STUDIES OF WATER-SOLUBLE EXTRACT OF *LABISIA PUMILA* VAR. *ALATA* OF SELECTED GEOGRAPHIC ORIGINS

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ABSTRACT

Labisia pumila (Myrsinaceae) or "kacip Fatimah", is traditionally used in Malay traditional medicine in the form of decoction as postpartum tonic. Today, it is sold as functional food and beverage in response to consumer interest in its potential health benefits. However, nutrient data on this plant, for example, remains scarce. The aim of this research project was to determine the properties and attributes of water-soluble extracts of Labisia pumila var. alata to reveal its potential health benefits as functional food and beverage. The nutrient composition, total phenolic content, total flavanoid content and antioxidant activities of LP of various sources, viz., Malaysian and Indonesian origins, were studied to determine the source with specific properties and attributes. PLS and PCA were then used to classify and to understand the correlation between total solid, total acidity, and solubility in cold and hot water, proximate properties, minerals, heavy metals, total phenolic content, and antioxidant activities of Labisia pumila var. alata leaves (LP) due to geographic origin. Based on results obtained, there were no significant difference in yield, total solid, total acidity, and solubility in cold and hot water of lyophilized LP extract due to geographic origin (p>0.05). The extract from Halimun-Salak Mountain, Bogor (LPB) was found to have the highest pH content. LPT was found to have the highest gallic acid value (1.86%), total phenolic content (140.49 mg GAE/g lyophilized plant material), antioxidant activity (FRAP) (17.57 mg GAE/g lyophilized plant material), DPPH(EC50) (78.79 µg/mL), protein (9.87±0.18 %), moisture (10.11±0.06 %), mineral Na (20.20 mg/100 g), K (1128 mg/100 g), Mg (476.1 mg/100g), and Zn (2.32 mg/100 g). The highest values of Ca and Fe were for LP from Pahang (LPR) at 265.8 mg/100g Ca and 41.61 mg/100g Fe, respectively. There was a significant difference (p<0.05) between lyophilized extracts of various geographic origins and proximate content, mineral and heavy metals composition, and antioxidant activities. The PCA models showed data correlated with of Labisia pumila var. alata of various geographic origins and proximate composition, mineral and heavy metals composition, and antioxidant activity. The first two factors (F1 and F2) accounted for 61.25% and 20.48%. The factors loading of F1 had a positive correlation with antioxidant activities (FRAP and DPPH), total phenolic content, moisture, and crude fiber. The strong positive loadings of F2 were total flavonoid content and lipid content. The cluster centroid in cluster analysis (CA) resulted in four groups of Labisia pumila var. alata samples based on geographic origins.

vi



ABSTRAK

Labisia pumila (Myrsinaceae) atau "kacip Fatimah", digunakan secara meluas di dalam perubatan tradisional Melayu dalam bentuk rebusan sebagai tonik selepas bersalin. Ketika ini, Labisia pumila var. alata dikomersilkan sebagai makanan dan minuman berfungsi memandangkan ianya mempunyai potensi dan memberi manfaat terhadap kesihatan. Bagaimanapun, sehingga hari ini data nutrisi bagi tumbuhan ini masih belum lengkap. Tujuan projek penyelidikan ini adalah untuk mengkaji ciriciri dan sifat-sifat ekstrak larut air dari Labisia pumila var. alata dalam merungkai manfaat kesihatan dan potensinya sebagai makanan dan minuman berfungsi. Komposisi nutrisi, jumlah kandungan fenolik, jumlah kandungan flavanoid dan aktiviti antioksidan daripada daun-daun Labisia pumila var. alata (LP) daripada kawasan-kawasan tertentu di dua negara berbeza iaitu Malaysia dan Indonesia telah dikaji. Part Least Square (PLS) dan principal component analysis (PCA) digunakan untuk mengelaskan dan memahami kaitan antara jumlah pepejal, jumlah keasidan, dan kelarutan dalam air sejuk dan panas, analisa proksimat, mineral, logam berat, jumlah kandungan fenolik, dan aktiviti antioksidan daripada LP di kedudukan geografi berbeza. Berdasarkan hasil analisis yang diperolehi, tidak terdapat perbezaan yang signifikan dalam hasil jumlah pepejal, jumlah keasidan, dan kelarutan dalam air sejuk dan panas dari ekstrak lyophilized LP berdasarkan lokasi geografi berbeza (p>0.05). LP dari Gunung Halimun-Salak, Bogor (LPB) didapati mempunyai kandungan pH tertinggi. Manakala LP dari Gunung Tilu, Bogor (LPT) didapati mempunyai kandungan tertinggi dalam hal jumlah gallic asid (1.86%), jumlah kandungan fenolik (140.49 mg GAE/g lyophilized LP), aktiviti antioksidan_(FRAP) (17.57 mg GAE/g lyophilized LP), DPPH_(EC50) (78.79 µg/mL), protein (9.87 \pm 0.18%), kandungan air (10.11 \pm 0.06%), mineral Na (20.20 mg/100 g), K (1128 mg/100 g), Mg (476.1 mg/100g), dan Zn (2.32 mg/100 g). Nilai tertinggi Ca dan Fe adalah daripada LP dari Pahang (LPR) dengan masing-masing memberi nilai Ca (265.8 mg/100g) dan Fe (41.61 mg/100g). Namun, terdapat perbezaan yang signifikan (p <0.05) antara ekstrak LP lyophilized daripada pelbagai kedudukan geografi berbeza dengan kandungan proximate, mineral, logam berat, dan aktiviti antioksidan. Model PCA menunjukkan terdapat kaitan antara Labisia pumila var.alata dari pelbagai kedudukan geografi dengan kandungan proximate, komposisi mineral dan logam berat, dan aktiviti antioxidant. Faktor pertama dan kedua (F1 dan F2) masing-masing menunjukkan nilai 61.25% dan 20.48% dimana F1 mewakili aktiviti antioksidan FRAP, DPPH, TPC, kandungan air, kandungan gallic asid, dan serat kasar; manakala F2 mewakili TFC dan kandungan lipid. Analisis kelompok (CA), sentroid, mengelaskan LP menjadi empat kumpulan sampel berdasarkan asal-usul geografi berbeza.





