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**AnjeLina Nor Sari**  
Faculty of Forestry, Iambung  
Mangkurat University,  
Indonesia

**Siti Hamidah**  
1] Faculty of Forestry, Iambung  
Mangkurat University,  
Indonesia  
2] Center for Tropical Forest  
Studies, Lambung Mangkurat  
University, Indonesia  
3] Center of Innovation,  
Technology, Commercialization  
Management, Forest and  
Wetlands, Lambung Mangkurat  
University, Indonesia

**Gusti Abdul Rahmat Thamrin**  
Faculty of Forestry, Iambung  
Mangkurat University,  
Indonesia

**Yudi Firmanul Arifin**  
1] Faculty of Forestry, Iambung  
Mangkurat University,  
Indonesia  
2] Center for Tropical Forest  
Studies, Lambung Mangkurat  
University, Indonesia  
3] Center of Innovation,  
Technology, Commercialization  
Management, Forest and  
Wetlands, Lambung Mangkurat  
University, Indonesia

**Corresponding Author:**  
**AnjeLina Nor Sari**  
Faculty of Forestry, Iambung  
Mangkurat University,  
Indonesia

## The effect of the size of the red bajakah powder (*Uncaria acida* (Hunter) Roxb) on the quality of the tea produced

**AnjeLina Nor Sari, Siti Hamidah, Gusti Abdul Rahmat Thamrin and Yudi Firmanul Arifin**

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### Abstract

Several research results it is stated that the size of the tea powder affects the quality of the tea produced, so in this research the size of the red bajakah tea powder is divided into three sizes categories, namely: A1 (<10 mesh), A2 (10-16 mesh), A3 (>16 mesh). Furthermore, the treatment was compared with SNI Black tea bags No. 3753:2014. Parameters observed were moisture content, total ash content, and organoleptic tests. Organoleptic testing using description and hedonic tests. The treatment was compared with SNI black tea bags No 3753:2014. Parameters observed were moisture content, total ash content, and organoleptic tests. Organoleptic testing using description and hedonic tests. The result showed that the size of the red bajakah powder had a significant and very significant effect on all parameters except taste. However, the size of the bajakah powder still cannot produce tea that can meet the standards except for powder size >16 mesh. Therefore, it is recommended to make bajakah tea using a powder size >16 mesh.

**Keywords:** Red bajakah, herbal tea, powder size, tea bag quality

### 1. Introduction

Bajakah plants are vines that grow a lot in the forests of Kalimantan. Empirically, bajakah has been used as a medicinal plant by the Dayak ethnic for a long time, both for external and internal medicine. In Indonesia, there are about 200 species of bajakah, 55 of which are *Uncaria* species and eight of them are spreader in the forests of Kalimantan, one of which is the red bajakah (*Uncaria acida*) [1, 2].

Bajakah has erect stems, is brown in color, and propagates to surrounding trees [3] and its roots are at the bottom of peat waters and are endemic to Indonesia [4]. The genus *Uncaria* has the most extensive distribution compared to other bajakah. The red extract has the best cytotoxic activity compared to other bajakah [1]. The qualitative test of the red bajakah extract was positive for saponins, phenolics, flavonoids, tannins, terpenoids, glycosides and alkaloids [5]. The red Bajakah Kalalawit also contains functional compounds from the polyphenol group, antibacterial and catechins which are high antioxidant compounds and have anticancer activity [6]. In addition to the above compounds, red Bajakah kaialawit also quercetin compounds, tanning substances catechins, red catechins, mucus, and fat [7].

