



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***PULP AND PAPER MADE FROM SELECTED AQUATIC
MACROPHYTES
USING WESTERN AND JAPANESE METHODS***

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This research proposal is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for
the degree of Bachelor of Agriculture (Aquaculture)

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ABSTRACT

Six (6) species of aquatic macrophytes; *Pandanus odoratissimus*, *Nypa fruticans*, *Cyperus compressus*, *Fimbristylis miliacea*, *Rhynchospora corymbosa* and *Monochoria hastata* were selected to determine their suitability for raw material of pulp in papermaking using Western and Japanese methods. The macrophytes were examined for their fiber dimension and derived value. *Pandanus odoratissimus* was the most suitable aquatic macrophytes for raw material in papermaking based on the highest fiber length (1.49 ± 0.04 mm), fiber lumen ($5.52\pm 0.24\mu\text{m}$) and cell wall thickness ($3.69\pm 0.17\mu\text{m}$). All the species were suitable for papermaking with slenderness ratio >60 . Based on chemical composition, *Monochoria hastata* stem was suitable species for paper pulp with the highest value of cellulose (72.54 ± 10.41) and $<30\%$ of lignin (22.63 ± 7.42). Five species of macrophytes were used to produce paper using Western method but only two species were used to make paper using Western and Japanese methods. Paper produced from *Monochoria hastata* using Western method showed the highest breaking length which was 2377.80 ± 0.33 m while paper from *Rhynchospora corymbosa* using Japanese method showed highest tensile strength which was 3.78 ± 0.71 kN/m. The selected aquatic macrophytes in this present study suitable for papermaking using both Western and Japanese methods to produce moderate quality of paper.

ABSTRAK

Enam (6) spesies makrofit akuatik; *Pandanus odoratissimus*, *Nypa fruticans*, *Cyperus compressus*, *Fimbristylis miliacea*, *Rhynchospora corymbosa* dan *Monochoria hastata* telah dipilih untuk menentukan kesesuaiannya sebagai bahan mentah pulpa dalam pembuatan kertas menggunakan kaedah Barat dan Jepun. Makrofit tersebut telah diperiksa dimensi seratnya. Daun *Pandanus odoratissimus* adalah makrofit akuatik yang paling sesuai sebagai bahan mentah dalam pembuatan kertas berdasarkan serat yang paling panjang (1.49 ± 0.04 mm), lumen serat paling lebar (5.52 ± 0.24 μ m) dan dinding sel paling tebal (3.69 ± 0.17 μ m). Semua spesies tersebut adalah sesuai untuk pembuatan kertas kerana ia mempunyai >60 nisbah kelangsingan. Berdasarkan komposisi kimia, batang *Monochoria hastata* merupakan spesies yang sesuai untuk pulpa kertas di mana ia mempunyai nilai selulosa yang paling tinggi (72.54 ± 10.41 %) dan lignin <30% (22.63 ± 7.42 %). Lima spesies makrofit digunakan untuk penghasilan kertas menggunakan kaedah Barat dan hanya dua spesies digunakan untuk penghasilan kertas dengan menggunakan kaedah Barat dan Jepun. Kertas yang dihasilkan daripada *Monochoria hastata* menggunakan kaedah Barat menunjukkan panjang pemecahan tertinggi iaitu 2377.80 ± 0.33 m manakala kertas dari *Rhynchospora corymbosa* menggunakan kaedah Jepun menunjukkan kekuatan tegangan tertinggi iaitu 3.78 ± 0.71 kN/m. Makrofit akuatik yang dipilih dalam kajian ini sesuai untuk pembuatan kertas menggunakan kedua-dua kaedah Barat dan Jepun dengan hasil kertas yang berkualiti sederhana.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION AND SYMBOLS

<i>l</i>	liter
cm	centimeter
m	meter
°C	degree Celsius
ml	milliliter
g	gram
PCA	Principle Component Analysis
µm	micrometer
g/m ²	grammage
NaOH	sodium hydroxide
H ₂ SO ₄	sulphuric acid
%	percent
kN/m	kilonewton per meter
HNO ₃	nitric acid
mm	millimeter

