



DIDING SUHANDY <diding.sughandy@fp.unila.ac.id>

[Molecules] Manuscript ID: molecules-1494850 - Review Request

1 message

Molecules Editorial Office <molecules@mdpi.com>

Tue, Nov 23, 2021 at 7:17 AM

Reply-To: Karol Zhang <karol.zhang@mdpi.com>

To: Diding Sughandy <diding.sughandy@fp.unila.ac.id>

Cc: Molecules Editorial Office <molecules@mdpi.com>, Karol Zhang <karol.zhang@mdpi.com>

Dear Dr. Sughandy,

We have received the following paper, submitted to Molecules (<https://www.mdpi.com/journal/molecules/>).

Type of manuscript: Article

Title: Botanical Origin Differentiation of Malaysian Stingless Bee Honey produced by *Heterotrigona itama* and *Geniotrigona thoracica* using ¹³C NMR Spectroscopy and Chemometrics

Special Issue: Plant Foods Ingredients as Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/molecules/special_issues/Plant_Foods_Ingredients

We kindly invite you to review this paper and evaluate its suitability for publication in Molecules. The article abstract is available at the end of this message.

If you choose to accept this invitation, we would appreciate receiving your comments within 1 week. Please let us know if you are likely to need more time to complete your review.

Please click on the link below to let us know if you will be able to provide a review and access the full manuscript and review report form.

<https://susy.mdpi.com/user/review/review/22655426/25jLvMap>

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Please disclose any potential conflicts of interest you might have concerning the manuscript's contents or the authors.

If you are not able to review this manuscript, we kindly ask you to decline by clicking on the above link such that we can continue processing this submission. We would also appreciate any feedback you can provide at this time (i.e., your general impression regarding the quality of this manuscript) and any suggestions for alternative expert reviewers.

Molecules is an open access journal of MDPI. Thank you very much for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Ms. Karol Zhang

E-Mail: karol.zhang@mdpi.com

--

MDPI Beijing Office Poly Metropolitan, Floor 9-11, Building 2, Courtyard 4, Guanyinan North Street, Tongzhou District, China

MDPI Molecules Editorial Office

St. Alban-Anlage 66, 4052 Basel, Switzerland

E-Mail: molecules@mdpi.com

<http://www.mdpi.com/journal/molecules>

Manuscript details:

Journal: Molecules

Manuscript ID: molecules-1494850

Type of manuscript: Article

Title: Botanical Origin Differentiation of Malaysian Stingless Bee Honey produced by *Heterotrigona itama* and *Geniotrigona thoracica* using ¹³C NMR Spectroscopy and Chemometrics

Authors: Wen-Jie Ng *, Nam-Weng Sit, Peter Aun-Chuan Ooi, Kah-Yaw Ee, Tuck-Meng Lim

Submitted to section: Food Chemistry,

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/molecules/sections/food_chemistry

Special Issue: Plant Foods Ingredients as Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/molecules/special_issues/Plant_Foods_Ingredients

Abstract: Stingless bee honey specifically honeydew types is generally valued for its better health benefits than those of most blossom types. However, scientific studies about the differentiation of stingless bee honey based on honeydew and blossom origins are very limited. In this study, ¹³C NMR spectroscopy was employed to quantify the seven major sugar tautomers in stingless bee honey samples, the sugar profiles of both honeydew and blossom types were found not significantly different. However, several physicochemical properties of honeydew honey including free acidity, moisture content, total soluble solid, ash content, electrical conductivity, proline, hydroxymethylfurfural, diastase, acetic acid, hydrogen peroxide and mineral elements levels were significantly different from blossom honey. Greater antioxidant capacity in honeydew honey was proven with higher total phenolic compounds, ABTS, DPPH, superoxide radical scavenging activities, peroxy radical inhibition, iron chelation and ferric reducing power. Using principal component analysis (PCA), two clusters of stingless bee honey from the honeydew and blossom origin were observed. PCA also revealed that the differentiation between honeydew and blossom origin of stingless bee honey is possible with certain physicochemical and antioxidant parameters. The combination of NMR spectroscopy and chemometrics are suggested to be useful to determine the authenticity and botanical origin of stingless bee honey.