TABLE OF CONTENTS

	0
SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION	ii
STUDENT'S DECLARATION	iii
DEDICATION	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
ABSTRACT	vi
ABSTRAK	vii
TABLE OF CONTENT	viii
LIST OF TABLES	xiii
LIST OF FIGURES	xiv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xvi

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1	BACKGROUND	1
1.2	PROBLEM STATEMENT	2
1.3	RESEARCH AIM	3
1.4	RESEARCH OBJECTIVES	4

CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1	FUNCTI	ONAL FOOD AND ITS MARKET	5
2.2	LABISIA	PUMILA	7
	2.2.1	Botanical overview	7
	2.2.2	Distribution and growth habit of <i>Labisia pumila</i> (Myrsinaceae)	8
	2.2.3	Phytochemical and pharmacological studies	8
	2.2.4	Use of Labisia pumila in traditional medicine	9
	2.2.5	Biological variation	9
2.3		ERFORMANCE LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPHY IN CHEMICAL PROFILING	10

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Page

	2.3.1	High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)	10
	2.3.2	Method validation	12
		(i) Linearity(ii) Accuracy(iii) Precision	12 12 12
		(a) Repeatability(b) Intermediate precision	13 13
		(iv) Detection limit (LOD)(v) Quantization limit (LOQ)	13 13
2.4	PHYSIC	OCHEMICAL STUDY OF LABISIA PUMILA	14
	2.4.1 2.4.2 2.4.3	Gallic acid Separation methods Evaluation of physicochemical properties	15 16 17
2.5	ANALYS	SIS OF MINERALS AND HEAVY METALS	18
	2.5.1 2.5.2 2.5.3 2.5.4	Minerals and heavy metals Inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer Quantitative analysis Detection limits	18 19 20 21
2.6	ANTIOX	KIDANT	21
	2.6.1 2.6.2	DPPH free radical scavenging assay Ferric reducing antioxidant power (FRAP) assay	23 24

CHAPTER 3 MATERIALS AND METHODS

3.1	GENERAL		26
	3.1.1 3.1.2 3.1.3	Reagents and solvents Apparatus and instruments Plant materials	26 26 27
3.2	METHODS		27
	3.2.1 3.2.2 3.2.3	Sample preparation Preparation of LP sample for analysis Profiling and quantification of bioactive compounds	27 29 29
		 (i) Instrumentation (ii) HPLC operating conditions (iii) Sample preparation (iv) Preparation of gallic acid standard solution (v) Preparation of chlorogenic acid standard solution 	29 30 30 30 31

