UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

A LITERATURE REVIEW ON POSSIBLE INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS OF FATTY ACID

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CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1	
INTRODUCTION	
1.1 BACKGROUND	
1.2 OBJECTIVE	
1.3 PROBLEM STATEMENT	
1.4 SCOPE AND LIMITATION	
CHAPTER 2	
LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.0 INTRODUCTION	
2.1 USES OF FATTY ACIDS IN INDUSTRY	
2.2 SOURCES OF FATTY ACIDS	
2.3 NATURAL SYNTHESIS OF FATTY ACIDS	
CHAPTER 3	
METHODOLOGY	
3.1 Book and e-book	
3.2 Article	
3.3 Report	44
CHAPTER 4	
CHAPTER 4 4.1 Pharmaceutical Industry	
	43
4.1 Pharmaceutical Industry	43
4.1 Pharmaceutical Industry4.2 Food Production Industry	43 44 45
4.1 Pharmaceutical Industry4.2 Food Production Industry4.3 Food Packaging Industy	43 44 45 46
 4.1 Pharmaceutical Industry 4.2 Food Production Industry 4.3 Food Packaging Industy 4.4 Soap and Detergents Industry 	43 44 45 46 47
 4.1 Pharmaceutical Industry 4.2 Food Production Industry 4.3 Food Packaging Industy 4.4 Soap and Detergents Industry 4.5 Cosmetic and Toiletries Industry 	
 4.1 Pharmaceutical Industry 4.2 Food Production Industry 4.3 Food Packaging Industy 4.4 Soap and Detergents Industry 4.5 Cosmetic and Toiletries Industry 4.5 Textile and Leather Industry 	
 4.1 Pharmaceutical Industry 4.2 Food Production Industry 4.3 Food Packaging Industy 4.4 Soap and Detergents Industry 4.5 Cosmetic and Toiletries Industry 4.5 Textile and Leather Industry 4.6 Lubricant Oil Industry 	
 4.1 Pharmaceutical Industry 4.2 Food Production Industry 4.3 Food Packaging Industy	

5.2 RECOMENDATION	64
	(0)
REFERENCE	69

CONTENT OF FIGURE

CHAPTER 1

FIGURE 1.1: The structure of lauric acid which chain of hydrocarbon that contains methyl group and carboxyl group at the end of the structure
FIGURE 1.2: Structure of saturated and unsaturated fatty acids11
FIGURE 1.3: The combination of one unit of glycerol13
CHAPTER 2
Figure 2 .1: The structure of lauric acid consist of methyl group at the end, and caboxylic group at the opposite
Figure 2 .2: Figure shows the different structure of monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fatty acids
Figure 2. 3: Capsule that contain fatty acids17
Figure 2. 4: Soap that contain fatty acids
Figure 2. 5: The Antabax soap contain Etidronic acid19
Figure 2. 6: Figure shows that steric acids (red box) have been use in cleanser cream20
Figure 2. 7: Personal care that contain fatty acids
Figure 2. 8 : This Johnson Baby Lotion contain stearic acid
Figure 2. 9: Tomato sauce that contain fatty acids
Figure 2. 10: Ketchup contain saturated fatty acids23
Figure 2. 11: Example of food products that contain fatty acids24
Figure 2 .12: This strawberry jam contain citric acid
Figure 2 .13: Example of food products that contain fatty acids
Figure 2 .14: Gardenia bread contain unsaturated and saturated fatty acids25
Figure 2.15: This Figure show the embedded resistor printed using ink-jet printed28

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Fatty acid is along chain of hydrocarbon which consists of methyl group(CH_3) and carboxyl group (COOH) at the both ends of the structure. Natural fatty acids commonly have 4 to 28 carbon atoms, that usually in straight line with even number of hydrogen ("IUPAC Gold Book - fatty acids", 1995). Fatty acid may come from animal and vegetable oils and fats. There are some fatty acid that can usually found such as stearic acid, palmatic acid and lauric acid. Fatty acids is being differentiate by its length, which are known as very long chain fatty acids, long chain fatty acids, medium fatty acids and short chain fatty acids. Very long fatty acids contain more than 22 carbons, long fatty acids contain 16 or more carbons while medium fatty acids have 8 to 15 carbons and short fatty acids contain less than 6 carbons.



Figure 1.1: The structure of lauric acid which chain of hydrocarbon that contains methyl group and carboxyl group at the end of the structure. The carboxyl group (boxed red) is located at the end of the chain. (Garcia, 2016).

Fatty acids can be saturated or either unsaturated. Saturated fatty acids are containing straight line structure without branches. It is also contain maximum number of hydrogen atoms bounded to it. Because of saturated fatty acids only have single bond, each carbon has 2 atoms of hydrogen atom except for the last carbon that contain 3 hydrogen atoms ("Fatty acid", 2016). Table 1.1 listed example of saturated fatty acids

Unsaturated fatty acids contain at least one double bond between carbon atoms as it is lost one or more pairs of hydrogen from carbons chain. Unsaturated fatty acids include monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fatty acids. When the hydrogen is missing, the fatty acids structure will bend out of shape. Monounsaturated fatty acids are missing one pair of hydrogen , thus creating one double bound. Example is oleic acid. Polyunsaturated fatty acids are missing more than one pair of hydrogen, example linoleic acid ("Fats of Life Fat Basics - Fats of Life", n.d.). Table 1.2 listed example of unsaturated fatty acids.



Figure 1.2: Structure of saturated and unsaturated fatty acids. The double bond (in red boxed) is happened in unsaturated fatty acids as the hydrogen is missing and causes double bond, thus the structure will bend out. ("TEXT: Biological Macromolecules", 2016).