

Application of Plackett Burman Design for Antioxidant Extraction from *Actinodaphne sesquipedalis* leaves



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Abstract: *Actinodaphne sesquipedalis* Hook. F. Var. *Glabra* (Kochummen), also known as “Medang payung” by the Malay people, belongs to the Lauraceae family. In this study, a Plackett-Burman design was used to evaluate the significant extraction parameters in achieving maximum DPPH radical scavenging activity from ethanol leaves extract of *A. sesquipedalis*. Microwave-assisted extraction technique was employed using aqueous ethanol. The independent parameters were microwave power level (30–60 W), feed-to-solvent ratio (1:30 g/ml), irradiation time (30-90 s) and ethanol concentration (20–80%). Amongst the examined parameters, ethanol concentration, microwave power level, and irradiation/extraction time were significant, whereas, feed-to-solvent ratio was insignificant. Therefore, antioxidants from the ethanolic extraction leaves of *A. sesquipedalis* using microwave technique are significantly affected by ethanol concentration, irradiation time and microwave power.

Index Terms: *Actinodaphne sesquipedalis*, DPPH radical scavenging activity, microwave, Plackett-Burman design.

I. INTRODUCTION

Antioxidants play an important role as a health protecting factors [1]. According to Chanda and Nagani (2010), antioxidants may describe as compounds that inhibit or delay the oxidation of other molecules by inhibiting the initiation or propagation of oxidizing chain reaction [2]. Within normal human body’s functions, free radicals are form from by-products of specific oxidation reactions which eliminates pathogens and infected cells. However surplus of these highly reactive species can induced chain reactions that damage cells and if uncontrollable will cause many kinds of diseases [3]. Antioxidants generally occur naturally in plants, fruits and whole grains and previous studies affirmed that, highly present of antioxidant compounds such as polyphenols, carotenoids, tocopherols, tocotrienols, glutathione and ascorbic acid, as well as enzymes with antioxidant activity [4]. Antioxidants significantly become

great to overcome the aging problem and at the same time to reduce getting a serious illness. Therefore, the aim of this study has been focused on exploring natural antioxidants from plant sources.

Actinodaphne sesquipedalis Hook. F. Var. *Glabra* (Kochummen), also known as “Medang payung” by the Malay people, belongs to the Lauraceae family [5]. Previously, the genus *Actinodaphne* was also used as a traditional Chinese medicine for the treatment of stomachache [6]. *Actinodaphne* plants are rich in diverse biological active alkaloids, which have phytopharmaceutical properties [7]-[10]. In this work, the determination of important variables is studied for the leaves extraction of *A. sesquipedalis* in obtaining higher antioxidant capacity. However, extraction of antioxidant from the plant matrix has usually been achieved through either conventional or unconventional method using different solvents.

Extraction is very important in the recovery of phytochemicals from plant matrix. For instance, microwave-assisted extraction is more effective in the quality of antioxidant capacity from plant matrix in a shorter time as compared with a conventional method like soxhlet, maceration and others [11], [12]. Nevertheless, this method is being affected by different extraction parameters, irradiation time, temperature, microwave power level, feed-to-solvent ratio, and solvent concentration [13]. In order to minimize cost, the contributing extraction parameters need to be evaluated. Although, the one-factor-at-a-time experiment was the most used method but the approach is expensive, time-consuming and may give in inaccurate results since it does not consider interactive parameters [14]. To contain these shortcomings, a factorial design is being used as a statistical screening process. This approach is useful in evaluating main as well as interactive effects during the extraction with minimal experimental runs. Thus, the aim of this study is to screen the independent factors, namely microwave power level (30-60 W), feed-to-solvent ratio (1:15-1:30 g/ml), irradiation time (30-90 s) and ethanol concentration (20–80%) for the antioxidant activity from *A. sesquipedalis* leaves using Plackett-Burman factorial design.

The Plackett-Burman experimental design, a fractional factorial design, was used in this work to demonstrate the relative importance of extraction parameter and response.

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II. MATERIALS AND METHOD

A. Reagent and Plant Material

Fresh leaves of *A. sesquipedalis* were harvested from Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve in Malaysia. The leaves collected will be washed with tap water and chopped coarsely and left to dry overnight in the oven temperature not more than 40°C for 24 hours. The air-dried leaves will be ground using a mechanical blender. They were then gently pulverized into powder form and stored in an air tight plastic container. DPPH (1,10-diphenyl-2-20-picrylhydrazyl) and ethanol were purchased from Sigma Aldrich. Only the analytical grade of chemicals was used throughout the experiment.

