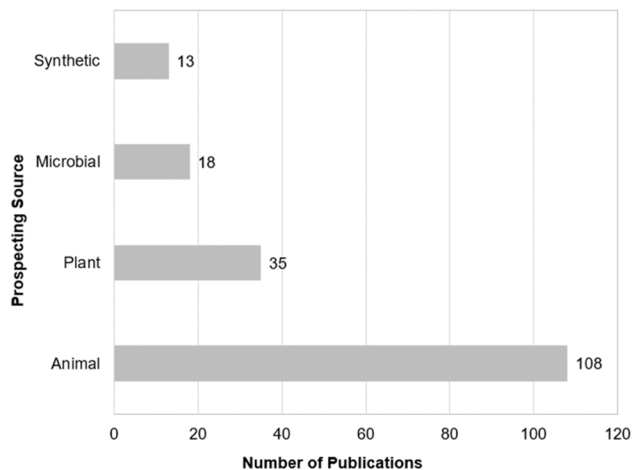


Figure 5. Number of scientific publications based on the bioactive peptides prospected by Brazilian researchers and grouped according to the prospecting source.

Among plant sources, protein matrices from yams (Nascimento et al., 2021a), beans (Rocha et al., 2015), wheat flour (Lima et al., 2019), pepper (Silva et al., 2017b), chia seeds (Grancieri et al., 2019), and quinoa seeds (Yekta et al., 2020) have been studied.

Bioactive peptides exhibit bioactivity (unimodal or multimodal) based on the length and arrangement of amino acids in their chain (Bezerra et al., 2020; Cruz et al., 2020; Silva et al., 2021). Figure 6 shows the number of published studies according to the underlying therapeutic purpose.

The data analysis revealed that some scientific articles reported more than one activity for the prospected peptide, thereby characterizing the multimodal activity of these peptides. The analysis of specific activities revealed that antimicrobial and antioxidant activities were most frequently reported, with 55 (35.05%) publications reporting them.

The least studied biological activities included anti-adipogenic (Grancieri et al., 2019), antiangiogenic (Silva et al., 2017a), anticoagulant (Silva et al., 2011), anticonvulsant (Silva et al., 2020), antidepressant (Cruz et al., 2017), antigenicity (Landim et al., 2021), antihistamine (Rádis-Baptista et al., 2020), anti-proliferative (Santana et al., 2020), antisclerotic (Alves et al., 2016), anxiolytic (Cruz et al., 2019), cytotregulatory (Proksch et al., 2014), metal chelators (Montalvo et al., 2019), protease

