

Standardization of Anthocyanin Compounds in Plants in Indonesia: Literature Review

Vriezka Mierza¹ , Bunga Nur Annisa² , Annastya Eka Agustin³, Cantika Nurul Sa'adah⁴ , Fajar Prasetyo⁵ , Christina Febiola Lubis⁶

1,2,3,4,5,6 Department Of Pharmacy Faculty of Health Sciences Univerty of Singaperbangsa Karawang, Jawa Barat,Indonesia

1. INTRODUCTION

A compound in a plant that is used as an active substance in medicine should meet quality standards in order to guarantee its efficacy and safety. In an effort to maintain the standard of a drug made from natural ingredients, the process of standardization of the active compound can be carried out. Standardization is the stage of fulfilling the requirements of an active compound that is to be used as a raw material for medicine to guarantee and maintain safety, quality uniformity and efficacy. One example is the standardization process for determining specific and non-specific parameters for simplicia or plant extracts containing active and efficacious compounds to be used as a drug [1].

Anthocyanins are secondary metabolites that belong to the flavonoid group. Anthocyanin compounds are stored in plant cell vacuoles and act as pigments or coloring agents in plants that give red, blue and purple colors to flowers, fruits and vegetables [2]. Natural anthocyanins have the ability to protect plants from damage caused by biotics such as fungi and bacteria and abiotics such as UV rays and extreme temperatures. Based on its structure, anthocyanin compounds have several pharmacological activities such as antioxidants, anti-carcinogenic, preventing impaired liver function,

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anti-hypertensive, and anti-diabetic [3]. Until now, more than 540 anthocyanin compounds have been identified in nature, with the most common compounds being cyanidin, delfinidin, peonidin, and malvidin [4].

In general, the anthocyanin structure consists of an aglycone form which is sterified by several sugar groups (glycones) and acyl groups in several anthocyanin compounds. Anthocyanin compounds are more active in their aglycone form. This compound is easily soluble in polar solvents under acidic conditions, highly reactive, easily oxidized or reduced, its glycosidic bonds are easily hydrolyzed, and more stable in acidic solutions than in basic solutions. Anthocyanins are easily soluble in polar solvents such as water and in slightly acidic conditions. Increasing temperature and pH can cause anthocyanin degradation. Anthocyanins can change color reversibly along with changes in pH where at a very acidic pH in the range of 1-2, Anthocyanin is in the form of colored flavilium or oxonium cations, while at pH 4-5 a colorless hemiketal is formed which will affect its absorbance when reading with a visible spectrophotometer. Anthocyanins provide maximum absorption in the visible light region, namely in the region of 505-535 nm. To obtain good anthocyanin compounds, specific sources and methods are needed starting from the extraction process to isolation [5]. Based on the explanation that has been presented, writing this review article aims to provide an overview of how to standardize anthocyanin compounds in order to maximize the isolation process. To obtain good anthocyanin compounds, specific sources and methods are needed starting from the extraction process to isolation [5]. Based on the explanation that has been presented, writing this review article aims to provide an overview of how to standardize anthocyanin compounds in order to maximize the isolation process. To obtain good anthocyanin compounds, specific sources and methods are needed starting from the extraction process to isolation [5]. Based on the explanation that has been presented, writing this review article aims to provide an overview of how to standardize anthocyanin compounds.

2. METHOD

The research methodology used is in the form of literature review with reference sources related to the review topic obtained from various sources, such as Pubmed, Science Direct, and Google Scholar. This literature search included keywords such as "standardization of anthocyanin analysis" and "standardization of anthocyanin analysis". In addition, the keyword "anthocyanidin" is also used. This review aims to determine the methods that can be used for anthocyanin analysis both qualitatively and quantitatively. A literature search was carried out using data inclusion criteria in the form of journal years 2012-2022, research journals, and the selected literature is available in full-text as well as exclusion criteria, namely journals outside English and Indonesian and theses/thesis/dissertations, then processed and analyzed. Writing a bibliography in this article uses IEE.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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Discussion

Anthocyanins from natural materials can be obtained by means of thin layer chromatography (TLC), UV-Vis spectrophotometer, thin layer chromatography-densitometry, and high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC).

