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### International Journal of Pharmacy and...





# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

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## Review Articles

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| <a href="#"><u>POTENTIAL MEDICINAL PROPERTIES OF <i>CARICA PAPAYA</i> LINN. - A MINI REVIEW</u></a>                       | 1-4   |
| NATARAJAN SUDHAKAR, THEIVANAI @ VIDHYA RM.  |       |
| <a href="#"><u>IMPORTANCE OF MEDICATION ADHERENCE IN ENSURING EFFECTIVE AND COST-EFFICIENT HEALTHCARE</u></a>             | 5-8   |
| KAUSTUV BHATTACHARYA, KETOUSUTUO KUOTSU   |       |
| <a href="#"><u>IN VITRO EVALUATION OF HERB-DRUG INTERACTIONS: A REVIEW</u></a>  | 9-12  |
| LEENA PATIL, KIRTI KULKARNI, VINEETA KHANVILKAR, DR. VILASRAO KADAM   |       |
| <a href="#"><u>ROLE OF PIOGLITAZONE ON PROGRESSION OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS IN PREDIABETES: A MINI REVIEW</u></a>               | 13-15 |
| ROHIT KUMAR VERMA, POONAM TRIPATHI, AWANISH KUMAR PANDEY  |       |
| <a href="#"><u>A REVIEW ON LATEST GUIDELINES ON PROCESS VALIDATION OF EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY</u></a>                   | 16-18 |
| KOTHA ARUN KUMAR, N. VISHAL GUPTA, U NITIN KASHYAP, VEMURI PAVAN KUMAR  |       |
| <a href="#"><u>A COMPARISON BETWEEN OLD AND LATEST SYSTEMS IN DPCO</u></a>  | 19-20 |
| VEMURIPAVAN KUMAR, N. VISHAL GUPTA, KOTHA ARUN KUMAR  |       |
| <a href="#"><u>THE GENUS POLYGONUM (POLYGONACEAE): AN ETHNOPHARMACOLOGICAL AND PHYTOCHEMICAL PERSPECTIVES -REVIEW</u></a> | 21-45 |
| GANAPATHI NARASIMHULU, KESIREDDY KATHYVEVELU REDDY, JAMALUDIN MOHAMED   |       |
| <a href="#"><u>ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP - AN ALARMING CALL IN DENTISTRY</u></a>  | 46-49 |
| DARSHANA BENNADI  |       |
| <a href="#"><u>"IMMUNOMODULATORY AND ANTIOXIDANT ACTIONS OF DIETARY FLAVONOIDS"</u></a>                                   | 50-56 |
| DURGA.M, NATHIYA. S, DEVASENA.T   |       |

## Research Articles

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| <a href="#"><u>PROTECTIVE ROLE, IN-VITRO FREE RADICAL SCAVENGING ACTIVITIES OF ALANGIUM SALVIFOLIUM (LINN.) AGAINST CCL4 INDUCED HEPATIC DAMAGE IN RATS</u></a>            | 57-61 |
| PABBA PARAMESHWAR, YELLU NARASIMHA REDDY   |       |
| <a href="#"><u>DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION OF BILAYER FLOATING TABLETS OF DILTIAZEM HCL</u></a>   | 62-65 |
| DR. SADHANA R SHAHI, VIDYA M. MADKAR, PRASHANT N KSHIRSAGAR, DR. S. S. KHADBADI  |       |
| <a href="#"><u>IN VIVO PHARMACOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF <i>MIMOSA PUDICA</i> L.</u></a>  | 66-69 |
| UDDIPON AZIZ, RUMANA AKTHER, MOHAMMAD SHAHRIAR, MOHIUDDIN AHMED BHUIYAN  |       |
| <a href="#"><u>DRUG UTILIZATION PATTERN AND PHARMACOECONOMIC STUDY IN PAEDIATRIC DENTISTRY AT A TERTIARY HOSPITAL</u></a>  | 70-72 |
| JAYANTHI M.K, SUSHMA NAIDU V   |       |
| <a href="#"><u>FORMULATION AND EVALUATION OF NANOSTRUCTURED LIPID CARRIER (NLC) OF LORNOXICAM</u></a>  | 73-77 |
| PANCHAXARI MALLAPPA DANDAGI, GAYATRI ANANT DESSAI, ANAND PANCHAKSHARI GADAD, VAIBHAV B. DESAI  |       |
| <a href="#"><u>INTRA-SPECIES COMPARISON OF <i>MARSILEA MINUTA</i> LINN. AND <i>MARSILEA QUADRIFOLIA</i> LINN. USING RAPD MARKERS TO ANALYZE THE GENETIC VARIATIONS</u></a> | 78-80 |
| AMEY R. SHIROLKAR, SHRADDHA WADURKAR, GAJENDRA RAO, S. N. MURTHY, SHARAD D. PAWAR  |       |
| <a href="#"><u>FORMULATION AND EVALUATION OF ORODISPERSIBLE FILM OF SILDENAFILCITRATE</u></a>  | 81-86 |
| T. HASSANIEN SAGBAN, K. YEHIA ISMAIL   |       |
| <a href="#"><u>RP-HPLC METHOD DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION FOR THE SIMULTANEOUS QUANTITATIVE ESTIMATION OF EFAVIRENZ, LAMIVUDINE AND ZIDOVUDINE IN TABLETS</u></a>           | 87-92 |
| B. RAJKUMAR, T. BHAVYA, S. KULSUM, A. ASHOK KUMAR  |       |



