## Monk Fruit: Natural Sweetness Without Sugar or Calories



### A Sweeter, Healthier Alternative

Monk fruit is a natural sweetener that is healthier than sugar and superior to other plant-based alternatives, including stevia. Monk fruit extract is becoming the sweetener of choice for food and beverage manufacturers and healthconscious consumers. A U.S. consumer survey found that 59% of Americans would like to see more foods and beverages with naturally sourced sweeteners. – Mintel market research, 2019

### What is Monk Fruit?

Monk fruit, also known as lo han guo or Swingle fruit, is a small round fruit native to southern China where it has been used as food and traditional medicine for centuries. It is rich in mogrosides, a natural compound up to 250 times sweeter than sugar (sucrose). Mogrosides are not carbohydrates and contain no calories.<sup>1</sup>

**Obesity by the Numbers** 

More than 1.9 billion adults are overweight,

### **Can Monk Fruit Help Reduce World Obesity?**

In many countries, obesity has reached epidemic proportions. Monk fruit extracts enable manufacturers to significantly reduce sugar in foods and beverages, which cuts calories without sacrificing taste.<sup>2</sup>



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## High Sugar Consumption

The average American eats 126 grams (30 teaspoons) of sugar per day — more than twice the World Health Organization's recommendation.<sup>7</sup>

- Fully 39 million children under the
  - age of 5 are overweight or obese.<sup>4</sup>

including 650 million who are obese.<sup>3</sup>

- Over 340 million children and adolescents aged 5-19 are overweight or obese.<sup>5</sup>
- In the U.S., roughly two-thirds of adults and nearly 30% of children are overweight or obese.<sup>6</sup>

## Monk Fruit Superior to Sugar Alternatives

Monk fruit extracts have clear advantages over other alternative plant-based sweeteners.

Sugar substitutes like sugar alcohols, such as erythritol or sorbitol, are known to cause gastrointestinal distress (e.g. bloating, gas, or diarrhea) in some people.<sup>10</sup>

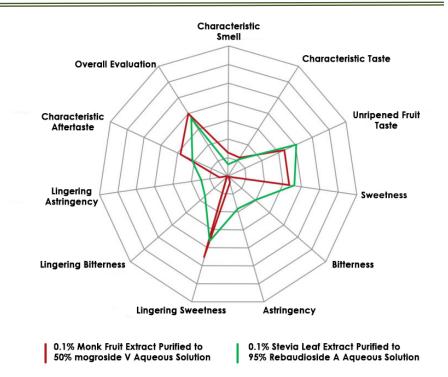
Stevia, sourced from an herbal shrub native to South America, has a bitter aftertaste that can limit its range of applications.<sup>11</sup>

In addition, mogrosides found in monk fruit are antioxidants that neutralize free radicals that can cause cell-damaging oxidative stress.<sup>12</sup>



• Of these, more than half are added sugar (e.g., sucrose, dextrose, table sugar, syrups, honey), not sugar that is naturally present in food like fruit.<sup>8</sup>

• U.S. youths aged 2 to 19 consume on average 17 teaspoons of added sugar daily.<sup>9</sup>



The taste profile of monk fruit extract is superior to stevia.

## **Organic Monk Fruit Extracts from NATCO**

Natural, organic and clean tasting monk fruit is grown on the NATCO farms in Guilin, China, a region that is home to 95% of the world supply of monk fruit.

On-site harvesting, optimal selection and classification based on fruit maturity level, and local production ensures consistence in taste and flavor in every lot and single serving.



NATCO's Mogroside-V Powder Extracts are available in purity levels of 20% to 60% equivalent to 10 to 250 times the sweetness of sugar (sucrose). All of our products are certified organic.

> Both fresh and dried fruit juice concentrate are available. Formulation success never tasted so good.



Learn More

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#### Monk Fruit Extract is an ideal sweetener for most foods and beverages. Visit us at <u>www.natcohealthyliving.com</u>

#### This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.

1, 10 Monk Fruit Sweetener Benefits and Drawbacks, According to Dietitians. Shape, May 2022.

- 2 How Mother Nature's Backyard is Bbringing a Fruitful Approach to Sugar Reduction. Food Navigator, Nov. 2019.
- 3-5 World Health Organization website, June 2021.

# 6, 8-9 U.S. Centers for Disease Control website, 2018. 7 Where People Around the World Eat the Most Sugar and Fat. The Washington Post, Feb 2015. 11 Stevia Versus Monk Fruit: How Do They Compare in Formulation? Nutritional Outlook, May 2016. 12 Monk Fruit Sweetener Benefits and Drawbacks, According to Dietitians. Shape, May 2022.

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