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Article

Comparison of Conventional and Ultrasound Assisted Supercritical Carbon Dioxide Extraction of Curcumin from Turmeric (*Curcuma longa* L.)

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Abstract. Recently, ultrasound assisted supercritical fluid is used for extraction the valuable compounds from a number of plant materials as an alternative to conventional method because it can enhance the extraction rate and yield. Curcumin is an important component of turmeric (Curcuma longa L.) with many useful functions to human health. The objective of this study is using ultrasonic assisted supercritical carbon dioxide (USC-CO₂) to extract curcumin from turmeric and compared to conventional method. The effect of operating conditions on extraction, including temperature (40-60 °C), pressure (15-25 MPa), extraction time (30-120 min), CO₂ flow rate (2-4 mL/min) and percentage of cosolvent (10-20% v/v) were also studied. The result shows that the high extraction yield of 7.17% w/w and curcumin content of 1.69% w/w were achieved at temperature of 50 °C, pressure of 25 MPa, extraction time of 90 min, CO₂ flow rate of 3 mL/min with 10% cosolvent. Compared to conventional method, USC-CO2 could provide higher curcumin content in extraction yield in a shorter extraction time. Scanning electron microscopy (SEM), thermal gravity (TG), and fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) was used to analyse turmeric undergoing USC-CO2 and conventional extraction and showed that ultrasound could break down the cell walls and remove some functional groups from plant materials, resulting an increase the selectivity of compounds in extraction yield.

Keywords: SC-CO₂ extraction, turmeric, ultrasound, scanning electron microscopy.

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1. Introduction

Turmeric (*Curcuma longa* L.) contains curcuminoids, which are antioxidant substances with many biological properties, including anticancer, antibacterial and antiviral activities [1-3]. Among curcuminoids, curcumin is the most representative. Recent studies show that curcumin is currently used in dietary spice, foods, textile coloring and medicines due to its beneficial properties, such as anti-inflammatory, anti-bacterial, antifungal, antimicrobial, anti-carcinogenic activities, also contributing to the treat multiple myeloma, Alzheimer's, psoriasis, myelodysplastic syndrome and anti-human immunodeficiency virus (Anti-HIV) cycle replication. Because of the curcumin benefits, there is a great interest in developing new technology to extract such compounds with high purity [4-6].

Extraction of functional compounds from raw material is a promising area in the food and pharmaceutical industries. On the other hand, the quality of extracts from raw material strongly depends on the employed extraction method [7]. Various conventional extraction methods were used to extract functional compounds from plant materials such as Soxhlet extraction, maceration, and hydrodistillation. However, these methods can cause the degradation of labile compounds, require long extraction time, and leave the tract of toxic solvent in final product [8].

Supercritical fluid extraction is one of green and clean technology for food and pharmaceutical industries because it can maximize the recovery and quality of the extraction and minimize the energy cost due to faster and more selective compared to conventional methods. Moreover, the solubility can be improved by adding small amount of polar solvent. The use of cosolvent not only enhances the solubility, but also helps to disrupt the interaction of solute and solid material, resulting the increased in the transport of solute from solid pores to its surface [9, 10].

Adding ultrasound might improve the supercritical fluid extraction because ultrasound can generate the cavitation, resulting the breaking cell wall of plant materials. In this case, it facilitates the solvent penetrate in material and improve the mass transfer, thus increasing the extraction rate and yield [11]. Recently, ultrasound assisted supercritical fluid extraction has been applied to extract functional compounds from different raw materials such as blackberry bagasse [10], malagueta paper [11], adlay seed [12], *Scutellaria barbata* D. Don [13], grape marc [14], cumbaru almond [15], and, clove [16]. However, no reports have been found in the literatures that consider the Ultrasound assisted supercritical carbon dioxide (USC-CO₂) extraction of curcumin from turmeric.

Therefore, the objective of this study was to investigate the extraction of curcumin from turmeric using USC-CO₂. The effect of temperature, pressure, extraction time, CO_2 flow rate and percentage of cosolvent on extraction yield and curcumin content were also evaluated. Moreover, the performance of USC-CO₂ was check by comparison of extraction yield and curcumin content with conventional method.

2. Experimental Section

2.1. Materials

Turmeric with 12% moisture content was bought from Tochimoto Tenkaido Co., LTD., Osaka, Japan. 99.9% purity of CO₂ was obtained from Sogo Kariya Sanso, Inc., Nagoya, Japan. 99.5% ethanol, 99.5% hexane were supplied by Wako Chemical, Japan. The acetonitrile was purchased at Kanto Chemical Co. Inc., Tokyo, Japan.

