



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***PAPERMAKING USING JAPANESE METHOD FROM AQUATIC
MACROPHYTES***

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**This project report is submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for
the degree of Bachelor of Agriculture (Aquaculture)**

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2012

CERTIFICATION OF APPROVAL
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This is to certify that I have examined the final year project report and all corrections have been made as recommended by the panel of examiners. This report complies with the recommended format stipulated in the AKU 4999 project guidelines, Department of Aquaculture, Faculty of Agriculture, Universiti Putra Malaysia.

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ABSTRACT

Eight (8) species of aquatic macrophytes; *Eichhornia crassipes*, *Cyperus digitatus*, *Cyperus halpan*, *Cyperus* sp., *Limnocharis flava*, *Nelumbo nucifera*, *Nymphaea* sp. and *Scirpus grossus* were explored for their usage as alternative source in papermaking. This study was conducted to determine the potential species and the suitable plant part as source in papermaking using Japanese papermaking method. The macrophytes were examined for fibre dimension and derived values for species selection. The stem part of *C. digitatus*, *Cyperus* sp. and *S. grossus* which have higher dry weight compared to leaf and root was used for paper production. The stem fibre was the most suitable part for papermaking compared to leaf fibre and petiole fibre. The stem of *Cyperus* sp., *C. digitatus* and *S. grossus* have highest slenderness ratio value of more than 60 which are 113.46, 105.54 and 99.05 respectively. The three selected macrophytes have unsatisfactory flexibility coefficient (<50) and Runkel ratio (>1). The stems chemical composition of *C. digitatus* and *Cyperus* sp. have higher content of cellulose compared to *S. grossus* with the value of 44.82%, 44.60% and 42.13%, respectively. The lignin content was lowest in *Cyperus* sp. which was 10.63% followed by *C. digitatus* (11.81%), and *S. grossus* (11.44%) The paper produced from *C. digitatus* has the highest value of tensile strength and breaking length of 2.61 kN/m and 1.20, km respectively. The stems of the three selected macrophytes were suitable to produce moderate quality of paper using the Japanese papermaking method.

ABSTRAK

Lapan (8) spesis makrofit akuatik; *Eichhornia crassipes*, *Cyperus digitatus*, *Cyperus halpan*, *Cyperus sp.*, *Limnocharis flava*, *Nelumbo nucifera*, *Nymphaea sp.* dan *Scirpus grossus* telah diterokai penggunaannya sebagai sumber alternatif dalam penghasilan kertas. Kajian ini telah dijalankan untuk menentukan potensi spesis dan bahagian tumbuhan yang sesuai sebagai sumber penghasilan kertas menggunakan pembuatan kertas kaedah Jepun. Bahagian batang *C. digitatus*, *Cyperus sp.* dan *S. grossus* yang mempunyai berat kering yang tinggi berbanding daun dan akar telah digunakan untuk menghasilkan kertas. Fiber daripada batang adalah lebih sesuai untuk penghasilan kertas berbanding daun dan tangkai. Fiber daripada batang *Cyperus sp.*, *C. digitatus*. dan *S. grossus* mempunyai nisbah kelangsingan yang tinggi iaitu 113.46, 105.54 dan 99.05. Ketiga-tiga makrofit tersebut mempunyai pekali fleksibiliti (<50) dan nisbah Runkel (>1) yang kurang memuaskan. Komposisi kimia daripada batang *C. digitatus* dan *Cyperus sp.* mempunyai kandungan selulosa yang lebih tinggi berbanding *S. grossus* dengan nilai masing-masing iaitu 44.82%, 44.60% dan 42.13%. Kandungan lignin adalah paling rendah bagi *Cyperus sp.* iaitu 10.63% berbanding *S. grossus* (11.44%) dan *C. digitatus* (11.81%). Helai kertas yang dihasilkan dari *C. digitatus* mempunyai nilai kekuatan tegangan dan panjang pemecahan masing-masing 2.61 kN/m dan 1.20 km. Batang untuk ketiga-tiga makrofit yang dipilih adalah sesuai untuk menghasilkan kertas yang berkualiti sederhana dengan menggunakan pembuatan kertas kaedah Jepun.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents	Page
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	i
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
LIST OF TABLES	viii
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
LIST OF ABBREVIATION AND SYMBOLS	xii
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Invasive aquatic macrophytes	5
2.2 Utilization of aquatic macrophytes in papermaking	6
2.3 Raw material contents of plants for papermaking	7
2.4 Traditional handmade papermaking	8
2.5 Japanese method of papermaking	9
2.6 Binding agent or formation aid in papermaking	12
3.0 MATERIALS AND METHODS	
3.1 Location of sampling	15
3.2 Sample collection	15
3.3 Fibre morphology	18
3.3.1 Determination of fibre dimensions	18
3.3.2 Derived values	20

