



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***NEUROPROTECTIVE ANTIOXIDANT-BASED THERAPEUTIC
PROPERTIES OF MALAYSIAN MEDICINAL PLANTS IN JAVANESE
MEDAKA (*Oryzias javanicus* BLEEKER, 1854)***

HASSAN MAINA IBRAHIM

FBSB 2017 8



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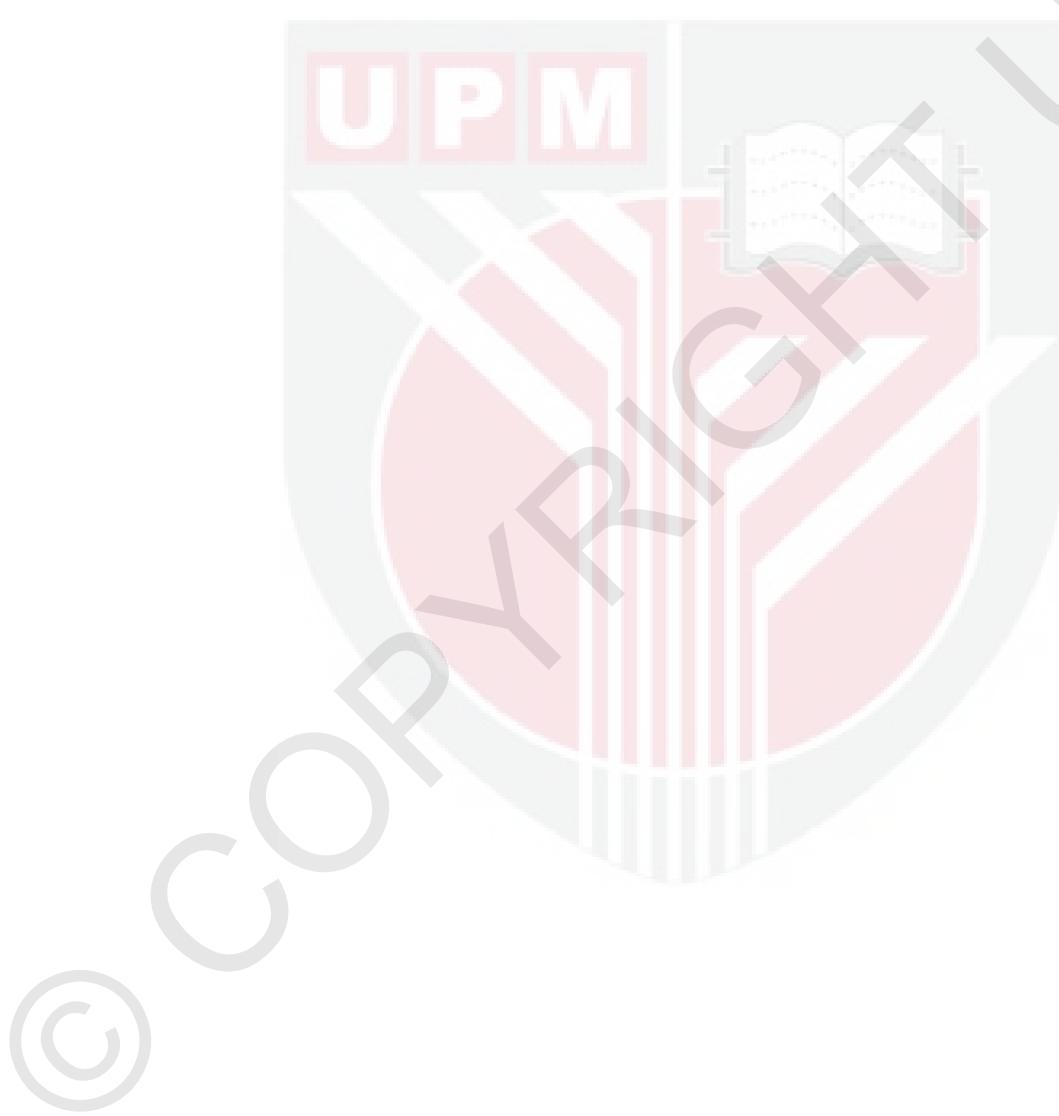
**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfillments of the Requirement for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

January 2017

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to Almighty ALLAH, my family and all those who stand for truth and justice.



