

SOLID PHASE EXTRACTION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF RUTIN FROM
LABISIA PUMILA VAR. *ALATA*

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A thesis submitted in fulfillment of the
requirements for the award of the degree of
Master of Engineering (Bioprocess)

Faculty of Chemical Engineering
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

MAY 2015

Dedicated to beloved Abah, Ummi, Nenek, Afiq, Arif, Amiruddin, Anis, Adnim, Aminul
Hakim and Akmal Salihin.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful. All praises to Allah for the strengths and His blessing in completing this thesis.

I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude and deep regards to my supervisor, Dr. Chua Lee Suan and my co-supervisor, Prof. Dr. Mohd. Roji Sarmidi for their exemplary guidance, monitoring and constant encouragement throughout the course of this thesis. The blessing, help and guidance given by them time to time have contributed to the success of this study.

I also would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to all of the office staffs and technicians of Institute of Bioproduct Development (IBD) for their pleasant support, good cooperation and valuable information and guidance during the period of my laboratory works. A special thanks goes to all my friends; especially my best friends and colleagues, who give me constant encouragement during my study.

Last but not least, my deepest gratitude goes to my beloved parents; Mr. Ruzlan Bin Mat Jusoh and Mrs. Sakinah Binti Hassan, my grandparents; Mr.Hassan and Mrs. Eshah and also to my siblings for their endless love, prayers and encouragement. To those who indirectly contributed in this research, your kindness means a lot to me. Thank you very much.

ABSTRACT

Rutin is one of the glycosylated flavonoids which is widely investigated by researchers from buckwheat samples due to its biological activities, including antioxidant activity. Interestingly, rutin was also found in *L. pumila* var. *Alata* extract, particularly from the leaves of the plants (0.85 mg of rutin/ g of leaves). This study focused on the optimization of methanolic solvent system for rutin elution from the crude extract of *Labisia pumila* var. *Alata* using C₁₈ reversed phase solid phase extraction (SPE). The rutin fraction was identified and characterised by using thin layer chromatography (R_f 0.49) and UV-Vis spectrophotometry (285 nm). The presence of rutin was further confirmed and quantified by using a liquid chromatography integrated with tandem mass spectrometer based on rutin ion transition (m/z 609 > 301) in the negative mode of targeted analysis. Methanolic extraction (60% methanol) was found to increase the rutin content (0.14% w/w) in the crude extract. Fractionation of the crude extract using 80% methanol as the solvent system had further increased the rutin content to 1.31% w/w. The fractionation was carried out in a laboratory scale SPE system using C₁₈ packed column with the minimum volume of solvent usage (20 mL) with high yield of recovery (76.88%). The rutin fraction (IC₅₀ 800 ppm) also exhibited 9.5 times lower scavenging activity than ascorbic acid (IC₅₀ 84 ppm) and 6.6 times lower scavenging activity than standard rutin (IC₅₀ 122 ppm). However, it showed 1.9 times higher scavenging activity than crude extract (IC₅₀ 1500 ppm). A three-layer artificial neural network (ANN) model was developed to predict the yield of rutin based on the polarity of solvent system and volume of eluent. This ANN model produced a good prediction of the experimental data with a correlation coefficient of (R²) 0.9998 and 1.0 for training and testing data, respectively. As a conclusion, a laboratory scale SPE system for rutin elution from the crude extract of *L. pumila* var. *Alata* has been established in the current study.

