

**PHYTOCHEMICAL SCREENING, ANTIOXIDANT
CONTENTS, ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITY
OF *Trichosanthes cucumerina***

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**Final Year Project Report Submitted in
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Bachelor of Science (Hons.) Biology
In the Faculty of Applied Sciences
Universiti Teknologi MARA**

JULY 2016

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alhamdulillah, all praise to Allah who has been gave me health for doning the final year project on the “Phytochemical Screening, Total Phenolic Content and Antimicrobial Activity of *Trichosanthes cucumerina*”, and also for the strengths and His blessing, I was able to complete my project within stipulated time.

First of all I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all those who provided me the possibility to complete this project. A special gratitude I give to my supervisor, Miss Nur Thabitah Bt Shaikh Nasir, who has supported me throughout my thesis with her patience and effort in stimulating suggestions and encouragement. Deep thanks to my coordinator, Miss Siti Suhaila Bt Harith who been helped me to coordinate my research especially in writing this report. Also thankyou to Dean Faculty of Applied Science.

Furthermore, I would also like to acknowledge with much appreciation the crucial role of lab assistances, who in spite of being extraordinarily busy with his duties, took time out to hear, guide and keep me on the correct path and answering to my general question during the project.

Last but not least, a special thanks goes to my beloved family and my friends, who help me to assemble the parts and gave suggestion or ideas in this project. All in all thank you to all of you that involve as direct or indirect to make sure this project smooth and clear.

(Fatin Syahirah Bt Osmiray)

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ABSTRACT

PHYTOCHEMICAL SCREENING, TOTAL PHENOLIC CONTENT AND ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITY OF *T. cucumerina*

Trichosanthes cucumerina or locally known as “petola ular” (snake gourd) is widely distributed in South East Asia and useful for traditional medicine or as spice. The aim of this study was to determine the presence of phytochemical compounds and to determine the total phenolic content and antimicrobial activity of *T. cucumerina*. Methanol and hexane were used as solvents. Alkaloids, phenols, tannins, saponin and flavonoids were found in the peels and fleshes of plants tested. Total phenolic content of the methanolic extracts that was determined by the Follin-Ciocalteus reagent method were found to be 1.63 ± 0.01 mg GAE/g for flesh extract and 3.48 ± 0.59 mg GAE/g for peel extract. The antimicrobial activity of crude hexane and methanolic extracts of the peel and flesh of *T. cucumerina* were evaluated by the disc diffusion techniques against Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacterial strains such as *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Salmonella typhi*. The results revealed that the peels and fleshes of *T. cucumerina* significantly inhibit the growth of *S. aureus* and *S. typhi* at different concentration of extraction. Of the two types of used, methanol extract was found to exert consistently better antimicrobial activity than hexane.