

**Characterization of the components present in the active fractions of health gingers
(*Curcuma xanthorrhiza* and *Zingiber zerumbet*) by HPLC–DAD–ESIMS**

ABSTRACT

Curcuma xanthorrhiza and *Zingiber zerumbet* are two of the most commonly used ingredients in Indo-Malaysian traditional medicines, health supplements and tonics. Recently, a number of products derived from the aqueous extracts of these species have appeared in the market in the form of spray-dried powder packed in sachet or bottle. On-line high performance liquid chromatography, coupled with diode array detection and electrospray ion trap tandem mass spectroscopy (HPLC–DAD–ESI–MSn), was used to analyze the components in the antioxidant-active fractions from the rhizomes of these species. Three components were identified from *C. xanthorrhiza*, including bisdemethoxycurcumin (1), demethoxycurcumin (2) and curcumin (3). The active fraction from *Z. zerumbet* consisted of five components, including kaempferol 3-O-rhamnoside (4), compound 5 [kaempferol 3-O-(200-O-acetyl)rhamnoside (5a) or kaempferol 3-O-(300-O-acetyl)rhamnoside (5b)], kaempferol 3-O-(400-O-acetyl)rhamnoside (6), kaempferol 3-O-(300,400-O-diacetyl)rhamnoside (7) and kaempferol 3-O-(200,400-O-diacetyl)rhamnoside (8). To confirm their identities, the components from *Z. zerumbet* were isolated conventionally and were analyzed by spectroscopic techniques as well as by comparison with literature data.

Keyword: *Curcuma xanthorrhiza*, *Zingiber zerumbet*, Traditional medicines, Health supplements, Tonics, Antioxidant activity, LC–DAD–ESIMS