2.2. Methods

The flow chart of extraction and analysis is shown in Fig. 1.

2.2.1. Sample preparation

In order to homogenize and reduce mass resistance of substrate for extraction, the dried turmeric was ground in a knife mill (Model IFM 800, Iwatani international cooperation, Japan). After that, the solid turmeric particles were passed through the vertical vibratory sieve shaker. The mean diameter of the particles used in experiment was 0.5 mm. Finally, sample was packaged in aluminium bag and stored under refrigerator at temperature of 4 °C.



Fig. 1. The flow chart of extraction and analysis.

2.2.2. Ultrasound assisted supercritical carbon dioxide (USC-CO₂) extraction

The USC-CO₂ unit is composed of a 15 mL stainless steel cell (SUS 316, GL Sciences, Japan), which supports pressure up to 25 MPa. The unit is equipped with a chiller to control temperature of CO₂, two high-pressure pumps, (PU-2080, JASCO, Japan) with capacity up to 10 mL/min, a electric heater to control the temperature of cell, water bath, ultrasound supplier (W-118, Honda, Japan), pressure gauge and back-pressure regulator (BPR; AKICO, Japan) to keep the desired pressure constant. The schematic diagram of USC-CO₂ extraction is illustrated in Fig. 2.

The extractor was filled with 1 g of ground sample and void volume was completed with glass beads on the top and bottom. The extraction process was carried out at various values of the operating condition: temperature (40, 50, 60 °C), pressure (15, 20, 25 MPa), CO₂ flow rate (2, 3, 4 mL/min), and colsolvent (10, 15, 20%). In order to study the dynamic of extraction process, extract time was performed at 30, 60, 90, 120 min. Ultrasound power of 45 kHz and 600 W (Ultrasonic multi cleaner W-118, Honda, Japan) was applied during extraction. After extraction, the extract was collected and solvent was evaporated using rotary evaporator (SB-1200, Eyela Co. Ltd, Japan). Lastly, the extract was dissolved in ethanol and kept in refrigerator for further analysis and solid residues were dried and used for scanning electron microscope (SEM), thermogravimetry (TG), and fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) analysis. Each experiment was conducted in duplicates or triplicates.

The extraction yield was measured by taking 1 mL of extract for the calculation. The extract was dried in an electric oven at 50 °C until the constant weight obtained. After that, it was cooled in a desiccator at room temperature before weighing to constant weight. The extraction yield was calculate by following Eq. (1):

$$\% Extraction Yield = \frac{W_{extract} \times V_{total of extract}}{W_{raw material}} \times 100$$
(1)

where:

Wextract: Weight of extract in 1 mL of sample after oven drying, g/mL.

V_{total of extract}: Total volume of extract, mL.

W_{raw material}: Weight of raw material used in extraction, g.



Fig. 2. Schematic diagram of USC-CO₂ extraction system.

2.2.3. Conventional extraction technique

The Soxhlet extraction was also investigated and the results obtained were compared to the result of the USC-CO₂ exaction process. Briefly, 5 g of sample was placed in a timble and extracted with 250 mL of ethanol or hexane for 6 h. After that, the solvent was separated from extract by using a rotary evaporator.

2.2.4. HPLC analysis

The qualitative and quantitative analysis of curcumin in extract was performed by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) with diode array detector (SPD-M10AVP, Shimadzu, Japan), according to method described by Kiamahalleh *et al.* 2016 [6]. The sample was filtered with a 0.2 μ m disposable membrane filter and 20 μ L was injected. HPLC analysis was carried out using an Inertsil ODS-3 column (GL Sciences, Japan), with length of 250 mm, internal diameter of 4.6 mm and thickness of 5 μ m. The operating temperature of the chromatographic separation was maintained at 40 °C. The mixture of acetonitrile and water (90:10 v/v) was used as mobile phase with a flow rate of 1 mL/min and the separation was performed at a detection wavelength of 420 nm.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Effect of Extraction Time

The effect of extraction time on extraction yield and curcumin content from turmeric was determined at temperature of 50 °C, pressure of 25 MPa, CO₂ flow rate of 3 mL/min with 10% of cosolvent. The experimental extraction curved for extraction yield and curcumin content are exhibited in Fig. 3. The results shows in Fig. 3 indicated that the extraction time for the high extraction yield and curcumin content obtained by USC-CO₂ were 60 min and 90 min, respectively. The ultrasound can produce micro-stirring and solvent cavitation which can improve the extraction yield and curcumin content from turmeric due to the damage of cell wall of plant and an increase of mass transfer of solvent when ultrasound was applied in SC-CO₂ extraction [17, 18]. Kawamura et al. 2016 [18] also found that the extraction yield of luteolin and apigenin from the leaves of *Perilla frutescans* were enhanced using ultrasound assisted SC-CO₂ extraction.