All parts of the red bajakah can be used, the parts that are most widely used are the stems and leaves [8, 2]. Various researches on bajakah are currently being carried out, as is the development of products from bajakah. One of the herbal products from bajakah that is currently being developed is herbal tea from bajakah. There are two groups of teas, namely herbal teas and non-herbal teas [9]. Herbal teas are teas made from the processing of flowers, bark, roots and leaves of various plants. However, until now there has been no specific research on the quality of bajakah tea, therefore it is necessary to conduct research on the quality of tea made from bajakah stems. Based on this, it is necessary to conduct research that aims to analyze the quality of bajakah herbal tea made from various sizes of powder. It is hoped that from the results of this study it can be recommended to choose the size of bajakah powder in order to produce herbal teas that can meet SNI standards, namely SNI black tea bags No 3753:2014 Currently, there is no SNI standard specifically for herbal teas, therefore as a first step the quality of herbal tea from pirated powder will be determined using black teabag standards because the bajakah tea made in this study is in the form of teabags [10].

## 2. Research Methods

The research was carried out at Laboratory of Forest Product Technology, Faculty of Forestry, Lambung Mangkurat University, Banjarbaru and the Herbal Tea Production Laboratory, Center for Technological Innovation, Commercialization, Management: Forests and Wetlands, Lambung Mangkurat University (PUI-ULM). The research was carried out for two months from June to July 2022 covering sample preparation, testing, data collection, data processing and data presentation. The experimental design used was a completely randomized design (CRD) with 3 treatments. The factor studied was the size of the bajakah powder. Each treatment was repeated 3 times, so there were 9 experimental units. To find out whether or not there was an effect of treatment, data analysis was carried out using 5% and 1% ANOVA. If the treatment has a significant or very significant effect, then it is continued with Duncan's Multitype Range Test (DMRT) to determine the difference between treatments.

### 2.1 Preparation and Testing of Sample

The preparation of the tiller includes the preparation of the simplicia of bajakah rods which is started by wet sorting, with the aim of removing the dirt that is still attached to the rods. The bark of the bajakah wood is peeled, then the bark that has been peeled is washed until clean, drained and air-dried for 3 days.

### 2.2 Sample Making

Bajakah stems were chopped using a wood chopper tool, then the chopped powder was sieved using a 10 and 16 mesh sieve with a position of 10 mesh above, and 16 mesh below, so that

there were three sizes of powder, namely <10 mesh, 10-16 mesh, and > 16 mesh with the aim of knowing which powder size is in accordance with SNI 3753-1995 [11]. The powder is then dried using an oven at 50 °C for one hour with the aim that it does not become a medium for the growth of microorganisms such as fungi, bacteria, and other contaminants that can cause damage when heating tea. Drying is also intended so that the powder that will be put into the tea bag can meet the standards of SNI 3753:2014 (maximum 10%) [10]. This drying temperature is the best drying temperature for herbs. The Indonesian Ministry of Health 1995 stated that a good drying temperature for herbs is 30-90%. After going through the drying process, the powder is then put into tea bags of 1 gram each, then the tea is packed using closed aluminum foil paper.

## 2.3 Sample Testing

The quality of tea is determined by laboratory tests and organo-epic tests. Laboratory tests carried out in this study were: Water content and total ash content, while the organoleptic tests included color, odor, taste and preference. The moisture content test used the oven method, the total ash content was the furnace method [12]. The organoleptic test used the descriptive method (color, smell, and taste) and the hedonic method (overall preference).

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1 Result

The results of the study on the effect of the size of the powder on the water content, total ash content and organo-epic tests (color, odor, taste, and preference) can be seen in Table 1.

**Table 1:** Results of Test of Water Content (%), Total Ash Content (%) and Organoleptic Test of Red Bajakah Tea on Various Sizes of Powder made Testing of Bajakah Tea Powder Size on Water Content, Total Ash Content and Organo Ieptics

