



***ANTI- CATARACT AND ANTI-DIABETIC PROPERTIES of Citrus hystrix
DC. LEAF EXTRACT IN STREPTOZOTOCIN-INDUCED DIABETIC RATS***

NOR SHAHIRA SOLEHAH BINTI UMRAN

IB 2020 31



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By

NOR SHAHIRA SOLEHAH BINTI UMRAN

**Thesis Submission to the School of Graduated Studies,
Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

July 2019

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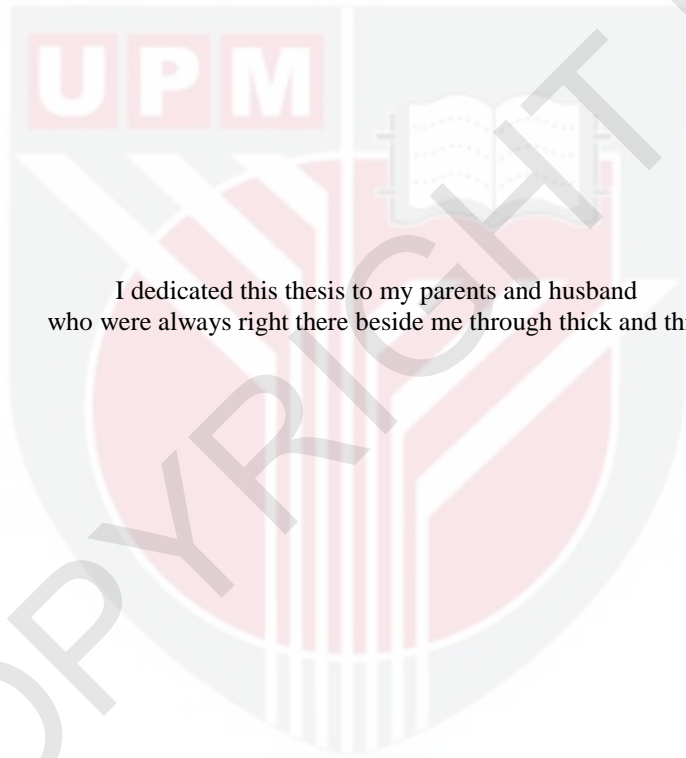
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DEDICATION

I dedicated this thesis to my parents and husband
who were always right there beside me through thick and thin



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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

ANTI-CATARACT AND ANTI-DIABETIC PROPERTIES of *Citrus hystrix* DC. LEAF EXTRACT IN STREPTOZOTOCIN-INDUCED DIABETIC RATS.

By

NOR SHAHIRA SOLEHAH BINTI UMRAN

July 2019

Chairman: Prof. Suhaila Mohamed, PhD
Faculty: Institute of Bioscience

Citrus hystrix leaf is an important South-East Asian culinary ingredient with anti-oxidant, anti-inflammation, and cardio-protective properties. Inflammation, hyperglycaemia and oxidation are significant contributors to diabetic cataract formation. This study demonstrated the mitigating effects of *Citrus hystrix* leaf extract on diabetes and cataract development in female Sprague Dawley rats. Diabetes was induced by intraperitoneal streptozotocin (75 mg/kg) injection before the rats were orally administered with the 150 and 300 mg of extract per kg body weight or metformin (250 mg/kg) for 8 weeks after diabetes development. The extract gradually and significantly decreased fasting blood glucose levels ($p < 0.05$), reduced serum malondialdehyde (MDA), prostaglandin E2 (PGE2), vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), and tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF- α) levels. Histological evidence showed the cataracts development were significantly suppressed by the 150 mg/kg extract ($p < 0.05$), performing better than metformin, by ameliorating systemic inflammation (TNF- α , PGE2, VEGF), oxidative stress (malondialdehyde), hyperglycemia and lens-opacification. Good correlations were found between cataract incidence with fasting blood glucose ($r^2 = 0.90$), serum PGE2 ($r^2 = 0.91$), MDA ($r^2 = 0.99$), VEGF ($r^2 = 0.71$), and TNF- α levels ($r^2 = 0.49$) suggesting these biomarkers may probably help predict cataract risk. The citrus compounds suppressed PGE2, VEGF, oxidation (MDA) and inflammation to probably prevent fluid influx, lens-fibers osmotic over-hydration, to mitigate diabetic cataract development. This study showed the limonoids and flavonoid

rich *Citrus hystrix* leaf consumption, is a good anti-hyperglycemic/ anti-diabetic agent, with potent anti-oxidant and anti-inflammation properties that help preventing diabetic cataract development.



