

ANALYSIS OF FLAVONOIDS AND ANTIOXIDANT ACTIVITY IN CAFFEINE-FREE COFFEE FROM DATE SEEDS (*Phoenix dactylifera*)

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Abstract: Date seed coffee is obtained by drying, roasting and grinding the date seeds. There are many benefits that can be obtained from the ingredients in date seeds, such as nourishing your stamina. The flavonoids contained therein also have antioxidant properties. Date seeds have also been developed into a coffee substitute. Therefore, researchers are interested in analyzing the content of flavonoids, caffeine and antioxidant activity in them. This research was conducted to determine the presence or absence of caffeine content, to determine the presence or absence and levels of flavonoids and strong antioxidant activity in dated coffee seeds. This type of research is quantitative with a descriptive research design. Date seeds are processed into coffee by drying the clean date seeds in the oven and then roasting them until the seeds are torn and quite burnt. Date seeds that have been roasted, crushed and sieve with a 60 mesh sieve. The date palm coffee powder was extracted by soxhlet using 80% ethanol as a solvent. The extracts of date seeds were analyzed qualitatively of flavonoids and caffeine with color testing, quantitative analysis of flavonoids with UV-Vis spectrophotometry and antioxidant activity using the DPPH method. The qualitative test showed that positive date coffee seeds containing flavonoids was indicated by a red color change when reacted with Mg and HCl powder, and negative containing caffeine was indicated by a red color change when reacted with concentrated ammonia. In the quantitative analysis of flavonoids, the levels of flavonoids in dated seed coffee were 7523.03 ± 10.5078 mg QE / 100 g, and the antioxidant activity test showed that the level of IC₅₀ in dated seed coffee was 26, 747 ppm. It shows that date seed coffee is free of caffeine, has a high content of flavonoids and has very strong antioxidants

Keywords: Flavonoids, Antioxidants, UV-Vis Spectrophotometry, Caffeine-free Coffee, Date Seeds

INTRODUCTION

The introduction includes the background of the problem, the formulation of the problem and research objectives, a summary of theoretical studies related to the problem under study, and sometimes the expectations of the results and benefits of the research are included. The introduction is about 2-3 pages long. Typed in 1 space, Times New Roman 11pt font.

Date seeds are flaked seeds one (monocot), odorless, tasteless and slightly bitter. According to Abdul et al. (2013), 11-18% of the weight of dates is in the seeds. The fat content in date seeds ranges

from 5.7 to 12.7%. Date seeds also contain antioxidants which can reduce levels of free radicals.

Antioxidants on flavonoids due to the reducing properties of flavonoids which can donate hydrogen to free radicals (Silalahi, 2006). As antioxidants, flavonoids are able to inhibit cancer cells and the clumping of blood platelets. The relationship between flavonoids and antioxidants is known through the statement that the higher the total flavonoid content of an ingredient, the higher the antioxidant activity (Erukainure et al., 2011).

The role of antioxidants is to provide stability by deactivating free radicals before they attack body cells. Apart from that, antioxidants also play a role in maintaining cellular health and systemic health of the body (Sapakal et al., 2008).

The use of date seeds can be said to be inadequate. However, in Arabia, waste date seeds are used to make caffeine-free coffee drinks (Siregar et al., 2018). Making caffeine-free coffee from date seeds is the same as making regular coffee. Another benefit of date seeds is healing weak lust, cure diabetes, healthy body stamina, relieves fatigue, warms the body, relaxes tense nerves, cholesterol, strokes, gout and dizziness (Hamada et al., 2002). Analysis of date coffee seeds was carried out using qualitative tests of flavonoids and caffeine using color test, quantitative flavonoid test using method UV-Vis spectrophotometry and antioxidant activity test using the DPPH method.

METHODS

Contains an explanation of how the research was carried out, including research design, population and sample (research target), data collection techniques for instrument development, and data analysis techniques. References are given to lesser known methods. Typed in 1 space, Times New Roman 11pt.

The type of research used is quantitative research with a descriptive research design. The variable used is a single variable, namely the flavonoid and antioxidant content in date coffee.