3.2. Effect of Temperature

To evaluate the effect of temperature on extraction yield and curcumin content, the extraction experiments were conducted at pressure of 25 MPa, CO_2 flow rate of 3 mL/min with 10% ethanol as cosolvent, and extraction time of 90 min. Fig. 4 shows that extraction yield and curcumin content increased gradually with increasing temperature of 40 to 50 °C. When temperature increased from 50 to 60 °C, the extraction yield

and curcumin content was declined. At temperature of 50 °C, the extraction yield and curcumin content were 7.17% w/w, 1.69% w/w, respectively. It is notable to point that the temperature could effect on the density of SC-CO₂, the vapor pressure of solute and the desorption of the solute form material. Increasing temperature increased vapor pressure of solute from the material. Thus, the solubility of extraction yield and curcumin content increased [19, 20]. However, when higher temperature was applied in extraction, extraction yield and curcumin content in extract may decrease because temperature might be continue to increase by the high intensity of ultrasound. Also, the oxidation of some compounds may occur due to the small amount of moisture content in material [21, 22]. Moreover, increasing temperature increased the volatility and diffusion of the solute and reduced the density of CO₂. As the result, the solubility of curcumin decreased [17].



Fig. 3. Effect of extraction times on extraction yield and curcumin content at 50 $^{\circ}$ C, 25 MPa, CO₂ flow rate of 3 mL/min, and 10% cosolvent.



Fig. 4. Effect of temperature on extraction yield and curcumin content at 25 MPa, CO_2 flow rate of 3 mL/min, 10% cosolvent and extraction time of 90 min.

3.3. Effect of Pressure

The effect of pressure on extraction yield and curcumin content is shown in Fig. 5. The extraction was conducted at temperature of 50 °C, CO₂ flow rate of 3 mL/min with 10% ethanol as cosolvent, and extraction time of 90 min. The result shows that the low extraction yield and curcumin content were obtained at pressure of 15 and 20 MPa. When pressure increased from 20 to 25 MPa, the extraction yield and curcumin content dramatically increased. The high extraction yield and curcumin were obtained at 25 MPa. It can be explained that increasing pressure increased the density of CO₂ and decreased the distance between the molecules. This increased the interaction of the solute and CO₂. Therefore, the solubility of curcumin in USC-CO₂ increase and this enhance the efficiency of extraction [17, 18]. Similar to this study, Santos *et al.* 2016 [15], who extracted cumbaru oil from the cumbaru almond using ultrasonic assisted SC-CO₂ extraction, reported that the global yield of extraction increased with increasing pressure because increasing pressure increase the density of CO₂.



Fig. 5. Effect of pressure on extraction yield and curcumin content 50 °C, CO₂ flow rate of 3 mL/min, 10% cosolvent, and extraction time of 90 min.

3.4. Effect of CO₂ Flow Rate

Figure 6 shows the effect of CO₂ flow rate on extraction yield and curcumin content. The extraction experiments were done at temperature of 50 °C, pressure of 25 MPa, extraction time of 90 min, and cosolvent percentage constant with varying the CO₂ flow rate at three levels (2, 3, and 4 mL/min). According to Fig. 6, the extraction yield and curcumin content dramatically augmented when the CO₂ flow rate increase from 2 to 3 mL/min. Then, the extraction yield and curcumin content was slightly declined with increasing CO₂ flow rate from 3 to 4 mL/min. It is possible that increasing CO₂ flow rate increased the amount of CO₂ molecule per unit volume that enters the extractor. Therefore, it increased the interaction of CO₂ and solute. This could increase amount of extracted solute in extraction process. However, an increase in CO₂ flow rate also provides the negative effect to the dissolution of compounds because the CO₂ flow through the sample matrix by channelling when high CO₂ flow rate was applied. This caused the shorter contact time between the solute and solvent. As a consequence, the solubility of desired compounds was decreased [13, 17].

3.5. Effect of Cosolvent

The effect of cosolvent on extraction yield and curcumin content is presented in Fig. 7. The extraction experiments were conducted at 50 °C, pressure of 25 MPa, extraction of 90 min, CO₂ flow rate of 3 mL/min, and varying the cosolvent at three level (10, 15, 20% v/v). Figure 7 shows that the extraction yield and curcumin content seem constant with increasing of cosolvent from 10 to 20% v/v. In this study the

preferred percentage of cosolvent is 10% v/v. This can be explained that addition of cosolvent increased the polarity of solvent and the contact time between solvent and solute. Thus, it could improve the solubility of polar compounds in extraction and enhance the extraction yield. Moreover, cosolvent can make matrix swell, this may allow the supercritical fluid penetrate into the matrix, resulting in increased the diffusion of solute in extraction [13, 23, 24].



