

# Safety Assessment of *Carica papaya* (Papaya)—Derived Ingredients as Used in Cosmetics

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## Abstract

The Expert Panel for Cosmetic Ingredient Safety (Panel) assessed the safety of 5 *Carica papaya* (papaya)-derived ingredients as used in cosmetic formulations. These ingredients are mostly reported to function in cosmetics as skin-conditioning agents. Industry should continue to use good manufacturing practices to limit impurities that could be present in these botanical ingredients. The Panel considered all the information, and concluded that *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit, *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract, *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Juice, and *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Water are safe in cosmetics in the present practices of use and concentration described in this safety assessment, and that the available data are insufficient to make a determination of safety for *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Leaf Extract under the intended conditions of use in cosmetic formulations.

## Keywords

Cosmetic Ingredient Review, Expert Panel for Cosmetic Ingredient Safety, Safety, Cosmetics, Papaya, *Carica papaya* (Papaya) Fruit, *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract, *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Juice, *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Water, *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Leaf Extract

## Introduction

This is a safety assessment of the following 5 *Carica papaya*-derived ingredients as used in cosmetic formulations:

*Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit  
*Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract  
*Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Juice  
*Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Water  
*Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Leaf Extract

According to the web-based *International Cosmetic Ingredient Dictionary and Handbook* (Dictionary), most of the *Carica papaya*-derived ingredients included in this safety assessment are reported to function as skin-conditioning agents in cosmetic products (Table 1).<sup>1</sup> The exception is *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit, for which no function is reported.

The Expert Panel for Cosmetic Ingredient Safety (Panel) has previously reviewed the safety of a *Carica papaya*-derived ingredient. In 2017, a safety assessment of plant-derived oils was published, with the conclusion that 244 plant-derived fatty acid oils, including *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Seed Oil,

are safe in present practices of use and concentration described in the safety assessment.<sup>2</sup>

This safety assessment includes relevant published and unpublished data for each endpoint that is evaluated. Published data are identified by conducting an exhaustive search of the world's literature. A listing of the search engines and websites that are used and the sources that are typically explored, as well as the endpoints that Panel typically evaluates, is provided on the Cosmetic Ingredient Review (CIR) website (<https://www.cir-safety.org/supplementaldoc/preliminary-search-engines-and-websites>; <https://www.cir-safety.org/supplementaldoc/cir-report-format-outline>). Unpublished

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**Table 1.** Definitions and Functions of the Ingredients in This Safety Assessment.<sup>1</sup>

Ingredient/CAS No.	Definition	Function
<i>Carica Papaya</i> (Papaya) Fruit	<i>Carica Papaya</i> (Papaya) Fruit is the fruit of the papaya, <i>Carica papaya</i>	Not Reported
<i>Carica Papaya</i> (Papaya) Fruit Extract 84012-30-6 (generic)	<i>Carica Papaya</i> (Papaya) Fruit Extract is the extract of the fruit of the papaya, <i>Carica papaya</i>	Skin-Conditioning Agent—Misc.
<i>Carica Papaya</i> (Papaya) Fruit Juice	<i>Carica Papaya</i> (Papaya) Fruit Juice is the liquid expressed from the fruit of the papaya, <i>Carica papaya</i>	Skin-Conditioning Agent—Misc.
<i>Carica Papaya</i> (Papaya) Fruit Water	<i>Carica Papaya</i> (Papaya) Fruit Water is an aqueous solution of the steam distillate obtained from the fruit of <i>Carica papaya</i>	Skin-Conditioning Agent—Misc.
<i>Carica Papaya</i> (Papaya) Leaf Extract 84012-30-6 (generic)	<i>Carica Papaya</i> (Papaya) Leaf Extract is the extract of the leaves of the papaya, <i>Carica papaya</i>	Skin-Conditioning Agent—Misc.

data are provided by the cosmetics industry, as well as by other interested parties.

Botanicals, such as the *Carica papaya*-derived ingredients, may contain hundreds of constituents, some of which may have the potential to cause toxic effects. The latex of the papaya plant and its green (unripe) fruits contains the proteolytic enzyme papain.<sup>3</sup> Although papain is not among the ingredients reviewed in this report, information regarding this enzyme has been included when appropriate, as it may be useful. However, in this assessment, the Panel is reviewing the potential toxicity of each of the botanical ingredients as a whole, complex substance; potential toxicity from exposures to mixtures of different chemical compounds may not replicate the biological activity of the individual components.

In many of the published studies, it is not known how the substance being tested in each case compares to the cosmetic ingredient. Therefore, if it is not known whether the chemicals being discussed are cosmetic ingredients, the test substances will be identified via common nomenclature (e.g., simply as “papaya extract” or “*Carica papaya* extract”), using lowercase and/or appropriate italicization to identify genus and species. If it is known that the test substance is a cosmetic ingredient, the International Nomenclature Committee (INCI) terminology (e.g., *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Leaf Extract) will be used.

## Chemistry

### Definition and Plant Identification

The definitions of the *Carica papaya*-derived ingredients included in this safety assessment are provided in Table 1. Two of the ingredients, *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract and *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Leaf Extract, have the generic CAS No. 84012-30-6.<sup>1</sup> A CAS No. is not specified for the other ingredients.

The papaya plant is a member of the Caricaceae family that originated in Central America.<sup>4</sup> The plant contains long, succulent leaves and 5-petaled flowers that are fleshy, waxy, and slightly fragrant. These plants often grow to a height of 3–6 m. Generally, the fruit is elongated and club-shaped; it grows 15–50 cm long and 10–20 cm thick, weighing up to 9 kg.

When the fruit is green and hard (unripe), it is rich in white latex (a thixotropic fluid with a milky appearance that contains about 85% water).<sup>5</sup> The skin of unripe fruit is smooth and green.<sup>6</sup> When ripe, the skin turns yellow or orange. The flesh of ripe fruit is yellow, orange, or red in color. Numerous small black seeds (about 5 mm long) are attached to the wall by soft, white, fibrous tissue. *Carica papaya* is native to Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. In the United States (US), the trees are cultivated in Florida.

### Chemical Properties

According to a supplier, a mixture of *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract, glycerin, and water is a water-soluble liquid that is clear in color.<sup>7</sup> In addition, according to one supplier, there were no spectral absorbance peaks in the ultraviolet A (UVA) or ultraviolet B (UVB) for a sample containing 0.006% of *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract.<sup>8</sup> Not enough information was provided to determine the absorbance wavelength of a peak in the ultraviolet C (UVC). A mixture of *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Leaf Extract, glycerin, and water is also a liquid, is completely soluble in water, and is a light to medium amber in color.<sup>9</sup> Other available chemical properties of these two ingredients are described in Table 2.

### Methods of Manufacturing

***Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract.** According to a supplier, the fresh or dried papaya fruit is extracted with a specified eluent under appropriate temperature conditions to yield a concentrate.<sup>11</sup> The concentrate containing the phytochemical constituents is then blended with the desired diluent and preservation system to produce the final ingredient. Typical eluents include water, butylene glycol, *Carthamus tinctorius* (safflower) seed oil, glycerin, and propylene glycol. The ingredient is evaluated for physiochemical properties according to specification requirements for the batch to be released, and the concentrate is evaluated for contaminants. According to a different supplier, ripe papaya fruit is extracted with water at a temperature of 100°C.<sup>10</sup> The supplier stated that because the

**Table 2.** Chemical Properties.

Property	Value	Reference
<i>Carica Papaya</i> (Papaya) Fruit Extract (in glycerin and water)		
Physical Form	Liquid	<sup>10</sup>
Color	Yellowish-brown to brown	<sup>10</sup>
Odor	Characteristic	<sup>7</sup>
pH	3.0–5.0	<sup>10</sup>
Density (g/mL @ 25°C)	1.05–1.15	<sup>7</sup>
Boiling Point (°C)	290	<sup>7</sup>
Water Solubility	Complete	<sup>7</sup>
<i>Carica Papaya</i> (Papaya) Leaf Extract (in glycerin and water)		
Physical Form	Liquid	<sup>9</sup>
Color	Light to medium amber	<sup>9</sup>
Odor	Characteristic	<sup>9</sup>
Density (g/mL @ 25°C)	1.05–1.15	<sup>9</sup>
Boiling Point (°C)	290	<sup>9</sup>
Water Solubility	Complete	<sup>9</sup>

material is heated to this temperature, the enzymes are denatured, and therefore no enzymatic activity is present.

***Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Leaf Extract.** An ethanolic extract of the *Carica papaya* leaf was prepared using harvested leaves that were air dried and reduced to powdered form using mortar and pestle.<sup>12</sup> The surface of the leaves were sterilized via a 0.1% solution of mercuric chloride. The powdered sample (400 g) was extracted by cold maceration using 2 L of ethanol. The macerated mixture was filtered and evaporated in a temperature-regulated water bath (maintained at 50°C) to yield 27.2 g of a dark green semi-solid extract. In a different study, a crude extract of *Carica papaya* leaf was prepared by grinding sterilized leaves (200 g) with an electric blender.<sup>13</sup> The extract was squeezed through sterile gauze pieces, and 16 mL of the crude extract was obtained followed by centrifugation at 4000 r/min for 30 min. The supernatant was then filtered through filter paper.

***Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Water.** According to the *Dictionary* definition, *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Water is a product of steam distillation.<sup>1</sup>

### Composition and Impurities

***Carica Papaya* Fruit.** The analysis of phytochemical constituents of the raw and ripe fruit of *Carica papaya* showed the presence of carbohydrates, tannins, saponins, proteins, amino acids, alkaloids, phenolic compounds, and phytosterols.<sup>14</sup> A study was performed in order to evaluate the chemical composition of the unripe pulp of *Carica papaya*.<sup>15</sup> Phytochemical screening showed the presence of saponins and cardenolides, while chemical analyses revealed the presence of sodium, calcium, iron, phosphorous, zinc, copper, magnesium, and manganese, in considerable quantities. Pulp

contained starch (43.28%), sugars (15.15%), crude protein (13.63%), crude fat (1.29%), moisture (10.65%), and fiber (1.88%). A different study was performed to compare the nutritive value of *Carica papaya* at different ripening stages.<sup>16</sup> Results indicated that unripe papaya has the most carbohydrates, vitamins, and proteins, as compared to ripe and very ripe papaya. Unripe papaya also contained the highest amounts of saponins, alkaloids, tannins, flavonoids, and phenols.

*Carica papaya* fruit contains various piperidine alkaloids, such as carpaine, pseudocarpaine, dehydrocarpaine I and II, and phenolics, such as protocatechuic acid, *p*-coumaric acid, caffeic acid, 5,7-dimethoxycoumarin, chlorogenic acid, and kaempferol.<sup>17</sup> A single papaya fruit contains approximately 25 g of latex.<sup>18</sup> Papain, an enzyme that may induce immunoglobulin E (IgE)-mediated allergic reactions through oral, respiratory, or dermal routes of exposure, is found in the fruit,<sup>6</sup> and proteases such as papain, chymopapain A and B, and endopeptidase papain III and IV are found in the latex and other parts of the shrub.<sup>17</sup> Cysteine peptidases in papaya fruit include glycyl endopeptidase and caricain. Organic acids present in ripe papaya include citric acid, l-malic acid, quinic acid, succinic acid, tartaric acid, oxalic acid, and fumaric acid.

The major components of papaya dry matter are carbohydrates. The total dietary fiber content of ripe papaya fruit varies from 11.9 to 21.5 g/100 g.<sup>6</sup> The crude protein content ranges from 3.74 to 8.26 g/100 g, and the total lipid content varies between 0.92 and 2.2 g/100 g dry matter. The total fatty acid content in ripe papaya is reported to be low.<sup>6</sup> Palmitic acid and linoleic acid are the 2 major fatty acids in papaya.

The major natural toxins found in unripe *Carica papaya* fruit are benzylglucosinolate, benzyl isothiocyanate (BITC), and alkaloids.<sup>6</sup> These toxicants may cause irritation of the mucus epithelial membrane. Soaking in water and heat treatment removes these toxic compounds in papaya and other plants. BITC content decreases from 109 ppm when papaya fruit is green, to 10 ppm when papaya fruit is fully ripe.

***Carica Papaya* Fruit Extract.** In one study, an aqueous extract of *Carica papaya* fruit contained 408.54 g/kg total phenolic content, and an ethanol extract contained 296.85 g/kg phenolic content.<sup>19</sup> According to another study, extracts of unripe *Carica papaya* fruit contained terpenoids, alkaloids, flavonoids, carbohydrates, glycosides, saponins, and steroids.<sup>20</sup>

Heavy metal testing was performed on the concentrate of a *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract in a safflower oil base.<sup>11</sup> No antimony, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, iron, lead, mercury, or nickel was detected. In addition, no residual pesticides were detected in this *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract. Testing was conducted to determine the presence of 26 fragrance allergens defined by the 7<sup>th</sup> amendment to the EU Cosmetic Directive in a concentrate of *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract in an alcohol base. None of the 26 allergens tested were present in concentrations >1 ppm (Table 3).

**Table 3.** Potential Fragrance Allergen Evaluation of a *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract.<sup>11</sup>

Allergen	Threshold (ppm)
alpha-isomethyl inone	<1
amyl cinnamal	<1
amylcinnamyl alcohol	<1
anise alcohol	<1
benzyl alcohol	<1
benzyl benzoate	<1
benzyl cinnamate	<1
benzyl salicylate	<1
butylphenyl methylpropianol	<1
cinnamal	<1
cinnamyl alcohol	<1
citral	<1
citronellol	<1
coumarin	<1
eugenol	<1
evernia furfuracea extract	Not detected
evernia prunastri extract	Not detected
farnesol	<1
geraniol	<1
hexyl cinnamal	<1
hydroxycitronellal	<1
hydroxyisohexyl 3-cyclohexene carboxaldehyde	<1
isoeugenol	<1
limonene	<1
linalool	<1
methyl 2-octynoate	<1

**Carica Papaya Fruit Juice.** The major constituents of a *Carica papaya* fruit juice were reported as lipids, and the carboxylic acids, n-butyric, n-hexanoic, n-octanoic, myristic, palmitic, stearic, linoleic, linolenic, vaccenic, and oleic acids.<sup>21</sup>

**Carica Papaya Leaf Extract.** A methanolic extract of *Carica papaya* leaf extract was found to contain polyphenols, tannins, flavonoids, saponins, terpenoids, glycosides, alkaloids, and high amounts of glycosides.<sup>22</sup> Carpaine is a major alkaloid found in various parts of papaya, but is primarily found in leaves.<sup>23</sup> In a study, 29 samples of *Carica papaya* leaves were used to examine relative carpaine concentration. The assay involved pressurized solid-liquid extraction and quantification with the aid of ultrahigh-performance liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (UHPLC-MS/MS). Carpaine concentration in dry leaves was found to range from 0.02 to 0.31%. Papaya leaves also contain toxicants, such as BITC.<sup>6</sup>

## Use

### Cosmetic

The safety of the cosmetic ingredients included in this assessment is evaluated based on data received from the US

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the cosmetics industry on the expected use of these ingredients in cosmetics. Use frequencies of individual ingredients in cosmetics are collected from manufacturers and reported by cosmetic product category in the FDA Voluntary Cosmetic Registration Program (VCRP) database. Use concentration data are submitted by the cosmetics industry in response to surveys, conducted by the Personal Care Products Council (Council), of maximum reported use concentrations by product category.

According to 2021 VCRP survey data, *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract has the highest reported frequency of use for the *Carica papaya*-derived ingredients; it is reported to be used in 172 cosmetic products (104 leave-on products, 66 rinse-off products, and 2 diluted for bath use; Table 4).<sup>24</sup> The results of a concentration of use survey conducted by the Council in 2018 (and corrected in 2020) indicate that *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract is being used at maximum use concentrations up to 0.25% in rinse-off products (bath soaps and detergents) and maximum use concentrations up to 0.02% in leave-on products (face, neck, body, and hand products).<sup>25,26</sup> Concentration of use data were not reported for any of the other ingredients reviewed in this report. Also, according to VCRP and Council survey data, *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Water is not reported to be used in cosmetic products.

*Carica papaya*-derived ingredients may be used in products that can be incidentally ingested or come into contact with mucous membranes; for example, *Carica Papaya* Fruit Extract is reported to be used in lipstick at up to 0.02%.<sup>25</sup> *Carica Papaya* Fruit Extract is also reported to be used in formulations applied near the eye; it is reported to be used in eye lotions (concentration of use data were not available).<sup>24</sup>

Additionally, *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract is reported to be used in spray products that could possibly be inhaled; for example, it is used in pump spray suntan products at up to 0.01%. In practice, most droplets/ particles released from cosmetic sprays have aerodynamic equivalent diameters >10 µm, with propellant sprays yielding a greater fraction of droplets/ particles below <10 µm compared with pump sprays.<sup>27–30</sup> Therefore, most droplets/particles incidentally inhaled from cosmetic sprays would be deposited in the nasopharyngeal and bronchial regions and would not be respirable (i.e., they would not enter the lungs) to any appreciable amount.<sup>27,29</sup> *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract is reportedly used in deodorant sprays (aerosol) at maximum concentrations up to 0.0008%. There is some evidence indicating that deodorant spray products can release substantially larger fractions of particulates having aerodynamic equivalent diameters in the range considered to be respirable.<sup>29</sup> However, the information is not sufficient to determine whether significantly greater lung exposures result from the use of deodorant sprays, compared to other cosmetic sprays. *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract is also reported to be used in powders (dusting and talcum powders) at up to 0.0003%. Conservative estimates of inhalation exposures to respirable particles during the use of loose powder cosmetic products are 400-fold to 1000-fold less than protective regulatory and

**Table 4.** Frequency (2021)<sup>24</sup> and Concentration (2018<sup>25</sup>; 2020<sup>26</sup>) of Use According to Duration and Type of Exposure.