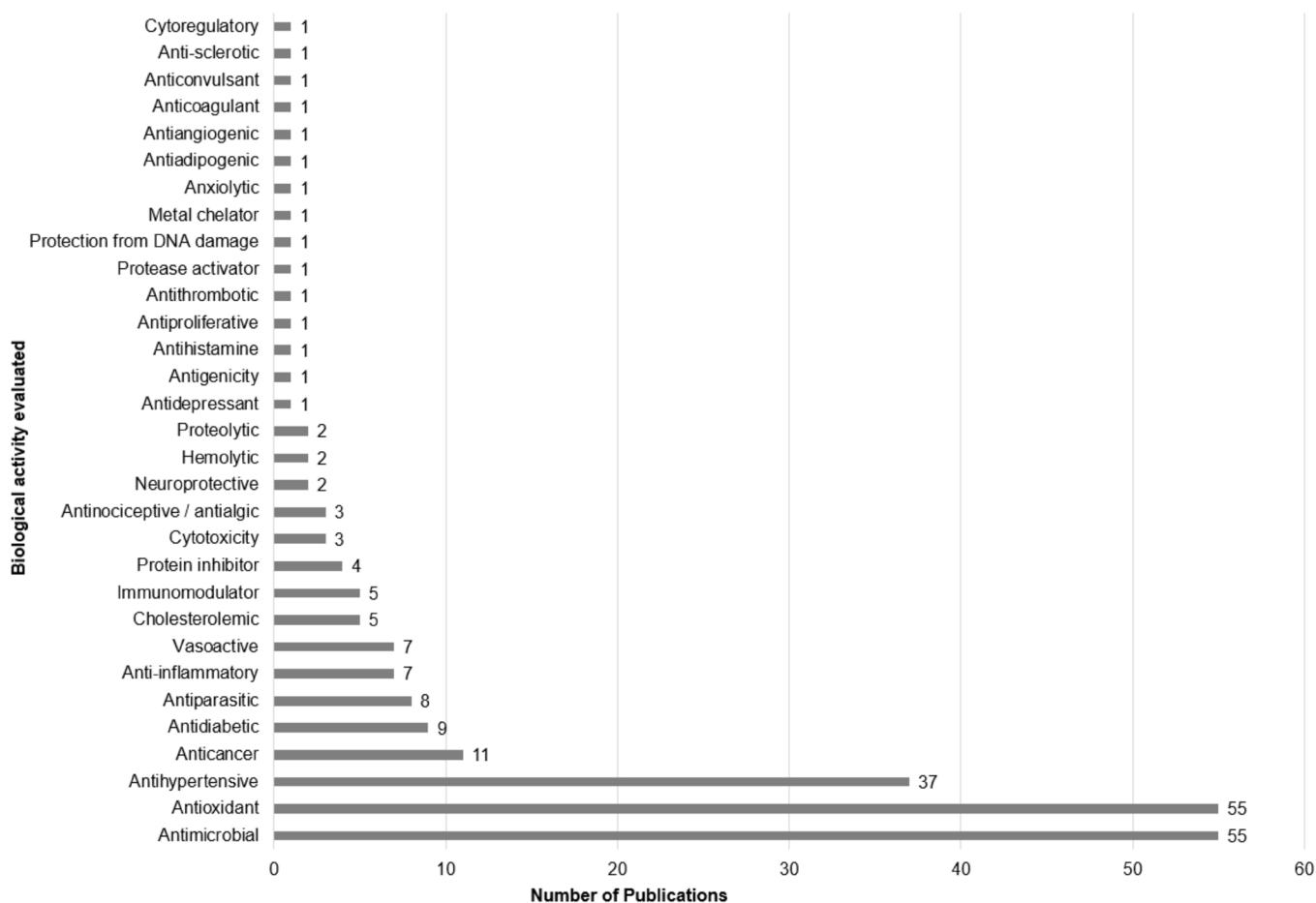


Figure 6. Number of Publications by Brazilian researchers on bioactive peptides and grouped according to the therapeutic purpose.

activator (Michelon et al., 2021), protection from DNA damage (Nascimento et al., 2021a), and protein inhibitor (Michelon et al., 2021) actions, each of which was tested and reported in only one publication.

Several studies related to testing the antioxidant properties of peptides could be justified by the existence of specific legislation that limits the use of synthetic substances, particularly in the preservation of foods and medicines. Therefore, the development of potentially safe natural-origin products, such as bioactive peptides with antioxidant activity, is always desirable (Marques et al., 2015).

Since conventional antimicrobial drugs are losing their effectiveness owing to indiscriminate usage and increasing multi-drug resistance in the microbial population, interest in exploring peptides with antimicrobial activity has grown over the years (Jia et al., 2019). Peptides with antimicrobial action effectively control pathogens owing to their valuable characteristics. These substances have broad-spectrum microbicidal activity associated with high specificity for microbial cells. Moreover, the rare induction of microbial resistance and the ability to act synergistically with commonly marketed antibiotics make them a promising choice for antimicrobials (Kobbi et al., 2018; Osman et al., 2021).

Studies related to other observed biological activities are expanding, demonstrating a high potential for their application in future therapeutic studies. In view of the data analysis, only five of the 174 articles included cytotoxicity studies. Despite a lower rate of peptide-associated toxicity, biomolecules can possibly generate toxic substances, such as lysinoalanine, D-amino acids, and biogenic amines, capable of causing deleterious effects in organisms. Therefore, extensive toxicity studies must be performed (Liu et al., 2020).

The *in vitro* cytotoxicity, hemolytic activity, and genotoxicity tests of bioactive peptides must be assessed before their development for human consumption. Additional *in vivo*, animal, acute oral toxicity, chronic, and repeated-dose toxicity assessments must be performed (Shivanna & Nataraj, 2020). Major limitations include the complexity and cost of assays to determine toxicity and/or allergenicity *in vitro* and *in vivo*, particularly with several peptides under evaluation (Lin et al., 2018).

However, *in silico* methods are considered a practical alternative to predict toxicity, allergenicity, and peptide bioactivity (Lin et al., 2018; Tu et al., 2018b). Although such analysis is unsuitable for reliable comparison between *in vitro* and preclinical toxicity testing, bioinformatics tools can help researchers screen and select peptides with potential pharmacological applications (Tu et al., 2018a).

Given these data, the increasing development of bioactive substances, especially bioactive peptides, is evident. The prospection of novel natural-origin products can generate health benefits; therefore, they can serve as alternatives to increase the nutritional scope since these substances are primarily dietary constituents (Romani et al., 2020).

4. Conclusion

The results of the analyzed publications based on the prospection of bioactive peptides and evaluation of their

biological activities over the last 10 years (2011–2021) in Brazil demonstrate the increasing number of publications and their respective impact on contributing to the scientific and technological development of the country. The Brazilian region that has the largest number of researchers who carry out studies related to the prospection of bioactive peptides is the Southeast region; however, it has been possible to observe the rise of scientific development over the last few years in the South, Northeast, and Midwest regions. Among the numerous sources of prospecting for bioactive peptides, food proteins of animal origin are the most used, and studies published by Brazilian researchers demonstrate the potential for multimodal application of bioactive peptides, as several biological activities are reported. Antioxidant, broad-spectrum antimicrobial, and antihypertensive activities were the most researched in the evaluated period; however, it was possible to identify other activities that demonstrate the potential for the development of new bioactive formulations based on peptides.

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