S. No	Parameter	A1 (<10 mesh)	A2 (10-16 mesh)	A3 (>16 mesh)	Result of Anova Test	SNI Indonesia Standart 3753:2014	Information
1.	Water Content (%)	16, 73 <sup>a)</sup>	14, 95 <sup>b)</sup>	12, 35 <sup>c)</sup>	**	Maksimal 10%	No one meet SNI (Indonesia Standart)
2.	Ash Content (%)	1, 00 <sup>c)</sup>	1, 53 <sup>b)</sup>	5, 40 <sup>a)</sup>	**	4-8%	Only A3 that meets stand art
3.	Color Panelist assessment (In numbers)	a bit red 2, 00 <sup>b)</sup>	Red 3, 67 <sup>ab)</sup>	dark red 4, 33 <sup>a)</sup>	*	brownness red	A2 and A3 that meet stand arts
4.	Smell Panelist Assessment (In numbers)	unsmell 2, 44 <sup>b)</sup>	unsmell 2, 67 <sup>b)</sup>	typical red bajakah 4, 33 <sup>a)</sup>	**	typical tea	Only A3 produces a characteristic smell red bajakah
5.	Flavor Panelist Assessment (In numbers)	unflavor 2, 22	a bit typical red bajakah 3, 22	typicalred bajakah 4, 33	ns	typical tea	Only A3 shows distinctive taste red bajakah
6.	Favorite Panelist Assessment (In numbers)	a bit favorite 3, 22 <sup>b)</sup>	favorite 4, 00 <sup>b)</sup>	really favorite 5, 00 <sup>a)</sup>	**		A3 really favorite

Information:

\*: significant difference

\*\*: very significant difference

Tn: no significant difference

Color: 1= clear, 2= a bit red, 3= red, 4= darkness red, 5= brownness red

Smell: 1= very odorless, 2=un smell, 3=a bit typical red bajakah smell, 4= typical red bajakah smell, 5= very typical redbajakah smell

Taste: 1= very tasteless, 2= un tasteless, 3= a bit typical red bajakah taste, 4= typical red bajakah taste, 5= very typical red bajakah taste

Favorite: 1= very unfavorite, 2= favorite, 3= a bit favorite, 4= favorite, 5= really favorite

Based on Table 1, it can be seen that powder size has a very significant effect on moisture content, total ash content, odor, and preference, and has a significant effect on color. Meanwhile, the flavor of the resulting tea is not affected by the size of the powder.

### 3.1.1 Water content

The water content of Bajakah teabags is strongly influenced by the size of the powder. The results of the different test showed that the three sizes of tea powder produced

significantly different water content. The size of the powder can affect the moisture content [13]. The results also showed that the thinner the powder size of the bajakah stem or the larger the mesh size, the lower the water content of the teabags produced. Conversely, the smaller the mesh size or the larger the powder size, the greater the moisture content. This is because the smaller the powder size, the easier the drying process. Bajakah powder is a hygroscopic material, so it is easy to absorb and remove the water contained in it. Wood is a hygroscopic material, so it can lose or increase its

moisture due to changes in humidity and air temperature around it [14]. The smaller the powder size, the more surface area [15]. The larger the surface area of the powder, the more effective the contact with the filter material [46].

### 3.1.2 Total ash content

The results showed that the average total ash content of the three sizes of bajakah powder ranged from 1.00%; 1.53%; up to 5.40% is also in line with the opinion of states that the ash content of wood biomass ranges from 2.6-18.3% depending on the wood species and the duration of burning [17]. The range of ash content of bajakah powder made at various sizes is also in line with the results of research which stated that the ash content of powder from other types of herbs, namely ginger and Gambier leaves also produced a total ash content of <8% [18].

The total ash content can be interpreted as the inorganic component remaining after the combustion process is carried out [19]. Ash refers to the inorganic residue remaining after ignition or complete oxidation of organic matter in a food sample. Determining the ash content of a food is part of a proximate analysis for nutritional evaluation and is an important quality attribute for some foodstuffs [20]. The ash content can show the total minerals in a food ingredient. Organic materials in the combustion process will burn but the inorganic components will not, because that is called the ash content. Determination of total ash content aims to determine whether or not a processing is good, knowing the type of material used, and as a parameter determining the nutritional value of a food ingredient. Determination of ash content is closely related to the mineral content contained in a material, the purity and cleanliness of the resulting material, the ash content can show the total minerals in a food ingredient [21].