	# of Uses	Max Conc of Use (%) <sup>25</sup>	# of Uses	Max Conc of Use (%) <sup>26</sup>	# of Uses	Max Conc of Use (%) <sup>25</sup>
	<i>Carica papaya</i> (Papaya) Fruit		<i>Carica papaya</i> (Papaya) Fruit Extract		<i>Carica papaya</i> (Papaya) Fruit Juice	
<b>Totals*</b>	11	NR	172	0.000002–0.25	5	NR
<b>Duration of Use</b>						
Leave-On	1	NR	104	0.000002–0.02	2	NR
Rinse-Off	6	NR	66	0.0006–0.25	3	NR
Diluted for (Bath) Use	1	NR	2	NR	NR	NR
<b>Exposure Type</b>						
Eye Area	NR	NR	8	NR	NR	NR
Incidental Ingestion	NR	NR	1	0.000002–0.02	NR	NR
Incidental Inhalation-Spray	1 <sup>a</sup>	NR	35 <sup>a</sup> ; 43 <sup>b</sup>	0.00023–0.01; 0.00025–0.01 <sup>a</sup> ; 0.02 <sup>b</sup>	1 <sup>a</sup> ; 1 <sup>b</sup>	NR
Incidental Inhalation-Powder	NR	NR	43 <sup>b</sup>	0.0003; 0.000085–0.02 <sup>b</sup> ; 0.02 <sup>c</sup>	1 <sup>b</sup>	NR
Dermal Contact	7	NR	150	0.000085–0.25	5	NR
Deodorant (underarm)	NR	NR	NR	0.005; spray: 0.0008	NR	NR
Hair—Non-Coloring	NR	NR	20	0.00023–0.0006	NR	NR
Hair—Coloring	4	NR	NR	0.008	NR	NR
Nail	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Mucous Membrane	2	NR	16	0.000002–0.25	2	NR
Baby Products	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR

  

	# of Uses	Max Conc of Use (%) <sup>25</sup>
	<i>Carica papaya</i> (Papaya) Leaf Extract	
<b>Totals*</b>	1	NR
<b>Duration of Use</b>		
Leave-On	1	NR
Rinse-off	NR	NR
Diluted for (Bath) Use	NR	NR
<b>Exposure Type</b>		
Eye Area	1	NR
Incidental Ingestion	NR	NR
Incidental Inhalation-Spray	1 <sup>b</sup>	NR
Incidental Inhalation-Powder	1 <sup>b</sup>	NR
Dermal Contact	1	NR
Deodorant (underarm)	NR	NR
Hair—Non-Coloring	NR	NR
Hair—Coloring	NR	NR
Nail	NR	NR
Mucous Membrane	NR	NR
Baby Products	NR	NR

NR = not reported.

\*Because each ingredient may be used in cosmetics with multiple exposure types, the sum of all exposure types may not equal the sum of total uses.

<sup>a</sup>It is possible these products may be sprays, but it is not specified whether the reported uses are sprays.<sup>b</sup>Not specified whether a powder or a spray, so this information is captured for both categories of incidental inhalation.<sup>c</sup>It is possible these products may be powders, but it is not specified whether the reported uses are powders.



guidance limits for inert airborne respirable particles in the workplace.<sup>31–33</sup>

The *Carica papaya*-derived ingredients are not restricted from use in any way under the rules governing cosmetic products in the European Union.<sup>34</sup>

### Non-Cosmetic

*Carica papaya* fruit is commonly known for its food use and nutritional value throughout the world.<sup>35</sup> Ripe papaya fruit are typically eaten raw, but are also used in jam, jelly, marmalade, puree, wine, nectar, juice, mixed beverages, ice cream, baby food, and pie.<sup>36</sup> According to 21CFR184.1585, papain derived from *Carica papaya* fruit is generally recognized as safe (GRAS) for food use with no limitations other than current good manufacturing practice. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), several constituents/parameters are suggested to be analyzed when papaya processing by-products are fed to buffalo, fish, and poultry.<sup>6</sup> These include moisture, crude protein, fat, ash, carbohydrate by differences, total dietary fiber, total sugars, total ascorbic acid, beta-carotene, beta-cryptoxanthin, and BITC.

Several plant parts of *Carica papaya* have been researched for use as alternative or therapeutic treatments; these uses are reported herein for informational purposes only. Because of purported antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, *Carica papaya* leaf extracts have been used as treatment for dengue fever, and to boost thrombopoiesis and erythropoiesis.<sup>37</sup> Other reported effects of leaf extracts include antifungal, anti-inflammatory, and antioxidant properties.<sup>20,38</sup> The extracts have also been researched for the management of burn injuries.<sup>39</sup> The milky juice of *Carica papaya* fruit, when extracted and dried, is used as chewing gum, toothpaste, and meat tenderizer.<sup>20</sup> The juice has also been used to treat digestive problems, intestinal worms, warts, sinusitis, and cutaneous tubercles. In western Uganda, the papaya fruit is used as traditional medicine to induce labor during childbirth.<sup>40</sup> In ayurvedic medicine, the *Carica papaya* fruit is used for treatment of digestive ailments, as well as ringworm and psoriasis.<sup>35</sup> The fruit is also reported to be used as an abortifacient, laxative, diuretic, anti-inflammatory, and antibacterial agent.

### Toxicokinetic Studies

No relevant toxicokinetic studies on *Carica papaya*-derived ingredients were found in the published literature. In general, toxicokinetics data are not expected to be found on botanical ingredients because each botanical ingredient is a complex mixture of constituents.

### Toxicological Studies

#### Acute Toxicity Studies

The acute oral toxicity studies summarized below are presented in Table 5.

An oral LD<sub>50</sub> of 2520 mg/kg was determined in acute toxicity study involving Wistar rats given up to 3200 mg/kg of an aqueous unripe *Carica papaya* fruit extract.<sup>41</sup> No mortality was observed in male Wistar rats given up to 1500 mg/kg of a methanolic *Carica papaya* leaf extract via gavage.<sup>42</sup> An oral LD<sub>50</sub> of greater than 2000 mg/kg bw was determined in a study involving rats given up to 2000 mg/kg bw of an aqueous *Carica papaya* leaf extract.<sup>43</sup> No mortalities were observed when a methanolic *Carica papaya* leaf extract was given to Wistar mice in doses of up to 3200 mg/kg.<sup>44</sup>

#### Short-Term and Chronic Toxicity Studies

The short-term and chronic oral studies summarized below are described in Table 6.

No signs of toxicity were observed when Wistar albino rats were given an aqueous *Carica papaya* fruit extract (up to 250 mg/kg/d), orally, for 42 d.<sup>41</sup> Wistar rats given a methanolic *Carica papaya* leaf extract (400 mg/kg bw/d) via gavage for 28 d displayed a statistically significant decrease in aspartate aminotransferase, statistically significant increase in blood urea nitrogen levels, and moderate hyperemia in the kidney and heart muscles.<sup>42</sup> No extract-related effects were noted when green *Carica papaya* leaf extract (up to 2000 mg/kg/d) was given to Sprague-Dawley rats for 28 d via gavage.<sup>17</sup> Similarly, no adverse effects were reported when Wistar mice were given a methanolic *Carica papaya* leaf extract (up to 3200 mg/kg/d) for 60 d.<sup>44</sup> A study was performed in order to evaluate the toxicity of irradiated and non-irradiated *Carica papaya* fruit given to Swiss white mice for 2 yr.<sup>45</sup> All papaya fruit-treated groups received a diet consisting of 15% *Carica papaya* fruit (irradiated or non-irradiated). No treatment-related clinical, hematological, pathological, or behavioral abnormalities were noted.

#### Developmental and Reproductive Toxicity (Dart) Studies

The oral DART studies summarized below are described in Table 7.