Keywords: Kelulut honey, honeydew honey, blossom honey, NMR profiling, physicochemicals, functional foods, antioxidant, honey differentiation

Note: We discourage reviewers from recommending citation of their own work when not clearly necessary to improve the quality of the manuscript under review. Please state in your comments to the editor if you recommend citation of your own work and the reason for this recommendation.

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DIDING SUHANDY <diding.sughandy@fp.unila.ac.id>

[Molecules] Manuscript ID: molecules-1494850 - Review Request Accepted

1 message

molecules@mdpi.com <molecules@mdpi.com>
To: Diding Suhandy <diding.sughandy@fp.unila.ac.id>
Cc: Karol Zhang <karol.zhang@mdpi.com>

Tue, Nov 23, 2021 at 7:41 AM

Dear Dr. Suhandy,

Thank you very much for agreeing to review this manuscript:

Manuscript ID: molecules-1494850

Type of manuscript: Article

Title: Botanical Origin Differentiation of Malaysian Stingless Bee Honey produced by *Heterotrigona itama* and *Geniotrigona thoracica* using ¹³C NMR Spectroscopy and Chemometrics

Authors: Wen-Jie Ng *, Nam-Weng Sit, Peter Aun-Chuan Ooi, Kah-Yaw Ee, Tuck-Meng Lim

Submitted to section: Food Chemistry,

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/molecules/sections/food_chemistry

Plant Foods Ingredients as Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/molecules/special_issues/Plant_Foods_Ingredients

The review report form can be found here:

<https://susy.mdpi.com/user/review/review/22655426/25jLvMap>

The review report due date is: 3 December 2021

We look forward to receiving your valuable comments.

Kind regards,

Ms. Karol Zhang

E-Mail: karol.zhang@mdpi.com

--

MDPI Beijing Office Poly Metropolitan, Floor 9-11, Building 2, Courtyard 4, Guanyinan North Street, Tongzhou District, China

MDPI Molecules Editorial Office

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E-Mail: molecules@mdpi.com<http://www.mdpi.com/journal/molecules>

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DIDING SUHANDY <diding.sughandy@fp.unila.ac.id>

[Molecules] Manuscript ID: molecules-1494850 - Review Request Reminder

1 message

Molecules Editorial Office <molecules@mdpi.com>
Reply-To: karol.zhang@mdpi.com
To: Diding Sughandy <diding.sughandy@fp.unila.ac.id>
Cc: Molecules Editorial Office <molecules@mdpi.com>

Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 7:30 AM

Dear Dr. Sughandy,

A reminder that we are looking forward to receiving your review of the following manuscript soon:

Type of manuscript: Article
Title: Botanical Origin Differentiation of Malaysian Stingless Bee Honey produced by *Heterotrigona itama* and *Geniotrigona thoracica* using ^{13}C NMR Spectroscopy and Chemometrics
Journal: Molecules

If possible, we would be pleased to receive your review report before the due date 3 December 2021. To complete your review report please click on this link:

<https://susy.mdpi.com/user/review/review/22655426/25jLvMap>

Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Kind regards,
Ms. Karol Zhang
E-Mail: karol.zhang@mdpi.com

--

MDPI Beijing Office Poly Metropolitan, Floor 9-11, Building 2, Courtyard 4, Guanyinan North Street, Tongzhou District, China

MDPI Molecules Editorial Office
St. Alban-Anlage 66, 4052 Basel, Switzerland
E-Mail: molecules@mdpi.com
<http://www.mdpi.com/journal/molecules>

Manuscript details:

Journal: Molecules
Manuscript ID: molecules-1494850
Type of manuscript: Article
Title: Botanical Origin Differentiation of Malaysian Stingless Bee Honey produced by *Heterotrigona itama* and *Geniotrigona thoracica* using ^{13}C NMR Spectroscopy and Chemometrics
Authors: Wen-Jie Ng *, Nam-Weng Sit, Peter Aun-Chuan Ooi, Kah-Yaw Ee, Tuck-Meng Lim Submitted to section: Food Chemistry,

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/molecules/sections/food_chemistry
Plant Foods Ingredients as Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals
https://www.mdpi.com/journal/molecules/special_issues/Plant_Foods_Ingredients

