



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

ANTIOXIDANT ACTIVITIES AND INHIBITORY EFFECTS OF *Mikania micrantha* Kunth (SELAPUT TUNGGUL) AGAINST KEY ENZYMES INVOLVED IN HYPERLIPIDEMIA AND HYPERTENSION IN VITRO

AMIRAH HAZIYAH BINTI ISHAK

FPSK(M) 2018 38



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By

AMIRAH HAZIYAH BINTI ISHAK

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

April 2018

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

ANTIOXIDANT ACTIVITIES AND INHIBITORY EFFECTS OF *Mikania micrantha* Kunth (SELAPUT TUNGGUL) AGAINST KEY ENZYMES INVOLVED IN HYPERLIPIDEMIA AND HYPERTENSION *IN VITRO*

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April 2018

Chairman : Nurul Husna Shafie, PhD
Faculty : Medicine and Health Sciences

Mikania micrantha Kunth, locally known as 'Selaput tunggul' in Malaysia, is a plant that traditionally used to reduce the risk of diabetes, hypercholesterolemia, and hypertension. This study was aimed to investigate the antioxidant capacities and inhibitory activities of various extracts of the leaves and stems of *M. micrantha* on key enzymes related to hyperlipidemia and hypertension *in vitro*.

Total phenolic content (TPC) and total flavonoid content (TFC) were determined using the Folin-Ciocalteu and aluminium chloride colorimetric assays, respectively. The antioxidant capacities were determined using 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) radical scavenging, 2,2'-azinobis-3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulphonic acid (ABTS), ferric reducing antioxidant power (FRAP), phosphomolybdenum antioxidative power (PAP), and β -carotene bleaching (BCB) assays. The inhibitory activities of *M. micrantha* on pancreatic lipase (PL), lipoprotein lipase (LPL), HMG-CoA reductase (HMGR), and angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) were evaluated *in vitro* using the spectrophotometric method. In addition, the chemical profiling of the selected extracts was determined using gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS).

The results demonstrated the ethyl acetate stems (EAS) and leaves (EAL) extracts of *M. micrantha* had significantly ($p < 0.05$) greatest TPC (141 ± 0.51 mg gallic acid equivalent/g) and TFC (70.1 ± 0.92 catechin equivalent/g), respectively, compared to samples extracted by other solvents. The EAS extract had also significantly greatest antioxidant capacities using DPPH ($EC_{50} = 324 \pm 61.4$ μ g/mL), ABTS (0.53 ± 0.01 mmol trolox equivalent/g), FRAP

(1.28 ± 0.05 mmol Fe^{2+} /g), PAP (219 ± 7.03 mg ascorbic acid equivalent/g), and BCB ($108 \pm 2.23\%$) assays.

The ethanol stems (ETS) extract exhibited the highest PL inhibitory activity ($\text{IC}_{50} = 4.49 \pm 2.50$ $\mu\text{g/mL}$) followed by hot water leaves (HWL; $\text{IC}_{50} = 4.56 \pm 0.07$ $\mu\text{g/mL}$) and ethanol leaves (ETL; $\text{IC}_{50} = 8.02 \pm 1.56$ $\mu\text{g/mL}$). These extracts also showed no significant ($p > 0.05$) difference between each other and orlistat ($\text{IC}_{50} = 0.31 \pm 0.01$ $\mu\text{g/mL}$). The ethanol leaves (ETL) extract showed the highest LPL inhibitory activity ($\text{IC}_{50} = 1.42 \pm 0.48$ $\mu\text{g/mL}$), however, the difference was found not significant ($p > 0.05$) between all extracts and orlistat ($\text{IC}_{50} = 1.98 \pm 1.22$ $\mu\text{g/mL}$). ETL also showed the highest inhibitory activity against HMG-CoA reductase ($50.12 \pm 3.44\%$ inhibition), but not significant ($p > 0.05$) when compared to other extracts except hot water stems (HWS) extract. HWS extract showed the least inhibitory activity against PL, LPL, and HMG-CoA reductase. However, HWS extract showed the greatest ACE inhibition ($97.47 \pm 1.19\%$), but not significantly ($p > 0.05$) different when compared to other extracts and captopril ($98.42 \pm 0.93\%$). Overall, all extracts exhibited remarkable inhibitory activity against PL, LPL, HMGR, and ACE.