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

KESAN ANTI-KATARAK DAN ANTI-DIABETES EKSTRAK DAUN *Citrus hystrix* DC. DALAM TIKUS YANG DIARUH OLEH STREPTOZOTOCIN.

Oleh

NOR SHAHIRA SOLEHAH BINTI UMRAN

Julai 2019

Chair: Prof. Suhaila Mohamed, PhD

Faculty: Institut Biosains

Daun *Citrus hystrix* adalah ramuan penting masakan Asia Tenggara yang mengandungi anti-oksidan, anti-keradangan, dan sifat perlindungan kardio. Keradangan, hiperglisemia dan pengoksidaan adalah penyumbang utama kepada pembentukan katarak diabetik. Kajian ini menunjukkan kesan pengurangan ekstrak daun *Citrus hystrix* pada diabetes dan perkembangan katarak pada tikus. Diabetes diaruh dengan suntikan streptozotocin secara intraperitonum (75 mg/kg) kepada tikus sebelum diberikan 150 dan 300 mg ekstrak per kg berat badan atau metformin (250 mg/kg) secara oral selama 8 minggu selepas pembentukan diabetes. Ekstrak secara beransur-ansur telah menurunkan kadar glukosa darah semasa puasa, mengurangkan kadar serum malondialdehid (MDA), prostaglandin E2 (PGE2), faktor pertumbuhan endothelial vaskular (VEGF), tahap faktor nekrosis alfa dan (TNF- α). Bukti histologi menunjukkan perkembangan katarak yang ditindas dengan ketara ($p < 0.05$) terutamanya ekstrak 150 mg/kg, lebih baik daripada metformin, dengan memperbaiki keradangan sistemik (TNF- α , PGE2, VEGF), tekanan oksidatif (malondialdehid), hiperglisemia dan pembekuan lensa. Terdapat korelasi yang baik antara pembentukan katarak dengan kadar glukosa puasa ($r^2=0.90$), serum PGE2 ($r^2=0.91$), MDA ($r^2=0.99$), VEGF ($r^2=0.71$), and TNF- α levels ($r^2=0.49$) dan semua biomarker ini boleh digunakan

untuk meramal risiko katarak. Kajian membuktikan ekstrak daun Limau Purut dapat menurunkan kadar PGE2, VEGF, pengoksidaan (MDA) dan keradangan yang mungkin menghalang kemasukan bendalir, osmotik kanta, serat kanta, untuk mengurangkan perkembangan katarak diabetes. Kajian ini menunjukkan pengambilan daun *Citrus hystrix* yang kaya dengan limonoid dan flavonoid adalah ejen anti-hiperglisemia/ anti-diabetes yang baik, anti-oksida dan anti-keradangan yang kuat untuk menghalang pembentukan katarak diabetes.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alhamdulillah, all praise to Allah for the successful project and completion of this thesis. Many thanks to wonderful people that made this journey a success.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Prof. Dr. Suhaila Mohamed, for her continuous support and motivation, so much wisdom for me to learn in academics as well as in life. To my co-supervisors, Dr. Lau Seng Fong and Dr. Norhaizan Mohd Esa, for their time and expertise throughout this study.

My big thanks for those who assisted me during this project, Puan Latifah Mohd Hanan for preparing histological slides. To my research group member; Iffah Nadhira, Nur Iliyani and Nazmun Nahar, thank you for lending hand whenever I ask from the start until the end. I am also thankful for getting to do my work at UPM-MAKNA Cancer Research Laboratory (IBS, UPM), Animal house of Faculty of Medicine and Health Science, UPM) and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, UPM.

I would like to acknowledge Universiti Putra Malaysia and Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi Malaysia that provide necessary financial support for this research.

Last but not least, thank you to my parents, Umran Bin Mansor and Ramlah Binti Awang, my family and family-in-law, for the du'a and understanding, my dearest husband, Mohd Afiq bin Mohd Danial, for so much love and strong support.