3.4	Dry biomass	23
3.5	Preparation of extractive-free sample	23
3.5.1	Determination of cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin	25
3.6	Paper production	29
3.6.1	Pulping	29
3.6.2	Papermaking	30
3.6.3	Pressing and drying	32
3.6.4	Paper	34
3.6.4.1	Pulp yield and loss during papermaking	34
3.6.4.2	Area, weight, grammage and thickness	36
3.6.4.3	Fibres distribution	36
3.6.4.4	Moisture content and pH value	37
3.6.4.5	Tensile strength and breaking length	39
3.7	Statistical analysis	42
4.0	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	
4.1	Fibre dimensions and derived values	43
4.1.1	Leaf fibres	43
4.1.2	Petiole fibres	48
4.1.3	Stem fibres	52
4.2	Selection of macrophytes species for papermaking	52
4.3	Selection of part for papermaking	57
4.3.1	Dry biomass	57
4.4	Chemical composition of the selected macrophytes	59
4.5	Preliminary study of paper production using <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> and <i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> petiole	62

4.6	Paper production using <i>Cyperus digitatus</i> , <i>Cyperus</i> sp. and <i>Scirpus grossus</i> stem	63
4.6.1	Pulp yield and loss during papermaking	63
4.6.2	Paper sheet weight, area grammage and thickness	67
4.6.3	Fibres distribution	70
4.6.4	Moisture and pH value	70
4.6.5	Tensile strength	71
4.6.6	Breaking length	77
5.0	CONCLUSION	79
	REFERENCES	80

LIST OF TABLES

		Page
Table 1	The parts of the macrophytes taken for fiber morphology.	19
Table 2	The fibre dimension and derived values of leaf fibres of the macrophytes.	44
Table 3	The fibre dimension and derived values of petiole fibres of the macrophytes.	49
Table 4	The fibre dimension and derived values of stem fibres of the macrophytes.	53
Table 5	The dry weight percentage according to parts within species.	58
Table 6	The chemical composition of the macrophytes.	61
Table 7	The paper sheets formed from <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> and <i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> petiole.	65
Table 8	The paper sheets formed from <i>Cyperus digitatus</i> , <i>Cyperus</i> sp. and <i>Scirpus grossus</i> stem.	69
Table 9	The paper moisture content and pH value.	75
Table 10	The tensile strength (kN/m) of selected macrophytes paper strips.	76
Table 11	The breaking length (km) of selected macrophytes paper strips.	78

LIST OF FIGURES

		Page
Figure 1	The collected aquatic macrophytes. (a) <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> , (b) <i>Cyperus digitatus</i> , (c) <i>Cyperus halpan</i> , (d) <i>Cyperus</i> sp., (e) <i>Limnocharis flava</i> , (f) <i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> , (g) <i>Nymphaea</i> sp. and (h) <i>Scirpus grossus</i> .	16
Figure 2	The overall methodology involved in papermaking from aquatic macrophytes.	17
Figure 3	The procedure of maceration to separate fibres bundles. (a) and (b) The different part of the macrophytes include the leaf, petiole and stem, (c) fresh stem of macrophytes were cut into 1.0-1.5 cm length and weighted for 1.0 g, (d) the sample was put inside a tube and reacted with 10 ml of 32.5% nitric acid (HNO ₃) inside a water bath, (e) fibres were filtered using 250 µm laboratory test sieve and rinsed with distilled water and (f) the fibres were shaken using a vortex mixer.	21
Figure 4	(a) The measurement of fibre length from one end to other end of a single strand fibre. The remaining parenchyma cell and broken fibre also present in the slide. (b) The measurement of fibre diameter, fibre lumen diameter and cell wall thickness.	22
Figure 5	(a) The macrophyte was taken out from the soil and (b) the parts separated of the macrophytes which include the inflorescence, stem, leaf and root.	24
Figure 6	The Soxhlet extractor used in the extraction process. (a) The cellulose thimble with extractive-free sample put inside the Soxhlet extractor, and (b) the water recirculating chiller maintained at 7 °C.	26
Figure 7	(a) Extractive-free samples in cellulose thimbles, (b) samples reacted with 24% potassium hydroxide (KOH) solution, (c) the treated samples were put inside a water bath, (d) the sample was rinsed with distilled water and (e) was hydrolysed with 72% sulphuric acid (H ₂ SO ₄) (e). (f) The sample was further hydrolysed with 5% sulphuric acid (H ₂ SO ₄) and (g) put in a water bath. (h) The glass thimbles with sample were put in a desiccator until constant weight.	28