Materials used were date coffee samples, GF254 silica gel plates, filter paper, 80% ethanol, ethyl acetate PA, methanol PA, quercetin, AlCl₃ 2%, AlCl₃ 5%, H₂O₂, HCl 37%, NH₃ 6N, Mg powder, potassium acetate 120 mM, and DPPH.

The tools used were a stove, frying pan, oven, simplicia blender, 60 mesh sieve, UV-Vis spectrophotometer, cuvette, 23 glass beakers, measuring cup, measuring pipette, test tube, soxhletation tool, porcelain cup and water bath.

a) Preparation of Raw Materials for Date Seeds

The raw material used is khalas type date seeds. The date seeds used are production waste from one of the MSMEs in the North Klaten area. A total of 500 grams of khalas type date seeds are cleaned until the remaining sticky date flesh is gone. Clean date

seeds are dried in an oven at a temperature of 60 °C for 2 hours (Abdillah and Andriani, 2012).

b) Making Date Coffee

The dried date seeds are then roasted until the date seeds are torn and quite charred, then crushed with a simplicia blender. The finely ground date seeds will be filtered using a 60 mesh sieve. Date seed coffee is ready to be served (Abdillah and Andriani, 2012).

c) Date Coffee Bean Extraction

60 g of date coffee powder is wrapped in filter paper, tied with string and put into a soxhletizer. The solvent was 300 ml of 80% ethanol put into a round bottom flask. Soxhletation was carried out at a temperature of ±90 °C for 3 hours. The extract obtained was concentrated over a water bath (Ali et al., 2015).

d) Flavonoid Qualitative Test

A total of 0.5 g of ethanol extract of date seed coffee was dissolved in 2 ml of heated methanol pa, marked as a sample solution. A total of 0.5 g of standard quercetin was dissolved in 2 ml of methanol pa, marked as a positive control. The test solution and positive control were then added with Mg powder and 5 drops of concentrated HCl. The results are declared positive if a red or orange solution is formed which indicates the presence of flavonoids from the flavonol and flavanone groups (Rahayu et al., 2015).

e) Qualitative Test of Caffeine

A total of 10 mg of date seed coffee plus 1.5 ml of 3% H₂O₂. Then add 5 drops of 37% HCl and heat over a water bath until dry. The sample was added with 3 ml of NH₃ 6 N. A positive test was indicated by a red color change in the solution. (Irawati et al., 2018).

f) Flavonoid Quantitative Test

1) Making a standard stock solution: 20 mg of quercetin is dissolved in sufficient methanol, then put into a 100 ml volumetric flask and add methanol to the limit mark to obtain quercetin with a concentration of 200 ppm (Azizah, 2014).

2) Determination of the maximum wavelength by running a 60 ppm quercetin solution at a wavelength of 400-450 nm with a wavelength interval of 2.

The resulting maximum wavelength will be used to measure the absorption of a sample of date palm coffee ethanol extract (Aminah *et al.*, 2017).