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment
of the requirement for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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HASSAN MAINA IBRAHIM

January 2017

Chairman : Syahida Ahmad, PhD
Faculty : Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences

Accumulation of heavy metals such as arsenic has been identified as an endogenous neurotoxin that caused stroke, Alzheimer's disease (AD) and Parkinson disease (PD). Current treatments for those neurodegenerative diseases are not effective and caused many side effects. Thus, the search for alternative medicines is in high demand. Therefore, the aim of this study is to evaluate the antioxidant and neuroprotective properties of Malaysian medicinal plants using *in vitro* and *in vivo* models. Initially, 10 plant extracts, which were *Melastoma malabathricum* (leaf and stem), *Polygonum minus* (leaf and stem), *Ficus deltoidea* (leaf), *Phaleria macrocarpa* (leaf), *Clinacanthus nutans* (leaf), *Murraya koenigii* (leaf), *Curcuma longa* (leaf), *Paederia foetida* (leaf) including the reference plants extracts which were *Curcuma longa* (rhizome) and *Ginkgo biloba* (seed) were extracted using 80% methanol and screened for antioxidant activities using DPPH and FRAP assays as well as *in vitro* and *in vivo* toxicity effects on human neuroblastoma cells line (SH-SY5Y) and zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) embryos, respectively. Screening results showed that *Melastoma malabathricum* (leaf and stem), *Murraya koenigii* (leaf), *Curcuma longa* (leaf and rhizome), *Ficus deltoidea* (leaf), *Phaleria macrocarpa* (leaf) and *Ginkgo biloba* (seed) demonstrated high antioxidant activities with IC₅₀ range of 1–100 µg/mL in both DPPH and FRAP assays. Among the active plants, *Curcuma longa* (leaf) and *Ginkgo biloba* (seed) showed no toxicity effects with LC₅₀ values >1000 µg/mL, while *Melastoma malabathricum* (leaf and stem), *Polygonum minus* (stem) and *Ficus deltoidea* (leaf) showed low toxicity effects on SH-SY5Y cells with 50% lethal concentration (LC₅₀) range 500–1000 µg/mL. On the other hand, *Paederia foetida* (leaf), *Curcuma longa* (leaf) and *Ginkgo biloba* (seed) showed low toxicity effects towards zebrafish embryos with LC₅₀ range 500–1000 µg/mL. However, *Polygonum minus* (leaf) and *Curcuma longa* (rhizome) showed high toxicity effects on SH-SY5Y cells with lethal concentration (LC₅₀) range of 199.7±0.46 and 185.7±0.21 µg/mL, respectively. While, *Clinacanthus nutans* (leaf) and *Curcuma longa* (rhizome) showed high toxicity effects towards zebrafish embryo with LC₅₀ 80.6±0.64 and 51.4±0.6

$\mu\text{g/mL}$, respectively. Based on antioxidant and toxicity screening, two plant extracts which were *Ficus deltoidea* (leaf) and *Phaleria macrocarpa* (leaf) were selected for *in vitro* and *in vivo* neuroprotective evaluation in SH-SY5Y cells and adult Javanese medaka (*Oryzias javanicus*). Antioxidant using dichlorofluorescence diacetate (DCF-DA) assay on SH-SY5Y cells revealed high activities of *Ficus deltoidea* (leaf) and *Phaleria macrocarpa* (leaf) at IC_{50} of $177.78 \pm 0.8 \mu\text{g/mL}$ and $146.66 \pm 0.1 \mu\text{g/mL}$, respectively. Subacute and chronic toxicity tests of selected plant extracts at concentration of 0-95 mg/L were conducted on adult Javanese medaka (*Oryzias javanicus*). Results showed that *Ficus deltoidea* (leaf) and *Phaleria macrocarpa* (leaf) demonstrated no toxicity effect on subacute and chronic toxicity tests in adult Javanese medaka (*Oryzias javanicus*) with $\text{LC}_{50} > 1000 \mu\text{g/mL}$. Neuroprotective test using acetyl-cholinesterase, butyryl-cholinesterase and propionyl-cholinesterase assays disclose significant differences at $P < 0.05$ between the treated and non treated groups by both selected plants. Phytochemical analyses showed that vitexin, isovitexin, glycine, methylamine and dimethylamine were bioactive compounds in *Ficus deltoidea* (leaf) while mahkoside A (4, 4' dihydroxy-2-methoxybenzophenone-6-O- β -D-glucopyranoside) was bioactive compound in *Phaleria macrocarpa* (leaf), which might contributed to their high antioxidant and neuroprotective effects. This study has revealed the antioxidant and neuroprotective potential of *Ficus deltoidea* (leaf) and *Phaleria macrocarpa* (leaf). Thus, both plants could be developed as new anti-oxidant based neuroprotective supplement/ herbal products to treat neurodegenerative diseases.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai
memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**SIFAT TERAPEUTIK TUMBUHAN UBATAN MALAYSIA BERASASKAN
NEUROPROTEKTIF ANTIOKSIDAN BAGI JAVANESE MEDAKA**
(*Oryzias javanicus* BLEEKER, 1854)

