



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***DEVELOPMENT OF ANTIOXIDANT-RICH COCOA LIQUOR MASK
FOR SKIN REJUVENATION***

ALYAA NURATHIRAH BINTI ABD HALIM

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**DEVELOPMENT OF ANTIOXIDANT-RICH COCOA LIQUOR MASK FOR
SKIN REJUVENATION**

By

ALYAA NURATHIRAH BINTI ABD HALIM

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

May 2021

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to
My loving Ayah, Ibu, Along, Angah & Future...



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

DEVELOPMENT OF ANTIOXIDANT-RICH COCOA LIQUOR MASK FOR SKIN REJUVENATION

By

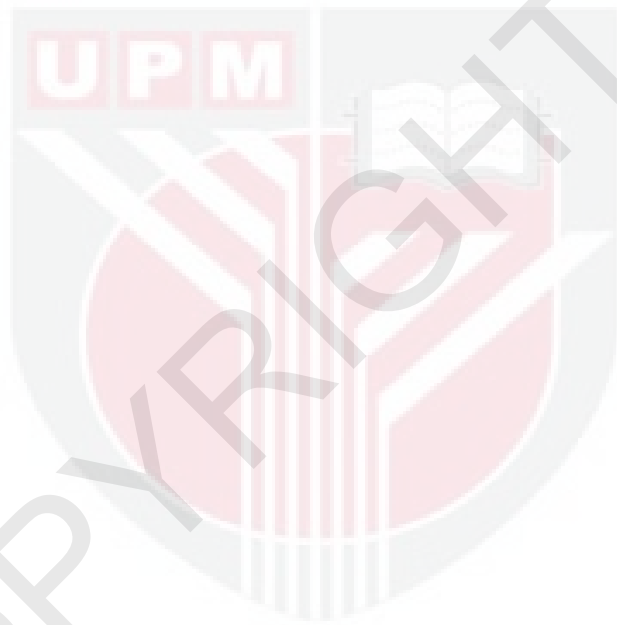
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May 2021

Chairman : Associate Professor Siti Salwa binti Abd Gani, PhD
Institute : Halal Product Research

Halal cosmetics generally derive from plant-based materials. Cocoa liquor (CL), a paste produced from ground cocoa (*Theobroma cacao* L.) beans, is a natural source of antioxidants with high potential health benefits. The present study was conducted to determine the prospect of incorporating CL in skin care cosmetics, complementing its ability in protecting the skin by warding off free radicals from the environment. Polyphenols and methylxanthines in CL extract were assayed using Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectroscopy (LC-MS/MS). In formulating cocoa facial mask (CFM), the chemical components in each ingredient were analyzed and characterized in terms of either thickness or watery texture. The final formulation was optimized and characterized by pH, rheology, texture and color measurements. In accelerated stability, freeze-thaw cycles and centrifuge studies were conducted to determine the stability of CFM in the parameters under study. The CFM was determined of its antioxidant activities including total phenolic content (TPC), total flavonoid content (TFC), 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH), Ferric Ion Reducing Power (FRAP) and β -carotene linoleate bleaching (β -CB). Results showed that TPC and TFC were recorded at 131.97 ± 0.06 mg GAE/g and 4.10 ± 0.0 mg RE/g dried weight of sample, respectively. DPPH free radical scavenging activity was observed at the highest concentration of 87.99 ± 0.03 % with EC_{50} of 30.33 ± 0.0 mg/mL. The FRAP reading was recorded at 252.31 ± 0.001 mmol Fe^{2+} /g dry weight at 1000 mg/mL. The β -carotene linoleate bleaching (β -CB) assay was detected at the highest concentration of 83.42 ± 0.03 % with EC_{50} of 2.92 ± 0.03 mg/mL. In microbiological studies, oven, room temperature and chiller treatments recorded microorganism growth of 1.0×10^1 cfu/g, < 1 cfu/g and < 1 cfu/g on Day 28, meanwhile yeast and mould growth yield were recorded at < 10 cfu/g for all treatments. Heavy metals such as arsenic, lead, cadmium and mercury were detected below the range as suggested by ASEAN. Eye and skin irritation tests depicted the CFM irritant in eye and non-irritant in skin applications. The efficacy of the CFM was measured by *in-vitro*. The CFM acted as good natural inhibitors in collagenase, tyrosinase and elastase activities on the skin. The study presented scientific validation on phytochemical contents of CL showing presence of bioactive compounds with