GC-MS analysis of EAL and EAS extracts showed the presence of sesquiterpenes (18.74% and 30.46%, respectively), phenol (14.74% and 16.38%, respectively), and alkane hydrocarbons (26.7% and 10.45%, respectively) which might contribute to its antioxidant and enzyme inhibitory activities. In conclusion, this study indicates the potential of ethyl acetate stems, ethanol leaves, and ethanol stems extracts as antioxidant, anti-hyperlipidemic and anti-hypertensive agents. Results from this study provide baseline knowledge and evidence of the traditional uses of *M. micrantha* which could be the guidance for future development of nutraceuticals from *M. micrantha* for hyperlipidemia and hypertension.

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

AKTIVITI ANTIOKSIDAN DAN KESAN PPERENCATAN *Mikania micrantha* Kunth (SELAPUT TUNGGUL) TERHADAP ENZIM UTAMA YANG TERLIBAT DALAM HIPERLIPIDEMIA DAN HIPERTENSI *IN VITRO*

Oleh

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Mikania micrantha Kunth, yang dikenali sebagai 'Selaput tunggul' di Malaysia, merupakan sejenis tumbuhan yang digunakan secara tradisional untuk mengurangkan risiko diabetes, hiperkolesterolemia, dan hipertensi. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji keupayaan antioksidan dan aktiviti perencatan pelbagai ekstrak daripada bahagian daun dan batang pokok *M. micrantha* terhadap enzim utama yang terlibat dalam hiperlipidemia dan hipertensi secara *in vitro*.

Jumlah kandungan fenolik (TPC) dan jumlah kandungan flavonoid (TFC) masing-masing ditentukan menggunakan kaedah Folin-Ciocalteu dan aluminium klorida kolorimetri. Kapasiti antioksidan telah ditentukan menggunakan kaedah perencatan radikal 2,2-difenil-1-pikrilhidrazil (DPPH), asid 2,2'-azinobis-3-etilbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonat (ABTS), kuasa antioksidan penurunan ferik (FRAP), kuasa antioksidatif phosphomolybdenum (PAP) dan pelunturan β -karotena (BCB). Aktiviti perencatan *M. micrantha* pada lipase pankreas (PL), lipase lipoprotein (LPL), HMG-CoA reduktase (HMGR), dan enzim penukar angiotensin (ACE) telah dinilai secara *in vitro* menggunakan kaedah spektrofotometri. Sebagai tambahan, profil kimia dari ekstrak yang dipilih ditentukan menggunakan gas kromatografi-spektrometri jisim (GC-MS).

Hasil kajian menunjukkan ekstrak etil asetat daripada batang (EAS) dan daun (EAL) *M. micrantha* mempunyai kandungan TPC (141 ± 0.51 mg setara asid galik/g) dan TFC (70.1 ± 0.92 mg setara catechin/g) yang ketara ($p < 0.05$) tinggi berbanding dengan sampel yang diekstrak menggunakan pelarut lain. Ekstrak EAS juga mempunyai kapasiti antioksidan tertinggi apabila diukur menggunakan kaedah DPPH ($EC_{50} = 324 \pm 61.4$ μ g/mL), ABTS (0.53 ± 0.01 mmol

setara trolok/g), FRAP (1.28 ± 0.05 mmol Fe^{2+} /g), PAP (219 ± 7.03 mg setara asid askorbik/g), dan BCB ($108 \pm 2.23\%$).

Ekstrak etanol daripada batang (ETS) menunjukkan aktiviti perencatan PL tertinggi ($\text{IC}_{50} = 4.49 \pm 2.50$ $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) diikuti oleh ekstrak air panas daripada daun (HWL; $\text{IC}_{50} = 4.56 \pm 0.07$ $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) dan etanol daun (ETL; $\text{IC}_{50} = 8.02 \pm 1.56$ $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$). Ekstrak ini juga menunjukkan tiada perbezaan ketara ($p > 0.05$) di antara satu sama lain dan juga orlistat ($\text{IC}_{50} = 0.31 \pm 0.01$ $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$). Ekstrak etanol daripada daun (ETL) menunjukkan aktiviti perencatan LPL tertinggi ($\text{IC}_{50} = 1.42 \pm 0.48$ $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$), bagaimanapun, perbezaan di antara semua ekstrak dan orlistat ($\text{IC}_{50} = 1.98 \pm 1.22$ $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$) adalah tidak ketara. ETL juga menunjukkan aktiviti perencatan tertinggi terhadap HMG-CoA reduktase ($50.12 \pm 3.44\%$), tetapi tiada perbezaan ketara berbanding ekstrak yang lain kecuali ekstrak air panas daripada batang (HWS). Ekstrak HWS menunjukkan aktiviti perencatan yang terendah terhadap PL, LPL, dan HMG-CoA reduktase. Namun begitu, ekstrak HWS menunjukkan perencatan ACE yang tertinggi, walaupun tiada perbezaan ketara berbanding ekstrak lain dan juga captopril ($98.42 \pm 0.93\%$). Keseluruhannya, semua ekstrak menunjukkan aktiviti perencatan menentang PL, LPL, HMGR, dan ACE.

