

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**ANTIOXIDANT AND  
ANTIMICROBIAL PROPERTIES OF  
*PANDANUS CONOIDEUS* LAMK**

**INTAN MASYITAH BINTI RUMLI**

Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment  
of the requirement for the  
Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons)

Faculty of Pharmacy

November 2008

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thanks to Allah the Almighty, with HIS blessings, I manage to complete this project.

I would like to express my highest gratitude to my supervisor, Thellie Ponto and to my co-supervisor, Dr Zainul Amiruddin Zakaria for all their guidance, advices, and suggestion to complete this project right from the beginning until the end. Besides, a very deepest appreciation to all my labmates, Nor Hafiza Husain, Nur Haida Muhamad, Balkis Omar, Shahrul Reza Mohd Ghazali, Nur Amalin Ishak, and Ahmad Nashriq Setapa@Mustapha for all their helps and brilliant ideas which really ease me to finish up this project. Then, to my lovable parents, Rumli bin Haji Saad and Jamaliah binti Ismail, thank you for all the moral and financial supports, your beliefs, love and care, advices and encouragements all this while.

Last but not least, special thanks to all the lecturers of Faculty of Pharmacy, MARA University of Technology (UiTM) for their continuous supports and encouragement throughout this course. Thank you to the Faculty of Pharmacy for the financial supports and providing the best facilities, the well equipped laboratories which really aid to make this project possible. Lastly, to all individuals who involve directly or indirectly in this project, thank you.

Thank you very much.

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## ABSTRACT

An antioxidant is defined as a substance that can delay and destroy excess free radicals and repair oxidative damage in biomolecules. The antioxidants are believed to play a very important role in the body defence system against reactive oxygen species (ROS), which are the harmful by products generated during normal cell aerobic respiration. Increasing intake of dietary antioxidants may help to maintain an adequate antioxidant status and, therefore, the normal physiological function of a living system. Our study of interest is to investigate the antimicrobial and antioxidant properties of *P. conoideus* extract by using different assays. *P. conoideus* found to be one of the potential natural antioxidant and sources and able to boost up the body immune system. The determination of antioxidant properties were carried out by using four different assays, specifically total phenolic compound, DPPH radical scavenging assay, xanthine/xanthine oxidase superoxide scavenging assay, and tyrosinase inhibitory assay while the antimicrobial properties of this extract was determined by using the micro-broth dilution method. The *P. conoideus* extract was found to have antioxidant properties but no positive result shown for the antimicrobial screening of the extract. It was observed that the highest antioxidant capacity of the extract was shown when xanthine/xanthine oxidase superoxide scavenging assay was used relative to the other three methods.

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Oxidation is vital to many living organisms to produce energy to fuel biological processes such as ATP production which occur in mitochondria. But, during this process, a large amount of oxygen centered species such as superoxide radicals, singlet oxygen, hydroxyl radicals and other reactive oxygen species (ROS) are also generated (Cadenas *et al.* 2000). These radicals are known to have both beneficial and destructive actions in biological tissues. The deleterious effects of these radicals are due to their ability to cause cell death and oxidative damage to DNA which has been related to cause various types of cancer, and neurodegenerative diseases.

In all aerobic cells, ROS normally existed in equilibrium with biochemical antioxidants. An antioxidant is defined as a substance that can delay and destroy excess free radicals and repair oxidative damage in biomolecules (Vimala *et al.* 2003). Antioxidants may cease direct ROS attacks and reduce the extent of damage caused by free radicals, and therefore appear to be essential at the preventive stage of these diseases and other health problems.