nutritional and therapeutic values which had positive impact on skin health due to the cocoa butter contained in CL, suggesting its prospective use in value-added products such as skin care cosmetics.



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

PEMBANGUNAN TOPENG MUKA YANG KAYA DENGAN ANTIOKSIDAN LIKUOR KOKO UNTUK KEREMAJAAN KULIT

Oleh

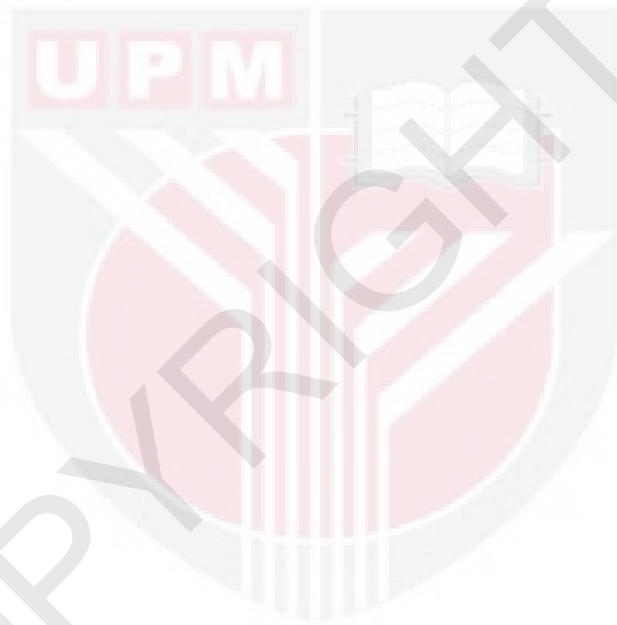
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Kosmetik *halal* umumnya diperolehi daripada bahan berasaskan tumbuhan. Likur koko (LK), sejenis pes yang dihasilkan daripada biji koko (*Theobroma cacao* L.) yang telah dikisar, adalah satu sumber antioksidan semulajadi yang mengandungi faedah kesihatan yang berpotensi tinggi. Kajian ini telah dijalankan bagi menentukan prospek menggabungkan LK dalam kosmetik penjagaan kulit bagi melengkapkan kemampuannya dari segi melindungi kulit dengan menangkis kesan radikal yang bebas di persekitaran. Polifenol dan metilxanthine yang terkandung dalam ekstrak LK telah diuji dengan menggunakan Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectroscopy (LC-MS/MS). Dalam merumuskan topeng muka koko (TMK), komponen kimia bagi setiap bahan telah dianalisis dan dilakukan pencirian dari segi tekstur ketebalan atau berair. Pada formulasi terakhir, pengoptimuman dan pencirian telah dilakukan mengikut pH, reologi, tekstur dan warna. Bagi ujian kestabilan, kitaran beku-cair dan kajian empar telah disempurnakan bagi menentukan kestabilan TMK pada parameter kajian. Aktiviti antioksidan TMK telah ditentukan melalui jumlah kandungan fenolik (TPC), jumlah kandungan flavonoid (TFC), ujian-ujian 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH), Ferric Ion Reducing Power (FRAP) dan β -carotene linoleate bleaching (β -CB). Keputusan menunjukkan TPC dan TFC masing-masing merekodkan 131.97 ± 0.06 mg GAE/g dan 4.10 ± 0.0 mg RE/g sampel kering. Aktiviti mengikis radikal yang bebas DPPH didapati pada kepekatan tertinggi iaitu 87.99 ± 0.03 % dengan EC_{50} pada 30.33 ± 0.0 mg/mL. Bacaan FRAP adalah pada 252.31 ± 0.001 mmol Fe^{2+} /g berat kering pada 1000 mg/mL. Ujian β -CB direkodkan pada kepekatan 83.42 ± 0.03 % dengan EC_{50} of 2.92 ± 0.03 mg/mL. Dalam kajian mikrobiologi, rawatan ketuhar, suhu bilik dan rawatan penyejuk masing-masing mendapati pertumbuhan pada 1.0×10^1 cfu/g, < 1 cfu/g and < 1 cfu/g pada hari 28, sementara itu, pertumbuhan yis dan jamur merekodkan pada < 10 cfu/g bagi semua rawatan. Logam berat seperti arsenik, plumbum, kadmium dan merkuri dikesan pada julat rendah daripada syor ASEAN. Ujian kerengsaan mata dan kulit menyamai kerengsaan TMK dalam merengsa mata semasa aplikasi pada kulit. Keberkesanan TMK telah diukur secara *in vitro*. TMK bertindak sebagai perencat semula jadi yang baik sebagai kolagenase, tyrosinase, elastase pada kulit. Kajian ini

