

**PHYTOCHEMICAL AND QUANTIFICATION STUDIES OF  
SECONDARY METABOLITES IN *CURCUMA XANTHORRHIZA* AND  
*CURCUMA HEYNEANA***

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**PHYTOCHEMICAL AND QUANTIFICATION STUDIES OF  
SECONDARY METABOLITES IN *CURCUMA XANTHORRHIZA* AND  
*CURCUMA HEYNEANA***

A dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the  
requirements for the award of the degree of  
Master of Science

Faculty of Science  
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

NOVEMBER 2017

## DEDICATION

*I humbly dedicated this thesis to my beloved mother, Hjh. Maimunah bt Hj. Ali, who is the strong and gentle woman, taught me to put full trust on Allah, being passion and hard work.*

*My late father, Hj. Hamzah bin Hj. Hamdan, the person who instilled the spirit and encouraged me to believe in myself.*

*My sister, Dr. Zuhra bt Hamzah who has always been my inspiration, supports and motivates me until I arrive at this juncture of my life.*

*My siblings Hamidah, Alsyukri, Zuhra, Alridza, Alyusra, Alsauffeen and Syafik Effendy for all their love, patience, kindness and support.*

*I love all of you with all my heart. I hope everyone of you feel happy and proud with what I've done*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the name of Allah, the most Gracious and the most Merciful. Praise to Allah, his majesty and uncountable blessing for the completion of this thesis.

I wish to convey my most sincere appreciation and gratitude to my supervisor, Dr Shajarahtunnur bt Jamil for her unmeasurable professional guidance, encouragement, valuable advices and constructive criticism from beginning of this research until final review of the thesis. Thank you so much Dr. I always be grateful for having the opportunity to study under your supervision. I am also grateful to Dr Norazah bt Basar for her comments, suggestions and guidance which contributed a lot towards the improvement of this thesis, especially knowledge in HPLC.

I am also indebted to the staffs of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Mr Amin, Mr Azmi, Mr Subri and Mr Zoukifli for their help in handling several instruments for data collection in this research and for sharing their knowledge in the data analysis.

My thanks extended to lab friends, Muhammad Kamal Ja'far, Nurshahirah Mohd Rozi, Nur Syamimi Shafie, Siti Awanis Abdullah, Siti Nur Atiqah Md Othman, Zafneza Arriffin, and Zairunnisa Zainudin. Thank you for your cooperation and knowledge sharing which help me a lot in acquiring the skills and knowledge in Natural Products research and also for motivational support that strengthened me mentally and emotionally.

Finally, great appreciation goes to my family for being by my side through thick and thin, encouraging, motivating and supporting me until the completion of this thesis.

Once again, thank you very much.

