

Hom–Kularb–Dang Rice Bran Extract for the Prevention of UVB-Damage Against Human Skin Fibroblast

Swanya Yakaew¹, Preeyawass Phimnuan¹, Khomsan Tiensomjit¹,
Wongnapa Nakyai², Nitra Nuengchamnong³, Gareth Ross⁴,
Malyn Ungsurungsei^{5*}, and JarupaViyoch^{1*}

¹Department of Pharmaceutical Technology, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Center of Excellence for Innovation in Chemistry, Naresuan University, Phitsanulok 65000, Thailand

²Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Ramkhamhaeng University, Bangkok 10240, Thailand

³Science Laboratory Center, Faculty of Science, Naresuan University, Phitsanulok 65000, Thailand

⁴Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Naresuan University, Phitsanulok 65000, Thailand

⁵Research & Development Division, S & J International Enterprises Public Company Limited, Bangkok 10120, Thailand.

*Corresponding author. E-mail: jarupav@nu.ac.th, malyn@snjinter.com

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ABSTRACT

In this study, we investigated the protective effect of hydroglycolic crude extract of Thai red Hom–Kularb–Drice (HKD) rice bran on UVB-induced photoaging of human skin fibroblast. The HKD rice bran extract showed scavenging capacity with an EC₅₀ of 4.37±0.34 mg/mL testing using a DPPH radical scavenging assay. The structural identification of proanthocyanidins compounds was performed by Liquid chromatography-electrospray ionization-quadrupole-time-of flight mass spectrometry (LC-ESI-Q-TOF-MS) in the hydroglycolic HKD extract. These compounds were cyanidin B2 type and (epi) catechin. The extract showed a no cytotoxic response was showed in human skin fibroblast. Furthermore, the HKD extract (20 µg/mL) exhibited a protective effect in UVB irradiated primary skin fibroblast, reducing MMP-1 (matrix metalloproteinases-1) expression and increasing production of type I procollagen. This data suggests that the

HKD rice bran extract has potential for use as a skin anti-aging agent in cosmetic products.

Keywords: Hom–Kularb–Dang rice bran extract, UVB, Human skin fibroblast, MMP-1, Type I procollagen.

INTRODUCTION

Skin exposure to sunlight is known to cause damage usually referred to as photoaging. The part of the electromagnetic spectrum that causes the majority of this damage is in the ultraviolet range (200-400 nm) and section which is of most concern to skin health is between the wavelengths of 280-315 nm or UVB. Chronic exposure to UVB leads to the breakdown of collagen, which is the main component of the skin extracellular matrix (ECM) and also reduces the synthesis of procollagen type I (Quan et al., 2004; Viyoch et al., 2012). Disarrangement of the collagen matrix in dermal tissue by matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) results in UV irradiation-induced photoaging (Quan et al., 2009). The mechanism of UVB-induced collagen degradation is caused by the formation of various radical oxygen species (ROS) provoking the mitogen-activated protein (MAP) kinase pathway, which up-regulates activator protein 1 (AP-1). Activation of AP-1 induces the expression of MMPs in human skin fibroblasts (Chiang et al., 2012; Wen et al., 2012). These enzymes include MMP-1 (interstitial collagenase-1), MMP-8 (neutrophil collagenase, collagenase-2) and MMP-13 (collagenase-3). MMP-1 is the main primary mediator in enhanced damage of type I collagen during UV-induced photoaging (Choi et al., 2007; Dong et al., 2008). Therefore, it has been proposed that prevention of collagenase enzymes might be a strategy for precluding UV-accelerated skin aging by reverting the balance between synthesis and collagen degradation (Ahn et al., 2012; Itsarasook et al., 2014; Park et al., 2014).

Hom–Kularb–Dang (HKD), or Thai red rice is cultivated and consumed in the northern region of Thailand for more than a decade. Several studies have reported that they are many health benefiting components present in the bran part of the rice kernel. These components functions include; free radical scavenging, antioxidation potential (Chotimarkorn et al., 2008; Butsat and Siriamornpun, 2010), immunomodulatory activity and (Chen et al., 2010) and cancer and heart disease prevention (Kannan et al., 2010; Leardkamolkarn et al., 2010; Bhupathiraju and Tucker, 2011). The compounds found include sterols, oryzanol, tocopherols, tocotrienols and phenolics (Aguilar et al., 2007; Samad, 2015). One of the more important family of compounds present in HKD are proanthocyanidins, which are known as natural strong anti-oxidants that only can be found in red fruits and red rice (Gunaratne et al., 2013; Huang and Lai, 2016).