ABSTRAK

Rutin ialah salah satu flavonoid terglukosilat yang banyak dijumpai di dalam gandum hitam dan dikaji secara meluas oleh penyelidik-penyelidik kerana ia mempunyai aktiviti biologi yang signifikan, termasuk aktiviti antioksidan. Menariknya, rutin juga boleh dijumpai di dalam ekstrak *L. pumila* var. *Alata*, khususnya daripada daun pokok (0.85 mg rutin/ g daun). Kajian ini dijalankan untuk menentukan sistem pelarut metanol yang optima bagi rutin daripada ekstrak mentah *Labisia pumila* var. *Alata* menggunakan C₁₈ fasa berbalik pengekstrakan fasa pepejal (SPE). Pecahan rutin telah dikenalpasti dan disifatkan ciri-cirinya dengan menggunakan kromatografi lapisan nipis (R_f 0.49) dan UV-Vis spektrofotometri (285 nm). Kehadiran rutin seterusnya disahkan dan ditentukan kuantitinya menggunakan kromatografi cecair dengan spektrometer jisim berdasarkan peralihan ion target (m/z 609 > 301) di dalam mod negatif. Pengekstrakan menggunakan metanol (60% metanol) telah meningkatkan kandungan rutin (0.14% w/w) di dalam ekstrak mentah. Pemeringkatan ekstrak mentah menggunakan 80% metanol sebagai sistem pelarut telah meningkatkan lagi kandungan rutin kepada 1.31% w/w. Pemeringkatan telah dijalankan menggunakan sistem SPE skala makmal (1000 mg) dengan C₁₈ kolum padat dengan penggunaan isipadu yang minima (20 mL) dan hasil yang tinggi (76.88%). Pecahan rutin (IC₅₀ 800 ppm) menunjukkan 9.5 kali aktiviti memerangkap lebih rendah berbanding asid askorbik (IC₅₀ 84 ppm) dan 6.6 kali aktiviti memerangkap lebih rendah berbanding standard rutin (IC₅₀ 122 ppm). Walau bagaimanapun ia menghasilkan 1.9 kali lebih tinggi aktiviti memerangkap berbanding ekstrak mentah (IC₅₀ 1500 ppm). Model rangkaian neural network (ANN) tiga-lapisan telah dibangunkan untuk meramalkan hasil rutin berdasarkan polariti sistem pelarut dan isipadu bahan pengelusi. Model ANN ini menunjukkan ramalan data eksperimen yang tepat dengan pekali korelasi sebanyak 0.9998 and 1.0 untuk data latihan dan ujikaji. Kesimpulannya, sistem SPE pada skala makmal untuk rutin daripada ekstrak mentah *L. pumila* var. *Alata* telah dibangunkan dalam kajian ini.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABTS	-	2, 2'-azinobis (3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonate)
ANN	-	Artificial Neural Network
CAA	-	Cellular Antioxidant Activity
DPPH	-	1, 1-Diphenyl-2-Picrylhydrazyl
DMPD	-	N, N-Dimethyl-p-Phenylenediamine
DNA	-	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
DW	-	Dry Weight
ECL	-	Enhanced Chemiluminescence
ESI	-	Electrospray Ionization
ET	-	Electron Transfer
FRAP	-	Ferric Ion Reducing Antioxidant Parameter
GAE	-	Gallic Acid Equivalent
GC	-	Gas Chromatography
HAT	-	Hydrogen Atom Transfer Reactions
HPLC	-	High Performance Liquid Chromatography
HPTLC	-	High Performance Thin Layer Chromatography
IOU	-	Inhibited Oxygen Uptake
IR	-	Infrared
LC-MS/MS	-	Liquid Chromatography Coupled With Tandem Mass Spectrometry
LDL	-	Low-Density Lipoprotein
LLE	-	Liquid-Liquid Extraction
LPIC	-	Lipid Peroxidation Inhibition Capacity
MARDI	-	Institute Penyelidikan Dan Kemajuan Pertanian Malaysia
MLP	-	Multi-Layer Perception

MS	-	Mass Spectrometry
MSE	-	Mean Squared Error
N	-	Number of Points
NADPH	-	Nicotinamide Adenine Dinucleotidephosphate
NN	-	Neural Network
ORAC	-	Oxygen Radical Absorption Capacity
p-NDA	-	p-Butrisidunethyl Aniline
R	-	Alkyl Group
RE	-	Rutin Equivalent
RNA	-	Ribonucleic Acid
ROS	-	Reactive Oxygen Species
RSM	-	Response Surface Methodology
SASA	-	Scavenging Of Super Oxide Radical Formation By Alkaline
SD	-	Standard Deviation
SLE	-	Solid-Liquid Extraction
SPE	-	Solid Phase Extraction
TEAC	-	Trolox Equivalent Antioxidant Capacity
TLC	-	Thin Layer Chromatography
TOSC	-	Total Oxidant Scavenging Capacity
TRAP	-	Total Radical Trapping Antioxidant Parameter
UPLC	-	Ultra Performance Liquid Chromatography
USA	-	United State of America
UV	-	Ultraviolet
UV-B	-	Ultraviolet B
UV-Vis	-	Ultraviolet-Visible
V	-	Volume
AlCl ₃	-	Aluminium Chloride
C ₀	-	Initial Concentration
C _e	-	Equilibrium Concentration
Fl	-	Flavonoids
H ₂ O ₂	-	Hydrogen Peroxide
MeOH	-	Methanol
q _e	-	Adsorption Capacity