Standardization of anthocyanins using TLC generally uses silica gel 60 F254 stationary phase and 1% HCl (97:3, v/v) as mobile phase and Butanol:acetic acid:water (BAA) in different ratios. In general, the spot reagents and color reagents used in TLC were NH3, 5% AlCl3 and 2% FeCl3.

Standardization using TLC aims to identify (qualitatively) anthocyanins contained in an extract such as research conducted by Febriani et al (2016) on purple sweet potato extract. In this study, the Rf value was sought by looking at the stains/spots produced during the elution process using the mobile phase on the TLC plate. The Rf value is obtained from the calculation of the stain separation distance divided by the eluent travel distance. The Rf value obtained in this study was 0.41. This value is in accordance with the literature that the Rf value of anthocyanin is $0.1 - 0.4$. The TLC method is usually carried out on compounds with groups that show positive results on phytochemical screening, one of which is anthocyanins.

In addition, further standardization of anthocyanins is done by TLC-spectrophotodensitometry which uses several parameters, namely chromatogram, maximum wavelength and spectrum. Based on the anthocyanin spectrum data in band I (270-280 nm) and in band II (456-560 nm). The absorption in the band II region is the absorption of the aglycone group which includes cyanidin. The spectrum of 70% ethanol extract in acidic medium of purple sweet potato showed the presence of anthocyanin compound with a wavelength of 540 nm as the maximum wavelength of cyanidin, namely anthocyanin which has an acyl group. Based on the observed results, the Rf value obtained was 0.1 in the administration of 2% FeCl3 and 5% AlCl3 reagent, which was then visualized in 366 nm UV light, indicating that the extract contained flavonols, whereas in the NH3 spot appearance, no anthocyanin was detected [4].

The difference in color in the results of spot detection and color reagents is due to the influence of aglycone bonds with other substitutional groups in anthocyanins which can affect the type of anthocyanin compounds contained in an extract [11] . As in a study conducted by Wirasuta et al (2015), namely purple sweet potato extract, which detected cyanidin and peonidin. The difference between the two lies in R1, where cyanidin has an -OH group, while peonidin has an -OCH3 group. Based on several journals that have been reviewed, the selection of the mobile and stationary phases and the use of spot sights affect the results obtained from the TLC method.

Standardization of anthosinins using a UV-Vis spectrophotometer was carried out for qualitative (maximum wavelength) and quantitative (content) analysis. One study that used qualitative analysis was Purwaniati, et al (2020) with a sample of butterfly pea flower (Clitoria ternatea) extract. In that study, the maximum anthocyanin wavelength was sought and the result was 510 nm. The results of this study are in accordance with the literature that anthocyanins provide maximum absorption in the visible light region of 505-535 nm.

In quantitative analysis using a UV-Vis spectrophotometer, a search for anthocyanin levels or total anthocyanin levels was generally influenced by pH because the chemical structure of anthocyanins is less stable and thus easily degraded. Anthocyanins are more stable in acidic solutions than in basic solutions so that in determining the total anthocyanin content, the pH of the solution is measured first with a pH of 1 and 4.5. At a pH lower than 2, anthocyanins exist as cations (flavilium ions). Therefore, anthocyanins are safest when worked in slightly acidic solutions. The increasingly acidic conditions

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approaching pH 1 will cause more and more anthocyanin pigments to be in the form of colored flavilium or oxonium cations so that they can be easily read on the absorbance spectrum [12]. In addition to pH 1 and 4.5, the anthocyanin structure changes at 7. Basically, the change in anthocyanin color is due to a change in the structure of the flavilium cation into carbinol, quinonoidal and chalcone hemiketal pseudobasics. In the study of Mahmudatussa'adah, et al (2014), at pH 1-2, anthocyanins were dominant in the form of flavilium cations which were red in color, at $pH \leq 6$ they changed to carbinol and some became quinonoidals which were blue in color so that they were purple in color, at pH 6.5-9 dominant quinonoidals which are blue in color, and at pH >9 chalcones are yellow in color.

