

# Extraction and Quantification of Carpaine from *Carica papaya* Leaves of Vietnam

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**Abstract**— Our previous research indicated that carpaine and its derivative pseudocarpaine extracted from *Carica papaya* leaves had anti-cancer activity. In this study, we extracted the total alkaloid from *Carica papaya* leaves, then extracted carpaine and quantitative analyzed carpaine in the total alkaloid. *Carica papaya* leaves was crushed, and then extracted with EtOH to obtain the total extract. This extract was extracted with suitable solvent to obtain total alkaloid. Continued to extract the total alkaloid by using open column chromatography and crystallizing method to purify carpaine. The research result showed that the total alkaloid in *Carica papaya* leaves was 0.2% comparing with dried material. Quantitative analyze of purified carpaine by HPLC determined that carpaine was the main alkaloid with the content was 63% of the total alkaloid extracted from *Carica papaya* leaves.

**Keywords**— Alkaloid, *Carica papaya* leaves, carpaine, extract, purify, quantitative analyze.

## I. INTRODUCTION

*Carica papaya* (CP) leaves have been used as folk remedies to treat cancer in Australia, Brazil and Vietnam (H.W. Tietze, 1997). It is widely believed that *Carica papaya* L. (papayaceae family) originated from Central America, and then widely planted in tropical and subtropical countries. The major components in papaya plants have been known to consist of papain and chymopapain - two important proteolysis enzymes, carotenoids, alkaloids, monoterpenoids, flavonoids, glucosinolates, minerals, vitamins, etc... The distribution of these components is dependent on the parts of tree (A.U. Ogan, 1971; A. Canidi, 2007; Do Tat Loi, 1999; Do Huy Bich, 2004).

CP leaves have been known as the by-products of the process of harvesting CP fruits. The use of papaya leaves as a folk medicine has been reported in several countries. For instance, aqueous extract of CP leaves have been used as a folk medicine to support in cancer treatment process in Vietnam for a long time ago. Similarly, aboriginal inhabitants of Gold Coast-Queensland in Australia also used papaya leaves (paw paw leaves) as folk remedy to treat lung cancer since 1962 (H. Clark, 2010). A recent

study by Otsuki et al. found that the fraction of papaya leaves extract with molecular weight less than 1,000 might inhibit the tumor cell growth on the 10 tested tumor cell lines and mediated Th1-type cytokines in human immune system. Interestingly, it has been found that aqueous papaya leaves extract is relatively safe to normal cells. Therefore, the use of papaya leaves extract in cancer treatment may help to avoid the unexpected effects for patients compared to other common therapeutics (N. Otsuki et al., 2010).

Our previous research indicated that the total alkaloid, carpaine and pseudocarpaine extracted from *Carica papaya* leaves had toxic activity on four tested cancer cell lines: carcinoma cell KB, lung cancer cell LU-1, breast cancer cell MCF7 and leukemia cell HL-60 (Do Thi Hoa Vien et al., 2013; Ho Thi Ha, 2014). Among them, carpaine showed the most powerful toxicity toward four of above cancer cell lines with IC<sub>50</sub> from 1.13 to 2.94 µg/ml (Ho Thi Ha, 2014).

This study extracted the total alkaloid and carpaine from papaya leaves. Therefore, quantified the carpaine in obtained total alkaloid to apply carpaine as well as total alkaloid from papaya leaves as anti-cancer therapy.

## II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

*Carica papaya* leaves was collected at Dong Anh district – Hanoi, cleaned, dried at 50°C to humidity 7.5 – 9.5%, and then crushed to the size of 1 mm.

Crushed CP leaves was extracted by EtOH to obtain the total extract. Then used the suitable solvent to extract the total alkaloid.

Continued to extract the total alkaloid by using silica gel open column chromatography, solvent system of CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH (with MeOH gradient from 0 to 20%), we obtained 5 fractions. Then, extracted third fraction as above (with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH = 95:5), we obtained CP2. Crystallized CP2 with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/n-hexane (rate 3:1), we obtain purified compound CP-pur. Evaporated the solvent using Rotavapor Buchi R-114 at 45-50°C.

Used MS and NMR method (<sup>1</sup>H-NMR, <sup>13</sup>C-NMR, COSY, DEPT) to determine the mass and the structure of CP-pur.

Quantitative analyzed of carpaine using LC/MS method with Alliance series 2695; detector PDA 2996 of Waters Company; column: Sunfire -C18 RP (4.6 x 150 mm), 5 $\mu$ m.

