Chlorogenic acid from banana and papaya peels inhibit lipid accumulation in 3T3-L1 cells

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INTRODUCTION

Sweet bananas (Saba; bananaceae) and papayas (Caricaceae) are consumed worldwide and are a major source of food for people in many countries. However, processing industry normally remove fruits by-products such as seeds and peels despite of its currently discovered high potential in antioxidant activity. Based on the findings of this study, a better approach in waste management can be developed by utilizing plant by-products, specifically banana and papaya peels.

The current commercial source of CGA is from green coffee beans, which is usually limited and expensive (Kamiyama et al., 2015). Hence, additional study on potential new sources of CGA that can be obtained in abundance and cost-effective is highly needed. This study aimed to compare the yield of CGA isolated from banana (Saba) and papaya (Caricaceae) peel using water and ethanol extraction method and to evaluate the efficiency of CGA in inhibiting lipid from accumulate in 3T3-L1 cells. Total phenolic content (TPC), cytotoxic activity and lipid profiling (i.e. adipolysis and adipogenesis) for both banana ripe and papaya ripe and unripe stages was conducted. TPC for banana water extract (20.66 mg GAE/g DW) was significantly higher than that of the Sbr ethanolic extract (2.88 mg GAE/g DW). CGA was significantly higher in Sbr water extract (10.08 mg GAE/g DW) compared to ethanol extract (5.54 mg/GAE). Cytotoxic activity of the extract was determined by MTT assay using 3T3-L1 pre-adipocyte cell lines. Lipid study was assessed by Oil Red-O staining and adipoysis assay. All of the extracts showed no cytotoxic effect towards the adipocyte cells. The extracts significantly reduced lipid accumulation and had higher adipoysis rate compare to control, indicating the reduction in lipid production in 3T3-L1 adipocyte cell lines. (Abbreviations: Sbr: Saba banana ripe; Sbru: Saba banana unripe; Cpr: Caricaceae papaya ripe; Cpur: Caricaceae papaya unripe.)

EXPERIMENTAL

Materials

Banana (Saba) banana and papaya (Caricaceae cv Exotica) of different maturity were obtained from a local wet market in Muar, Johor. Unripe banana and papaya were obtained at stage 2 maturity.
indexes while ripe banana and papaya were obtained at stage 4 maturity indexes. The abbreviations for samples are as follows: Sbr for Saba banana ripe; Shbr for Saba banana unripe; Cpr for Caricaeae papaya ripe; and Cpur for Caricaeae papaya unripe. 3T3-L1 pre-adipocytes were commercially purchased from ATCC (American Type Culture Collections, USA). Cell media, supplements, and chemicals were acquired mostly from Thermo Fisher Scientific (USA), Sigma-Aldrich Co. (Germany) and Biowest (France). The adipolysis kit was purchased from Abcam (USA).

**Fruit peel color measurement using colorimeter**

The colors of banana and papaya peels were determined by using a colorimeter (Color reader CR-10, Konica Minolta Sensing, Incorporation, Japan). The L* value, a* value, and b* values were taken from three positions, i.e. blossom end, middle, and stem end of the fruit peel, respectively, in triplicates (Masawat et al., 2010). Variations of color in fruit peel can be taken into consideration by measuring color from these three positions to eliminate bias.

**Sample preparation**

About 500 g of the fruit peels were placed in sealed plastic bags and kept in a freezer at -18 °C for approximately three days until they are needed for analysis. The same samples that were used for color measurement were used for chemical analyses. Dry processing of the samples was conducted using cabinet drier for 24 hours as this is the most efficient and cost-effective method (Swamy & Muthukumarappan, 2017). Prior to extraction, samples were ground to powdered form by using a commercial blender.

**Water extraction**

The extraction was carried out as stated by Duh et al., (1992). In this method, 2 g of each sample was extracted using 10 mL of distilled water for 30 minutes at 80 °C. The filtered sample was then dried using a rotary evaporator (R-210, Buchi, Switzerland) at 60 °C.

