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## FLAVONOID DISTRIBUTION IN FOUR VARIETIES OF *Ficus deltoidea* (JACK)

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### ABSTRACT

We have previously reported the antioxidant and neuroprotective activities of the aqueous extract of four varieties of *Ficus deltoidea* (*Fd*) (Moraceae) namely var *kunstleri* (*Fdvk*), var *angustifolia* (*Fdva*), var *deltoidea* (*Fdvd*) and var *intermedia* (*Fdvi*). In this study, flavonoid constituents in aqueous leaf and fig extracts of the four varieties were analyzed and characterized using liquid chromatography mass spectrometer quadrupole-time of flight (LCMS-Q-TOF) via hierarchical cluster analysis (HCA) technique. The HCA dendrogram revealed that the abundant flavonoids among the eight samples are epicatechin, quercetin-3-rutinoside, quercetin 5,4'-di-O-beta-D-glucopyranoside, myricetin and naringenin. The study found that the distribution of the flavonoids differed between the four varieties and varied within the plant parts. To date, the flavonoid distribution of the different plant parts of the four varieties has not been documented. A positive correlation was observed between flavonoid constituents present and radical scavenging activities of the aqueous extracts.

### Keywords

*Ficus deltoidea* (*Fd*); Flavonoid, Liquid Chromatography Mass Spectrometer Quadrupole-Time of Flight (LCMS-Q-TOF); Hierarchical Cluster Analysis (HCA)

### Academic Discipline And Sub-Disciplines

Natural Products Chemistry

### SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION

Chemistry Subject Classification

### TYPE (METHOD/APPROACH)

Experimental Study-Analytical Method

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

*Ficus deltoidea* (*Mas Cotek*) has long been used as traditional medicine in Malaysia and exists in seven varieties [39]. Malay traditional practitioners extensively consume *Mas Cotek* as tea. It is also used both externally and internally to treat an extensive list of conditions; including wounds, headache, fever [20], diabetes [31], toothache and as herbal drink for women to strengthen the uterus after childbirth [27] as well as other diseases related to oxidative stress. The reported biological activities of this plant include antioxidant, antihyperglycemic, anti-inflammatory, antiulcerogenic and antinociceptive ([36]; [15]; [26]; [27]; [2]). [2] reported that almost all of the parts of *Fd* plant including the root, bark, leaf and fig have their own medicinal properties. Previous studies on the aqueous extracts showed that it contained antioxidant flavonoids including flavan-3-ol monomers namely catechin, *epicatechin*, gallicocatechin and *epigallocatechin* [22]. It was earlier reported to contain polyphenols, flavonoids and tannins but was absent of alkaloids, triterpenes and saponins ([38]; [9]).

[33] have reported flavonoids as the antioxidant scavengers of a wide range of ROS and inhibitors of lipid peroxidation. This class of natural products represents the most abundant antioxidants in the diet and they have gained tremendous interest as potential therapeutic agents against a wide variety of diseases, most of which involve oxidant damage [25]. Flavonoids may interfere in several of the steps that lead to the development of malignant tumors, including protecting DNA from oxidative damage, inhibiting carcinogen activation, and activating carcinogen-detoxifying systems [7,13].

Today, liquid chromatography mass spectrometer quadrupole-time of flight (LCMS-Q-TOF) has been shown to be a powerful tool in the search of new biomarkers for disease and drugs. Analysed data from LCMS-Q-TOF has been used to examine the untargeted metabolites in plant samples and to find the ones with statistically significant variations in abundance within a set of experimental versus internal and external database [29]. In analysing LCMS-Q-TOF data, hierarchical clustering analysis (HCA) is an accurate technique in which results are represented as a two-dimensional diagram known as a dendrogram. HCA demonstrate a clear clusterisation of plant specimens selecting the highest discriminating ions given by the complete data analysis and this lead to the specific identification of metabolites [12].

Continuing our interest in the biological activities of the plant, this study was aimed at identifying flavonoids in the aqueous leaf and fig extracts of four varieties of *Fd* namely var *angustifolia* (*Fdva*), var *deltoidea* (*Fdvd*), var *intermedia* (*Fdvi*), and var *kunstleri* (*Fdvk*) via LCMS-Q-TOF method. Distribution of the flavonoids was determined by HCA technique and correlation of flavonoid constituent and radical scavenging activities was made.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### Plant Materials

The fresh leaf and fig of four varieties of *Fd* namely *Fdvk*, *Fdva*, *Fdvd*, and *Fdvi*, were collected from Kuala Pilah, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia and were identified by Mr. Kamarudin Saleh (botanist) from Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM). The samples were cleaned, dried under room temperature and finely ground. 100 g of each ground sample was heated separately in 500 ml of distilled water by continuous stirring at 60°C for 1 hour. The aqueous extracts were then filtered, concentrated under reduced pressure and stored at -20°C before being subjected to further analysis.