The work presented herein investigates the protective effect of hydroglycolic HKD rice bran crude extract on MMP-1 and type I procollagen

production when exposed to UVB-irradiated human skin fibroblast. To the authors knowledge, there is no previously evidence on the anti-oxidant activity, proanthocyanidin content, cytotoxicity and preventive effect of the HKD rice bran extract against UVB-damaged.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Chemicals and Materials

2, 2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, Missouri, USA. Dispace, amphotericin B and fetal bovine serum (FBS) was purchased from Gibco, Auckland, New Zealand. Trypsin EDTA solution was purchased Gibco, Ontario, Canada. Penicillin-streptomycin solution (10,000 units/mL penicillin and 10,000 µg/mL streptomycin) was purchased from Gibco, New York, USA. Sodium 3'-[1-(phenylamino)-carbonyl]-3, 4-tetrazolium]-bis(4-methoxy-6-nitro) benzene-sulfonic acid hydrate (XTT) was purchased from Roche Diagnostics Corporation, Indiana, USA. Acetonitrile (LC-MS reagent) and water (LC-MS grade) were purchased from RCI Labscan Limited (Bangkok, Thailand). Formic acid (analytical grade) was purchased from JT Baker (Philipsburg, NJ, USA). Anylon syringe filter 0.45 µm was bought from Lubitech Technologies Ltd. (Shanghai, China).

Plant material

Hom-Kularb-Dang, red rice was collected from Sukothai province, Thailand and kindly prepared by S&J International Enterprises Public Co., Ltd., Bangkok, Thailand.

Crude HKD extract preparation

The rice bran of Hom-Kularb-Dang (HKD, PRE90 020-R36-PSL-8-3-14-3) was first harvested after that, the whole rice grains were dried. Then the rice bran was separated and extracted using the method described by Chulasiri et al. (2011). Briefly, bran rice was macerated in a 50% hydroglycol solution at a ratio of 1:7 for 3 days. The macerate was filtered, and the filtrate was designated as the ready to use crude hydroglycolic extract of the rice bran.

DPPH (2, 2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl) assay

DPPH radical scavenging activity was determined using the method previously described (Itsarasook et al., 2014; Phetdee et al., 2014; Yakaew et al., 2016). Briefly, 1 ml of 0.2 mM DPPH solution (Sigma-Aldrich Chemic GmbH, Steinheim, Germany) was mixed with 0.5 ml of various concentrations of the sample of extract previously dissolved in methanol. The mixtures are kept at ambient temperature for 30 min, prior to absorbance measurement at 515 nm

using a UV-Vis spectrophotometer. L-Ascorbic acid (vitamin C) was used as the positive control and the radical scavenging activity was calculated as a percentage of DPPH decoloration using the following equation:

$$\% \text{Radical scavenging activity} = [1 - (A_S/A_B)] \times 100$$

where, A_S = absorbance of DPPH with the tested sample and A_B = absorbance of DPPH without tested sample. EC_{50} , the equivalent concentration to give the 50% effect, was determined by log-prohibit analysis using seven different concentrations of the tested samples. The study was run in triplicate.

Identification of proanthocyanidins in HKD rice bran extracts by ESI-Q-TOF-MS

Conditions for ESI-Q-TOF-MS were the same as in the previous study (Duangjai et al., 2016). A 6540 ultrahigh definition accurate mass Q-TOF (Agilent Technologies, Palo Alto, CA, USA) was converted into an Agilent 1260 infinity high performance liquid chromatography instrument (Agilent, Waldbonn, Germany) via an ESI interface. Analysis parameters were set using both negative and positive ion modes with spectra acquired over a mass range of m/z 100–1,000 amu. The ESI-MS condition parameters were as follows: capillary voltage, +3,500 V; dry gas temperature, 350 °C; dry gas flow, 10 L/min; nebulizer pressure, 30 psig; and spectra rate, 4 Hz. Fragmentations were performed using auto MS/MS experiments with collision energies at 10 V, 20 V, and 40 V, with nitrogen used as the collision gas. Chromatographic separation was performed using a phenomenex Luna C-18(2) column (5 μ m, 150 \times 4.6 mm internal diameter) (Phenomenex Inc., Torrance, CA, USA). The mobile phase consisted of 0.1% formic acid in water v/v (Solvent A) and 0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile v/v (Solvent B). The linear gradient started from 10% to 90% of Solvent B for 30 minutes. The injection volume was 5 μ L and the mobile phase flow rate was 0.5 mL/min. Peak identification was performed by comparing the mass spectra, and fragmentation patterns against reported data, and a library search of the MassHunter METLIN metabolite database (Agilent Technologies).

Cytotoxicity of extract exposed to human skin fibroblasts

Cell isolation and cultivation. Human skin samples were obtained from eyelid of women aged 50-60, after surgery. The procedure was approved by the ethical committee of Naresuan University (IRB No. 355/57).