The effect of a ripe *Carica papaya* fruit blend (500 mL papaya/1 water) on different stages of pregnancy was studied in Sprague-Dawley rats by administering the test substance on days 1–5, days 6–11, days 12–17, and days 1–20 of gestation.<sup>46</sup> No signs of fetal or maternal toxicity were observed in any of the treatment groups. A three-generation study was performed in order to evaluate the potential reproductive toxicity of irradiated and non-irradiated *Carica papaya* fruit given to Swiss white mice (F<sub>0</sub> and F<sub>2</sub> parents: 45 sex/group; F<sub>1</sub> parents: 75 sex/group).<sup>47</sup> A control group received no papaya in the diet. No statistically significant differences in hematology, pathology, mortality, survival, body weight, or number of pups delivered were observed in parental or offspring animals when compared to control animals. An aqueous *Carica papaya* leaf extract (60 or 120 mg/kg) was given to

**Table 5.** Acute Oral Toxicity Studies.

Ingredient	Animals	Dose	Procedure	LD <sub>50</sub> /Results	Reference
<i>Carica papaya</i> fruit extract (aqueous; unripe fruit)	Wistar albino rats; 5/group (number of animals/sex not specified)	400, 800, 1600, and 3200 mg	Animals were administered test article orally and observed for 24 h. Method of oral administration not stated. Control group received 1.0 mL of saline	LD <sub>50</sub> = 2520 mg/kg; no significant changes in liver, renal, and hematological parameters compared to control groups	41
<i>Carica papaya</i> leaf extract (methanolic)	male Wistar rats; 6/group	0, 100, 500, 1000, and 1500 mg/kg	Animals were administered test article via gavage and observed for 48 h after treatment. Control animals were given water only	No mortalities. Slight behavioral changes such as depression, reduced motor activity, and ataxia were observed in animals. A slight increase in urine output was noted	42
<i>Carica papaya</i> leaf extract (aqueous)	Sprague-Dawley rats; 5 females/group	0 or 2000 mg/kg bw extract; given in a 2 mL volume via gavage	Control group received water. Animals were observed for 30 min after treatment, followed by observation hourly for 8 h and once daily for the next 13 d	No evidence of gross lesions in any organ and all organs were free of gross pathological changes. The LD <sub>50</sub> was greater than 2000 mg/kg bw	43
<i>Carica papaya</i> leaf extract (methanolic)	Wistar white mice (5/group) (number of animals/sex not stated)	200, 400, 800, 1600, and 3200 mg/kg via gavage	Animals were administered test article via gavage and observed for 24 h. A control group consisting of 5 animals was not treated with extract	There were no test article-related deaths during the study however, changes in behavior, such as scratching, weakness, crooked tail, reduced movement, were observed	44

pregnant Wistar rats via gavage on days 12–18 of gestation.<sup>48</sup> Abnormalities in morphometry of fetuses was noted in rats treated with 60 mg/kg of the extract, while 100% resorption was noted in rats treated with 120 mg/kg of the extract. The effect of an aqueous extract of *Carica papaya* leaf on male fertility was evaluated in male Wistar rats.<sup>49</sup> Treated rats were given 500 mg/kg bw extract orally for 21 d. Statistically significant reductions in mean values of sperm count, motility, viability, and serum testosterone concentration were noted in treated rats compared to control rats. In a different study, male rats were given 100, 200, or 400 mg/kg bw of a methanolic *Carica papaya* leaf extract via gavage for 28 d.<sup>42</sup> The mid- and high doses induced a significant decrease in rat sperm count.

Although papaya seed extract is not among the ingredients reviewed in this report, information regarding this botanical material has been included below, as it may be informative.

The effects an aqueous extract of *Carica papaya* seeds on ovulation and estrous cycle were evaluated in female Sprague-Dawley rats.<sup>52</sup> Rats (10 rats/group) were given 50, 100, or 800 mg/kg bw/d of the extract via gavage in two independent experiments. The aqueous extract of *Carica papaya* seeds at all doses disrupted the normal sequence of the estrous cycle of the rats, but produced no effect on ovulation and the number of ova shed. Administration of an aqueous extract of *Carica papaya* seed (50 mg/kg bw/d) to male albino mice (6/group) for 10 to 30 d via gavage caused a significant decrease in sperm count and

sperm motility when compared to the control animals that were given water only.<sup>50</sup> The potential reproductive effects of an aqueous alkaloid extract of *Carica papaya* seeds was studied in male Wistar rats (5 rats/group).<sup>51</sup> Each rat was dosed orally (route of administration not stated) with the extract daily, for 3 d, with doses of either 10, 50, or 150 mg/kg/d, and the male rats were then mated with untreated fertile female rats. No pregnancies were reported in female rats mated with males treated with 50 or 150 mg/kg/d of the extract. Another set of male rats (5/group) were treated with the same doses of the papaya seed extract and used for semen analysis and testes histopathology. Results showed that oral administration of *Carica papaya* seed extract prevented fertilization, reduced sperm cell counts, promoted sperm cell degeneration, and induced testicular cell lesions, in a dose-dependent manner. In a different study, the contraceptive potential of an aqueous *Carica papaya* seed extract was evaluated.<sup>53</sup> Male New Zealand White rabbits (6 animals/group) were given the test substance via gavage in doses of 20, 50, 75, or 100 mg/kg bw/d for 150 d. No treatment-related adverse effects were observed; fertility, semen quality, and hematological parameters were similar among treated and control groups.

## Genotoxicity Studies

Genotoxicity studies on *Carica papaya*-derived ingredients were not found in the published literature, and unpublished data were not submitted.

**Table 6.** Short-Term and Chronic Oral Toxicity Studies.

Ingredient/Dose/ Concentration/Vehicle	Animals	Method	Results	Reference
<b>Short-term studies</b>				
<i>Carica papaya</i> fruit extract (aqueous; unripe fruit) 50, 100, 150, 200, and 250 mg/kg bw	Wistar albino rats; 5/group (number of animals/sex not stated)	42-d study; method of oral administration not specified	No clinical signs observed during the treatment and observation period. There were no significant decreases in body weight, or hematological/clinical abnormalities	41
<i>Carica papaya</i> leaf extract (methanolic) 0, 100, 200, and 400 mg/kg bw/d	male Wistar rats; 8/group	28-d study; animals treated via gavage; control group given water only	The extract at 200 and 400 mg/kg significantly ( $P < 0.05$ ) decreased aspartate aminotransferase values compared to the control. No significant difference between total bilirubin, ALP, ALT, gamma glutamyl transferase, and triglycerides in treated vs control rats. No significant changes in total protein and albumin values between extract-treated and normal rats. Histopathological studies showed mild kidney and cardiac hyperemia, and slight hepatic degeneration at the high-dose level	42
green <i>Carica papaya</i> leaf extract (aqueous) 10, 140, and 2000 mg/kg/d	Sprague-Dawley rats; 10 /sex/ group	28-d oral study in accordance with OECD TG 407; administered via gavage; control group left untreated	No mortality or extract-related effects were noted at necropsy. Slightly lower body weights of the male rats treated with the highest dose (2000 mg/kg) were noted at wk 3 ( $P = 0.049$ ). The MCV in the male rats treated with 140 mg/kg was slightly lower ( $P = 0.039$ ) than the controls, but statistically significant. Liver biochemistry revealed a significantly higher ALT level in the male rats treated with 10, 140 mg/kg ( $P = 0.03$ and $P = 0.02$ , respectively), whereas the ALP level was significantly higher only in rats treated 140 mg/kg ( $P = 0.04$ ). Also, triglycerides were significantly higher in male rats in the 140 and 2000 mg/kg dose group ( $P = 0.005$ and $P = 0.018$ , respectively) compared to the control group	17
<i>Carica papaya</i> leaf extract (methanolic) 200, 400, 800, 1600, and 3200 mg/kg/d	Wistar strain mice; 30 males/ group	60-d oral study; gavage	No signs of toxicity were observed after evaluation of animals and blood chemistry parameters, however a statistically significant increase in SGOT levels were apparent compared to controls	44

(continued)



Table 6. (continued)

Ingredient/Dose/ Concentration/Vehicle	Animals	Method	Results	Reference
<b>Chronic Studies</b>				
Irradiated and non-irradiated papaya fruit (diet composed of 15% papaya)	Swiss white mice; 75/sex/group	2-year study; T-I and T-II mice fed 15% of either 75 kiloradians (Krad) (T-I) or 200 Krad (T-II) irradiated papaya fruit; positive control given non-irradiated papaya; negative control group received stock feed. Following 3, 6, 12, and 18 mo of feeding, 2 mice of each sex from each group were sacrificed and subjected to complete gross pathologic examinations. All animals remaining at 24 mo were killed and examined	No significant changes in final body weights were noted in any groups from the tenth wk through the twentieth mo. After the twentieth mo, body weight losses were observed in all groups as a result of general debilitation due to old age. Irradiated papayas had no effect on food intake in mice. When compared to the control groups, there were no treatment-related changes in hematological and clinical chemistry, or gross pathology	45

Abbreviations: ALP = alkaline phosphatase; ALT = alanine transaminase; LDH = lactic acid dehydrogenase; MCV = mean cell volume; SGOT = serum glutamic-oxaloacetic transaminase.

## Carcinogenicity Studies

Carcinogenicity studies on *Carica papaya*-derived ingredients were not found in the published literature, and unpublished data were not submitted.

## Other Relevant Studies

### Anti-Tumor Activity

**Carica Papaya (Papaya) Leaf Extract.** The effects of a *Carica papaya* leaf extract (0.625 to 20 mg/mL) was studied on tumor cell lines and human peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC).<sup>54</sup> The extract significantly inhibited the proliferative responses of immortalized solid tumor cell lines derived from cervical carcinoma (HeLa), breast adenocarcinoma (MCF-7), hepatocellular carcinoma (HepG2), lung adenocarcinoma (PCI4), pancreatic epithelial carcinoma (Panc-1), and mesothelioma (H2452), in a dose-dependent manner. In PBMC, a decreased production of interleukins (IL-2 and IL-4) and an increased production of Th1 type cytokines, such as IL-12p40, IL-12p70, interferon (IFN- $\gamma$ ), and tumor necrosis factor (TNF- $\alpha$ ) were noted. The expression of 23 immunomodulatory genes was also enhanced by the addition of this extract.

