

## Preparation of gold Nanoparticles Using a Green Method with Papaya Leaf Extract and Characterization Using UV-Vis, FTIR and XRD

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Article information	Abstract
<p><b>Key words</b> Gold nanoparticles/papayaleaf extract/ UV-Vis/ FTIR/XRD.</p> <p>Received 08 01 2026, Accepted 24 01 2026, Available online 26 01 2026</p>	<p>Green synthesis of gold nanoparticles (AuNPs) has gained popularity as an economical and eco-friendly substitute for traditional chemical processes. Papaya leaf extract was used in this work as a natural reducing and stabilizing agent to create gold nanoparticles. When papaya leaf aqueous extract and chloroauric acid solution were combined under moderate reaction conditions, the synthesis of AuNPs was verified by a noticeable color shift. X-Ray Diffraction (XRD), ultraviolet-visible (UV-Vis) spectroscopy and Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) were used to analyze the produced gold nanoparticles. A distinctive surface plasmon resonance (SPR) absorption band at 520–550 nm was found by UV-Vis examination, demonstrating the stability and successful production of gold nanoparticles. The XRD patterns showed the strong crystallinity of the biosynthesized nanoparticles and verified the face-centered cubic (FCC) structure of gold, FTIR analysis confirmed the presence of phytochemicals from <i>Carica papaya</i> leaf extract as capping agents. The findings show that papaya leaf extract works well as a green agent for producing gold nanoparticles without the usage of hazardous substances.</p>

### I. Introduction

The 21st century saw the scientific breakthrough of nanotechnology. Because of their intriguing biological, physical, chemical, magnetic, and optical characteristics, metallic nanoparticles have become incredibly popular. Many physical, chemical, and biological techniques can be used to create metal-based nanoparticles. [1,2]

Nanoparticles are biosynthesized using the metabolic byproducts of microorganisms (bacteria, fungi, algae) or plant extracts. This method is environmentally friendly, energy-efficient, inexpensive, and fast. [3]

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A previous study indicated that sub-micron particles are more efficiently absorbed by cells compared to larger particles in medical and therapeutic applications. [4]

The green synthesis of AuNPs using plant extracts has gained significant attention as an eco-friendly and cost-effective alternative to conventional chemical methods. [5,6] This approach harnesses the reducing and capping abilities of plant-derived biomolecules, potentially imparting additional bioactive properties to the nanoparticles. [7,8]

*Carica Papaya*, commonly known as the papaya, is a member of the Caricaceae family which also contains six genera: *Carica*, *Garella*, *Horovetsia*, *Jacaratia*, *Vasconcela*, and *Selikomorpha*. The papaya belongs to the genus *Carica*, which includes only one species *Carica papaya*.[9] is a tropical fruit tree with a rich history of medicinal use.[10] Various parts of the plant, including leaves, have been traditionally employed for their anti-inflammatory antioxidant and potential anticancer properties. [11,12] The leaves of *Carica papaya* contain a complex mixture of bioactive compounds including flavonoids, alkaloids, and phenolic acids which may contribute to its therapeutic effects. [13,14]

The nutrients found in papaya leaf extracts consist mostly of macromolecules such as proteins, fats carbohydrates, and essential minerals including potassium, phosphorus magnesium, iron calcium and dietary fiber, as well as vitamins such as vitamin C vitamin B1 vitamin B2, vitamin B3, and beta-carotene. [15]

In order to confirm nanoparticle formation and identify the functional groups involved in the reduction and stabilization processes, this study aims to prepare gold nanoparticles using an environmentally friendly green synthesis method based on papaya (*Carica papaya*) leaf extract as a natural reducing and stabilizing agent. The produced nanoparticles will then be characterized using UV-Vis, X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) and Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) [16,17]

By employing papaya leaf extract to create gold nanoparticles in an environmentally friendly and economical manner and by combining UV-Vis, XRD and FTIR analysis to provide light on the function of plant biomolecules in nanoparticle synthesis, this work advances green nanotechnology. [18,19]

## **II. Methodology**

### **A. Green Synthesis of Gold Nanoparticles (AuNPs)**

#### **1. Plant Material Preparation:**

Fresh *Carica papaya* leaves were collected from local plantations in Zliten- Libya, authenticated by a botanist, and washed thoroughly with deionized water. The leaves were air-dried at room temperature for 7 days, then pulverized into a fine powder using a mechanical grinder (Blade Grinder CBG100S Cuisinart, USA). The powder was stored in airtight containers at 4°C until further use[20].