The explant technique was used for dermal isolation. The dermal layer was washed with phosphate buffered saline (PBS) and antibiotics (penicillin/streptomycin). Then, the skin tissue samples were cut into 4-5 pieces

(~2 mm square) and placed into 25 cm² culture flasks and subsequently incubated in 5% CO₂ at 37 °C. During this process the tissue adhered to the culture flask. A culture medium consisting of Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium (DMEM, low glucose, Sigma-Aldrich) supplemented with 10% Fetal bovine serum (FBS, Cultilab, Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil) and 1% of stock penicillin/streptomycin solution (100 U/ml Penicillin and 100 µg/ml Streptomycin, Gibco™, Invitrogen, New York, USA), was added to each flask. After incubation for 3 weeks at 37 °C with 5% CO₂, the fibroblast cells had migrated from the original explant site. After trypsinization, cells were seeded at 1 x 10⁴ cells/cm² in 75 cm² flasks using the same medium. Passage numbers 2 to 8 were used in this study.

Cell viability test. Cell viability was assessed using sodium 3'-[(phenyl-amino)-carbonyl]-3,4,tetrazolium-bis (4-methoxy-6-nitro) benzene-sulfonic acid hydrate (XTT, Boehringer Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany) assay (Inpanya et al., 2012; Phetdee et al., 2014; Yakaew et al., 2016). The cells were seeded at 1 x 10⁴ cells/cm² into each well of 96 well plates. Cultured with 250 µl of supplemented DMEM at 37 °C with 5% CO₂. After 24 h, cells were treated with HKD extract (0.625-20 µg/mL) in serum free medium. After incubation for 24 h, 200 µl of serum free medium and 50 µl of XTT solution were added. The cells were further incubated for 4 h. The absorbance was measured on a microplate reader at 490 nm, and the number of viable cells was calculated as the percentage of the optical density of the untreated group. The control group consisted of cells treated with 50% hydroglycol in DMEM. The number of samples used in each group was 3.

Determination of preventive effects of the extract on UVB- induced alterations in human skin fibroblasts

UVB irradiation. A fluorescent sun lamp (Toshiba FL8BLB, Japan) with an emission spectrum between 275-305 nm, was used as the source of UVB radiation, placed 22 cm above the cell culture flasks. The UVB intensity used in this study was 128 J/cm². Preliminary data indicated that this selected intensity is a sublethal dose, which inactivates the fibroblasts to undergo proliferation (Yakaew, 2013). These UVB- irradiated cells could perform normal cellular functions when they were re-cultured.

Human skin fibroblasts at 2.0 x 10⁶ cells in a 25 cm² flask were maintained overnight in culture media. The cells were pretreated with 20 µg/mL HKD for 24 h and were then washed and covered by an ~1 mm deep layer of PBS before exposing to UVB irradiation (extract + UVB group). Following the UVB irradiation, the PBS was replaced by a serum-free culture medium, and the cells were incubated for further 24 h. At the end of the incubation period, the supernatant of the cultured fibroblasts was collected and stored at -80 °C until testing of type I procollagen and MMP-1 analysis. The supernatants from the groups of non-UVB irradiated cells and UVB-irradiated cells without extract

treatment were also collected. The number of samples used in each group was 3. Moreover, the viability of the cells from each group was assessed.

Type I procollagen and MMP-1. ELISA kits were used to measure the levels of type I procollagen protein (Human Procollagen type I C-peptide (PIP) EIA Kit, Takara Bio Inc., Shiga, Japan) and MMP-1 (Ray Biotech, Inc. Georgia, USA) in cell-free supernatants. The assay was performed according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Statistical analysis

All values were expressed as means of each treatment group. Student's unpaired t-tests were used to compare between the two groups. $P < 0.01$ was considered statistically significant.

RESULTS

Anti-oxidant activity

The HKD extract (0.001-50 mg/mL) showed a concentration-dependent reduction of DPPH activity and that the EC_{50} was 4.37 ± 0.34 , compared to 0.01 ± 0.0053 mg/mL for the vitamin C (0.0001-1 mg/mL), a well-known anti-aging agent used in cosmetics as a positive control.

Identification of proanthocyanidins in the HKD extract

Based on different molecular masses of chemical constituent in the crude extract, proanthocyanidins can be separated with LC-ESI-QTOF-MS. The HKD total negative ion chromatograms presented (epi) catechin (Figure 1) and procyanidin B type (Figure 2). ESI-MS spectra showed a series of polyflavan-3-ols for procyanidin type B2. In Figure 1, the $[M-H]^-$ ion at m/z 289.0713, proposes a molecular weight of 290 for (epi)catechin. This was confirmed by MS/MS data shown in Figure 3 as (epi)catechin gave similar values as found in the literature (Lv et al., 2014). In addition, the $[M-H]^-$ ion at m/z 577.1346 suggested a molecular weight of 578 for the procyanidin dimer with a B2 type inter-flavanoid linkage (Figure 2) (Zhao et al., 2006; Lv et al., 2015). Amongst the ion products of MS/MS, the ion at m/z 451.1104 $[M-H-126]^-$ resulted from the elimination of a phloroglucinol molecule from the B-type dimer, ions at m/z 407.0835 $[M-H-170]^-$ and m/z 289.0751 $[M-H-288]^-$ were from the RDA fission of a B-type dimer (Gu et al., 2003; Lv et al., 2015). This was identified as procyanidin B2 according to the literature (Figure 4) (Gu et al., 2003; Lv et al., 2015).

