

**CHEMICAL DIVERSITY AND BIOLOGICAL
ACTIVITY OF SECONDARY METABOLITES IN
EIGHT SPECIES OF *Curcuma***

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ABSTRAK

KEPELBAGAIAN KIMIA DAN AKTIVITI BIOLOGI UNTUK METABOLITE SEKUNDER DALAM LAPAN JENIS CURCUMA SP

Curcuma (Zingiberaceae) telah didокументasikan berasal daripada kawasan Indo-Malayan dan diketahui mempunyai sumbe metabolit sekunder dengan ciri-ciri farmalogikal yang menarik. Terdapat lebih kurang lapan spesis daripada genus ini yang digunakan oleh komuniti melayu. Akan tetapi, tidak banyak maklumat komposisi kimia mahupun aktiviti biologikal mengenai spesis ini. Di dalam kajian ini, minyak pati meruap dan metabolit sekunder telah di ekstrak, dipencarkan dan dikenalpasti melalui sistem kromatografi. Minyak pati diperolehi menggunakan penyulingan air dan di analisis menggunakan GCMC. Terdapat 40 komponen di dalam *C. aeruginosa* (0.17 %), 46 komponen di dalam *C. caesia* (0.16%), 65 komponen di dalam *C. heyneana* (0.23%), 25 komponen di dalam *C. longa* (0.33%), 10 komponen di dalam *C. mangga* (0.19%), 15 komponen di dalam *C. rotunda* (0.16%), 22 komponen di dalam *C. xanthorrhiza* (0.36%) and 20 komponen di dalam *C. zedoaria* (0.31%), dan ianya boleh dikategorikan ke dalam empat kumpulan. Kumpulan (1) terdiri daripada *C. aeruginosa*, *C. caesia*, *C. longa* and *C. xanthorrhiza*, yang mempunyai kandungan sesquiterpen oksida yang tinggi, manakala kumpulan (2), terdiri daripada *C. rotunda* and *C. zedoaria* mengandungi monoterpen oksida yang tinggi. Oleh kerana kandungan seskuiterpen terhidrogenasi dan monoterpen terhidrogenasi tinggi, *C. heyneana* and *C. mangga* ditempatkan ke dalam kumpulan (3) dan (4), masing-masing. Selain daripada itu, ekstrak rhizom telah diperolehi daripada soxhlet dan dianalisis melalui PTLC dan NMR, mempersembahkan kandungan 8 komponen di dalam *C. aeruginosa* (5.81%) and *C. caesia* (7.56%), 7 komponen di dalam *C. heyneana* (3.32%), 6 komponen di dalam *C. longa* (3.11%), 2 komponen di dalam *C. mangga* (1.92%), 5 komponen di dalam *C. rotunda* (2.07%), 6 komponen di dalam *C. xanthorrhiza* (3.23%) and 6 komponen di dalam *C. zedoaria* (3.72%). Analisis berdasarkan jenis komponen menunjukkan *C. aeruginosa* and *C. caesia* di dalam kumpulan 1 (germacrane, carabiane, guaiane and elemene), *C. zedoaria* di dalam kumpulan 2 (germacrane and elemene), *C. heyneana*, *C. mangga*, *C. longa*, and *C. xanthorrhiza* di dalam kumpulan 3 (diphenylheptanoid) and *C. rotunda* di dalam kumpulan 4 (monoterpenoids). Tambahan lagi, minyak pati *Curcuma sp.* dievaluasi untuk aktiviti biosidal mereka terhadap risiko bakteri yang berasal dari makanan. Minyak pati dari *C. xanthorrhiza* menunjukkan zon perencatan yang baik terhadap *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*. Melalui kaedah ujian MIC dan MBA menunjukkan minyak pati *Curcuma sp.* mempunyai ciri-ciri berikut; i) agen bakteriostatik-*C. mangga*, *C. rotunda* and *C. zedoaria* and ii) agen baktericidal- *C. heyneana*, *C. longa* and *C. xanthorrhiza*, terhadap *Staphylococcus - aureus*. Manakala, minyak pati *Curcuma sp.* mempunyai ciri-ciri; i) agen bakteriostatik *C. heyneana*, *C. mangga*, *C. rotunda* and *C. zedoaria* ii) agen baktericidal- *C. longa* and *C. xanthorrhiza* terhadap *MRSA*. Selain itu, antikanser yang sederhana daripada komponen yang dipencarkan dari *Curcuma* dikesan ;komponen **9** dan **10** terhadap *MCF-7* sel, dan komponen **7**, **10**, **11** dan **12** terhadap *HeLa* sel.