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ix

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3.2.4	Validation of liquid chromatography methods	31
	 (i) Linearity (ii) Precision (iii) Accuracy (iv) Limit of detection (LOD) and limit of quantization (LOQ) (v) Quantitative analysis of GA corrected by CGA 	31 31 32 32 32
3.2.5	Physicochemical analysis of extracts	33
	 (i) Yield (ii) Total solid (iii) pH value (iv) Solubility in hot and cold water (v) Acidity content 	33 33 33 33 34
3.2.6	Proximate properties	34
	 (i) Moisture content (ii) Ash content (iii) Lipid content (iv) Crude protein content (v) Carbohydrates content (vi) Crude fiber content 	34 35 35 36 36 37
3.2.7	Minerals and heavy metal	37
	(i) Determination of minerals with ICP-MS	37
	(a) Sample preparation for mineral analysis(b) ICP-MS operating conditions	38 39
	(ii) Determination of mercury content with mercury analyzer	39
	 (a) Preparation of Hg standard solutions (b) Preparation of sample solution (c) Preparation of SnCl₂ reagent (d) Constructing a calibration curve 	40 40 40 40
3.2.8	Phytochemical characterization of LP extract	41
	 (i) Total phenolic content (ii) Total flavonoid content (iii) DPPH scavenging activity assay (iv) Ferric reducing antioxidant potential (FRAP) assay 	41 41 42 43
DATA C	OLLECTION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS	43

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n

3.3



4.1	INTROD	DUCTION	44
4.2	SAMPLE	E COLLECTION	44
4.3	SAMPLE	E PREPARATION	45
	4.3.1 4.3.2 4.3.3	Extraction and yield of lyophilized plant extracts Chemical profiling Method validation	45 46 49
		 (i) Linearity (ii) Accuracy and precision (iii) Limit of detection (LOD) and quantization (LOQ) 	49 50 52
	4.3.4	Quantitative measurement of GA corrected by CGA	53
4.4	PHYSIC	OCHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION	53
	4.4.1	Total solid, pH value, and acidity content of lyophilized plant extracts	53
	4.4.2	Solubility on cold and hot water	55
4.5	NUTRIE	ENT COMPOSITION	55
	4.5.1 4.5.2	Proximate properties Minerals and heavy metals	55 57
		 (i) Macronutrients (ii) Essential micronutrient and non-essential trace elements 	59 61
		(a) Essential micronutrients(b) Non-essential trace elements	62 63
		(iii) Heavy metals	64
4.6	РНҮТОС	CHEMICAL CHARACTERIZATION	65
	4.6.1 4.6.2 4.6.3 4.6.4	Total phenolic content (TPC) Total flavonoid content (TFC) Ferric reducing antioxidant potential assay DPPH free radical scavenging activity	65 67 68 69
4.7		ONSHIP BETWEEN VARIABLES OF <i>LABISIA</i> VAR. <i>ALATA</i> DUE TO GEOGRAPHIC ORIGIN	71
	4.7.1	Relationship between TPC with nutrient composition, TFC, gallic acid content and antioxidant activities	71
	4.7.2	Relationship between antioxidant activities with TPC, TFC, gallic acid and nutrient composition	72
	4.7.3	Principal component analysis (PCA)	73

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CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

5.1	Conclusion	77
5.2	Recommendation for Future Research	79
REFE	RENCES	80
APPE	NDICES	88
A1	Photographs of sample of Labisia pumila var. alata	89
A2	HPLC profile of lyophilized extracts of LP	90
A3	Gallic acid content corrected by CGA	93
A4	Total phenolic content and total flavonoid content	95
A5	Proximate properties	97
A6	DPPH (EC ₅₀) and FRAP assay	98
B1	ANOVA output of physicochemical analysis	105
B2	ANOVA output of TPC, TFC, and antioxidant activity	110
B3	ANOVA output of proximate analysis	112
B4	ANOVA output of gallic acid content	116
B5	Principal component analysis (PCA)	118
С	Minerals and its function in the human body	128



LIST OF TABLES

Table	Title	Page
2.1	Definition of functional food, food supplement, medicinal food and nutraceutical	6
2.2	Detection limits of minerals and heavy metals by ICP-MS	21
3.1	Operating conditions of the HPLC	30
3.2	Operating conditions for ICP-MS	39
4.1	Sources of Labisia pumila var. alata	45
4.2	Analytical sensitivity, limit of detection (LOD) and limit of quantization (LOQ) of standards	52
4.3	Average gallic acid value (%w/w) corrected by chlorogenic acid in sample of various geographic origin	53
4.4	Proximate properties of samples of various geographic origins	56
4.5	Average values of minerals and heavy metals in samples of various geographic origins	58
4.6	LOD and LOQ of methods and instruments in determining minerals and heavy metals	59
4.7	Essential micronutrients and non-essential trace elements in samples of various geographic origins	61
4.8	Heavy metals in samples and guidelines used for food and pharmaceutical	64
4.9	Loading factor of the first five principal components from PCA	74