## ABSTRACT

Phytochemical and quantification studies had been carried out on the secondary metabolites in *Curcuma xanthorrhiza* and *C. heyneana*. Phytochemical screening of the methanol extracts of both species revealed the presence of flavonoids, steroids, saponins, phenolics, tannins, terpenoids, proteins and cardiac glycosides. Extraction of the dried rhizomes of both species was conducted by cold maceration method using *n*-hexane, dichloromethane and ethyl acetate to yield *n*-hexane, dichloromethane and ethyl acetate extracts. Isolation of chemical constituents from all crude extracts was performed using silica gel vacuum liquid chromatography and column chromatography. Purification of the *n*-hexane, dichloromethane and ethyl acetate extracts of *C. xanthorrhiza* yielded ar-curcumene, germacrone, xanthorrhizol and curcumin while purification of the *n*-hexane, dichloromethane and ethyl acetate of *C. heyneana* obtained ar-turmerone,  $\beta$ -sitosterol, xanthorrhizol and curcumin. Structure of all pure compounds were characterised using  $^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, DEPT, COSY, HMQC, HMBC, FTIR and also by comparison with literature data. Antioxidant activity of the methanol extracts of *C. xanthorrhiza* and *C. heyneana* together with the pure compounds were conducted using 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl scavenging, ferric reducing antioxidant potential and 2,2-azino-bis(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulphonic acid) assays. The methanol extract of *C. xanthorrhiza*, curcumin and xanthorrhizol displayed strong antioxidant activity in 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl assay with  $\text{SC}_{50}$  values of 66.15, 71.88 and 79.99  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ , respectively. The methanol extract of *C. heyneana*, ar-turmerone, germacrone and  $\beta$ -sitosterol showed moderate antioxidant activity in 2,2-azino-bis(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulphonic acid) assay with  $\text{SC}_{50}$  values of 113.71, 143.70, 142.95 and 133.13  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ , respectively. Ar-curcumene showed weak antioxidant activity in ferric reducing antioxidant potential assay with  $\text{SC}_{50}$  value of 160.62  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ . Curcumin, germacrone and xanthorrhizol were selected as the chemical markers for the quantification studies of both *Curcuma* extracts. HPLC analysis gave good precision and accuracy, as well as sufficient limit of detection and quantitation. Curcumin was found to be the major compound in *C. heyneana* with concentration of 16.90  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  while in *C. xanthorrhiza*, the concentration of curcumin was only 0.65  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ . Xanthorrhizol was major compound in methanol extract of *C. xanthorrhiza* but minor compound in methanol extract of *C. heyneana* with the concentrations of 44.12 and 0.82  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ . Germacrone was found in concentration of 4.43 and 8.05  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  in methanol extracts of *C. xanthorrhiza* and *C. heyneana*. Identification of compounds by validation method proved that curcumin, germacrone and xanthorrhizol were present in the methanol extracts of both species. HPLC chromatogram displayed curcumin absorption band at 380 nm with retention time of 4.24 min, while germacrone and xanthorrhizol absorption bands were observed at 270 nm with retention time of 13.32 min and 16.54 min, respectively.

## ABSTRAK

Kajian fitokimia dan kuantitatif telah dilakukan ke atas metabolit sekunder dalam *C. xanthorrhiza* dan *C. heyneana*. Penyaringan fitokimia ke atas ekstrak metanol kedua-dua spesies menunjukkan kehadiran flavonoid, steroid, saponin, fenolik, tannin, terpenoid, protein, dan kardiak glikosida. Pengekstrakan sampel kering rizom kedua-dua spesies dilakukan melalui kaedah rendaman menggunakan *n*-heksana, diklorometana dan etil asetat untuk menghasilkan ekstrak *n*-heksana, diklorometana dan etil asetat. Pengasingan sebatian kimia daripada kesemua ekstrak mentah dilakukan menggunakan silika gel kromatografi cecair vakum dan kromatografi turus. Penulenan ekstrak *n*-heksana, diklorometana dan etil asetat *C. xanthorrhiza* menghasilkan ar-kurkumena, germakron, xanthorrhizol dan kurkumin. Manakala penulenan ekstrak *n*-heksana, diklorometana dan etil asetat *C. heyneana* memperoleh ar-turmeron,  $\beta$ -sitosterol, xanthorrhizol dan kurkumin. Struktur kesemua sebatian tulen dicirikan menggunakan  $^1\text{H}$  NMR,  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, DEPT, COSY, HMQC, HMBC, FTIR dan juga perbandingan dengan data literatur. Aktiviti antioksidan ekstrak metanol *C. xanthorrhiza* dan *C. heyneana* bersama-sama dengan sebatian tulen dijalankan menggunakan cerakin 2,2-difenil-1-pikrilhidrazil, potensi penurunan antioksidan ferik dan asid 2,2-azino-bis(3-etilbenzotiazoline-6-sulfonik). Ekstrak metanol *C. xanthorrhiza*, kurkumin dan xanthorrhizol menunjukkan aktiviti antioksidan yang kuat dalam cerakin 2,2-difenil-1-pikrilhidrazil dengan nilai  $\text{SC}_{50}$  66.15, 71.88 dan 79.99  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ , setiap satu. Ekstrak metanol *C. heyneana*, ar-turmeron, germakron dan  $\beta$ -sitosterol menunjukkan aktiviti antioksidan sederhana dalam cerakin asid 2,2-azino-bis(3-etilbenzotiazoline-6-sulfonik) dengan nilai  $\text{SC}_{50}$  setiap satu 113.71, 143.70, 142.95 dan 133.13  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ . Ar-kurkumena menunjukkan aktiviti antioksidan yang lemah dalam cerakin potensi penurunan antioksidan ferik dengan nilai  $\text{SC}_{50}$  160.62  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ . Kurkumin, germakron dan xanthorrhizol dipilih sebagai penanda kimia dalam kajian kuantifikasi kedua-dua ekstrak *Curcuma*. Analisis HPLC memberikan ketepatan dan kebolehpulihan pengujian yang baik, serta had pengesanan dan kuantifikasi yang mencukupi. Kurkumin adalah sebatian utama dalam *C. heyneana* dengan kepekatan 16.90  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  manakala dalam *C. xanthorrhiza* kepekatan kurkumin hanya 0.65  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ . Xanthorrhizol adalah sebatian utama dalam ekstrak metanol *C. xanthorrhiza* dan sebatian minor dalam ekstrak metanol *C. heyneana* dengan kepekatan 44.12 dan 0.82  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ . Germakron ditemui dengan kepekatan 4.43 dan 8.05  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  dalam ekstrak metanol *C. xanthorrhiza* dan *C. heyneana*. Pengenalpastian sebatian melalui kaedah pengesanan membuktikan kurkumin, germakron dan xanthorrhizol hadir dalam ekstrak metanol kedua-dua spesies. Kromatogram HPLC memaparkan jalur penyerapan kurkumin pada 380 nm dengan masa pengekalan 4.24 min, manakala germakron dan xanthorrhizol dalam metanol menunjukkan jalur penyerapan pada 270 nm dengan masa pengekalan masing-masing 13.32 min dan 16.54 min.