ABSTRACT

Curcuma (Zingiberaceae) are documented to originate from Indo-Malayan region and known to be a rich source of secondary metabolites with interesting pharmaceutical properties. There are at least eight species of this genus known to be utilized in the Malay community. However, not much information is available pertaining to its chemical composition nor of its biological potential. In this investigation, the volatile essential oil and its secondary metabolites were extracted, isolated and determined via chromatographic means. The essential oils were obtained by hydrodistillation and analyzed using GCMS. There were 49 compounds in *C. aeruginosa* (0.17%), 46 compounds in *C. caesia* (0.16%), 65 compounds in *C. heyneana* (0.23%), 25 compounds in *C. longa* (0.33%), 10 compounds in *C. mangga* (0.19%), 15 compounds in *C. rotunda* (0.16%), 22 compounds in *C. xanthorrhiza* (0.36%) and 20 compounds in *C. zedoaria* (0.31%), which then be categorize into four group. Belonging to group one, *C. aeruginosa*, *C. caesia*, *C. longa* and *C. xanthorrhiza*, contains high composition of oxygenated sesquiterpenes while in group (2), *C. rotunda* and *C. zedoaria* have high content of oxygenated monoterpenes. By having high content of hydrogenated sesquiterpenes and hydrogenated monoterpenes., *C. heyneana* and *C. mangga* were placed in group 3 and 4, respectively. On the other hand, rhizome extract derived via soxhlet and analyzed through PTLC and NMR, revealed presence of 8 compounds in *C. aeruginosa* (5.81%) and *C. caesia* (7.56%), 7 compounds in *C. heyneana* (3.32%), 6 compounds in *C. longa* (3.11%), 2 compounds in *C. mangga* (1.92%), 5 compounds in *C. rotunda* (2.07%), 6 compounds in *C. xanthorrhiza* (3.23%) and 6 compounds in *C. zedoaria* (3.72%). Analysis on type of compouds showed that *C. aeruginosa* and *C. caesia* belong to group 1 (germacrane, carabrene, guaiane and elemene), *C. zedoaria* in group 2 (germacrane and elemene), *C. heyneana*, *C. mangga*, *C. longa*, and *C. xanthorrhiza* in group 3 (diphenylheptanoid) and *C. rotunda* in group 4 (monoterpoids). In addition, cude extract and essential oil of *Curcuma* sp. (1mg/ml) were evaluated for their biocidal activity againts food-borne bacteria. Essential oil of *C. xanthorrhiza* showed good inhibition zone againts *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*. Furthermore, via MIC and MBA testing, essential oil of *Curcuma* exhibit ; i) bakteriostatic agent-*C. mangga*, *C. rotunda* and *C. zedoaria*, ii) Bactericidal agent- *C. heyneana*, *C. longa* and *C. xanthorrhiza* against *Staphylococcus aureus*. While, essential oil of *Curcuma* exhibit; i) Bakteriostatic agent-*C. heyneana*, *C. mangga*, *C. rotunda* and *C. zedoaria*, ii) Bactericidal agent -*C. longa* dan *C. xanthorrhiza* againts *MRSA*. Moreover, it was also found moderate anticancer activity from compounds isolated from *Curcuma* sp.; compound **9** and **10** against MCF-7 cell, and compound **7**, **10**, **11** and **12** against HeLa cell lines.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Traditional Knowledge

Traditional knowledge can be interpreted as the understanding to comprise of aesthetic, useful elements, literary, artistic or scientific creations of a particular ethnic. This knowledge is transferred from a older generation to a younger generation with the intention to sustain information within community, which then becomes a part of cultural and spiritual identity of the ethnic. These are usually portrait in the form of music, dances, songs, handicrafts, designs, stories and artwork in the language of the particular ethnic. Traditional knowledge could also be categorized into three parts; traditional agricultural knowledge (TAK), traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and traditional medicinal knowledge (TMK) (Overwalle, 2005).