|   |         |
|---|---------|
| <a href="#"><u>CHRONIC ANXIOLYTIC-LIKE ACTIVITY OF AQUEOUS EXTRACT OF CORIANDRUM SATIVUM SEEDS USING ELEVATED PLUS MAZE TEST IN SWISS ALBINO MICE</u></a>   | 93-95   |
| ARUN RAVINDRAN, MANOHAR V.R., MOHANDAS RAI, NIMISHA RAVEENDRAN, HARSHA NAIK   |         |
| <a href="#"><u>SYNTHESIS AND BRINE SHRIMP LETHALITY TEST OF SOME BENZOXAZINE AND AMINOMETHYL DERIVATIVES OF EUGENOL</u></a>   | 96-98   |
| MARCELLINO RUDYANTO,, JUNI EKOWATI, TRI WIDIANDANI AND TOSHIO HONDA   |         |
| <a href="#"><u>PRAFORMULATION STUDY OF P-METHOXYCINNAMIC ACID (PMCA) NANOEMULSION USING VEGETABLE OILS (SOYBEAN OIL, CORN OIL, VCO)</u></a>   | 99-101  |
| TRISTIANA ERAWATI M., ESTI HENDRADI, WIDJI SOERATRI   |         |
| <a href="#"><u>COMPARISON OF MAJOR SECONDARY METABOLITES QUANTIFIED IN ELICITED CELL CULTURES, NON-ELICITED CELL CULTURES, CALLUS CULTURES AND FIELD GROWN PLANTS OF OCIMUM</u></a>                           | 102-106 |
| REBECCA MATHEW, P. DEEPA SANKAR   |         |
| <a href="#"><u>MULTIPLE-UNIT CONTROLLED RELEASE PLATFORM FORMULATION BY WRUSTER PROCESS</u></a>   | 107-113 |
| VIKRAM GHARGE, PEEYUSH SHARMA, INDRAJEET GONJARI, ANIL BHANDARI   |         |
| <a href="#"><u>EFFECT OF SOLVENT TYPES ON PHENOLIC, FLAVONOID CONTENTS AND ANTIOXIDANT ACTIVITIES OF SYZYGIUM GRATUM (WIGHT) S.N.</u></a>   | 114-116 |
| S. SETTHARAKSA,, F. MADAKA,, L. SUEREE,, S. KITTIWISUT,, A. SAKUNPAK,, C. MOTON,, L. CHAROENCHAI,   |         |
| <a href="#"><u>EFFECT OF CITRIC AND MALIC ACID ADDITIVES ON SHELF LIFE AND SENSORY CHARACTERISTICS OF ORANGE JUICE</u></a>  | 117-119 |
| AHMED HUMAYUN, CHANDAN KUMAR GAUTAM, MUKUNDMADHAV, SUMEET SOURAV, C. RAMALINGAM   |         |
| <a href="#"><u>COEXISTENCE OF AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE WITH TYPE I DIABETES MELLITUS IN LIBYAN PATIENTS</u></a>   | 120-124 |
| EBTISAM A. ABOSSMAHA, SAFA E. ALMSAHLI, SAMI G. ALSABRI, SOFIAN S. MOHAMED AND MUSTAFA GEBREIL  |         |
| <a href="#"><u>O-PHTHALALDEHYDE BASED SPECTROPHOTOMETRIC METHOD FOR DETERMINATION OF SITAGLIPTIN IN TABLETS</u></a>   | 125-129 |
| MAI A RAMADAN   |         |
| <a href="#"><u>DIFFERENT CONCENTRATION OF ZINC TOLERANCE IN CHLORELLA VULGARIS &amp; THEIR EFFECT ON GROWTH AND BIOPIGMENT</u></a>  | 130-132 |
| NAMITA SIKARWAR, G. P. SINGH  |         |
| <a href="#"><u>MELATONIN AMELIORATES HYPERINSULINEMIA, GLUCOSE INTOLERANCE AND INSULIN RESISTANCE IN STZ-NICOTINAMIDE INDUCED TYPE 2 DIABETIC RATS</u></a>  | 133-136 |
| TARIQUE ANWER,  |         |
| <a href="#"><u>SYNTHESIS AND CYTOTOXIC STUDIES OF 2, 3-DIMETHYLINDOLES AND TETRAHYDROCARBAZOLES</u></a>   | 137-140 |
| T. O. SHRUNGESH KUMAR, K. M. MAHADEVAN, M. N. KUMARA  |         |
| <a href="#"><u>SYNTHESIS OF NOVEL N-(ARYL) DIAZENYL THIAZOL-2-AMINES AND BEZYLIDENE-THIAZOLIDIN-4-ONES LINKED TO INDOLE NUCLEUS AS ANTIOXIDANT, ANTIMICROBIAL, ANTIMYCOBACTERIAL AND CYTOTOXIC AGENTS</u></a> | 141-147 |