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Aquatic plants or aquatic macrophytes are the plants which inhabited the wetland areas such as ponds, lakes, swamps, rivers and oceans. den Hartog and Segal (1964) defined aquatic plants as plants which are able to achieve their generative cycle when all vegetative parts are submerged or are supported by the water, or which occur normally submerged but are induced to reproduce sexually when their vegetative parts are exposed due to emersion. Cook (1990) defines aquatic macrophytes as vascular plants (ferns, fern allies, and seed bearing plants) whose photosynthetic parts are permanently or at least for several months of the year submerged in water or float on the surface of water.

Aquatic plants are commonly divided into categories according to their lifeform. According to Gerber *et al.* (2004), the aquatic plants are categorized as free-floating, floating with leaf attached, submerged with emergent broad leaved and emergent narrow leaved. The aquatic plants can also be divided into two groups either freshwater plants such as *Nelumbo nucifera* and *Monochoria hastata* or marine plants, seagrasses such as *Halophila ovalis*.

Freshwater plants have many roles in aquatic environment. They are the primary producers that can provide food for other organisms, supply oxygen through photosynthesis process, serve as habitat for small aquatic animals and function as filters which help in stabilizing the water clarity and also prevent the erosion of

the river bank. According to Kusuma *et al.* (2012), the male flowers of *Pandanus odoratissimus* are valued for their fragrance and used as hair decoration and used for kewda attar, kewda water in India.

Eventhough these aquatic plants have many benefits, but they also give negative effects to the agricultural sector especially in rice plantation area. Due to that, these aquatic plants are also refer as aquatic weeds. Aquatic weeds are plants which grow and complete their life cycle in water and cause harm to aquatic environment relative surrounding ecosystem (Lancar and Krake, 2002). Bhowmik *et al.* (2012) stated that the aquatic plants negative effect magnify in lakes and waterways by humans intensive use of natural water bodies.

Problem arises when these plants grow too much and destroy the ecosystem at certain place. As a result, the plants need to be removed from the water body mechanically or chemically. If the chemical way is used, the negative effects will become worsen. But, if the aquatic weeds are being removed manually, there must be a problem to dump them as no suitable places are available and this will create more waste. Therefore, the waste can be reduce by using them as raw material for pulp and paper production. Aquatic weeds has been used as source of raw materials for pulp and paper production such as in Indonesia (Joedodibroto *et al.*, 1983) and in India (Bhardwaj, 2005) but still not practised in Malaysia. The papers made from aquatic weeds can be used as decorative papers, bookmarks, crafts, paperbags and others in order to utilize these unwanted plants from becoming waste. According to Johnson (2010), papermaking using invasive plants

can be used as educational tools to create awareness among students zero waste concept.

Bajpai (2010) stated that pulp and paper are manufactured from wood raw materials containing cellulose fibers, recycled paper and agricultural residues. Chemical composition of plant's fiber such as cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin content can determine the possible utilisation of the selected plants in paper production. Paper strength also depends on the lignin and cellulose content of raw materials while pulp mechanical and tensile strength are directly proportional to the cellulose content (Madakadze *et al.*, 1999). The combination of aquatic plants and the other fibers can enhance the paper strength as well as make different type of papers. To make the paper more interesting, the paper's colour can also be enhanced by the addition of artificial dye or natural dye such as flower petals during the papermaking process.

Based on the information above, two methods in handmade papermaking which are using both Western and Japanese methods that will be conducted in this study to diversify the paper productions instead of using the papermaking machine which is more expensive. Other than that, utilizing the undesired aquatic plants for 'Go Green' production and avoid wasting in agriculture are the main justification of this study by utilize them for papermaking other than being use as biofilter of heavy metal (Tiwari *et al.*, 2007) and as a supplement fish feed (Bag *et al.*, 2012).

Therefore, the objectives of this study are :

1. To examine the physical and chemical properties of the aquatic macrophytes fibers.
2. To determine the suitable aquatic macrophytes species in papermaking.
3. To identify the suitable method between Western and Japanese for papermaking.



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