#### **2. Extract Preparation:**

Aqueous extraction was performed by mixing 10 g of leaf powder with 100 mL of deionized water. The mixture was heated at 60°C for 30 minutes under constant stirring using a hot plate magnetic stirrer (MS-H-Pro+, Scilogex, USA). The resulting solution was filtered through Whatman No. 1 filter paper and centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 15 minutes using a

high-speed centrifuge (Sorvall Legend X1R, Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA). The supernatant was collected and stored at 4°C for further use[20].

### 3. AuNP Synthesis:

The synthesis of AuNPs was carried out by adding the *Carica papaya* leaf extract to 1 mM chloroauric acid (HAuCl<sub>4</sub>) solution (Sigma-Aldrich, USA) in a 1:9 ratio. The reaction mixture was incubated at room temperature under constant stirring for 24 hours using a magnetic stirrer (MS-H-Pro+, Scilogex, USA). The formation of AuNPs was indicated by a color change from pale yellow to deep purple. [20]

### B. Characterization of AuNPs

#### 1. X-Ray Diffraction (XRD):

Crystalline nature and phase purity of the synthesized AuNPs were analyzed using an X-ray diffractometer (D8 Advance, Bruker, Germany) with Cu K $\alpha$  radiation ( $\lambda = 1.54 \text{ \AA}$ ) in the 2 $\theta$  range of 20°-80°. The operating voltage and current were set at 40 kV and 40 mA, respectively. [21]

#### 2. UV-Visible Spectroscopy:

The optical properties and formation of AuNPs were monitored using a UV-visible spectrophotometer (UV-2600, Shimadzu, Japan) in the range of 300-800 nm. Measurements were performed at room temperature using quartz cuvettes with a 1 cm path length. [22]

#### 3. Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR):

FTIR analysis was performed to identify the functional groups involved in the reduction and stabilization of AuNPs. Spectra were recorded on an FTIR spectrometer (Nicolet iS50, Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA) in the range of 4000-400 cm<sup>-1</sup> with a resolution of 4 cm<sup>-1</sup>.[23]

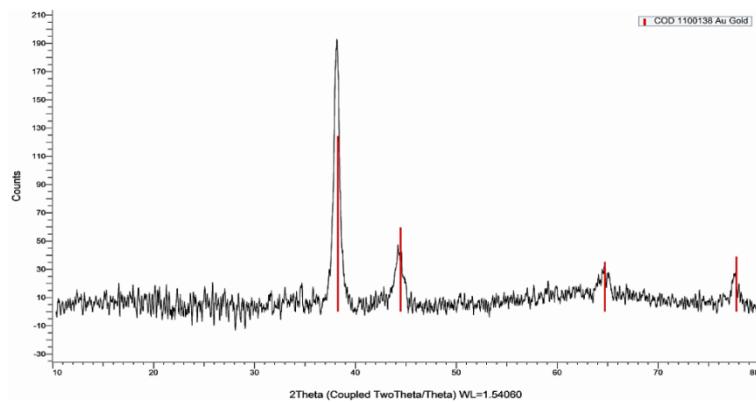
## III. Results and Discussion

### A. Characterization of Gold Nanoparticles

#### 1. X-Ray Diffraction (XRD) Analysis:

The crystalline nature and purity of the synthesized AuNPs were investigated using X-ray diffraction analysis. [24] Figure (1) presents the XRD pattern of the green-synthesized AuNPs.