Oleh

HASSAN MAINA IBRAHIM

Januari 2017

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Pengumpulan logam berat seperti arsenik telah dikenalpasti sebagai neurotoksin endogenus yang menyebabkan strok, penyakit Alzheimer's dan Parkinson. Rawatan terkini untuk penyakit kemerosotan neuro adalah tidak berkesan dan menyebabkan kesan sampingan. Oleh itu, pencarian terhadap perubatan alternatif telah menjadi permintaan yang tinggi. Sehubungan itu, tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk menilai aktiviti antioksidan dan Perlindungan neuro daripada tumbuhan ubatan Malaysia menggunakan model *in vitro* dan *in vivo*. Pada mulanya, 10 sampel tumbuhan, *Melastoma malabathricum* (daun dan batang), *Polygonum minus* (daun dan batang), *Ficus deltoidea* (daun), *Phaleria macrocarpa* (daun dan batang), *Clinacanthus nutans* (daun), *Murraya koenigii* (daun), *Curcuma longa* (daun), *Paederia foetida* (daun) dan dua tumbuhan rujukan iaitu, *Curcuma longa* (rizom) dan *Ginkgo biloba* (biji) telah diekstrak menggunakan 80% metanol dan disaring untuk aktiviti antioksidan menggunakan asai DPPH dan FRAP dan juga kesan ketoksikan *in vitro* and *in vivo* ke atas titisan sel neuroblastoma manusia (SH-SY5Y) dan embrio zebrafish (*Danio rerio*). Keputusan saringan menunjukkan *Melastoma malabathricum* (daun dan batang), *Murraya koenigii* (daun), *Curcuma longa* (daun dan rizom), *Ficus deltoidea* (daun), *Phaleria macrocarpa* (daun) and *Ginkgo biloba* (biji) menunjukkan aktiviti aktioksidan yang tinggi dengan julat IC₅₀ 1–100 µg/mL dalam kedua-dua asai DPPH dan FRAP. Antara tumbuhan yang aktif, *Curcuma longa* (daun) and *Ginkgo biloba* (biji) tidak menunjukkan kesan ketoksikan dengan LC₅₀ >1000 µg/mL, manakala *Melastoma malabathricum* (daun dan batang), *Polygonum minus* (batang) and *Ficus deltoidea* (daun) menunjukkan kesan ketoksikan yang rendah terhadap sel SH-SY5Y dengan nilai LC₅₀ dalam julat 500-1000 µg/mL. Walau bagaimanapun, *Polygonum minus* (daun) and *Curcuma longa* (rizom) menunjukkan kesan ketoksikan yang tinggi terhadap sel SH-SY5Y dengan nilai LC₅₀ 199.7±0.46 and 185.7±0.21 µg/mL. Sementara itu, *Clinacanthus nutans* (daun) and *Curcuma longa* (rizom) menunjukkan kesan ketoksikan yang tinggi terhadap embrio zebrafish dengan LC₅₀ 80.6±0.64 and 51.4±0.6 µg/mL. Berdasarkan saringan antioksidan dan ketoksikan, dua ekstrak

