



BIOFUNCTIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF DIETARY FIBER EXTRACTED  
FROM MALAYSIAN *ZIZIPHUS MAURITIANA* L. LEAVES AND ITS  
ASSOCIATION *IN VITRO* ANTIDIABETICS PROPERTIES

NUR SYUHADA BINTI ZAHARI

Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra  
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Science

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June 2021

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*Ziziphus mauritiana* L. derived from Rhamnaceae family plant (known as Bidara tree in Malaysia) has been consumed by Malaysian through processing the fruit into pickles or eating it fresh, while the leaves are frequently used in traditional medicine, particularly in Islamic medicine. Although the *Z. mauritiana* L. plant rich in macronutrients, micronutrients, and phytochemicals that offer health benefits, yet, it is still considered underutilized in Malaysia due to a lack of scientific information about the health promoting effect of its fiber. In other countries, *Z. mauritiana* L. also used widely as traditional medicine and recently researchers start to study scientifically the health benefits of this plant especially in Asian country. The purpose of the study was therefore to explore the physicochemical properties relevant to the nutritional quality of one of the sources of dietary fiber (mucilage) necessary for the maintenance of population health in the community, especially in treating diabetes mellitus. Additionally, the potent phenolic content and  $\alpha$ -amylase and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase enzyme inhibitory activity were also investigated. The extraction yield of mucilage was investigated from *Z. mauritiana* L. fruit pulp and leaves where the preliminary screening has shown that the higher mucilage yield was obtained from the leaves with 1.24%, while the mucilage from the pulp yielded 0.34%. The mucilage of *Z. mauritiana* L. leaves with good hydration properties of swelling capacity ( $6.87 \pm 0.23$  mL/g), water holding capacity ( $3.960 \pm 0.200$  g/g), oil holding capacity ( $0.507 \pm 0.083$  g/g), and its emulsifying properties including emulsifying activity ( $56.0 \pm 4.00\%$ ) and emulsifying stability ( $70.87 \pm 2.31\%$ ) indicate that it may have the capability in regulating postprandial hyperglycemia. Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) demonstrated the band of functional group characteristics of dietary fiber while scanning electron microscopy (SEM) analysis revealed the structural characteristic of the extracted *Z. mauritiana* L. mucilage. Glucose dialysis retardation index (GDRI) analysis on *Z. mauritiana* L. leaves dietary fiber showed decreasing effect overtime at minutes 60 (from 70.94 to 62.57%). The phytochemical analysis has shown that the total phenolic content of the fiber

extract was 6.13 mg GAE/g dry sample extract while the total flavonoid content was 83.00 mg QE/g dry sample extract. In vitro studies exhibit excellent  $\alpha$ -amylase and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibition activity with an IC<sub>50</sub> of 138.3  $\mu$ g/mL and 11.04  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively as compared to one of synthetic drugs used for treating diabetes, acarbose. These features make the crude *Z. mauritiana* L. mucilaginous extract a remarkable candidate for functional food and nutraceutical dietary fiber especially in associated with antidiabetes.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai  
memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**CIRI-CIRI FUNGSIAN BIO SERAT DIET DARI DAUN *ZIZIPHUS MAURITIANA L.* MALAYSIA DAN PERKAITANNYA DENGAN SIFAT *IN VITRO* ANTIDIABETIK**

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*Ziziphus mauritiana* L. yang berasal dari tumbuhan keluarga Rhamnaceae (dikenali sebagai pokok Bidara di Malaysia) telah digunakan oleh orang Malaysia dengan memproses buah menjadi jeruk atau memakannya segar, sementara daunnya biasa digunakan dalam perubatan tradisional terutama dalam perubatan Islam. Walaupun tumbuhan *Z. mauritiana* L. kaya dengan makronutrien, mikronutrien, dan fitokimia yang menawarkan faedah kesihatan, tetapi, tanaman *Z. mauritiana* L. masih dianggap kurang dimanfaatkan di Malaysia kerana kekurangan maklumat saintifik mengenai kesan kesihatan terhadap seratnya. Oleh itu, kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji beberapa sifat fizikokimia yang berkaitan dengan kualiti pemakanannya dari sumber baru serat diet (lendir) yang diperlukan untuk menjaga kesihatan populasi dalam masyarakat, terutama dalam mengawal diabetes. Di negara lain, *Z. mauritiana* L. juga digunakan sebagai ubat tradisional dan baru-baru ini para penyelidik mula mengkaji secara saintifik faedah kesihatan tumbuhan ini terutama di negara Asia. Sebagai tambahan, potensi kandungan fenolik yang kuat dan aktiviti perencutan enzim  $\alpha$ -amilase dan  $\alpha$ -glukosidase juga diselidik. Hasil pengekstrakan lendir disiasat dari pulpa buah dan daun *Z. mauritiana* L. dimana pemeriksaan awal menunjukkan bahawa hasil lendir yang lebih tinggi diperoleh dari daun dengan 1.24%, sementara lendir dari pulpa menghasilkan 0.34%. Lendir daun *Z. mauritiana* L. dengan sifat penghidratan yang baik bagi kapasiti pengembangan ( $6.87 \pm 0.23$  mL/g), kapasiti mengikat air ( $3.960 \pm 0.200$  g/g), kapasiti mengikat minyak ( $0.507 \pm 0.083$  g/g) dan sifat pengemulsi termasuk aktiviti pengemulsi ( $56.0 \pm 4.00\%$ ) dan kestabilan pengemulsi ( $70.87 \pm 2.31\%$ ) menunjukkan bahawa ia mungkin mempunyai keupayaan dalam mengawal gula dalam darah. Spektroskopi infra merah (FTIR) menunjukkan kehadiran ciri khas kumpulan berfungsi serat diet sementara, analisis mikroskop elektron imbasan (SEM) membuktikan ciri struktur lendir *Z. mauritiana* L. yang diekstrak. Analisa indeks perencutan dialisis glukosa (GDRI) pada serat diet dari daun *Z. mauritiana* L. menunjukkan kesan penurunan pada minit ke 60 (dari 70.94 hingga 62.57%). Analisis fitokimia menunjukkan jumlah