### III. RESULTS

#### 3.1. Extract of CP-pur compound from total alkaloid

*Carica papaya* leaves was crushed, and then extracted with EtOH to obtain the total extract. This extract was extracted with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at acidic and alkaline condition to obtain total alkaloid.

Continued to extract 500mg total alkaloid by using open column chromatography (OCC): absorbent was silica gel (Merck, size: 0.40 – 0.63mm), solvent system was CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH (with MeOH gradient from 0 to 20%). Qualitatively analyzed extracted fractions by thin layer chromatography (TLC): silica gel thin layer (Merck, 60GF<sub>254</sub>, thick: 0.2mm), using Dragendorff reagent to detect alkaloids. Based on the result of TLC qualitative analyze, we group to 5 main fractions F1, F2, F3, F4 and F5 with the mass was 20mg, 60mg, 260mg, 50mg and 25mg, respectively. Then, the third fraction F3 with the most of mass (260mg) was selected to continue to also extract by silica gel open column chromatography (with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/MeOH = 95:5), we obtained 190mg CP2. Crystallized 190mg CP2 with CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>/n-hexane (rate 3:1) to obtain purified compound CP-pur with the mass of 150mg. This process is showed in Fig. 1.

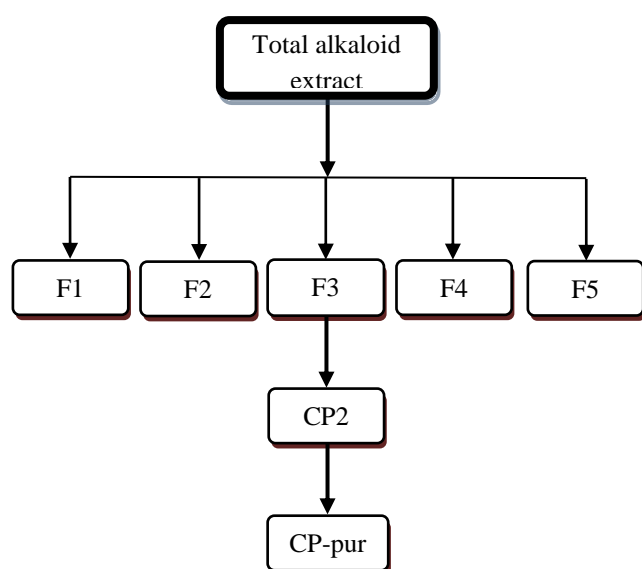


Fig. 1: The extracted and purified process of CP-pur

#### 3.2 Determination of structure of CP-pur compound

ESI-MS spectre of CP-pur: positive ion;  $m/z$  479 [M+H]<sup>+</sup> (Fig. 2)

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectre of CP-pur (Fig. 3) showed the signals of 2 group of methyl doublet bond with carbon of 3rd grade

(–CH<sub>3</sub>) at  $\delta_H$  1.16 ppm (6H, d, J= 6.5 Hz, H-15, H-15'). The resonant signals of 2 protons were showed at  $\delta_H$  4.89 ppm (2H, br, s, H-12 and H-12') in the low magnetic area.