memberi pengesahan saintifik ke atas kandungan fitokimia LK yang mengandungi kompaun bioaktif dengan nilai pemakanan dan terapi yang memberi impak positif ke atas kesihatan kulit oleh kerana mentega koko yang terkandung dalam LK, sekaligus mencadangkan prospeknya dalam produk bernilai tambah seperti kosmetik penjagaan kulit.



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This thesis was submitted to the Senate of the 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:

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Ascorbic acid
AlCl ₃	Aluminium chloride
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BHT	Butylated hydroxytoluene
Cd	Cadmium
CFM	Cocoa facial mask
CL	Cocoa Liquor
Cr	Chromium
Cu	Copper
DMSO	Dimethyl sulfoxide
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
DPPH	DPPH Scavenging Activity
ECVAM	European Centre of the Validation of Alternative Methods
Fe ²⁺	Ferrous ion
Fe ³⁺	Ferric ion
FeSO ₄ ·7H ₂ O	Ferrous sulphate
FRAP	Ferric Ion Reducing Power
GMO	Genetically Modified Organisms
HCl	Hydrochloric acid
Hg	Mercury
ICP-OES	Inductively Coupled Plasma-Optical Emission Spectroscopy
LC-MS/MS	Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectroscopy
L-DOPA	L-3,4-dihydroxyphenylalanine

LK	Likur Koko
MCB	Malaysian Cocoa Board
MTT	(3-[4,5-dimethyltriazole-2-yl]-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide)
NaCO ₃	Sodium carbonate
NC	Negative control
Ni	Nickle
NIST	National Institute of Standard and Technology
NPRA	National Pharmaceutical Regulatory Agency
OD	Optical Density
OECD	Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development Guidelines for Testing of Chemicals No 439
Pb	Lead
PC	Positive control
RhCE	Reconstructed Human Cornea-like Epithelium
RhE	Reconstructed Human Epidermis
ROS	Reactive Oxidative Stress
TFC	Total Flavonoid Content
TMK	Topeng Muka Koko
TPC	Total Phenolic Content
UV	Ultraviolet radiation
β -CB	β -carotene Linoleate Bleaching

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Cocoa (*Theobroma cocoa* L.) is an important industrial crop that has contributed significantly to the economies of many countries worldwide. The crop is widely cultivated in Ivory Coast, Ghana, Indonesia, Brazil, Nigeria, Cameroon, Ecuador, Dominican, Republic and Papua New Guinea. Ivory Coast has been the largest cocoa producing country, with output of about 33% of global supply, followed by Ghana. The World Cocoa Foundation estimated that about 6 million farmers produced about 500 kg cocoa beans per hectare in Asia (Beg et al., 2017). Malaysia, Madagascar, Mexico and the Carribbean Islands also cultivate cocoa on smaller scales (Verna, 2013; Hagiwara & Wright, 2015; de Souza et al., 2018).

