

## FLAVONOID EXTRACTION FROM PAPAYA (CARICA PAPAYA L.) SEED USING ULTRASOUND – ASSISTED EXTRACTION METHOD AND DETERMINATION OF ITS SPF VALUE

Eduardus Budi Nursanto<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Rachel Wijaya<sup>1</sup>, Alifiana Permata Sari<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Industrial Engineering, Universitas Pertamina, Jakarta, Indonesia

<sup>2</sup>Central of Downstream Chemical Industry, Universitas Pertamina, Jakarta, Indonesia

### Abstract

Synthetic compounds with photoprotective property have their limited concentration in sunscreen formulation. Therefore, reaching the maximum UV protection by themselves is difficult. Natural compounds are good consideration to include in sunscreen formulations. Papaya seeds contain large amounts of nutraceutical compounds. However, their presence is often considered as waste. One of many benefits it has is due to the presence of flavonoids, phenols, alkaloids, saponins, and tannins. Flavonoid is one of the alternative compounds that provide beneficial effects on skin UV-protection. Therefore, this study aimed to extract the flavonoid compounds in papaya seeds and test its sun protection factor (SPF) value. Extraction was carried out by varying the mass ratio of the solid/solvent (1:10, 1:20, and 1:30), and the solvent concentration of ethanol (50%, 70%, and 96%) at 45°C for 45 minutes. The results of this study indicate the presence of these compounds in papaya seed extract which was extracted using the ultrasound-assisted extraction method with the maximum extraction yield (11.888%) obtained at 1:30 mass ratio with a 50% ethanol concentration; the highest total flavonoid content was 2.854 mg quercetin equivalent (QE)/g papaya seed at 1:30 ratio with 96% ethanol concentration, and the highest SPF value was at a 50% ethanol concentration which was 12.0775 (at 300 ppm).

### Keywords:

Papaya seed; ultrasound-assisted extraction; total flavonoid content; mass transfer coefficient; sun protection factor

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### Corresponding Author:

Eduardus Budi Nursanto

Department of Chemical Engineering,  
Universitas Pertamina, Indonesia

Email:

[eduardus.bn@universitaspertamina.ac.id](mailto:eduardus.bn@universitaspertamina.ac.id)

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## 1. Introduction

Ultraviolet (UV) radiation exposure to human is closely unavoidable. Unfortunately, UV is considered carcinogenic and being the cause of numbers of skin disorders [1]. UV radiation is classified based on the wavelength: UVA (320-400 nm), UVB (290-320 nm), and UVC (200-290 nm) [2].

Sunscreen is designed to protect human from sun's UV rays. Nowadays, commercial sunscreen consists of inorganic compound (physical sunscreen) and organic compound (chemical sunscreen). However, these sunscreens each have concentration limitation in formulating sunscreen to reach optimum, yet safe SPF value based on regulation concern [3]. Therefore, we need other organic compounds derived from natural sources so that they are safe for daily use. Flavonoid has been studied to be compounds that can counteract UV-induced radicals, act as antioxidant & anti-inflammatory agent, provide protective effect and absorb UV rays which make it able to protect skin from sun's UV [3].

Papaya seed was found containing phenolic compounds, phenolic acids, and carotenoid with one of which is flavonoids [4]. Ironically, approximately 20% of the total weight of papaya is papaya seeds and account for 30-35% of the waste from papaya which is usually disposed of [4]. There have been previous studies on flavonoid extraction from papaya seed with the variation of extractant used with microwave-assisted extraction method [5], flavonoid extraction on different parts of papaya plant with water as extractant [6], optimizing flavonoid extraction from papaya seed using ultrasound-assisted extraction method [7], and flavonoid extraction from papaya seed with varying drying pre-treatment method with maceration method [8]. By this time, there have not been any studies

on flavonoid extraction from papaya seed with ethanol concentration variation, its mass transfer coefficient, and SPF value. Furthermore, the utilization of papaya seeds will highlight its potential and reduce environmental pollution.