Traditional Medicinal Knowledge (TMK) is reported to be useful, where up to 80 % of people worldwide are using this information and traditional knowledge as the primary medical health care in their community. This is mainly due to the unavailability of modern facilities and availability of cheap sources, withless side effects compared to synthetic drugs. Most of home-based remedies, including herbs and spices are used and marketed as high economic value medicinal plants. This phenomenon is gaining popularity and recognition worldwide, including in the developed and industrialized countries due to the promotion of TMK via health programs that are adapted local socioeconomic situations (Ghimire and Bastakoti, 2009; Bhat *et al.*, 2012).

In Malaysia, research on TMK from plant sources were reported by Ong and Norzalina (1999), Ong and Nordiana (1999), Kulip (2003), Lin (2005), Samuel *et al.* (2010) and Ong *et al.* (2011). Studies showed that local people use more than 100 species of plants as the principal component of their medicinal practices. Different

states or regions in Malaysia show different ways to utilize medicinal plants in the treatment of various diseases. Among the most common herbal plants are the members of *Curcuma*, which is one of the more common rhizomatous herbs (Zingiberaceae) that have been used as ethnomedicinal plants. *Curcuma* plants are being used in the treatment of pimples, sores, athlete's foot, abrasions and post-partum. They are also reported to have been consumed as supplement in the traditionally prepared tonics known as jamu (Habsah *et al.*, 2000), the oldest system of medicine in India called ayurveda (Policegoudra *et al.*, 2007), and traditional Chinese herb (Madhu *et al.*, 2010).

1.2 *Curcuma* sp.

Since ancient times, terrestrial plants have given benefit to human being as they become economics resources and play an important part in traditional medicinal practices of the local communities (Stern *et al.*, 2008). *Curcuma* is one of genus under Zingiberaceae family, which originated from Indo-Malayan region and now could be found throughout the tropics of Asia, Africa and Australia (Policegoudra *et al.*, 2007). *Curcuma* genus consists of over 70 species with rhizomatous characteristics where some of these species can be found in Malaysia; *Curcuma aeruginosa* Roxb., *Curcuma caesia* Roxb., *Curcuma heyneana* Val. and Zijp., *Curcuma manga* Roxb., *Curcuma longa* L./*C. domestica* Vel., *Curcuma rotunda* L., *Curcuma xanthorrhiza* Roxb. and *Curcuma zedoaria* (Christin.) Roscoe (Figure 1.1). Rhizomes of *Curcuma* are fleshy, aromatic, and remain dormant during winter. Their leaves are basal with blade broadly lanceolate or oblong and rarely narrowly linear while their inflorescence is a terminal spike on pseudostems or on separate shoots arising from rhizomes, usually appearing before the leaves. The plants grow up to 1 m tall and widely cultivated in Asian countries (Lin & Larsen, 2000, Al-Reza *et al.*, 2010).