tumbuhan, iaitu *Ficus deltoidea* (daun) dan *Phaleria macrocarpa* (daun) telah dipilih untuk Perlindungan neuro *in vitro* dan *in vivo* dalam sel SH-SY5Y dan Javanese medaka (*Oryzias javanicus*) dewasa. Antioksidan menggunakan asai diklorofluoresin diasetat (DCF-DA) ke atas sel SH-SY5Y mendedahkan aktiviti yang tinggi oleh *Ficus deltoidea* (daun) dan *Phaleria macrocarpa* (daun) pada IC_{50} 177.78 ± 0.8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ dan 146.66 ± 0.1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$. Ujian subakut dan ketoksikan kronik bagi ekstrak tumbuhan terpilih pada kepekatan 0-95 mg/L telah dijalankan ke atas Javanese medaka (*Oryzias javanicus*) dewasa. Keputusan menunjukkan *Ficus deltoidea* (daun) dan *Phaleria macrocarpa* (daun) menunjukkan tiada kesan ketoksikan ke atas ujian subakut dan ketoksikan kronik dalam Javanese medaka (*Oryzias javanicus*) dewasa dengan $LC_{50}>1000$ $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$. Ujian Perlindungan neuro menggunakan asai asetyl kolinesterase, butiril kolinesterase dan propionil kolinesterase mendedahkan perbezaan yang ketara pada $P<0.05$ antara kumpulan yang terawat dan yang tidak terawat oleh kedua-dua tumbuhan tersebut. Analisis fitokimia menunjukkan viteksin dan isoviteksin adalah sebatian bioaktif dalam *Ficus deltoidea* (daun), manakala mahkosid A (4,4' dihidroksi-2-metoksibenzofenon-6-O- β -D-glukopiranosid) adalah sebatian bioaktif dalam *Phaleria macrocarpa* (daun), yang mana mungkin menyumbang kepada kesan antioksidan dan Perlindungan neuro yang tinggi. Kajian ini mendedahkan potensi antioksidan dan Perlindungan neuro *Ficus deltoidea* (daun) dan *Phaleria macrocarpa* (daun). Oleh itu, kedua-dua tumbuhan boleh dibangunkan sebagai produk herba/makanan tambahan berdasarkan antioksidan yang baru untuk merawat penyakit kemerosotan neuro.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 18 January 2017 to conduct the final examination of Hassan Maina Ibrahim on his thesis entitled "Neuroprotective Antioxidant-Based Therapeutic Properties of Malaysian Medicinal Plants in Javanese Medaka (*Oryzias javanicus* Bleeker, 1854)" in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Doctor of Philosophy.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

µg	Microgram
AD	Alzheimer's disease
ALS	Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
ANOVA	Analysis of variance
APP	Amyloid precursor protein
ATC	Acetylcholine
Aβ	Amyloid β peptide
Bd	Bile duct
BTC	Butyrylcholine
Btt	Bend tell tip
Cl	<i>Curcuma longa</i>
Cn	<i>Clinacanthus nutans</i>
CAT	Catalase
Cb	Curved body
Ce	Coagulated embryo
ChE	Cholinesterase
cPe	Chronic Pericardial edema
Cs	Cloudy swelling
Ct	Curved tail
Cu ²⁺	Copper
Dgm	desquamation intestinal mucosa
DMSO	Dimethyl sulfoxide
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid

Doa	Dorsal aorta
dpf	Days post fertilization
DPPH	2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl
DTNB	5,5'-dithiobis-2-nitrobenzoic acid
E3M	Embryo media
Em	Epaxial muscle
Epvn	Epigastric vein
Fd	<i>Ficus deltoidea</i>
Fe ³⁺	Iron
FET	Fish Embryo Toxicity
FRAP	Ferric Reducing Antioxidant Power
Gb	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>
Gc	Goblet cell
Gm	Gastric mucosa
GPX	Glutathione peroxidases
GSH	Reduced Glutathione peroxidases
GSSG	Oxidized Glutathione peroxidases
H ₂ O ₂	Hydrogen peroxide
HD	Huntington's disease
Hdv	Hydropic degeneration of villi
Hm	Hypaxial muscle
HO	Hydroxyl
Hpa	Hepatic portal artery
Hpf	Hour post fertilization
HPLC	High Performance Liquid Chromatography

Hpt	Hepatocytes
Hpth	Hepatocellular hypotrophy
Hptn	Hepatocellular necrosis
Hpv	Hepatic portal vein
Hss	Horizontal skeletogenous septum
IACUC	Institution of Animal Care and Use Committee
Iar	Intestinal artery
IC ₅₀	Inhibitory concentration at 50%
Ict	Interconnective tissues
Ih	Intestinal haemorrhage
Itl	Intestinal lumen
Ivn	Intestinal vein
Kdy	Kidney
Kg	kilogram
Kt	kinked tail
Ktt	kinked tail tip
L	Liter
LC ₅₀	Concentration that cause 50% mortality
LC-MS	Liquid Chromatography and Mass Spectrophotometry
Liv	Liver
Mk	<i>Murraya koenigii</i>
Mm	<i>Melastoma malabathricum</i>
M ₁	Initial concentration
M ₂	Final concentration
MEM	Medium minimum essential medium

