

Classification of Raw Stingless Bee Honeys by Bee Species Origins Using the NMR- and LC-MS-Based Metabolomics Approach

By: Razali, MTA (Razali, Muhammad Taufiq Atsifa)^[1]; Zainal, ZA (Zainal, Zaim Akmal)^[1]; Maulidiani, M (Maulidiani, M.)^[1]; Shaari, K (Shaari, Khozirah)^[1]; Zamri, Z (Zamri, Zulkifli)^[2]; Idrus, MZM (Idrus, Mohd Zainuri Mohd)^[2]; Khatib, A (Khatib, Alfi)^[3]; Abas, F (Abas, Faridah)^[1]; Ling, YS (Ling, Yee Soon)^[4]; Rui, LL (Rui, Lim Leong)^[4] ...More

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Abstract

The official standard for quality control of honey is currently based on physicochemical properties. However, this method is time-consuming, cost intensive, and does not lead to information on the originality of honey. This study aims to classify raw stingless bee honeys by bee species origins as a potential classifier using the NMR-LCMS-based metabolomics approach. Raw stingless bee honeys were analysed and classified by bee species origins using proton nuclear magnetic resonance (H-1-NMR) spectroscopy and an ultra-high performance liquid chromatography-quadrupole time of flight mass spectrometry (UHPLC-QTOF MS) in combination with chemometrics tools. The honey samples were able to be classified into three different groups based on the bee species origins of *Heterotrigona itama*, *Geniotrigona thoracica*, and *Tetrigona apicalis*. D-Fructofuranose (*H. itama* honey), beta-D-Glucose, D-Xylose, alpha-D-Glucose (*G. thoracica* honey), and L-Lactic acid, Acetic acid, L-Alanine (*T. apicalis* honey) ident D-Fructofuranose identified via H-1-NMR data and the diagnostic ions of UHPLC-QTOF MS were characterized as the discriminant metabolites or putative chemical markers. It could be suggested that the quality of honey in terms of originality and purity can be rapidly determined using the classification technique by bee species origins via the H-1-NMR- and UHPLC-QTOF MS-based metabolomics approach.

Keywords

Author Keywords: classification; stingless bee honey; bee species origins; metabolomics; NMR; LC-MS; chemometrics

KeyWords Plus: NUCLEAR-MAGNETIC-RESONANCE; MASS-SPECTROMETRY; MULTIVARIATE-ANALYSIS; BOTANICAL ORIGIN; PHYSICO-CHEMICAL ANALYSIS; ENTOMOLOGICAL ORIGIN; PHENOLIC-COMPOUNDS; MELIPONINAE HONEY; QUALITY STANDARDS; UNIFLORAL HONEYS

Author Information

Reprint Address: Ismail, IS (reprint author)

+ Univ Putra Malaysia, Inst Biosci, Lab Nat Prod, Serdang 43400, Selangor, Malaysia.

Addresses:

+ [1] Univ Putra Malaysia, Inst Biosci, Lab Nat Prod, Serdang 43400, Selangor, Malaysia

[2] Syamille Agrofarm & Resort Sdn Bhd, Lot 3749 & 3750, Jalan Lata Perahu, Kuala Kangsar 33020, Perak, Malaysia

+ [3] IUM, Kulliyah Pharm, Dept Pharmaceut Chem, Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah, Kuantan 25200, Pahang, Malaysia

+ [4] Univ Malaysia Sabah, Biotechnol Res Inst, Jalan UMS, Kota Kinabalu 88400, Sabah, Malaysia

E-mail Addresses: atsifa79@gmail.com; miaz1501@gmail.com; maulidiani@upm.edu.my; khozirah@yahoo.com.my; zulkiflizamri@yahoo.com; ctAteh18@yahoo.com; alfikhatib@ium.edu.my; faridah_abas@upm.edu.my; lingyeesoon@ums.edu.my; lrlim92@gmail.com; safinar@upm.edu.my

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