kandungan fenolik untuk ekstrak serat ialah 6.13 mg ekstrak sampel kering GAE/g sementara jumlah kandungan flavonoid adalah 83.00 mg ekstrak sampel kering QE/g. Kajian *in vitro* menunjukkan aktiviti perencatan  $\alpha$ -amilase dan  $\alpha$ -glukosidase yang sangat baik dengan  $IC_{50}$  138.3  $\mu$ g/mL dan 11.04  $\mu$ g/mL setiap satu dibandingkan dengan salah satu ubat sintetik yang digunakan untuk merawat diabetes, acarbose. Sifat-sifat ini menjadikan ekstrak lendir mentah dari daun *Z. mauritiana* L. sebagai calon yang baik dalam peranan serat makanan yang berpotensi untuk makanan berfungsi dan nutraceutical terutama berkaitan dengan anti diabetes.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACE	Angiotensin-converting enzyme
ALC	Absolute lymphocytes count
cm	Centimeters
Da	Dalton unit
DNSA	3,5- dinitrosalicylic acid
DPP-1	dipeptidyl peptidase-4
e.g	Example
FTIR	Fourier transform infrared
g	Gram
GAE	Gallic acid equivalent
GDRI	Glucose dialysis retardation index
GLP-1	Glucose like peptide-1
Hb1c	Hemoglobin 1Ac
IC <sub>50</sub>	50% inhibitory concentration
IDF	International diabetes federation
KBr	Potassium bromide
mg	Miligrams
mins	Minutes
mL	Milliliters
μM	Micromolar
Mmol/L	Milimol per liter
NHMS	National Health and Morbidity Survey
nm	Nanometers
OHC	Oil holding capacity

PNPG	$\rho$ Nitrophenyl- $\rho$ -D-glucopyranosidase
ppm	Parts per million
QE	Quercetin equivalent
SC	Swelling capacity
SD	Standard deviation
Sdn. Bhd.	Sendirian Berhad
SEM	Scanning electron microscopy
SGLT-2	Sodium-glucose cotransporter 2
TFC	Total flavonoid content
TPC	Total phenolic content
TZDs	Thiazolidinediones
WHC	Water holding capacity
WHO	World Health Organization
ZMDF	<i>Ziziphus Mauritiana</i> Leaves Dietary Fiber
<i>Z. mauritiana</i>	<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i>
$\mu$ L	Microliters
$\mu$ m	Micrometers

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 General Introduction

Diabetes mellitus or called diabetes is a chronic condition that happens when blood glucose levels increase because the body is not capable to efficiently generate or use sufficient insulin (DeFronzo *et al.*, 2015). Insulin is a pancreatic hormone that stimulates the body to consume sugar (glucose) from carbohydrates in foods that we ingest for energy or glucose storage for upcoming consumption. Insulin deficiency or failure of the cell to respond to insulin leads to elevated blood glucose levels or a diabetes condition called hyperglycemia (IDF, 2017).

Hyperglycemia is assessed by glycated hemoglobin A1C levels to reduce the long term diabetes-related complication (Bonora and Tuomilehto, 2011). The treatment is also considered a big global issue with the rise of diabetes mellitus, and effective therapy has yet to be identified. Although the first medication for diabetes mellitus is insulin therapy and oral hypoglycemic agents, they have certain side effects and may not improve the trend of diabetic cases substantially (Raman *et al.*, 2010). Besides, a large amount of medicinal plants has been formulated for diabetic treating purposes. However, several plants have been used as a dietary adjuvant and as a disease treatment even there was no specific knowledge on their proper functions and constituents (Patel *et al.*, 2011).