| SAUNDANEANAND R., PRABHAKERWALMIK, KIRANKUMAR N. M., ANNAPURNA H.   |         |
| <a href="#"><u>TOWARDS A SIMPLIFIED MODEL MEMBRANE OF SKIN LIPIDS: PREPARATION AND CHARACTERISATION OF A TERNARY LIPID MIXTURE</u></a>  | 148-152 |
| ,HASSAN M. GHONAIM, NAGARAJAN PERIASAMY, MASSIMO G. NORO,,JAMSHED ANWAR   |         |
| <a href="#"><u>SYNTHESIS AND FORMULATIONS OF LIPID AMINOGLYCOSIDE CONJUGATES: NANOPARTICLES FOR EFFICIENT GENE AND SIRNA DELIVERY</u></a>   | 153-157 |
| HASSAN M. GHONAIM,, IAN S. BLAGBROUGH   |         |
| <a href="#"><u>PREVALENCE AND ANTIFUNGAL SUSCEPTIBILITY PATTERN OF CANDIDA ALBICANS FROM LOW SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUP</u></a>   | 158-162 |
| SELVAM SARANYA. KANNAIYAN MOORTHY. SIVA SAKTHIVEL ARUL SHEEBA MALAR THAMBIDURAI PUNITHA.RAJA VINODHINI. MURUGESAN BHUVANESHWARI. CHINASAMY KANIMOZHI.   |         |
| <a href="#"><u>THEORETICAL MODELING AND DOCKING STUDIES OF SILKWORM OCTOPAMINE RECEPTORS</u></a>  | 163-166 |
| R. SUMATHY,, S. K. ASHWATH, B. B. BINDROOAND V. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN   |         |
| <a href="#"><u>ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITY OF EXTRACTS FROM SALVIA OFFICINALIS AND ROSMARINUS OFFICINALIS OBTAINED BY SONICATION AND MACERATION METHODS</u></a>  | 167-170 |
| MOUNYR BALOUIRI,, MOULAY SADIKI,, WESSAL OUEDRHIRI,ABDELLAH FARAH, SOUMYA EL ABED, SAAD IBNSOUDA KORAICHI   |         |
| <a href="#"><u>MICROTUBULE DISRUPTING N-PHENYL-N'-(2-CHLOROETHYL) UREAS DISPLAY ANTICANCER ACTIVITY ON CELL ADHESION, P-GLYCOPROTEIN AND BCL-2-MEDIATED DRUG RESISTANCE</u></a>                               | 171-179 |
| JESSICA S. FORTIN, MARIE-FRANCE CÔTÉ, RÉNA G. DESCHESNES, ALEXANDRE PATENAUDE-, JACQUES LACROIX, MARIE-ODILE BENOIT-BIANCAMANO AND RENÉ C.-GAUDREAU   |         |
| <a href="#"><u>DEVELOPMENT, CHARACTERIZATION AND EVALUATION OF SOLID DISPERSIONS OF ARTEMETHER AND LUMEFANTRINE BY SOLVENT EVAPORATION METHOD USING HYDROPHILIC POLYMERS</u></a>                              | 180-185 |
| ANNA BALAJI, HARISHA KUMARI M, UDAY KUMAR G.  |         |
| <a href="#"><u>DEVELOPMENT OF FAST DISSOLVING ORAL FILMS AND TABLETS OF CINNARIZINE: EFFECT OF SUPERDISINTEGRANTS</u></a>   | 186-191 |
| DEEPAK HEER, GEETA AGGARWAL AND S.L. HARI KUMAR   |         |
| <a href="#"><u>A STUDY ON ASSESSMENT OF CLINICAL PHARMACY SERVICES TO CARDIOLOGY DEPARTMENT IN TERTIARY CARE TEACHING HOSPITAL</u></a>  | 192-195 |
| RAGESH G., SINDHUBHARATHI A, USHASRI M, SRINIVASULU A.  |         |
| <a href="#"><u>THE EFFECT OF FISH OIL ON OXIDANT /ANTIOXIDANT STATUS IN DIABETIC RATS THROUGH THE REDUCTION OF ARACHIDONIC ACID IN THE CELL MEMBRANE</u></a>  | 196-199 |
| JIHAN SEID HUSSEIN, ZAKARIA EL-KHAYAT, SAFAA MORSY, FATMA ORABY, GAMAL SINGER   |         |