Based on the journals that have been reviewed, research using the pH optimization method for anthocyanin characteristics by looking at the absorption area is in the study of Sahil, et al (2020) with samples of red gedi leaf extract (Abelmoschus manihot (L.) Medik). The journal uses optimization of pH 1-5 and a wavelength of 250-700 nm. The color change of the anthocyanin extract of the red gedi plant to the influence of pH is an indicator of the anthocyanin because it can change color to factors of acidity and alkalinity. The color results in the red gedi leaf extract test solution were yellowish green with decreasing color saturation as the pH of the test solution was increased.

Another factor that affects the presence of anthocyanins is temperature. The temperature difference also affects the anthocyanin levels obtained in each plant, the higher the temperature the more anthocyanins obtained. This is in accordance with research conducted by Purwaniati, et al (2020) when brewing butterfly pea flower preparations with 3 types of temperature, namely room temperature (25° C) to determine the levels of anthocyanins in normal conditions, temperature 50° C to determine anthocyanin levels in warm conditions, and around 80° C to determine the levels of anthocyanins in hot conditions. However, anthocyanin levels will decrease at 100°C due to degradation of anthocyanins.

Determination of total anthocyanin levels uses the maximum wavelength that has been measured previously and optimizing pH 1. The formula for determining the total content of an anthocyanin is found in the 2nd Edition of the 2017 Indonesian Herbal Pharmacopoeia, namely

$$
\% = \frac{A \times BM \times f \times 1000}{\varepsilon \times b \times w} \times 100
$$

Information :

 $A =$ absorption of the solution that has been corrected with a blank BM = molecular weight of cyanidin-3-O-glucoside (449) $f =$ dilution factor ε = absorption of cyanidin-3-O-glucoside (25965 /cm.M) $b =$ thickness of the cuvette (1 cm) $w =$ sample weight (g)

 Furthermore, standardization of anthocyanins using HPLC. The use of HPLC is usually used to determine the concentration, characterization and determinants (complementary data from other methods) of anthocyanin compounds. HPLC is a development of the classic columnar liquid chromatography, with the development of column technology, more sensitive and sensitive detectors and technological advances in high-pressure pumps. Therefore HPLC becomes a fast and efficient chromatography (separation) tool [17]. The stationary phase commonly used for analysis is silica. In several studies the combined use of the mobile phase consists of an organic phase and a buffer. Organic phases such as acetonitrile and methanol are often used in HPLC systems. While the buffers that are often used are acetate buffer, phosphate buffer, tetrahydrofuran (THF). The result of HPLC is a retention time chromatogram. Retention time is expressed as the length of time for sample analysis, where in the reverse phase the more polar substances will elute first and have a faster retention time than non-polar substances. In the study Gouvêa et al (2012) used HPLC as a determinant of the type of anthocyanin and its levels with samples of freeze-dried acai (*Euterpe oleraceae* Mart.). The results of this study obtained a retention time of 17.8 minutes for cyanidin-3-glucoside and 22. 2 minutes for cyanidin-3 rutinoside. Then the levels of cyanidin-3-glucoside and cyanidin-3-rutinoside were 35.29 ± 0.12 mg/100 g and 58.73 ± 0.22 mg/100 g, respectively.

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Figure 1 Chromatogram of cyanidin-3-glucoside

Figure 2 Chromatogram of cyanidin-3-rutinoside

4. CONCLUSION

Anthocyanins are secondary metabolites belonging to the flavonoid group which act as pigments or coloring agents in plants that give red, blue and purple colors to flowers, fruits and vegetables. Based on its structure, anthocyanin compounds have several pharmacological activities such as antioxidants, anti-carcinogenic, preventing impaired liver function, anti-hypertensive, and anti-diabetic. To obtain good anthocyanin compounds, specific sources and methods are needed, starting from the extraction process to its isolation. In this researchAnthocyanins were obtained by means of thin layer chromatography (TLC), UV-Vis spectrophotometer, thin layer chromatography-densitometry, and high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC).

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