**Supplementary Table 1.** List of date palm fruit samples used in this study and thallus forming units (TFU/g).

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sample No.** | **Description** | **Stuffing** | **Packing status** | **Origin** | **TFU/g (mean + SD)** |
| 1 | Safawi | Plain | Open | Iran | 1.30 ± 1.25 |
| 2 | Sukkay | Plain | Open | UK\* | 1.50 ± 0.60 |
| 3 | Ikhlas | Plain | Packed | UK | 0.30 ± 0.58 |
| 4 | Medjool | Plain | Open | UK | 1.30 ± 1.53 |
| 5 | Black dates | Plain | Open | Iran | 192.00 ± 17.08 |
| 6 | Gyma mazul | Plain | Open | UK | 2.00 ± 2.65 |
| 7 | Khudri dates | Plain | Open | UK | 4.60 ± 1.53 |
| 8 | Mabroom | Plain | Open | UK | 7.30 ± 1.53 |
| 9 | Safawi | Plain | Open | UK | 3.00 ± 1.73 |
| 10 | Gyma sagai | Plain | Open | UK | 11.70 ± 1.70 |
| 11 | Mariyam | Plain | Open | UK | 18.00 ± 6.00 |
| 12 | Sayer | Plain | Open | Doha | 15. 00 ± 6.24 |
| 13 | Khalas | Plain | Packed | Doha | 26.6 ± 3.79 |
| 14 | Shishi | Plain | Packed | Doha | 453.00 ± 60.39 |
| 15 | Mazul gyma | Cashew | Open | UK | 2.33 ± 1.15 |
| 16 | Mabroom | Almond | Open | UK | 2.00 ± 1.00 |
| 17 | Mabroom | Cashew | Open | UK | 1.67 ± 2.08 |
| 18 | Safawi | Cashew | Open | Doha | 2.33 ± 1.53 |
| 19 | Sayer | Pistachio | Open | UK | 33.00 ± 3.61 |
| 20 | Akhlas | Plain | Packed | Doha | 0.33 ± 0.58 |
| 21 | Khalas | Plain | Packed | Doha | 267.00 ± 12.08 |
| 22 | Shishi | Almond | Packed | Doha | 11.00 ± 3.61 |
| 23 | Khudri | Almond & pistachio | Open | UK | 2.33 ± 1.53 |
| 24 | Maryam | Almond | Open | Iran | 1.33 ± 0.58 |
| 25 | Black dates | Plain | Open | Iran | 2.00 ± 1.73 |
| 26 | Tunisian dates | Plain | Open | Tunisia | 44.67 ± 7.36 |
| 27 | Shishi | Plain | Packed | Doha | 300.00 ± 23.67 |
| 28 | Sayer | Plain | Open | UK | 0.33 ± 0.58 |
| 29 | Sayer | Cashew | Open | Doha | 29.67 ± 4.16 |
| 30 | Akhlas | Plain | Open | Doha | 0.00 ± 0 |
| 31 | Shishi | Pistachio | Open | Doha | 9.00 ± 0 |
| 32 | Sayer | Almond | Open | UK | 0.33 ± 0.58 |
| 33 | Shishi | Cashew | Packed | Doha | 4.00 ± 6.08 |
| 34 | Akhlas | Plain | Packed | Doha | 0. 00 ± 0 |
| 35 | Akhlas | Plain | Packed | Doha | 0.00 ± 0 |
| 36 | Safa | Plain | Packed | Tunisia | 42.33 ± 5.86 |

**\* Unknown**