### Determination of Antioxidant Activities of the Aqueous Extracts

#### 2.2.1 Total Flavonoids Content (TFC) Assay

Total flavonoids content were measured by a colorimetric assay developed by [37]. A 1 ml aliquot of appropriately diluted sample or standard solutions of catechin (20, 40, 60, 80, and 100 mg/ml) was added to a 10 ml volumetric flask containing 4 ml distilled water. At zero time, 0.3 ml 5% NaNO<sub>2</sub> was added to the flask. After 5 minutes, 0.3 ml 10% AlCl<sub>3</sub> was added. At 6 minutes, 2 ml 1 M NaOH was added to the mixture. Immediately, the reaction flask was diluted to volume with the addition of 2.4 ml of distilled water and thoroughly mixed. Absorbance of the pink coloured mixture was determined at 510 nm against water blank. Total flavonoid of extract was expressed in milligram catechin equivalents (mg CE/g extract). All analyses were run in three replicates and mean values were recorded.

#### 2.2.2 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) Radical Scavenging Assay

This assay was carried out as described by [28] with some modification [4]. Stock solutions of crude extracts were prepared as 1 mg/ml in methanol. The solutions were diluted to different concentrations (250, 125, 62.5 and 31.3 µg/ml in methanol) in a 96-well microtiter plate. Then, 5 µl of DPPH solution (prepared as 10 mg/ml in methanol) were added to each well. The plate was shaken gently and placed in the dark for 30 minutes at room temperature. The absorbance was then measured at 517 nm. Percentage of inhibition was calculated using the following formula:

$$\% \text{ Inhibition} = \frac{\text{Abs (control)} - \text{Abs (sample)}}{\text{Abs (control)}} \times 100\%$$



## Identification of Compounds Using LCMS Q-TOF Analysis

### 2.3.1 Liquid Chromatography Conditions

Chromatography was performed on Liquid Chromatography of 1200 Rapid Resolution Series (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA) consisting of a binary pump, degasser, 96-well plate autosampler with thermostat, thermostat column compartment and 6520 Q-TOF mass spectrometer equipped with a dual-ESI source. The column used was a Zorbax Eclipse Plus C<sub>18</sub> with column ID of 1.8 µm particle size and 2.1 x 100 mm column dimensions [3]. The temperature was maintained at 40°C during the run.

### 2.3.2 Solvent System Conditions

The mobile phase (A) consisted of 0.1% formic acid (Supelco, Inc) in water and (B) 0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile. The flow rate was 0.25 mL/min and the injection volume was 2 µL. A linear gradient was developed over 36 minutes from 5% to 95% of mobile phase (B). Total run time was 48 minutes for each analysis. ESI source settings were as follows: V Cap 4000 V, skimmer 65 V and fragmentor 125 V.

### 2.3.3 Mass Spectral Conditions

Mass spectral acquisition range selected was from 50 to 1700 *m/z*. The nebulizer was set at 45 psig and the drying gas nitrogen was set at a flow rate of 12 L/min. Drying gas temperature was maintained at 350°C. Data was acquired at a rate of 2.5 spectra/second with a stored mass range of 50 to 1000 *m/z*. Internal reference ions were used to correct mass accuracy. Autocalibration parameters were chosen to average five scans and reference mass correction was enabled throughout the run.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Determination of Total Flavonoids Content (TFC) and Radical Scavenging Activities of the Aqueous Extracts

The total flavonoids content in the aqueous extracts of each of the four variety was determined through a linear catechin standard curve ( $y = 0.002x + 0.014$ ;  $R^2 = 0.999$ ) where *x* is the catechin concentration in mg/L and *y* is the absorbance reading at 510 nm. The total flavonoids content of each extract of the four varieties of *Fd* were expressed in mg catechin/g extract or (mg CE/g extract). Table 1 shows the TFC of extracts of the plant varieties. The leaf extract of *Fdvd* showed the highest TFC (362.25 mg CE/g extract) followed by *Fdvi* (63.25 mg CE/g extract), *Fdvk* (52.65 mg CE/g extract), and *Fdva* (26.6 mg CE/g extract). The TFC values of the fig extract were exhibited in following order: *Fdvd* > *Fdvi* > *Fdva* > *Fdvk*. Among the varieties, *Fdvi* and *Fdvd* showed high TFC compared to *Fdvk* and *Fdva*. Furthermore, the fig extract of each variety showed higher TFC compared to the leaf extract. The TFC value for the leaf extract of *Fdvd* was more than five-fold higher than *Fdvi*. However, for the fig extract, the TFC value of *Fdvd* was only nearly two-fold the value of *Fdvi*.