## PRAFORMULATION STUDY OF *P*-METHOXYCINNAMIC ACID (PMCA) NANOEMULSION USING VEGETABLE OILS (SOYBEAN OIL, CORN OIL, VCO)

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### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** This study aims were to obtain the praformulation data of *p*-methoxycinnamic acid (PMCA) (solubility in buffer; apparent partition coefficient between buffer and vegetable oils), to determine the fatty acids content and screening HLB needs of each oils as well as to determine the composition of nanoemulsion using these oils, surfactants (Tween 80 and Span 80) and ethanol 96% as cosurfactant.

**Methods:** Solubility test of PMCA in acetate buffer pH 4.2±0.2 were conducted with shakes and followed by measuring PMCA amount dissolved by spectrophotometer. To determine the PMCA apparent partition coefficients between buffer pH 4.2±0.2 and soybean oil, corn oil, VCO, respectively, PMCA dissolved in buffer then oil that has been saturated with buffer were added. Firstly by shaking followed by centrifugations than PMCA remained amount in the buffer was measured by spectrophotometer. Determination of fatty acid contents in the oils was used GC-MS while screening HLB was carried by various compositions of surfactants and cosurfactant to obtain a clear emulsion (nanoemulsion).

**Results:** From the results of this study, the solubility of PMCA in acetate buffer pH 4.2±0.2 was 70.04±0.66 mg/L. PMCA apparent partition coefficient in buffer pH 4.2±0.2 and soybean oil, corn oil, and VCO, respectively were 2.39; 2.38 and 2.41. The main contents of soybean oil fatty acids were 19.57% palmitic acid, 45.2% linoleic acid, 25.36% elaidic acid, and 7.07% stearic acid. The main contents of corn oil fatty acids were 26.86% palmitic acid, 31.52% linoleic acid, 31.30% elaidic acid and 4.68% stearic acid. The main contents of VCO fatty acids were 32.41% lauric acid, 24.15% myristic acid, 15.68% palmitic acid, 2.29% linoleic acid, 11.06% elaidic acid and 5.22% stearic acid. These oils HLB needs was 14 and the ratio of surfactant - cosurfactant which can formed a clear emulsion (nanoemulsion) was 6:1

**Conclusion:** 1) To produce nanoemulsion with soybean oil, corn oil, and VCO as oil phase HLB needs was 14 and the ratio of surfactant and cosurfactant was 6:1. 2) Nanomulsions with soybean oil and corn oil more turbid than nanoemulsion with VCO.

**Keywords:** PMCA, Solubility, Apparent partition coefficient, Fatty acids, Soybean oil, Corn oil, VCO, HLB needs.

### INTRODUCTION

One of the drug delivery system that has been known to increase the solubility and penetration of the drug is nanoemulsion system. Nanoemulsion system consists of a water phase, oil phase, surfactant and cosurfactant [1]. Increased penetration of the system is due to the increasing amount of material in the form of molecular medicine so that differences in the concentration of the drug outside and inside skin which can be greater as the driver of the penetration process, in addition to the amount of surfactant and cosurfactant high enough to serve as an enhancer [2]. Another advantage of this system is that the spontaneous creation without the need for heating and vigorous stirring. To increase the use of natural resources and improve the products of traditional medicine into modern medicine, the nanoemulsion delivery system is applied to the *p*-methoxycinnamate acid (PMCA). In order to attempt the development of PMCA as topical anti-inflammatory preparations on nanoemulsion system utilizing plant oils (soybean oil, corn oil, VCO). PMCA is a component of the *Kaempferia galangal* rhizome, widely used as a traditional medicine (Jamu) [3]. *Kaempferia galangal* rhizome by Javanese traditional herb used in a formula named "bobok" blend with *oryza sativa*. The formula function removes the body pain due to sprains, exercise or heavy work. To formulate a topical preparation is needed praformulasion data, then in this research study involves determining solubility and partition coefficient of PMCA, determine the fatty acid content and screening HLB need of vegetable oil and to get a comparison of surfactant-cosurfactant which can produce a clear (translucent) emulsion.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