Figure 8	Pulping process. (a) Fibres were cooked in NaOH solution, (b) the formation of soften fibres, (c) the mixture solution were kept for 3days, (d) the removal of black liquor and residues, (e) separation of fibres using mallet, (f) treatment of fibres with sodium hypochlorite, (g) further treatment with sodium hypochlorite to remove lignin and (h) pulp formation.	31
Figure 9	(a) Mixing of pulp, (b) preparing of <i>sugeta</i> mould (c) placing mould in a vat filled with distilled water, (d) pouring pulp onto mould, (e) draining the pulp by removing excess water, (f) pressing the formed paper with sponge.	33
Figure 10	(a) Cloth-covered wet papers were stacking onto each other and covered with boards, (b) paper pressing using car-jack, (c) papers placed in herbarium-pressed and oven-dried, (d) exposing papers to room temperature, (e) separating cloth from paper, (f) keeping formed paper inside zippered plastic bags.	35
Figure 11	(a) Measuring the size of the paper, (b) trimming the paper into standard paper shape.	38
Figure 12	(a) The paper strips and (b) placing the paper strip into a proper position of the Universal Testing Machine.	41
Figure 13	The breaking point (BP) on paper strip.(A) Error BP and (B) acceptable BP (middle of the paper strip).	41
Figure 14	The leaf fibres of the macrophytes. (a) <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> , (b) <i>Cyperus digitatus</i> , (c) <i>Cyperus halpan</i> , (d) <i>Cyperus</i> sp., (e) <i>Limnocharis flava</i> , (f) <i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> , (g) <i>Nymphaea</i> sp. and (h) <i>Scirpus grossus</i> .	46
Figure 15	(a) The leaf of the <i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> . (b) The clumped or tangled pulp of the leaf of <i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> .	47
Figure 16	The petiole fibres of the macrophytes. (a) <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> , (b) <i>Limnocharis flava</i> , (c) <i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> and (d) <i>Nymphaea</i> sp.	50
Figure 17	(a) The petiole of the <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> . (b) The cross section of <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> petiole with lacuna.	51
Figure 18	The stem fibres of the macrophytes. (a) <i>Cyperus digitatus</i> , (b) <i>Cyperus halpan</i> , (c) <i>Cyperus</i> sp. and (d) <i>Scirpus grossus</i> .	54
Figure 19	The dry weight percentage according to parts within species.	58

Figure 20	The inflorescence part of the <i>Scirpus grossus</i> . (a) Inflorescence, (b) spike, (c) spikelet, (d) flower, (e) glume and (f) nut with the scale bar=0.1cm.	60
Figure 21	The <i>Cyperus</i> sp. root attached with mud.	60
Figure 22	The chemical composition of the selected macrophytes.	61
Figure 23	The paper sheet formed from <i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> petiole (a-d). (e) The paper sheet observed under the dissecting microscope (scale bar = 0.1 cm).	64
Figure 24	The paper sheet formed from <i>E. crassipes</i> petiole (a-d). (e) The paper sheet observed under the dissecting microscope (scale bar=0.1 cm).	66
Figure 25	The pulp loss during papermaking. (a) Fibres attach to the mould frame, (b) fibres attach to the bamboo screen and (c) fibres attach to the cloth after the drying process.	68
Figure 26	(a) Paper sheet formed form <i>Cyperus digitatus</i> stem, (b) rough paper sheet surface, (c) and (d) uneven fibres distribution, and (e) even fibres distribution (scale bar=0.1 cm).	72
Figure 27	(a) Paper sheet formed form <i>Cyperus</i> sp. stem, (b) rough paper sheet surface with indentation, (c) and (d) uneven fibres distribution, and (e) even fibres distribution (scale bar=0.1 cm).	73
Figure 28	(a) Paper sheet formed form <i>Scirpus grossus</i> stem, (b) rough paper sheet surface, (c) and (d) uneven fibres distribution, and (e) even fibres distribution (scale bar=0.1cm).	74
Figure 29	The tensile strength (kN/m) of selected macrophytes paper strips.	76
Figure 30	The breaking length (km) of selected macrophytes paper strips.	78

LIST OF ABBREVIATION AND SYMBOLS

CO ₂	carbon dioxide
NaOH	sodium hydroxide
H ₂ SO ₄	sulphuric acid
HNO ₃	nitric acid
g	gram
g/m ²	grammage
kg	kilogram
ml	millilitre
l	litre
%	percent
cm	centimetre
mm	millimetre
°C	degree celsius
kN/m	kilonewton per metre
km	kilometre

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Paper is one of the most important products from the forest. Indeed, almost every human activity requires paper. However, logging activities in papermaking industry have greatly destroy the nature when forest recovery does not happen in the same frequency. In 2005, Malaysia's papermaking industry has produced at over one million tons of paper (Roda and Rathi, 2006). This figure depicts that the papermaking industry in Malaysia has produced large amount of paper which require logging activities. Globally, paper consumption in 2010 is 400 million tons and this figure is expected to increase for about 25% by 2020 (WWF, 2012).