[38] studied the content of flavonoids in the aqueous leaf extract of *Fdva* and *Fdvd* using colorimetric assay. The authors found that the TFC of the aqueous leaf extract of *Fdvd* was higher than the value for *Fdva* with 42.63 and 27.35 mg quercetin/g extract, respectively. Their results showed the same trend as found in our study (89.75 and 61.10 mg GAE/g extract for *Fdvd* and *Fdva*, respectively) with TFC value of *Fdvd* about 1.5 times higher than *Fdva*. The TFC values of the aqueous extracts of previous studies may be different with our study due to the employment of quercetin as a standard instead of catechin.

Table 1. Total Flavonoids Content of Aqueous Extracts of Four *Fd* Varieties

<i>Fd</i> Variety	Part	TFC (mg CE/g extract)
<i>Fdvk</i>	Leaf	52.65 <sup>a</sup>
	Fig	178.10 <sup>a</sup>
<i>Fdva</i>	Leaf	26.60 <sup>b</sup>
	Fig	183.90 <sup>b</sup>
<i>Fdvd</i>	Leaf	362.30 <sup>a</sup>
	Fig	742.60 <sup>b</sup>
<i>Fdvi</i>	Leaf	63.25 <sup>b</sup>
	Fig	357.60 <sup>a</sup>

Value was expressed in mean ± standard deviation (SD), (n =3); Pearson correlation: <sup>a</sup>p<0.05; <sup>b</sup>p<0.01





As shown in Table 2, among the extracts tested, the leaf and fig extracts of *Fdvd* and the fig extract of *Fdvi* were found to be strong free radical scavengers with  $IC_{50}$  values of 15.6, 7.8 and 7.8  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ , respectively. However, only moderate radical scavenging activity was found for the leaf extract of *Fdvi* with an  $IC_{50}$  value of 31.3  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  consistent with its TFC value, which is more than five times lower than its fig extract. The DPPH radical scavenging activity at most concentrations was found to correlate well with the TFC values. This is illustrated for the leaf and fig extract of *Fdvd* and *Fdvi* varieties at  $IC_{50}$  value of 3.9, 7.8 and 15.6  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  with values of the correlation coefficient ( $R^2$ ) of 0.6284. To date, no report has been found on the radical scavenging activity of the aqueous extract on any of the varieties of *Fd*. However, a study on methanolic extracts of *F.microcarpa* found DPPH radical scavenging activity of 7.3 and 21.4  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  of fruits and leaf, respectively [6]. These values are comparable to the values found in our study.

**Table 2. Radical Scavenging Activity (%) of the Varieties of *Fd***

<i>Fd</i> variety	Plant part	Sample concentrations							$IC_{50}$ ( $\mu\text{g/ml}$ )
		3.9 $\mu\text{g/ml}$	7.8 $\mu\text{g/ml}$	15.6 $\mu\text{g/ml}$	31.3 $\mu\text{g/ml}$	62.5 $\mu\text{g/ml}$	125 $\mu\text{g/ml}$	250 $\mu\text{g/ml}$	
<i>Fdvk</i>	Leaf	25.67	28.37	31.07	54.32	56.32	64.43	71.98	Na
	Fig	20.03	24.32	27.53	34.06	39.87	48.28	60.7	Na
<i>Fdva</i>	Leaf	28.67	35.76	38.94	52.96	55.96	59.56	73.18	Na
	Fig	25.86	37.97	46.74	49.43	50.08	52.42	56.54	Na
<i>Fdvd</i>	Leaf	18.54	41.18	51.11	73.51	74.5	76.23	82.04	15.6
	Fig	34.92	47.19	48.85	61.93	67.16	71.88	81.43	7.8
<i>Fdvi</i>	Leaf	19.99	44.46	55.03	75.52	77.18	78.59	80.17	31.3
	Fig	48.31	49.64	53.85	64.97	68.57	74.56	78.13	7.8
<i>*F.microcarpa</i>	Leaf								21.4
	Fruit								7.3
Quercetin		68.6	69.2	71.18	72.29	73	73.42	75.29	Nd
$\alpha$ -tocopherol		74.92	80.72	82.3	83.32	83.9	83.96	84.69	Nd

Value was expressed in mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (SD), ( $n = 3$ ). Na, Not active; Nd, Not detectable in experimental concentration range (3.9-250  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ ); strong radical scavenging activity, ( $IC_{50} < 30 \mu\text{g/ml}$ ); moderate radical scavenging activity, ( $30 \mu\text{g/ml} \leq IC_{50} \leq 100 \mu\text{g/ml}$ ); weak radical scavenging activity, ( $IC_{50} > 100 \mu\text{g/ml}$ ) [1].