Figure 1: XRD pattern of green-synthesized AuNPs



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The XRD pattern exhibited sharp and intense peaks indicating the high crystallinity of the synthesized AuNPs. The prominent diffraction peaks were observed at  $2\theta$  values of  $38.87^\circ$ ,  $45.18^\circ$ ,  $65.75^\circ$ ,  $78.97^\circ$ , corresponding to the (111), (200), (220), (311), planes of the face-centered cubic lattice structure of gold, respectively. These peaks closely match the standard diffraction pattern of gold (JCPDS file no. 04-0784), confirming the successful formation of crystalline AuNPs. [24]

In contrast to the other planes, the strong (111) reflection indicates that the synthesized AuNPs have a predominate orientation. The nanoparticles' surface characteristics and reactivity may be influenced by this preferred orientation, which might improve their biological and catalytic capabilities. The development of well-crystallized nanoparticles with few lattice flaws or strain is indicated by the crisp and narrow diffraction peaks.

The XRD pattern's lack of extra peaks attests to the produced AuNPs' excellent purity and lack of crystalline impurities. For constant physicochemical characteristics and dependable performance in prospective applications, this purity is essential. The average crystallite size of the AuNPs was calculated using the Scherrer equation to be around 25 nm. This estimate serves as a preliminary measure of the nanoparticle dimensions, which will be confirmed by other characterization methods.[24]

### 2. UV-Visible Spectroscopy

The formation and optical properties of green-synthesized AuNPs using *Carica papaya* leaf extract were confirmed by UV-Visible spectroscopy [24] Figure (2) shows the UV-Visible absorption spectrum of the colloidal AuNP solution.

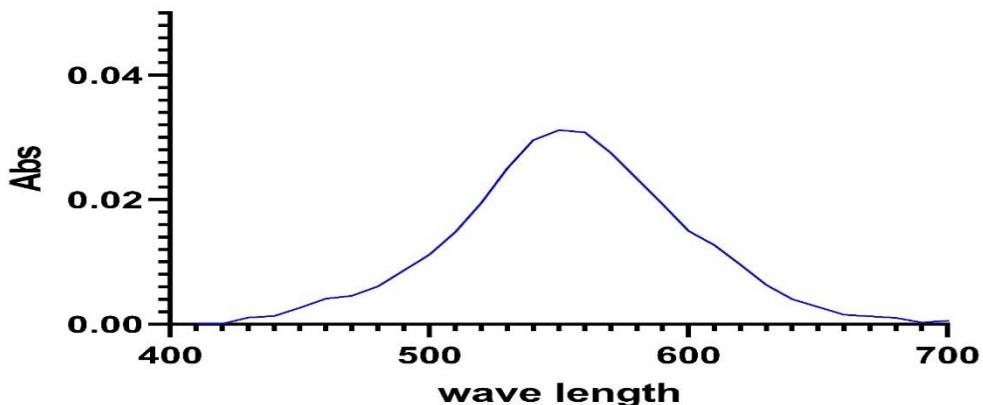


Figure 2: UV-Visible absorption spectrum of green-synthesized gold nanoparticles.

The UV-Visible spectrum displayed a characteristic surface plasmon resonance (SPR) band with a maximum absorption peak at approximately 558.6 nm, which is typical for spherical gold nanoparticles. This observation confirms the successful synthesis of AuNPs using the green method. The presence of a single, sharp SPR peak indicates a narrow size distribution of the nanoparticles and suggests minimal aggregation in the colloidal solution.

Particle size, shape, and the dielectric constant of the surrounding medium are some of the variables that affect the location and form of the SPR band. The XRD-derived crystallite size and published findings for comparable green synthesis techniques are in agreement with the

observed peak at 558.6 nm, which is compatible with the creation of spherical AuNPs within the size range of 20–60 nm. [24]

The concentration of AuNPs in the solution may be inferred qualitatively from the strength of the SPR peak. The spectrum displays a gradual increase in absorbance towards shorter wavelengths, which can be attributed to the interband transitions of gold. However, the relatively high absorbance value (approximately 0.05) indicates a substantial yield of nanoparticles from the green synthesis process suggesting an efficient reduction of gold ions by the *Carica papaya* Leaf extract. The creation of mostly spherical nanoparticles with negligible anisotropic morphologies is suggested by the lack of extra peaks or shoulders in the visible area. The existence of a bio-organic corona formed from the plant extract and the nanoparticles' polydispersity may be the cause of the small widening of the SPR peak when compared to chemically manufactured AuNPs. The overall stability and biocompatibility of the nanoparticles are probably enhanced by this corona.