### Allergenicity of a Papaya Protein

The IgE-mediated sensitization potential of recombinant Cari p 1 (rCari p 1; Cari p 1 is a 56 kDa IgE-reactive protein found in papaya fruit and pollen) was evaluated in female BALB/c mice (6/group).<sup>55</sup> Two groups of mice were subcutaneously injected with purified rCari p 1 (10  $\mu$ g antigen/animal) emulsified in an adjuvant. Seven d after injection, one group of mice was given papaya fruit extract via the oral route,

while the other group was challenged with papaya pollen extract via the intranasal route. The amount of test substance given was not specified. Positive and negative control groups were administered ovalbumin and phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) alone, respectively. Mice were sacrificed 24 h after administration, and lung and gut tissues were evaluated. Allergy-induced inflammatory changes in the lung and duodenum tissue were recorded under a light microscope. Allergen-induced eosinophilic inflammations and mucus secretions were observed in the lung and duodenum tissues of mice after nasal and oral challenge, respectively. Inflammatory changes in gut and respiratory mucosa were similar among mice treated with rCari p 1 and mice treated with ovalbumin (positive control), suggesting allergenicity.

## Dermal Irritation and Sensitization Studies

Details of the human dermal irritation and sensitization studies summarized below are provided in Table 8.

A 5-d skin irritation study was performed on 29 subjects to evaluate the irritation potential of a bar soap containing 0.0003% *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract.<sup>56</sup> The test article was applied as a 1% aqueous solution (final test concentration of 0.000003% *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract, each day, under a semi-occlusive patch, for a total of 4 applications. A 1% aqueous solution of sodium lauryl sulfate was used as the positive control. The test substance was considered to be non-irritating. A different 5-d irritation study was performed according to the same procedure as above, using a powder containing 0.0003% *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract.<sup>57</sup> The test substance was applied neat, under a semi-occlusive patch, to 27 subjects. The test substance was considered to be non-irritating.

**Table 7.** Oral Developmental and Reproduction Toxicity (DART) Studies.

Test Article	Species/ Strain	Test Population	Dose/Concentration (Vehicle)	Procedure	Results	Reference
<i>Carica papaya</i> fruit blend (ripe)	Sprague- Dawley rats	5 females/ group	500 mL papaya/l water given freely	The test substance was administered through a water bottle to groups of pregnant rats during different phases of pregnancy (pre-fetal implantation (days 1–5), post fetal implantation (days 6–11 and 12–17), and throughout gestation (days 1–20)). The control group received water only. On day 16 of gestation, Caesarean sections were performed on rats that received papaya blend before fetal implantation. During Caesarean sections, the number of implantations was recorded for each rat. On day 20 of gestation, Caesarean sections were performed on the rats that received treatment on post fetal implantation and throughout gestation. Variables recorded include: number of fetal deaths and viable fetuses, fetus weight, and fetus malformations	There were no significant differences in the number of implantation sites and viable fetuses in the rats given ripe papaya relative to the control group. No signs of fetal or maternal toxicity was observed in any group. Fetal weight in the treated groups versus control groups did not reveal any significant differences. No external abnormalities were observed in any group. In rats given ripe papaya before fetal implantation, no statistically significant differences were noted in the number of implantation sites relative to the control	<sup>46</sup>
Irradiated and non- irradiated papaya fruit	Swiss white mice	F <sub>0</sub> and F <sub>2</sub> parents: 45/ sex/group F <sub>1</sub> parents: 75/ sex/group	T-I and T-II mice fed 15% of either 75 Krads (T-I) or 200 Krads (T-II) irradiated papaya fruit; positive control given non-irradiated papaya; negative control group diet without papaya	Male and female mice that were fed either the test substance via feed or control feed for 10 wk were selected and bred twice to obtain 2 litters; the second litter was used to select parental animals for the next generation. Matings were continued following this protocol for 3 generations. At the time of weaning the second litters (F1b and F2b), weanlings were isolated and maintained on the prescribed diet for 1 wk. The study terminated following the weaning of the F3b weanlings	There were no statistically significant differences in parental animals vs control animals for the following parameters: body weight gain, mortality and reactions, hematologic and clinical blood chemistry, pathologic studies, and reproductive performance. Similarly, there were no statistically significant differences in offspring animals for the following parameters: numbers delivered and viable, survival, body weight at weaning, hematologic and blood chemistry, pathologic studies, and reactions	<sup>47</sup>

(continued)

Table 7. (continued)

Test Article	Species/ Strain	Test Population	Dose/Concentration (Vehicle)	Procedure	Results	Reference
<i>Carica papaya</i> leaf extract (aqueous)	Wistar rats	6 females/ group	0, 60 mg/kg, or 120 mg/kg/ d	A control group was given tap water, while test groups were treated with the extract via gavage from days 12 through 18 of gestation. On day 20 of gestation, animals were killed	There was a significant ( $P < 0.001$ ) reduction in the body weights, crown-rump lengths, and head lengths of the fetuses in the 60 mg/kg dose group compared with the control; a slight reduction in the tail lengths was noted in the group treated with 60 mg/kg ( $P < 0.05$ ) compared with the control. The number of viable fetuses was less in the group treated with 60 mg/kg, which had an average of 5 fetuses per pregnant rat (30 viable fetuses in all), compared with the control which had 6 fetuses per pregnant rat (33 fetuses in all). The size of the fetuses of the group treated with 60 mg/kg appeared smaller, and in some cases showed slight deformities.  There were no fetuses found in the group treated with 120 mg/kg (100% resorption); empty amniotic sacs were observed. The decreased morphometry and resorption in this study indicated adverse effects of some of the constituents of the extract on the developing fetuses. However, there were no reported teratogenic effects. Maternal effects were not noted, but fecal matter was soft in continence compared with the control	<sup>48</sup>
<i>Carica papaya</i> leaf extract (aqueous)	Wistar rats	9 males/group	500 mg/kg bw/d	The test group was administered a single daily dose of the extract, orally, for 21 d while the control was administered with 0.9% physiological saline. Method of oral administration was not specified	Histopathological examination of the rat testis showed visible lesion and degeneration of the seminiferous tubule epithelium in all the animals in the test group when compared to the control group. A significant reduction ( $P < 0.05$ ) of sperm count, motility, viability: death-live ratio and serum testosterone concentration were observed	<sup>49</sup>

(continued)

Table 7. (continued)

Test Article	Species/ Strain	Test Population	Dose/Concentration (Vehicle)	Procedure	Results	Reference
<i>Carica papaya</i> leaf extract (methanolic extract)	Wistar rats	8 males/group	100, 200, and 400 mg/kg bw/d	Test animals were dosed for 28 d via gavage and control animals received 10 mL/kg of distilled water. Reproductive organ weights, sperm count, spermatozoa defects, were measured and a serum biochemical analysis was performed	A significant ( $P < 0.01$ ) decrease in sperm count was noted in the 200 and 400 mg/kg group compared to the control. Several sperm defects were also observed in the 100 and 200 mg/kg groups, including a tailless head, headless tail, rudimentary tail, bent tail, curved tail, and a curved midpiece to bent midpiece, when compared to the controls, and severe necrosis of the germinal epithelium in testes of the 400 mg/kg dose group	<sup>42</sup>
<i>Carica papaya</i> seed extract (aqueous extract)	albino Swiss mouse	6 males/group	50 mg/kg bw/d; 0.1 mL controls were given distilled water only	Mice were dosed via gavage for either 10, 20, or 30 d. Animals were sacrificed post-treatment for evaluation	A significant decline ( $P < 0.001$ ) of sperm count was noted in mice after 10 to 30 d of treatment then compared to control group of mice. The sperm motility and seminal pH also declined significantly ( $P < 0.001$ ) during 10 to 30 d treatment in treated group of mice compared to control. Sperm mortality ( $P < 0.001$ ) and abnormality of spermatozoa increased significantly ( $P < 0.001$ ) in treated group than the control group of mice	<sup>50</sup>
<i>Carica papaya</i> seed extract (powdered seeds first extracted with petroleum ether for fat removal, petroleum ether residues were re-extracted in ethanol)	Rat (Wistar)	5 males/group	10, 50, or 150 mg/kg/d; controls given corn oil	Treatments were given orally for 3 d; however, method of oral administration was not stated. After treatment, male rats were mated with fertile, untreated female rats (in a ratio of 1:1) and evaluated	Untreated female Wistar rats mated with male rats that were dosed with 50 or 150 mg/kg/d papaya seed extract showed no pregnancies, whereas female rats mated with male rats treated with corn oil delivered an average of 9 pups after a 21-d gestation period. One female rat mated with male rats treated with 10 mg/kg/d papaya daily for 3 d delivered only 4 pups	<sup>51</sup>

(continued)

Table 7. (continued)