\*The  $IC_{50}$  values found in methanolic extract of *Ficus microcarpa* [6].

### 3.2 Identification of Compounds Present in the Aqueous Leaf and Fig Extracts of Four Varieties of *Fd*

The leaf and fig aqueous extracts of the four varieties of *Fd* were analyzed by gradient reverse phase liquid chromatography (LC) with Q-TOF MS detection. The identification was confirmed by internal and external standards. In this study, five flavonoid compounds detected were epicatechin, quercetin-3-rutinoside, myricetin, naringenin and quercetin 5,4'-di-O-beta-D-glucopyranoside using LCMS-Q-TOF via HCA technique (Table 3).

**Table 3. Mass Spectral Characteristics and Identity of Compounds Present in the Aqueous Extracts of Four Varieties of *Fd***

Peak	$t_R$ (min)	Compound	$[M+H]^+$ ( $m/z$ )
1	6.747	<i>Epicatechin</i> [ $C_{15} H_{14} O_6$ , db=95.57, overall=95.57, KEGG ID=C09727, CAS ID=490-46-0]	291.0868
2	9.361	Quercetin-3-rutinoside [ $C_{27} H_{30} O_{16}$ , db=83.99, overall=83.99, KEGG ID=C05625, CAS ID=153-18-4]	611.1611
3	9.377	Quercetin 5,4'-di-O-beta-D-glucopyranoside [ $C_{27} H_{30} O_{17}$ , tgt=61.06]	627.1587
4	9.553	Myricetin [ $C_{15} H_{10} O_8$ , db=88.79, overall=88.79, KEGG ID=C10107, CAS ID=529-44-2]	319.0435
5	16.062	Naringenin [ $C_{15} H_{12} O_5$ , db=79.39, overall=79.39, KEGG ID=C00509, CAS ID=480-41-1]	273.0770

$t_R$ , retention time;  $[M+H]^+$ , positively charged molecular ion

A study by [22] on boiled aqueous extract of *Fd* (the variety is not specified) collected from a local market in Pahang, Malaysia had identified flavonoids such as catechin, *epicatechin*, gallicocatechin and *epigallocatechin* using High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) amongst other flavonoid glycosides. The reported quantities were 98, 89, 44 and 87  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ , for catechin, *epicatechin*, gallicocatechin and *epigallocatechin* respectively. However, in our study, we were not able to detect catechin, gallicocatechin or *epigallocatechin* in any of the four varieties. Internal standards were used to confirm their absence. This might be due to differences in the origin of the sample and the method of extraction. Furthermore our method employed 60°C as the extracting temperature while [22] employed a temperature of 100°C to extract the secondary metabolites.