Fig. 6. Effect of CO₂ flow rate on extraction yield and curcumin content 50 °C, 25 MPa, 10% cosolvent, and extraction time of 90 min.



Fig. 7. Effect of percentage of cosolvent on extraction yield and curcumin content 50 °C, 25 MPa, CO₂ flow rate of 3 mL/min, and extraction time of 90 min.

3.6. Comparison with Soxhlet Extraction

Based on experiment result above, the high extraction yield and curcumin content from turmeric using USC-CO₂ was at temperature of 50 °C, pressure of 25 MPa, extraction time of 90 min, flow rate of CO₂ of 3 mL/min with 10% cosolvent. The extraction yield and curcumin content obtained with this condition (USC-CO₂) were compared with those obtained with Soxhlet extraction using ethanol (SoxEtOH) and hexane (SoxHexane). Figure 8 (a) and (b) show that the extraction yield obtained with USC-CO₂ was comparable with that obtained with SoxEtOH. The low extraction yields was obtained by using SoxHexane.

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On the other hand, the curcumin content in extract of $USC-CO_2$ were greater than those obtained with SoxEtOH and SoxHexane. These results demonstrate that $USC-CO_2$ have the potential to extract curcumin from turmeric because ultrasound occurred in extraction helped to disrupt the cell water and increase mass transfer, thus reduce the amounted of solvent needed, temperature, and extraction time.



Fig. 8. Comparison of extraction yield and curcumin content with USC-CO₂, SoxEtOH, and SoxHexane.

3.7. Extraction Mechanism

In order to investigate the effect of USC-CO₂ on solid matrix, surface morphology of turmeric was analyzed by using SEM. Figure 9 show the images obtained by SEM on turmeric before extraction and after USC-CO₂, SoxEtOH, and SoxHexane extraction. Based on Fig. 9, it is clearly seen that sample that the surface of raw material seems hard and does not present any cracks or pores. However, sample after USC-CO₂, SoxEtOH, SoxHexane extraction had the presence of cracks and pores on its surface. These micrographs showed that the surface morphology of turmeric was changed after extraction. It is notable that there were some cracks and pores appears on surface morphology of solid reside after SoxHexane, but the pore size on this surface was smaller than that on the surface of the residue after USC-CO2 and SoxEtOH extraction. Even though USC-CO2 consumed less amount of solvent and shorter extraction time compared to SoxEtOH, the surface morphology of residue after USC-CO2 and SoxEtOH extraction was similar because the ultrasound produced the cavitation, which disturbed the cell wall and open up the pore, leading to release of solute from material [10, 11]. The degradation of material in extraction process is complicated due to the component joined to fiber by physical and chemical adsorption or embodied in cell of vegetable by unknown action. Ji et al. 2006 [25] explained the mechanism of ultrasound-assisted extraction as follow: first, the ultrasound waves propagated into the plant particle, resulting in breaking of some chemical bond of solute and plant material. Second, the high-speed micro-jet and high-pressure shock wave were generated by the collapse of cavitation, leading to make a hollow and erosion of external surface as well as the porous wall within the particle. Third, the turbulence wave created by ultrasound near the interfacial surface and porous within the particle increased mass transfer both external and internal surface. The mechanism of extraction of curcumin from turmeric by USC-CO₂ maybe similar to mechanism proposed by Ji et al. First, the ultrasound creates the cavitation that generates bubbles. Then, the tiny bubble go through the particle and break down the chemical bond of curcumin with fiber in turmeric. The production of cavitation near surface of particle can facilitate swelling and hydration. This causes expansion in the pore of cell wall, leading to enhance mass transfer of curcumin from turmeric to solvent by diffusion and osmotic process [26]. Furthermore, ultrasound can disrupt the external and internal surface of turmeric which favors the washing out of the disrupt cell content, leading to increase the accessibility of the curcumin to solvent [10]. The mass transfer of fluid into the cavitation surface also can be accelerated by addition of ultrasound in extraction process [11]. By these reactions, the curcumin was extracted from turmeric.



(c) Solid residue after SoxEtOH extraction



Fig. 9. SEM image of turmeric and its solid residues after USC-CO2, SoxEtOH, and SoxHexane extraction.

