



**EXTRACTION, PURIFICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF  
PECTINASE FROM GUAVA (*Psidium guajava L.*) PEEL**

By

**FARA SYAZANA BINTI AHMAD MURSHID**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,  
in Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

**March 2017**

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## DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to the love of my life, especially my dear father, Ahmad Murshid Abu and mother, Aini Md Jadi. To my dear brothers and sister; along, angah and adik, thank you for the endless love, support and inspiration through all these years. To my dear Keisha Adam and Iman, the source of my happiness.



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Science

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**March 2017**

**Chairman : Associate Professor Mehrnoush Amid, PhD**  
**Faculty : Food Science and Technology**

Pectinase breaks down pectin which is a polysaccharide that commonly found in plant cell wall. Mainly, enzymes are easily degraded with inappropriate method of extraction. Hence, it is important to employ an inexpensive, simple and efficient method of extraction. In this study, pectinase was extracted from guava (*Psidium guajava*) peel with ultrasound assisted extraction. The main effects namely sonication time, ultrasound temperature, pH of buffer and buffer to sample (B/S) ratio for optimization of the extraction were investigated. The optimum extraction condition was achieved at 20 min sonication time, 40 °C ultrasound temperature, at pH 5.0, using a 4:1 mL/g buffer to sample ratio. Conventional methods of purification are multistep, tedious and expensive. Therefore, the development of cost-effective, highly efficient and environmental friendly procedure for the purification of pectinase with desirable properties is considered essential. Subsequently, the potential application of aqueous two-phase system (ATPS) with Triton X-100 and sorbitol in the purification of pectinase from guava peel was demonstrated at laboratory scale. In this study, the effect of the main important parameters such as Tie Line Length (TLL), crude loads and pH on purification of the enzyme were investigated. The experimental results indicated that the pectinase was partitioned into surfactant-rich top phase, and the impurities were partitioned into the sorbitol-rich bottom phase with the novel method involving an ATPS composed of 25.0% (w/w) Triton X-100 and 26.0% (w/w) sorbitol at 50.2% of the TLL, 20% (w/w) of crude load and at pH 6.0. Based on the results, the calculated purification factor for the pectinase was 15.2 and the yield obtained was 98.3% for purified pectinase from guava peel. It was demonstrated that the phase components, Tie Line Length (TLL), crude loads and pH influenced the pectinase partitioning. This study proved that ATPS can be exploited as a successful, inexpensive and effective method for purification and recovery of the enzyme from a low-cost source with potential industrial application and alternative to the traditional ATPS. Characterization of the purified enzyme was performed to evaluate the stability of pectinase in different conditions. Characterization of the purified enzyme showed that pectinase extracted

from guava peel was stable with the presence of some metal ions, inhibitors, surfactants and oxidizing agents. Metals ion such as  $K^+$ ,  $Ba^+$ ,  $Mg^{2+}$ ,  $Na^+$  and  $Mn^{2+}$  enhanced pectinase activity. Meanwhile, pectinase showed extreme stability with regards to surfactant and inhibitor including Triton X-100, Tween-80 and EDTA. The molecular weight of the pectinase was estimated to be 24.4 kDa based on SDS-PAGE. Therefore, it can be concluded that the enzyme with unique characteristics could be obtained from natural and cost-effective source and potentially contributed in the industrial applications including food and beverages, textile, paper, waste water treatment and other biotechnological applications.



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

**PENGEKSTRAKAN, PENULENAN DAN PENCIRIAN PEKTINASE DARI  
KULIT JAMBU BATU (*Psidium guajava* L.)**

Oleh

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Pektinase menguraikan pektin yang merupakan polisakarida yang biasanya terdapat di dalam sel dinding tumbuhan. Proses pengekstrakan yang tidak sesuai boleh menyebabkan perencatan enzim. Oleh itu, adalah penting untuk mengambil kira kaedah pengekstrakan yang murah, mudah dan berkesan. Dalam kajian ini, pektinase telah diekstrak daripada kulit jambu batu (*Psidium guajava*) dengan menggunakan teknik bantuan Ultrasonik. Antara faktor-faktor utama dalam mengoptimalkan pengekstrakan telah dikaji antaranya adalah suhu, masa pengekstrakan, pH larutan dapar dan nisbah larutan dapar kepada sampel (B/S). Pengekstrakan optimum telah dicapai pada 20 minit masa sonikasi, suhu 40 °C, pada pH 5.0, dan menggunakan nisbah 4:1 mL/g larutan buffer kepada sampel. Penulenan enzim secara konvensional merupakan proses yang langkah-berganda, rumit dan memakan kos. Oleh itu, penggunaan prosedur penulenan yang kos-efektif, efisien, dan mesra alam untuk ciri-ciri pektinase yang wajar adalah penting. Selepas itu, aplikasi yang berpotensi untuk penulenan pektinase daripada kulit jambu batu iaitu Sistem Dua Fasa Berakua (SDFB) telah digunakan bersama surfaktan (Triton X-100) dan sorbitol dalam skala makmal. Dalam kajian ini, kesan parameter utama dalam penulenan enzim seperti Panjang Garis Ikatan (PGI), muatan mentah dan pH telah disiasat. Dapatan eksperimen menunjukkan bahawa pektinase telah terbahagi kepada fasa kaya-surfaktan dan segala bendasing telah terbahagi ke fasa dibawah iaitu fasa kaya-sorbitol dengan kaedah novel melibatkan DFB terdiri daripada 25.0% (w/w) Triton X-100 dan 26.0% (w/w) sorbitol di 50.2% PGI, muatan mentah sebanyak 20% (w/w) dan pada pH 6.0. Berdasarkan keputusan yang didapati, faktor penulenan yang diperolehi bagi pektinase tulen dari jambu batu adalah 15.2 dan kadar hasil adalah 98.3%. Ia telah menunjukkan bahawa Panjang Garis Ikatan (PGI), muatan mentah dan pH mempengaruhi pembahagian pektinase. Kajian ini membuktikan bahawa DFB boleh dieksploitasi sebagai kaedah yang berjaya, jimat, dan berkesan untuk penulenan dan pemulihan enzim yang berharga dari sumber yang ber-kos rendah yang mempunyai potensi untuk aplikasi industri dan juga alternatif kepada tradisional DFB. Pencirian enzim tulen telah dilakukan untuk menilai kestabilan