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\text{% yield of crude extract} = \frac{\text{Weight of sample extract} \times 100}{\text{Weight of sample}}
\]

**Ethanol solvent extraction**

The extraction was carried out as stated by Duh et al., (1992). In this method, 4 g of each sample was placed in a conical flask and wrapped using aluminium foil. The sample was homogenized in 8 mL of ethanol before being mixed in an incubator shaker for 4 hours, 25 °C at 180 rpm. Next, the mixture was centrifuged for 15 minutes, at 20 °C and 1000 g. Supernatant of the sample was then filtered using Whatman filter paper number 2. The extraction was repeated twice. Sample was then dried using the rotary evaporator (R-210, Buchi, Switzerland) at 40 °C.

**Estimation of total phenolic compound (TPC)**

Total phenolic in banana and papaya peel was estimated according to the Folin-Ciocalteu procedure. It is based on the method of Siva et al. (2016) with some modifications that use gallic acid as a standard phenolic compound. Powdered banana and papaya peel samples (1.0g) were homogenized in 8 mL of either ethanol or water and extracted for 15 hours in the dark. Then the homogenate was centrifuged at 12,000 g for 20 minutes at 4 °C. The supernatant was reacted with 0.5 mL Folin-Ciocâlteu reagent and 1.0 mL NaCO3 (20%). The blue color produced was measured spectrophotometrically at 760 nm by using the UV-Visible spectrophotometer (Shimadzu UV-1601PC, Tokyo, Japan). The content of total phenolic was expressed as gallic acid equivalents in milligrams per gram of dry weight.

**Isolation of chlorogenic acid (CGA)**

The isolation of CGA according to Siva et al., (2016), the aqueous extract obtained from the extraction was adjusted to pH 3.0 with phosphoric acid to which activated carbon (AC) at 40 g/L was added and they were stirred for 30 minutes at temperatures of 60 °C, under dark. Then, it was cooled at room temperature and the mixture was vacuum filtered through celite (cm). CGA was desorbed from AC by using ethanol 95% (v/v) and then was dried with anhydrous sodium sulphate. Finally, it was dried by using rotary evaporator at 60 °C and 120 rpm. The residue was analyzed by using HPLC.

**High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) analysis of chlorogenic acid (CGA)**

The identification of individual phenolic was carried out using a Waters HPLC system, based on matching retention times of standards. The HPLC system consists of Waters 515 binary HPLC pump, Waters automated gradient controller, and Waters 2487 Dual Wavelength Absorbance Detector. The column used was a hypersil C18 column (25 cm x 4.6 mm i.d. particle size 5 µm, pore size 100 Å). The compound was eluted with a gradient elution of mobile phase A (5% acetonitrile in 0.035% – trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) and B (80% acetonitrile in 0.025% TFA). B was increased from 10% to 20% in 10 min, to 50% by 20 min, and maintained at 50% for 5 min and remained for 5 min before the next injection. Elutes were detected at wavelength of 325 nm. Dilution of standard chlorogenic acid with 0.1, 1.0, 2.5, 5.0, 10.0, 30.0, and 100 ppm of serial dilutions were prepared. Solutions of each standard at various concentration levels were injected into the HPLC system, and the peak areas were recorded. Thus, the calibration curves were prepared and response factors were calculated under the same conditions (Naidu et al., 2008).

**Cell culture and differentiation**

3T3-L1 cells were chosen as a model to mimic human fat (adipose tissue). The selection of this cell is crucial to help researchers determine the differentiation into fat cells (Rudich et al., 1999). 3T3-L1 pre-adipocytes was cultured in media consists of Dulbecco’s modified eagles medium (DMEM), newborn calf serum (NCS), glutamine, antibiotic/antimycotic solution, and gentamicin. The cells were maintained in an incubator set up at 37°C and 10% of CO2 until it reached 80% confluency. The cells were induced to differentiate into adipocytes cells by culturing them in DMEM containing 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) and antibiotics supplemented with dexamethasone (DMX), isobutylmethylxanthine (IBMX), and insulin following the procedures described by Ismail et al. (2013) and Mohd-Radzman et al. (2013).