Test Article	Species/ Strain	Test Population	Dose/Concentration (Vehicle)	Procedure	Results	Reference
<i>Carica papaya</i> seed extract (powdered seeds first extracted with petroleum ether for fat removal, petroleum ether residues were re- extracted in ethanol)	Rat (Wistar)	5 males/group	10, 50, or 150 mg/kg/d; controls given corn oil	Animals were dosed for 3 d and used for semen analysis and testes histopathology. Method of oral administration was not stated. Twenty-four h after the last treatment, animals were sacrificed and examined	Sperm cell count was decreased in all rats treated with the papaya seed extract, in a dose-dependent manner. Control animals showed normal sperm cell counts. Rats treated with the extract displayed pathological effects ranging from mild atrophy of seminiferous tubules to severe Leydig and Sertoli cell metaplasia to degeneration of spermatozoa	<sup>51</sup>
<i>Carica papaya</i> seed extract (aqueous extract)	Sprague- Dawley rats	10 females/ group	GI and GII: 50, 100 and 800 mg/kg bw/d	Rats dosed via gavage in 2 independent experiments (GI and GII). One group received water only and served as the control. Rats in GI received the oral doses for 3 consecutive cycles while the rats in GII were administered the different doses of the extract at 9 AM on the day of proestrus, and sacrificed the following day	In experiment GI, <i>Carica papaya</i> seed extract produced an irregular cycle pattern in 66.7% of the rats treated with 50 mg/kg bw, 83.3% of the rats treated with 100 mg/kg bw, and 100% of the rats treated with 800 mg/kg bw. 94% of the control animals in GI showed a regular cycle pattern and none of the treated rats showed a continuous diestrus pattern. In all the treated groups, the period of estrus in the cycle of the rats was lower when compared to the control group. The rats were also inclined to be proestrus, but failed to move to the estrus phase. The test article had no effect on ovulation in all rats treated at all doses when compared to the control	<sup>52</sup>
<i>Carica papaya</i> seed extract (aqueous extract)	New Zealand White rabbits	6 males/group	0, 20, 50, 75, or 100 mg/kg bw/d	Rabbits were dosed via gavage for 150 d. The control group received water only. A blood analysis, fertility test, and semen analysis were performed	No treatment-induced body weight changes were apparent. No appreciable changes in semen volume, sperm concentration, motility, and viability were observed when compared with controls and pre-treatment values. No appreciable alterations were observed in total red blood cell count, white blood cell counts, hemoglobin, and hematocrit levels when compared to controls and pre-treatment values. The fertility test resulted in normal pregnancy rates in both control and treated animals	<sup>53</sup>



No irritation or sensitization occurred in several human repeated insult patch tests (HRIPTs). The test articles were a sun protection factor (SPF) lotion containing 0.0075% *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract (tested neat; 119 subjects; occlusive conditions), a lipstick containing 0.02% *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract (tested neat; 104 subjects; semi-occlusive conditions), a product containing 0.02% *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract (tested at a 10% dilution (final test concentration of 0.002% *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract; 105 subjects; occlusive conditions), a lotion containing 0.04% *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract (tested neat; 49 subjects; occlusive conditions), and a lotion/body butter formulation containing 0.0586% *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract (tested neat; 107 subjects; occlusive conditions).<sup>58–62</sup>

### Phototoxicity/Photosensitization

**Carica Papaya (Papaya) Fruit Extract.** A phototoxicity assay was conducted in 23 subjects with an SPF 50 sunscreen lotion containing 0.0075% *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract.<sup>63</sup> The test substance was applied neat, under an occlusive patch (2 cm × 2 cm), on duplicate sites on the lower back, one irradiated and one non-irradiated. After a 24-h exposure, one site was irradiated with long-wave ultraviolet light (UVA; 320–410 nm), plus full spectrum solar-simulated radiation. Reactions were graded immediately after light exposure, as well as 24 and 48 h later. The test substance did not possess a detectable phototoxic potential in human skin.

A photosensitization assay was completed on 30 subjects with an SPF 50 sunscreen lotion containing 0.0075% *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract.<sup>64</sup> For 3 wk, six 24-h induction patches were applied containing the undiluted test substance (occlusive conditions; 2 cm × 2 cm patch). Applications were performed in duplicate; one site was subsequently irradiated with UVA light (320–410 nm). After 10 d, a challenge patch was applied at virgin sites with and without irradiation. The test substance did not possess a detectable photocontact-sensitizing potential in human skin. The photosensitization potential of a face cream (no SPF) containing 0.002% *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract was evaluated in 50 subjects according to the same procedure as above.<sup>65</sup> Sites were irradiated with UVA light (320–420 nm). The test substance was considered to be non-sensitizing.

### Ocular Irritation Studies

No ocular irritation studies on *Carica papaya*-derived ingredients were found in the published literature, and unpublished data were not submitted.

### Clinical Studies

#### Case Report

A 55-year-old woman without a history of atopic disease of drug allergy developed a maculopapular symmetric exanthematous

rash approximately 2 d after taking throat lozenges containing papaya juice.<sup>66</sup> The patient discontinued the intake of the lozenges and was treated with a systemic antihistaminic and a topical menthol-containing preparation. The rash cleared within 2 weeks of this treatment. Four weeks after symptoms resolved, the patient was patch tested. Patch tests were performed with the European standard series, the powdered lozenges, and their single components (sorbitol (2%), chlorhydrate (2%), papaya extract (2%), aroma (92%), saccharine sodium (2%), bacitracin (5%), and magnesium stearate (pure)). In addition, papain (in dilutions of 0.1 and 1% in water) was also tested. No substance of the European standard series or lozenge powder was positive in patch-testing except for the 2% papaya extract. Five control subjects did not show any reaction to the papaya extract. In addition, the 1% solution of papain in water showed a weak reaction which was interpreted as an irritant.

### Papaya Protein Allergen in Pollen-Sensitized Patient Sera

Papaya has been reported to elicit IgE-mediated hypersensitivity via pollen inhalation and fruit consumption.<sup>55</sup> A degranulation assay was used to evaluate the ability of rCari p 1 induce the release of histamine from the IgE-sensitized effector cells using the sera of pollen-sensitized patients suffering with respiratory allergy. Patients were diagnosed with an elevated level of specific IgE-antibody against fruit and pollen extract of papaya via an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay. Control sera from a healthy patient and a patient with either dust mite or mustard allergy were also collected. A passive sensitization technique was used in which the granulocytes from a healthy donor were stripped off the bound IgE using 50 mM lactate buffer (pH 3.5). The cells were passively sensitized with either 4 different patient sera (at 1:10 v/v dilutions) containing high titers of anti-Cari p 1 IgE-antibody or control sera for 120 min at 37°C. The IgE-sensitized cells were then challenged with purified rCari p 1 at a serially increasing concentration ranging from 1.0 to 10,000.0 ng/mL. These IgE-sensitized effector cells displayed a dose-dependent release of histamine upon stimulation with rCari p 1. The maximum percentage of degranulation was seen at a concentration of 1000 ng/mL, in which histamine release took place within a range from 30% to 72% among the 4 patients tested. Further increasing the allergen concentration (10,000 ng/mL) caused a sharp decrease in histamine release. No release was observed with control sera.

### Papaya Sensitization in Respiratory Allergic Patients

Patients in Calcutta, India, with respiratory allergies (allergic rhinitis and asthma) were evaluated for allergy to several common food allergens (including papaya fruit) using a questionnaire and skin prick test.<sup>67</sup> To perform the skin prick test, a drop of the food extract (20 µl) in PBS was placed on the forearm, and the skin was pricked with a needle. Histamine

**Table 8.** Human Dermal Irritation and Sensitization Studies.

Test Article	Concentration/ Dose	Test Population	Procedure	Results	Reference
<b>IRRITATION</b>					
Bar soap containing 0.0003% <i>Carica Papaya</i> (Papaya) Fruit Extract	1% aqueous solution; 0.2 mL	29	The test substance was placed on the skin of 29 subjects, under a semi-occlusive patch (2 cm × 2 cm). Applications occurred over a 5-d period, with 4 evaluations. Patches were applied for 24 h, removed, and the site was evaluated, each day, for 4 d. A 1% aqueous solution of sodium lauryl sulfate was used as a positive control. The dermatologist observed reactions on study day 5	Non-irritating	<sup>56</sup>
Powder containing 0.0003% <i>Carica Papaya</i> (Papaya) Fruit Extract	100%; 0.2 mL	27	5-d irritation study; same procedure as above; 0.2% aqueous solution of sodium lauryl sulfate used as positive control; semi-occlusive conditions	Non-irritating	<sup>57</sup>
<b>SENSITIZATION</b>					
SPF 50 lotion containing 0.0075% <i>Carica Papaya</i> (Papaya) Fruit Extract	100%; 0.2 mL	119	HRIPT; The test substance was applied neat, under an occlusive patch (2 cm × 2 cm), on the back of each subject. After a 24-h exposure period, the patches were removed. A series of 9 test patches were applied followed by a 2-wk non-treatment period. Challenge patches were applied to previously unexposed sites and allowed to remain in skin contact for 24 h. Challenge sites were scored at 24 and 72 h post-patching	Non-irritating; non-sensitizing	<sup>58</sup>
Lipstick containing 0.02% <i>Carica Papaya</i> (Papaya) Fruit Extract	100%; dose not reported	104	HRIPT; same procedure as above; semi-occlusive conditions	Non-irritating; non-sensitizing	<sup>59</sup>
Product containing 0.02% <i>Carica Papaya</i> (Papaya) Fruit Extract	10% aqueous solution;	105	HRIPT; same procedure as above; occlusive patch	Non-irritating; non-sensitizing	<sup>60</sup>
Lotion containing 0.04% <i>Carica Papaya</i> (Papaya) Fruit Extract	100%; 0.02 mL	49	HRIPT; same procedure as above; occlusive patch	Non-irritating; non-sensitizing	<sup>61</sup>
Lotion/body butter containing 0.0586% <i>Carica Papaya</i> (Papaya) Fruit Extract	100%; 0.2 mL	107	HRIPT; same procedure as above; occlusive patch	Non-irritating; non-sensitizing	<sup>62</sup>

HRIPT = human repeated insult patch test.

diphosphate and PBS were used as positive and negative controls, respectively. Of the 236 patients tested for papaya hypersensitivity, 62 patients showed a positive response. The majority of these positive reactions were from patients in the age group of 16–40.