It is estimated that 8 to 10% of the total global wood production is illegally produced for domestic and international trade in 2002. Malaysia denotes 35% of illegal logging for wood production and 35% of the product has been illegally exported in 2002 (SCA and WRI, 2004). Illegal logging activities have greatly destroy the forest without proper management and inspection from the authority, and thus disturb the efforts in sustaining the forest. Comprehensive and strict guidelines are needed to ensure the mission of sustainable development can be achieved.

Presently, the issue of forest destruction has been tremendously increased in Malaysia which includes both in protected forests as well as production forests.

According to the special report by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2000), deforestation and forest degradation contribute 24% of all anthropogenic carbon emissions and 18% of all greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, the impact is getting more serious with elimination of forests' capacity to absorb carbon in the future (Schoene and Netto, 2005).

The shortage of conventional raw materials for pulping as well as the increasing awareness of forest destruction, some alternatives have been searched since 1980s to replace wood sources with non-wood materials (Davies, 1980; Joedodibroto *et al.*, 1983; Ashori 2006). Indeed, Malaysia is currently struggling to find a new fibre source to improve the quality of recycled paper (Roda and Rathi, 2006). In highly industrialized countries, problems such as shortage of supply as well as expensive costs of wood resulted in the use of non-wood as a new alternative source in papermaking (Sabharwal and Young, 1996). Due to the limited wood resources, China has utilized the agricultural residues and non-wood plants especially straw material, bagasse and bamboo as an alternative source for pulp and paper productions (Hammett *et al.*, 2001). In addition, canola (Ekhtera *et al.*, 2009), oil palm residues (Bahari, 2010), kenaf (Shakhes *et al.* 2010) and other non-wood material can also be utilized in pulp and paper production.

Another important source of non-wood plants is aquatic macrophyte. The term aquatic weed is commonly used to refer aquatic macrophytes especially in agriculture sector. Aquatic macrophytes have some advantages such as short growth cycles, modest irrigation and fertilization requirements and low lignin

content which are able to reduce energy and the need of chemicals use during pulping (Hurter and Riccio, 1998). Therefore, the alternative material for pulp to non-wood sources has become important.

According to Chambers *et al.* (2008), aquatic macrophytes can be defined as living aquatic organism that are able to undergo photosynthesis, large enough to be seen by naked eye and grow permanent or periodically submerged, floating or growing up through the water surface. The use of aquatic macrophytes as a source for papermaking is not something novel and it has been extensively discussed since 1980s and much attention has been given to the utilization of aquatic macrophytes as a fibre source (Davies, 1980; Joedodibroto *et al.*, 1983). The important characteristics that are being observed in the aquatic macrophytes are their fibre morphology and length (Davies, 1980; Joedodibroto *et al.*, 1983). In recent years, the fibres are further identified and analyzed to determine their physical, chemical and mechanical (tensile) properties and morphology. This process is important to evaluate the properties of the fibre (Reddy *et al.*, 2012).

The large areas of wetlands which occupy many species of aquatic macrophytes that can be used in the papermaking industry are available all over the world. Since Malaysia is located in the tropics and with a long shoreline, it has a large area of wetlands. According to the Wetlands International Malaysia (2012), there are currently 105 wetland sites. The main wetlands ecosystem found in Malaysia consists of mangroves, river system, and tropical peat swamp forest. The aquatic macrophytes grow well in the wetland ecosystem.

There are few species of aquatic macrophytes such as water hyacinth that has harmful effects to aquatic population and boating activity since they have very rapid growth rate under tropical condition (Joedodibroto *et al.*, 1983). Therefore, these harmful plants should be manipulated in order to see their benefits in another aspect. Based on the study by Joedodibroto *et al.* (1983), in comparing to wood source, the aquatic plants have shorter life cycle and more productive in a sense of industry productivity. Reddy *et al.* (2012) stated that the management cost of the aquatic plants is also comparatively cost effective than those wood sources which require higher maintenance, manpower, and more complicated management. Moreover, the method of producing pulp from non-wood source is more environmental friendly because the production consumes less energy and applies less polluted method (Reddy *et al.*, 2012).

In this study, traditional Japanese method of papermaking will be used to observe how paper can be produced from aquatic macrophytes. In relation to the above issue, it is imperative for researchers to explore and manipulate the potential of aquatic macrophytes to be utilized in such a practical and economical-effective ways. Therefore, this research aims to examine how the suitability of aquatic macrophytes or non-wood sources of pulp as paper. The objectives of this study are:

- i. To investigate the potential use of aquatic macrophytes as significant resources in papermaking using Japanese method.
- ii. To determine the suitable part of aquatic macrophytes for papermaking.
- iii. To investigate the paper quality using the Japanese papermaking method.

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