3.8. Characterization of Residue

The turmeric particle contains cellulose, hemicellulose, lignin, protein, lipid, starch and aromatic substances [27]. After extraction, the physical and chemical component of turmeric might change. Therefore, the properties of residue after extraction will be useful to understand about the effect of ultrasound in SC-CO2 extraction. Characterization of residues was determined by using TG and FT-IR. Figure 10 shows the TG curves of turmeric and its residue after USC-CO2, SoxEtOH, and SoxHexane extraction. The decomposition of turmeric and its residue were divided into three stages. First stage is ranging from 40 to 120 °C. At this stage, the water and volatile compounds in turmeric were evaporated. The stage II, ranging approximately from 180 to 350 °C, the weight loss was observed due to degradation carbohydrates in lignin, converting into volatile gases such as CO, CO2, CH4. The stage III, ranging from 350 to 500 °C, the weight losses also happened because the degradation of volatile compounds derived from lignin (Phenolic, alcohols, aldehyde acid and formation of gaseous products) was removed from sample [28, 29]. Other than that, it also could be seen that the TG curves of solid residue after USC-CO2 was higher than that of the turmeric and its residue after SoxHexane extraction, but lower than that of the solid residue after SoxEtOH extraction. This can explained that the solid residue after USC-CO2 had the small amount of cell wall components because some of components was extracted and degraded by ultrasound during USC-CO₂ extraction. Figure 11 illustrates the FT-IR of turmeric and its residue after USC-CO2, SoxEtOH and SoxHexane extraction. The list of typical functional group and IR signal with possible compounds was given in work of Kodama et al. 2015 [30]. Based on this figure, it is clearly understand that the peak spectrum in the region 3600-3000 cm⁻¹ represents O-H stretching in cellulose was found in all samples. The intensity of these peaks decreased in solid residues after extraction. The prominent band at 2860-2970 cm⁻¹ is attributable to the C-H_n stretching was obtained. This suggested that the residue also have aromatic

structure. The peak at 1625 cm⁻¹ representing C=C, indicating the benzene stretching ring still found in the solid residue. The peak at region 1601 cm⁻¹ reflecting C=C stretching was found in turmeric and its residue after SoxHexane, however it was disappeared in the residue after USC-CO₂ and SoxEtOH extraction. This implied that the aromatic skeletal mode was taken away from solid residue after USC-CO₂ and SoxEtOH extraction. The sharp peak in region at 1510-1560 and 1375 cm⁻¹ indicated to C=O stretching and C-H bending respectively, were found in all solid residue after extraction with low intensity. The peak at 1470-1430, 1280, 1206 cm⁻¹ are ascribed to O-CH₃, C-O-C stretching, C-O stretching presented in the solid residue after SoxHexane, but disappeared in the solid residues after USC-CO₂ and SoxEtOH extraction.



Fig. 10. TG of turmeric and its solid residues after USC-CO2 SoxEtOH, and SoxHexane extraction.



Fig. 11. FT-IR of turmeric and its solid residues after USC-CO2, SoxEtOH, and SoxHexane extraction.

The peak at 1152 and 1023 cm⁻¹ are due to C-O-C stretching vibration and C-O deformation respectively. The intensity of this peak fell down in all solid residues. The peaks at the region between 700-900 cm⁻¹ indicating to C-H was appeared in turmeric and its solid residue after SoxHexane, however it was

vanished in treated residue with USC-CO₂ and SoxEtOH extraction, indicating that the aromatic-hydrogen was removed from material after USC-CO₂ and SoxEtOH extraction. Based on current results, it can be concluded that USC-CO₂ and SoxEtOH have power to remove more functional group from turmeric compared to SoxHexane extraction. Addition of ultrasound to SC-CO₂ could breakdown cell wall and improved the mass transfer. This could remove some functional groups from cell wall, thus improved the extraction yield.

4. Conclusions

USC-CO₂ has been used to extract the curcumin from turmeric. The extraction was performed at 40-60 °C, 15-25 MPa, CO₂ flow rate of 2-4 mL/min, cosolvent of 10-20% and extraction time of 30-120 min. The temperature, pressure and CO₂ flow rate and extraction had significant effect on extraction yield and curcumin content while the cosolvent had small effect on extraction yield and curcumin content. The high extraction yield of 7.17% w/w and curcumin of 1.69% w/w as achieved at 50 °C, 25 MPa, CO₂ flow rate of 3 mL/min with 10% cosolvent, and extraction time of 90 min. Based on results of FT-IR, the intensity of some bands was decreased and some bands were disappeared, indicating that some components in turmeric were removed during USC-CO₂ extraction process. Compared to conventional method, USC-CO₂ could provide higher selectivity in extract. Addition of ultrasound in SC-CO₂ extraction process could improve both quality and quantity curcumin in extract from turmeric in a short extraction time.

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