Abstract: Stingless bee honey specifically honeydew types is generally valued for its better health benefits than those of most blossom types. However, scientific studies about the differentiation of stingless bee honey based on honeydew and blossom origins are very limited. In this study, ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy was employed to quantify the seven major sugar tautomers in stingless bee honey samples, the sugar profiles of both honeydew and blossom types were found not significantly different. However, several physicochemical properties of honeydew honey including free acidity, moisture

content, total soluble solid, ash content, electrical conductivity, proline, hydroxymethylfurfural, diastase, acetic acid, hydrogen peroxide and mineral elements levels were significantly different from blossom honey. Greater antioxidant capacity in honeydew honey was proven with higher total phenolic compounds, ABTS, DPPH, superoxide radical scavenging activities, peroxy radical inhibition, iron chelation and ferric reducing power. Using principal component analysis (PCA), two clusters of stingless bee honey from the honeydew and blossom origin were observed. PCA also revealed that the differentiation between honeydew and blossom origin of stingless bee honey is possible with certain physicochemical and antioxidant parameters. The combination of NMR spectroscopy and chemometrics are suggested to be useful to determine the authenticity and botanical origin of stingless bee honey.



DIDING SUHANDY <diding.sughandy@fp.unila.ac.id>

[Molecules] Manuscript ID: molecules-1494850 - Acknowledgement - Review Received

1 message

molecules@mdpi.com <molecules@mdpi.com>

Wed, Dec 1, 2021 at 9:47 PM

Reply-To: Karol Zhang <karol.zhang@mdpi.com>, Molecules Editorial Office <molecules@mdpi.com>

To: Diding Suhandy <diding.sughandy@fp.unila.ac.id>

Cc: Molecules Editorial Office <molecules@mdpi.com>, Karol Zhang <karol.zhang@mdpi.com>

Dear Dr. Suhandy,

A short note to thank you very much for your review of the following manuscript:

Manuscript ID: molecules-1494850

Title: Botanical Origin Differentiation of Malaysian Stingless Bee Honey produced by *Heterotrigona itama* and *Geniotrigona thoracica* using ¹³C NMR Spectroscopy and Chemometrics

Authors: Wen-Jie Ng *, Nam-Weng Sit, Peter Aun-Chuan Ooi, Kah-Yaw Ee, Tuck-Meng Lim

If we decide to ask the authors for revisions, we will send you the revised version soon. To help us improve our services, we kindly ask you to fill in our online survey on the peer-review process at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/reviewerfeedbackmdpi>

We encourage you to register an account on our submission system and bind your ORCID account (<https://susy.mdpi.com/user/edit>). You are able to deposit the review activity to your ORCID account manually via the below link: <https://susy.mdpi.com/user/reviewer/status/finished>

We also invite you to contribute to Encyclopedia (<https://encyclopedia.pub>), a scholarly platform providing accurate information about the latest research results. You can adapt parts of your paper to provide valuable reference information for others in the field.

Kind regards,

Molecules Editorial Office

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DIDING SUHANDY <diding.sughandy@fp.unila.ac.id>

Your review for Molecules has been added to Publons

1 message

Team Publons <noreply@publons.com>
Reply-To: Team Publons <noreply@publons.com>
To: diding.sughandy@fp.unila.ac.id

Thu, Dec 2, 2021 at 7:32 AM



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Congratulations Diding Suhandy!


Your recent review of "Botanical Origin Differentiation of Malaysian Stingless Bee Honey produced by *Heterotrigona itama* and *Geniotrigona thoracica* using ^{13}C NMR Spectroscopy and Chemometrics" for Molecules has automatically been added to your [Publons profile](#) as part of our partnership with MDPI.