These research started by qualitative analysis of PMCA by *IR JASCO FT/IR-5300 Instrument* and *Differential Thermal Analysis (DTA)*, than determination of  $\lambda$  maximum and PMCA standard curve in acetate buffer pH 4.2±0.2 followed by solubility test of PMCA in acetate buffer pH 4.2±0.2. Solubility test of PMCA in acetate buffer pH

4.2±0.2 were conducted by shaking for 4 hours at 150 rpm followed by measuring PMCA amount dissolved by spectrophotometer. To

determine the PMCA apparent partition coefficients between buffer pH 4.2±0.2 and soybean oil, corn oil, VCO, respectively, PMCA (50 ppm and 60 ppm) was dissolved in 10.0 mL acetate buffer pH 4.2±0.2 then oil (0.5; 1.0 and 2.0 mL) that has been saturated with acetate buffer pH 4.2±0.2 were added. Firstly by shaking for 2 hours at 150 rpm, followed by centrifugations for 15 minutes at 2200 rpm than PMCA remained amount in the buffer was measured by spectrophotometer.

Determination of fatty acid contents in the oils was used GC-MS while screening HLB was carried by various combinations of surfactants (Tween 80 and Span 80 to produce HLB 10,11,12,13 and 14). To obtain a clear emulsion one portion of oil added with nine portion of combination of surfactant and cosurfactant (1:1 ; 2:1; 3:1 etc. .... 9:1), than added slowly with acetate buffer pH 4.2±0.2.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result of PMCA qualitative test by *IR JASCO FT/IR-5300 Instrument* between wave's numbers 450 – 4000 cm<sup>-1</sup> that found the infrared spectra as showed Figure 1 and PMCA melting temperature (174.4<sup>o</sup>C) by *Differential Thermal Analysis (DTA)* showed in Figure 2.

Table 1: The PMCA solubility in acetate buffer pH 4.2±0.2

| Solubility of PMCA in ACETATE buffer pH 4.2 ±0.2 |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Replicate  | Concentration (mg/L) |
| 1  | 69.69                |
| 2  | 69.44                |
| 3  | 70.54                |
| 4  | 68.99                |
| 5  | 71.10                |
| 6  | 70.45                |
| mean ± SD  | 70.04 ± 0.66         |

Results of the determination of the maximum wavelength of PMCA in acetate buffer solution of pH 4.2±0.2; the PMCA maximum wavelength obtained in acetate buffer pH 4.2±0.2 was 301 nm.



Regression equation of the relationship curve between the absorbance vs. PMCA concentration obtained  $y = 0.1063x - 0.0014$  with a correlation coefficient  $r = 0.9999$ .

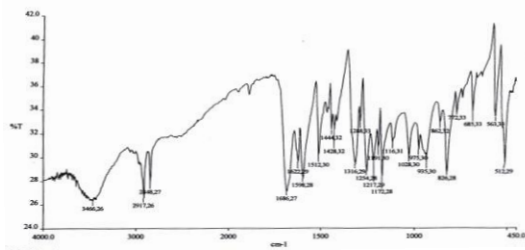


Fig. 1: PMCA infrared spectra between waves number 450 - 4000  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  by IR JASCO FT/IR-5300 Instrument.

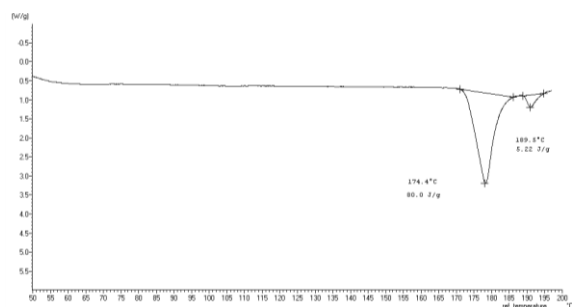


Fig. 2: PMCA melting temperature ( $174.4^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) by Differential Thermal Analysis (DTA)

PMCA solubility determination in acetate buffer solution of pH  $4.2 \pm 0.2$  begins with the timing of PMCA saturated solubility in acetate buffer solution of pH  $4.2 \pm 0.2$  can be seen in Figure 3. and the results of ANOVA test is known all PMCA concentration at 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 hour did not differ significantly so that it can be concluded time its saturation solubility at 4<sup>th</sup> hour.

While the results of the determination of the PMCA solubility in acetate buffer pH  $4.2 \pm 0.2$  during 4<sup>th</sup> hour was  $70.04 \pm 0.66$  mg/L can be seen in Table 1.