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**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

$\delta$	-	Chemical shift
$\lambda$	-	Wavelength
$\sigma$	-	Standard Deviation
$\mu$	-	Mean
br d	-	Broad doublet
d	-	Doublet
dd	-	Doublet of doublets
m	-	Multiplet
n	-	Number of replicates
$R^2$	-	Coefficient of determination
s	-	Singlet
sext	-	Sextet
t	-	Triplet
$\mu\text{g}$	-	Microgram
$\mu\text{g/mL}$	-	Microgram per millilitre
$\mu\text{L}$	-	Microlitre
$\mu\text{M}$	-	Micromolar
$\mu\text{m}$	-	Micrometre
cm	-	Centimetre
$\text{cm}^{-1}$	-	Per centimetre
g	-	Gram
Hz	-	Hertz
mg	-	Milligram
min	-	Minute
mL	-	Millilitre
mL/min	-	Millilitre per minute

mm	-	Millimetre
mM	-	Millimolar
mAU	-	Absorbance unit
nm	-	Nanometre
ppm	-	Part per million
°C	-	Degree celcius
$v_{\max}$	-	Maximum frequency
%	-	Percent
$^{13}\text{C}$	-	Carbon 13
$^1\text{H}$	-	Proton
AA	-	Ascorbic acid
$A_{\text{blank}}$	-	Absorbance value of the control sample
ABTS	-	2,2-azino-bis(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulphonic acid)
ACN	-	Acetonitrile
$A_{\text{sample}}$	-	Absorbance value of the tested sample
ATR	-	Attenuated Total Reflectance
CC	-	Column Chromatography
$\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$	-	Dichloromethane
CHD	-	<i>C. heyneana</i> dichloromethane extract
CHE	-	<i>C. heyneana</i> ethyl acetate extract
CHH	-	<i>C. heyneana</i> n-hexane extract
CHM	-	<i>C. heyneana</i> methanol extract
COSY	-	Homonuclear Correlation Spectroscopy
CXD	-	<i>C. xanthorrhiza</i> dichloromethane extract
CXE	-	<i>C. xanthorrhiza</i> ethyl acetate extract
CXH	-	<i>C. xanthorrhiza</i> n-hexane extract
CXM	-	<i>C. xanthorrhiza</i> methanol extract
DAD	-	Diode Array Detector
DEPT	-	Distortionless Enhancement by Polarization Transfer
DPPH	-	2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl
$\text{Et}_2\text{O}$	-	Diethyl ether