pektinase dalam keadaan yang berbeza. Melalui pencirian enzim tulen ini, didapati pektinase dari kulit jambu batu adalah stabil dengan kehadiran beberapa ion logam, perencat, surfaktan dan agen pengoksidaan. Ion logam seperti  $K^+$ ,  $Ba^+$ ,  $Mg^{2+}$ ,  $Na^+$  dan  $Mn^{2+}$  meningkatkan lagi aktiviti enzim. Manakala, pektinase menunjukkan kestabilan yang tinggi dengan kehadiran surfaktan dan perencat termasuk Triton X-100, Tween-80 dan EDTA. Berat molekul pektinase dari jambu batu ini dianggarkan 24.4 kDa melalui SDS-PAGE. Dapat disimpulkan bahawa enzim dengan ciri-ciri unik boleh diperolehi dari sumber semula jadi dan kos-efektif dan berpotensi menyumbang dalam aplikasi industri seperti industri makanan dan minuman, tekstil, kertas, rawatan sisa air dan juga aplikasi bioteknologi yang lain.



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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ATPS	Aqueous Two-Phase System
BSA	Bovine Serum Albumin
DNS	Dinitrosalicylic acid
DTAB	Dodecyl Trimethyl Ammonium Bromide
DTNB	5,5'-Dithiobis(2-nitrobenzoic acid)
EC	Enzyme Commission
EDTA	Ethylenediaminetetraacetic Acid
kDa	Kilodaltons
LSD	Least Significant Difference
Mt	Metric ton
MW	Molecular weight
PEG	Polyethylene Glycol
RSM	Response Surface Methodology
SD	Standard Deviation
SDS-PAGE	Sodium Dodecyl Sulfate Polyacrylamide Gel Electrophoresis
TCA	Trichloroacetic Acid
TLL	Tie Line Length
cm	centimeter
g	gram
kcal	kilocalories
inch	inches
m	meter
M	molarity

minutes	min
mg	milligram
ml	milliliter
mm	millimeter
mM	millimole
$\mu\text{mol}$	micromol
$\mu\text{ml}$	micromilliliter
nm	nanometer
kV	kilovolt
U	Unit
v	volume
w	weight
I.U.	International Units
kHz	kiloHertz
h	hour

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

Guava is well-known as one of the important tropical fruits in many countries worldwide. Belongs to *Myrtaceae* family, guava is native in tropical America, currently distributed in tropical and subtropical continents including South-east Asia (El-Ahmady et al., 2013; Martin, 1984). In Malaysia, guava has been cultivated commercially in Perak, Johor, Melaka, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Pahang, Perlis and Penang (Kwee & Chong, 1990). Noteworthy, the total crop acreage in 2006 is 1992 hectares, with an average yield of 16.8 tons/hectare and the production is estimated to be RM33.6 million (Ariff & Lin, 2008).

Pectinase are heterogeneous enzymes that catalyze pectin, the polysaccharides in plants into simpler molecules like polygalacturonic acid (Kumar et al., 2012). Pectinase has been one of the most forthcoming enzymes in the commercial sectors, biotechnologies, and industries (Kashyap et al., 2001). Previous report stated that the global food enzymes sales accounted to 25% for pectinase (Jayani et al., 2005). Pectinase has diverse applications including food and beverage industries (Sandri et al., 2011; Nur' Alia et al., 2010; Abdullah et al., 2007), oil extraction and recovery (Demir, et al., 2001), coffee, tea and wine productions (Ibrahim et al., 2013), textile industries (Rajendran et al., 2011), paper and pulp industries (Reid & Richard, 2000), production of animal feed and also being used in waste water treatment (Hoondal et al, 2000).