Mg	Milligram
mL	Milliliter
mPe	Mild Pericardial edema
MPTP	1-methyl-4-phenyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine
MS	Multiple Sclerosis
Msec	Metaplasia of squamous epithelial cell
Mt	Mitochondrial
MTT	3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide
MW	Molecular Weight
NO	Nitric oxide
O ₂	Oxygen
Ovy	Ovary
P.f	<i>Paederia foetida</i>
Pm	<i>Polygonum minus</i>
Pm1	<i>Phaleria macrocarpa</i>
Pac	Pancreas
PBS	Phosphate Buffer Saline
Pcv	Posterior cardinal vein
PD	Parkinson's disease
Pe	Pericardial edema
PEPI	(<i>Pistacia integerrima</i> petroleum ether extract) PEPI
PINK1	Putative kinase1
PKC	Protein kinase C
PrP ^C	Primarily α -helical structure
PTC	Propionylcholine

PTZ	Pentylenetetrazole
RNA	Ribonucleic acid
ROS	Reactive Oxygen Species
Sbl	Short body length
Sbld	Swimming bladder
Sec	Squamous epithelial cell
Snd	Sinusoid
SOD	Superoxide dismutase
TCM	Traditional complementary medicine
TPTZ	Tripyridyl-s-triazine
Tris-HCl	Tris Hydrochloride
U	Unit
Uh	Unhatched embryo
V ₁	Initial volume
V ₂	Final volume
vil	villi
Vss	Vertical skelotogenous septum
WHO	World Health Organization
Zn ²⁺	Zinc

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Epidemiologically, antioxidants have been reported to prevent different types of diseases associated with oxidative stress, such as cardiovascular disease (CVD) and cancer neurodegeneration (Costa *et al.*, 2012). Oxidative stress from mitochondrial dysfunction has been implicated in age-associated neurodegenerative diseases such as A.D (Liu *et al.*, 2016; Chakrabarti *et al.*, 2013), Parkinson's disease (Bu *et al.*, 2015; Hauser & Hastings, 2013), Huntington's disease (Stack *et al.*, 2008; Johri & Beal, 2012), amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Corrado *et al.*, 2010; Barber & Shaw, 2010) and prion diseases (Yana *et al.*, 2013; Haigh *et al.*, 2011). Data obtained from population-based studies in Europe reveal that most of the affected age groups are 65 to 90 year with percentage rate of 6.4% for dementia and 4.4% for Alzheimer's disease AD (Kalaria *et al.*, 2008). Scientist reported the risk age for neurodegenerative diseases is 70 to 90 years and with a prevalence rate of up 9.7% of AD (Vidal *et al.*, 2014). Global prevalence of dementia was estimated to be 3.9% in people aged 60 to 90 years, with the regional prevalence being 1.6% in Africa, 4.0% in China and Western Pacific regions, 4.6% in Latin America, 5.4% in Western Europe, and 6.4% in North America (Prince *et al.*, 2013). Not less than 25 million people are currently affected by dementia worldwide, AD was reported to be most common among others, with about 5 million new cases occurring every year (Qiu *et al.*, 2013; Kuiper *et al.*, 2015). Neurodegenerative diseases are associated with high economic burden, there are approximately 45 million reported cases in the UK, with a cost of €134 billion per annum (Kirk *et al.*, 2015). Patients with dementia display a broad range of cognitive impairments and neuropsychiatric symptoms that can cause significant distress to themselves and caregivers. As a result, individualized and multimodal treatment plans are required. Dementia is usually progressive, and treatment must evolve with time in order to address newly emerging issues. At each stage the psychiatrist should be vigilant for symptoms likely to be present, should identify and treat co-occurring psychiatric and medical conditions, and should help patients and families anticipate future symptoms and the care likely to be required (Aarsland, 2015). The best way to manage neurodegenerative disease is prevention. Some of the most promising strategies for the prevention of dementia include vascular risk factor control, cognitive activity, physical activity, social engagement, diet, and recognition of depression (Middleton & Yaffe, 2009).