Flavonoid extraction of papaya seeds in this study was carried out using the ultrasound-assisted extraction (UAE) method since compared to other methods, especially conventional methods, UAE required low amount of solvent, energy, temperature, and process time [9]. The mechanism of UAE fundamentally consists of the cavitation phenomenon [10]. When the bubbles created from ultrasonic waves collapse near the surface of the plant solute, they will cause the fragmentation, erosion, and destruction of plant structures that leads to solvent entry into the matrix, decreasing particle size, penetrating solvent better, and releasing the extract from the matrix [11].

In this study, we did the optimization for ultrasound assisted extraction of antioxidant from papaya seed. The optimization in this study is related with ratio of papaya seed with solvent amount and the concentration of solvent. From the best sample, we conducted the experiment to calculate the mass transfer coefficient. Furthermore, analysis for the SPF ability of extract papaya has been investigated in our study.

## 2. Experimental Section

### A. Plant material preparation

Fresh papaya (*Carica papaya* L.) seeds were dried by air-drying method at room temperature in well-ventilated room with no direct contact with sunlight for 5 days. The seeds were then ground using an electric blender.

### B. Ultrasound-assisted extraction

Finely ground and dried papaya seeds that had been weighed were then put into Erlenmeyer flask and mixed with the solvent. Ethanol, the solvent used, was varied in concentration by 96%, 70%, and 50% with the amount of each being based on the ratio of solvent/solute that had been determined, which were 1/10, 1/20, 1/30 (g/ml).

Extraction was carried out using an ultrasonic water bath at atmospheric pressure with a temperature of 45°C for 45 minutes. The extract obtained was then filtered using a vacuum filter. The filtrate was separated from the solvent with a vacuum oven afterward at 40-50°C and 0.2 atm. The extract yield of each variation is calculated as % (wt/wt) using the equation:

$$\%yield = \frac{\text{dried papaya seed extract mass}}{\text{dried \& ground papaya seed mass}} \times 100\% \quad (1)$$

### C. Phytochemical screening

**Flavonoid Test.** 1 ml of extract was mixed with 1 ml of 96% ethanol and 0.1 gram of Mg powder followed by 10 drops of concentrated HCl. Red, yellow, or brownish orange colour indicates the presence of flavonoids.

**Tannin Test.** 2 ml of extract was mixed with 2 ml of aquadest and few drops of 1% FeCl<sub>3</sub>. Blue or blackish green colour indicates the presence of tannin.

**Phenolic Compound Test.** 1 ml of extract was mixed with 3 drops of 1% FeCl<sub>3</sub>. Green, red, violet, blue, or black colour indicates the presence of polyphenols.

**Triterpenoid Test.** 2 ml of extract was mixed with 10 drops of glacial acetic acid and 2 drops of concentrated H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. The mixture was shaken well and allowed to stand for a few minutes. The red or violet colour indicates the presence of triterpenoid.

**Alkaloid Test.** 10 ml of extract was mixed with 1.5 ml of 2 M HCl, then heated for 5 minutes followed by the addition of 5 drops of Dragendroff's reagent. The orange colour and formation of precipitate indicate the presence of alkaloid.

**Saponin Test.** 2 ml of extract was mixed with 10 ml of hot aqua dest, then shaken for 15 minutes followed by the addition of few drops of 2 M HCl. The formation of stable and persistent froth indicates a positive test for saponin.

### D. Determination of total flavonoid content (TFC)

TFC of papaya seed was determined by using the AlCl<sub>3</sub> colorimetric method, and the results were expressed as µg quercetin (QE)/g papaya seed. Quercetin was used to make the standard calibration curve.

5 mg of quercetin was dissolved in 5 ml of 96%, 70%, and 50% ethanol then diluted to 40, 60, 80, 100, and 120 µg/ml. 0.5 ml of standard solution of each concentration and 0.5 ml of each extract solution were put separately into vials. To each vial, 0.1 ml of 10% AlCl<sub>3</sub>, 0.1 ml of 1 M potassium acetate, and 2.8 ml of aquadest were added and mixed well. Each mixture was incubated for 30 minutes at 25°C. The absorbance of each mixture was measured at 438 nm with ethanol 96%, 70%, and 50% as blank. Absorbance data of the vials with standard solution was then

plotted as standard curve calibration, while the absorbance data of the vials with extract solution was used to calculate the TFC using the equation:

$$TFC = \frac{c \times V \times f}{m} \quad (2)$$

where TFC is the total flavonoid content ( $\mu\text{gQE}/\text{mg}$  dry weight),  $c$  is quercetin equivalent ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ ),  $V$  is extracted total volume (ml),  $f$  is dilution factor (1), and  $m$  is papaya seed mass (mg).