Analisis GC-MS ekstrak EAL dan EAS menunjukkan kehadiran seskuiterpena (18.74% dan 30.46% , masing-masing), fenol (14.74% dan 16.38% , masing-masing), dan hidrokarbon alkana (26.7% dan 10.45% , masing-masing) yang mungkin menyumbang kepada aktiviti antioksidan dan perencatan enzim bagi ekstrak tersebut. Kesimpulannya, kajian ini menunjukkan potensi ekstrak pokok *M. micrantha* iaitu etil asetat bahagian batang, etanol bahagian daun, dan etanol bahagian batang sebagai agen antioksidan, anti-hiperlipidemik dan anti-hipertensi. Hasil kajian ini dapat memberikan pengetahuan asas dan membuktikan penggunaan tradisional *M. micrantha* yang boleh dijadikan panduan bagi penghasilan nutraseutikal untuk hiperlipidemia dan hipertensi pada masa hadapan.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Alhamdulillah, all praise to Allah S.W.T., for giving me the guidance, strength, and endurance to finish this study and completed the thesis. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Nurul Husna Shafie, who has supported me throughout this study without failed. I am blessed enough to have her as my supervisor – thank you Dr. Husna for your invaluable guidance, advice, encouragement, positive thoughts, confidence and all your trust for me, which helped me a lot throughout this journey. A million thanks to my co-supervisors, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Norhaizan Mohd Esa and Dr. Hasnah Bahari for their helpful suggestion, insights, and comments.

Sincerest appreciation and gratefulness are also extended to the laboratory staffs of Nutrition Laboratory (Mr. Eddy, Mr. Hasbullah, and Mdm. Maznah) and Pharmacotherapeutic Laboratory (Miss Ruhaidah) for their assistance. I would also like to thank the Minister of Higher Education (MoHE) Malaysia for My Master scholarship, and Universiti Putra Malaysia for Project Grant funding (GP-IPS/2016/9489400) and Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF).

Finally, deep thanks to my parents, Ishak bin Hussin and Halimah binti Ahmad who had encouraged me and always pray for me throughout my entire life. Without their support and blessing, I would not be able to reach this step. Last but not least, I would like to say thank you to all my friends and lab mates for their help, unflinching support, advice, and encouragement to finish my lab work. To those that I might not mention you here – thank you for your love, prayers, wishes, and endless support.

I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 19 April 2018 to conduct the final examination of Amirah Haziyah binti Ishak on her thesis entitled “Antioxidant Activities and Inhibitory Effects of *Mikania micrantha* Kunth (Selaput Tunggul) Against Key Enzymes Involved in Hyperlipidemia and Hypertension *In Vitro*.” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Consultation of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AAE	Ascorbic acid equivalent
ABTS	2,2'-azinobis-3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulphonic acid
ACE	Angiotensin-I converting enzyme
Ang I	Angiotensin I
Ang II	Angiotensin II
ANOVA	Analysis of variance
ARB	Angiotensin receptor blocker
BC	Beta carotene/ β -carotene
BCB	β -carotene bleaching
BHA	Butylated hydroxyanisole
BHT	Butylated hydroxytoluene
BP	Blood pressure
CAT	Catalase
CCB	Calcium channel blocker
CE	Catechin equivalent
CHD	Coronary heart disease
CVD	Cardiovascular diseases
CWL	Cold water leaves
CWS	Cold water stems
dH ₂ O	Distilled water
DMSO	Dimethyl sulfoxide
DPPH	2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl
EAL	Ethyl acetate leaves
EAS	Ethyl acetate stems
ETL	Ethanol leaves
ETS	Ethanol stems
FRAP	Ferric reducing antioxidant power
GAE	Gallic acid equivalent
GC-MS	Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry
GSH	Glutathione
GSHPx	Glutathione peroxidase
HA	Hippuric acid
HAT	Hydrogen atom transfer
HDL	High-density lipoprotein
HDL-C	High-density lipoprotein cholesterol
HHL	Hippuryl-histidyl-leucine
HMG-CoA	3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl coenzyme A
HMGR	HMG-CoA reductase
HPLC	High-performance liquid chromatography
HWL	Hot water leaves
HWS	Hot water stems
HXL	Hexane leaves
HXS	Hexane stems
IDL	Intermediate density lipoprotein
LDL-C	Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol
LPL	Lipoprotein lipase
<i>M. micrantha</i>	<i>Mikania micrantha</i>

