



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**EVALUATION OF SYNERGISTIC ANTIDIABETIC ACTIVITY *IN VITRO*  
AND *IN VIVO* OF *Taraxacum officinale* (L.) Weber Ex F.H.Wigg AND  
*Momordica charantia* L. DUAL HERBAL COMBINATION**

**NITHIYAA A/P PERUMAL**

**FS 2021 37**



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By

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Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

June 2021

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in  
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**NITHIYAA A/P PERUMAL**

**June 2021**

**Chair : Meenakshii Nallappan, PhD**  
**Faculty : Science**

Diabetes type 2 is the most common type of diabetes, which accounts for 90% of most diabetes cases. Many commercial drugs were used to treat this disease, however these drugs come with adverse side effects and eventually all of them fail to restore the normal glycemic control in patients. Therefore, the search for a more effective antidiabetic agent preferably from dietary source, which is economical and non-toxic or less toxic was considered. Many herbal plants have been found to show multiple antidiabetic activities when used alone or in combination. Therefore, the dual herbal combination of *Taraxacum officinale* (L.) Weber ex F.H.Wigg and *Momordica charantia* L. crude extracts were chosen in this study owing to the numerous antidiabetic compounds present in both plant extracts. Basically, the dried and ground samples of *T. officinale* (whole plant) and *M. charantia* (fruit) were extracted with Soxhlet apparatus using a range of non-polar solvents (petroleum ether, chloroform and ethyl acetate) and polar solvents (acetone, ethanol and water) separately. The extracts were screened for Total Phenolic Content (TPC), Total Flavonoid Content (TFC) and 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) scavenging activity. The antidiabetic properties of the extracts were assessed via glucose uptake assay using L6 muscle cells, dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4),  $\alpha$ -amylase and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibition activity via enzyme-substrate based reaction assays as well as *in vivo* acute toxicology, oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT) and a 28-day antidiabetic study in a streptozotocin-nicotinamide (STZ-NA) induced diabetic rat model. Based on this study, the polar extracts of both *T. officinale* and *M. charantia* recorded higher phytochemical contents and increased DPPH scavenging activity compared to the non-polar extracts. The ethanolic extracts of both *T. officinale* and *M. charantia* showed optimum antidiabetic properties (ANOVA,  $p<0.05$ ). Therefore, both these ethanolic extracts were combined in the ratio of

1:1 to further assess its synergistic antidiabetic activity. The dual herbal combination proved to exert better antidiabetic properties compared to the single extracts of *T. officinale* and *M. charantia* since there was a significant (ANOVA,  $p<0.05$ ) increase in percentage inhibition of DPP-4,  $\alpha$ -amylase and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase enzymes. The percentage inhibition of DPP-4 of the dual herbal combination was  $81.34\pm0.07$ , compared to  $43.69\pm0.56$  and  $14.62\pm0.81$  percent as recorded by both *T. officinale* and *M. charantia* respectively. The IC<sub>50</sub> values recorded by the dual herbal combination towards  $\alpha$ -amylase and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase enzymes were  $2.77\pm0.16$  and  $28.82\pm0.67$  mg/ml respectively, which was significantly (ANOVA,  $p<0.05$ ) the lowest value in comparison to the single extracts. However, the dual herbal combination was noted to show a moderate glucose uptake activity, since there was no significant difference (ANOVA,  $p>0.05$ ) compared to the single extract of *T. officinale* but a significantly (ANOVA,  $p<0.05$ ) lower glucose uptake activity when compared to the single extract of *M. charantia*. As for the *in vivo* study, the dual herbal combination was proved non-toxic as none of the test animals showed any symptoms of poisoning or toxicity. The dual herbal combination tested *in vivo* on STZ-NA induced diabetic rat model showed blood glucose lowering activity of the test sample at 250 mg/kg body weight (b.w) were comparable to that of Glibenclamide (1 mg/kg b.w), where the blood glucose level was significantly (ANOVA,  $p<0.05$ ) restored within 60 minutes post glucose administration during OGTT. Besides, at the end of the 28-days antidiabetic study, it was shown that the antihyperglycemic activity of the dual herbal combination at 250 mg/kg b.w was also comparable to all three positive drugs, namely, Glibenclamide (1 mg/kg), Metformin (50 mg/kg) and Sitagliptin (10 mg/kg), because, under these treatments, the hyperglycemic condition of the test animals was not aggravated throughout the entire four weeks of study. The presence of various polyphenol compounds such as caffeic acid and taraxacin in *T. officinale* and charantin and polypeptide-p in *M. charantia* have contributed to the various antidiabetic properties in the respective ethanolic extracts, hence showing an improved antidiabetic activity upon combination both *in vitro* and *in vivo*. The combined synergistic activities of these two plants in displaying antidiabetic activities proves to be a potential dual herbal combination which is safe and less toxic to manage Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia  
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**PENILAIAN AKTIVITI ANTIDIABETIK SINERGISTIK *IN VITRO* DAN *IN VIVO*  
KOMBINASI DWIHERBA *Taraxacum officinale* (L.) Weber Ex F.H.Wigg  
DAN *Momordica charantia* L.**