**Cell viability assay**

Pre-adipocytes cells were washed with PBS and detached with a trypsin-EDTA solution. The cells were then counted, seeded into 96-well plates, and incubated for 24 hours. The cells were treated with different concentrations of aqueous extract of samples and incubated for 72 hours. After the incubation period, 50 μL of MTT solution was added to each well in the 96-well plate and further incubated for 4 hours in a dark humidified atmosphere. After 4 hours, the medium was replaced with 0.2 mL of dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) and placed on a plate shaker for a few minutes. The absorbance was measured in a microplate reader at 520 nm. The percentage of viable cells was calculated by defining the cell viability without treatment as 100% (Mohd-Radzman et al., 2013).

**Oil Red-O (ORO) staining**

Adipocytes cells were seeded in 6-well plate at density (2.0 x 10^6) cells and treated with aqueous extract of samples and were incubated for 72 hours. Then the cells were fixed in fresh 10% formaldehyde in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) overnight. Then, the cells were stained with ORO dye for 10 minutes at room temperature. Subsequently, the cells were washed with deionized water to remove the excess dye. ORO-stained intracellular lipids were then eluted with 100% isopropanol and quantified by measuring the optical density at 520 nm (Mohd-Radzman et al., 2013).

**Adipolysis assay**

Adipolysis was evaluated by measuring the amount of glycerol and free fatty acids (FFAs) released to the media as described previously by Mohd-Radzman et al.(2013). Triglycerides stored in the adipocytes lipid droplets can be stimulated to release free fatty acids and glycerol. The latter can be measured by using incubation with glycerol kinase, glycerol phosphate oxidase, and horseradish peroxidase in the presence of a colorimetric substrate to generate a
chromophore that is responsible for its color change (yellowish to reddish) detectable at 540 nm. The amount of glycerol released into the medium was proportional to the level of triglyceride storage and/or degree of adipolysis. It was examined using adipolysis assay kit according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

Statistical analysis
All data was expressed as mean ± standard error mean (SEM) for a given number of test. The result was processed statistically using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Duncan’s test using Sigma plot version 12 software. The statistically different means were recognized at p<0.05 (Mohd-Radzman et al., 2013).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Effect of banana and papaya peel on color

Color measurement of each peel was conducted at three different positions i.e. stem end, middle and blossom end to ensure more accurate results. Based on the results obtained, both fruits at each independent maturity stage (either unripe or ripe) indicated no significant differences.

Effect of banana and papaya peels on total phenolic content and chlorogenic acid

Chlorogenic acid (CGA) that has been isolated from fruit peels (i.e. banana and papaya) was detected using HPLC and representative chromatogram has been shown in Figure 1. Values are expressed as mean ± standard deviation. In addition, abbreviation Sbr applies to ripe Saba banana, Sbur for unripe Saba banana, Cpr for ripe Caricaceae papaya and Cpur for unripe Caricaceae papaya. Referring to Figure 1a-1c, the HPLC chromatograms show the retention time for of the standard chlorogenic acid (2.963 minutes), the chlorogenic acid content in banana peels (2.307 minutes), and the chlorogenic acid content in banana peels (2.31 minutes), respectively.

![Figure 1](https://example.com/fig1.png)

**Fig 1** Representative HPLC chromatogram of (a) standard chlorogenic acid, isolated chlorogenic acid from (b) banana peel and (c) papaya peel.

From the results obtained in Figure 2, water extraction method for Cpr showed the highest chlorogenic acid yield (10.08 mg/L) compared to other samples. However, ethanolic extraction method has no significant difference between both samples. Previous researcher Stanoevic et al. (2009) reported that the aqueous extract of chlorogenic acid is higher (52.3 g/100g) than the yield of ethanolic (49.1 g/100g) and methanolic (45.6 g/100g) found in dry extract of Hieracium pilosella leaves. Higher concentration of phenolic compounds extracted using water (Figure 3) correlates with higher CGA yield as compared to ethanolic extraction (Figure 2). High concentration of phenolic compounds contributes to antioxidant efficacy (Naidu et al., 2008; Olthof, 2001; Zubair et al., 2012). One possible mechanism attributed to the antioxidant activity present in fruits and its peel is the presence of phenolics as potential substrates.