These findings are quite similar to those of Wehbe et al. (2025) [24] who similarly produced AuNPs in an environmentally friendly manner using *Halodule uninervis* extract. The UV–Visible absorption peak, which was also seen in their studies at around 550 nm, suggested the formation of spherical nanoparticles within a comparable size range. Both studies show how the phytochemicals from *H. uninervis* can act as reducing and stabilizing agents, promoting the ecologically safe production of biocompatible, widely dispersed AuNPs. Wehbe et al. emphasized the biological potential of such particles, particularly their anticancer activity, and stated that the structural and optical properties obtained by this synthesis procedure are beneficial for therapeutic applications.

### 3. Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR):

The Fourier transform infrared spectrum of the extract of *Carica papaya* leaves before the synthesis of gold nanoparticles was analyzed. The figure (16a) shows the spectrum of the leaf extract and The Fourier-Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectrum of the synthesized gold nanoparticles using *Carica papaya* leaf extract was analyzed to identify the functional groups responsible for the reduction and stabilization of the nanoparticles. The spectrum shown in the figure(16b) reveals several characteristic peaks that provide insights into the biomolecules involved in the green synthesis process.

1.  $3291.48\text{ cm}^{-1}$ : A broad, strong peak indicative of O-H stretching vibrations, likely from phenolic compounds and alcohols present in the *Carica papaya* leaf extract.
2.  $2919.79\text{ cm}^{-1}$ : This peak can be attributed to C-H stretching vibrations of alkanes, suggesting the presence of organic compounds from the plant extract.
3.  $2050.73\text{ cm}^{-1}$ : A weak peak that could be associated with C≡N stretching or cumulated double bonds (C=C=C), possibly from alkaloids or other nitrogen-containing compounds in the extract.
4.  $1600.92\text{ cm}^{-1}$ : This strong peak is characteristic of C=C stretching in aromatic rings and/or C=O stretching in amide groups (Amide I band), indicating the presence of flavonoids or proteins.
5.  $1383.78\text{ cm}^{-1}$ : Likely corresponds to C-H bending of alkanes or O-H bending of phenols.
6.  $1237.37\text{ cm}^{-1}$ : This peak can be attributed to C-O stretching vibrations in phenols, ethers, or esters.
7.  $1031.41\text{ cm}^{-1}$ : A strong peak indicative of C-O stretching vibrations in alcohols, carboxylic acids, esters, or ethers.

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8.  $529.85\text{ cm}^{-1}$ : This peak in the fingerprint region could be associated with metal-oxygen bonds, potentially indicating the interaction between gold nanoparticles and oxygen-containing functional groups from the biomolecules.

The FTIR spectrum provides valuable information about the biomolecules from *Carica papaya* leaf extract that are involved in the reduction of gold ions and the stabilization of the resulting nanoparticles:

1. **Phenolic Compounds and Flavonoids:** The strong peaks at  $3291.48\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (O-H stretching) and  $1600.92\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (aromatic C=C stretching) suggest the presence of phenolic compounds and flavonoids. These molecules are known for their strong antioxidant properties and can act as reducing agents in the synthesis of gold nanoparticles.

2. **Proteins and Peptides:** The peak at  $1600.92\text{ cm}^{-1}$  could also indicate the presence of amide bonds from proteins. Proteins can act as capping agents, stabilizing the nanoparticles and preventing aggregation.

3. **Carbohydrates:** The strong peak at  $1031.41\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (C-O stretching) suggests the presence of carbohydrates, which can also contribute to the reduction process and stabilization of nanoparticles.

