Application of the natural deep eutectic solvent choline chloride-sorbitol to extract chlorogenic acid and caffeine from green coffee beans (Coffea canephora)

Erline Yuniarti¹, Fadlina Chany Saputri², Abdul Mun’im³*
¹Faculty of Pharmacy, Universitas Indonesia, West Java, Depok, Indonesia.
²Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Universitas Indonesia, Depok, Indonesia.
³Department of Pharmacognosy-Phytochemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, Universitas Indonesia, Depok, Indonesia.

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**ABSTRACT**
This study aimed to determine the optimum method for extracting caffeine and chlorogenic acid (CGA) from green coffee beans (GCB) of Coffea canephora using choline chloride–sorbitol, a natural deep eutectic solvent (NADES). Three different preparations of choline chloride–sorbitol and choline chloride–sorbitol–urea (2:1, 4:1, and 6:1) were used for the extraction. The most effective preparation was used to evaluate the effect of dilution with water and extraction time. Reverse-phase high-performance liquid chromatography, with a gradient solvent system of 0.1% acetic acid (90%) and acetonitrile (10%), was used to quantify the CGA and caffeine. Choline chloride–sorbitol at a ratio of 4:1 was the most effective for extracting chlorogenic and caffeine, with caffeine and CGA yield of 4.49 and 16.59 mg/g dry weight, respectively. The optimum water concentration was not found. Using a higher NADES dilution for extraction corresponded to an increased yield of caffeine and CGA. The effective time for extraction was found to be 30 minutes, which yielded the most caffeine and CGA. Based on these results, choline chloride–sorbitol could be an alternative green solvent for extracting caffeine and CGA from C. canephora GCB.

**INTRODUCTION**
Coffee is the most popular beverage in the world. It is also one of the main sources of income for many developing countries such as Indonesia (Garg, 2016; Mussatto et al., 2011). Coffea canephora (Mori et al., 2016), synonymous with Coffea robusta (Garg, 2016), is one of the most famous commercial coffee species. Green coffee bean (GCB) refers to unroasted coffee beans and is one form of processed coffee of C. canephora (Garg, 2016). Chlorogenic acid (CGA) and caffeine are the major secondary metabolites in C. canephora seeds (Higdon et al., 2006). CGA is a C. canephora polyphenol and reportedly has pharmacological properties, such as antioxidant (Xu et al., 2012) and lipase inhibition (Mohamed et al., 2014), as well as enhanced glucose and lipid metabolism (Ong et al., 2013). Caffeine has a stimulating effect on the central nervous system (Shimoda et al., 2006), and also acts as a lipase inhibitor (Mohamed et al., 2014).

Currently, green technology is a major priority in chemistry because it is environmentally sustainable and associated with reduced negative effects on humans (Dai et al., 2013a). Natural deep eutectic solvents (NADES) are green solvents (Vian et al., 2017) that completely correspond to green chemistry (Espino et al., 2016). NADES’ general components include primary metabolites such as sugars (glucose, fructose, and sucrose), organic acids (lactic, malic, and citric acids), urea, and quaternary ammonium salts such as choline chloride (ChCl) (Dai et al., 2013b). NADES can be used to extract a wide range of metabolites, including polar and non-polar compounds, from plants (Dai et al., 2013a) such as Carthamus tinctorius (Dai et al., 2014), Tartary buckwheat hull (Huang et al., 2017), Sophora japonica (Zhao et al., 2015), and Cajanus cajan (Wei et al., 2015a; 2015b). The use of ChCl–sucrose as NADES components could increase extraction of phenolic compounds from C. tinctorius by 30-fold compared to conventional extraction methods (Dai et al., 2014). A NADES consisting of ChCl–glycerine could increase routine extraction by 30-fold compared to conventional extraction methods (Dai et al., 2014). A NADES consisting of ChCl–glycerine could increase routine extraction by 30-fold compared to conventional extraction methods (Dai et al., 2014).

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*Corresponding Author
Abdul Mun’im, Department of Pharmacognosy-Phytochemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, Universitas Indonesia, Depok, Indonesia.
E-mail: abdul.munim61@ui.ac.id

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A NADES system, consisting of ChCl and maltose, influenced extraction of both polar and weak polar phenolic compounds from C. cajan leaves (Wei et al., 2015b). Furthermore, ChCl–lactic acid was an excellent extractor of flavonoids (baicalin, wogonoside, baicalein, and wogonin) from Radix Scutellariae (Wei et al., 2015a).