R_f	-	Retention Factor
Y_t	-	Target Output
Y_N	-	Network Output
Y_m	-	Average of Actual Values
$\bullet\text{OH}$	-	Hydroxyl Radical

LIST OF SYMBOLS

A	-	Absorbance
%	-	Percentage
°C	-	Degree of Celsius
µg	-	Microgram
µl	-	Microliter
µm	-	Micrometer
cm	-	Centimeter
Fe	-	Iron
g	-	Gram
g/L	-	Gram per liter
g/mol	-	Gram per mol
h	-	Hour
kg	-	Kilogram
m	-	Meter
mg	-	Milligram
mg/cm ³	-	Milligram per cubic centimeter
mg/g	-	Milligram per gram
mg/L	-	Milligram per liter
MΩ-cm	-	Mega ohm centimeter
m/z	-	Mass per ratio
min	-	Minutes

ml	-	Milliliter
mm	-	Millimeter
nm	-	Nanometer
ppm	-	Part per million
R^2	-	Coefficient of determination
rpm	-	Revolution per minute

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Kacip Fatimah or scientifically known as *Labisia pumila* is a herbaceous plant that commonly found in Malaysia, Indochina and Thailand. *L. pumila* is also sometimes referred as Selusoh Fatimah, Rumput Siti Fatimah, Akar Fatimah, Tadah Matahari, Bunga Belangkas Hutan, Pokok Pinggang (Burkill, 1935; Jamia *et al.*; 2003; Rasadah and Zanon; 2003), Mata Pelanduk rimba and Sangkoh (Abdullah *et al.*, 2013). Kacip Fatimah is the second most popular herb in Malaysia as it is known as the queen of plants for women health. This herb is mainly categorized into three types of varieties such as *L. pumila* var. *Alata*, *L. pumila* var. *Pumila* and *L. pumila* var. *Lanceolata* (Ibrahim *et al.*, 2011). Each variety has different characteristics and pharmacological activities.

Herbal plants were reported containing abundant of bioactive compounds from the group of saponins, steroids and flavonoids (Norhaiza *et al.*, 2009). This herb was approved among scientists, herbalists and the pharmacy industry in Malaysia as it gives therapeutical effects and high total contents of phenolic and flavonoids compounds (Jaafar *et al.*, 2012). *Labisia pumila* (*Myrsinaceae*) is a popular herb among Malaysian to contain bioactive compounds such as alkenyl resorcinol, flavonoids and benzoquinones (Jaafar *et al.*, 2008). Recently, researchers

also have verified that Kacip Fatimah has high estrogenic activity and high amount of phenolics (Jamia *et al.*, 2004).

Rutin is one of the polyphenolic compounds found in *L. pumila* var. *Alata*, which is also biologically active compound. Even though rutin is not classified as vitamin, it is recognized as vitamin P (Guo *et al.*, 2007). Rutin exhibits anti-inflammatory, anti-hepatotoxic, antiulcer, anti-allergic and antiviral activities, as well as protection against cardiovascular mortality (Smith *et al.*, 1980; Hertog *et al.*, 1993; Sajeeth *et al.*, 2010). Apart from that, rutin are believed to play an important role in strengthening blood vessels. Moreover, rutin is also used to prevent side effects of cancer treatment called mucositis. Mucositis is a painful condition marked by swelling and ulcer formation in the mouth or lining of the digestive tract (Odetti *et al.*, 2009).

Nowadays, the interest to obtain biologically active compound from natural product is in the increasing trend. It is believed that phytochemicals from plant materials have lesser side effect compared to the chemically synthesized drug. In the present study, rutin was extracted and fractionated from *L. pumila* var. *Alata*. The method of solid phase extraction (SPE) was implemented. The solvent system for rutin elution was optimized based on the polarity between stationary phase of chromatographic column and solvent system. For better understanding the mechanism of rutin elution, a mathematical model based on the polarity of solvent system was used.