Neurodegeneration applied to several conditions that result in progressive changes that lead to the loss of function and/or structure of neurons or complete death of neuron. Neurons are the building block of the nervous system and these include brain and spinal cord. Normally neurons do not undergo regenerative changes or replacement when damage or death. Neurodegenerative disease is associated with some common attributes such as atypical protein change with faulty amino acid degradation and activation, oxidative stress, accumulation of reactive oxygen species, defective energy transformation, impaired mitochondrial function and inflammation of the neurons (Urrutia *et al.*, 2014). The sequences of these incidents cannot be predicted, but oxidative damage to the brain has been shown to be one of the earliest diagnostic

markers. Oxidative stress occurs due to the accumulation of ROS as a result of imbalance between the synthesis and degradation of ROS such as O₂, HO, H₂O₂ (Sahiner *et al.*, 2012). A free radical is described as any species that contains one or more unpaired electrons (Halliwell & Gutteridge, 2015). Therefore, Reactive oxygen species (ROS) is refer to collective term that comprises both oxygen radicals, such as (O₂⁻), hydroxyl (OH[·]), peroxy (RO₂[·]), and hydroperoxy (HO₂[·]) radicals, and certain nonradical oxidizing agents, such as hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂), hypochlorous acid (HOCl), and ozone (O₃), that can be converted easily to into radicals (Halliwell & Gutteridge, 2015). ROS are involved in the pathogenesis of several diseases including sepsis, viral infection and non-infectious ailments. ROS are also produced during normal metabolism and are involved in enzymatic reactions, mitochondrial electron transport, signal transduction, activation of nuclear transcription factors, gene expression, and the antimicrobial action of neutrophils and macrophages. Hence, the reducing environment inside cells helps to prevent free radical-mediated damage. This reducing environment is maintained by the action of antioxidant enzymes and substances, such as superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase, glutathione peroxidase, glutathione, ascorbate (vitamin C), [alpha]-tocopherol (vitamin E), and thioredoxin. Alterations in the redox state and depletion of antioxidants by exposure to oxidants lead to oxidative stress which result in oxidative injury (Lowes *et al.*, 2013). ROS accumulation lead to lipid and protein peroxidation as well as gene or nucleic acid mutation as demonstrated in the pathogenesis of neurodegenerative diseases such as AD and Parkinson disease (Sahiner *et al.*, 2012). A problem associated with various cellular mechanisms which include ATP production, inflammatory response, metabolic and reactive nitrogen species (RNS) such as nitric acid, peroxynitrite (ONOO[·]) may also be responsible for oxidative stress. Environmental hazards toxicants such as ionization radiation, heavy metals, can predispose to oxidative stress (Nutt, 2015). Cytochrome P450 enzymes, flavor-protein oxidases and peroxisomal enzymes involved in fatty acid biodegradation are another important intracellular sources of ROS (Kramer *et al.*, 2015).

Medicinal herbs are rich in a bioactive compound with antioxidant and nutritive values that can be used to prevent or treat diseases (Manzo *et al.*, 2015). Most of the natural bioactive compound with a wide variety of free radical scavenging molecules and therapeutic effect include phenolic compounds (Phenolic acids, flavonoids, Quinones, coumarins, lignans, Stevens, tannins), nitrogen compounds (alkaloids, amines, betalains), vitamins, terpenoids (including carotenoids), and some other endogenous metabolites, which are rich in antioxidant activity. Due to reliability on medicinal herbs and need for reducing cost of treatment with conventional drugs, medicinal plants is increasing popularity as natural chemotherapeutic agent for various diseases and pathophysiological conditions (Pan *et al.*, 2013). Most of the commonly used conventional chemotherapeutic agent for examples digitoxin, reserpine, tubocurarine, ephedrine, ergometrine, atropine, vinblastine, aspirin, are sourced from medicinal herbs (Stopk, 2015). The discoveries of medicinal herbs as major sources of chemotherapeutic agents lead to increases evaluation of efficacy and efficiency of several extract in industries and research institute. worldwide (Mondal, 2012). For thousands of years, and to date, Asia has been practicing the use of the medicinal plant in the diagnosis and as treatment remedy especially India (Ayurvedic, Unani, Siddha), China (Wu-Hsing), and Japan (Kampo) (Ali, 2014). Most of the commonly used chemotherapeutic agents are made up of plant bio component mixture and may