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LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Title	Page
2.1	Potenical electricity of Labisia numila	8
	Botanical classification of <i>Labisia pumila</i>	
2.2 2.3	Basic instrumental components of HPLC Schematic of an HPLC	10 11
2.3 2.4	Phenolic compounds and its sources	11
	-	
2.5	Gallic acid $(C_7H_6O_5)$	15
2.6	Possible biosynthetic pathways of gallic acid formation	16
2.7	Soxhlet apparatus	17
2.8	Basic instrumental components of ICP-MS	19
2.9	Schematic of an ICP-MS	20
2.10	A typical calibration curve	20
2.11	Reaction of antioxidant with free radical	23
2.12	Reaction during DPPH free radical scavenging assay	24
2.13	Reaction during FRAP assay	25
3.1	Research activities flow chart	28
3.2	Freeze drier (a), Lyophilized LP extract (b)	29
3.3	HPLC system	29
3.4	Inductively coupled plasma – mass spectrometer (ICP-MS)	38
3.5	(a) Sample vessels and rotor (b) Microwave digester	38
3.6	Mercury analyzer	40
4.1	Yields of lyophilized plant extract of various geographic origin	45
4.2	HPLC chromatogram of GA (25 μ g/mL) (RT:9.11 min) (λ = 254 nm)	46
4.3	HPLC chromatogram of CGA (1600 μ g/mL) (RT:32.78 min) (λ = 254 nm)	47
4.4	HPLC chromatogram containing both (1) GA (200 μ g/mL) and (2) CGA (1600 μ g/mL) (λ = 254 nm)	47
4.5	HPLC chromatogram GA (RT: 9.18 – 9.25) (λ = 254 nm) of lyophilized extracts of LP of various geographic origins	48
4.6	Average calibration graph of GA	49
4.7	Average calibration graph of CGA	50



Figure	Title	Page
4.8	Performances characteristics of accuracy and precision in the intraday measurement	51
4.9	Performance characteristics of accuracy and precision in between day measurements	51
4.10	Total solid, pH and acidity content of lyophilized plant extract	54
4.11	Solubility of lyophilized plant extracts in cold and hot water	55
4.12	Macronutrients in samples of various geographic origins	59
4.13	GA standard curve	65
4.14	TPC of lyophilized plant extracts	66
4.15	Catechin standard curve	67
4.16	TFC of lyophilized plant extracts	68
4.17	GA standard curve for FRAP assay	69
4.18	Antioxidant activities of lyophilized plant extracts based on their ability to reduce the ferric ion-TPTZ	69
4.19	Antioxidant activities of lyophilized plant extracts based on their ability to abilities to reduce and decolorized DPPH	70
4.20	Standardized coefficient of TPC with proximate composition, minerals, GA content, TFC and antioxidant activity	71
4.21	Standardized coefficient of antioxidant activity with proximate composition, minerals, GA content, TPC, and TFC	72
4.22	The correlation circle of nutrient composition, GA content TPC, TFC and antioxidant activity	73
4.23	Biplot obtained from PCA of variables comprising nutrient composition, GA content, TPC, TFC and antioxidant activity	75

XV



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AS Analytical sensitivity AAS Atomic absorption spectrometer BHA Butylated hidroxyanisole CA Cluster analysis CE Catechin equivalent CGA Chlorogenic acid CV Coefficient variation DAD Diode array detector DPPH 2,2 –diphenyl-1-pycrylhydrazyl EC_{50} Effective concentration to 50% inhibition FAO Food and Agriculture Organization FDA Food Drug Administration FRAP Ferric reducing antioxidant potential GA Gallic acid GAE Gallic acid equivalent GWE Gingseng water extract HPLC High performances liquid chromatography ICPMS Inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry LC Liquid chromatography LP Labisia pumila var. alata LOD Limit of detection LOO Limit of quantization PCA Principal component analysis PLS Part least square RDA Recommended dietary allowances RNI Recommended nutrient intake ROS Reactive oxygen species RNS Reactive nitrogen species RFS Free radical scavengers



- TFC Total flavonoid content
- TPC Total phenolic content
- TPTZ Tris (2-pyridyl)-1,3,5-triazine
- UV-vis Ultra violet visible
- WHO World Health Organization



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

According to the World Health Organization, traditional medicine is the sum total of knowledge of skills and practices based on the theories, beliefs and experiences indigenous to different culture that are used to maintain health, as well as to prevent, diagnose, improve or treat physical and mental illnesses. It has been estimated that in some Asian and African countries, 80% of the population depend on traditional medicine for primary health care while in many developed countries, 70% to 80% of the population has used some form of alternative or complementary medicine. Herbal treatments are the most popular form of traditional medicine. The international marketplace derived annual revenues in Western Europe of US\$ 5 billion in 2003-2004, US\$ 14 billion in China in 2005 and US\$ 160 million in Brazil 2007 (WHO, 2008).