The demand for cocoa as raw material in chocolate making and cosmetics has never ceased. The present study was undertaken to investigate the potential of cocoa liquor (CL), the pure cocoa mass which possesses antioxidant, antiradical, anticarcinogenic properties, as the main ingredients in formulating cocoa facial mask (CFM). The study was conducted with the view that CL affords to protect the skin from rapid aging resulting from collagen and elastin fibre damage which compromises skin barriers thus causing the skin to sag with deep wrinkles and less skin smoothness.

Various studies documented that CL had high concentrations of polyphenols due to the presence of varieties of bioactive compounds including catechin, epicatechin, procyanidin, and tannin known to give beneficial effects on skin health. In addition, polyphenolic compounds, which are secondary metabolites, have been reported to aid in reducing oxidative stresses produced in the body (Epstein, 2009). Reactive oxidative stress (ROS) had also been documented to affect collagen production due to excessive free radicals, more than antioxidants in the body, resulting in unhealthy skin and affecting daily life and self-confidence. It is known that polyphenolic compounds have good effects as cosmetics due to several properties that could be delivered to the skin, for instance, UV-protecting, antiviral, antiallergic, antifungal, anti-inflammatory and many more (Adamska-szewczyk & Zgórká, 2019).

Cosmetics have been used by both men and women to improve personal appearances and hygiene while protecting and maintaining skin conditions from ultraviolet (UV) radiations (Hashim & Mat Hashim, 2013). In the Asian Pacific region, demand for cosmetics and skincare products rises every year with the market value of more than US70 billion. In 2015, Malaysian consumers spent more than US229 million in skincare and cosmetic products (Abd Rahman et al. 2015), an amount considerably larger compared to other essentials. Presently, Muslim consumers are more aware of the *halal*

status of skincare and cosmetics products doubting ingredients, raw materials and hygiene involved in the production of same. Abd Rahman et al. (2015) cited that global consumers spent more US\$26 billion on *halal* cosmetics products over concern of their *halal* status opined to be safer than non-*halal* competitors.

In the cosmetics industry, adulterating of ingredients in terms of exceeding the range of allowable heavy metal contents without clinical test procedures on the products, has been the general scenario. Unsuspecting consumers, without any knowledge of the side effects of excessive percentage of heavy metals contents, generally fall prey. Irresponsible manufacturers used toxic ingredients, often acquired more cheaply than premium grades, to enjoy hefty profits. Cosmetics products with mercury, arsenic, lead and more toxic metals contents have been reported to result in skin being more sensitive to sunlight, causing peeling, rashes and at worst, fatal due to high levels of toxicity in the body (Bocca et al., 2014; Chen et al., 2018). In Malaysia, there have been several cosmetics products that have been banned from entering the market due to toxic contents often exceeding the permitted range (ASEAN, 2017). Plant-based ingredients have been the alternatives for use in cosmetics products due to their conditions being safer with good functionality to the skin.

Enzymes in the skin such as tyrosinase, collagenase and elastase are naturally produced and are being degraded with increase in age. It has been documented that enzymes collagenase and elastase are responsible for elasticity, strengthening the skin structures under the dermis layer, while tyrosinase is responsible for melanin synthesis absorbing ultraviolet (UV) radiations from causing deleterious effects on the skin (Lawton, 2019). This suggests that age spots, melasma, pigmentation of the skin are due to long term exposure of UV radiations. There have been various cosmetics and skincare products claiming to reduce skin issues for example sagging, wrinkles, sun spots with the use of plant-based ingredients in numerous forms such as cleansers, toners, moisturizers, serums, lotions and gels in attempts to maintain the enzymes of interest from degradation and thus, slowing the aging process.

