

Antioxidant activity and gel formulation of *Areca catechu* fractionation

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Abstract

Background: *Areca catechu* seeds are a commodity quite common in the Sumatra area and easy to find in Jambi Province. Gel preparations are one form of preparation that can be comfortably applied to the skin's surface. The gel base is more than 60% water, making this type of preparation convenient to use as an option for cosmetic and medicinal purposes.

Method: The research was carried out experimentally, and it included plant collection, plant identification, phytochemical screening, fraction making, gel preparation formulation, antioxidant activity test using the DPPH method, and analysis of chemical components in the best fraction.

Results: The IC₅₀ values obtained in ethanol extracts, n-hexane fractions, ethyl acetate, n-butanol, and residual water were 31.1370; 140,4038; 44,6600; 25,6350; 30,9579 µg/mL sequential. In the formulation of the gel formulation of the n-butanol fraction, the IC₅₀ value at F1, F2, F3, F4, F5 is 221,9660; 73,4390; 66,1160; 114,8390; 99.3540 µg/mL sequential. Seven compounds were detected in the analysis of chemical components with HPLC-MS/MS instruments.

Conclusion: The n-butanol fraction with the best extract part in *Areca catechu* and F3 is the best combination of gel formulation.

Keywords: Antioxidant Activity; *Areca catechu*; Fractionation; Gel Formulation; IC₅₀

INTRODUCTION

The inhabitants of Jambi Province have historically relied on plant-based remedies as a form of community medicine, given their profound dependence on the natural resources found within the forest. The forest serves as a vital source of sustenance for these communities, providing not only economic benefits but also deeply rooted traditional values. The tradition of medicine in a community is inextricably linked to the local cultural context. The perception of health and the diversity of plant species utilized as traditional medicine are shaped through a socialization process that has been held to be true for generations (1–5).

The gel formulation is achieved through a process of trial and error, whereby the concentration of the gelling agent is modified until the optimal gel formula is

obtained. The incorporation of gel-forming ingredients is conducted with the objective of attaining the desired characteristics of the preparation in accordance with the established specifications and criteria parameters. The utilization of diverse types and concentrations of additives and extracts will influence the physical stability of a preparation. Therefore, physical stability tests against the optimal formula are essential for gels (6–8).

Antioxidants are defined as compounds that can delay, decelerate, and prevent the oxidation process of lipids. In a particular sense, antioxidants are defined as substances that can prevent the formation of free radical reactions (peroxides) in lipid oxidation. Synthetic antioxidants, such as BHA (butylated hydroxyanisole) and BHT (butylated hydroxytoluene), have been

demonstrated to elicit significant adverse effects, including the potential for liver damage (9–11).

A free radical is defined as a compound or molecule that contains one or more unpaired electrons in its outer orbital. The presence of unpaired electrons renders the compound highly reactive, prompting it to seek out a partner by attacking and binding to surrounding electrons, thereby initiating the onset of disease (12–14).

Vitamin C is a crucial food antioxidant that markedly reduces the adverse effects of reactive species, such as oxygen radicals, which can inflict damage through oxidative reactions on macromolecules, including lipids, DNA, and proteins. These macromolecules play a role in the development of chronic diseases, such as neurodegenerative disorders. (15–17) (12–14).

The antioxidant activity of a given substance can be evaluated through in vitro testing using the DPPH (2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazil) method. The DPPH method furnishes data regarding the reactivity of the compounds under examination with a stable radical. DPPH exhibits strong absorption at a wavelength of 517 nm, resulting in a dark violet color. The action of free radical scavengers results in the pairing of electrons, which subsequently causes a proportional loss of color, contingent on the number of electrons that are taken up. (12,18,19).

METHOD

Research Time Line

The research was carried out at the Laboratory of Pharmaceutical Biology and Pharmaceutical Technology at the Health Polytechnic of the Department of Pharmacy of Jambi Province for 5 months from April to August 2024. This research consists of sampling, determination, fractionation, phytochemical compound analysis and gel formulation.

Research design

The research was conducted experimentally. This research includes plant collection, plant identification, phytochemical

screening, extraction and fractionation, gel preparation formulation, antioxidant activity using the DPPH method.