### Papaya Pollen Hypersensitivity

The ability of papaya flower pollen to induce respiratory IgE-mediated allergy was evaluated in 6 patients with clinical histories of allergy (seasonal rhinoconjunctivitis or bronchial asthma) in relation to papaya tree exposure.<sup>68</sup> A skin prick test

was performed with papaya pollen extract, commercial papaya fruit extract, and papain extract. Ten pollen-allergic patients allergic to *Artemisia* and 10 patients allergic to dust mites were used as control groups in both in vitro and in vivo studies. Prior to testing, 3 of the 6 patients reported previous ingestion of papaya fruit with no reactions, and the remaining 3 patients did not regularly consume the fruit. None remembered any adverse reaction to papaya fruit ingestion. Skin prick test responses to the pollen extract were positive in all 6 patients, to papaya fruit in 2 patients, and to papain in 2 patients. Levels of total and specific IgE to papaya fruit, papain, and pollen were also measured. Levels of specific IgE to papaya pollen, fruit,

and papain were positive in all 6 patients and negative in controls. Radioallergosorbent test (RAST) inhibitions were performed in a pool of sera from the papaya pollen-allergic patients. Sera were incubated with 100  $\mu$ L of 10-fold dilutions (1 mg/mL to 100 ng/mL) in PBS containing 0.03% human albumin, of papaya pollen and fruit extracts, and a papain commercial extract. The degree of inhibition was measured in percentage, the 0 level being defined as the uptake of the solid phase when the allergen was replaced with PBS. *Artemisia vulgaris* and *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus* commercial extracts were used as negative inhibition controls. A progressive RAST-inhibition was obtained, reaching 100% inhibition with the papaya pollen extract at the maximum concentration, 72% inhibition with the papaya fruit extract, and 99% inhibition with papain extract. A 50% inhibition was observed with the *Artemisia* extract, and inhibition was not higher than 20% when incubating with the *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus* extract.

### Cross Reaction Between Latex and Papaya Fruit

Serum samples from 136 patients with immediate-type hypersensitivity against latex proteins were analyzed for IgE antibodies against a panel of different fruit extracts, including a papaya fruit extract.<sup>69</sup> Among the 136 samples tested for papaya fruit extract, IgE antibodies were detected in 69 samples (50.7%). In addition, 18/44 samples tested contained IgE antibodies against papain. Values of allergen-specific IgE were  $>0.35$  kU/l in 36 samples. Cross-reacting IgE antibodies recognizing latex and fruit allergens were demonstrated by RAST-inhibition tests. Preincubation of 5 sera samples with latex extracts caused a 99.7% mean specific inhibition of papaya fruit-specific IgE. Inhibition of latex-specific IgE after preincubation of serum samples ( $n = 6$ ) with papaya fruit extract (up to 10  $\mu$ l) was weaker (mean inhibition of 24.2%).

The potential role of chitinases and complex glycans as cross-reactive determinants linked to latex-food allergy was evaluated.<sup>70</sup> Extracts from several different plant foods, including papaya fruit, and from latex were obtained. These extracts were immunodetected with anticomplex glycans and antichitinase sera raised in rabbits, as well as with sera from patients with latex-fruit allergy ( $n = 8$ ), and sera from patients allergic to latex without food allergy ( $n = 5$ ). Pooled sera from 5 atopic subjects allergic to mites, but not to latex or foods, was used as a negative control. Many reactive bands, mainly in the 30–100 kDa molecular size range, were detected in most extracts. Putative chitinases appeared in papaya (30–35 kDa) and latex (35–45 kDa). To compare the patterns obtained with anticomplex glycan and antichitinase sera with those revealing specific IgE-binding proteins, replica membranes were immunodetected with a pool of sera from patients with latex-fruit allergy. Reactive proteins were detected in papaya (30–35 kDa) and latex (6–10, 20, and 35–45 kDa). All of these specific IgE-binding components, except for the 6 to 10 kDa and 20 kDa latex bands were also recognized by specific

polyclonal antibodies to chitinases. Papaya extract was also tested in sera from patients with latex allergy, but no fruit allergy. No reactive bands were observed, however in control serum, high molecular size bands were detected. These results suggest that mainly class I chitinases contained in these plant foods are the allergens involved in cross reactions with latex, and also indicate that the 16 to 20 kDa, 23 to 28 kDa, and 50 to 70 kDa bands shown by the antichitinase serum are not relevant IgE-binding components.

### Summary

The safety of 5 *Carica papaya*-derived ingredients as used in cosmetics is reviewed in this safety assessment. All ingredients reviewed in this report are derived from the papaya plant. According to the *Dictionary*, the majority of these ingredients are reported to function as skin-conditioning agents in cosmetic products. The *Carica papaya* plant contains various phytochemicals, such as phenolic acids, flavonoids, isoflavonoids, saponins, phytosterols, and alkaloids. These phytochemicals vary based on specific parts of the plant.

According to a supplier, there were no spectral absorption peaks in the UVA or UVB for a sample containing 0.006% of *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract. Not enough information was provided to determine the absorbance wavelength of a peak in the UVC.

According to 2021 VCRP survey data, the ingredient with the most reported uses is *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract, which is reported to be used in 172 cosmetic products (104 leave-on products, 66 rinse-off products, and 2 diluted for bath use). The results of a concentration of use survey conducted by the Council in 2018 (and corrected in 2020) indicate that *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract is being used at maximum use concentrations up to 0.25% in rinse-off products and maximum use concentrations up to 0.02% in leave-on products. *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract is reported to be used in spray products that could possibly be inhaled; for example, it is used in pump spray suntan products at up to 0.01%.

An oral LD<sub>50</sub> of 2520 mg/kg was determined in acute toxicity study involving Wistar rats given up to 3200 mg/kg of an aqueous unripe *Carica papaya* extract. No toxicity was observed in male Wistar rats given up to 1500 mg/kg of a methanolic *Carica papaya* leaf extract via gavage. An oral LD<sub>50</sub> of greater than 2000 mg/kg bw *Carica papaya* leaf extract (highest dose tested) was determined in a study involving rats. No mortalities were observed when a methanolic *Carica papaya* leaf extract was given to mice at doses of up to 3200 mg/kg.

No signs of toxicity were observed when Wistar albino rats were given a *Carica papaya* fruit extract (up to 250 mg/kg/d), orally, for 42 d. Wistar rats given a methanolic *Carica papaya* leaf extract (400 mg/kg bw/d) via gavage for 28 d displayed a statistically significant decrease in aspartate aminotransferase, statistically significant increase in blood urea nitrogen levels,

and moderate hyperemia in the kidney and heart muscles. No extract-related effects were noted when a green *Carica papaya* leaf extract (up to 2000 mg/kg/d) was given to Sprague-Dawley rats for 28 d via gavage. Similarly, no adverse effects were reported when Wistar mice were given a methanolic *Carica papaya* leaf extract (up to 3200 mg/kg/d) for 60 d. A study was performed in order to evaluate the toxicity of irradiated and non-irradiated papaya fruit given to Swiss white mice in the diet for 2 yr. All papaya-treated groups received a diet consisting of 15% *Carica papaya* fruit (irradiated or non-irradiated). No treatment-related clinical, hematological, pathological, or behavioral abnormalities were noted.