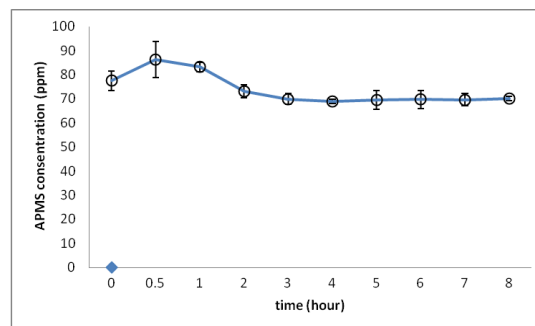


Fig. 3: Correlation curve between PMCA concentrations (ppm) in acetate buffer pH  $4.2 \pm 0.2$  vs. time (hour)

The apparent partition coefficient of PMCA (concentration of 50 and 60 ppm) in acetate buffer pH  $4.2 \pm 0.2$  and each oil (soybean oil/corn oil/VCO) with ratio of 10:0.5; 10:1.0; 10:2.0 are presented in Table 2. From Table 2 known apparent partition coefficients of PMCA in acetate buffer pH  $4.2 \pm 0.2$  and soybean oil, corn oil, VCO were  $2.39 \pm 0.11$ ;  $2.38 \pm 0.12$  and  $2.41 \pm 0.13$  respectively.

Table 2: PMCA apparent partition coefficient in acetate buffer pH  $4.2 \pm 0.2$  and each oil (soybean oil, corn oil, and VCO)

| Oil         | Buffer : Oil Ratio (mL) | PMCA Apparent partition coefficient |      |      |        |      |      | Mean $\pm$ SD |                 |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|------|------|--------|------|------|---------------|-----------------|
|             |                         | Concentration PMCA in buffer        |      |      |        |      |      |               |                 |
|             |                         | 50 ppm                              |      |      | 60 ppm |      |      |               |                 |
|             |                         | 1                                   | 2    | 3    | 1      | 2    | 3    |               |                 |
| Soybean oil | 10 : 0.5                | 2.53                                | 2.52 | 2.51 | 2.57   | 2.55 | 2.56 | 2.54          | $2.39 \pm 0.11$ |
|             | 10 : 1.0                | 2.36                                | 2.33 | 2.34 | 2.38   | 2.39 | 2.37 | 2.36          |                 |
|             | 10 : 2.0                | 2.24                                | 2.29 | 2.26 | 2.21   | 2.33 | 2.31 | 2.27          |                 |
| Corn oil    | 10 : 0.5                | 2.52                                | 2.54 | 2.56 | 2.55   | 2.55 | 2.54 | 2.54          | $2.38 \pm 0.12$ |
|             | 10 : 1.0                | 2.38                                | 2.36 | 2.37 | 2.38   | 2.39 | 2.36 | 2.37          |                 |
|             | 10 : 2.0                | 2.29                                | 2.28 | 2.29 | 2.16   | 2.16 | 2.16 | 2.22          |                 |
| VCO         | 10 : 0.5                | 2.51                                | 2.48 | 2.46 | 2.69   | 2.64 | 2.62 | 2.57          | $2.41 \pm 0.13$ |
|             | 10 : 1.0                | 2.39                                | 2.39 | 2.42 | 2.48   | 2.49 | 2.51 | 2.45          |                 |
|             | 10 : 2.0                | 2.25                                | 2.26 | 2.29 | 2.33   | 2.28 | 2.29 | 2.28          |                 |

Table 3: The main contents of soybean oil, corn oil, and VCO fatty acids

| Fatty acids main contents of vegetable oil |           |                            |           |                            |           |
|--|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Soybean oil                                |           | VCO                        |           |                            |           |
| Fatty acid                                 | Conc. (%) | Fatty acid                 | Conc. (%) | Fatty acid                 | Conc. (%) |
| palmitic acid (C16)                        | 19.57     | palmitic acid (C16)        | 26.86     | lauric acid (C12)          | 32.41     |
| linoleic acid (C18:2)                      | 45.20     | linoleic acid (C18:2)      | 31.52     | myristic acid (C14)        | 24.15     |
| elaidic acid (C18:1) trans                 | 25.36     | elaidic acid (C18:1) trans | 31.30     | palmitic acid (C16)        | 15.68     |
| stearic acid (C18)                         | 7.07      | stearic acid (C18)         | 4.68      | linoleic acid (C18:2)      | 2.29      |
|  |           |                            |           | elaidic acid (C18:1) trans | 11.06     |
|  |           |                            |           | stearic acid (C18)         | 5.22      |

Results of the determination of fatty acid content of soybean oil, corn oil and VCO using GC-MS can be seen in Table 3. From Table 3 it can be seen that the highest levels of soybean oil fatty acids was 45.20%

linoleic acid (C18:2), the highest levels of corn oil fatty acids was 31.52% oleic acid (C18:1/-cis) and 31.30% elaidic acid (18:1/-trans), while the highest fatty acid levels VCO is 32.41% lauric acid