Oleh

**NITHIYAA A/P PERUMAL**

**Jun 2021**

**Pengerusi : Meenakshii Nallappan, PhD  
Fakulti : Sains**

Penyakit Diabetes mellitus Jenis 2 merupakan kelas diabetik yang amat kerap dan merangkumi 90% daripada keseluruhan kes-kes diabetik. Terdapat pelbagai jenis ubat komersial yang digunakan bagi tujuan merawat penyakit ini, namun ubat-ubatan ini didapati menyebabkan berbagai jenis kesan sampingan yang tidak diingini dan lama kelamaan, ubatan ini didapati gagal mengekalkan aras glikemia yang normal dikalangan pesakit. Oleh yang demikian, penerokaan agen antidiabetik daripada sumber pemakanan yang lebih ekonomi and tidak bertoksik amat dipertimbangkan. Pelbagai jenis tumbuhan herba telah dijumpai yang menunjukkan pelbagai sifat antidiabetik samada digunakan secara tunggal maupun secara gabungan dwiherba. Oleh itu, gabungan dwiherba di antara ekstrak *Taraxacum officinale* (L.) Weber ex F.H.Wigg dan *Momordica charantia* L. dipilih dalam kajian ini oleh kerana kedua-dua tumbuhan herba ini terbukti kaya dengan kehadiran pelbagai jenis kompaun antidiabetik. Secara ringkasnya, sampel *T. officinale* (keseluruhan tumbuhan) dan *M. charantia* (buah) yang telah pun dikeringkan dan dikisar, diekstrak menggunakan pelarut-pelarut organik iaitu petroleum eter, kloroform, etil asetat, aseton, etanol dan air suling secara berasingan. Kesemua ekstrak ini disaring untuk menentukan jumlah kandungan fenolik (TPC), jumlah kandungan flavonoid (TFC) dan aktiviti perencutan 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH). Sifat antidiabetik ekstrak-ekstrak ini dinilai menerusi ujian penyerapan glukosa oleh titisan sel otot L6, aktiviti perencutan terhadap enzim dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4),  $\alpha$ -amilase dan  $\alpha$ -glukosidase melalui tindak balas berasaskan enzim-substrat, serta ujian *in vivo* yang melibatkan ujian ketoksikan akut, glukosa tolerans (OGTT) dan kajian antidiabetes selama 28 hari yang melibatkan model tikus diabetes teraruh streptozotocin-nicotinamide (STZ-NA). Berdasarkan kajian ini, extract polar dari kedua-dua *T. officinale* dan *M. charantia* mencatatkan kandungan fitokimia yang