Since rutin has unique characteristic in anti-oxidation, DPPH antioxidant assay was carried out to monitor the elution profile of *L. pumila* var. *Alata* fractions from SPE column. As reported earlier by Ibrahim and Jaafar (2011), the antioxidant activity determined by the 1,1- diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) assay, as well as the total amount of phenolics and flavonoids were the highest in the leaves of all of *L. pumila* varieties. Hence, DPPH was used to determine the antioxidant quality of extracts and rutin fraction.

1.2 Problem Statement

Rutin is one of the flavonoids highly applied in pharmaceutical and food industries due to its biological and pharmacological properties, particularly the antioxidant activity (Atanassova and Bagdassarian, 2009). The extraction method has extensively been studied by researchers on buckwheat herb as it has considerable amounts of rutin (Kreft *et al.*, 2003; Hinnerburg and Neubert, 2005). However, no specific extraction method for rutin from *L. pumila* var. *Alata* is studied in detail. Hence, this study was conducted to investigate and to characterize rutin content in the leaves of *L. pumila* var. *Alata*. In the previous study, methanolic solvent was reported to be effective for rutin extraction (Paniwnyk *et al.*, 2001). This study is important for large scale rutin extraction since it has significant pharmacological activity.

It was found that mostly phytochemical extraction was based on liquid – liquid extraction using different types of solvents. The choice of solvent for extraction is highly dependent on the chemistry of target compound. In the present study, solid – liquid phase extraction was employed because it is considered as safer, cost effective and environmental friendly method (McDonald, 1995). Many problems associated with liquid-liquid extraction such as incomplete phase separations, less quantitative recovery, more expensive and the disposal of large quantity of organic solvents occur from that extraction have driven the researchers to use solid-liquid extraction (Lucci *et al.*, 2012).

In addition, rutin also has been reported to exhibit anti-oxidation activity to protect human dermal fibroblast from cell damage triggered by ultraviolet irradiation (Choi *et al.*, 2010). Therefore, the antioxidant properties of rutin were also determined by measuring free radical scavenging activity (1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl, DPPH). Previously, anti-oxidation studies were focused on the crude extract of *L. pumila* var. *Alata*. To our knowledge, no antioxidant assay is performed on the plant fraction enriched with rutin. Besides that, rutin was characterized and analysed based on thin layer chromatography (TLC), UV-Vis spectrophotometer and liquid chromatography coupled with tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) profile.

1.3 Significance of Study

It is expected that the optimization study of rutin fraction from *L. pumila* var. *Alata* crude extract by SPE will affirm good extraction efficiency. SPE method is an increasingly useful sample preparation technique as it is easy to perform, rapid, reliable and can be automated (Bodennec *et al.*, 2000). Moreover, the solvent used and laboratory time also can be reduced. Besides, SPE column is excellent for sample extraction, concentration and clean up.

As the general public becomes more health-conscious, they have also become more aware of the significance of good nutrition. Rutin from natural source is of great interest due to the highly demand in the pharmaceutical industries, as well as food industries. People believe that rutin from herbal and medicinal plants can give beneficial effects to the health due to lesser side effects and its promising health values.

1, 1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) assay was used to analyze antioxidant activity of rutin fraction. DPPH is preferable due to its cost efficiency method to analyze antioxidant activity. This assay also contributes to good reproducibility of results (Prior *et al.*, 2005).

A mathematical model was used to describe the effect of solvent polarity on the rutin elution. This mathematical model is also very important because it can facilitate the purification process of rutin from the crude extract. This model can be used to predict the yield percent of rutin fraction in the subsequent study.

1.4 Objective

The objective of this research was to establish the optimum polarity of solvent system in solid phase extraction for rutin fraction from the crude extract of *L. pumila* var. *Alata*.

1.5 Scope

The four major scopes in this study include:

- i. To determine the optimum solvent polarity and volume of eluent in solid phase extraction for rutin fraction based on solvent selection from *L. pumila* var. *Alata* crude extract.
- ii. To characterize and quantify rutin fraction based on Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC), UV-Vis spectrophotometer and Liquid Chromatography Coupled with Tandem Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) data.
- iii. To investigate the antioxidant activity of rutin fraction using DPPH assay.
- iv. To evaluate extraction efficiency of rutin elution based on the polarity of solvent system using Artificial Neural Network (ANN).

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