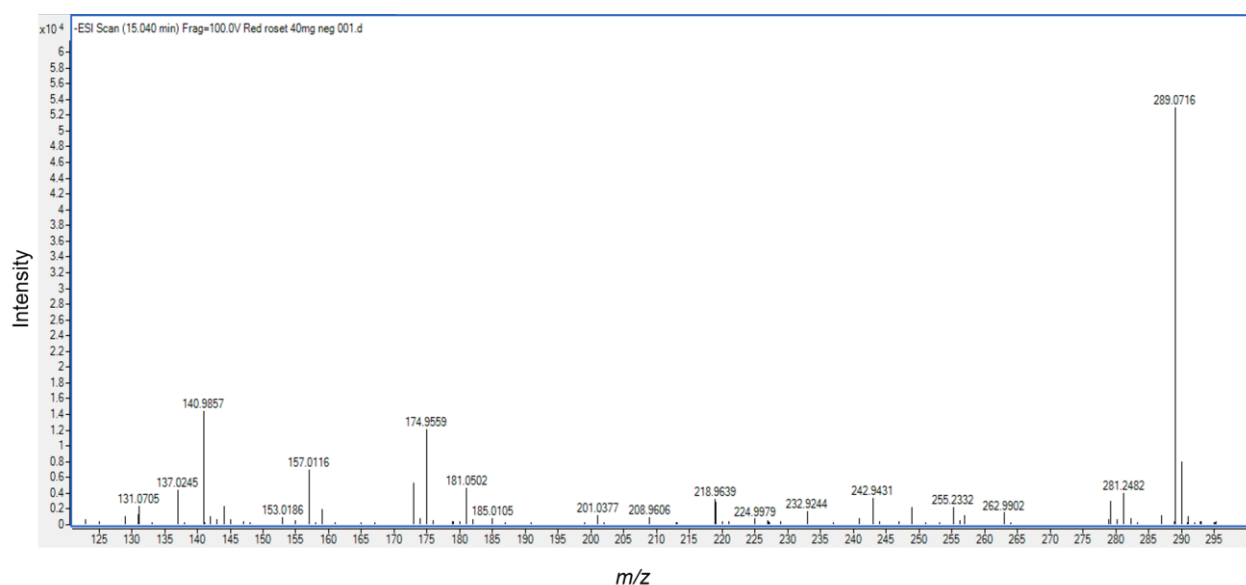


Figure 1. Electrospray Ionization Mass Analysis (ESI) of the HKD extract. The sample contained (epi)catechin (mw.289), was analyzed by ESI/MS.