Ahmad et al. (2018) used a high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) isocratic system and microplate reader to analyze the caffeine and total polyphenols from Coffea arabica. In this study, caffeine and CGA were simultaneously analyzed using HPLC and a gradient system. There are no reports on using ChCl–sorbitol to extract caffeine and CGA from C. canephora. Therefore, we aimed to identify the optimum extraction conditions for CGA and caffeine from GCB, using ChCl–sorbitol.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

**Plant materials and reagents**

GCB (C. canephora Pierre ex A. Froehner) was obtained from Lampung, Sumatera, Indonesia (Fig. 1). That sample was designated by the Center for Plant Conservation Botanic Gardens—Indonesian Institute of Sciences with number letter AQ2 B-522/IPH.3/KS/II/2018. The voucher specimen was deposited in the Laboratory of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Indonesia. The beans were ground and filtered through sieve No. 40/80. The powders were stored in an airtight bottle and protected from light. Standard CGA and caffeine were purchased from CSPC, China. ChCl was bought from Xi’an Rongsheng Biotechnology Co., Ltd. (Xi’an, China). Sorbitol powder (Roquette) was bought from PT Barentz, Indonesia. All reagents used [methanol (Merck), acetic acid (Merck), and acetonitrile (Merck)] for HPLC were purchased from a local distributor.

**Instrumentation**

We used a centrifuge (Heraeus-Christ GmbH, Osterode, Germany), an HPLC system (LC-20AD; Kyoto Shimadzu, Japan) equipped with two pumps (LC-20AD), an autosampler (Sil-20A HT), an automatic column temperature control oven (CTO-20A), and Inertsil ODS-3 5 µm (4.6 mm × 150 mm; GI Sciences, Tokyo, Japan) for the HPLC column.

**HPLC-ultraviolet analysis for the simultaneous determination of caffeine and CGA**

The HPLC method was modified from Navarra et al. (2017). There were three mobile phase types, as described below.

**Type 1:** 0.1% acetic acid (v/v) (solvent A) and acetonitrile (solvent B). The mobile phase was pumped at 1 ml/minute. The gradient profile ranged from 95% A and 5% B for 20 minutes, then isocratic at 80% A and 20% B for 10 minutes, and back to 95% A and 10% B for 5 minutes. The peak areas were measured at 272 and 326 nm for caffeine and CGA, respectively.

**Type 2:** 0.1% acetic acid (v/v) (solvent A) and acetonitrile (solvent B). The mobile phase was pumped at 1 ml/minute. The gradient profile ranged from 97% A and 3% B for 20 minutes, then isocratic at 80% A and 20% B for 10 minutes, and back to 97% A and 3% B for 5 minutes. The peak areas were measured at 272 and 326 nm for caffeine and CGA, respectively.

**Type 3:** 0.1% acetic acid (v/v) (solvent A) and acetonitrile (solvent B). The mobile phase was pumped at 1 ml/minute. The gradient profile ranged from 90% A and 10% B for 20 minutes, then isocratic at 80% A and 20% B for 10 minutes, and back to 90% A and 20% B for 5 minutes. The peak areas were measured at 272 and 326 nm for caffeine and CGA, respectively.

The following formula was used to determine CGA and caffeine in the sample:

\[
\text{Content subsamples in the sample} = \frac{\text{Concentration sample} \times \text{dilution factor} \times \text{sample volume}}{\text{amount the Caffeine or CGA in the extract (mg)}}
\]

**Validation**

Validation was performed by determining the linearity, precision, accuracy, limit of detection (LOD), and limit of quantification (LOQ) for analyzing caffeine and CGA. The method was modified from the Association of Official Analytical Chemist guidelines 2002. Linearity was obtained from the calibration curve, which was made by diluting standard stock solutions of caffeine (400 mg/l) and CGA (400 mg/l) with 70% ethanol, so the concentration range for the calibration curve was 0.4–80 mg/l. The calibration curve was arranged by plotting the area (y) versus the concentration of the standard solution was injected (x) to obtain the linearity equation and the value of r².
Intra-day and inter-day variations were used to obtain precision. Six samples were extracted using NADES ChCl–sorbitol (4:1) and analyzed under optimized conditions. For the intra-day variation, the samples were analyzed for 2 days, using six samples daily. The precision parameter was: % Relative standard deviations (RSD) ≤ 0.67 × CV Horwitz.

Recovery was obtained by spiking the sample with standard solutions. Six samples, spiked and un-spiked, were extracted with NADES and analyzed under optimized conditions. As a parameter of accuracy, the recovery range was 97%–103%. The LOD and LOQ for caffeine and CGA were obtained by signal-to-noise ratios (S/N) of 3 and 10, respectively, from six sample spikes.