The current high rate of demand and methods of harvesting medicinal plants, particularly from the wild, for the herbal market has lowered natural population sizes for many species of plants. Rapid deforestation and other anthropogenic activities in the Malay Archipelago have rapidly shrunk the populations of indigenous medicinal plants as well. Thus, research on medicinal plants is a high priority agenda in many parts of the world today.



Labisia pumila (Myrsinaceae), popularly known as "Kacip Fatimah" in Malay, has been used by many generations of Malay women to induce and facilitate childbirth as well as a post-partum medicine (Burkill, 1935). The plants are usually boiled and water soluble extract or decoction taken as a drink. Interest has recently been shown in the herbal preparation to determine its mode of action and potential pharmacological application. In the mean time commercial preparations as canned tonic drinks have been marketed without knowledge of the mode action, potential toxicity and side effects. Because it is given to women during post-partum, the possibility of it being a phytoestrogen was considered most likely. An earlier *in-vitro* study using human endometrial adenocarcinoma cell of the Ishikawa-Var I showed that the ethanolic extract of the roots of *L. pumila* var. *alata* exhibited a weak but specific estrogenic effect on the cells, resulting in enhanced secretion of alkaline phosphatase (Jamal, 1999). A study by Husniza *et al.* (2000) showed the water extracts of *L. pumila* to be able of displacing estradiol binding to antibodies raised against estradiol, suggesting the presence of estrogen-like compounds in the extract.

The search for antioxidant from natural sources has received much attention. In previous studies, antioxidant activities are found more in *Labisia pumila* var. *alata* than in the other variety (Norhaiza *et al.*, 2009). *Labisia pumila* var. *alata* could prevented the changes in bone biochemical markers in rats (Shuid *et al.*, 2010) and as an antiphoto aging cosmetic ingredient (Hyun-kyung *et al*, 2010). Plant phenolic compounds can reduce the deleterious effects of reactive oxygen species (ROS) on a number of biological and pathological processes (Sawa *et al.*, 1999). The antioxidant activity of the aqueous *Labisia pumila* var. *alata* extracts have been reported as providing significant protection to human dermal fibroblasts, from cell damage caused by UV irradiation (Choi *et al.*, 2010), most likely due to the presence of flavonoids (Norhaiza *et al.*, 2009).

1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

There is now an increasing demand for functional food and beverage; companies are touting the presence of antioxidants in their products in response to consumer interest in the potential health benefits of antioxidants and minerals in the diet.



According to Stone (1988), there exist three varieties of *Labisia pumila* in Malaysia, namely, *Labisia pumila* var. *alata, L. pumila* var. *pumila and L. pumila* var. *lanceolata.* Each variety commands a different use so it is important to ensure that the right variety is used in each case. The leaves of *Labisia pumila* var. *alata* have become a popular ingredient of the functional foods and beverages market. Thus, it is pertinent that the reproducibility of the extraction process to produce *L. pumila* var. *alata* leaves water soluble extract and reliable chemical profiling methods are achieved in order to ensure consistency and safety of this important ingredient.

An increasing demand for functional food and beverage from these plant in Malaysia, have forced companies to import raw material to meet market needs. Based on a study on the distribution of *Labisia pumila* var. *alata* in Indonesia, this plant has been found to flourish there (Sunarno, 2005). *Labisia pumila* has been found growing in Halimun-Salak Mountain in Bogor, on Java Island (Setiawan, 2005); Jambi, Riau and Aceh on Sumatera Island (Rahayu *et al.*, 2007). Variations of chemical profiles and nutritional composition may arise due to external factors such as geographic, climatic, altitude and soil type (Chew *et al.*, 2011; Hougthon and Raman, 1998).

At present, there is no literature report regarding the properties and attributes, namely; nutrient composition, total phenolic content, total flavanoid content and antioxidant activities of *L. pumila* var. *alata* of various geographical origins. As sources of raw materials of functional foods and beverages market may vary, it is also important to evaluate and document properties and attributes of LP of various sources.