lebih tinggi serta peningkatan aktiviti perencatan DPPH, berbanding dengan ekstrak bukan polar. Ekstrak etanol dari kedua-dua *T. officinale* dan *M. charantia* menunjukkan sifat antidiabetik yang optimum (ANOVA,  $p<0.05$ ). Oleh itu, kedua-dua ekstrak etanol ini digabungkan dalam nisbah 1:1, seterusnya aktiviti antidiabetes sinergi dinilai. Kombinasi dwiherba ini terbukti mempunyai sifat antidiabetik yang lebih baik berbanding ekstrak etanol tunggal kedua-dua *T. officinale* dan *M. charantia*, kerana terdapat peningkatan peratus perencatan enzim DPP-4,  $\alpha$ -amilase dan  $\alpha$ -glukosidase yang ketara (ANOVA,  $p<0.05$ ). Peratus perencatan DPP-4 oleh kombinasi dwiherba ini adalah  $81.34\pm0.07$ , berbanding dengan  $43.69\pm0.56$  dan  $14.62\pm0.81$  peratus yang dicatatkan oleh kedua-dua ekstrak tunggal *T. officinale* dan *M. charantia*. Nilai IC<sub>50</sub> yang dicatat oleh kombinasi dwiherba ke arah enzim  $\alpha$ -amilase dan  $\alpha$ -glukosidase adalah  $2.77 \pm 0.16$  dan  $28.82 \pm 0.67$  mg/ml, iaitu nilai terendah yang amat ketara (ANOVA,  $p<0.05$ ) berbanding dengan ekstrak-ekstrak tunggal. Walau bagaimanapun, kombinasi dwiherba ini menunjukkan aktiviti penyerapan glukosa yang sederhana, kerana tiada perbezaan yang ketara (ANOVA,  $p>0.05$ ) berbanding ekstrak etanol tunggal *T. Officinale*, namun terdapat perbezaan yang ketara (ANOVA,  $p<0.05$ ) berbanding ekstrak etanol tunggal *M. Charantia* di mana aktiviti penyerapan glukosa adalah lebih rendah. Dalam ujian ketoksisan akut *in vivo*, kombinasi dwiherba terbukti tidak bertoksik kerana tiada sebarang haiwan pelakuan dalam ujian ini menunjukkan ciri-ciri keracunan atau ketoksisan. Kombinasi dwiherba ini apabila diuji menggunakan ujian OGTT melalui *in vivo* terhadap model tikus teraruh diabetes STZ-NA, aktiviti pengurangan glukosa dalam darah oleh kombinasi dwiherba pada kepekatan 250 mg/kg berat tubuh (b) adalah setanding dengan Glibenklamid (1mg/kg b), di mana paras glukosa dalam darah dipulihkan secara ketara (ANOVA,  $p<0.05$ ) dalam masa 60 minit selepas diberi glukosa. Selain itu, pada akhir kajian antidiabetes selama 28 hari, didapati bahawa aktiviti antihiperlisemias oleh kombinasi dwiherba pada kepekatan 250 mg/kg juga setanding dengan ubat-ubatan kawalan positif, iaitu Glibenklamid (1 mg/kg), Metformin (50 mg/kg) dan Sitagliptin (10 mg/kg), kerana, di bawah rawatan ini, keadaan hiperglisemia tikus teraruh diabetes tidak bertambah buruk atau meningkat sepanjang kajian yang berlangsung selama empat minggu. Kehadiran pelbagai jenis sebatian polifenol seperti asid kafeik dan taraxacin dalam *T. officinale* serta charantin dan polipeptida-p dalam *M. charantia* telah menyumbang kepada pelbagai sifat antidiabetik yang ditunjukkan oleh kedua-dua herba ini. Ini membuktikan bahawa aktiviti antidiabetik oleh kombinasi dwiherba adalah lebih baik berbanding ekstrak etanol tunggal *T. officinale* dan *M. charantia*, disebabkan oleh aktiviti sinergi kedua-dua herba ini. Oleh yang demikian, kombinasi dwiherba ini terbukti berpotensi untuk dikembangkan seterusnya menjadi rawatan herba yang selamat dan kurang bertoksik bagi menangani penyakit Diabetes mellitus Jenis 2.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Almighty, Divine Lord for gracing me with courage, strength, persistence and knowledge to complete this study. None of this would have been possible without His will and blessings.

My deepest heartfelt gratitude to my dearest Supervisor, Dr Meenakshii Nallappan for her utmost patience, dedication and love in guiding me to complete this study. She is a great pillar of support and a true friend who always stands by me all along.