**Composition of NADES**

We used six different NADES compositions: ChCl–sorbitol (2:1), ChCl–sorbitol (4:1), ChCl–sorbitol (6:1), ChCl–sorbitol–urea (2:1:1), ChCl–sorbitol–urea (4:1:1), and ChCl–sorbitol–urea (6:1:1).

**Preparation of NADES**

NADES was prepared by heating and stirring. Sorbitol and urea [as a hydrogen bond donor (HBD)] and ChCl [as a hydrogen bond acceptor (HBA)] were agitated with a magnetic stirrer at 80°C until a clear and homogeneous liquid was obtained; this was then diluted with 50% (v/v) water. Based on the optimum NADES compositions, they were diluted with various volumes of water to obtain concentrations of 25%, 50%, 75%, and 100% (v/v).

**Extraction procedure**

The extraction procedure was modified from Duan et al. (2016). For all NADES, 1 g of GCB powder was mixed with 10 ml of the NADES; the mixture was sonicated for 30 minutes and centrifuged at 5,670 × g for 17 minutes. Furthermore, the suspension was diluted with water for HPLC analysis.

For example, 1 g GCB powder was added to 20 ml of ChCl–sorbitol (4:1); the mixture was then sonicated for 15, 30, and 60 minutes, and centrifuged at 5,670 × g for 17 minutes. The suspension was further diluted with water for HPLC analysis.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**HPLC-ultraviolet analysis for the simultaneous determination of caffeine and CGA**

HPLC has applications and advantages over other compound separation methods in practically all fields of chemistry (Fornstedt et al., 2015; Mc Master, 2007). It is one of the most commonly used methods for quantifying an organic molecule (Moldoveanu and David, 2017), including the secondary metabolite from the plant. Today, HPLC is frequently used to detect multiple compounds simultaneously as it is easier and faster (Fornstedt et al., 2015). For HPLC, using a solvent gradient to modify the separations reached in the column elute...
more rapidly because it makes the solvent polarity more like the column polarity. Mobile phases 1, 2, and 3 had different retention times, illustrating that different solvent proportions could affect retention time in the mobile phase (Fornstedt et al., 2015). The caffeine and CGA yields in gradient mobile phase types 1, 2, and 3 were obtained at 19.679 and 23.204 minutes (Fig. 2), at 18.935 and 24.704 minutes (Fig. 3), and at 9.556 and 12.264 minutes (Fig. 4a and b), respectively. Caffeine and CGA were mixed to determine the combined retention time. The acetonitrile concentration was highest in mobile phase 3, leading to briefer retention time. This finding indicates that separation can be achieved by modifying the initial amount of acetonitrile (McMaster, 2007). We modified mobile phase 3 to simultaneously detect caffeine and CGA by combining the wavelength in one

Figure 3. (a) A chromatographic profile with mobile phase type two caffeine and (b) CGA.
liquid chromatography run and setting the wavelength for 272 nm in 3 minutes and 326 nm in 11 minutes. The chromatogram of the combination is shown in Figure 4c, with the retention time of 9.599 minutes for caffeine and at 11.950 minutes for CGA. The advantage of this method was using the mobile xphase, which was easier and cheaper than the method used by Navarra et al. (2017).

**Validation**

The linear regression equations of the calibration curves for caffeine and CGA (Fig. 5) were \( y = 79580 \times -24933 \) and \( y = 46057 \times -26606 \) and the regression coefficients \( r \) were 0.99962 and 0.99921, respectively. The linearity between concentrations and the area with this method were acceptable because the yield of the regression coefficient was more than 0.99. For intra-day and inter-day, the yield of the precision of CGA and caffeine were summarized in Table 1. RSDs were used to assess the precision. The yield of precision using this method was acceptable because the yield of RSD of CGA and caffeine was less than 0.67 CV.

Accuracy was determined by the yield of the recovery. The recovery for caffeine and CGA with this method was shown in
The composition of NADES and extraction procedure

In this study, green chemistry was used to improve the extraction process and obtain the optimum yield of caffeine and CGA from GCB. The extraction method was described in Duan et al. (2016). Ultrasound-assisted extraction (UAE) was used because it is usually simple, effective, fast, and applicable to any type of solvent (Nam et al., 2015). In this evaluation, we modified mobile phase type 3 because the range of separation and retention time for caffeine and CGA is briefer than that of the other mobile phases.