#### E. Determination of sun protection factor (SPF)

Dried papaya seed extract of 96%, 70%, and 50% ethanol was dissolved in each ethanol concentration to the concentration of 300 ppm. SPF value was determined by firstly calculated the area under the curve (AUC) of absorbances at 280-400 nm with 5 nm intervals using the equation:

$$[AUC] = \frac{A_a + A_b}{2} \times (dP_{ab}) \quad (3)$$

with  $A_a$  is absorbance at wavelength  $a$  nm,  $A_b$  is the absorbance at wavelength  $b$  nm, and  $dP_{ab}$  is a difference in wavelengths  $a$  and  $b$ . The AUC of each wavelength segment is summed up to calculate the SPF value using the equation:

$$\log SPF = \frac{\sum AUC}{(\lambda_n - \lambda_1)} \quad (4)$$

with  $\lambda_n$  is the longest wavelength (400 nm), and  $\lambda_1$  is the shortest wavelength (290 nm).

#### F. Determination of mass transfer coefficient

Mass transfer coefficient determination was done for the highest TFC extract. Extraction was done in 5 minutes, 15 minutes, 30 minutes, 45 minutes, and 60 minutes. The extracts were put into 5 different Erlenmeyer flask for easy sampling every extraction time mentioned before. Each sample was then vacuum filtered followed by calculating the total flavonoid content by the  $\text{AlCl}_3$  method for its concentration. The mass transfer coefficient was then calculated by the following equation:

$$k_L a t = \ln \frac{C_s}{(C_s - C_L)} \quad (5)$$

where  $k_L a$  is volumetric mass transfer coefficient ( $\text{min}^{-1}$ ),  $t$  is time (min),  $C_s$  is a concentration of flavonoid at equilibrium (ppm QE), and  $C_L$  is a concentration of flavonoid at time  $t$  (ppm QE). The mass transfer coefficient was obtained from the slope of the plot of  $\ln(C_s/(C_s - C_L))$  versus  $t$ .

### 3. Result and Discussion

The result showed that as the solute-solvent ratio or solid to liquid ratio (SLR) improved from 1/10 to 1/30, the higher yield obtained as seen on Fig. 1. This is occurred due to an increase in solvent diffusivity into plant cells, thereby accelerating the solute dissolution and mass transfer [12]. The improved solute-solvent ratio also makes the ultrasonic wave intensity higher, causing more fragmentation, erosion, and pore formation effects, thereby increasing yield [13]. In addition, the large difference in ratio increases the contact area between the solute and solvent so that it also increases the yield [13].

Table 1. Yield determination in papaya seeds correspond with ethanol concentration and SLR variation

Ethanol Conc.	Solid-Liquid Ratio (SLR)	Yield (%)
96%	1/30	9.7282
	1/20	8.3825
	1/10	5.9288
70%	1/30	10.6689
	1/20	9.4443
	1/10	6.9779
50%	1/30	11.8888
	1/20	10.8839
	1/10	8.0250

Meanwhile, the higher the ethanol concentration, the lower the yield. This shows that increasing the concentration of water in the solvent increases the extraction yield, in accordance with previous studies [14],[15],[16]. This is because compounds other than flavonoids, and other polar compounds were also extracted and contributed to this higher yield, which are flavonoid glycosides [17], tannin, saponin [18], and ferulic acid [19].