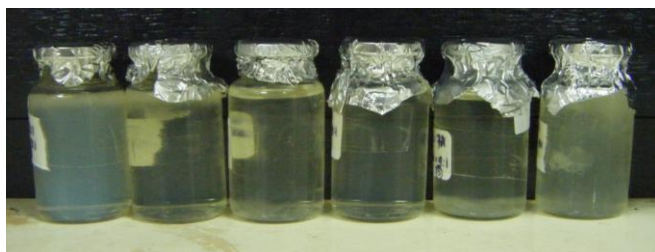
(C12). Screening of oils HLB needs and determination of surfactants (combination surfactants Tween 80 - Span 80): cosurfactant

(ethanol) ratios were done by ratio 1:1 until 9:1 and combination surfactants Tween 80-Span 80 at HLB 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

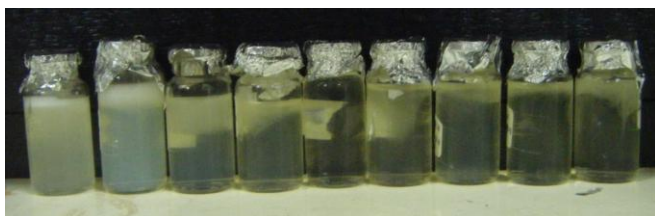
That result known at surfactant combination with HLB 10, 11 and 12 the emulsion using all oils turbid, at surfactants combination with HLB 13 emulsion using soybean oil and corn oil were turbid, while emulsion using VCO start from surfactant and co-surfactant ratio 3:1 produced clear emulsion. At surfactants combination with HLB 14 emulsion using soybean oil and corn oil appear translucent start from surfactant and cosurfactant ratio 5:1, while emulsion that used VCO start from surfactant and cosurfactant ratio 3:1. So that for application suggest use surfactant and cosurfactant ratio 6:1 at combination surfactants with HLB 14 to produce more stable clear emulsion. The example of emulsion can see in Figure 4, 5, 6 and 7. From Figure 7 was shown that emulsion with VCO more clearly than emulsion with soybean oil and corn oil. It was caused atom C chain of soybean oil and corn oil fatty acid mean content longer than VCO, so that emulsion droplet will be bigger and transparency was decrease [4].



**Fig. 4: Emulsion used VCO with surfactants-cosurfactants ratio of 4:1; 6:1; 7:1 and combination surfactants to produced HLB 12**



**Fig. 5: Emulsions used VCO with surfactants-cosurfactants ratio of 3:1; 4:1; 5:1; 6:1; 7:1; 8:1 and surfactants combination to produced HLB 13**



**Fig. 6: Emulsions used VCO with surfactants-cosurfactants ratio of 1:1; 2:1; 3:1; 4:1; 5:1; 6:1; 7:1; 8:1; 9:1 and surfactants combination to produced HLB 14**



**Fig.7: Emulsions used soybean oil (a), corn oil (b) and VCO (c) with surfactants-cosurfactants ratio of 5:1; 6:1; 7:1 and surfactants combination to produced HLB 14.**

## CONCLUSION

From the results of this study concluded:

1. The solubility of PMCA in acetate buffer pH  $4.2 \pm 0.2$  was  $70.04 \pm 0.66$  mg/L.
2. PMCA apparent partition coefficient in acetate buffer pH  $4.2 \pm 0.2$  and soybean oil, corn oil, and VCO, were  $2.39 \pm 0.11$ ;  $2.38 \pm 0.12$  and  $2.41 \pm 0.13$  respectively.
3. The main contents of soybean oil fatty acids were 19.57% palmitic acid, 45.2% linoleic acid, 25.36% elaidic acid, and 7.07% stearic acid. The main contents of corn oil fatty acids were 26.86% palmitic acid, 31.52% linoleic acid, 31.30% elaidic acid and 4.68% stearic acid. The main contents of VCO fatty acids were 32.41% lauric acid, 24.15% myristic acid, 15.68% palmitic acid, 2.29% linoleic acid, 11.06% elaidic acid and 5.22% stearic acid.
4. Soybean oil, corn oil, and VCO HLB needs was 14 and the ratio of surfactant and cosurfactant which can formed a clear emulsion (nanoemulsion) was 6:1.
5. Nanomulsions with soybean oil and corn oil more turbid than nanoemulsion with VCO.