Besides vitamin C, E, and β-carotene, the chlorogenic acid has been identified as important antioxidants contained in fruits. Some phenolic compounds are more powerful as antioxidants than vitamin C and vitamin E in vitro (Guo et al., 2017). The results revealed that Sbr using water extraction had the highest TPC (20.66 mg/GAE 100g) compared to ethanolic extraction method (Figure 3). In accordance to Duh (1992), phenolic compound that exceeds 16.71 mg/GAE 100g shows a high antioxidant activity. It is highly possible that these phenolics that exhibit antioxidant capabilities could work in synergistic effect to maintain normal tissue homeostasis (Guo et al., 2017; Hunyadi et al., 2012; Runheim et al., 1995). Adipose tissue consists of adipocytes which acts as fat storage site to produces energy for human. Improper diet and physiological activities in human could lead to stress that causes the tissue functions to despair (Mohd-Radzman et al., 2013). In this event, usually, oxidative stress takes place and allows cascade of unwanted reactions and illnesses (Heitman and Ingran, 2017; Rudich et al., 1999).

![Figure 2](https://example.com/fig2.png)

**Fig 2** Isolated chlorogenic acid content in banana and papaya peels. Values are expressed as mean ± standard deviation.

![Figure 3](https://example.com/fig3.png)

**Fig 3** Total phenolic content for banana and papaya peels. Values are expressed as mean ± standard deviation.

Effect of banana and papaya peels on cell viability, lipid accumulation, and adipolysis in 3T3-L1 cells

To examine the intracellular cytotoxicity of the extracts, 3T3-L1 pre-adipocytes were treated with a range of concentrations (3.125, 12.5, 25, 100 µg/mL) of aqueous extracts of Sbr, Sbur, Cpr, and Cpur peel. The cell viability was determined using the MTT assay after 72 hours of incubation treatment. The percentage of viable cells was calculated...
by defining the cell viability without treatment (control) as 100%. The viability of 3T3-L1 pre-adipocytes populations treated with Sbr (Figure 4a) for 72 hours slightly decreased to the extent that the survival rates of cells were about 90.3% at the concentration of 12.5 µg/mL. However, Sbr did not show any significant cytotoxic effect towards the cells at all concentration. In addition, the viability of 3T3-L1 pre-adipocytes treated with Sbr for 72 hours was higher than that of populations treated with the Sbr extracts at every concentration. On the other hand, Cpr and Cpur (Figure 4b) also did not show any significant changes towards the cells at every concentration. It can be assumed from these results that both extracts did not significantly exhibit cytotoxic effect towards the 3T3-L1 cells.

Adipolysis was assessed by the amount of glycerol released into the medium in adipocytes treated with the extracts for 72 hours. After the incubation, the medium was collected to identify the amount of glycerol released by using the adipolysis assay kit. The extent of adipolysis was expressed as the percentage of control. A significant increase in the amount of glycerol released into the medium was observed in those 3T3-L1 adipocytes cell treated with 100 µg/mL of Sbr, Sbr, Cpr, and Cpur aqueous extracts as compared to the control (Figure 6). The greater absorbance value would reflect greater processing of active lipolysis. These results suggested that both extracts reduced lipid accumulation through increasing adipolysis process compared to the control.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, significant differences were not found for color measurement. Among the samples tested in terms of its maturity and extraction solvent, aqueous extract of ripe banana peel (Sbr, stage 4) possessed the highest total phenolic content of 20.66 ± 2.67 mg GAE/g dw compared to ethanolic extract of unripe banana peel (Sbr, stage 2) (1.44 ± 0.51 mg GAE/g dw). The aqueous extract of ripe papaya peel (Cpr, stage 4) exhibited significantly higher amount of chlorogenic acid (0.095 ± 0.001 mg/L) compared to the ethanolic extract of unripe papaya peel (Cpr, stage 2) (0.048 ± 0.001 mg/L). Both Caricaceae papaya and Saba banana demonstrated no significant cytotoxic effect to 3T3-L1 cells at 100 µg/mL extract concentration and were capable to reduced lipid accumulation through adipolysis. However, future studies are needed to understand the mechanism underlying lipid reduction to 3T3-L1 cells.
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