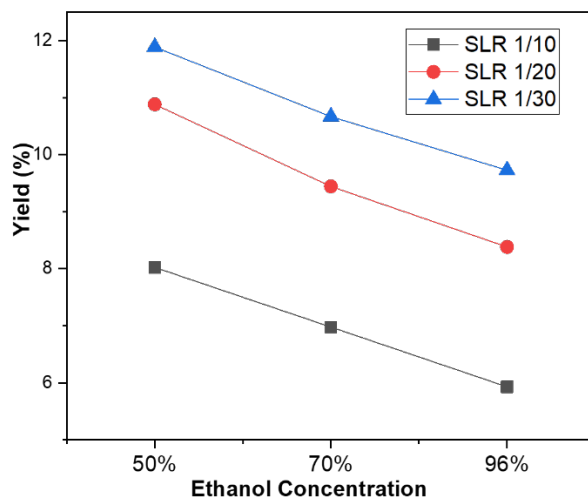


Figure 1. Effect of ethanol concentration and solid to liquid ratio on extraction yield of papaya seed

Phytochemical screening of papaya seed extract is shown on Table 2. From phytochemical screening test, extract of papaya seed contains mixture of flavonoid, phenolic compound, tannin, alkaloid, saponin and triterpenoid.

Table 2. Phytochemical screening results of papaya seed extract

Phytochemical	Result	Compound Example
Flavonoid	Brownish orange (+)	Quercetin, kaempferol [20], naringenin [21], quercetin-3-o-galactoside, quercetin-3-o-glycoside [6]
Phenolic Compound	Green (+)	Caffeic acid, p-hydroxybenzoic acid, ferulic acid, coumaric acid [20], gallic acid [22]
Tannin	Dark green (+)	Tannin [21]
Alkaloid	Orange + precipitate (+)	Quinine, ribalidine [21]
Saponin	Stable froth (+)	Sapogenin [21]
Triterpenoid	No changes (+)	

Table 3. Calibration curve equation of quercetin

Ethanol Concentration	Equation	R <sup>2</sup>
96%	y = 0.0040x - 0.0103	0.9915
70%	y = 0.0048x - 0.0184	0.9932
50%	y = 0.0050x - 0.0183	0.9935

Equation of calibration curve of quercetin standard is as seen on Table 3. The result of papaya seed extract total flavonoid content (TFC) showed that 96% ethanol extraction with solid to liquid ratio (SLR) of 1:30 had the highest TFC compared to other variation. The units for represent TFC is mg quercetin (QE) per gram papaya seed. From Fig 2., higher value of SLR resulting in higher the TFC obtained. This could be due to the increasing diffusivity of the solvent into the cell and supporting the dissolution of flavonoids [12]. As the SLR increases, the viscosity and concentration of the extractant will also decrease thereby increasing the cavitation effect in the UAE method [13] and maximizing the extraction process.

Table 4. TFC determination in papaya seeds correspond with ethanol concentration and SLR variation

Ethanol Conc.	Solid-Liquid Ratio (SLR)	TFC (mg QE/g-papaya seed)
96%	1/30	2.8540
	1/20	2.4388
	1/10	1.9009
70%	1/30	2.5632
	1/20	2.0955
	1/10	1.7229
50%	1/30	TF
	1/20	2.0199
	1/10	1.4070

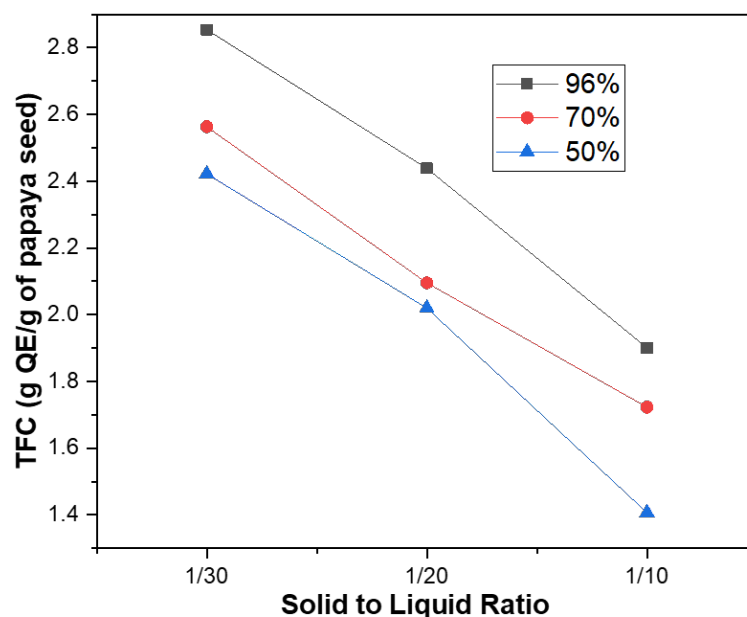


Figure 2. Effect of ethanol concentration and solid to liquid ratio on total flavonoid content (TFC) of papaya seed extract