- 3) Preparation of a quercetin standard curve. A standard solution of 200 ppm quercetin was prepared in several concentrations, namely 20 ppm, 40 ppm, 60 ppm, 80 ppm and 100 ppm. 1 ml of each concentration was taken then 1 ml of 5% AlCl₃ and 8 ml of 120 mM potassium acetate were added. The solution was incubated for 30 minutes at room temperature. Absorbance was determined using a UV-Vis spectrophotometer with the maximum wavelength obtained (Sari and Ayuhecaria, 2017).
 - 4) Determination of total flavonoid content. 10 mg of extract was weighed, then dissolved in 10 ml of 80% ethanol, to obtain a concentration of 1000 ppm. From this solution, pipet 1 ml then add 1 ml of 5% AlCl₃ solution and 8 ml of 120 mM potassium acetate. Samples were incubated for 30 minutes at room temperature. Absorbance was determined with a UV-Vis spectrophotometer at the maximum wavelength. Three replicate samples were made for each analysis and the average absorbance value was obtained (Desmiaty *et al.*, 2009).
- g) DPPH method Antioxidant test
- 1) Preparation of 100 ppm DPPH solution: 5 mg of DPPH was dissolved with methanol in a 50 ml volumetric flask to obtain a concentration of 100 ppm (Aritonang, 2019).
 - 2) Determination of the maximum wavelength. 10 ml of 100 ppm DPPH solution was taken and placed in a 25 ml measuring flask, then methanol was added until the limit mark, so that a DPPH solution concentration of 40 ppm was obtained. The solution is stored in a place protected from light. The 40 ppm DPPH solution was put into a cuvette and run in the wavelength range 400-550 nm using a UV-Vis spectrophotometer at intervals of 2 (Aritonang, 2019).
 - 3) Preparation of blank solution
2 ml of 40 ppm DPPH solution was taken and 2 ml of methanol was added, homogenized then incubated in a dark room for 30 minutes. This solution is marked as a blank solution and the absorbance is then calculated at the maximum wavelength that has been obtained (Aritonang, 2019).
 - 4) Making a Comparative Solution: 10 mg of quercetin was dissolved in 10 ml of methanol pa to obtain a concentration of 1000 ppm. From the mother liquor, several concentration variations were made, namely 1 ppm, 2 ppm, 4 ppm, 6 ppm and 8 ppm for 10 ml. 2 ml of each series of quercetin solution was measured and 2 ml of 40 ppm DPPH solution was added, homogenized and incubated in the dark for 30 minutes. Analysis was carried out by measuring the absorbance using a UV-Vis spectrophotometer at the maximum wavelength obtained (Aritonang, 2019).
 - 5) Antioxidant Activity Testing A total of 25 mg of sample was dissolved in ethanol and homogenized then the volume was increased to 25 ml, so that a concentration of 1000 ppm was obtained as a stock solution. The sample stock solution was made into a series of solution concentrations (10, 20, 40, 60 and 80 ppm). 2 ml of each concentration was taken and 2 ml of 40 ppm DPPH solution was added. The mixture was homogenized and left for 30 minutes in a dark place. Absorbance was measured using a UV-Vis Spectrophotometer at the maximum wavelength obtained (Aritonang, 2019).

Strong or weak antioxidant activity is assessed by calculating IC₅₀ (Inhibition Concentration 50%) which is obtained from linear regression obtained from graphs of sample concentration compared to percent inhibition.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The research results presented are only the results of analysis and hypothesis testing results that need to be reported, not data analysis

processes such as statistical calculations and hypothesis testing processes do not need to be presented. Tables and graphs can be used to clarify the verbal presentation of research results, and should be commented on or discussed. For qualitative research, the results section contains detailed sections in the form of sub-topics that are directly related to the research focus and categories. Typed in 1 space, Times New Roman 11pt.

1. Sample Preparation Results

Table 4.1 Caffeine Free Coffee Making Table

Sample weight (g)	Weight of date seed coffee powder (g)	Weight of extracted coffee (g)	Weight of thick extract (g)	% rendement (%)
500	428,3597	60	7,7951	12,992

Based on Table 4.1, it can be seen that the sample used to make date coffee was 500 grams of clean date seeds, after processing it produced 428.3597 grams of date palm coffee powder. Extraction used 60 grams of date coffee powder and produced a thick extract weighing 7.7951 grams with a yield of 12.992%.

2. Results of Qualitative Analysis of Date Bean Coffee

Table 4.2 Results of Qualitative Analysis of Date Bean Coffee

Test Parameter	Reagent	Result	Standart
Flavonoid Color Test	Concentrated Mg and HCl powder	+ (Positive) A red color forms in the solution	+ (Positive) A red color forms in the solution
Caffeine Color Test	H ₂ O ₂ 3%, HCl 37% and NH ₃ 6N	- (Negative) No red color is formed in the solution	+ (Positive) A red color forms in the solution

Based on Table 4.2 above, it can be seen that the sample coffee seeddates contains flavonoids.