EtOAc	-	Ethyl acetate
Fe <sup>3+</sup> -TPTZ	-	Ferric tripyridyltriazine
FeSO <sub>4</sub> .7H <sub>2</sub> O	-	Iron (II) sulphate heptahydrate
FRAP	-	Ferric Reducing Antioxidant Potential
HMBC	-	Heteronuclear Multiple Bond Coherence
HMQC	-	Heteronuclear Multiple Quantum Coherence
HPLC	-	High Performance Liquid Chromatography
IC <sub>50</sub>	-	Inhibition concentration at 50%
IR	-	Infrared
LOD	-	Limit of detection
LOQ	-	Limit of quantification
MeOH	-	Methanol
MS	-	Mass Spectrometry
NMR	-	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
R	-	Recovery
R <sub>f</sub>	-	Retention factor
RSD	-	Relative Standard Deviation
SC <sub>50</sub>	-	Percentage of scavenging at 50%
TFA	-	Trifluoroacetic acid
TLC	-	Thin Layer Chromatography
UV	-	Ultraviolet
v/v	-	Volume over Volume
VLC	-	Vacuum Liquid Chromatography

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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Natural products chemistry is the studies of various products made up of living material, animals or plants. Globalization era has developed new era on the uses of natural products in commercial market for various purposes such as herbal medicines and cosmetics. Herbal medicines are herbal products that comprises of active ingredient of plant parts such as rhizomes or other plants' materials or mixture. Statistic showed that 80% of the world population, relies on plant based medicines or products which have biomedical benefits and contribute towards improving human health.

Zingiberaceae is the flowering ginger plants widely grow in tropic and subtropic regions, especially in Southeast Asia, including Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei [1-2]. Peninsular Malaysia is one of the Zingiberaceae richest region with more than 18 genera and 160 species [3-4]. Among the genera that could be found in Malaysia are *Alpinia*, *Achasma*, *Amomum*, *Boesenbergia*, *Costus*, *Curcuma*, *Elettaria*, *Etilingera*, *Globba*, *Hedychium*, *Kaempferia*, *Nicolaia* and *Zingiber* [3].

One of the well-known genus in Zingiberaceae family is *Curcuma*, comprises approximately 40 species including *Curcuma aeruginosa*, *C. angustifolia*, *C. aromatica*, *C. domestica*, *C. longa*, *C. mangga*, *C. phaeocaulis*, *C. viridiflora*, *C. xanthorrhiza* and *C. zedoaria* [3-4]. Among these species *C. xanthorrhiza* (temu

lawak) and *C. heyneana* (temu giring) are the most commonly being investigated in Malaysia. *Curcuma* is a wild plant species which growth in Southeast Asia with height between 0.5 to 3 ft. It has oblong leaves with solid green or dark red blotch along the centre of the leaves. This genus also has pink to burgundy red or purest white flowers that blooming during summer. It has yellowish orange rhizomes with gingery or lemony aromatic scent. The rhizomes were traditionally used for stomachic and carminative [5].

Phytochemical studies on these species have revealed that these plants are rich of sesquiterpenoids and curcuminoids [3-6]. Hundreds of sesquiterpenoids and curcuminoids had been reported and most of them possessed biological activities such as anti-aging, anti-carcinogenic, anti-coagulation, antimicrobial, antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, anti-mutagenic, estrogenic, hepatoprotective, hypocholesterolic, hypolipidaemic, immunomodulatory and antichronic diseases [6]. Thus, both species were commonly used in Malaysia as one of the active ingredients in the traditional health supplement for the treatment of health problems. Table 1.1 shows the traditional uses of *C. xanthorrhiza* and *C. heyneana* as remedy.