Meanwhile, the increase in TFC along with the increase in ethanol concentration occurred due to the same level of polarity of ethanol and flavonoids (like-dissolves-like). Solvent with low viscosity and surface tension such as ethanol can also provide good cavitation effects in the UAE process [23].

To design and analyse the extraction process on a large scale, relevant kinetic studies are required. In the extraction process, no chemical reaction is involved, so the mass transfer kinetic model is used to represent the experimental data [24]. Based on the mass transfer theory, during the extraction process of the desired compound, the highest mass transfer resistance in the whole process is involved with the rigid structure of the plant cell wall used and the extraction is considered an irreversible process so it can be concluded that the first order extraction kinetics can be used [25]. The use of first-order kinetics is also determined by the external mass diffusion rate (lumped model) from papaya seeds to the bulk solvent phase with the following assumptions [26]:

- Flavonoids were uniformly distributed in papaya seeds, so that there is no concentration gradient in papaya seeds,
- Samples of papaya seeds are in spherical shape,
- The effective diffusion coefficient of flavonoids remains constant throughout the extraction process,
- Since the ultrasonic process can cause convection in the liquid medium, the extraction solvent was assumed to be well mixed in the extractor and the external resistance to mass transfer in the liquid phase is negligible,
- Mass transfer resistance in the liquid phase is negligible,
- The transfer of flavonoids from solid particle to the liquid phase takes place by diffusion,

There is no chemical reaction or ultrasonic degradation of flavonoids during the extraction process [27].

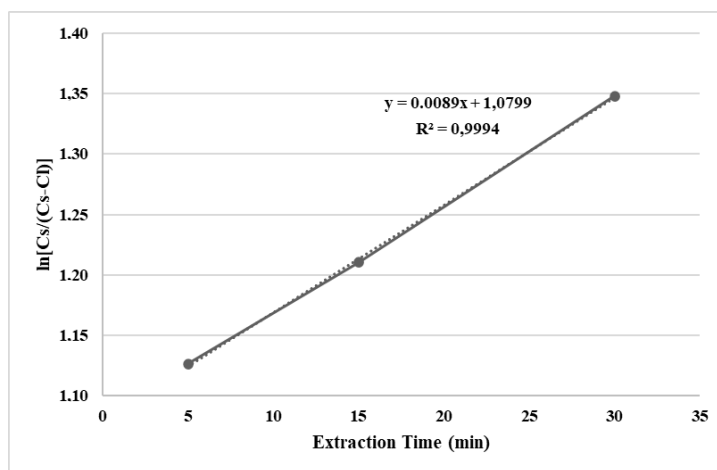


Figure 3. First-order kinetic model of papaya seed extraction

From several research, the mass transfer kinetic model for the extraction of fruit seed is following first order kinetic model that mentioned in equation (5). By using the first-order kinetic model that is approached based on Fick's law [28], the plotted result is shown on Fig. 3 above. The concentration at equilibrium ( $C_s$ ) used was when the extraction reached the highest TFC which was 71.7 ppm QE with 45 minutes extraction time. After calculating and plotting, the result shown that first-order kinetic was proven as fitted model for the experimental data with  $R^2$  of 0.9994 with the  $k_{La}$  reach  $0.0089 \text{ min}^{-1}$  or 8.9 mg QE/(g-ethanol. minute).