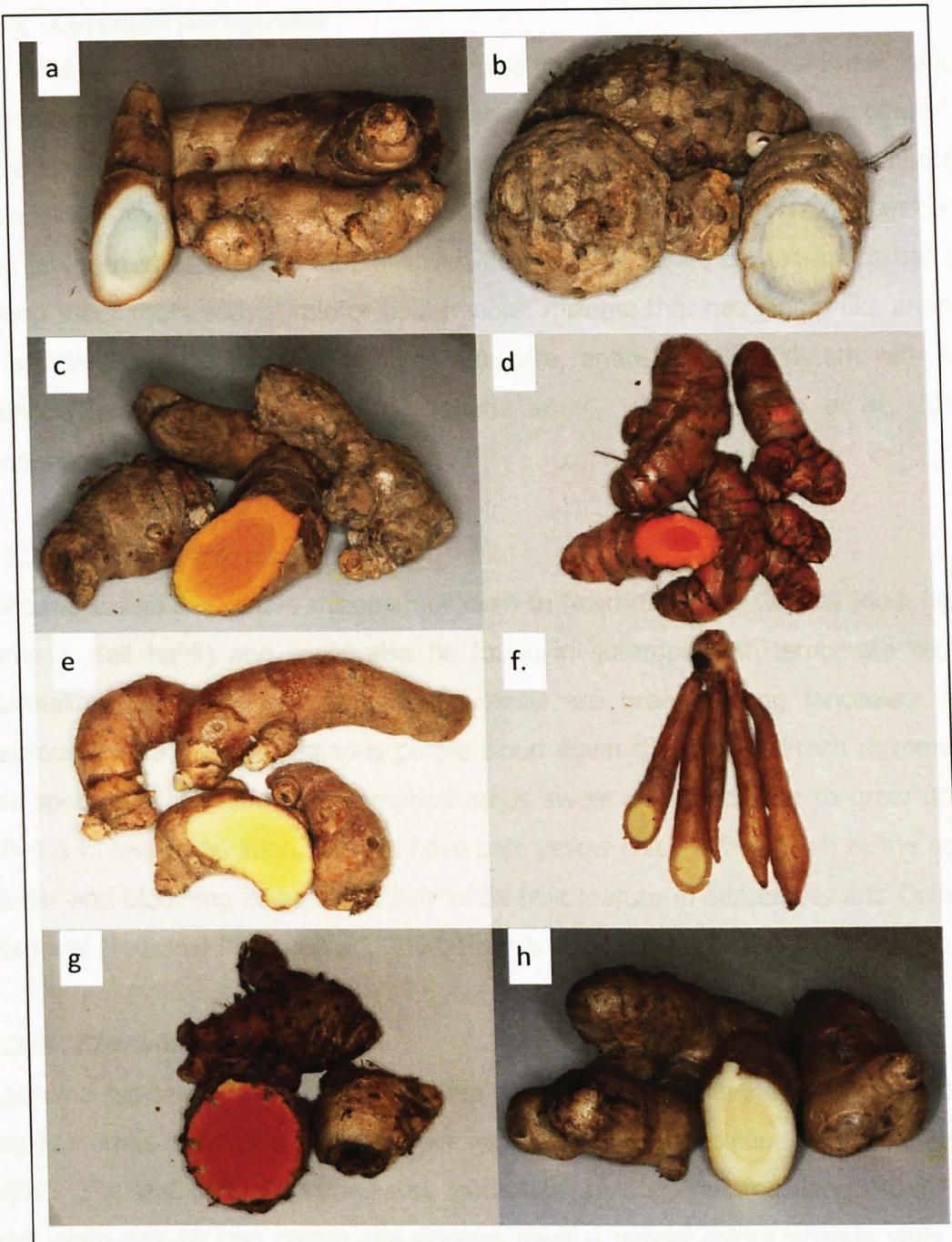


Figure 1.1 Rhizome of common *Curcuma* species in Malaysia;

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a= <i>C. aeruginosa</i>; | b= <i>C. caesia</i>; | c= <i>C. heyneana</i>; |
| d= <i>C. longa</i>; | e= <i>C. manga</i>; | f= <i>C. rotunda</i>; |
| g= <i>C. xanthorrhiza</i> h= <i>C. zedoria</i> | | |

1.2.1 *Curcuma aeruginosa*

One of the more common species of *Curcuma* is *Curcuma aeruginosa* Roxb. which also known as ‘Gajutsu’ in Japan, ‘Wan mahamek’ in Thai, ‘pink and blue ginger’, ‘arrowroot’ or ‘East Indian arrowroot’ in English. It is a native plant in tropical area especially in Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia and south India. *Curcuma aeruginosa* is also categorized as a perennial plant with height up to 30-40 cm tall and it has an oblong tuber roots with purple or bullish violet rhizome that has ginger-like aroma. In addition, this *Curcuma* species has alternate, entire, red leaf sheath with red midrib. (Ranjini and Vijayan, 2005; Takano *et al.*, 1995, Suphrom *et al.*, 2012, Thanphong *et al.*, 2010)

1.2.2 *Curcuma caesia*

Curcuma caesia is a native rhizomatous herb to North-East and Central India (local name ~ Kali haldi) and could also be found in subtropical to temperate region (Karmakaret *et al.*, 2011). Leaves of *C. caesia* are broad oblong lanceolate and glabrous with a deep ferruginous purple cloud down the middle. Fresh rhizome of this species is aromatic with camphoraceous sweet odor and able to grow up to 1.0–1.5 m tall. In addition, flowers have pale yellow color with reddish at the outer border and blooming in June and July while fruit mature in September and October (National Medicinal Plants Board, 2008, Paliwal *et al.*, 2011).

1.2.3 *Curcuma heyneana*

Curcuma heyneana is an indigenous plant to Java Island, Indonesia. Rhizome of *C. heyneana* has a sweet-aromatic odour with pale yellow in colour (Sirat and Meng, 2009). The leaf of *C. heyneana* was lanceolate, oblong, sheathed, long (40-50 cm) and width (15-18 cm). While the flowers have a yellow colour outside with pale yellow inside. The bract of flowers usually has a light green colour at below part with pink colour at the upper side. Moreover, this plant, also known as ‘Temugiring’, and was classified as an annual plants which can grow up to 1 m (Napitupulu *et al.*, 2008).