**Table 1.1:** Traditional uses of *C. xanthorrhiza* and *C. heyneana* as Remedy

Species	Functions
<i>C. xanthorrhiza</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Indigestion and rheumatism treatment</li> <li>2. Remedy for the inflammation in postpartum uterine bleeding</li> <li>3. Stimulating menstruation by stimulating blood flow in pelvic area and uterus</li> <li>4. Stimulating the flow of bile from liver and cure hepatitis [7]</li> <li>5. Treating chronic diseases like bacterial infections, hypertension and heart disorders [8-9]</li> </ol>
<i>C. heyneana</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Eliminate the intestinal worms [10]</li> <li>2. Remedy for abdominal pain, constipation, swelling, arthritis, hepatitis, eye pain, diarrhoea, irregular menstruation, fever and slimy phlegm [10-11]</li> <li>3. Boost appetite</li> <li>4. Improve stamina and cure skin diseases [12]</li> </ol>

## 1.2 Problem Statement

Nowadays, plant derived products has been widely utilized throughout consumer in Malaysia. These products can be found in commercial markets as cosmetics, nutraceutical and medicinal products. However, dangerous situation might expose to consumer when the commercialized products were lacking in quantification due to the limited standard chemical markers. Therefore, this study is conducted not only to identify the chemical constituents presence in these plants and determine their potential bioactivities but also to provide the scientific data on the quantification of the chemical markers in the crude extracts rhizomes of *C. xanthorrhiza* and *C. heyneana*.

## 1.3 Significance of Study

This research focused on quantification of the pure compounds isolated from the rhizomes of *C. xanthorrhiza* and *C. heyneana*. Malaysia is lagging behind in terms of herbal industry even though being home of various species of herbal and medicinal plants. Therefore, it is interesting to conduct scientific studies on local plant species to identify the active chemical markers and provide significant information especially on the identification of the chemical markers of *C. xanthorrhiza* and *C. heyneana*. This study would provide important database and information for development and production of safe and quality herbal products.

## 1.4 Objectives of Study

Due to the reasons as mentioned above, this research was conducted with several objectives stated as below:

1. To extract the rhizomes of *C. xanthorrhiza* and *C. heyneana* using cold maceration method.
2. To conduct phytochemical screening on the methanol extract of both species.

3. To fractionate and purify the fractions from both species using chromatographic methods and to characterize the isolated compounds from both species using spectroscopic methods.
4. To evaluate antioxidant activity of methanol extracts and pure compounds from both species using DPPH, FRAP and ABTS
5. To quantify the chemical markers of both species using HPLC.

## 1.5 Scope of Study

This study focused on the quantification of compounds from the rhizomes of *C. xanthorrhiza* and *C. heyneana*. The dried rhizomes of *C. xanthorrhiza* and *C. heyneana* were extracted using maceration technique. The crude extracts of the dried rhizomes contain various chemical constituents and the major compounds were isolated and purified by Vacuum Liquid Chromatography (VLC) using silica gel 60 (Merck, 230-400 mesh) and column chromatography (CC) using silica gel 60 (Merck, 70-230 mesh). Each fraction was monitored by Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) using Merck silica gel plate (60 F<sub>254</sub>, 0.20 mm thickness). Ultra violet light was used to visualize the spots on the TLC plate. The structure of the pure compounds was characterized by 1D and 2D Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (NMR) and Infrared Spectroscopy (IR). Quantification of the chemical compounds of both *Curcuma* species was conducted using High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC).

The methanol extracts and pure compounds of *C. xanthorrhiza* and *C. heyneana* were tested using antioxidant assays which are 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) free radical scavenging assay, ferric reducing antioxidant power (FRAP) assay and 2,2-azino-bis(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulphonic acid) (ABTS) free radical scavenging assay.

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