3. Results of Quantitative Flavonoid Analysis

- a. Results of measuring the absorbance of the standard solution and the quercetin calibration curve

Table 4.3 Absorbance results of standard flavonoid solutions

Concentration (ppm)	Average Absorbantion
20	0,313
40	0,427
60	0,548
80	0,654
100	0,748

Based on the data in Table 4.3, a calibration curve will be created which shows a graph of the relationship between absorbance and concentration of the standard solution which is presented in Figure 4.1.

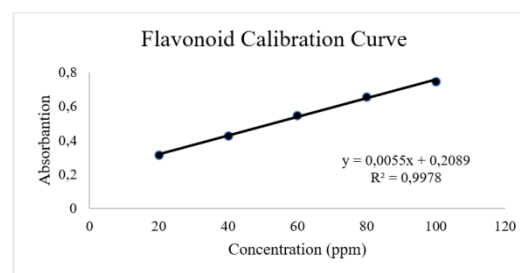


Figure 4.1 Flavonoid Calibration Curve
Based on Figure 4.1, it can be seen that the linear regression equation obtained is $y = 0.0055x + 0.2089$ with a correlation coefficient or R² value of 0.9978.

- b. Results of determining flavonoid levels in date coffee

Table 4.4 Flavonoid Content of Date Seed Coffee

Average absorbantion	Average Flavonoid Levels±SD (mg QE/100 g)
0,623	7523,03±10,5078

Based on Table 4.4, it shows that the flavonoid content in date coffee is 7523.03 ± 10.5078 mg QE/100 g. The levels obtained are quite high, which proves that the levels of flavonoids in date coffee are high.

4. Antioxidant Activity Analysis Results

a. Results of % inhibition and % inhibition curve of comparison solution

Table 4.5 Results of the absorbance of the comparison solution and % inhibition

Concentration (ppm)	Absorbantion	% inhibition
1	0,285	32,14
2	0,233	44,52
4	0,160	61,90
6	0,085	79,76
8	0,021	95,00

Based on Table 4.5, a % inhibition curve will be created which shows a graph of the relationship between % inhibition and the concentration of the reference solution which is presented in Figure 4.2.

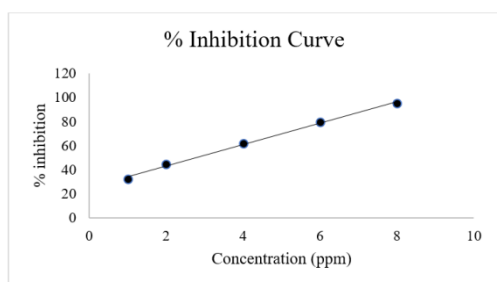


Figure 4.2 % Inhibition Curve

Based on Figure 4.2, the linear regression equation $y = 8.884x + 25.351$ is obtained with a correlation coefficient or R2 value of 0.9959.

b. Results of % inhibition and % inhibition curve of sample solution

Table 4.6 Results of sample solution absorbance and % inhibition

Concentration (ppm)	Absorbantion	% inhibition
10	0,399	5,000
20	0,287	31,667
40	0,179	57,381
60	0,043	89,682

Based on Table 4.6 above, a % inhibition curve will be created which shows a graph of the relationship between % inhibition and the concentration of the standard solution which is presented in Figure 4.3.

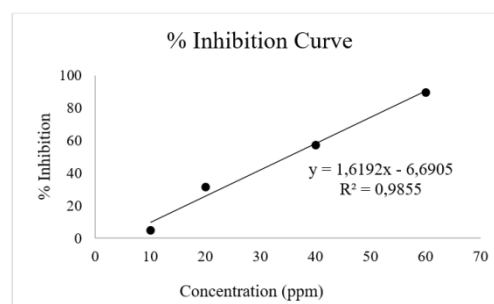


Figure 4.3 % Imhibition Curve

Based on Figure 4.3, the linear regression equation $y = 1.6192x + 6.6905$ is obtained with a correlation coefficient or R2 value of 0.9855.

c. IC50 concentration

Table 4.7 IC50 Concentration

	Concentration IC ₅₀ (ppm)
Comparative Solution	2,775
Sample Solution	26,747

Based on Table 4.7, it shows the IC50 concentration in date coffee and quercetin as a comparison. The IC50 concentration of the comparison solution and the date coffee sample obtained was 2,775 ppm and 26,747 ppm. The concentration of the comparison solution and this sample is classified as a very strong antioxidant.