occasionally content portion of animal organs and minerals to achieved therapeutic goal and synergistic effect. In Malaysia, 87.3-88.9% of herbal therapy is used in the prevention of health problems (Suriyati *et al.*, 2011). Malaysia has extensive varieties of different plants species and medicinal herbs for thousands of decades. Approximately RM 4.6 million have been generated annually on the sale of medicinal and aromatic herbal in Malaysian markets with a rapid increase of 15-20% (Jamal *et al.*, 2006; Khatun *et al.*, 2011). Many studies reported high chemotherapeutic potential of *Ficus deltoidea*, *Phaleria macrocarpa* and *Curcuma longa*. Information on whether these plants have neuroprotective potential is very limited. Thus, this project aims to assess the neuroprotective potential of the aforementioned plants.

Human neuroblastoma (SH-SY5Y) cells derived from the human cells line have been widely used as *in vitro* model in neuroscience researchers for examples evaluation of a neurotoxic effect of medicinal agents (Cheung *et al.*, 2009; Constantinescu *et al.*, 2007; Lopes *et al.*, 2010). The cells can be differentiated by Retinoic acid following 7 days post exposure and has the ability to expand in culture prior to differentiation (Sommer *et al.*, 2010). However, some scientist recently report that certain chemicals such as herbimycin A (herb A), 12-O- tetra deconoyl-phorbol-13 acetate (TPA) and dibutyryl cyclic AMP (db AMP) or neurotrophic factors which includes nerve growth factor (NGF) and brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) with or without extracellular matrix (ECM) gel will enhance neuronal cells differentiation and maintain the viability of RA exposed cells (Encinas *et al.*, 2000; Kume *et al.*, 2008). More attention has been placed on isolating the compounds that are naturally neuroprotectant and may likely have antioxidant and or anti-inflammatory potential (Kwon *et al.*, 2007; Sapkota *et al.*, 2010).

Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) raised as excellent research model for human and all vertebrate diseases as well as screening of drug activities or medicinal agents (Burgess & Granato, 2007), Scientist reported high homologous genetic similarities between zebrafish and human which made it useful in research beside it low cost, easy handling/maintenance, fast production, transparent body, low generation interval, when compared to other vertebrate model (Egan *et al.*, 2009; Grossman *et al.*, 2010; Wong *et al.*, 2010; Cachat *et al.*, 2013). The zebrafish brain is neuroanatomical and physiologically similar to human apart from minor dissimilarities during the embryonic state (Mahabir *et al.*, 2014). Various neurotransmitter system that is similar to all mammals have been demonstrated on zebrafish, this includes dopaminergic (Kastenhuber *et al.*, 2010; Yamamoto *et al.*, 2010).

Javanese medaka (*Oryzias javanicus*) are widely distributed in Asia and they are subdivided into 3 subgroups *O. latipa* group, *O. celebensis* group and *O. javanicus* group based on phylogenetic and Karyotype analysis (Kinoshita *et al.*, 2009). Two related species of Javanese medaka (*Oryzias javanicus*); *O. javanicus* and *O. dencena* have been demonstrated to be used as excellent models in research due to their tolerance to wide range of salinity (Stueckle *et al.*, 2009; DeLorenzo *et al.*, 2013; Lavado *et al.*, 2011). Javanese medaka (*Oryzias javanicus*) is distributed throughout Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand and western Borneo commonly present in brackish water (Hubert *et al.*, 2015). Scientific finding on hepatic vitellogenin

concentration and hepatic choriogenin mRNA expression have been reported in *O. javanicus* (Li *et al.*, 2013). Recently, many research work involving the effect of heavy metals on antioxidants and stress responsive gene expression have been demonstrated in Javanese medaka (*Oryzias javanicus*) (Woo *et al.*, 2014).

Thus, the main objective of the research work was to evaluate the toxicity and neuroprotective activities of Malaysian medicinal plants *in vitro* and *in vivo*.

Specific objective

1. To screen the antioxidant and toxicity effects of 10 Malaysian medicinal plants extracts on human neuroblastoma cells (SH-SY5Y cells) and zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) embryo.
2. To evaluate the toxicity and neuroprotective activities of selected medicinal plants on human neuroblastoma cells (SH-SY5Y cells) and adult Javanese medaka (*Oryzias javanicus*).
3. To determine the bioactive compounds in selected plant extracts using high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) and liquid chromatography and mass spectrophotometry (LCMS)

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