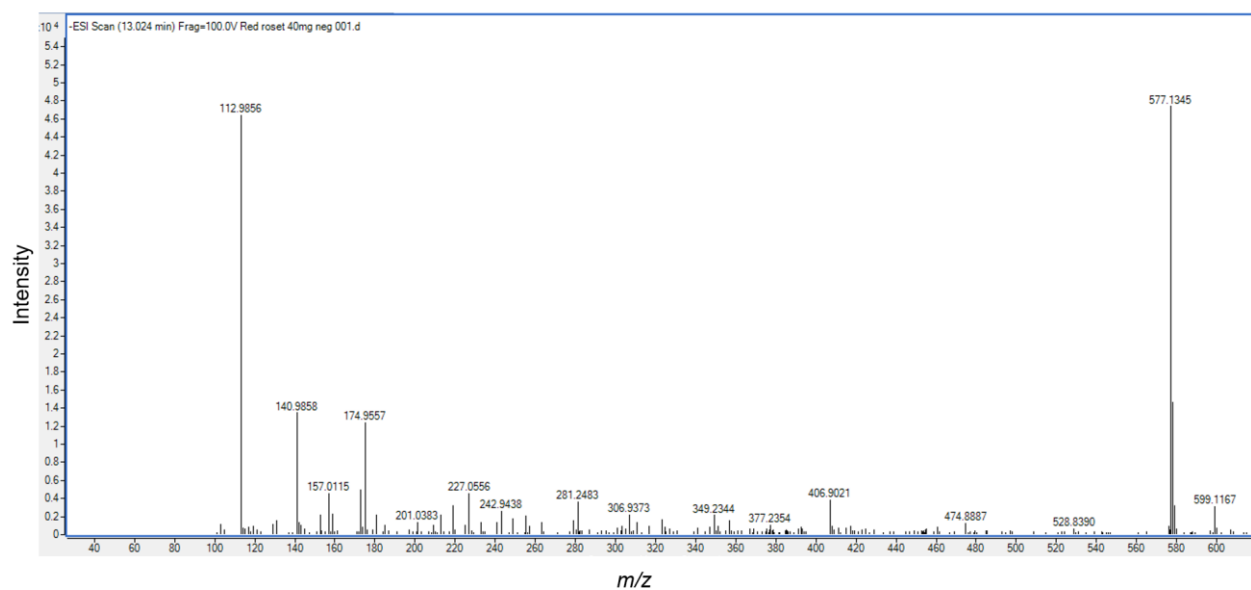


Figure 2. Electrospray Ionization Mass Analysis (ESI) of the HKD extract. The sample contained procyanidin B2 type (mw.577), was analyzed by ESI/MS.

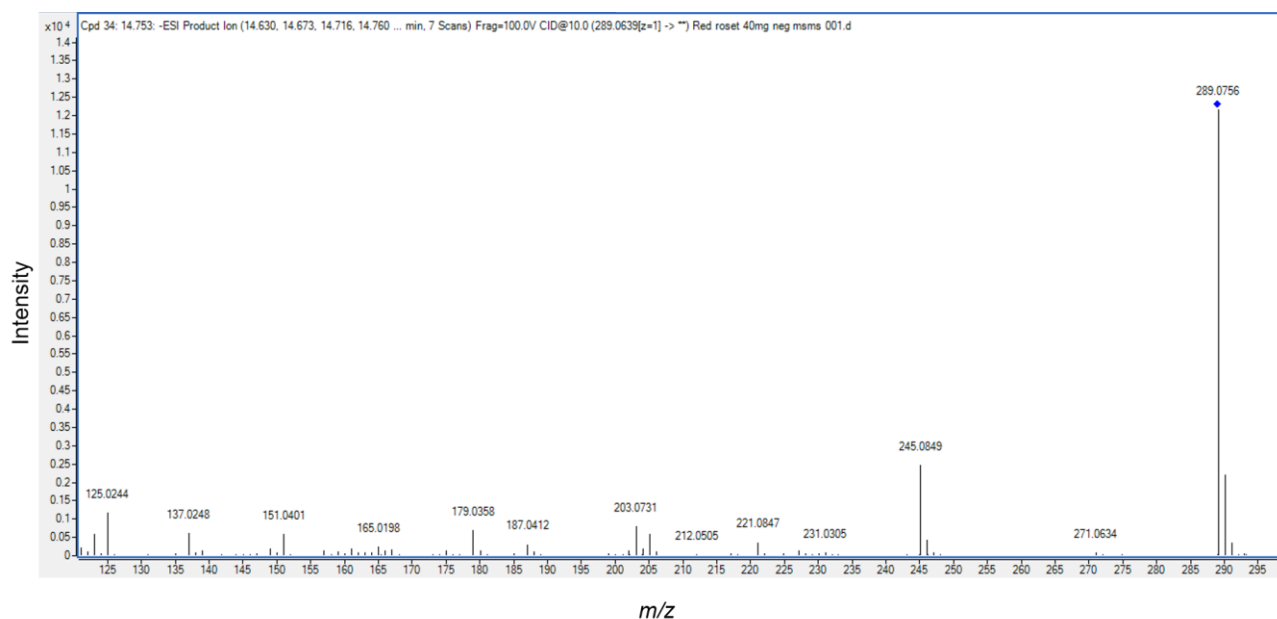


Figure 3. Electrospray Ionization Mass Analysis (ESI) of the HKD extract. The structure of (epi) catechin (mw.289) with major fragmentations and the relative abundance of the product detected by ESI/MS/MS.