1.2.4 *Curcuma longa*

Another important species under genus *Curcuma* is *Curcuma longa*, also known as Tumeric and Haldi in Hindi. *Curcuma longa* is indigenous to tropical climates and widely found in India, China, Bangladesh and other Asian countries. This perennial herb was identified by having short stem, large, ovate and oblong leaves, pyriform or oblong rhizome with brownish-yellow colour and can grow up to 2 feet tall. (Khan *et al.*, 2008; Chattopadhyay *et al.*, 2004).

1.2.5 *Curcuma mangga*

Curcuma mangga originated from Indo-Malayan region and widely founds in tropics region including Asia, Africa and Australia. This plant is known as mango-ginger due to its mango-like aroma when the fresh rhizome being crush or cut. They can grow up to 1m tall with lanceolate, oblong, sheated, long, radical and petiolare leaves and their rhizomes are in bluff-coloured, fleshy, the diameter is 2-5 cm, with 5-10 cm long, branched and have pungent taste (Policegoudra *et al.*, 2011).

1.2.6 *Curcuma rotunda*

Curcuma rotunda has eight different botanical names; *Boesenbergia cochinchinensis*, *Boesenbergia pandurata*, *Gastrochilus pandurus*, *Gastrochilus rotundus*, *Kaempferia cochinchinensis*, *Kaempferia ovata*, *Kaempferia pandurata* and *Boesenbergia rotunda*. This plant is also known as temu kunci, finger root, Chinese-keys, krachai or krachai-dang (Chong *et al.*, 2012) and has been consumed as food and traditional medicine. Asian communities are known to use this rhiome to treat aphthous ulcer, dry mouth, stomach discomfort, leukorrhea, and dysentery (Cheenpracha *et al.*, 2005).

1.2.7 *Curcuma xanthorrhiza*

Curcuma xanthorrhiza is also known as temu lawa, false turmeric, was widely found in Asian region including Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. This plant can grow up to 2 m tall with branched orange-red inner-part colour of rhizome. Leaves of *C. xanthorrhiza* were blade, oblong, glaborous with green and purple mid vein colour while the flower came out from rhizome in separate shoots with mixture of purple, green and white colour (Lin and Larsen, 2000).

1.2.8 *Curcuma zedoaria*

Curcuma zedoaria, also known as 'temu putih', zedorary, krachura, gandamatsi and sutha , is a perennial rhizomatous herbs that is native to Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India. It is now widely cultivated in other Asian countries. This species can grow up to 1.8 tall with upright pseudostem and having a fleshy underground branches or rhizome. The white inner-part of rhizome having ginger-like taste and the large, oblong, deeply veined leaves having a bitter taste. Furthermore, *C. zedoaria* also can be identified through the whitish or pale-yellow with bright reddish-green bracts flower which uprising from the rhizome. Usually, flowering was happened during May-June and the ovoid capsule fruits were rarely to occur. (National Medicinal Plants Board, 2008 ; Das and Rahman, 2012).

1.3 Justification

Over the centuries rhizomes of *Curcuma* have been consumed and used in traditional medicinal practices widely (Ong and Norzalina, 1999; Ong and Nordiana, 1999; Kulip, 2003; Lin, 2005; Samuel *et al.*, 2010; Ong *et al.*, 2011). However, only few reports are available on the secondary metabolites profiles of *Curcuma* from Malaysia (Sirat *et al.*, 1994; Ruslayet *et al.*, 2007; Zaibunnisa *et al.*, 2008; Ishii *et al.*, 2011; Jantan *et al.*, 2012; Kamazeri *et al.*, 2012; Vairappan *et al.*, 2013). There is also a lack of information of the chemical profiles of their essential oils. In addition, even less is available on their biological properties and their medicinal importance to justify their use in traditional practices in the Asian communities. Hence, further research is warranted to better understand the chemical composition, their importance as chemo-taxonomical markers and their bioactive potentials. Information obtained from this research will enhance our understanding on the use of *Curcuma* in traditional medicinal practices in Malaysia.