1.3 RESEARCH AIM

Labisia pumila (Myrsinaceae) or "kacip Fatimah", traditionally used in Malay traditional medicine in the form of decoction as postpartum tonic, has found popular and global use as functional food and beverage. Consumers in this market sector expect to derive specific health benefits from consumption of *Labisia pumila* food or beverage. The aim of this research project was to determine the properties and attributes of watersoluble extracts of *Labisia pumila* var. *alata* and their sources, to reveal the plant's



potential health benefits as functional food and beverage as such data on the plant remains scarce.

1.4 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This study was undertaken to investigate various parameters of the water-soluble extracts of the leaves of *Labisia pumila* var. *alata* of different geographic origins. It embarks on the following objectives:

- 1. To carry out reproducible extraction process to produce and chemically profile *L. pumila* var. *alata* water-soluble extracts of leaves by High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC),
- 2. To quantitate the nutrient composition (yield, pH, total solid, acidity, solubility in cold and hot water, proximate, mineral and heavy metal contents) of water-soluble extracts,
- 3. To quantitate the total phenolic content and total flavonoid content of water-soluble extracts,
- 4. To evaluate the antioxidant activities of water-soluble extracts,
- 5. To correlate the above parameters with *L. pumila* var. *alata* leaves samples of various geographical origins.



CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 FUNCTIONAL FOOD AND ITS MARKET

The advent of research and development has led to increased awareness in the importance of health, thereby, changing public opinion on food. The changes demand that food products are not only nutritious but are also safe. This type of food is known in the Japanese market as "Foods for Specified Health Use" (FOSHU). Functional foods comprise: (i) conventional foods containing naturally occurring bioactive substances, (ii) foods enriched with bioactive substances (e.g., antioxidants), and (iii) synthesized food ingredients introduced to traditional foods (e.g., antioxidant). Probiotics and prebiotics, soluble fiber, omega-3 – polyunsaturated fatty acids, conjugated linoleic acid, plant antioxidants, vitamins and minerals, certain proteins, peptides and amino acids, as well as phospholipids constitute functional components of such food (Grajek *et al.*, 2005).

Functional foods are foods that provide health benefits beyond basic nutrition due to certain physiologically active components, which may or may not have been manipulated or modified to enhance their bioactivity. Functional foods are not pills or capsules but are consumed as part of normal everyday diet. The difference between functional food, food supplement, medicinal food and nutraceutical are shown in Table 2.1.



Table 2.1: Definition of functional food, food supplement, medicinal food and nutraceutical

Туре	Definition	Form	Examples
Functional Food*	Defined as a food similar in appearance to a conventional food (beverage, food matrix), consumed as part of the usual diet which contains biologically active components with demonstrated physiological benefits and offers the potential of reducing the risk of chronic disease beyond basic nutritional functions. Biologically active components should be dietary (nutrient or not) compound present in unmodified whole food or added to a food vehicle	beverages, food	Labisia pumila beverage, biscuit high calcium, omega-3 enriched eggs.
Food Supplement**	Defined as vitamins, mineral, herbs, or other botanical, amino acids, and other substances intended to supplement the diet by increasing the total dietary intake, or as any concentrate, metabolite, constituent, extract or combination of these ingredients	pills, tablet, capsule, powder, soft gel, and liquid	Supplement, Vitamin C.
Medicinal food**	Defined as foods formulated to be consumed or administered entirely under the supervision of a physician and are intended for the specific dietary management of a disease or condition for which distinctive nutritional requirements based on recognized scientific principles are established by medical evaluation	liquid, semi liquid, etc	Glucose (infusion), electrolyte.
Nutraceutical***	Defined as food or food products that provide health and medical benefits, including the prevention and treatment of disease or a product isolated or purified from foods, and generally sold in medicinal forms not usually associated with food and demonstrated to have a physiological benefit or provide protection against chronic disease.	powder, liquid, etc	Curcumin, lycopene.

Sources: * FAO (2004); ** Ross (2011); ***Kalra (2003)

The functional food industry is growing steadily worldwide. Innovative products are being launched continuously and competition is fierce. The market is growing at an annual rate of 8-14%, but the exact size of markets is difficult to measure. Depending on the source of data and definition of this category of products, the global market could range between US\$7 to US\$167 billion (Jamal, 2006). The Malaysian market for herbal products has been estimated to be worth RM 4.5 billion growing at a rate of 15-20%. However, 90% of the raw material used are imported (Jamal, 2006).



Functional food and beverage companies are touting the presence of antioxidants in their products in response to consumer interest in the potential health benefits of antioxidants in the diet. The most important and the most frequently used functional food components are derived via extraction of antioxidants from plant materials. Today's increasing demand for functional foods and beverages are not in tandem with available information on nutritional data of these foods and beverages.