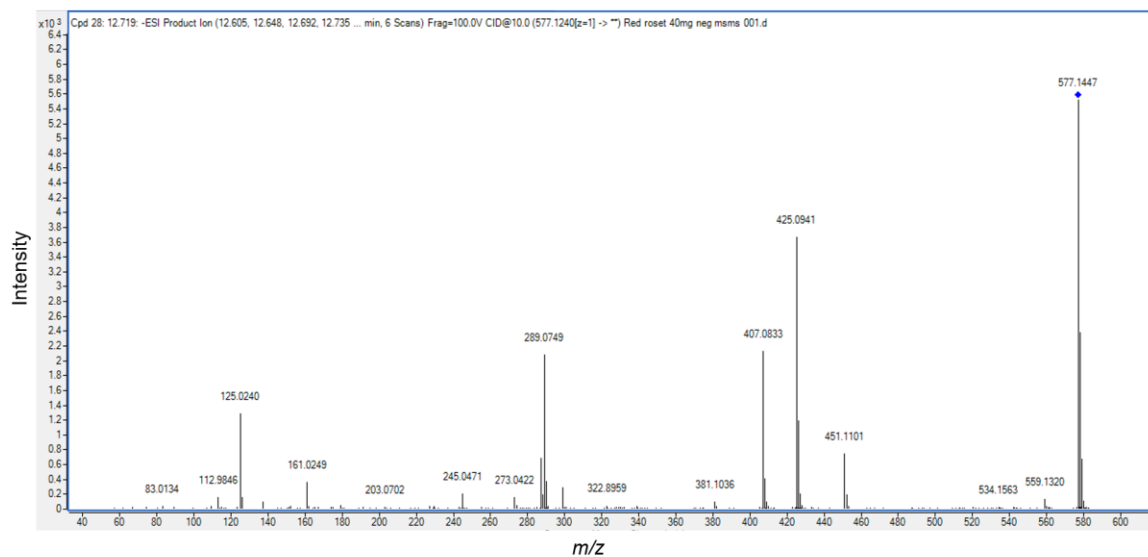


Figure 4. Electrospray Ionization Mass Analysis (ESI) of the HKD extract. The structure of procyanidin B2 type (mw.577) with major fragmentations and the relative abundance of product detected by ESI/MS/MS.

Cytotoxicity to human skin fibroblasts

For different extract concentrations (0.625-20 µg/mL) and incubation time of 24 h, the result showed the extracts had no significantly effect on the viability when exposed to human skin fibroblasts (Figure 5). Moreover, the treatment of the human skin with the highest concentration 20 µg/mL did not alter cell morphology (Figure 6B). Therefore, the extract at a concentration of 20 µg/mL was used for all subsequent experiments.

Effect of the rice bran on type I procollagen and MMP-1 productions in UVB-irradiated human fibroblasts

In this study, we found that UVB irradiation on fibroblasts suppressed type I procollagen production and, by contrast, enhanced MMP-1 expression. The level of type I procollagen in UVB-irradiated cells and non UVB-irradiated cells is shown in Figure 6A. At 24 h after UVB irradiation, the procollagen level of the UVB-irradiated group significantly decreased as compared to non-irradiated (control) group. The fibroblast pretreated with the HKD extract (pretreated group) before exposure to UVB irradiation exhibited markedly increased type I procollagen secretion compared to the UVB irradiation only ($P<0.01$) or control group. In addition, the fibroblasts produced substantial amounts of MMP-1 after UVB irradiation for 24 h (Figure 6B) but UVB-induced MMP-1 expression was impeded in cells pretreated with the extract.

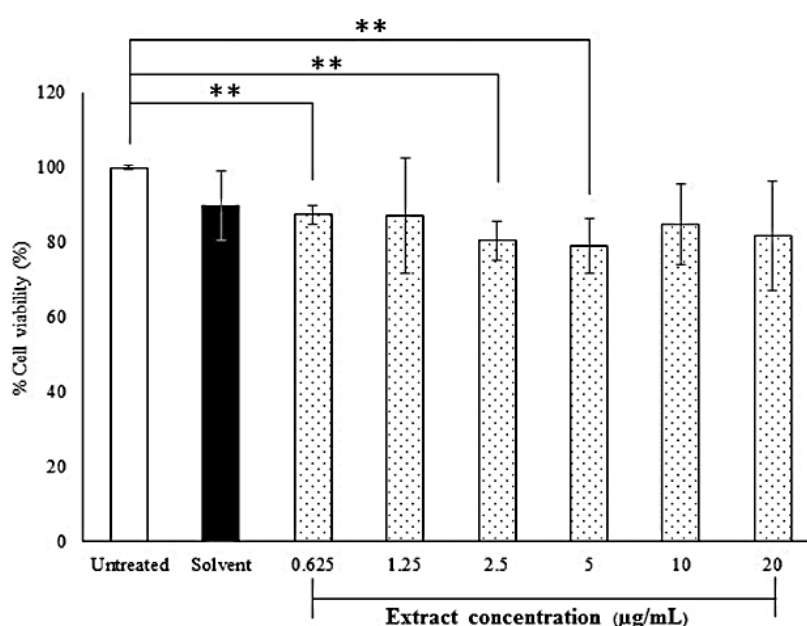


Figure 5. Effect of the HKD extract on viability of primary human skin fibroblasts. Untreated cells were control cell. Solvent was cells-treated with 50% hydroglycol at amount of 20 µg/mL (highest concentration of the extract treated with the cells) or the extract at concentrations in range of 0.625 to 20 µg/mL for 24 h. Results are expressed as percentage of cell viability (%) as compared to untreated cells for which the optical density was adjusted to 100%. Each bar represents mean \pm SD of 3n, ** $P < 0.01$, when compared between two groups (Student's *t*-test).