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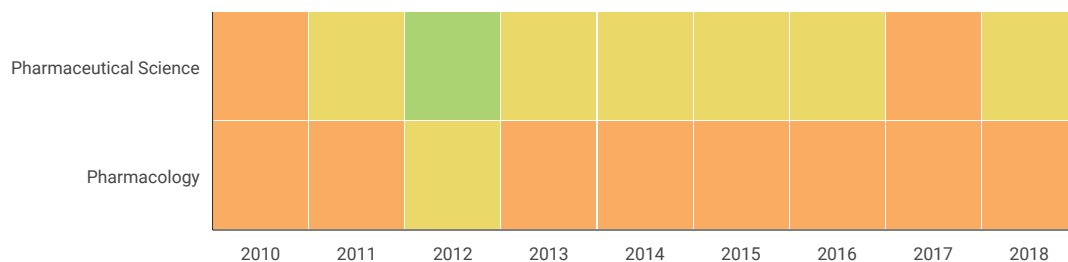
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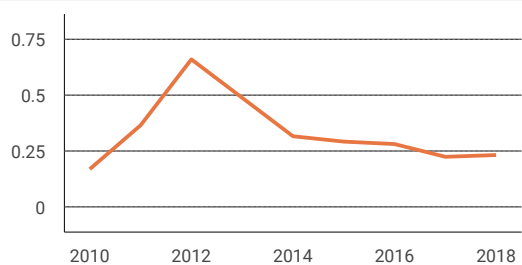


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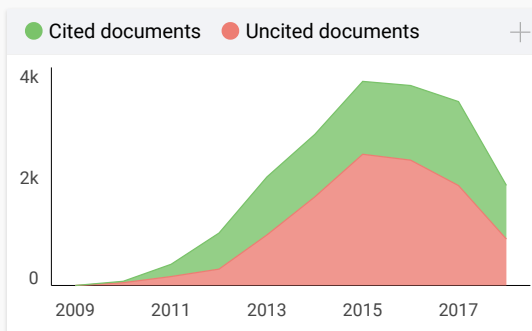
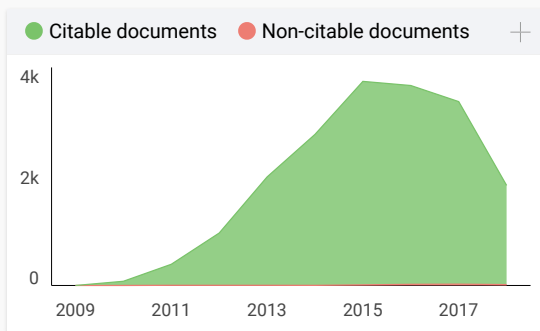
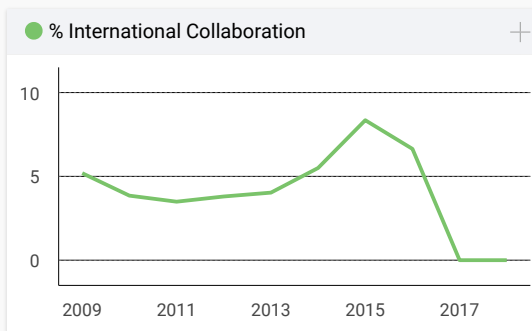
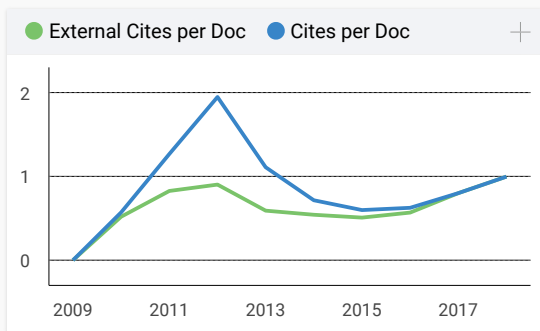
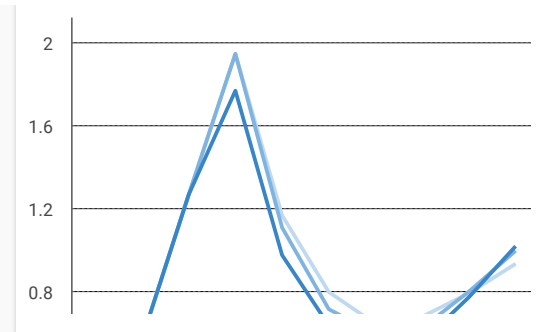
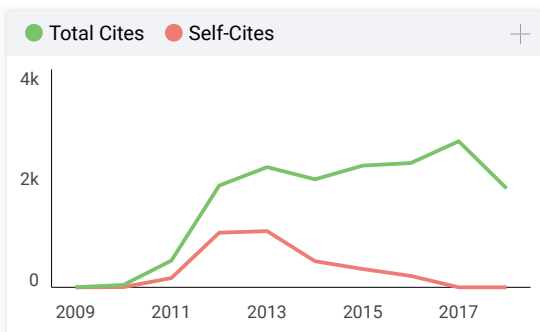


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