### 3.1.3 Color

Determination of the quality of food ingredients in general is very dependent on several factors, including color, taste, texture and nutritional value [22]. An ingredient that is considered nutritious, has a very good texture will not be liked by consumers if it has an unattractive color or gives the impression that it has deviated from the color it should have [23]. Based on the different tests, it can be seen that the size of the powder produces significantly different tea steeping colors, this is in line with the results of state that the color parameter greatly affects the perception of the panelists [24]. Steeping from 10-16 mesh and >16 mesh of bajakah powder produces a red steeping color, according to SNI standards. The results of the steeping also showed that the smaller the size of the powder, the red color was more intense. This is because the smaller the powder size, the larger the extract that comes out [25, 26]. Furthermore, the size of the powder affects the dissolution in the material, the smaller the size of the material, the greater the contact between the surfaces of the material with water so that the solvent will easily break down the walls of the material so that the color will come out [27]. The particle size affects color, where coarse-sized materials cause highly saturated colors [45].

### 3.1.4 Smell

Smell or aroma is one of the properties of foodstuffs that gives an impression on the respiratory system and is felt by the sense of smell (Praseptiangga *et al.* 2018). Aroma is also a determinant of the delicacy of the product [23]. Based on the different tests, it can be seen that the size of the powder differs greatly in the smell of the tea produced. The smaller

the size of the powder, the more pronounced the distinctive odor of bajakah. This can be seen from the results of the study which showed that the characteristic odor of bajakah only appeared in tea made from the smallest powder size (> 16 mesh), while in larger sizes (10-16 mesh and <10 mesh) the characteristic odor of bajakah did not appear on brewing tea. The characteristic odor of bajakah that can be smelled in tea made from the smallest powder has something to do with the ease with which the extract comes out of the powder at a smaller powder size.

### 3.1.5 Taste

Taste is the most important parameter in determining the sensory quality of a product [28]. Based on the results of the study, the difference in the size of the pirated powder does not or has not affected the taste of the tea it produces. This result is different from the opinion of state that taste perception in the mouth is influenced by one of the particle sizes [29]. This difference of opinion may be due to differences in the sizes used and the types of materials or herbs studied. Although statistically the difference in powder size has not shown the difference in the taste of the tea it produces, the taste test results show that Bajakah tea made from the smallest powder size, which is >16 mesh, has produced a distinctive Bajakah taste that can be detected by the tongue, namely the typical astringent taste of bajakah. The steeping of red kalaIawit bajakah shows the typical chelattaste of bajakah [30].

### 3.1.6 Favorite

Consumer likes and acceptance of a product is not only influenced by one factor, but is also influenced by various factors, giving rise to different acceptances [22]. Overall preference parameters are used to determine the level of panelists' preference for quality attributes (color, smell, and taste) contained in the product as a whole. Based on the results of the different tests, it can be seen that the powder sizes of the three samples showed very significantly different results.

## 4. Discussion

The manufacture of powders will affect the condition of the cells, where the smaller the size of the powder, the cells will be more open because there are some parts where the cell walls are broken [31]. Both of these conditions cause the powder with a smaller size to more easily experience a decrease in water content, or an easier drying process than a powder with a larger size. This causes if powders of different sizes are dried at the same time, the smaller powders will dry out more easily or experience a greater reduction in water content than large powders, so that in the final condition, the moisture content of the small powders will decrease has a lower moisture content than powders with a larger size.

The results of the study show that the smaller the size of the powder, the lower the water content, but overall the bajakah tea made from various sizes of the powder has not met the SNI standard, because the water content is still above 10%. This needs attention, considering that before the packaging process the powder has been dried with a moisture content of less than 10%. The increase in water content after the packaging process is caused before and after the packaging the powder is not stored in an airtight container, so that the surrounding moist air can enter it. Bajakah powder is hygroscopic so it easily absorbs water during storage. The product that easily absorbs water when during storage is in contact with outside air which generally for tropical

environments has an RH of 75%-80%, it will experience water vapor absorption which in turn will change its physical properties.