SPF value of papaya seed extract at 300 ppm was the highest in 50% ethanol extract as shown in Table 4. The results showed that the higher the ethanol concentration, the lower the SPF value obtained. The same result was also obtained for the yield which the lower the ethanol concentration, the higher the extract yield. Meanwhile, the result of the SPF value was contrary to the trend of the TFC value obtained. Although flavonoids have been widely studied and are more responsible for providing protection against UV radiation [31], some phenolic compounds also have the potential for photoprotection [3]. From this research, the obtained TFC content was small so that the SPF value obtained might because of the high total phenolic content (TPC) value which was not tested quantitatively in this study. This result is similar to few studies before, where the SPF value was parallel to the TPC in the *Crataegus pentagyna* extract using methanol as the extractant with UAE method [29], and in the *G. versteegii* leaves extract using various ethanol solvents by maceration where the highest SPF value was at 50% ethanol extract with the highest TPC value [30].

On the other hand, the higher the ethanol concentration, the lower the TPC value, and the maximum TPC achieved in 50% ethanol solvent [32]. This means that the TPC in papaya seed extract had higher polarity than the TFC, so that at 50% ethanol, there were more phenolic compounds, and at 96% ethanol, there were more flavonoid compounds. In addition, according to [4],[6],[20], the TPC in papaya seeds was indeed far more than the TFC content, thereby possibly in this extract, TPC was more influential and had good correlation with the SPF value. Although the one that is known to be more potent with its photoprotective potential is flavonoids. The compounds in papaya seed that are proven more soluble in 50% ethanol are caffeic acid, coumaric acid, p-hydroxybenzoic acid, and ferulic acid [33] which are the most phenolic content in papaya seed [20]; rutin, naringin, quercetin rhamnoside, quercetin glycoside, and kaempferol rhamnoside (flavonoid glycosides) as studied in [6],[34],[35].

The increase in the SPF value which is not proportional to the TFC value in this study might be due to the  $\text{AlCl}_3$  method for TFC test is only able to detect flavonoids from flavones and flavonols subgroup, while the anthocyanidins (cyanidins), flavanols (catechin), flavanones (naringenin) [36] which also contained in papaya seeds were not detectable [37].

The highest SPF value in this research was 12,0775 of papaya seed extract with 50% ethanol. The value was considered as maximum protection to the classification based on Wilkinson & Moore [38], and based on EU guidelines, approximately considered as low category [39]. The low SPF value of the extract does not mean that papaya seed extract cannot be utilized as sunscreen. According to previous studies, mixing flavonoids from natural sources with synthetic compounds can be used to support an adequate and safe SPF value, for example: a mixture of 0.1% rutin and 6.0% benzophenone increased the SPF from 24.3 to 33.3 when flavonoids were involved, as well as when 10% of rutin and quercetin were combined with  $\text{TiO}_2$  and  $\text{ZnO}$ , the SPF value became around 30 [40].

Table 5. IR spectrum interpretation of papaya seed extract

Bond	Wavelength frequency (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	50% Ethanol Extract (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	70% Ethanol Extract (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	96% Ethanol Extract (cm <sup>-1</sup> )	Identification Result
-OH	3200-3500	3392.1730	3415.3140	3411.4570	Phenols, Flavonoids, Tannin, Alkaloid, Saponin
-OH water	3100-3700	3392.1730	3415.3140	3411.4570	Hydrate
C-H aliphatic	2700-3000	2838.7030	2842.5600	2838.7030	Ethanol, Tannin, Saponin
-OH alcohol	2700-3000	2950.5500	2954.4110	2952.4820	Ethanol
C=O	1650-1900	1650.7670	1658.4810	1650.7670	Flavonoids, Tannin, Phenols, Saponin
C=C aromatic	1475-1500	1454.0640	1450.2970	1411.6380	Flavonoids, Tannin, Phenols, Alkaloids, Saponin
C-O alcohol	1000-1260	1022.0870	1112.7250	1110.7970	Alcohol, Flavonoids, Tannin, Alkaloids, Saponin
C-O ether	1085-1150	1110.7970	1025.9440	1110.7970	Flavonoids, Tannin, Phenols
C-H aromatic	650-1000	636.3940	688.4626	673.0349	Flavonoids, Tannin, Phenols, Alkaloids
C-OH aromatic	375-450	431.9766	437.7620	408.8350	Phenols
C-N	1020-1250	1022.0870	1025.9440	1022.0870	Alkaloids
C-O-C dan carboxylic ester group	1062-1256	1110.7970	1112.7250	1110.7970	Saponin
Fingerprint region of flavonoid	900-1300	1110.7970	1025.9440	1110.7970	Flavonoids
Fingerprint region of tannin	950-1500	1110.7970	1112.7250	1022.0870	Tannin