I would also like to extend my humble thanks to my committee members, Dr. Nur Kartinee Kassim and Dr. Shamarina Shohaimi for sharing their knowledge and expertise as well as equipping me with valuable ideas and support in successfully completing this study.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to Dr Tee Thiam Tsui and Dr Cheah Yew Hoong from ZACH Biotech Depot Sdn. Bhd. for their generosity in aiding this project financially as well as providing incomparable ideas, comments and insights throughout the study. I am ever thankful for the selfless help rendered by them in the times of need.

I also take this chance to thank all my labmates, Oon Seok Fang, the late Saknah, Ng Rou Chian, Lim Pei Cee, Siti Fara Najua binti Mohd Nasir, Tan Dai Chuan and Alexandra Quek as well as my friends Sujithra Devi a/p Arunagiri Theva, Banulata a/p Gopalsamy and Pravinaa a/p Sooryanarayanan for always being there for me whenever I needed any assistance, motivation, guidance and support.

Last but never the least, my loving family, Amma, Appa, Tata, Patti, Uncles, Aunties and Cousins who stood by me with never-ending faith and patience. Their love and support motivated me to never give up hope and complete what I have started.

Never forgetting, my sincere thanks to the Ministry of Education Malaysia for their financial support through MyBrain15.

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**Name of Examiner 1, PhD**

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Name of Department and/or Faculty

Name of Organisation (University/Institute)

Country

(External Examiner)

**Prof. Ts. Dr. Zuriati Ahmad  
Zukarnain, PhD**

Professor and Deputy Dean  
School of Graduate Studies  
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date:

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

**Meenakshii a/p Nallappan, PhD**

Senior Lecturer  
Faculty of Science  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Chairman)

**Nur Kartinee binti Kassim, PhD**

Senior Lecturer  
Faculty of Science  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Member)

**Shamarina binti Shohaimi, PhD**

Associate Professor  
Faculty of Science  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
(Member)

---

**ZALILAH MOHD SHARIFF, PhD**

Professor and Dean  
School of Graduate Studies  
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Name and Matric No.: Nithiyaa a/p Perumal (GS38216)

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

2-NBDG	2-(N-(7-Nitrobenz-2-oxa-1,3-diazol-4-yl) Amino)-2-Deoxyglucose
Abs	Absorbance
ADA	American Diabetes Association
AICl <sub>3</sub>	Aluminium trichloride
AMC	Gly-Pro-Aminomethylcoumarin
AMPK	Adenosine monophosphate- activated protein kinase
ANOVA	Analysis of variance
ARM	Ames Reflectance Meter
ATCC	American Type Culture Collection
b.w	Body weight
BC	Before Christ
CAMs	Complementary and alternative medicines
CG	cytosine guanine
COMeT	Comparative Medicine and Technology Unit
CpG	cytosine guanine sites
DM	Diabetes mellitus
DMEM	Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium
DMSO	Dimethylsulfoxide
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
DPPH	2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl
DPP-4	dipeptidyl peptidase IV
FBG	Fasting blood glucose

FBS	Fetal bovine serum
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FPG	Fasting Plasma Glucose
GIP	Glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide
GLP-1	Glucagon-like peptide
GLUT4	Glucose Transporter type 4
HbA1c	Hemoglobin A1c
HDL	High-density lipoprotein
HIV	Human immunodeficiency viruses
IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
IC50	Half maximal inhibitory concentration
IDDM	Insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus
IDF	International Diabetes Federation
IL-6	Interleukin-6
IP	Intraperitoneal
K-ATP	Potassium sensitive-adenosine triphosphate
LDL	Low-density lipoprotein
M	Molar
MC/A	Acetone extraction of <i>M. charantia</i>
MC/ChCL3	Chloroform extraction of <i>M. charantia</i>
MC/EA	Ethyl acetate extraction of <i>M. charantia</i>
MC/ETOH	Ethanol extraction of <i>M. charantia</i>
MC/H2O	Water extraction of <i>M. charantia</i>
MC/PE	Petroleum ether extraction of <i>M. charantia</i>