2.2 LABISIA PUMILA

2.2.1 Botanical overview

Labisia pumila (vernacular name: kacip Fatimah) is classified under the family of Myrsinaceae, of sub herbaceous plants. It exists in three known varieties, namely, *L. pumila* var. *alata*, *L. pumila* var. *pumila* and *L. pumila* var. *lanceolata* (Stone, 1988). Sunarno (2005) revision of the genus *Labisia* had expanded it from three species into six species. The three (3) additional species are *L. longistyla*, *L. malouiana* and *L. obtusifolia*.

Labisia pumila's root is tough and woody with long primary roots but few secondary roots. *Petioles* ranged 5–12 cm long, wing 3–5 mm wide at each side. The tip of the leaf is pointed with a base that is tapered or rather broad – rounded. The leaf has a slight odor and taste. The whole leaf is about 5-35cm long and 2-8cm wide finely toothed with numerous veins. It is of a dark green color on adaxial and lighter green on the axial. Flowers on the shrub are very small, generally white or pink, in spike like panicle of small clusters. They range from 6-30 cm long with sepals, petals and stamens. The petals wrap around and enclose the stamens. *Anthers* 0.8 mm, ovary broadly ovoid, placenta broadly ellipsoid. The fruits are about 5cm in diameter and are either bright red or purple (Sunarno, 2005). The botanical classification is outlined in Figure 2.1.

Kingdom: Plantae Subkingdom: Tracheobionta Super Division: Spermatophyta Division: Magnoliophyta Class: Magnoliopsida Sub Class: Dilleniidae Ordo: Primulales Family: Myrsinaceae Genus: Labisia Species: Labisia pumila

Figure 2.1: Botanical classification of Labisia pumila

2.2.2 Distribution and growth habit of Labisia pumila (Myrsinaceae)

Labisia pumila is found mainly in the lowland and hill forests of peninsular Malaysia at an altitude between 300 and 700m (Burkill, 1935). Sunarno (2005) reported the distribution of *Labisia pumila* in Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Sumatera, Peninsular Malaysia, Java, Borneo, Philippines, and Lesser Sunda Islands. *Labisia pumila* has been found growing in Halimun-Salak Mountain in Bogor, on Java Island (Setiawan, 2005) and in Jambi, Riau and Aceh, on Sumatera Island (Rahayu *et al.*, 2007). Setiawan (2005), reported that the physical parameter affecting the growth of *Labisia pumila* on Halimun Mountain are altitude and slope of hill.

2.2.3 Phytochemical and pharmacological studies

Labisia pumila has generally been used as traditional medicine. Anti-oxidant activities have been found higher in Labisia pumila var. alata as compared to L. pumila var. pumila (Norhaiza et al., 2009). According to Jaafar et al. (2007), the phenolic content in leaves was highest compared to stem or root in L. pumila red and green variety. According to Ali and Khan (2009), methanolic extract of Labisia pumila contained phenolic compounds, glycerogalactolipid, cerebrosides, α -tocopherol, sterols and lipids. Yusoff and Wan Mohamud (2006 and 2011) reported the presence of gallic acid, a well known antioxidant, in water soluble extracts of Labisia pumila var. alata.



Pharmacology studies have shown that the petroleum ether extract of *Labisia pumila* var. *alata* had toxic effects on kidneys and livers of rats (Effendy *et al.*, 2006). An aqueous extract of *Labisia pumila* var. *alata* could decrease corticosterone levels with no effect on the immune status of pregnant rats (Pandey *et al.*, 2008) and could prevent the changes in bone biochemical markers in rats (Shuid *et al.*, 2010). Choi *et al.* (2010), suggested that *Labisia pumila* var. *alata* extracts have tremendous potential as an anti-photoaging cosmetic ingredient. The aqueous extract of *Labisia pumila* var. *alata* has been found to inhibit estradiol binding to antibodies raised against estradiol, suggesting the presence of estrogen-like compounds in the extract (Husniza *et al.*, 2000). According to Singh *et al.*, (2009) a dose of 50 mg/kg of an aqueous extract of *Labisia pumila* var. *alata* corresponded to no-adverse-effect-level (NOAEL), whereas higher doses were associated with some toxicity concerns. While there have been many reports on the phytochemical and pharmacology of *Labisia pumila* var. *alata*, nutritional data on aqueous extracts and their correlation to geographical origin remain obscure.

