



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***INFRARED-BASED METABOLOMICS FOR DISCRIMINATION OF  
Andrographis paniculata (Burm. F.) Wall. ex Nees ACCESSIONS  
HARVESTED AT DIFFERENT AGES AND TIMES***

NUR ATHIFAH BINTI YUSOF

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By  
**NUR ATHIFAH BINTI YUSOF**

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

December 2015

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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

**INFRARED-BASED METABOLOMICS FOR DISCRIMINATION OF  
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**NUR ATHIFAH BINTI YUSOF**

December 2015

**Chairman : Associate Professor Intan Safinar Ismail, PhD**  
**Institute : Bioscience**

*Andrographis paniculata* is a herbal medicine for inflammation treatment over decades. The plant active metabolites such as andrographolide and neoandrographolide are mostly reported to have a wide range of medicinal properties. However, these two metabolites and also other metabolites could be affected by many factors. Harvesting age and time are among the factors which could influence the content of the compounds and efficacy of plant bioactivity. Hence, the purposes of this study were to identify the variation of major metabolites between three selected accessions which harvested at different harvesting age and time, and correlated to their nitric oxide (NO) inhibitory activity.

Metabolomics was utilized in detecting the differences in the metabolite profiles of these three accessions *A. paniculata*, 11265 (Perak, H), 11341 (Kelantan, P) and 11248 (Negeri Sembilan, T); which leaves were harvested at different ages and times. The discrimination of different harvesting ages and times were established by orthogonal partial least square-discriminant analysis (OPLS-DA) and characterized by Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy. Meanwhile, the harvesting age with the highest concentration of the major compounds particularly, andrographolide (A), and neoandrographolide (N) were further discriminated in order to compare between harvesting time of morning and evening. The partial least square (PLS) was applied to correlate the nitric oxide (NO) inhibitory and FTIR of the leaves harvested at different ages and times.

The OPLS-DA results revealed that morning harvested *A. paniculata* leaves at 120 days after transplanting (DAT) for P and T accessions, and 150 DAT for H accession contained the highest concentrations of the major compounds. These findings were further correlated to NO inhibitory activity in order to identify either these major compounds have influenced on this bioactivity. The methanol crude extracts of *A. paniculata* accessions showed the IC<sub>50</sub> values ranged between 10.61±0.97 to 49.60±4.02 µg/mL for these three accessions. Some of the values are comparable to that of curcumin (IC<sub>50</sub>, 14.69 µg/mL). The most potent samples in NO inhibition activity were represented by morning of 180 DAT for T and H accessions, and evening of 180 DAT for P accession. This study provides a standard procedure to harvest the *A. paniculata* leaves with highest potential of NO inhibitory activity. This spectroscopic-statistic approach could be useful as a quick guide for time and age of *A. paniculata* leaves should be harvested with targeted major compounds and highest potential for NO inhibitory activity.

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

**METABOLOMIK BERASASKAN INFRAMERAH BAGI MEMBEZAKAN  
*Andrographis paniculata* (Burm. F.) Wall. ex Nees AKSESI YANG DITUAI  
PADA UMUR AND MASA YANG BERLAINAN**

Oleh

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*Andrographis paniculata* adalah ubatan herba bagi merawat keradangan sejak lebih berpuluhan tahun. Aktif metabolismik seperti andrografolid dan neoandrografolid sering dilaporkan mempunyai pelbagai ciri perubatan. Walaubagaimanapun, kandungan kedua-duanya dan juga metabolismik lain boleh dipengaruhi oleh banyak faktor. Umur dan masa penuaian antara faktor yang boleh mempengaruhi kandungan sebatian utama ini dan keberkesanannya untuk bioaktivitinya. Oleh itu, tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk mengenalpasti perubahan metabolismik utama bagi tiga aksesi yang dipilih untuk dituai pada umur dan masa penuaian yang berbeza dan kaitannya dengan perencutan aktiviti nitrik oksida.

Metabolomik digunakan untuk mengenalpasti perbeaan profil metabolismik bagi tiga aksesi *A. paniculata*, 11265 (Perak, H), 11341 (Kelantan, P) dan 11248 (Negeri Sembilan, T) yang daunnya dituai pada umur dan masa yang berlainan. Pengelasan bagi umur dan masa penuaian yang berbeza dibuat oleh analisa ortogon separa persegi diskriminan (OPLS-DA) dan pencirianya dilakukan oleh spektroskopi inframerah transformasi Fourier (FTIR). Manakala, umur penuaian yang mempunyai kandungan sebatian utama khususnya andrografolid dan neoandrografolid yang tinggi dikelaskan selanjutnya bagi membandingkan masa penuaian antara pagi dan petang. Analisa separa persegi (PLS) telah digunakan untuk mengaitkan perencutan aktiviti nitrik oksida (NO) dan FTIR apabila daun dituai pada umur dan masa yang berlainan.