mRNA	Messenger Ribonucleic acid
NA	Nicotinamide
NIDDM	Non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OGTT	Oral Glucose Tolerance Test
PBS	Phosphate buffer saline
PNP	4-Nitrophenol
PNPG	4-nitrophenyl- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranoside
PPAR- $\gamma$	Peroxisome proliferator activated receptor
RNA	Ribonucleic acid
ROS	Reactive oxygen species
SGLT2	Sodium-glucose cotransporter-2
SRB	Sulphorhodamine B
STZ	Streptozotocin
T2DM	Type 2 Diabetes mellitus
TCA	Trichloroacetic acid
TFC	Total flavonoid content
TGR5	G protein-coupled receptor
TNF- $\alpha$	Tumour necrosis factor alpha
TO/A	Acetone extraction of <i>T. officinale</i>
TO/ChCL3	Chloroform extraction of <i>T. officinale</i>
TO/EA	Ethyl acetate extraction of <i>T. officinale</i>
TO/ETOH	Ethanol extraction of <i>T. officinale</i>
TO/H2O	Water extraction of <i>T. officinale</i>

TO/PE	Petroleum ether extraction of <i>T. officinale</i>
TPC	Total phenolic content
WHO	World Health Organization

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of Study**

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a metabolic disorder characterized by abnormally high levels of blood glucose (Ching June et al., 2012). Although not contagious, this disease is regarded as one of the leading causes of death besides causing other health complications such as heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke and kidney failure (Nain et al., 2012). There are two major types of DM, first is the inability of the beta cells in the pancreatic to secrete insulin efficiently in response to raised blood glucose level in the system and the second type refers to resistance towards insulin, which points to the inefficiency of the liver, muscle and adipose tissue to respond to insulin secreted by the beta cells (Wang et al., 2007).

In 2019, the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) recorded that 463 million people around the world suffered with DM and by 2045, this figure was speculated to rise to 700 million. Among the Asian countries, Malaysia a developing country with a total population of 32.7 million, which accounts just 0.4% of the entire world population, regrettably hold the highest record of DM sufferers, surpassing China and India. Apart from deteriorating a person's health, DM is also known to be a very expensive disease and a huge burden to the country's economics, where the medical expenditure of a person with diabetes is twice than that of a non-diabetic person (Petersen, 2003).

#### **1.2 Problem Statement**

In line with the persistent increase of DM cases around the world, numerous conventional antidiabetic drugs are available over the counter and the invention of latest drugs are continuously flooding in. Antidiabetic medications are prescribed according to the types of DM. Treatment to Type 1 DM is restricted to the use of various insulin analogues via subcutaneous injection to maintain a near normoglycemic condition in patients (Jacobsen et al., 2009). As for Type 2 DM, various classes of oral diabetic drugs such as biguanides, sulfonylurea derivatives, incretin-based therapies such as dipeptidyl peptidase 4 (DPP-4) inhibitors as well as alpha glucosidase inhibitors are prescribed by physicians (Ahmed et al., 2014). Some of these classes of drugs works in complementary to each other hence they are usually taken in combination to successfully lower the blood glucose level in patients with Type 2 DM (Blonde & San Juan, 2012).

Although these drugs are largely used to treat DM, they are used with caution owing to the toxicity and side effects that render reduced renal function in patients (Ioannidis, 2014). Other side effects of these drugs are hypoglycemia, lactic acidosis, flatulence, diarrhea, hepatic disease, heart failure and pancreatitis to name a few (Babiker & Dubayee, 2017; Lankatillake et al., 2019). Due to the rising risk of consuming conventional diabetic drugs, the need for a safer and cost effective alternative remedy, preferably from the dietary sources and especially plant based, are highly sought after (Salehi et al., 2019).