Tea as a dry food ingredient will absorb water from the air during storage. So that tea is called a hygroscopic material that is easy to absorb water. The absorption of water from the air will cause the water content and water activity of foodstuffs to increase [32]. Therefore, it is necessary to pay attention to the use of airtight containers to maintain the moisture content of the powder. Based on the results of this study, another factor that can affect the water content is material handling. Water content can also be affected by improper handling, packaging, and storage methods [33]. This water content becomes important and as one of the quality requirements, especially for food products. Therefore, it is very important to pay attention to the drying process. The food drying aims to extend shelf life by reducing the water content of food to prevent the growth of spoilage microorganisms [34, 35]. The water content greatly determines the shelf life of food products [36].

The total ash content as a range of allowable external and internal mineral content exists, this is related to the purity and contamination of the material [37]. Determination of ash content aims to determine the quality of processing, determine the type of material used and as a parameter determining nutritional value in food and beverages. This is what makes ash content one of the important parameters in maintaining the quality of food and beverage products, in accordance with the Indonesian National Standard (SNI) 01-2891-1992 [12, 38].

As one of the determinants of the quality of food and beverage products, including this tea bag product, there are many factors that can affect the total ash content. The effect of biomass powder size on its thermal properties stated that smaller powder particle size resulted in higher ash content [39]. This is because at a smaller size the powder will be more compact and denser so that the amount of pore space is less as a result of more complete combustion, so that the ash content is higher than in the larger powder size. The results of this study are in line with the results of this study, which showed that the size of the powder had a very significant effect on the total ash content. The three sizes of powder, only the smallest powder size (>16 mesh) whose ash content (5.40%) can meet the SNI standard (4-8%). The smaller size of the piracy powder (>16 mesh) resulted in higher ash content, compared to the larger powder size (10-16 mesh) and (<10 mesh). The results of this study are in line with the opinion of the smaller the powder size, the higher the ash content [40].

Some of the active chemical compounds in the powder of bajakah rods are easier to come out in small powders. This is because the smaller size allows easier contact with the solvent and the cells are more open. The smaller size can maximize the surface area which in turn can increase the transfer of active mass from the plant material to the solvent [15]. The smaller size of the tea powder will make it easier for chemical compounds to come out so as to produce a greater chemical content than the larger powder size [41, 42, 46]. The size of the powder has an influence on sensory perception, especially the sense of smell [43].

The taste of tea is strongly influenced by the chemical components contained in it [44]. This is why the size of the tea powder gets smaller, the flavor that comes out is stronger. This has something to do with the smaller the particle size, the easier the extraction process due to the easier the solvent in contact with the material.

## 5. Conclusion's and Suggestions

### 5.1 Conclusions

The size of the red powder has a very significant effect on the

water content, total ash content, odor and panelist preference for the tea produced, and has a significant effect on the color of the tea produced. Meanwhile, the taste of tea is not affected by the size of the powder. When compared with SNI black tea bags No. 3753:2014, only powder size >16 mesh that meets SNI standards, especially when viewed from the total ash content parameter, this size is also the most preferred panel.

## 5.2 Suggestions

Based on the results and discussion of the research, it is recommended as follows:

1. To make bajakah tea, it is recommended to use a powder size of >16 mesh, and further research needs to be done on what powder size is the most optimal.
2. It is necessary to do further research whether the size of the powder also affects other parameters in addition to the parameters that have been tested in this study.
3. In this study, although the water content was <10%, the test results after being packaged in tea bags showed that the water content was more than >10% (doesn't meet SNI). It is therefore recommended that after the powder is dried from the oven, the powder should be placed immediately and stored in an airtight container.

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