

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**CHROMATOGRAPHIC STUDY OF *VITEX*  
METHANOL EXTRACT**

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**Dissertation submitted in partial requirement of the requirements  
for the degree of Bachelor of Pharmacy (Hons.)**

Faculty of Pharmacy

November 2009

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All in all, the whole process of carrying out the study has taken eleven months. The study has started and was completed as scheduled. With the submission of the thesis, I would like to take the opportunity to thank a few precious individuals.

First of all, I would like to thank Dr Ibtisam Abdul Wahab, for her dedication towards my three friends and I during the whole two semesters of the study. Her constant guidance, supervision and advice has helped us make the best out of our research. Thank you, Dr Ibtisam.

Dr Kalavathy, thank you for coordinating the subject. Dr Mizaton, thank you for your suggestions in improving the proposal for this study. Professor JFF Weber, thank you for your concern towards our safety in the IKUS laboratory. Dr Syed Adnan, thank you for teaching us how to perform the NMR spectroscopy. To the postgraduates working in the IKUS laboratory, thank you for your sincerity in helping us.

To my parents, brothers and sister, thank you for being there when I need someone to talk to and a shoulder to rest upon. To my closest friends, thank you for sharing the tough times together. It is indeed much easier to face difficulties when we have friends to walk through it together, hand in hand. Thank you.

To all the individuals mentioned and perhaps many more whom I do not have the chance to mention, thank you very much. Words may be the only way I can express my gratitude, but I am very thankful indeed. Your deed will be remembered always. Thank you.

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## ABSTRACT

The methanolic extract of the leaves of *Vitex trifolia* was fractionated in order to obtain relatively polar compounds. Two compounds namely Compound A and Compound B were isolated and purified. They were subjected under  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectroscopy. The  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum of the compounds were analysed and compared with the findings from other journals. Compound A was suggested to have a methoxy, a phenol, a hydroxyl, a carboxylic, and an aromatic proton. Meanwhile, compound B may possess methoxy or carboxylic groups. Hydroxyl and carboxylic groups contributes to the polar characteristic of the compound. In addition, the literature review showed that the highly polar extracts of *Vitex species* have been found to be cytotoxic.

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Natural Products

Natural products are products derived from things that exist spontaneously, without being planted, tended, or cultured by human. They are obtained from the environment; plants, animals, microorganisms, marine sources, fungus, and essential oils. The nature is equipped with potent chemicals that protect the organisms from diseases, predators, and competitors. These chemicals are particularly useful for organisms that are surrounded in a harmful environment which they cannot escape from. Among the potent chemicals useful for the defense of an organism includes venoms of tropical sea snails that have been used as painkillers and defensive chemicals found in sea sponges which are currently showing development as anti-cancer drugs. The great thing about these natural compounds is that their potency have been tested over millions or billions of years (NIWA, 2007).

Following researches done in the previous years, there was evidence that these natural products exert significant biological properties. Besides being biologically active, natural products have the extra benefit of being low in toxicity, completely