The present study was aimed primarily at using CL as the main component in a CFM formulation. CL encompasses cocoa butter and cocoa powder that gives powerful positive effects on skin. Premium cosmetic grade ingredients were selected to maintain quality of CFM and for safer use by consumers. The bioactive compounds in CL are said to be responsible for the functionality of CFM when delivered by topical application to the skin. These compounds also contribute in combating free radicals as antioxidant activities. CL is generally not used in cosmetic products but mostly in food and beverages products.

1.2 Problem Statement

The present study explored the use of cocoa liquor (CL) as a natural coloring with beneficial antioxidant contents. The potentiality of CL comprising of cocoa powder and cocoa butter in facial mask has not been established as there has been limited references

on use of CL in cosmetics. Issues on *halal* status of products have recently taken center stage impacting much of the lifestyle of people. The issues have gained much attention worldwide particularly in most Islamic countries. Cosmetic and personal care products have become doubtful to Muslim consumers of their sources of raw materials, cleanliness of the products, contents and other aspects. In terms of raw materials, for examples, some products are doubtful of their gelatin and collagen contents due to sources that could originate from animals forbidden in the teaching of Islam such as swine, dogs or animals not slaughtered according to Islamic Laws (Hashim & Mat Hashim, 2013; Abd-Gani et al., 2018).

Numerous cosmetic and personal skin care products have ingredients that give immediate effects on the skin such as mercury, arsenic, lead, hydroquinone, tretinoin, cadmium, nickel and other toxic metals. These toxic metals are known not only to beautify the skin surface, but they have adverse long terms toxic effects associated with cardiovascular and reproductive systems, cancer, miscarriages and decrease in immune system due to long term exposure of adulteration of the products (Orisakwe & Otaraku, (2013); Eldin.Elhag et al., (2015); Borowska & Brzóška, (2015); Pereira & Pereira, (2018)). Toxic metals have also been known to reduce skin thickness following shedding of healthy skin resulting in the skin being more sensitive and itchy, and eventual peeling, rashes, sensitive to ultraviolet (UV) radiation and becoming dry due to damaged skin barrier system.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the present study included the following:

- i) To characterize and analyze bioactive compounds of pure cocoa liquor (CL) by using liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS);
- ii) To analyze and evaluate antioxidants properties in cocoa liquor and antioxidant-rich CFM;
- iii) To optimized the formulation of antioxidant-rich CFM;
- iv) To evaluate safety in antioxidant-rich CFM of heavy metals, skin and eye irritation and microbiological stability;
- v) To evaluate the efficacy of antioxidant-rich CFM through *in vitro* methods.

1.4 Scope of Study

In the present study, the levels of polyphenols (catechin and epicatechin) and methylxanthine (theobromine and caffeine), extracted from pure cocoa liquor, were examined. CFM was formulated with appropriate range of ingredients. The amount of CL was fixed in the experiment to explore the reaction of individual ingredient's behaviour. The selected percentage of each ingredient was based on the best physicochemical reactions with CL. The stability of CFM at different temperatures and

freeze-thaw studies were based on pH, color, viscosity. Shear measurements and centrifugal tests were also conducted.

Bioactive compounds in pure CL of CFM contributed to antioxidant activity such as total phenolic content (TPC), total flavonoid content (TFC), DPPH radical scavenging activity, ferric ion reducing power (FRAP) and β -carotene linoleate bleaching (β -CB).

Safety evaluation of CFM in terms of heavy metals, eye and skin irritations and microbiological tests were also conducted. The efficacy of CFM were conducted *in vitro* and *in vivo* with *in vitro* determining the cosmeceutical properties of CFM for elastase, collagenase and tyrosinase inhibitions. *In vivo* studies involved human subjects by surface evaluation of living skin (SELS) and high resolution ultrasound skin-imaging.

1.5 Significance of Study

The present study presents antioxidant and cosmeceutical potentials in CFM particularly delivered by CL as bioactive compounds' carrier. The involvement of CL in CFM from plant sources is to maintain environmental sustainability. CFM offers good hygiene and sources of ingredients complying with Islamic Law, presenting a *halal* and safe cosmetic products.

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