MW	Molecular weight
NCD	Non-communicable diseases
NHMS	National Health Morbidity Survey
NO	Nitric oxide
OGTT	Oral glucose tolerance test
ox-LDL	Oxidized low-density lipoprotein
PAP	Phosphomolybdenum antioxidative power
PL	Pancreatic lipase
<i>p</i> -NPB	<i>p</i> -nitrophenylbutyrate
PPL	Porcine pancreatic lipase
ppm	Part per million
RAAS	Renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system
RAS	Renin-angiotensin system
ROS	Reactive oxygen species
RT	Retention time
SEM	Standard error of mean
SMC	Smooth muscle cell
SOD	Superoxide dismutase
TE	Trolox equivalent
TEAC	Trolox equivalent antioxidant capacity
TFC	Total flavonoid contents
TG	Triglycerides
TPC	Total phenolic contents
VLDL	Very low-density lipoprotein
VLDL-C	Very low-density lipoprotein cholesterol
WHO	World Health Organization

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research background

The importance of plants to human life can be seen in its diverse utilization in medicine and food as nutraceuticals. Plants are a large source of new bioactive molecules with therapeutic potentials and they have increasingly become attractive alternatives to prevent or reduce risk factors of cardiovascular diseases (CVD) such as hyperlipidemia and hypertension (Nasri *et al.*, 2014). Phytomedicines may benefit the human healthcare systems since they contain many free radical scavenging molecules such as phenolic compounds, nitrogen compounds, vitamins, terpenoids and other compounds that exhibit antioxidant properties (Chetan *et al.*, 2012). The bioactive compounds of the plants will contribute to their medicinal value which produces definite physiological actions on the human body (Hasmida *et al.*, 2014). Moreover, there is evidence suggesting that natural antioxidants from plant extracts are safe and they may reduce the risk of non-communicable diseases (NCD) without any side effects (Chetan *et al.*, 2012).

Dyslipidemia refers to an abnormal amount of cholesterol and triglycerides level in the blood. Hyperlipidemia, hypertriglyceridemia, and hypercholesterolemia are the types of dyslipidemia resulting from the elevation of both cholesterol and triglycerides (Moor *et al.*, 2017). Hypercholesterolemia and hypertension are the important components of metabolic syndromes and risk factors for CVD. The presence of these two risk factors could lead to the development of atherosclerosis and consequently to CVD (Dalal *et al.*, 2012). Hypercholesterolemia is a disease condition that is characterized by an abnormally increased level of plasma lipoproteins; particularly the low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C). The deposition of LDL-C in the lining of vascular wall will develop atherosclerotic plaque thus narrowing the diameter of the blood vessel (Alinde *et al.*, 2012). Moreover, oxidized LDL inhibits endothelial nitric oxide (NO) formation, which contributes to artery stiffening, thereby causing hypertension (Sander & Giles, 2002). Hypertension is defined as persistent elevation of systolic and diastolic blood pressure (BP) that exceeds 140 and 90 mmHg, respectively. Angiotensin II, a hormone which is strongly related to hypertension, triggers endothelial dysfunction in hypertensive patients (John & Schmieder, 2003).

A combination of different strategies is used to treat and manage hyperlipidemia and hypertension. Common therapeutic strategies are generally directed at lowering the serum LDL-C levels and prevention of angiotensin II formation through the inhibition of 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl coenzyme A (HMG-CoA) reductase and angiotensin-I converting enzyme (ACE) which are

the key enzymes of hypercholesterolemia and hypertension, respectively (Ademosun *et al.*, 2015; Saravanan & Ignacimuthu, 2015; Martinello *et al.*, 2006). Other strategies include the inhibition of pancreatic lipase (PL) and lipoprotein lipase (LPL) which are the key enzymes in lipid metabolism responsible for hydrolysis of dietary fats in the intestine and lipolysis of triglycerides in lipoprotein, respectively (Li *et al.*, 2014). Inhibition of both PL and LPL can help to reduce dietary triglycerides absorption, hence, decrease the absorption of dietary cholesterol.

