



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**NANOEMULSION FORMULATION OF PALM OIL ESTERS FOR  
TOPICAL DELIVERY OF IBUPROFEN**

**UMMI HANI BINTI ABDULLAH**

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**UMMI HANI ABDULLAH**

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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**Chair: Prof. Mahiran Basri, PhD**

**Faculty: Science**

Ibuprofen has been widely used for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and related diseases but oral consumption of this drug could cause adverse side effects. Since ibuprofen is usually given to patients over an extended period, efforts to reduce its side effect have been attempted. One promising method is topical delivery via the skin. The purpose of this study was to investigate the ability of palm oil esters nanoemulsions to deliver ibuprofen topically. Five ternary phase diagrams were constructed to find the existence of the isotropic region. The ternary phase diagram were POEs/T80:S20 (100:0)/Water, POEs/T80:S20 (90:10)/Water, POEs/T80:S20 (80:20)/Water, POEs/T80:S20 (70:30)/Water and POEs/T80:S20 (60:40)/Water. After analyzing the ternary phase diagrams, various nanoemulsions were prepared from the isotropic region in the phase diagram of POES/ T80:S20 (90:10)/Water due to the largest isotropic region exhibited. Three formulations of nanoemulsions without the addition of ibuprofen



(Formulations A, B and C) and another three with the addition of ibuprofen (Formulation A', B' and C') were prepared. However, these formulations have very low viscosity and have watery feel and appearance. Therefore modification with hydrocolloids; xanthan gum and carbomer 940 was done to Formulation A'. Formulation A' was chosen to undergo modification with xanthan gum and carbomer 940 due to the highest percentage of ibuprofen released (97.50%) at 8 h as well as the formulation was with the lowest surfactant content. Xanthan gum and carbomer 940 were added from 0.2% until 1.0% to Formulation A'. Addition of xanthan gum and carbomer 940 increased the viscosity of the Formulation A' and exhibited pseudoplastic behavior which is preferable in topical applications. The permeation profiles of ibuprofen were determined using *In vitro* Franz diffusion cells and were analyzed by High Performance Liquid Chromatography. Among all formulations with xanthan gum and carbomer 940, Formulation A' Xg 0.2% (0.2% xanthan gum) showed the highest percentage of ibuprofen released (83.6%) at 8 h.



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

**FORMULASI NANOEMULSI ESTER KELAPA SAWIT UNTUK  
PENGHANTARAN IBUPROFEN SECARA TOPIKAL**

Oleh

**UMMI HANI ABDULLAH**

**Oktober 2010**

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Ibuprofen telah digunakan secara meluas bagi merawat penyakit reumatoid arthritis dan penyakit- penyakit berkaitan tetapi penggunaan secara oral ke atas dadah ini boleh meyebabkan kesan sampingan. Memandangkan ibuprofen selalu diberi kepada pesakit sejak sekian lama, usaha untuk mengurangkan kesan sampingan ibuprofen telah dicuba. Satu kaedah yang menjanjikan adalah penghantaran secara topikal melalui kulit. Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk menyiasat kebolehan nanoemulsi ester kelapa sawit bagi penghantaran ibuprofen secara topical. Lima rajah fasa tigaan telah dibina untuk mencari kewujudan kawasan isotropik. Rajah fasa tigaan tersebut adalah POEs/T80:S20 (100:0)/Air, POEs/T80:S20 (90:10)/Air, POEs/T80:S20 (80:20)/Air, POEs/T80:S20 (70:30)/Air and POEs/T80:S20 (60:40)/Air. Selepas menganalisis rajah fasa tigaan ini, pelbagai nanoemulsi telah disediakan daripada kawasan isotropik di dalam rajah tigaan POEs/T80:S20 (90:10)/Air yang mempamerkan kawasan isotropik yang terbesar. Tiga



formulasi nanoemulsi tanpa penambahan ibuprofen (Formulasi A, B dan C) dan tiga lagi dengan penambahan ibuprofen (Formulasi A, B' dan C') telah disediakan. Bagaimanapun, formulasi ini mempunyai kelikatan yang terlalu rendah dan mempunyai rasa dan rupa seperti air. Oleh itu, modifikasi dengan hidrokoloid; Xantan gam dan karbomer 940 dilakukan ke atas Formulasi A'. Formulasi A' dipilih untuk dilakukan modifikasi berdasarkan peratusan pelepasan ibuprofen yang paling tinggi (97.50%) pada 8 jam dan juga formulasi tersebut mengandungi surfaktan yang paling rendah. Xantan gam dan karbomer 940 ditambah daripada 0.2% hingga 1.0% ke dalam Formulasi A'. Penambahan xantan gam dan karbomer 940 meningkatkan kelikatan Formulasi A' dan menunjukkan sifat pseudoplastik yang lebih digemari untuk aplikasi secara topikal. Profil pelepasan ibuprofen ditentukan menggunakan '*In Vitro Franz diffusion cell*' dan dianalisa menggunakan HPLC. Daripada semua formulasi, Formulasi A' Xg 0.2% (0.2% zantan gam) menunjukkan peratusan pelepasan yang paling tinggi (83.6%) pada 8 jam.



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I certify that an Examination Committee has met on date of viva voce to conduct the final examination of Ummi Hani Bt Abdullah on her Master of Science thesis entitle “Nanoemulsion Formulation of Palm Oil Esters for Topical Delivery of Ibuprofen” in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Peertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulation 1981. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the relevant degree.

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## **DECLARATION**

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

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**UMMI HANI ABDULLAH**

Date: 26 October 2010



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ABSTRACT</b>	<b>Page</b>
	ii
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	iv
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	vi
<b>APPROVAL</b>	vii
<b>DECLARATION</b>	viii
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	xii
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	xiv
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	xvii

### CHAPTER

1	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	1
2	<b>LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	4
	2.1 Emulsions	4
	2.2 Nanoemulsions	5
	2.2.1 Preparation of nanoemulsions	7
	2.2.2 Advantages of nanoemulsions	9
	2.3 Non steroidal anti inflammatory drug (NSAIDs)	10
	2.4 Transdermal drug delivery system	11
	2.5 Surfactant	12
	2.5.1 Classification of surfactant	14
	2.5.2 Nonionic surfactant	15
	2.6 Palm oil wax esters	17
	2.7 Xanthan gum	19
	2.8 Carbomer 940	20
	2.9 Phenonip	21
3	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	22
	3.1 Materials	22
	3.2 Methodology	23
	3.2.1 Development of nanoemulsions system	23
	3.2.2 Modification of ibuprofen loaded nanoemulsions	27
	3.2.3 Characterization of nanoemulsions	30
	3.2.4 <i>In vitro</i> permeation studies	32
	3.2.5 HPLC Analysis	33



4	<b>RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</b>	34
	4.1 Nanoemulsions system	34
	4.1.1 Ternary phase diagram	34
	4.2 Characteristics of nanoemulsions	39
	4.2.1 Stability under centrifugation and storage stability	39
	4.2.2 Particle size	41
	4.2.3 Zeta potential values	44
	4.2.4 Rheological behavior	45
	4.3 <i>In vitro</i> permeation profiles	47
	4.4 Modified of nanoemulsions	49
	4.5 Characteristics of modified nanoemulsions	50
	4.5.1 Stability under centrifugation and storage stability	50
	4.5.2 Particle size	53
	4.5.3 Zeta potential values	57
	4.5.4 Rheological behavior	59
	4.6 <i>In vitro</i> permeation profiles	65
5	<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	68
	<b>REFERENCES</b>	71
	<b>APPENDICES</b>	78
	<b>BIODATA OF STUDENT</b>	90