2.2.4 Use of *Labisia pumila* in traditional medicine

Labisia pumila is traditionally consumed by women as an herbal medicine to treat menstrual irregularities, painful menstruations and to help contracting the birth channel after delivery and alleviate sickness to the bones (Zakaria and Mohd, 1994). Other benefits of *Labisia pumila* consumption include alleviating fatigue, menopausal symptoms, promotion of emotional well being, prolonging energy, relieve of constipation, as anti-dysmenorrheal and anti-flatulence.

2.2.5 Biological variation

Biological variation is an important point to consider when extracts are fractioned and tested. According to Hougthon and Raman (1998), one of the considerations is the variation in amount and identity of the chemical constituents found in the materials to be examined. The authors also suggested variation in the chemical profile of source material will probably cause a difference in the activity of extract when tested biologically.



Variation may occur due to the existence of distinct phenotypes of particular species. While the amount of the constituents may vary, their relative proportions are expected to remain about the same. Second, variation may arise due to external factors such as climate, altitude and soil type, so that the same chemo type will produce different profiles according to its environment. When multiple collections are made, the TLC chemical profiles of individual samples may be compared against the profile of the original material (Hougthon and Raman, 1998). According to Wu *et al.* (2009), flavonoids, *viz.*, hyperin, quercitrin, and quercetin, varied remarkably in the plants of *Houttuynia cordata* from different provinces in China, and variation in quercitrin were significantly correlated to the biological characteristics of the plant but not correlated to the geographic region where the plant grows.

2.3 HIGH PERFORMANCES LIQUID CHROMATOGRAPHY (HPLC) IN CHEMICAL PROFILING

2.3.1 High Performances Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)

HPLC is a chromatographic technique that can separate a mixture of compounds and is used in biochemistry and analytical chemistry to identify, quantify and purify the individual components of the mixture. HPLC instruments consist of a reservoir of mobile phase, a pump, an injector, a separation column, and a detector (Fig. 2.2).

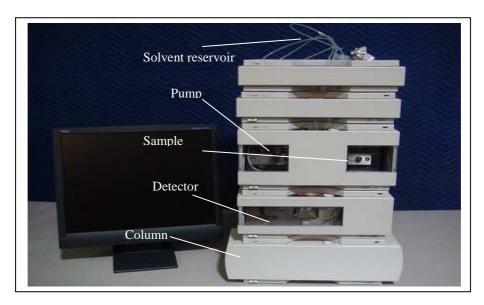


Figure 2.2: Basic instrumental components of HPLC. (Agilent, 2006)



Compounds are separated by injecting a sample mixture onto the column. The different components in the mixture will pass through the column at different rates due to differences in their portioning behavior between the mobile liquid phase and the stationary phase. Figure 2.3 shows the schematics of the main processes in an HPLC.

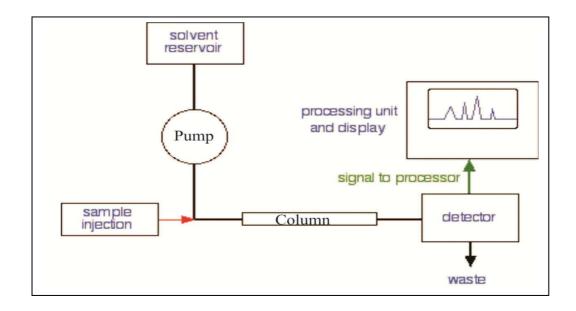


Figure 2.3: Schematic of an HPLC.

There was many method of water extraction for HPLC analysis. Hu *et al.* (2011) prepared water extract of ginseng (WEG) by added ginseng root (100 g) into 600 mL of distilled water and extraction was performed by heating at 95 °C, it was then filtered and lyophilized. The resulting powder (yield, 40 g) was dissolved in double distilled water and sequentially passed through 0.22 μ m filters for sterilization, and then diluted in RPMI 1640 medium before use at final concentration of 0.001, 0.01, 0.1 or 0.2 mg raw herb/mL.

In material leaves, Tang Tung *et al.* (2009) prepared water soluble extract of *Acacia confusa* Merr leaves by boiling double-distilled water of leaves and allowed to infuse for 4 hours. The extract was decanted, filtered under vacuum, concentrated in a rotary evaporator, and then lyophilized. The resulting crude extract (7.3 g) was fractionated successively with EtOAc, *n*-butanol (BuOH), and water to yield soluble fractions of EtOAc (0.9 g), BuOH (2.0 g), and H₂O (4.1 g). Meanwhile, Sakanaka *et al.* (2005) prepared water soluble extracts of tea by adding 50 g of Created with



11