B. Extraction Process

The extraction process was carried out based on a factorial design using two coded levels of each extraction variable (low and high levels) as illustrated in Table I. The variables were irradiation time (30-90 s), microwave power level (30-60 W), feed-to-solvent ratio (1:30 g/ml), and ethanol concentration (20–80%). 10 g of powdered *A. sesquipedalis* leaves was extracted using aqueous ethanol in an enclosed microwave extractor. The variables were set based on the Plackett-Burman factorial experimental design matrix (Table III). After extraction, the extract was filtered and concentrated to dryness using a rotary evaporator at 75oC. The extract was then refrigerated at -20oC until further analysis.

C. DPPH Radical Scavenging Activity

The radical scavenging activity of each sample was carried out followed a method described by Blois,1958 [15] with modification. Briefly, 10 mg of dried extract was weighed and dissolved in 10 mL ethanol (1mg/mL). 10 mg of 1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) radical was dissolved in ethanol and made up to 100 mL in a volumetric flask (0.1 mM). Then 50 µL of the extracts sample was mixed with 150 µL ethanolic solution of DPPH in 96-well plate microliter plate. The solution mixture was incubated in the dark at room temperature and the absorbance changes at 515 nm was measured 30 min later using a UV-VIS microplate reader. The sample extract without DPPH was used as blank test. All the analysis was conducted in triplicate, and the concentration required for 50 % reduction (50 % inhibition concentration, IC50) of DPPH radical solution was determined graphically. The DPPH scavenging activities of the extracts was calculated using the following equation:

$$\text{DPPH scavenging activity (\%)} = \frac{(A_0 - A_1)}{A_0} \times 100, \quad (1)$$

Where A_0 is the absorbance of the blank sample and A_1 is the absorbance of the sample.

D. Experimental design

In the evaluation of four variables at two coded levels, a Plackett-Burman factorial design with 12 experimental trials was carried out in a randomized trend. The range and the levels of the experimental variables used in the coded form are presented in Table I. For each variable, a high (5) and low (1) level was tested. The experimental runs and the analyses were carried out in triplicate. The resulting values and

statistical analysis were processed using Minitab 14 statistical software.

The Plackett-Burman design has permitted the response to be modeled by the first-order polynomial, which can be expressed as the equation:

$$Y = b_0 + b_1 X_1 + b_2 X_2 + b_3 X_3 + b_4 X_4 \quad (2)$$

Where Y is the response function. X_1 , X_2 , X_3 and X_4 are the independent variables. b_0 is the average theoretical value of the response. b_1 , b_2 , b_3 , and b_4 are the factor effects of X_1 , X_2 , X_3 , and X_4 respectively.

Table- I: Extraction parameters and their level.

Variables	Range	
	1 (low level)	5 (high level)
A IrradiationTime, s	20	80
B Power, watt	30	60
C Solvent concentration,%	30	90
D Solid to Solvent Ratio	15ml/g	30ml/g

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Fitting the Process Variables.

The experimental data for the response DPPH radical scavenging activity of red pitaya seed extracts are displayed in Table II. The result obtained showed that the DPPH radical scavenging activity of *A. sesquipedalis* leaves extract ranged from 82.05 – 87.34 %. The influence of some extraction variables sometimes can be more significant than others. The use of an insignificant variable in the extraction process may give incorrect or inappropriate results [15]. Thus, factor screening is inevitable for the extraction process. The identification of the extraction parameters that are likely to be effective were done. In general, it can be observed from the p-values ($p < 0.005$) in Table III that irradiation time, microwave power level and ethanol concentration were significant variables response to the antioxidant activity. Ethanol concentration has the lowest p-values among other factors. This shows that ethanol concentration give the highest contribution response to the antioxidant activity. In addition, our results are supported by normal probability plots values to find the most important effects and interactions. In normal probability plots, the minor effects fall on a straight line, whereas important effects would be located off the line. The normal probability plots for the factorial design are shown in Fig. 1. It can be seen that ethanol concentration, microwave power level and irradiation time are the important factors affecting the determination of antioxidant capacity while other extraction factor which is solid to solvent ratio remained unimportant.

B. Influence of Extraction Parameters on Antioxidant Capacity

Among all of the factors only solid to solvent ratio was not significant, while ethanol concentration, irradiation time and were significant in obtaining higher antioxidant capacity. The effect of ethanol concentration was the major contributor for antioxidant activity which is DPPH radical scavenging assay.

Table- II: The experimental design in coded form for the determination of significant variables using Plackett-Burman factorial design and response.