In this study, an analysis of caffeine-free coffee from khalas date palm seeds (*Phoenix dactylifera*) was carried out. Making date coffee goes through the stages of drying, roasting, grinding and filtering. Next, make coffee extract from date palm seeds by soxhletation. Soxhletation extraction produces more extract than maceration because soxhletation does not require filtering, and the time used is faster (Warnasih *et al.*, 2019). The soxhletation temperature used is 90 oC because ethanol has a high boiling point, making it difficult for the

solvent to evaporate and condense. The solvent used is ethanol, because ethanol has a smaller structure so it can penetrate the cell walls easily to dissolve the compound components (Siregar *et al.*, 2018).

Analysis of date bean coffee begins with a flavonoid color test. The color test was carried out using the Wilstater reaction with Mg powder and concentrated HCl solution. The addition of concentrated HCl is intended to hydrolyze flavonoids into their aglycones by hydrolyzing O-glycosyl. Glycosyl will be replaced by H⁺ from the acid because of its electrophilic nature. Reduction with Mg and concentrated HCl will produce complex compounds that are red or orange (Mariana *et al.*, 2013). Based on Table 4.1, the flavonoid color test for date coffee beans is positive, indicated by the formation of a purplish red color in the solution. These results are in line with the results reported by Warnasih *et al.* (2019) that date seeds contain flavonoids in them.

Test the color of caffeine with the murexid reaction. The reagents in this test are H₂O₂ and HCl. The reaction that occurs in this test can be seen in Figure 4.5.

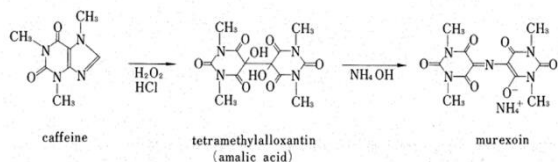


Figure 4.5 Reaction Murexide Caffein (Kozuka *et al.*, 1981)

The caffeine color test result was negative because no red color was formed in the solution. These results are in accordance with research by Venkatachalam and Sengottian (2016) which states that date seeds can be an alternative drink to replace coffee that does not contain caffeine.

Quantitative analysis of flavonoids using the UV-Vis spectrophotometric method. UV-Vis. The UV-Vis spectrophotometer method was used because flavonoids have a conjugated aromatic system so they show strong absorption bands in the UV and visible light spectrum (Aminah *et al.*, 2017). The maximum wavelength obtained was 434 nm with an absorbance of 0.775. The maximum wavelength obtained was then used to analyze flavonoid levels.

Based on Table 4.2, it can be seen that there is a significant increase in absorbance values from low concentration to high concentration, namely from 0.313 at 20 ppm to 0.748 at 100 ppm. This data produces a calibration curve so that a linear equation is obtained as in Figure 4.1, namely $y = 0.0055x + 0.2089$ with a correlation coefficient (r) of 0.9989 or $R^2 = 0.9978$. The large correlation or r value which is almost close to 1 proves that a calibration curve produces a linear line because all points are on a straight line and is a good analysis method (Chandra *et al.*, 2019).

In measuring flavonoid compounds, AlCl₃ and potassium acetate were added to the sample solution and quercetin. AlCl₃ functions to create complex compounds, resulting in a wave shift towards the visible which can be seen by changing the color of the solution to yellow, while potassium acetate is intended to maintain the wavelength in the visible region. The solution was incubated for 30 minutes with the aim that the reaction could run perfectly and the resulting color intensity would be maximized (Azizah *et al.*, 2014).