The effect of a ripe papaya fruit blend (500 mL papaya/1 water) on different stages of pregnancy was studied in Sprague-Dawley rats by administering the test substance on days 1–5, days 6–11, days 12–17, and days 1–20 of gestation. No signs of fetal or maternal toxicity were observed in any of the treatment groups. No signs of reproductive toxicity were observed in a 3-generation study involving Swiss mice given a diet consisting of 15% *Carica papaya* fruit (irradiated or non-irradiated). An aqueous *Carica papaya* leaf extract (60 or 120 mg/kg) was given to pregnant Wistar rats via gavage on days 12–18 of gestation. Abnormalities in morphometry of fetuses were noted in rats treated with 60 mg/kg of the extract, while 100% resorption was noted in rats treated with 120 mg/kg of the extract. The effect of an aqueous extract of *Carica papaya* leaf on male fertility was evaluated in male Wistar rats. Treated rats were given 500 mg/kg bw extract orally for 21 d. Statistically significant reductions in mean values of sperm count, motility, viability, and serum testosterone concentration were noted in treated rats compared to control rats. In a different study, male rats were given 100, 200, or 400 mg/kg bw of a methanolic *Carica papaya* leaf extract via gavage for 28 d. The mid- and high doses induced a significant decrease in rat sperm count. Sperm motility reduction was noted when an aqueous *Carica papaya* seed extract (50 mg/kg bw/d) was given to male albino mice for 10 to 30 d. The potential reproductive effects of an aqueous alkaloid extract of *Carica papaya* seeds (10, 50, and 150 mg/kg/d) was studied in male Wistar rats. Results showed that oral administration of *Carica papaya* seed extract prevented fertilization, reduced sperm cell counts, promoted sperm cell degeneration, and induced testicular cell lesions, in a dose-dependent manner. An aqueous *Carica papaya* seed extract was given orally to female Sprague-Dawley rats in doses of 50, 100, or 800 mg/kg bw/d. At all doses, a disruption of the normal sequences of the estrous cycle was observed. No treatment-related adverse effects were noted when aqueous *Carica papaya* seed extract was given to male New Zealand white rabbits, orally at doses of up to 100 mg/kg bw/d, for 150 d. Fertility, semen quality, and hematological parameters were similar among treated and control groups.

A *Carica papaya* leaf extract significantly inhibited the proliferative responses of HeLa, MCF-7, HepG2, PC14, Panc-1,

and H2452 cells. For each cell type, inhibition was dose-dependent.

No skin irritation was noted in a 5-d skin irritation study evaluating a bar soap containing 0.0003% *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract (final test concentration was 0.000003% *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Extract in water). Similarly, no irritation was noted in a 5-d skin irritation assay involving a powder containing 0.0003% *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract (test substance applied neat). No irritation or sensitization occurred in several HRIPTs evaluating an SPF lotion containing 0.0075% *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract (tested neat), a lipstick containing 0.02% *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract (tested neat), a product containing 0.02% *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract (tested at a 10% dilution (final test concentration of 0.002% *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract), a lotion containing 0.04% *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract (tested neat), and a lotion/body butter formulation containing 0.0586% *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract (tested neat).

A phototoxicity and photosensitization study was performed with a SPF 50 sunscreen lotion containing 0.0075% *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract. The test substance was applied neat in both assays. No skin reactions were noted. In addition, no photosensitization was observed in an assay involving 50 subjects exposed to a cream (no SPF) containing 0.002% *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract.

A 55-yr-old woman without a history of atopic disease or drug allergy developed a rash 2 d after taking throat lozenges containing papaya juice (2%). Patch tests were performed with the European standard series, components of the powdered lozenge, and papain. A positive response was observed with papaya juice, and a weak positive response was observed with 1% papain.

The IgE-mediated sensitization potential of a papaya protein, rCari p 1, was evaluated in female BALB/c mice (6/ group). Animals were injected with purified rCari p 1. Seven days after injection, one group of mice was given a *Carica papaya* fruit extract orally, and a different group was given *Carica papaya* pollen extract via an intranasal route. Inflammatory changes in gut and respiratory mucosa were similar among mice treated with rCari p 1, and mice treated with ovalbumin (positive control), suggesting allergenicity. A degranulation assay was performed on the same papaya protein, using sera of pollen-sensitized patients. The maximum percentage of degranulation was seen at a concentration of 1000 ng/mL, in which histamine release took place within a range from 30% to 72% among the 4 patients tested. Further increasing the allergen concentration (10,000 ng/mL) caused a sharp decrease in histamine release.

Patients in Calcutta, India with reported allergic rhinitis and asthma were evaluated for food allergy via a questionnaire and skin prick test. Of the 236 patients evaluated for papaya allergy, 62 displayed a positive response. Six patients with clinical histories of seasonal rhinoconjunctivitis or bronchial asthma in relation to papaya tree exposure were studied. Skin prick test responses to the pollen extract were positive in all

6 patients, to papaya fruit in 2 patients, and to papain in 2 patients. Levels of specific IgE to papaya pollen, fruit, and papain were positive in all 6 patients and negative in controls. On RAST-inhibition studies using papaya pollen extract in solid phase, a significant cross-reactivity was found among papaya pollen, papaya fruit, and papain.

Serum samples from 136 patients with immediate-type hypersensitivity against latex proteins were analyzed for IgE antibodies against papaya fruit extract and papain. IgE antibodies were detected in 69/136 samples for papaya fruit extract, and in 18/44 samples tested for papain. In a different study, the potential role of chitinases and complex glycans as cross-reactive determinants linked to latex-food allergy was evaluated. Sera from patients allergic to both latex and fruit, and sera from patients allergic to latex only was used. Putative chitinases appeared in papaya (30–35 kDa) and latex (35–45 kDa). In latex-fruit allergic patient sera, reactive proteins were located in both papaya (30–35 kDa) and latex (6–10, 20, and 30–45 kDa). No reactive bands were observed in sera of patients with latex allergy only, however, high molecular size bands were observed in the control group.

## Discussion

This report assesses the safety of 5 cosmetic ingredients derived from the plant *Carica papaya*. The Panel determined that the available data are sufficient to determine that the 4 *Carica papaya*-derived fruit ingredients are safe as reportedly used in cosmetics. Additional data are required to determine safety for *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Leaf Extract.

The *Carica papaya*-derived fruit ingredients have been ingested as food and food products for many years. As systemic exposure resulting from consumption would be much higher than that resulting from use in cosmetics (these ingredients are reported to be used at 0.25% or less), any concerns regarding systemic toxicity from the *Carica papaya* fruit ingredients have been mitigated. The Panel noted DART effects seen at high concentrations in *Carica papaya* leaf and seed studies. However, these effects were seen at doses much higher than would be expected with use in cosmetics.

In addition, the Panel expressed concern regarding the potential phototoxicity/photosensitization of these *Carica papaya*-derived ingredients. However, the Panel concluded that the available photosensitization and ultraviolet spectrum data on *Carica Papaya* (Fruit) Extract were sufficient to mitigate these concerns.

The Panel also expressed concern regarding pesticide residues, heavy metals, and other plant species that may be present in botanical ingredients. They stressed that the cosmetics industry should continue to use current good manufacturing practices (cGMPs) to limit these impurities.

The Panel recognized the potential IgE-mediated hypersensitivity reactions following pollen inhalation and fruit consumption. However, concern for this was mitigated due to a lack of case reports involving, and, in clinical practice, a lack

of patients exhibiting, allergic reactions (hand dermatitis and cheilitis) following handling and ingestion of papaya. The Panel also discussed the potential cross-reacting IgE antibodies in latex and papaya, and suggested that those individuals that are latex-allergic take caution when using papaya-derived products.

The Panel discussed the issue of incidental inhalation exposure from powders and spray products. The Council survey results indicate that *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract is being used in spray products, such as suntan pump spray products (at concentrations up to 0.01%) and in dusting and talcum powders (at up to 0.0003%). Inhalation studies were not available; however, the Panel noted that in aerosol products, most droplets/particles would not be respirable to any appreciable amount. Furthermore, droplets/particles deposited in the nasopharyngeal or bronchial regions of the respiratory tract present no toxicological concerns based on the chemical and biological properties of these ingredients. Coupled with the small actual exposure in the breathing zone and the concentrations at which the ingredients are used, the available information indicates that incidental inhalation would not be a significant route of exposure that might lead to local respiratory or systemic effects. A detailed discussion and summary of the Panel's approach to evaluating incidental inhalation exposures to ingredients in cosmetic products is available at <https://www.cir-safety.org/cir-findings>.

As stated, the Panel noted that data are insufficient to determine safety for *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Leaf Extract. Specifically, the following data are needed to determine safety for this ingredient:

- genotoxicity data,
- irritation and sensitization data at maximum concentration of use, and
- phototoxicity/photosensitization data.

## Conclusion

The Expert Panel for Cosmetic Ingredient Safety concluded that *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit, *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Extract, *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Juice, and *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Fruit Water\* are safe in cosmetics in the present practices of use and concentration described in this safety assessment, and that the available data are insufficient to make a determination of safety for *Carica Papaya* (Papaya) Leaf Extract under the intended conditions of use in cosmetic formulations.

\* Not reported to be in current use. Were this ingredient not in current use to be used in the future, the expectation is that it would be used in product categories and at concentrations comparable to others in this group.

## Author's Note

Unpublished sources cited in this report are available from the Director, Cosmetic Ingredient Review, 555 13th St., NW, Suite 300W, Washington, DC 20004. [cirinfo@cir-safety.org](mailto:cirinfo@cir-safety.org).



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