Tools and Materials

1. Tool

The tools used in this research are uv-vis spectrometers, glassware, steam cups, hplc, rotary evaporators, ovens, waterbaths, analytical scales, test tubes, measuring cups, measuring flasks, filter paper, stirring rods, macerators, droppers, funnels, tweezers, parchment, containers, stationery and paper.

2. Material

The materials used in this study are sensat leaves, vitamin c, 70% ethanol, DPPH compounds, butanol, n-hexane, ethyl acetate, butanol, methanol, acetonotriol acetic acid, methanol, aqua bidestylata, Carbopol 940, propylene glycol, glycerin, methyl paraben, TEA, Aquadest.

Work Flow

1. Sampling

Sampling was carried out by Areca catechu seeds in Jambi City, Jambi Province.

2. Sample Determination

The sample used was a part of a sitting leaf obtained from Jambi. The determination of plant samples was carried out at the Taxonomy Laboratory of the Department of Biology FMIPA UNAND.

3. Extraction and Fractionation of Areca catechu

Weighed Areca catechus that have been cleaned by 5 kg, dried and then pollinated (20). Used 70% ethanol (1:10 b/v) as filter solution (21,22). Maceration is carried out 3 times and then the filtrate is concentrated until a thick extract is obtained (23,24). Subsequently the extract is fractionated with n-hexane solvent, ethyl acetate, n-butanol and residual water. 4 filtrates from 4 different fractions were obtained, then each fraction was evaporated with a rotary evaporator to obtain a viscous fraction(25–27).

4. Phytochemical tests and chemical compound analysis with HPLC-MS/MS instruments

Phytochemical analysis studies were carried out using HPLC-MS/MS instruments using. The best fractionation results were prepared by the SPE (Solid Phase Extraction) method. Furthermore, analysis with HPLC-MS/MS was carried out with system column type used was ACQUITY UPLC® HSS C18 (1.8 μ m 2.1 \times 100 mm, waters, USA) at temperatures of 50°C (column) and 25°C (room). LC analysis was used eluent A that consist of water and ammonium formate (99.9 : 0.1 ratio), and eluent B that consist of acetonitrile and formic acid (99.9: 0.1 ratio) with a flow rate of 0.2 mL/min (step gradient) for 23 min (28–32). The results of HPLC-MS/MS were then analyzed using masslynx, msconvert and sirius software (28,33–42).

5. Gel Formulation

Tabel 1. Gel Formulation

Ingredient	F1	FII	FIII	FIV	FV
Areca catechu fraction	-	0,5	1	1,5	2
Carbopol 940	1	1	1	1	1
Propylene Glycol	10	10	10	10	10
Glycerine	5	5	5	5	5
Methylparaben	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1
TEA	1	1	1	1	1
Aquadest	ad	ad	ad	ad	ad
	100	100	100	100	100
	ml	ml	ml	ml	ml

The tools and materials used are prepared then a gel preparation with a Carbopol 940 base is developed in 10 parts of aquades in a mortar, left to inflate. Then TEA was added and then homogenized. Next, methyl paraben is dissolved in propyl glycol with hot distilled water at a temperature of 90°C, stirred until homogeneous. The result of fractionation of Areca catechu seeds is mixed with glycerin, mixed into the base, added to the base and stirred until homogeneous (6,43).

7. Gel Preparation Activity Test

It is made in 5 series of concentrations of 30 ppm, 40 ppm, 50 ppm, 60 ppm, and 70 ppm. Measurement of absorbance of DPPH radical

reduction test solution Taken 0.2 ml each, added 3.8 ml of DPPH 35 ppm solution put into a vial and then shaken. Let stand for 30 minutes. Then the greeting is read at the maximum wavelength using a UV-vis spectrometer (17,44) (31,32). Calculation of IC50 value The concentration of the test solution to reduce 50% of free radical activity is determined by the IC50 value which can be calculated the percentage of inhibition with the formula: the results of the equation are included in the regression equation $y=a+bx$ antioxidant activity is determined by the level of antioxidant strength based on the IC50 value (14,18,45,46).

RESULTS

The Areca catechu samples were extracted using the maceration method, then fractionation was carried out. The IC50 value in ethanol extract, n-hexane fraction, ethyl acetate, n-butanol, and residual water was 31.1370 μ g/mL; 140.4038 μ g/mL; 44.6600 μ g/mL; 25.6350 μ g/mL; 30.9579 μ g/mL. Phytochemical tests were carried out by HPLC-MS/MS. 7 compounds with secondary metabolites of natural materials were obtained.