Ultrasonic assisted extraction (UAE) has drawn increasing attention in numerous studies in the recent years as the methods for extraction of bioactive components in plant tissues (Rouhani et al., 2009; Djilani et al., 2006) and nowadays, ultrasound is widely acknowledged to stimulate various processes of extraction (Cares et al., 2010). The recognition of UAE in the application of various industrial processes compared to other conventional methods of extraction such as maceration, reflux, decoction, infusion and others are due to its advantages in limiting the cost and consumption of time, chemicals, energy, reduces effluent and also minimizing the degradation (Bagherian et al., 2011; Rostagno et al., 2003).

Aqueous two-phase system (ATPS) has been broadly used for extraction of protein, separation and purification of macromolecules, cells, and organelles. Aqueous two-phase systems mainly are mixture of two immiscible solutions typically polymer and salt such as polyethyleneglycol and sulphate, phosphate or citrate salt (da Silva et al., 2015; Goja et al., 2013), mixture of two different polymers with common polymers are polyethylene glycol with different molecular weight (Kulaguin-Chicaroux & Zeiner, 2014), salt and alcohol (Ooi et al., 2009), mixture of two electrolytes (Zafarani-Moattar & Hamzehzadeh, 2007) or polymer and electrolyte (de Lemos et

al., 2011) in water above critical concentration. ATPS can be considered as a potential method to overcome the drawback in chromatography with numerous advantages including low of cost, toxicity and low interfacial tension, high water content, provide friendly environment for separation and purification, easily recycled and scaled up with good operational characteristics (da Silva et al., 2015; Rodrigues et al., 2013; Johansson et al., 2011; Asenjo & Andrews, 2011).

## **1.2 Problem Statements**

Malaysia is still facing the major obstacle to produce and commercialize the enzymes for industrial applications due to the high production cost especially high capital investment (Ibrahim, 2013). However, the demand of the enzymes is subjected to increase annually (Li et al., 2012). Besides that, the industry now demands fast, economic upstream and downstream processes to extract and purify biomolecules with higher yield and purity (Dutra-Molino et al., 2014; Gupta et al., 2002).

Enzymes are subtle to changes in pH, ionic strength, temperature, substrate concentration, and nature of salts presents to the point that it can lead changes in their morphology and also denaturation (Scopes, 2002). Hence, it is important to screen through appropriate method of extraction that able to extract the targeted compounds, increase the selectivity of the analytical methods, increase sensitivity of the bioassay and the concentration of the targeted compounds in an environmental friendly manner, reduced time, labor and cost as well as better yield and quality.

Expensive, time-consuming, difficult to scale up and higher cost with lower yield are the main problems associated with the conventional method for the recovery of the enzyme from fruits (Ooi et al. 2009). The steps include clarification and concentration, primary contaminant removal, intermediate purification, and finally polishing (Goja et al., 2013; Prince & Smith, 2004). In industrial processes, about 70% of the final costs were spent in enzyme purification regardless that high purity of enzyme is not essential in industrial processes, contributed by the chromatographic separation techniques (Jaramillo et al., 2013). Although several chromatographic steps are typically used as purification schemes for protein, each step increases operational cost, processing time and also product losses. Therefore, the development of new separation technology that decrease enzyme purification costs and improve yield is an indispensable prerequisite to expand the market for industrial enzymes and proteins.

## **1.3 Significance of Study**

Studies reported that guava peel has never been used commercially despite the presence of useful bioactive components and; it is still ended up as waste product (Marina & Noriham, 2014). According to Lee et al. (2010), currently, only the edible part of the guava is processed into many products while its peel, is not utilized commercially and discarded as waste material (Lee et al., 2010). Recent

investigation stated that guava peel can be an effective source of antioxidants (Contreras-Calderon et al., 2011; Jiménez-Escrig, 2001; Zulkifli, 2010). Besides that, there is also study indicated the presence of protease in guava peel (Chitturi et al., 2013) and according to Singh et al. (2014), guava peel contains significant amount of pectin. Until now, research on guava peel as a natural source of pectinase is still scarce.

The aim of this study is to optimize the operational condition for extraction of pectinase from guava peel by optimizing the extraction conditions that prevent denaturation of the desired enzyme. Furthermore, the increase in demand for a quick and easy recovery method with improved yield and purity for purification of pectinase especially in industries as well as maintaining the pectinase activity and stability throughout the process are the fundamentals of this research. Enzymes are definitely unique based on their source, therefore identifying and characterizing the extracted pectinase properties will help in understanding its function and best condition for its future usage and novelty.

#### **1.4 Objectives**

The general objective of this study is to investigate the effect of extraction and purification of pectinase from guava (*Psidium guajava*) peel as well as to characterize the purified pectinase properties. The specific objectives of this study are:

1. To optimize the ultrasound assisted extraction condition of pectinase from guava (*Psidium guajava*) peel;
2. To develop and optimize the purification procedure of pectinase enzyme from guava (*Psidium guajava*) peel with Aqueous Two-Phase System (ATPS);
3. To characterize the pectinase properties from the guava (*Psidium guajava*) peel.

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