Keputusan OPLS-DA menunjukkan daun *A. paniculata* yang dituai di waktu pagi pada umur 120 hari selepas dipindahkan untuk aksesi P dan T, dan 150 hari selepas dipindahkan untuk aksesi H mempunyai kandungan yang tinggi bagi kedua-dua

sebatian utama ini. Penemuan ini seterusnya dikaji untuk mengenalpasti samada perencutan aktiviti NO dipengaruhi oleh kandungan sebatian utama ini. Ekstrak metanol untuk aksesi *A. paniculata* menunjukkan nilai separuh kepekatan perencutan maksimum ( $IC_{50}$ ) antara  $10.61\pm0.97$  hingga  $49.60\pm4.02$   $\mu\text{g/mL}$  untuk ketiga-tiga aksesi. Sebahagian daripada nilai-nilai tersebut setanding dengan nilai curcumin ( $IC_{50}$ ,  $14.69$   $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ). Sampel yang paling berpotensi untuk merencat aktiviti penghasilan nitrik oksida (NO) diwakili oleh daun yang dituai pada waktu pagi ketika berumur 180 hari selepas dipindahkan untuk aksesi T dan H, dan aksesi P diwakili oleh sampel yang dituai pada waktu petang ketika berumur 180 hari selepas dipindahkan. Kajian ini menyediakan prosedur yang standad untuk menuai daun *A. paniculata* yang berpotensi tinggi bagi merencatkan aktiviti nitrik oksida. Melalui pendekatan spektroskopi-statistik ini ia dapat digunakan sebagai panduan ringkas bagi menentukan masa dan umur penuaian untuk menuai daun *A. paniculata* dengan sebatian utama yang disasarkan dan berpotensi tinggi untuk merencatkan aktiviti nitrik oksida.

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This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

A	Absorbance
ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
ASCII	American Standard Code for Information Interchange
ATR	Attenuated Total Reflectance
Chx	Chlorhexidine
Clo	Clove
COX	Cyclooxygenase
CV-ANOVA	Cross Validation-Analys of Variance
DAT	Days after Transplanting
DDM	Disc Diffusion Method
DMEM	Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium
EDA	Exploratory Data Analysis
eNOS	endothelial Nitric Oxide Synthase
FBS	Fetal Bovine Serum
HCA	Hierarchical Cluster Analysis
IC <sub>50</sub>	Half maximal inhibitory concentration
IFN- $\gamma$	Interferon- $\gamma$
iNOS	inducible Nitric Oxide Synthase
KCCM	Korea Culture Centre of Microorganism
LA	Luria agar
LPS	Lipopolysaccharides
IFN- $\gamma$	Interferon-gamma

IL	Interleukin
MAPK	Mitogen-activated protein kinase
MHA	Mueller-Hinton agar
mRNA	messenger ribonucleic acid
MTT	3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide
NADPH	Nicotamide-adenine-dinucleotide phosphate
NF-κβ	Nuclear Factor-κβ
nNOS	neuronal Nitric Oxide Synthase
NSAID	Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug
PARC	Pattern Recognition
PBS	Phosphate buffer saline
PenStrep	Penicillin Streptomycin
PGE <sub>2</sub>	Prostaglandin E <sub>2</sub>
Pen Strep	Penicillin Streptomycin
Q <sup>2</sup>	Goodness of prediction
R <sup>2</sup>	Goodness of fit
SDA	Sabouraud Dextrose agar
SD-IR	Second derivative infrared spectroscopy
sh	shoulder
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 General Introduction

In today's research scenario, the plant scientists are looking for valuable natural resources that can serve as drugs and health care products with less/no adverse side effects. More than half of the world's population predominately relied on plants for medicinal purposes (Farnsworth, 1994). The development of rapid and accurate approach in finding the active secondary metabolites from medicinal plants indirectly will lead to the improvement in pharmaceutical and nutraceutical research fields. To date, natural product resources have been recognized as the undeniably sources for pharmaceutical development and drug discovery area. Thousands of plants were identified to possess great potential for medicinal use. From the total of drugs prescribed worldwide, 25% of them are from plant origins (WHO, 1992). Thus, it is not an overexaggeration to say that nature has a store house of remedies to cure ailments for the human beings.

### 1.2 Traditional Claims on *Andrographis paniculata*

*Andrographis paniculata* (Burm. F.) Wall. ex. Nees is commonly known among traditional herbalists and practitioners. This traditional medicinal plant has been widely used in Ayurvedic (Indian), Thai and Chinese medicine systems against various ailments and diseases (Madav et al., 1995; Huang, 1994). It also has been ascribed to possess many medicinal properties such as antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, antimalarial, antidiarrheal and anticancer. However, there are two interesting properties; antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory which have gained the attention for further investigation in this current study. The *A. paniculata* was proven to be effectively used in the treatment of infection and inflammation (Ji et al., 2005). Infection and inflammation are two terms which are different but often correlated to one another. Infection is caused by microorganism, and inflammation is a response of the organism to the pathogen. Inflammation is not an infection even when an infection could cause inflammation.