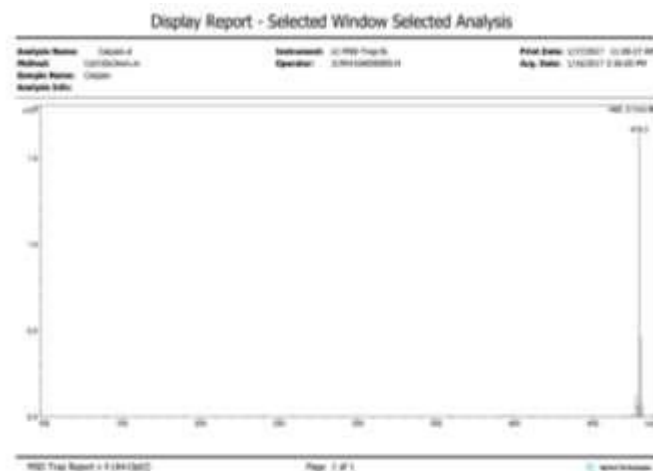


Fig. 2: ESI-MS spectre of CP-pur

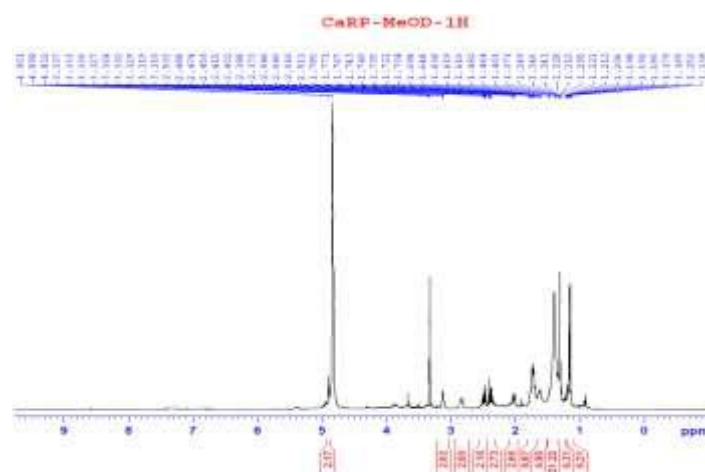


Fig. 3: <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of CP-pur

<sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectre (Fig.4) showed resonant signals of 14 carbons with 1 carbon of 4th grade at  $\delta_c$  174.8 ppm of ester group; 3 carbons of 3rd grade at  $\delta_c$  55.0, 57.6 and 70.9 ppm; 9 carbons of 2nd grade and 1 group of methyl at  $\delta_c$  17.4 ppm.

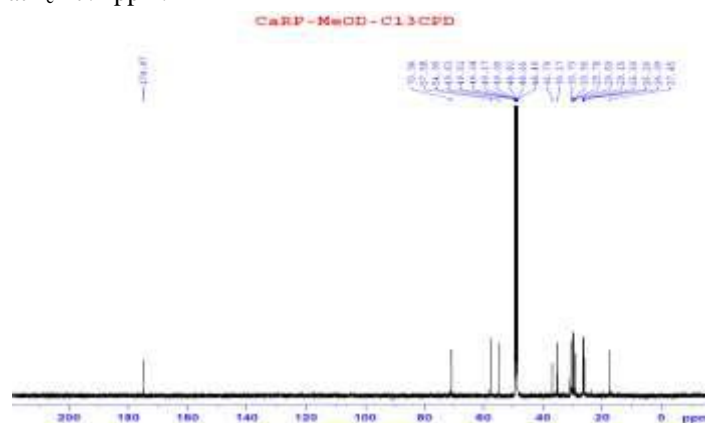


Fig.4: <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra of CP-pur

Based on the data of MS and NMR spectra, and compared with reference (Tasqiah Julianti, 2014; Taro Sato et al., 2003), we determined that CP-pur was an alkaloid with symmetric structure and it was carpaine. The spectra data NMR of CP-pur isolated from *Carica papaya* leaves and of published carpaine in reference (Tasqiah Julianti, 2014) were described as in Table 1.

The chemical structure of carpaine was described in Fig. 5.

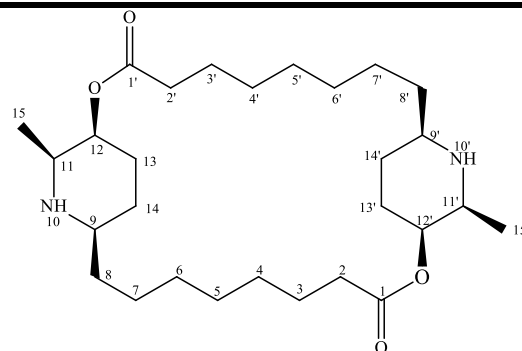


Fig. 5: Chemical structure of carpaine

Table 1: The NMR data of CP-pur and of carpaine

Location and groups		CP - pur (CD <sub>3</sub> OD)		Published carpaine (CDCl <sub>3</sub> )	
		$\delta_H$ (J=Hz)	$\delta_C$	$\delta_H$ (J=Hz)	$\delta_C$
1	C=O	-	174.8	-	172.8
2, 2'	CH <sub>2</sub>	2.36-2.51 (4H, m)	35.2	2.34-2.50 (4H, m)	32.8
3, 3'	CH <sub>2</sub>	1.60-1.70 (4H, m)	26.2	1.40-1.72 (4H, m)	23.3
4, 4'	CH <sub>2</sub>	1.29-1.43 (4H, m)	29.6	1.16-1.42 (4H, m)	27.7
5, 5'	CH <sub>2</sub>	1.29-1.43 (4H, m)	29.8	1.16-1.42 (4H, m)	27.8
6, 6'	CH <sub>2</sub>	1.29-1.43 (4H, m)	30.6	1.16-1.42 (4H, m)	28.2
7, 7'	CH <sub>2</sub>	1.29-1.43 (4H, m)	26.1	1.16-1.42 (4H, m)	23.1
8, 8'	CH <sub>2</sub>	1.60-1.70 (4H, m)	36.8	1.40-1.72 (4H, m)	24.1
9, 9'	CH	2.81-2.85 (2H, m)	57.6	2.75-2.80 (2H, m)	56.6
10, 10'	NH	-	-	-	-
11, 11'	CH	3.10-3.14 (2H, m)	55.0	3.06-3.11 (2H, m)	53.8
12, 12'	CH	4.89 (2H, br, s)	70.9	4.84 (2H, br, s)	68.1
13, 13'	CH <sub>2</sub>	2.05-2.10 (2H, m)	29.2	1.92-1.98 (2H, m)	26.6
14, 14'	CH <sub>2</sub>	1.29-1.43 (4H, m)	26.5	1.16-1.42 (4H, m)	25.2
15, 15'	CH <sub>3</sub>	1.16 (6H, d, J = 6,5 Hz)	17.4	1.09 (6H, d, J = 6,4 Hz)	15.8