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Edit Profile (/user/edit)	Title	Botanical Origin Differentiation of Malaysian Stingless Bee Honey Produced by Heterotrigona itama and Geniotrigona thoracica Using Chemometrics (https://www.mdpi.com/1420-3049/26/24/7628)
Logout (/user/logout)	Authors	Wen-Jie Ng * , Nam-Weng Sit , Peter Aun-Chuan Ooi , Kah-Yaw Ee , Tuck-Meng Lim
	Section	Food Chemistry (https://www.mdpi.com/journal/molecules/sections/food_chemistry)

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Display Submitted Manuscripts (/user/manuscripts/status)	Abstract	Stingless bee honey specifically honeydew types is generally valued for its better health benefits than those of most blossom types. However, scientific studies about the differentiation of stingless bee honey based on honeydew and blossom origins are very limited. In this study, ¹³ C NMR spectroscopy was employed to quantify the seven major sugar tautomers in stingless bee honey samples, the sugar profiles of both honeydew and blossom types were found not significantly different. However, several physicochemical properties of honeydew honey including free acidity, moisture content, total soluble solid, ash content, electrical conductivity, proline, hydroxymethylfurfural, diastase, acetic acid, hydrogen peroxide and mineral elements levels were significantly different from blossom honey. Greater antioxidant capacity in honeydew honey was proven with higher total phenolic compounds, ABTS, DPPH, superoxide radical scavenging activities, peroxy radical inhibition, iron chelation and ferric reducing power. Using principal component analysis (PCA), two clusters of stingless bee honey from the honeydew and blossom origin were observed. PCA also revealed that the differentiation between honeydew and blossom origin of stingless bee honey is possible with certain physicochemical and antioxidant parameters. The combination of NMR spectroscopy and chemometrics are suggested to be useful to determine the authenticity and botanical origin of stingless bee honey.
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 (Reconsider after major revision (control missing in some experiments))
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 (/user/review/other/22655426/25jLvMap?report_id=16417980)
 (Accept in present form)

Review Report Form

Reviewer's Information (will not be revealed to authors)

Name Dr. Diding Suhandy
 Email diding.sughandy@fp.unila.ac.id
 Website https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Diding-Suhandy
 (https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Diding-Suhandy)
 Affiliation Lampung University
 Research analytical chemistry
 Keywords

Report 1 [Hide Report and Author Response \[- \]](#)

	High	Average	Low	Overall Recommendation
	No Answer			() Accept in present form
Originality / Novelty	()	(x)	()	() Accept after minor revision (corrections to minor methodological errors and text editing)
Significance of Content	()	(x)	()	(x) Reconsider after major revision (control missing in some experiments)
Quality of Presentation	()	()	(x)	() Reject (article has serious flaws, additional experiments needed, research not conducted correctly)
Scientific Soundness	()	(x)	()	English language and style
Interest to the readers	()	(x)	()	() Extensive editing of English language and style required
Overall Merit	()	(x)	()	() Moderate English changes required
	()			() English language and style are fine/minor spell check required
				(x) I don't feel qualified to judge about the English language and style

Yes Can be improved Must be improved Not applicable

Does the introduction provide sufficient background and include all relevant references?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the research design appropriate?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the methods adequately described?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the results clearly presented?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the conclusions supported by the results?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>


Comments
and
Suggestions
for Authors

The authors should add more description of botanical origin of the honey samples. It is not clear monoflora or multiflora honey samples? All samples harvested from the same season (year) from the sa
More...

	Yes	No
Do you have any potential conflict of interest with regards to this paper?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Did you detect inappropriate self-citations by authors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Do you have any other ethical concerns about this study?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Author response to report 1:

Author's Notes Dear reviewer, thank you for your valuable comments and suggestions. Please see the attached file for more information. Have a great day.

Author Response File  author_response.pdf (/user/review/displayFile/22655426/25jLvMap?file=author-coverletter&report=16035848)

Report 2 [Hide Report and Author Response \[- \]](#)

	High	Average	Low	Overall Recommendation
			No Answer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept in present form
Originality / Novelty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept after minor revision (corrections to minor methodological errors and text editing)
Significance of Content	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Reconsider after major revision (control missing in some experiments)
Quality of Presentation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Reject (article has serious flaws, additional experiments needed, research not conducted correctly)
Scientific Soundness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	English language and style
Interest to the readers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Extensive editing of English language and style required
Overall Merit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate English changes required
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> English language and style are fine/minor spell check required

(x) I don't feel qualified to judge about the English language and style

Comments and Suggestions for Authors All comments have been resolved.

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Response to Reviewer 2 Comments

Point 1: The authors should add more description of botanical origin of the honey samples. It is not clear monoflora or multiflora honey samples? All samples harvested from the same season (year) from the same location? Especially for blossom honey.