### 1.3 Fourier Transform Infra Red (FTIR)

Plants such as *A. paniculata* usually installed with numerous metabolites with a single plant being able to produce many compounds at any given time. However, these organic compounds contain some common functional groups such as hydroxyls, methyls or alkyls, aromatic ring and many others. This natural phenomena provides us a complete catalogue of different metabolites in different chemical species. Fourier Transform Infra Red (FTIR) is one of the analytical methods used to identify the

functional groups of the compounds. FTIR has been a common analytical instrument in identifying the functional groups of the chemical compounds and assisting in the elucidation of the compounds' structures. It provides the fingerprinting which relate to specific functional groups. The specified functional groups and bonding arrangements for each chemical compound make them to be unique (Wu et al., 2008). The unique characteristics enable to be used in classification and identification of different samples (De Luca et al., 2011) even through this metabolomics approach. Since natural products deal with hundreds of compounds, FTIR spectroscopy is a useful, simple and easy metabolic fingerprinting or footprinting tool which can analyze and measure our "catalog" of nature simultaneously. Hence, FTIR in combination with metabolomics are useful tools in standardizing the components which related to the quality of a herbal medicine such as *Andrographis paniculata*.

#### 1.4 Metabolomics

Decades ago, phytochemist endured laborious and time-consuming works in order to isolate and identify the active component from the medicinal plant. It involved a long journey starting from chromatographic separation techniques, structure elucidation and determination of biological activity for targeted potential compounds. However, a single active compound is usually presence in a plant in a very small amount which sometimes can be scarcely identified. The synergistic effect of multiple compounds for the plant bioactivity was also difficult to be determined. The relevant pharmacological activities from the isolated compounds may not be due by a single compound, but more probably by a combination of compounds. This combination is also known as pharmacodynamic synergism or pharmacokinetic influence (Rates, 2001). By this mutual effect of many compounds, the curative effect might be enhanced to its maximum. Since the science field of metabolomics was born, many analytical platforms were introduced assisting the return of the natural products research to the forefront of the present drug discovery field. Among those analytical technologies being used to quantify all the metabolites in the cell (the metabolome) are FTIR, Gas Chromatography (GC)-Mass Spectroscopy (MS), Liquid Chromatography (LC)-MS, and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR).

These analytical instruments generate numerous amounts of massive data for plant metabolites. Multivariate data analysis (MVDA) is a powerful statistical technique which allows analysis of large number of data sets according to their biological variability. MVDA enables the translation and deciphering of the metabolites chemical data into a simpler form. FTIR also one of the reliable yet simple analytical techniques which can be employed to examine the complex biological samples such as the plant leaves (Xiaobo et al., 2010; Jing et al., 2010; Sankaran et al., 2010; Foca et al., 2009).

## **1.5 Problem Statements**

Since ages, *A. paniculata* has been used to treat many health problems due to the presence of the active metabolites in this plant. Commonly the therapeutic activity of the medicinal plants, such as *A. paniculata*, is influenced by the concentration of those bioactive metabolites. The difference in metabolite concentration has a significant effect on the bioactivity efficacy of a plant. Among the factors that could give the differences in the metabolite content are the plant age and time of harvesting. Thus, any herbal products should undergo standardization of the active metabolites as to maintain the consistency of the concentration which in turn preserve the efficacy of the bioactivity. Therefore, in this present study, *A. paniculata* leaves were harvested in different harvesting ages and times in order to understand the changes of the metabolites related to a selected bioactivity.

Despite other studies being done on *A. paniculata*, none has been carried out on the determination of its metabolites changes due to the chosen two biotic factors of age and time of harvest. As Harapan (H) from Perak was selected as the best accession of *A. paniculata* based on the related cytotoxicity properties (Abdalla, 2005), it was used as the comparison to the other two accessions. FTIR was selected as the instrumental tool to facilitate this study as it is less expensive and can be made possible for the obtained data to be used by those with the access of only this instrument.

## **1.6 Research Objectives**

This study focused on the discrimination of three *A. paniculata* accessions based on their different harvesting ages and times in relation to nitric oxide inhibitory activity through the use of FTIR-metabolomics approach.

Through this approach, the main aim of this study are as listed below:

1. To identify the variations of metabolites based on FTIR data analysis between the three *A. paniculata* accessions harvested at different harvesting ages.
2. To determine the influence of the harvesting times (morning and evening) on the major metabolites of the three *A. paniculata* accessions.
3. To evaluate the nitric oxide inhibitory activity of *A. paniculata* accessions in relation to the different harvesting ages and times.

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