From the result of the FTIR analysis as seen on Table 5 and Fig. 4, it shows that the papaya seed extract contains groups of compounds of the phytochemical compounds tested before, which were flavonoids, phenols, alkaloids, saponin, and tannin.

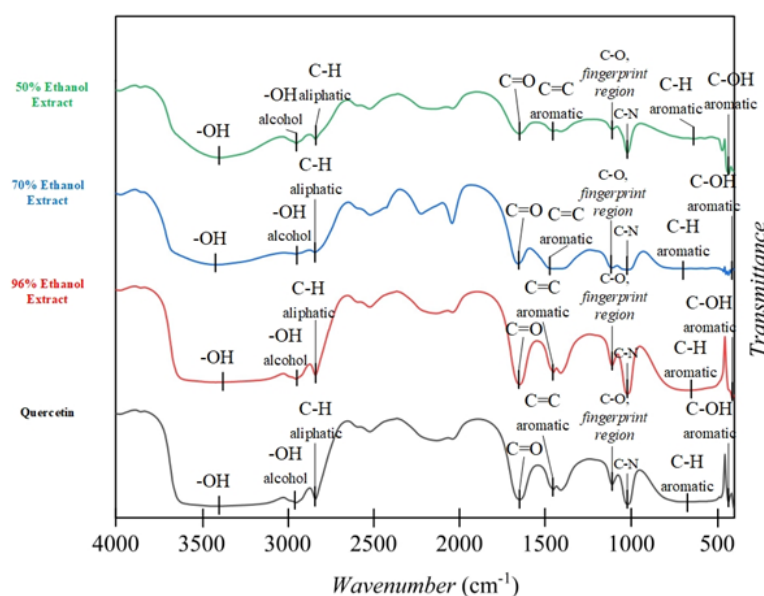


Figure 4. FTIR transmittance spectra of papaya seed extract

#### 4. Conclusion

In the present work, extraction of flavonoid from papaya seed extract is carried out using ultrasound-assisted extraction method with varying the solvent concentration (ethanol) and ratio. It can be concluded that the smaller the ethanol concentration, the greater the yield value, but the smaller the value of the total flavonoid content obtained. According to recent studies, it was found that by using higher concentration of ethanol (more polar), more other photoprotective compounds were dissolved (ferulic acid, rutin, p-hydroxybenzoic acid, flavonoid glycosides, etc.)

The optimum condition to obtain the highest yield is at a ratio of 1:30 solid to solvent and 50% ethanol concentration, which was 11.8888%wt. Meanwhile, the optimum condition for obtaining the highest TFC was at a solid to liquid ratio of 1:30 and 96% ethanol concentration, which was 2.8540 mg QE/g papaya seed. By using the optimum condition to get the highest TFC, the mass transfer coefficient ( $k_L a$ ) was 0.0089/min or 8.9000 mgQE/(g-ethanol. minute). Furthermore, the highest SPF value of papaya seed extract was obtained at SLR of 1:30 and 50% ethanol concentration with a value of 12.0775.

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### Biographies of Authors



**Eduardus Budi Nursanto** graduated his doctoral degree majoring in clean energy and chemical engineering from Korea University of Science and Technology, South Korea. Currently, he is active faculty member at Chemical Engineering Department, Universitas Pertamina, Indonesia.



**Rachel Wijaya** graduated her bachelor's degree from Chemical Engineering Department, Universitas Pertamina, Indonesia.



**Alifiana Permata Sari** graduated her master's degree from School of Chemical Engineering, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom. Currently, she is active faculty member at Chemical Engineering Department, Universitas Pertamina, Indonesia.