Response 1: We are grateful to reviewer for the insightful comments. The nectar source and harvest time of each honey sample has been added in Table 8.

Point 2: The overall objective of this study is unclear. From the title and its explanation in the introduction, the motivation of this study is the merit of ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy for possible differentiation of stingless honey samples. However, in the material and method and the results, the authors measured and described several physical, chemical and phytochemical properties of honey samples. So, actually, what is the X matrix for the PCA calculation? What is the size of X matrix? Only data from ^{13}C NMR spectroscopy (the seven major sugar tautomers)? or the authors also included the other properties honey samples as X matrix in the PCA calculation. PCA is suitable for an unsupervised analysis with relatively big data matrix.

Response 2: We are grateful to reviewer for the insightful comments.

We have revised the title to “Botanical Origin Differentiation of Malaysian Stingless Bee Honey produced by *Heterotrigona itama* and *Geniotrigona thoracica* using Chemometrics”. Introduction was revised accordingly as well.

For the “major sugar composition” category, there is no significant difference in the concentrations of glucose and fructose between honeydew honey and blossom honey, hence the data were not included in PCA. On the other hand, for other categories including “maturity of honey”, “purity of honey”, “deterioration state of honey”, “mineral profile” and “antioxidant properties”, there are at least three parameters significantly different between honeydew honey and blossom honey, hence all of the data from these categories were included in PCA.

Point 3: The authors should provide the PCA score plots to map the possible differentiation between *Heterotrigona itama* and *Geniotrigona thoracica*.

Response 3: We are grateful to reviewer for the insightful comments. Due to all or most of the related journal articles focus on the differentiation of honeydew honey and blossom honey produced by Apis bees, hence, in this paper, we focus on the differentiation between honeydew and blossom honey that produced by stingless bee. To my best knowledge, there is none or very limited journal article that used stingless bee honey for such differentiation. Perhaps in future, we will conduct a study for the differentiation of honey that produced by different native stingless bee species.

Point 4: The first principal component (PC1) and second principal component (PC2) represented 56.40% of the variance. It is necessary to provide enough number of PCs with CEV

(cumulative explained variance) more than 80%. Please add the third PC and so on in your analysis.

Response 4: We are grateful to reviewer for the insightful comments. In the first PCA, at least 8 principal components are needed to achieve more than 80% CEV. We understand the concern pointed out by reviewer; hence, we did another PCA which only included parameters with correlation coefficient more than 0.800, both PC1 and PC2 managed to give 84.60% CEV.



DIDING SUHANDY <diding.sughandy@fp.unila.ac.id>

[Molecules] Manuscript ID: molecules-1494850 - Thank you for reviewing: paper published

1 message

MDPI - Website Editor <website@mdpi.com>

Thu, Dec 16, 2021 at 1:58 PM

Reply-To: Karol Zhang <karol.zhang@mdpi.com>, Molecules Editorial Office <molecules@mdpi.com>

To: Diding Sughandy <diding.sughandy@fp.unila.ac.id>

Cc: Molecules Editorial Office <molecules@mdpi.com>, Karol Zhang <karol.zhang@mdpi.com>, Faith Zhang <faith.zhang@mdpi.com>

Dear Dr. Sughandy,

We are writing to inform you that the following paper which you kindly reviewed has been published:

<https://www.mdpi.com/1420-3049/26/24/7628>

Thank you for your participation in the review process. The paper was accepted by the academic editor after peer review by 2 reviewers and author revision. You can now see the comments of other reviewers by creating an account on our submission system at <https://susy.mdpi.com> with your review email diding.sughandy@fp.unila.ac.id and visiting the reviews section. You may also download a PDF certificate (<https://susy.mdpi.com/reviewer/certificate/displayFile/9298744>) of your review record from the Susy website. We look forward to your future participation in the review process. By signing up at <https://susy.mdpi.com/volunteer/profile/edit> you can provide further details about your availability and the journals you are interested in reviewing for.

We also invite you to contribute to Encyclopedia (<https://encyclopedia.pub>), a scholarly platform providing accurate information about the latest research results. You can adapt parts of your paper to provide valuable reference information for others in the field.

Kind regards,

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MDPI

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