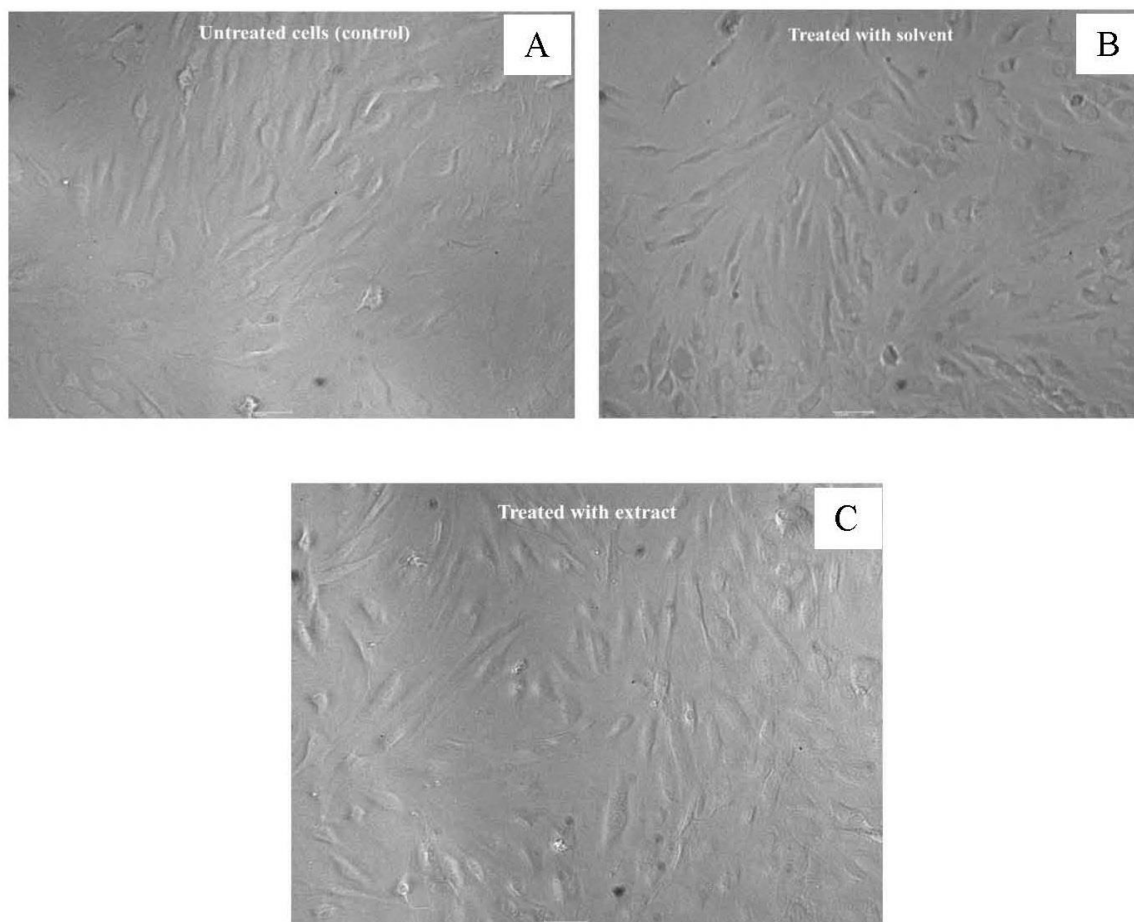


Figure 6. Morphology of primary human skin fibroblasts at magnification of 10x, untreated cells (control) (A), cell-treated with solvent (50% hydroglycol) (B), and cell-treated with 20 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ extract (C).