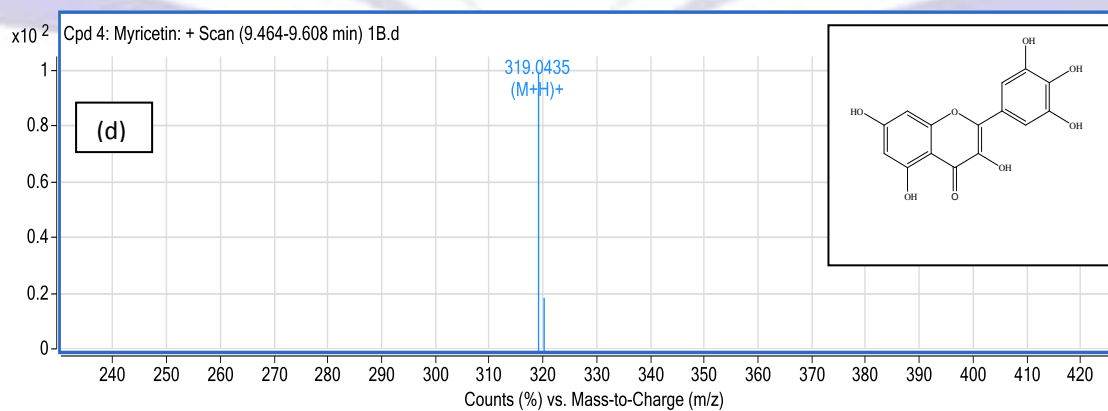
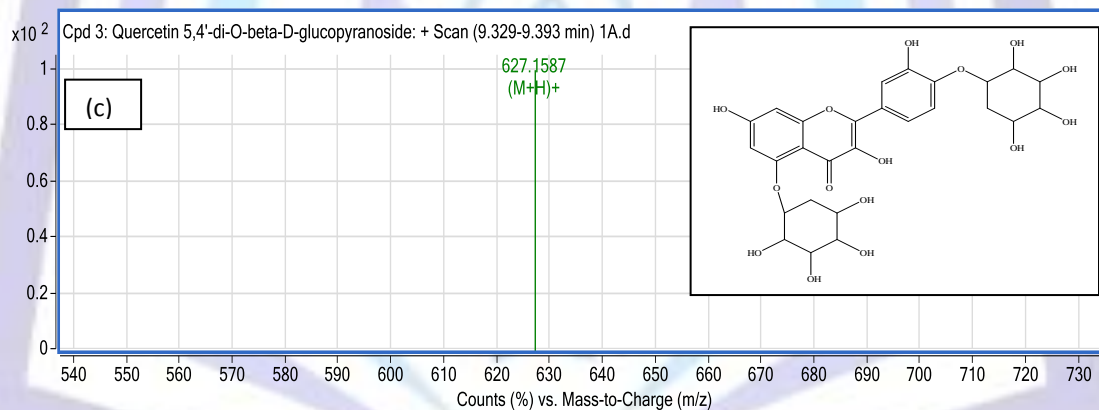
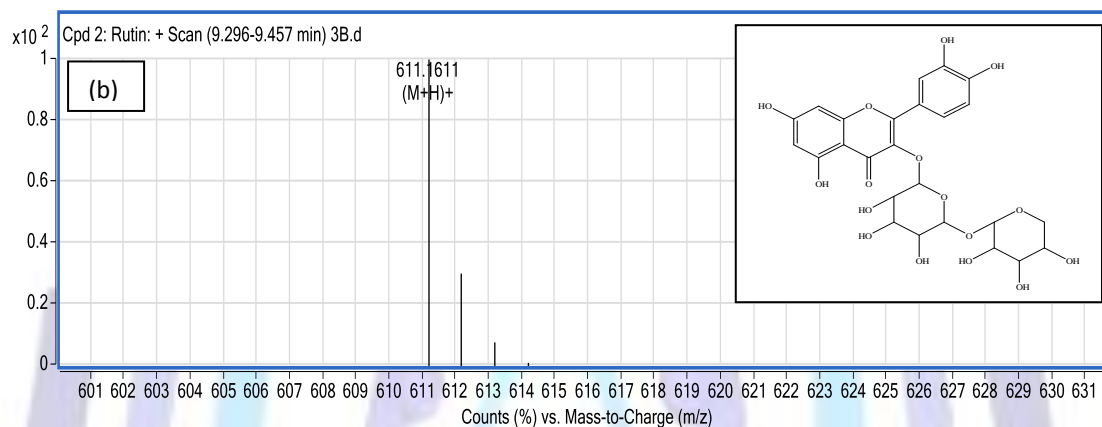
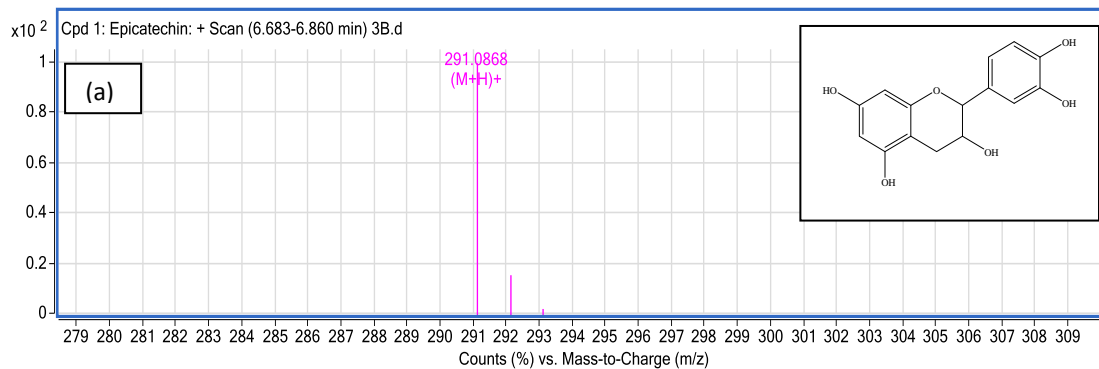
Peak 1 ( $t_R$ , 6.747 min;  $[M+H]^+$  at  $m/z$ , 291.0868) was identified as *epicatechin* as shown in spectrum Fig. 1(a) and confirmed by comparison with standard. *Epicatechin* is a flavan-3-ol belonging to catechin family and can be found in natural products or medicinal herbs. It commonly exists in monomeric and oligomeric forms [21]. Employing the DPPH method, [22] had identified 18% antioxidant activity of *epicatechin* ( $t_R$ , 19.4 min;  $m/z$ , 289  $[M-H]^-$ ) in the aqueous infusion of leaf of *Fd*. It showed a strong fluorescent peak using HPLC-PDA-MS<sup>2</sup>, which gave rise to MS<sup>2</sup> ions at  $m/z$  245, 205, and 179. Their results were confirmed by co-chromatography with an authentic standard and it indicates that *epicatechin* found in *Fd* may be utilized as a potential antioxidant. Similarly, [6] also used DPPH method and found that *epicatechin* from the ethyl acetate fraction of aerial root and bark of *Ficus microcarpa* exhibited excellent antioxidant activity.