1.4 Research Objectives

The eight *Curcuma* species identified for research are recognized as the most common *Curcuma* in Malaysia. This study will investigate the chemical composition in eight species of *Curcuma* based on their essential oil composition and secondary metabolites. Isolated chemicals will also be subjected to bioassay to evaluate their antibacterial and anticancer potentials. Therefore, the objectives of this study are:

1. To quantify the essential oil yield and composition
2. To quantify and profile the crude extracts
3. To isolate and elucidate the chemical structures of secondary metabolites
4. To identify antibacterial properties from extract
5. To evaluate anticancer properties from secondary metabolites

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Family Zingiberaceae

One of the largest family in the Plantae Kingdom is Zingiberaceae, and it consists of 53 genera and over 1200 species. Members of this family are distributed mostly in tropical and subtropical region especially in Malesian region that consists of Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Philippines and Papua New Guinea (Sirigusa, 1998). This family has been differentiated from other family in Plantae Kingdom based on their specific characteristic such as perennial, terrestrial, rarely epiphytic, presence of tuberous and non-tuberous rhizomes, short stem and other specific features (Sirigusa, 1998, Lin and Larsen, 2000).

Members of this family have been widely used as food, spices, medicines, dyes and also as traditional medicine by local people. Medicinal applications often involve consumption or applied as paste upon being homogenized, boiled in water and mixed with other herbs. In addition, species such as *Curcuma aromatica*, *Elettaria cardomomum*, *Zingiber montanum* are used as anti-venom to cure snake bites, *Kaempferia rotunda*, *Heychium spicatum*, *Zingiber cassumunar* are used to cure stomach ache and indigestion while *Zingiber zerumbet*, *Alpinia barcteata* are applied for tooth decay (Tushar *et al.*, 2010, Usia *et al.*, 2006).

Zingiberaceae has also become a major source of secondary metabolites and volatile hydrocarbons important in the production of new remedies. To date, diversity of chemicals with interesting skeleton type has been isolated from Zingiberaceae. These comprises the skeleton types of labdane diterpenoids (Sob *et al.*, 2007), flavonoids, chalcone flavonoids, cyclohexane diepoxide, bisabolane sesquiterpenes, diphenylheptanoid, cadalene (Jantan *et al.*, 2008), oxygenated bisabolane, oxygenated menthane (Sy and Brown, 1997) polyoxygenated

cyclohexane derivatives, acylated derivatives, triacylated derivative and cyclohexane diepoxide (Stevenson *et al.*, 2007).

Other than that, based on previous study, essential oil and crude sample of Zingiberaceae have shown great result in various biological assays. Species under this family have shown interesting biological properties including fumigant toxicity (Suthisut *et al.*, 2011), antimicrobial, antioxidant (Habsah *et al.*, 2000) antiallergic (Tewtrakul and Subhadhirasakul, 2006) antiinflamantory (Tewtrakul *et al.*, 2009) and tyrosinase inhibition properties (Chan *et al.*, 2008).

2.2 Chemical constituents of essential oil in *Curcuma*

Essential oil, also known as volatile or ethereal oils, is aromatic oily liquids obtain from plants parts such as flowers, leaves, bud, seeds, twigs, bark, wood, fruits or roots (Burt, 2004). Extracted under low boiling points and atmospheric pressure, essential oils obtained are often rich with a diversity of volatile chemical constituents. Compositions of essential oils in *Curcuma* sp. has been widely study and consist of terpene, aromatics and cinnamic acids group (Baser and Buchbauer, 2010). The understanding of their structure is important to develop these oils into concoctions with pharmaceutical potential. Essential oil compositions are also been used as chemotaxonomy markers in species differentiation in this family in addition to the conventional approach based on their structure, ecological process and their potential biological activity (Mandi and Sharma, 1994). The common chemical skeletons often found in *Curcuma* species are described in the following subchapters:

2.2.1 Monoterpenes: Cineole Type

Secondary metabolites of the chemical skeleton monoterpane are widely distributed in genus *Curcuma*, common representative is known as 1,8-cineole (**1**). This compound was found in *C. aeruginosa* (Jirovetz *et al.*, 2000), *C. amada*, *C. aromatica*, *C. longa* (Singh *et al.*, 2002), *C. caesia* (Pandey and Chowdhury, 2003), *C. cochininchinensis* (Grayson, 1998), *C. zedoaria* (Mau *et al.*, 2003). Moreover, α -3-carene (**2**) was also classified under cineole derivatives and recorded in *C. aromatic* and *C. zedoaria* (Singh *et al.*, 2002). Figure 1.2 shows chemical structure of **1** and **2**.

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