For the last few years, there is such a concern in finding alternative therapy especially using a natural product. Traditionally, as a complementary or alternative drug, antidiabetic plants or their active constituents are commonly used and more than 200 plant organisms have been found to possess antidiabetic properties (Cohen and Goedert, 2004). Scientists also discovered the development of a variety of bioactive molecules in plants that cope with diabetes mellitus problems over the last year (Zhao *et al.*, 2019). The extract dense in polyphenols decreases the function of enzymes that are involved in glucose formation derived from starch at the gastrointestinal tract for example amylase also  $\alpha$ -glucosidase, reported by McDougall *et al.* (2005). Phenols are naturally occurring compounds considered to have oxidative properties where their organic form is used in food to guard against oxidative rancidity (Cuvelier *et al.*, 1992). Data indicate a strong, consistent correlation between hyperglycemia mediated by oxidative stress and the progression of diabetic symptoms towards individuals who experience diabetes mellitus (Özkaya *et al.*, 2011).

*Ziziphus mauritiana* Lam. (*Z. mauritiana* L.) is one of the plants that has been discovered to associate with antidiabetic effects (Sangeethapriya & Siddhuraju;

2014). Since this plant is packed with minerals and vitamins (San *et al.*, 2009), it is immense good health benefits. It gives benefits to the body organ, circulatory system, and skin and is also known for its preventive capacity against different diseases (Carol *et al.*, 2015). *Z. mauritiana* L. is defined as a good source of the important functional components such as polysaccharides, phenolics, flavonoids, and saponins that are beneficial for numerous biological behaviors, namely immune function regulation and blood triglyceride reduction (Dahiru and Obidoa, 2008; Li *et al.*, 2011). Other than macronutrients, the nutritional value of *Z. mauritiana* L. also contains micronutrients and fiber. It was reported that *Z. mauritiana* L.'s fruit pulp contains one of the plant metabolites group that create cell signaling pathways and antioxidant effects known as flavonoids (Kerkar, 2017).

Stool weight is increased by fiber with high hydration properties and its viscosity characteristics hinder macronutrient intake, leading to higher susceptibility to insulin, elevated satiety, and decreased energy consumption (Sangeethapriya and Siddhuraju, 2014). The emulsifying capacity of fiber is very investigative in health possible advantages. The concentration of blood cholesterol in the small intestine tends to decrease when there is ingestion of biliary acids and excretion of the stool (Lopez *et al.*, 1996). The enriched fiber in *Z. mauritiana* L. can help reduce hypercholesterolemic effects, it is said to have many advantages in reducing diabetic effects too. Hence, further research on fiber contained in *Z. mauritiana* L. needed to explore the possible biological characteristic and antioxidant capacity related to the antidiabetic effect.

## 1.2 Problem Statement

Plants and herbs that grow abundantly has been used in traditional way for treatment of diseases. Many plant and herbs species been using as an alternative for treatment of the chronic diseases upon their antioxidant potential. *Ziziphus mauritiana* Lam. is one of the plant species has been widely use traditionally in treating diseases not only in Malaysia but internationally. However, there are still lack of scientific study of the potential health benefits of *Ziziphus mauritiana* Lam. has been done in Malaysia.

Furthermore, in Malaysia, diabetes mellitus associated with elevated levels of blood glucose is a rising public health issue that presents a serious threat. There is a range of adverse effects among the conventional classes of drugs used to treat diabetes mellitus, for example biguanides, which has common adverse effect of gastrointestinal distress. Thus, more natural antidiabetic therapies that are better and more reliable need to be relied on. Further studies are needed upon functional characteristics and antioxidant potential of dietary fiber from *Ziziphus mauritiana* L. (Malaysia) in controlling hyperglycemia.

### **1.3      Research Objectives**

The key objectives of this present study were to evaluate the biofunctional and phytochemical properties of dietary fiber extracted from the leaves of *Ziziphus mauritiana* L. and its associated inhibitory activity. Therefore, the research was conducted according to the following specific objectives:

1. To study the biofunctional characteristics of *Ziziphus mauritiana* L. leaves dietary fiber through swelling capacity, water, and oil holding capacity, and emulsifying properties.
2. To determine the characteristic of the *Ziziphus mauritiana* L. leaves dietary fiber (Fourier transform infrared and Scanning electron microscopy) and its phytochemical content through total phenolic content (TPC) and total flavonoid content (TFC) assays
3. To evaluate the *in vitro*  $\alpha$ -amylase and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitory activities of *Ziziphus mauritiana* L. leaves dietary fiber.

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