### 1.3 Justification of Study

Owing to the need to discover an unconventional, plant-based therapy to treat DM, various researches in the field of ethnobotany are continuously being conducted. The result of these studies has led to the uncovering of numerous plants with antidiabetic properties. For instance, *Opuntia streptacantha* Lem (buah pir berduri), *Trigonella foenum graecum* L. (halba), *Taraxacum officinale* (L.) Weber ex F.H.Wigg (rumpun Jombang), *Momordica charantia* L. (peria katak), *Ficus benghalensis* L. (Pokok Ara), *Polygala senega* L. (akar ular), *Gymnema sylvestre* (Retz.) R.Br. ex Sm. (tumbuhan gurmar), *Allium sativum* L. (bawang putih), *Aloe vera* (L.) Burm.f. (lidah buaya), *Azadirachta indica* A.Juss. (pokok mambu) and *Citrullus colocynthis* (L.) Schrad. (timun pahit) are several plants identified to display hypoglycemic properties (Bnouham et al., 2006; Grover et al., 2002; Petchi et al., 2014; Salehi et al., 2019).

The discovery of numerous herbal plants with various antidiabetic mechanisms have encouraged researches to produce various dual herbal formulations to treat DM, a multifactorial disease. Compared to single extracts, dual herbal formulation has been proven to have better and long lasting therapeutic potential (Petchi et al., 2014). In this present study, the antidiabetic potential of dual herbal combination of *Taraxacum officinale* (L.) Weber ex F.H.Wigg and *Momordica charantia* L. extracts was studied.

According to previous studies, both *T. officinale* and *M. charantia* have been known to contain crucial antidiabetic properties (Ahmad et al., 2009; Goyal, 2015; Grover & Yadav, 2004; Koupal et al., 2015; Schutz, Carle, et al., 2006; Singh et al., 2011; Yarnell & Abascal, 2009). *T. officinale* or better known as dandelions have been used as a phytomedicine for its choleric, diuretic, anti-rheumatic and anti-inflammatory properties (Hu and Kitts, 2005). Previous study by Tsuda et al. (2012) showed that chlorogenic acid and caffeic acid found in *T. officinale* have been explored for their antihyperglycemic properties, where caffeic acid in particular has been reported to decrease blood glucose in test animals. In another study done by Ding et al. (2010), luteolin has been found to increase insulin action, besides decreasing the expression of a particular gene responsible for inflammation of cytokines, as well as inducing the gene and

protein expression Glucose Transporter type 4 (GLUT4) which assist glucose uptake by the cells.

*M. charantia* or bitter melon on the other hand is most widely used in countries such as China, India, Asia, and Africa, as a customary medication to treat diabetes and is known as one of the most promising alternative medicines for this disease (Ahmad et al., 2009; Kumar et al., 2009; Roffey et al., 2007). Besides treating diabetes, *M. charantia* is also used extensively as a medicinal herb for treating anti-HIV, anti-ulcer, anti-inflammatory, anti-leukemic, anti-microbial, and anti-tumor (Kumar et al., 2009). Certain compounds extracted from *M. charantia* such as charantin, oleanolic acid, oleanolic acid 3-O-glucuronide, polypeptide-p, momordin and 3-O-monodesmoside have shown hypoglycemic activity (Grover and Yadav, 2004). The juice of *M. charantia* has also shown the ability to recover partially destroyed pancreatic cells in diabetic rats besides stimulating insulin secretion from the pancreas and bring forth glucose uptake in the liver.

Herbal combination of two or more plant extracts were found to have more promising effects on diseases compared to single herb (Aslam et al., 2016). The concept of dual herbal combination has been very well received worldwide due to its potential interaction effects of various ailments Hence, this study aims to explore the combined antidiabetic activities of potential extracts from both *T. officinale* and *M. charantia*, which would be instrumental in developing this dual herbal combination into a pharmaceutical drug to treat Type 2 DM.

Having proven to contain numerous essential antidiabetic compounds, *T. officinale* and *M. charantia* are worthy choices of plants to study their combined effect on anti-hyperglycemic properties so as to meet the demands for an alternative treatment for DM.

#### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

To evaluate the efficacy and antidiabetic action of combined dual herbal formulation from *T. officinale* and *M. charantia*.