The n-butanol fraction is then formulated in the form of a gel preparation with a combination of F1-F5 with a difference in the concentration of the n-butanol fraction. Each subsequent formulation design result was calculated as the IC50 value at F1, F2, F3, F4, F5 was 221.9660 μ g/mL; 73.4390 μ g/mL; 66.1160 μ g/mL; 114.8390 μ g/mL; 99.3540 μ g/mL. It was determined that F3 is the most suitable type of formula for gel formulation. However, it appears that the antioxidant activity value obtained is still not optimal, as it is lower than that of the pure fraction substance. It is anticipated that the formulation will result in enhanced antioxidant activity.

DISCUSSION

A sample was used in the form of Areca catechus (Areca catechu) obtained from Jambi province. This result will support the potential utilization of natural products native to Jambi Province for pharmaceutical and

cosmetic needs (28,47,48). The Areca catechu seeds are then extracted by maceration using a 96% ethanol solvent and then fractionated using n-hexane, ethyl

acetate, n-butanol and aqua distillate solvents. Rotary evaporator is used for the concentration of the extract and fraction results obtained (20,49,50).

Tabel 2 Result

No	Molecular Weight	Formula	Compound Name	Class	Reference
1	171.19 g/mol	C ₈ H ₁₃ NO ₃	1-(2-Methoxyethyl)-3-methylpyrrole-2,5-diol	Alkaloid	PubChem CID 91351456
2	171.19 g/mol	C ₈ H ₁₃ NO ₃	(1E,3Z)-1-methoxy-4-methyl-3-nitrohexa-1,3-diene	Alkaloid	PubChem CID 117986317
3	171.19 g/mol	C ₈ H ₁₃ NO ₃	(2Z)-3-ethyl-5-methoxyperoxypenta-2,4-dien-1-imine	Alkaloid	PubChem CID 143200719
4	172.20 g/mol	C ₈ H ₁₄ NO ₃ ⁺	[(2Z)-3-ethyl-5-methoxyperoxypenta-2,4-dienylidene]azanium	Alkaloid	PubChem CID 143200718
5	199.29 g/mol	C ₁₁ H ₂₁ NO ₂	(3Z,5E)-2,6-dimethyl-8-(methylamino)octa-3,5-diene-3,4-diol	Alkaloid	PubChem CID 163735190
6	668.2 g/mol	C ₃₀ H ₃₆ O ₁₇	Jaceidin 7-neohesperidoside	Flavonoid	LM ID LMPK12112932
7	530.7 g/mol	C ₃₁ H ₄₆ O ₇	(1R,2R,11S,12S,14R,15R)-15-(2,6-dihydroxy-6-methyl-3-oxoheptan-2-yl)-4,14-dihydroxy-1,7,7,12,16-pentamethyltetracyclo[9.7.0.02,8.012,16]octadeca-3,8-diene-6,18-dione	Terpenoid	PubChem CID 155472242

Furthermore, the antioxidant strength of each sample that has been obtained is analyzed (14). In these results, the best potential antioxidant power was obtained in the N-butanol fraction (25.6350 µg/mL). These results show the possibility that the most dominant compound as a trigger for antioxidant power is a more polar compound with a small number of carbon atoms.

In the formulation design of the gel preparation, the best antioxidant power value was obtained in formula 3 (66.1160 µg/mL). In the results of the formulation design, a shift in IC₅₀ value was obtained in the best fraction was the n-butanol fraction. A considerable shift in values from 25.6350 µg/mL to 66.1160 µg/mL. The results should be more optimized with a better combination of polymers. This will support changes in the value of antioxidant power for the better (27,31,51,52).

CONCLUSIONS

The conclusion obtained in this series of studies is that Areca catechu has strong antioxidant power. Areca catechus have opportunities for development, testing and treatment to be able to get the maximum

potential from the original Areca catechus of Jambi province. Analysis of the results of the formulation of the best gel preparation in formulation 3 which has great potential to be further developed into nanogel form. The analysis of phytochemical results and chemical components of Areca catechus opens up opportunities for the study of Areca catechus from the perspective of in-silico testing. Alkaloids are the most dominant secondary metabolites of natural materials in this sample.

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