Carpaine was isolated from papaya leaves in 1962 (Tichý M. et al., 1962). Carpaine also was separated from the leaf, fruit and root of papaya (Singh I.D., 1978; Pedro Chávez – Quintal et al., 2011). In Vietnam, carpaine also extracted from papaya leaves by Nguyen Tuong Van et al. (Nguyen Tuong Van et al., 1983) and by Ho Thi Ha (Ho Thi Ha, 2014). However, not yet have publication about the content of carpaine in papaya leaf and also in other extract from papaya.

### 3.3. Quantitative analyse of carpaine

#### 3.3.1. Establish of standard curve

Prepared original solution of carpaine in MeOH with the concentration of 1mg/ml. Diluted the original solution to the solutions with concentration of 0.1, 0.2, 0.5 and 0.7 mg/ml. Then, loaded the above solution by LC/MS: mobile phase was acetonitrile and formic acid 0.1%; flowing speed was 1 ml/min; detector PDA at 205 nm. Gradient loading was presented as in Table 2.

Table 2: LC/MS gradient loading

Time (min)	Formic acid 0.1% (%)	Acetonitrile (%)
0 - 2	80	20
2 - 20	0	100
20 - 30	0	100
30 - 35	80	20

The results of HPLC loading were following as in Table 3.

Table 3: The results of LC/MS

Concentration (mg/ml)	Peak intensity	Peak intensity LT	RT (min)
0.1	5943201	9337168	17.8
0.2	16854336	15043641	17.8
0.5	37818224	32163058	17.8
0.7	39504112	43576003	17.8

Followed the results in Table 3 to establish standard curve as in Fig.6.

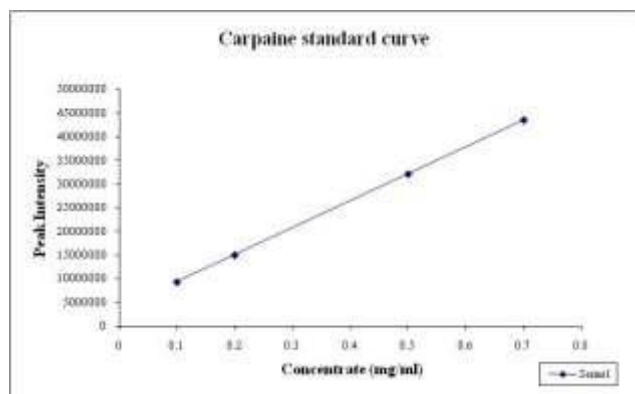


Fig. 6: Carpine standard curve

### 3.3.2. Quantitative analyze of carpaine

Carried out the HPLC analyze of total alkaloid extract in the same conditions of standard curve establish. Then, quantitatively analyzed carpaine in the total alkaloid extract basing on standard curve of carpaine, we obtained the result in Table 4.

Table 4: The content of carpaine in the total alkaloid

Total alkaloid extract (mg)	Peak intensity	Carpaine (mg)	Carpaine (%) in total alkaloid extract)
1	4E+07	0.63	63

The result on table 3 indicated that the content of carpaine in the total alkaloid extract was 63%.

## IV. CONCLUSION

Used two times of silica gel open column chromatography (OCC) with gradient solvent system  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{MeOH}$ , then crystallized with  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/\text{n-hexane}$ , we obtain carpaine from total alkaloid. The content of carpaine was 63% comparing with the total alkaloid extracting from *Carica papaya* leaves.

## V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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