There are reports of established lipases, HMG-CoA reductase and ACE inhibitors such as orlistat (Alqahtani *et al.*, 2015), statins (Chogtu *et al.*, 2015), and captopril (Weber *et al.*, 2014), respectively. Lipase inhibitor drug such as orlistat decreases the absorption of dietary cholesterol by inhibition of intestinal lipases (Alqahtani *et al.*, 2015). However, orlistat gives side effects such as steatorrhea, bloating, oily spotting, faecal urgency, faecal incontinence and even caused subacute liver failure (Drew *et al.*, 2007; Thurairajah *et al.*, 2005). Modern drugs such as statins, fibrates, nicotinic acid, and resins have been used to lower blood cholesterol level by inhibiting the endogenous synthesis or by lowering the cholesterol absorption from the intestine (Saravanan & Ignacimuthu, 2015). However, the high cost for synthetic drugs and the remaining side effects such as distal muscle weakness, headache, acute renal failure, polyneuropathy, memory loss, sleep disturbances, impotence, and pancreatitis lead to the findings for low cost remedies from natural resources (Lin *et al.*, 2015; Djerrou, 2014). Statins have been widely used for the treatment of hypercholesterolemia but it was found that they could also slightly increase the potential risk of type 2 diabetes (Sattar *et al.*, 2010), necessitating the search for more options of no or less adverse effects of hypercholesterolemia treatments. Meanwhile, ACE inhibitors such as captopril give side effects such as proteinuria, skin rashes, altered taste (Atlas, 2007) and also cough (Sweitzer, 2003).

Nowadays, there are increasing interests for substitution of modern medicine with traditional plants and some natural component in the plants for treatment of hyperlipidemia and hypertension. According to Cheurfa and Allem (2015), plant-derived products are commonly considered to be less toxic, with few or no side effect than their synthetic equivalents. *Mikania micrantha* Kunth (Asteraceae or Compositae) is a perennial creeping vine and widely distributed in South and North America and can also be found in Africa, Pacific Islands and Southeast Asia, including Southern China and Malaysia (Day *et al.*, 2016; Tripathi *et al.*, 2012). This plant is known as American rope, Chinese creeper, mile-a-minute, 'Chhagalbatī' or 'Japanilata' (West Bengal), 'Selaput tunggul' (Malaysia) and 'Sembung rambat' (Indonesia) (Saha *et al.*, 2015; Haisya *et al.*, 2013; Nornasuha & Ismail, 2013). In agriculture, *M. micrantha* is known as a weed plant that can reduce the growth and productivity of several crops such as rubber, oil palm, and cocoa plantation in Malaysia which cost 8-10 million dollars per annum to control its growth (Sankaran, 2008). This is due to its fast-growing habit and production of allelopathic substances (Day *et al.*, 2016; Nornasuha & Ismail, 2013; Sankaran, 2008). However, this plant is used

traditionally to treat insect bites and stop minor external bleeding (Facey *et al.*, 2010) or consumed as a juice as an alternative to reduce glucose, cholesterol, and high blood pressure.

M. micrantha has demonstrated many health benefits, such as antimicrobial (Chetia *et al.*, 2014; Chetan *et al.*, 2012; Facey *et al.*, 2010), anti-diabetic (Wan Nurhayati *et al.*, 2013), anti-dermatophytic (Jyothilakshmi *et al.*, 2015), anti-stress (Sibi & Sajid, 2014), anti-inflammatory (Pérez-Amador *et al.*, 2010), anti-proliferative (Ríos *et al.*, 2014), and anti-cancer (Matawali *et al.*, 2016; Dou *et al.*, 2014) activities. In fact, *M. micrantha* is rich in phytochemicals such as terpenoids (sesquiterpene lactones), alkaloids, flavonoids, steroids, reducing sugars, saponins, phenolics, and tannins which have shown significant bioactivities (Dong *et al.*, 2017; Dev *et al.*, 2015).

In spite of its medicinal benefits as aforementioned, the information of the potential antioxidant agent in this plant is still scarce especially the comparison between different parts and the effect of different solvents which can affect the antioxidant capacities and bioactive compounds in *M. micrantha*. Moreover, the potential of *M. micrantha* as pancreatic lipase, lipoprotein lipase, HMG-CoA reductase and ACE inhibitors which are the key enzymes for hyperlipidemia and hypertension has not yet been investigated. Antioxidant agents are important to prevent oxidative damage-related diseases *i.e.*, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, etc., (Sharma *et al.*, 2014) thus potential health benefits of this plant should be further explored.