I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on (9 July 2019) to conduct the final examination of Nor Shahira Solehah Binti Umran on her thesis entitled “Anti-Cataract and Anti-Diabetic Properties of *Citrus Hystrix* DC. Leaf Extract In Streptozotocin-Induced Diabetic Rats” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution 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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Rozita binti Rosli, PhD

Professor
Institute of Bioscience
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Chairman)

Noordin Mohamed Mustapha, PhD

Professor
Faculty of Veterinary
Medicine Universiti Putra
Malaysia (Internal Examiner)

Kamisah Yusof, PhD

Associate Professor,
Faculty of Medicine
National University of Malaysia
Malaysia
(External Examiner)

ZURIATI AHMAD ZUKARNAIN, PhD

Professor Ts. and Deputy Dean
School of Graduate Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date: 30 June 2020

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

Suhaila Mohamed, PhD

Professor
Institute of Bioscience
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Chairman)

Lau Seng Fong, DVM, PhD

Associate Professor,
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Member)

Norhaizan Mohd Esa, PhD

Associate Professor,
Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
Universiti Putra Malaysia
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CLE	<i>Citrus hystrix</i> Leaf Extract
ALT	Alanine aminotransferase
AST	Aspartate aminotransferase
COX-2	Cyclooxygenase 2
DC	Diabetic Cataract
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
ELISA	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
H&E	Hematoxylin and eosin
HPLC	High performance liquid chromatography
IL	Interleukin
MDA	Malondialdehyde
PGE ₂	Prostaglandin E ₂
ROS	Reactive oxygen species
TNF- α	Tumor necrosis factor alpha
VEGF	Vascular endothelial growth factor

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Cataract causes visual impairment associated with diabetes and aging, being the fifth most frequent cause of blindness especially in 8-25% of diabetic patients (Yuan et al., 2017). Cataract (cortical, nuclear, posterior subcapsular, and combined forms) is characterized by cloudy or opaque areas in the normally clear eye lens. Hyperglycemia increases free-radical (oxidative) stress and osmotic damage within the lens via the polyol pathway where glucose is reduced by aldose reductase to sorbitol that accumulates within the lens resulting in secondary osmotic over-hydration of the lens fibers and the subsequent cataract development (Somya et al., 2015). Both diabetes and cataract are health and economic burdens, where diabetes management is insufficient and cataract surgery is often inaccessible or unaffordable (Yuan et al., 2017).

Streptozotocin (STZ) has been used in research for many years to induce diabetes mellitus (DM) in rats and mice because of its toxic effects on pancreatic β -cells. It is a strong alkylating agent that can methylate DNA and its cytotoxicity depends on DNA alkylation. The STZ-induced rat serves as an excellent model to study the molecular, cellular, and morphological changes in the brain induced by stress in DM (Busineni et al., 2015).

Metformin has multifunctional profile such as anti-inflammation actions, anti-cancer and cardiovascular protection (Forez et al., 2014; Malinska et al., 2016). Metformin was selected as the positive control drug because unlike insulin injection, it is orally administered, relatively safe, well tolerated for increasing insulin sensitivity and reducing glucose production by the liver (Hundal & Inzucchi, 2003). Metformin is currently used as the first drug of choice for all types of chronic hyperglycaemia, because of its safety and efficacy, and the dose used were within the range of the experimental doses of CLE.

Kaffir lime (*Citrus hystrix*), is a popular flavor ingredient in Southeast Asia cuisine. It is rich in obacunone (limonoids), and the flavonoids diosmin, hesperidine, lutein, isoquercitrin and didymin (Siti et al., 2015). Limonoids and flavonoids, have good anti-oxidant, anticancer, anti-inflammatory and free-radical scavenging properties, thus are potential agents against diabetic complications (Chetna et al., 2015). *Citrus hystrix* leaf was chosen due to its health-promoting properties and easy to find. There is no report on anti-diabetic cataract on *Citrus hystrix* leaf.

This study demonstrate the anti-cataract and anti-hyperglycemic effect of *Citrus hystrix* leaf extract, by investigating the effects on the eye lens opacities formation, oxidative stress and inflammatory biomarkers in the diabetes rats for 8 weeks, and compared to normal control rats.

1.2 Hypothesis

The *Citrus hystrix* may/may not mitigate diabetes and diabetes cataract by suppressing oxidative stress and inflammation.

1.3 General Objective

To evaluate the effect of *Citrus hystrix* leaf extracts (CLE) on diabetes and diabetic cataract in rat model and investigate the possible mechanisms involved.

1.4 Specific Objectives

1. To examine the effect of CLE on blood sugar level in STZ-induced rat.
2. To study the effect of CLE on cataract development in STZ-induced rat.
3. To study the effect of CLE on serum MDA, VEGF, TNF- α and PGE2 level in STZ-induced rat.
4. To evaluate the effectiveness of CLE on diabetic kidney, liver and neural function.

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