4. **Alkaloids:** The weak peak at  $2050.73\text{ cm}^{-1}$  might indicate the presence of alkaloids, which are nitrogen-containing compounds that could contribute to the reduction process.

5. **Nanoparticle-Biomolecule Interaction:** The peak at  $529.85\text{ cm}^{-1}$  in the fingerprint region could signify the interaction between gold nanoparticles and oxygen-containing functional groups from the biomolecules, suggesting effective capping and stabilization of the nanoparticles.

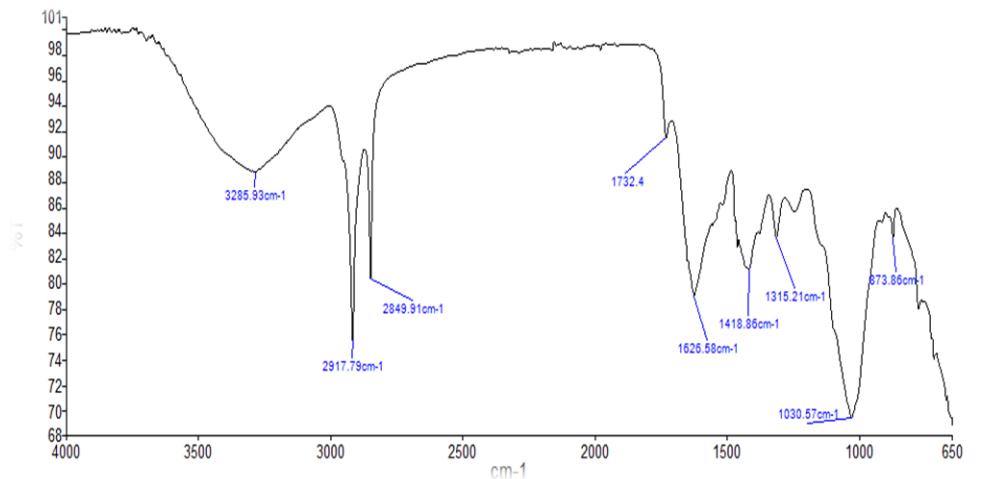


Figure 3a: illustrated FTIR pattern before gold nanoparticles

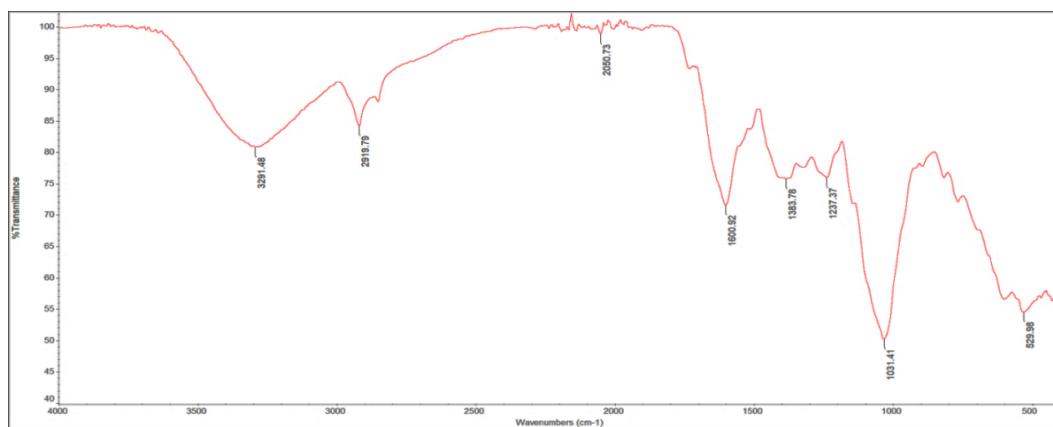


Figure 3b: illustrated FTIR of AuNPs green synthesis.

The presence of these diverse functional groups indicates that multiple biomolecules from the *Carica papaya* leaf extract are involved in the green synthesis process. The phenolic compounds and flavonoids likely play a crucial role in reducing gold ions to nanoparticles, while proteins and carbohydrates may act as capping agents, providing stability to the synthesized nanoparticles.

