

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

***IN VITRO* MELANOGENESIS,
ANTIOXIDANT AND
CYTOTOXICITY ACTIVITIES
OF *Peltophorum pterocarpum*
LEAVES EXTRACTS**

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Thesis submitted in fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
Master of Science
(Biology)

Faculty of Applied Sciences

January 2023

ABSTRACT

Melanin is a protective pigment against cellular damage and skin cancer. Expansion in demand for skin whitening treatments that lower melanin levels therefore have become a worrying trend as it may compromise the skin barrier. *Peltophorum pterocarpum* has been used for centuries to treat skin problems due to its anti-oxidant and anti-microbial properties. However, the effects of *P. pterocarpum* extract on melanogenesis remain to be investigated. This study is aimed to examine the melanogenesis, anti-oxidant, and cytotoxicity activities of *P. pterocarpum* leaves extracts. A two-dimensional (2D) cell culture model was employed to demonstrate the efficacy of aqueous and ethanol of *P. pterocarpum* leaves extracts in promoting melanin synthesis. *In vitro* and cell-based detection of reactive oxygen species (ROS) were assessed using 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) and 2',7'-dichlorodihydrofluorescein diacetate (DCFH-DA) assays. The cytotoxicity effects of *P. pterocarpum* extracts were determined by [3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide] (MTT) and Neutral Red Uptake (NRU) assays on human keratinocyte cell lines and BALB/c 3T3 mouse fibroblasts, respectively. The results showed that ethanol extract of *P. pterocarpum* significantly increased the melanin content while the aqueous extract inhibited melanin synthesis against B16-F1 melanoma cells. DPPH and DCFH-DA assays showed that the ethanol extract of *P. pterocarpum* had higher free radical scavenging activity than the aqueous extract. MTT cytotoxicity results demonstrated that the ethanol extract of *P. pterocarpum* did not exhibit any cytotoxic effects against UVB-irradiated (HaCaT) cells up till 2000 µg/mL, whereas the aqueous extract inhibited the viability of UVB-irradiated keratinocyte cells. The NRU cytotoxicity results demonstrated that the ethanol extracts of *P. pterocarpum* was not toxic against BALB/c 3T3 mouse fibroblast cells up to 1000 µg/mL. However, the aqueous extract of *P. pterocarpum* exhibited a reduction of viability to 50% against BALB/c 3T3 cells at 1000 µg/mL. The effect of *P. pterocarpum* leaves on melanogenesis and anti-oxidant activities were significantly influenced by the polarity of extraction solvents. Besides that, ethanol extract exhibits better inhibition of ROS production in HaCaT cells, which is in accordance with its anti-oxidant activities. However, the effect of both extracts on the viability of cells varies according to the cells that are used. Based on these results, it can be concluded that the ethanolic extract of *P. pterocarpum* can enhance the melanin production, is high in anti-oxidant activities and is not cytotoxic to HaCaT and BALB/c 3T3 cells, respectively. Hence, the potency of *P. pterocarpum* leaves ethanol extract renders as a highly potential therapeutic agent in the hypopigmentation diseases including the treatment of vitiligo.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Alhamdulillah, all praises to Allah s.w.t and His blessings for the strength and good health bestowed upon me to complete this thesis. My thankfulness to Allah s.w.t for granting me grace, peace and opportunity in pursuing the master's study program.

Foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my organization, SIRIM Berhad for letting me a chance, trusting me to pursue a master's study program. Millions of thanks to SIRIM for the financial support and sufficient resources towards the completion of the study. This thesis would not be possible without their kind support and help.

I would like to sincerely thank Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Shah Alam for letting me to fulfill my dream of being a postgraduate student in the research mode through the APEL-MQA access.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Nurdiana Samsulrizal for her guidance and support over the years with her patience and expertise whilst permitting me to perform the research work out of the campus. I'm extremely grateful for her precious time in supervising me, her valuable advice, assistance, and suggestion throughout my master journey.

I owe my special thanks, to my general manager and as my co-supervisor Dr. Ahmad Hazri Ab Rashid from IBRC, SIRIM Berhad for his inspiring guidance, motivation, encouragement, and great advice for the completion of my master's study.

I wish to extend my thanks to my senior researcher Dr. Theanmalar a/p Masilamani from IBRC, SIRIM Berhad for initiating this research idea and this project was carried out based on her previous work. Not forgetting, many thanks for her helps in providing all the information needed regarding this research study.

For my beloved husband and mom, my deep and sincere gratitude for their prayers, help and continuous support. Not forgotten to my children for their understanding, love, and help throughout my years of study. Without the support of family members, I certainly would not be able to reach this point.

Finally, to my lab members and colleagues, thank you for the patience and support in helping me and giving me the motivation to continue to persevere throughout my study.

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