Figure 6 illustrates the result of the CGA and caffeine concentrations in various NADES compositions. The composition of ChCl:sorbitol that could effectively extract CGA and caffeine was in the ratio 4:1; the yield of caffeine and CGA were 4.49, and 16.59 mg/g dry powder. The extract’s density was 1.067 g/ml. The density and the amount of CGA and caffeine in the extract could be an extract quality parameter (Garg et al., 2012). This extraction with NADES did not need to be dried and, therefore, could be used immediately.

Based on the data shown in Figure 6, both ChCl:sorbitol:urea and ChCl:sorbitol could be used to extract caffeine and CGA in HPLC. This finding proved that NADES can extract metabolite compounds in the plant (Dai et al., 2013a) and can be used as a solvent (Espino et al., 2016).
The other advantages of using NADES are biodegradability (Dai et al., 2014), non-toxicity (Dai et al., 2014), and designer solvent (Espino et al., 2016), that is, with adjustable viscosity (Vian et al., 2017). ChCl:sorbitol:urea (4:1:1) and ChCl:sorbitol (4:1) provided the optimum yield for caffeine. To obtain the optimum dilution and extraction times, we used ChCl:sorbitol (4:1) as it had higher caffeine and CGA yields than ChCl:sorbitol:urea (4:1:1). Thus, different NADES compositions could extract solutes with different properties due to their different physicochemical properties, such as H-bonding interactions and polarity (Faggian et al., 2016). NADES occurs by mixing solid chemicals (Dai et al., 2013b) to form a eutectic system, and the hydrogen bonds and van der Waals interactions form a driving force in this system (Espino et al., 2016). Urea and sorbitol serve as the HBD, and ChCl acts as the HBA; therefore, both H bonds and van der Waals forces form the eutectic system. ChCl is a natural product forming a liquid from any primary metabolite (Dai et al., 2013a). The liquid formed between ChCl and sorbitol remains stable in the liquid state for over 7 days because the chloride ion from ChCl can bond with two hydrogen bonds and two hydroxyl groups from sorbitol; moreover, their spatial structure has a strong effect on hydrogen bond stability (Dai et al., 2013a).

Table 4 shows the caffeine and CGA yields when extracted using various dilutions of ChCl-sorbitol (4:1). Table 5 shows the effects of different extraction times.

![Figure 6. The scatter diagram for caffeine and CGA in NADES choline chloride–sorbitol–urea (ChCl:S:U) and choline chloride–sorbitol (ChCl:S).](image-url)
Table 5 shows the results of CGA and caffeine concentrations with different extraction times. The optimum extraction time was found to be 30 minutes; at that point, the caffeine and CGA yields were the highest at 4.57 and 11.53 mg/g dry powder, respectively. These results together could form the basis for further research to optimize a ChCl-sorbitol-based UAE method by response surface methodology, with several extraction conditions, to maximize the yield of the target compound from C. canephora. On contrary, the future works of the extract with that NADES could be developed as a raw material for nutraceuticals and the pharmaceuticals.

Figure 7 illustrates a chromatogram of caffeine and CGA separated using ChCl:sorbitol (4:1). The retention times of caffeine and CGA were 9.610 and 11.908 minutes. Based on Jeon et al. (2017), the CGA isomers after 3-CQA are 4-CQA and 5-CQA. This also proves that NADES can extract a wide range of metabolites from the plant (Dai et al., 2013a).

CONCLUSIONS

This work revealed that the modified mobile phase type 3 could be used to simultaneously determine the caffeine and CGA, using HPLC, because the retention times of both caffeine and CGA are shorter than the other types; furthermore, caffeine and CGA can be separated properly with this system.

The effective composition of ChCl-sorbitol that could extract CGA and caffeine was 4:1. When this ratio was used, the caffeine and CGA yields were 4.49 and 16.59 mg/g dry powder, respectively. This result proves that NADES can extract metabolite compounds in the seeds. Therefore, ChCl-sorbitol can be used as an alternative green solvent to extract caffeine and CGA in C. canephora GCB.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

All authors stated that there are no conflicts of interest.

ABBREVIATIONS

NADES: natural deep eutectic solvents; GCB: green coffee beans; CGA: chlorogenic acid; ChCl: choline chloride; S: sorbitol; U: urea; HPLC: high-performance liquid chromatography; 3-CQA: 3-caffeoylquinic acid.

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AQ1 Please note that the reference citation “Wei et al, 2015” has been changed to “Wei et al, 2015a; 2015b” matching with the references list. Kindly check.
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