The objectives of this study are:

1. To determine the 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) scavenging activity, total phenolic content (TPC), and total flavonoid content (TFC) of *T. officinale* and *M. charantia* crude extracts
2. To examine the effect of *T. officinale* and *M. charantia* crude extracts on glucose uptake in L6 muscle cells using a cell-based assay

3. To examine the effect of *T. officinale* and *M. charantia* crude extracts in inhibiting the dipeptidyl peptidase-IV (DPP-4) enzyme via a non-cell-based enzyme-substrate reaction assay
4. To examine the effect of *T. officinale* and *M. charantia* crude extracts in inhibiting the  $\alpha$ -amylase and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase enzyme via a non-cell-based enzyme-substrate reaction assay
5. To explore the combined effects of *T. officinale* and *M. charantia* most potent crude extract *in vitro* antidiabetic assays (glucose uptake in L6 muscle cell and the inhibition of DPP-4,  $\alpha$ -amylase and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase enzymes) and *in vivo* streptozotocin-nicotinamide (STZ-NA) induced diabetic model rats.

### **1.5 Hypotheses of Study**

The *T. officinale* and *M. charantia* crude extracts exhibits DPPH scavenging properties, and possess phenolic and flavonoid compounds.

The *T. officinale* and *M. charantia* crude extracts show glucose uptake activity in L6 muscle cells

The *T. officinale* and *M. charantia* crude extracts exhibit DPP-4 inhibitory activity

The *T. officinale* and *M. charantia* crude extracts inhibit the  $\alpha$ -glucosidase and  $\alpha$ -amylase enzyme

The dual herbal combination of *T. officinale* and *M. charantia* active crude extracts exhibits antidiabetes activity in *in vitro* antidiabetic assays and *in vivo* STZ-NA induced diabetic model rats.

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## **BIODATA OF STUDENT**

Nithiyaa Perumal was born in Kuala Lumpur. She obtained her BSc (Hons) degree from Universiti Malaysia Terengganu in 2008. She then went on to pursue her Masters in Mycology and Plant Pathology from the Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Universiti Putra Malaysia. Upon completion of her MSc degree, she worked as a Research Assistant with a private company for two years before continuing PhD in the field of Plant and Animal Physiology, specifically in the study of Diabetes in the same Department. Due to interest in teaching, she served as a part-time instructor for various undergraduate courses in the Department of Biology during her postgraduate years. She has also attended several self-empowering workshops such as Scientific Writing skills, Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis workshop, Data Analytics workshops as well as Seminar on Preparation for Viva. Throughout the PhD candidature, she has also attended conferences such as Fundamental Science Congress (FSE) and i-Simbiomas, organized under UPM.

## LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

### I. Publication in Scientific Journal

Perumal, N., Nallappan, M., Shohaimi, S., Kassim, N. K., Tee, T. T., & Cheah, Y. H. (2022). Synergistic Antidiabetic Activity of *Taraxacum officinale* (L.) Weber ex F.H.Wigg and *Momordica charantia* L. Polyherbal Combination. *Biomedicine & Pharmacotherapy*, 145, 112401.

### II. Papers Presented at Seminar/ Conference

Perumal, N., Nallappan, M., Shohaimi, S., & Kassim, N. K. *Efficacy of Taraxacum officinale and Momordica charantia extracts in inhibiting dipeptidyl peptidase IV [DPP (IV)] enzyme*. Paper presented at the Fundamental Science Congress, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Universiti Putra Malaysia. November 2015.

Perumal, N., Nallappan, M., Shohaimi, S., Kassim, N. K., Tee, T. T., & Cheah, Y. H. *Dipeptidyl peptidase IV (DPP IV) inhibitory activity screening of Momordica charantia, Taraxacum officinale and Trigonella foenum-graecum extracts in vitro*. Paper presented at the Malaysia International Symposium on Biological, Putrajaya International Convention Centre (PICC), Putrajaya. October 2016.

Perumal, N., & Nallappan, M. *Synergistic in vitro Antidiabetic Efficacy of Dual Herbal Combination of Taraxacum officinale (L.) Weber ex F.H.Wigg and Momordica charantia L.* Paper presented at the Asian Symposium on Medicinal Plants and Spices XVII, Virtual Conference by Malaysian Natural Products Society. August 2021.