As shown in Fig. 1(b), peak 2 ( $t_R$ , 9.361 min) indicated the presence of rutin (quercetin-3-rutinoside)  $[M+H]^+$  at  $m/z$  611.1611. Rutin is a flavonol and comprises quercetin and the disaccharide rutinose [35]. The first documented report on flavonoids profiling in different varieties of the hot and cold aqueous extracts of *Fd* leaf namely *Fdvk* and *Fdva* by [14] using reversed-phase HPLC reported a higher rutin content in *Fdvk* compared to *Fdva*. In contrast, the results obtained in our study indicated that the content of rutin in the aqueous extracts of *Fdvk* is similar to *Fdva* based on the dendrogram shown in Fig. 3. A study by [24] found that rutin have beneficial effect on spatial memory along with the concentration of brain neurotransmitters in aged rats. Rutin also showed antidiabetic potential in streptozotocin-induced diabeticistar rats as reported by [18].

Peak 3 ( $t_R$ , 9.377 min) had a  $[M+H]^+$  at  $m/z$  627.1587 and was identified as quercetin 5,4'-di-O-beta-D-glucopyranoside as shown in Fig. 1(c). [19] had earlier reported a relative molecular mass of 626 for the compound from its FD-MS spectrum. Its aglycone, quercetin has often been proven by *in vitro* tests to act as a powerful antioxidant. The compound being a major constituent of the flavonoid intake, has been suggested to be a key in fighting several chronic degenerative diseases. It also exhibited a marked neuroprotective effect in *in vitro* experiments and this is mainly explained by its antioxidant capacity and ability to scavenge free radicals [11]. To date, there has been no comparative study reported on the quercetin or quercetin derivatives from the four varieties of *Fd*.

Peak 4 ( $t_R$ , 9.553 min) showed an  $m/z$  319.0435 corresponding to  $[M+H]^+$  and was identified as myricetin as shown in Fig. 1(d). Myricetin (3,3',4',5,5',7-hexahydroxyflavone) is a natural flavonol with hydroxyl substitutions at the 3,3',4',5,5' and 7 positions [34]. A study by [8] had reported the myricetin capacity in protecting PC12 cells from oxidative insult ( $H_2O_2$ ) and at the same time, it increases the cell survival. A study by [32] found myricetin as the major flavonoid in the ethanolic leaf extract of *Ficus carica* using reversed-phase HPLC and analyzed by UV/Vis array and electrospray ionization (ESI)-mass spectrometry (MS) detectors. Interestingly, [22] who studied *Fd* did not find myricetin in the aqueous extract. There has also been no other report on its detection from any variety of *Fd* species.

Peak 5 ( $t_R$ , 16.013;  $m/z$ , 273.0770) was identified as naringenin as shown by Fig. 1(e). Naringenin (4',5,7-trihydroxyflavanone) is also known as aglycone of naringin and classified as a flavanone [23]. Naringenin extracted from the methanol leaf extract of *F. benjamina* was also reported to possess cytotoxicity against T-lymphoblastic leukemia (CEM-SS) cell line [5]. To date, there has been no report on the isolation or detection of this compound from *Fd* species.