Order	Coded value				Response
	A	B	C	D	DPPH, %
1	1	5	5	1	83.04
2	1	1	1	5	86.73
3	1	1	5	5	83.26
4	5	1	5	5	85.37
5	1	5	5	5	82.05
6	5	1	1	1	87.33
7	1	1	1	1	87.34
8	1	5	1	1	86.13
9	5	5	5	1	84.46
10	5	5	1	5	87.34
11	5	5	1	5	85.92
12	5	1	5	1	87.00

A greater slope indicates a greater effect of a given factor on the antioxidant capacity. Thus, the proportion of ethanol concentration in the extraction medium had a significant influence on the antioxidant properties of leaves extract of *A. sesquipedalis*. Antioxidant activity decreased with increasing ethanol concentrations. Antioxidant capacity was sensitive to solvent polarity, and a single ethanol concentration recovered all individual phenolic and antioxidant plant compounds. Previous study showed that extracts from *Clerodendrum cyrtophyllum* Turcz leaves obtained at low ethanol concentrations (40%) had a greater scavenging capacity for both DPPH and ABTS radicals. Excessive quantities of solvent can compromise the extraction of phenolic compounds and impair their antioxidant capacity, 40% ethanol was used for subsequent RSM to optimize extraction conditions [16]. Based on Fig. 2, during low (20%) ethanol concentration, higher antioxidant activity was noticed which is the mean value is 86.7963 %. Antioxidant activity decreased to 84.1967% , when ethanol concentration increased to 80%. In this study, higher irradiation times gives higher antioxidant activity. Extraction time was selected based on heating efficiency with microwave. Therefore from Fig. 2, the lower microwave power level gives higher antioxidant capacity. This phenomenon probably due to chemical and thermal degradation of some phenolic compounds accounting for decreased antioxidant activity which were previously mobilized at low temperature [17]. It has been reported that greater absorbance of microwave energy by polar molecules, such as polyphenolic compounds, can result in greater solution temperature, which causes the decomposition of the extracted components. This can be a reason for the decrease in the antioxidant activity of the extracts from this study at higher power levels of the microwave.

Table- III: The p-values of response

Factors	P-values of response
	Y ₁
Irradiation time, s	0.015
Microwave power level, watt	0.022
Ethanol concentration, %	0.001
Feed to solvent ration, g/ml	0.137

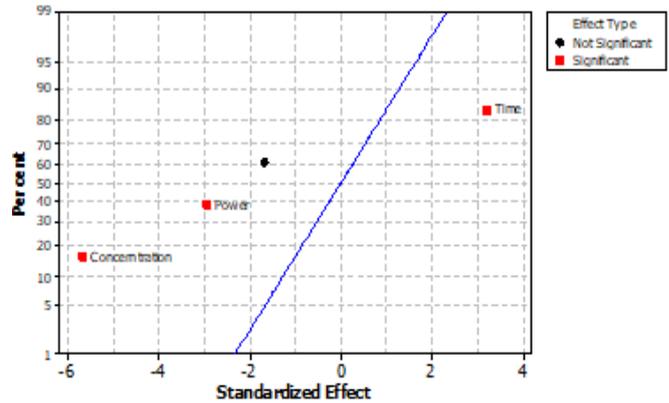


Fig. 1. Normal Probability Plot

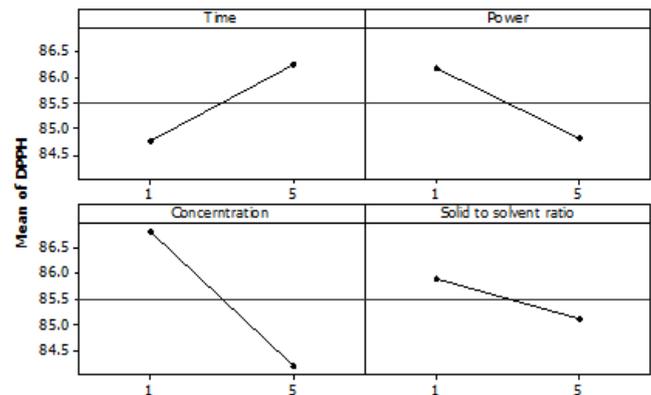


Fig. 2. Main effect plot of four independent variables; Irradiation time (s), Microwave power level (watt), Ethanol concentration (%) and Solid to solvent ratio (g/ml)

IV. CONCLUSION

The Plackett-Burman factorial design screening was used to evaluate the significance of microwave-assisted extraction parameters, which include irradiation time, microwave power level , feed-to-solvent ratio, and ethanol concentration in obtaining an antioxidant activity (DPPH) from leaves extract of *A. sesquipedalis*. The obtained results showed that ethanol concentration, microwave power level and irradiation time, were significant ($p < 0.05$) in attaining higher antioxidant activity. Using these significant factors, further experiments are warranted to determine the optimum extraction conditions using response surface methodology and to determine the bioactive constituents.

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