In conclusion, the FTIR analysis confirms the successful green synthesis of gold nanoparticles using *Carica papaya* leaf extract and provides insights into the biomolecules responsible for the reduction, stabilization of the synthesized nanoparticles. This eco-friendly approach not only offers a simple and sustainable method for nanoparticle synthesis but also imparts beneficial properties to the nanoparticles through the natural capping agents derived from the plant extract. [25]

#### IV. Conclusion

The study's findings showed that papaya (*Carica papaya*) leaf extract may be used as a natural reducing and stabilizing agent to successfully synthesize gold nanoparticles in an environmentally friendly manner. The produced nanoparticles showed consistent and unique structural and optical characteristics. The development of a distinctive surface plasmon resonance band in UV-visible spectroscopy showed the creation of gold nanoparticles, and X-ray diffraction (XRD) examination validated the nanoparticles' high crystallinity and face-centered cubic (FCC) crystal structure. The involvement of phytochemicals from *Carica papaya* leaf extract in the reduction and stabilization of AuNPs was confirmed through FTIR analysis. These results demonstrate papaya leaf extract's efficacy in green synthesis, which makes it a secure and sustainable substitute for traditional chemical techniques.

Based on the findings, further research is advised to assess the biological activities of gold nanoparticles and define their size and structure using sophisticated imaging methods like SEM and TEM. In order to broaden their biological, environmental, and catalytic uses, it is also recommended to perform comparative studies with other plant extracts, evaluate the viability of large-scale production, and fine-tune green synthesis parameters to regulate particle size and stability.

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## تحضير جزيئات الذهب النانوية باستخدام طريقة خضراء مع مستخلص أوراق البابايا وتصنيفها باستخدام الأشعة فوق البنفسجية - المرئية، والأشعة تحت الحمراء بتحويل حبيبات الذهب النانوية

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### الملخص

اكتسب التخلق الأخضر لجزيئات الذهب النانوية شعبية واسعة كبديل اقتصادي وصديق للبيئة للعمليات الكيميائية التقليدية. استُخدم مستخلص أوراق البابايا في هذه الدراسة كعامل اختزال وتشييد طبيعي لإنتاج جزيئات الذهب النانوية. عند مزج المستخلص المائي لأوراق البابايا مع محلول حمض الكلوروأوريك في ظروف تفاعل معتدلة، تم التحقق من تخلق جزيئات الذهب النانوية من خلال تغير محلوظ في اللون. استُخدمت تقنية حبيبات الذهب النانوية ومطيافية الأشعة فوق البنفسجية المرئية لتحليل جزيئات الذهب النانوية المنتجة. كشف فحص مطيافية الأشعة فوق البنفسجية المرئية عن وجود حزمة امتصاص مميزة لرنين البلازماون السطحي عند 550-520 نانومتر، مما يدل على استقرار جزيئات الذهب النانوية ونجاح إنتاجها. أظهرت أنماط حبيبات الذهب النانوية التبلور القوي للجزيئات النانوية المُصنَّعة حيوياً، وأكَّدت بنية الذهب المكعب ذات المراكز الوجهية، كما أكَّد تحليل طيف الأشعة تحت الحمراء وجود مواد كيميائية نباتية من مستخلص أوراق البابايا كعوامل تغليف. تُظهر النتائج أن مستخلص أوراق البابايا يُعد عاملًا صديقًا للبيئة لإنتاج جزيئات الذهب النانوية دون استخدام مواد خطرة. تُبَرِّز هذه التقنية الصديقة للبيئة الإمكانيات الكبيرة لاستخدام جزيئات الذهب النانوية في مجالات الطب الحيوي، والحفظ، والبيئة، وذلك من خلال توفير عملية بسيطة ومستدامة وقابلة للتطوير.

**الكلمات المفتاحية**  
جسيمات الذهب النانوية،  
مستخلص أوراق البابايا،  
الأشعة فوق البنفسجية  
المرئية، الأشعة تحت  
الحراء، حبيبات الذهب  
النانوية