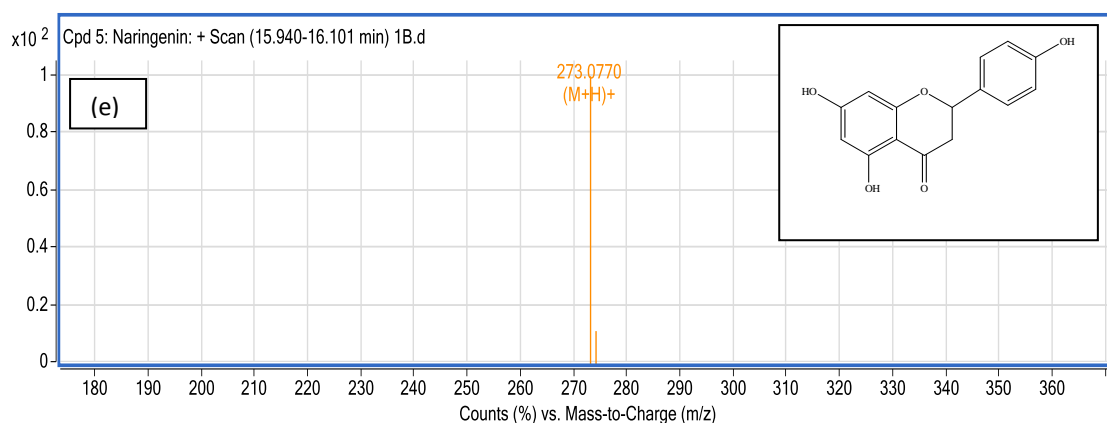


Fig. 1. LCMS Q-TOF Spectrum of (a) *epicatechin*, (b) *quercetin-3-rutinoside*, (c) *quercetin 5,4'-di-O-beta-D-glucopyranoside*, (d) *myricetin*, (e) *naringenin*

### 3.3 Hierarchical Cluster Analysis (HCA) of Aqueous Leaf and Fig Extracts of Four Varieties of *Fd*

HCA is the most popular clustering technique to evaluate the quality of the medicinal plants [17] and it is a simple method of grouping a set of available data based on their similarities [30]. The presentation of HCA results as a dendrogram makes it such a way the relationships can be more readily visualized. In this study, HCA using Euclidean distances and average linkage method was used for clustering its ability to separate the data into four clusters. In the dendrogram shown in Table 3, the horizontal axis represents the plant parts of the varieties while the vertical axis represents the flavonoids obtained. The clusters were classified and numbered as follows: (I) fig of *Fdva* and *Fdvk*, (II) fig of *Fdvd* and *Fdvi*, (III) leaf of *Fdvd* and (IV) leaf of *Fdva*, *Fdvi* and *Fdvk*. The identified flavonoids in this study were *epicatechin*, *quercetin-3-rutinoside*, *quercetin 5,4'-di-O-beta-D-glucopyranoside*, *myricetin* and *naringenin* (as listed in Table 1) were grouped based on their distribution values (0.14, 0.31 and 0.55) as shown in Fig. 2.

In the first (I) cluster, the flavonoid *quercetin-3-rutinoside* showed the highest intensity in the fig extracts of *Fdva* and *Fdvk* and low intensity of *epicatechin*, *quercetin 5,4'-di-O-beta-D-glucopyranoside* and *naringenin*. In contrast, the flavonoids *epicatechin* and *quercetin 5,4'-di-O-beta-D-glucopyranoside* exhibited the highest intensity in the fig of *Fdvd* and *Fdvi* while *naringenin* showed the lowest intensity in the second (II) cluster. The leaf of *Fdvd* was grouped alone in the third (III) cluster with the highest intensity of *epicatechin* and the other four flavonoids namely *quercetin-3-rutinoside*, *quercetin 5,4'-di-O-beta-D-glucopyranoside*, *myricetin* and *naringenin* were indicated by low intensity. In the fourth (IV) cluster, the flavonoid *naringenin* exhibited the highest intensity in the leaf of *Fdvk* while low intensity can be observed in the distribution of *epicatechin*, *quercetin-3-rutinoside*, *quercetin 5,4'-di-O-beta-D-glucopyranoside* and *myricetin*.

To the best of our knowledge, no comparative study regarding this analysis of plant parts of the aqueous extracts of the four varieties of *Fd* has been documented. In addition, the distribution and intensity of flavonoid constituents in the aqueous leaf and fig extracts of the four varieties were seen to be consistent with their radical scavenging activities as measured by the DPPH assay. Both *Fdvd* and *Fdvi* (leaf and fig extracts) exhibited strong antioxidant potential which may be related to the high amount of *epicatechin*, in this plant variety. A study by [16] had reported the scavenging activity of hydroxyl groups present on ring B of flavonoids, specifically the structure 3'-4' catechol (catechol moiety). The presence of a hydroxyl group in position 3 added to the catechol structure of flavonoid (as shown in Fig. 3) was found to increase ten-fold scavenger activity towards free radicals.