This study resulted in an average flavonoid level of 7523.03 ± 10.5078 mg QE/100 g. These results are not in line with the results in the research of Warnasih *et al.* (2019) namely 282.84 mg QE/100 g. The difference in results obtained could be caused by the different samples used, in this study using khalas dates while in the research of Warnasih *et al.* (2019) used Shiva dates. In the research of Warnasih *et al.* (2019) explained that the flavonoid content of each date seed varies depending on the variety, supported by research by Riyadi (2018) which explained that the content of date seeds is influenced by the environmental conditions where they are grown, the time of collection and post-harvest processing.

The antioxidant activity of coffee date seed extract was carried out using the DPPH method. This method was chosen because it is simple, fast, and does not require quite a lot of reagents (Sayuti and Yenrina, 2015). Antioxidant activity was measured based on the IC₅₀ value. The IC₅₀ value is the concentration of antioxidant compounds that can reduce DPPH radicals by 50%. The smaller the IC₅₀ value, the

more active the extract is as an antioxidant compound (Warnasih *et al.*, 2019). The IC₅₀ value is calculated using a linear equation obtained from the % inhibition curve.

Based on Figure 4.2, it can be seen that there was a significant increase in the % inhibition value of the reference solution from low concentration to high concentration, namely from 32.14% at 1 ppm to 95% at 8 ppm. The % inhibition curve for the comparison solution produces a linear regression equation, namely $y = 8.884x + 25.351$ with a correlation coefficient or R² value of 0.9959.

In Figure 4.3, it can be seen that there was a significant increase in the % inhibition value of the sample from low concentration to high concentration, namely from 5% at 10 ppm to 89.682% at 60 ppm. The sample inhibition % curve produces a linear regression equation, namely $y = 1.6192x + 6.6905$ with a correlation coefficient or R² value of 0.9855.

This linear equation is then used to determine the IC₅₀ level. The results of this research show a quercetin value of 2.76 ppm. These results do not show a big difference with the results in the study by Muthia *et al.* (2019) which states that the IC₅₀ value of quercetin is 2.04 ppm. Based on Table 4.6, the IC₅₀ value for the date palm coffee sample extract is 26,747 ppm. These results are not in accordance with those stated in the research of Siregar *et al.* (2018), namely 2.27 ppm. Siregar *et al.*'s research. (2018) used date seed extract samples, while this study used date seed coffee which went through the oven and roasting stages. According to Rompas (2012), flavonoids are a class of compounds that are not heat resistant and are easily oxidized at high temperatures, so it is very likely that during the sample making process there are flavonoid compounds that are lost. The difference in IC₅₀ value results between quercetin and date palm coffee ethanol extract could be because the date palm coffee ethanol extract contains other ingredients that can interfere with the reduction concentration of DPPH free radicals (Muthia *et al.*, 2019). Apart from other disturbing ingredients, antioxidant stability can also be influenced by light, oxygen and pH, while DPPH radicals are sensitive to light, oxygen and pH (Giuliana *et al.*, 2015).

Based on the results of the IC₅₀ value, it shows that quercetin and date coffee have very strong antioxidant activity. This classification is based on the classification of antioxidant activity in the journal Molyneux (2004) which is presented in Table 4.8.

Table 4.8 Classification of Antioxidant Activity

Concentration IC ₅₀	Classification
IC ₅₀ ≤ 50 µg/mL	Very Strong
50 µg/mL < IC ₅₀ ≤ 100 µg/mL	Strong
100 µg/mL < IC ₅₀ ≤ 150 µg/mL	Currently
150 µg/mL < IC ₅₀ ≤ 200 µg/mL	Weak
IC ₅₀ > 200 µg/mL	Very Weak

CONCLUSIONS

Based on results The research and discussion described previously can be concluded as follows:

- Date palm coffee (*Phoenix dactylifera*) does not contain caffeine.
- Qualitative testing of flavonoids showed that there was flavonoid content in date palm coffee (*Phoenix dactylifera*) and the flavonoid content in date palm coffee (*Phoenix dactylifera*) was 7523.03 ± 10.5078 mg QE/100 g.
- The antioxidant activity of date palm coffee (*Phoenix dactylifera*) is classified as very strong, seen from the calculated IC₅₀ value of 26,705 ppm.

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