1.2 Problem statement

Non-communicable diseases (NCD) status in Malaysia such as CVD is in an alarming condition. This problem has significant implications on healthcare costs and drives increasing demand for relatively expensive treatment and long-term rehabilitative care (Mustapha *et al.*, 2014). Hyperlipidemia and hypertension are frequently associated, and they might contribute to the development of atherosclerosis which consequently caused CVD (Dalal *et al.*, 2012). The treatment and management of hyperlipidemia and hypertension include dietary changes and also the use of commercial drugs. However, these oral medications have certain limitations and side effects (Alqahtani *et al.*, 2015; Chogtu *et al.*, 2015; Weber *et al.*, 2014).

Due to the side effects of commercially available drugs, the research on alternative treatment such as the use of medicinal plants needs to be studied. Medicinal plants have been used in traditional healthcare since decades and received much attention in recent years in the search of new therapeutic agents due to the low cost, easy availability, and less or no side effects (Sofowora *et al.*, 2013). Based on previous studies, *M. micrantha* has demonstrated the potential therapeutic effects of several diseases including

diabetes, infections, and cancers (Dou *et al.*, 2014; Wan Nurhayati *et al.*, 2013). Many phytochemicals have been detected from different parts of *M. micrantha* which contribute to the medicinal properties of this plant, especially terpenoids, the major compounds isolated (Nicollier & Thompson, 1981). However, further researches are needed to support the traditional claims and the limited scientific evidence on the health benefit of *M. micrantha*.

1.3 Significance of study

To date, there is limited information about the antioxidant capacities, anti-hyperlipidemic, and anti-hypertensive effects of various extracts of the leaves and stems of *M. micrantha*. Hence, results from this study could provide added values such as information on the best extraction solvent, parts of the plants and the phytochemicals present in *M. micrantha* and scientific evidence to prove the traditional medical uses of *M. micrantha*. In future, findings from the antioxidant and enzymatic inhibitory activities of *M. micrantha* extracts *in vitro* could serve as a basis for future *in vivo* research. *M. micrantha* may be a promising source in the search of new anti-hyperlipidemic and anti-hypertensive agents due to its efficacy and broad phytochemical range.

1.4 Research objectives

The general objective of this study is to determine the antioxidant capacities and potential inhibitory activities of various solvent extracts (hot water, cold water, 70% ethanol, and ethyl acetate) of the leaves and stems of *M. micrantha* on key enzymes related to hyperlipidemia and hypertension *in vitro*.

The specific objectives of the study are:

- i. To determine and compare the total phenolic content (TPC), total flavonoid content (TFC), and antioxidant capacities of various solvent extracts of the leaves and stems of *M. micrantha* by 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) radical scavenging, 2,2'-azino-bis(3-ethylbenzthiazoline-6-sulphonic acid (ABTS) radical scavenging, ferric reducing antioxidant power (FRAP), phosphomolybdenum antioxidative power (PAP), and β -carotene bleaching (BCB) assays.
- ii. To determine the phytochemicals of the leaves and stems of *M. micrantha* using gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) analysis.
- iii. To determine the inhibitory activities of various solvent extracts of the leaves and stems of *M. micrantha* against lipases, *i.e.*, pancreatic lipase (PL) and lipoprotein lipase (LPL), HMG-CoA reductase (HMGR) and angiotensin-I converting enzyme (ACE).

- iv. To evaluate the correlation between antioxidant contents (TPC and TFC) with antioxidant capacities (DPPH, ABTS, FRAP, PAP, and BCB) and enzymes inhibitory activities (PL, LPL, HMGR, ACE) of *M. micrantha* extracts.

1.4 Null hypotheses

H₀ 1: There is no significant difference between the TPC, TFC, and antioxidant capacities of various solvent extracts of the leaves and stems of *M. micrantha*.

H₀ 2: There is no significant difference between the phytochemicals present in the leaves and stems of *M. micrantha*.

H₀ 3: There is no significant difference between the inhibitory activities of various solvent extracts of the leaves and stems of *M. micrantha* against PL, LPL, HMG-CoA reductase and ACE.

H₀ 4: There is no significant correlation between the TPC and TFC with antioxidant and enzymes inhibitory activities of *M. micrantha* extracts.

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