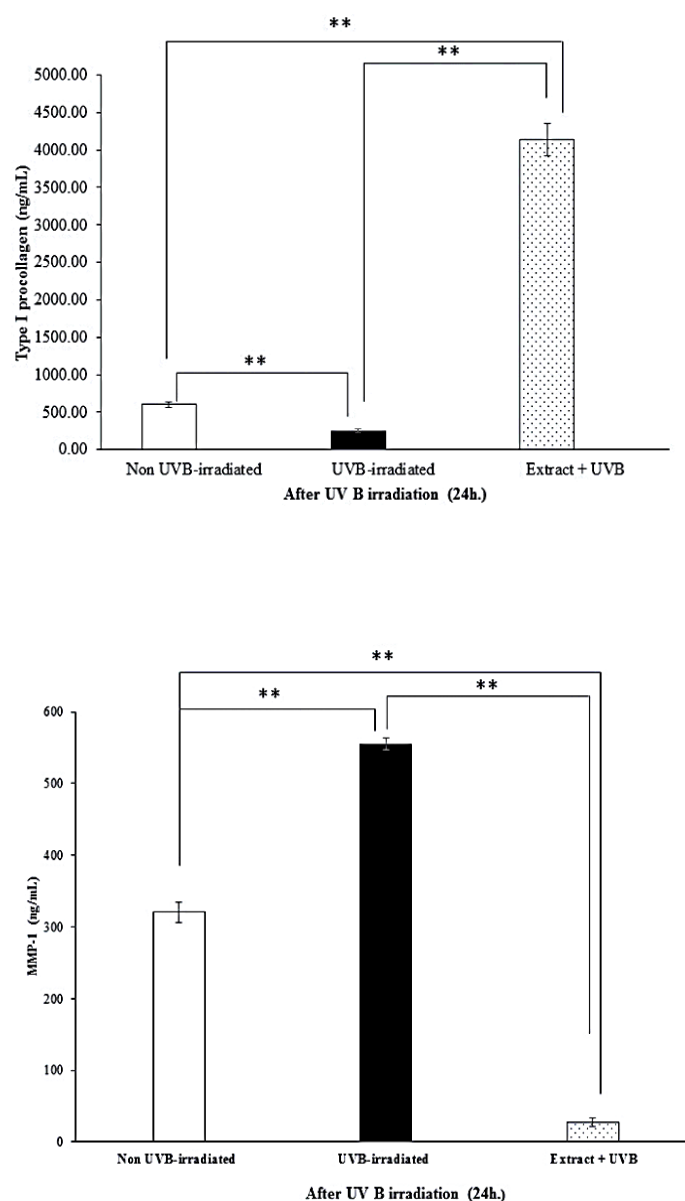


Figure 7. Effects of the extract (20 µg/mL) on type I procollagen (A) and MMP-1 (B) productions by UVB-irradiated human skin fibroblasts at 24 h after irradiation. Each bar represents mean ± SD of 3n. ** $P < 0.01$, when compared between two groups (Student's t -test).

DISCUSSION

The HKD crude extract from Thai red rice bran contained proanthocyanidins that are composed of flavanol unit of (epi)catechin and the MS/MS spectra in the negative mode showed three main fragments at m/z 451, 407 and 289, respectively. These were identified and named as procyanidin type B2. Procyanidins are a complex family of polyphenol polymers widespread in nature,

which act as anti-oxidants by neutralizing oxidizing free radicals, including superoxide and hydroxyl radicals (Torel et al., 1986; Ricardo et al., 1991; Bagchi et al., 1997). Our data are correlated with those previously reported on other red rice bran extracts (Gu et al., 2003). Anti-oxidant activity of proanthocyanidin contained in hydroglycolic HKD rice bran has not been reported. In this present study, we found that the extract promoted a lower anti-oxidant activity than that of vitamin C. The result may be due to the slow reaction of the phenolics in the extract with DPPH compared to vitamin C, which is a non-phenolic compound. Non-phenolic compounds such as vitamin C, present fast reactions with the DPPH radical (Sanchez et al., 1998).

In addition, exposure of the extract to human skin fibroblast showed no cytotoxic, with no alteration of the typical spindle-shape cell morphology. These enabled to use the highest concentration of the HKD crude extract for all experiments.

For UVB irradiation of fibroblasts affect biological pathways, such as MAP kinase resulting in up-regulation of MMPs. This up-regulation leads to the down-regulation of procollagen expression. MMP-mediated collagen breakdown is a major biochemical characteristic of photodamaged human skin (Fligie et al., 2003; Wang et al., 2007; Quan et al., 2009). UVB irradiation induces the secretion of various MMPs and concurrently provisionally suppresses type I collagen gene expression. These incidents can cause the impairment of the structural integrity of the dermis (Brennan et al., 2002; Varani et al., 2002). The extract was found to inhibit UV-induced MMP-1 production and UV-induced decrease of type I procollagen synthesis, probably due to the inhibition of UV-induced AP-1 activity (Déziel et al., 2010; Limtrakul et al., 2016). Amid MMPs family, MMP-1 induction has the greatest impact on collagen damage. In the current study, pretreatment with HKD extract reduced MMP-1 secretions. Moreover, the extract could enhance the level of extracellular type I procollagen. This could imply that the anti-oxidant effect of the rice bran extract inhibits UVB-induced ROS formation, which attenuates a provocation of the MAP kinase pathway. Another possibility is that the extract might improve the activities of the transcription factor corresponding to procollagen expressions. These hypotheses are based on the results from a previous study showing that phenolic compounds such as procyanidin, epicatechin can enhance transcription factors determining antioxidant response element (Lu and Foo, 1999; Wittenauer et al., 2015). Enhancement of the permeation and improvement of the stability of procyanidin by devising appropriate formulations are needed.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we demonstrated that pretreatment with hydroglycolic solution of Hom-Kularb-Dang crude rice bran gave an extract that contains procyanidin. The crude extract was able to scavenge DPPH radicals and was

non-cytotoxic to skin human fibroblast. The extract exposed to UVB-irradiated human fibroblast significantly prevented MMP-1 secretion. While promoting enhanced levels of extracellular type I procollagen. Our findings suggest that HKD extract has the potential to be used as an agent for skin photodamage prevention.

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