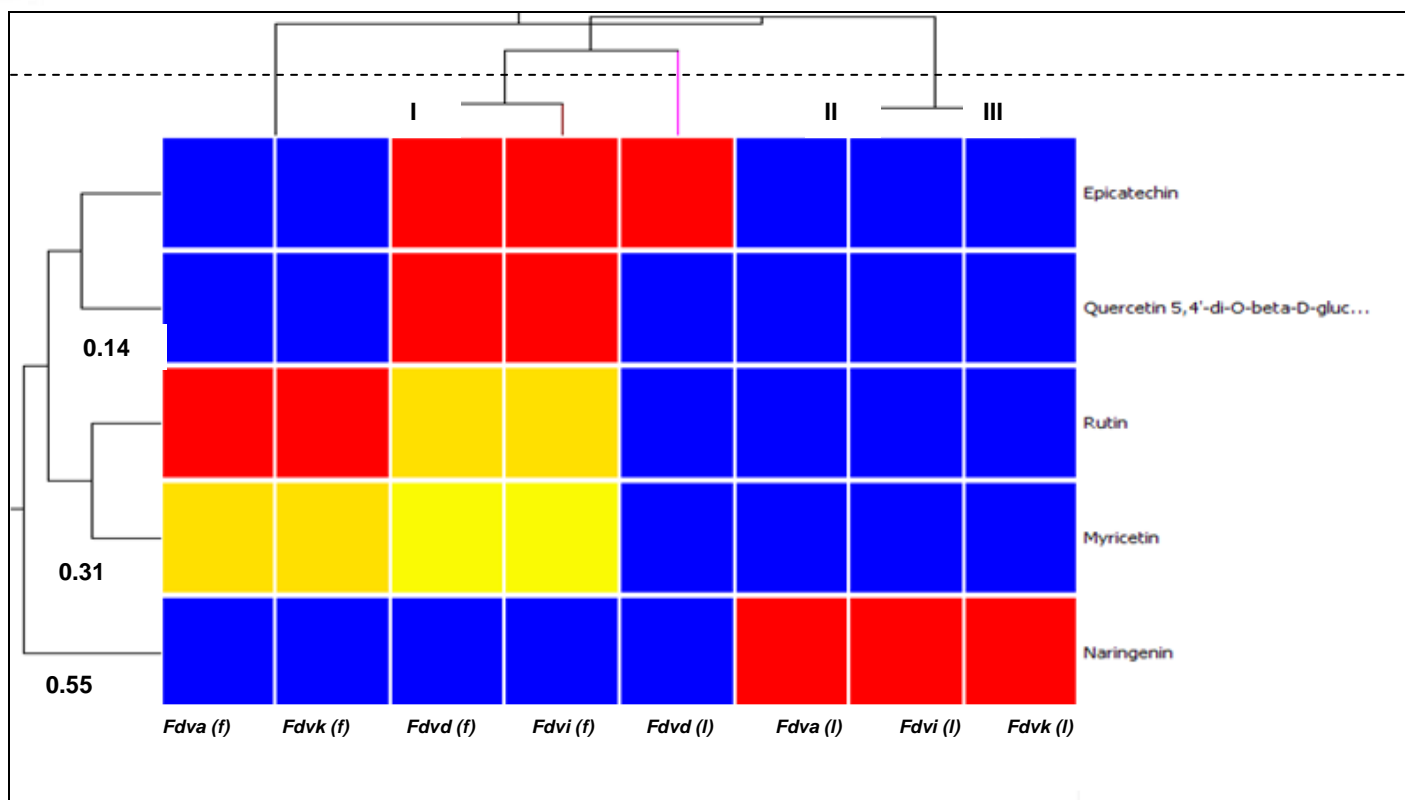


Fig. 2. HCA Dendrogram of the Compounds from the Aqueous Leaves and Figs Extracts of the Four Varieties of *Fd*

l=leaves; f=figs

Legend - Hierarchical Combined Tree on type of plant - plant part

Color range

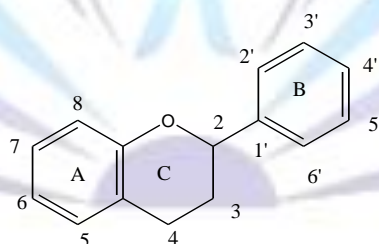
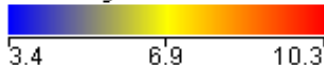


Fig. 3. General Structure of Flavonoid

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Flavonoid profiling of the *Fd* extracts using LCMS Q-TOF followed by HCA clustering generated a dendrogram representing four clusters of flavonoids distribution in the eight samples, which were grouped based on their distribution values represented by colour intensity. The identified flavonoids were *epicatechin*, *myricetin* and *naringenin* along with two flavonoid glucosides identified as *quercetin 5,4'-di-O-beta-D-glucopyranoside* and *quercetin-3-rutinoside*. Except for *epicatechin*, the other four flavonoids have not been reported to occur in any *Fd* species. A high amount of *epicatechin* found in *Fdvd (leaf and fig) and Fdvi (fig)* may be responsible for the strong radical scavenging activities found in the





extract. This is also supported by our previous study which found strong antioxidant and neuroprotective effects for the same two plant varieties [10].

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