

# THE CHARACTERISTICS OF YAM (*Dioscorea Alata*) STARCH EDIBLE FILM

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## THE CHARACTERISTICS OF YAM (*Dioscorea Alata*) STARCH EDIBLE FILM

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### Key Words

*Edible Film, Water Yam, Cultivars, Starch concentration*

### Abstract

*The purpose of this study was to determine the physical, mechanical and barrier properties of yam starch edible film. This research used Randomized Block Design (RAK) grouping the cultivar into 2, white and purple water yam. The starch concentration used were 1,33, 2, 2,67, and 3,33%. The results showed that the two cultivars produced similar properties of edible film. The concentration of water yam starch affected transparency, thickness, water vapour transmission rate (WVTR) and compressive strength of edible film, but did not affect its solubility in water. The starch concentration of 2.67% was found to be the most appropriate concentration which produce edible film with thickness 0.12 to 0.13 mm, transparency 12.42 to 13.24%/mm, solubility 84.36 to 86.60%, water vapor transmission rate  $1.16 \times 10^{-2}$  to  $1.08 \times 10^{-2}$  g/sec/m<sup>2</sup>, and compressive strength 48.10 to 49.35 N/m<sup>2</sup>*

## INTRODUCTION

Plastic is still the most food packaging used worldwide. About 39.9% plastic production is intended for food packaging, which is the biggest market in plastic industry (Plastic Europe, 2017). However, the polymers used for plastic production mostly come from non renewable resources and generates pollution. The alternatives of plastic for food packaging is to utilise renewable and degradable material such as starch to produce bioplastic or edible film. *Edible film* is thin layer covering a food product which acts as food packaging or food coating and can be eaten along with the food.

Starch is abundant and cheap. It is a promising polymer for edible film due to its thermoplastic characteristic (Jimenez et al., 2012). Starch is colorless, odorless, and tasteless material obtained from starchy tubers by water extraction. Yam is starchy tuber that underutilised in Jambi Province. The tubers are rarely consumed due to its taste and mostly grow in the forest. Yam starch is packed under a compact structure called granules. Yam starch granules are oval, round, ellipsoidal or polygonal and have average size 1-100  $\mu\text{m}$ . The composition and properties of yam starch depend on the color of the flesh tuber (Nadia et al., 2014) which is the main criteria to differentiate the cultivars in yam. Although the

difference in physicochemical and functional properties of the starch among yam cultivars is already known, there is no report on the effect of different properties of yam starch generated from yam cultivars on the characteristic of edible film. White and purple yam are the most abundant yam found in Jambi Province, hence become promising cultivars to be developed and used in current experiment.

The characteristics of starch-originated edible film are not merely depend on the physicochemical properties of the starch. Other factor such as concentration of starch also plays important roles which may affect the properties of edible film (Mali et al., 2004; Fakhoury et al., 2012; Luchese et al., 2017). The objectives of this research were to determine the effect of white and purple yam starch concentration on physical and barrier properties of edible film.

## METHODS

This research was conducted at Laboratory of Agricultural Technology Faculty University of Jambi, Energy and Nano-material Study Centre, University of Jambi and Analytical Laboratory FMIPA University of Sriwijaya. This research used Randomized Block Design with 2 cultivars of water yam starch, 4 levels of starch concentration and 5 repetitions. The cultivars were white and purple water yam whereas the starch concentration were 1,33, 2, 2,67, and 3,33% calculated from total film forming solution. The resulted films were analysed for their transparency, thickness, water vapour transmission rate (WVTR), compressive strength and solubility in water.

### Starch Extraction (Ulyarti et al., 2016)

The tubers were washed, peeled, rewashed, and sliced into 2 mm to 3 mm slices. The slices were soaked in 15% table salt for 30 minutes to remove mucus and rewashed for 3 times. The tuber slices were smoothed with the addition of water twice as much as the weight of the slices using commercial blender. The slurries were passed through 200 mesh filter. The suspension obtained were precipitated for 6 hours. The precipitate was redissolved in water to purify the starch. The wet starch was dried using drying oven at 50°C for 6 hours. The dry starch was sieved using 60 mesh filter,

sealed packaged and kept at room temperature until further used.

### Edible Film Preparation

An appropriate amount of starch were weighed (1, 2, 3 dan 4 gram) and placed in a beaker glass. The starch was dissolved in aquadest which was added to make exact concentration of 1.33, 2, 2.67 and 3.33% for the total volume of 150 gram filmogenic solution. The solution was subjected to mechanical agitation in a magnetic stirrer and heater at 86°C for 10 minutes. Two grams of gliserol was added to the solution. Agitation and heating were continued for another 30 minutes at the same temperature. The filmogenic solution was placed in petri dish and dried in the drying oven at 50°C for 24 hours. The films were equilibrated in a desiccator at room temperature and a relative humidity (RH) 52% using saturated Mg(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub> salt for 2 days before analysed (Manrich et al., 2017).

### Film Thickness (Mendes et al., 2016)

Film thickness was measured using micrometer at 5 points in the film. The average was reported as film thickness.

### Transparency (Pineroz-Hernandez, 2017)

Edible Film was cut into square (50x10mm) and placed inside spectrophotometer cell. Percent transmittance (%T) was obtained using UV-Vis spectrophotometer at wavelength 600 nm. Transparency edible film was calculated using formula below:

### Transparency = log T / Thickness Solubility (Gontard et al., 1992)

Dried filter paper was weighed. Film sample was cut 2x2 cm, weighed (w<sub>1</sub>) and placed in 50 ml of water and soaked for 24 hours. The film was stirred periodically. The solution was filtered using filtered paper which previously dried and weighed. After, the paper was dried at 150°C for 24 hours and weighed to measure the amount of undissolved film (w<sub>2</sub>). Percent (%) solubility was calculated using formula below:

$$\% \text{ Solubility} = \frac{(w_1 - w_2)}{w_1} \times 100\% \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

**Water Vapour Transmition Rate/WVTR (Pineroz-Hernandez, 2017)**

A tube containing calcium chloride was sealed using edible film produced from this experiments. The tube was weighed and placed inside a desiccator which previously saturated using saturated sodium chloride (RH 75%). The changes of tube weight over time was noted and plotted as a function of time. WVTR was calculated using formula below:

$$WVTR = \frac{\text{Slope}}{A} \dots\dots\dots (2)$$

Where : WVTR = Water vapour transmition (g/m<sup>2</sup>/ second) Slope in gram/second  
 A = The area of the edible film (m<sup>2</sup>)

**Compressive Strenght (ASTM, 1997)**

Compressive strenght was measured using LFRA Brookfield Texture Analyzer. The probe was TA 7 60 mm, trigger 2 g, distance 2

mm, and speed 2 mm/s. Film sample (5 x 2 cm) was placed under the probe. The probe press the film and the strenght can be read on the screen.

**Data Analysis**

The data were analysed using ANOVA and Duncan's New Multiple Range Test (DnMRT).

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

**Characteristics of White and Purple Yam Edible Film**

The extraction of starch from white and purple yam tuber produced different color of starch. Purple tuber starch is lighter than white tuber starch therefore the color of purple yam starch edible films were lighter than white yam starch edible film (Figure 1). Films produced in this experiments were shiny and glossy at the side in contact with petri dish and dull at the surface in contact with air during drying. This result is similar to the result obtained by Basiak et al (2017).

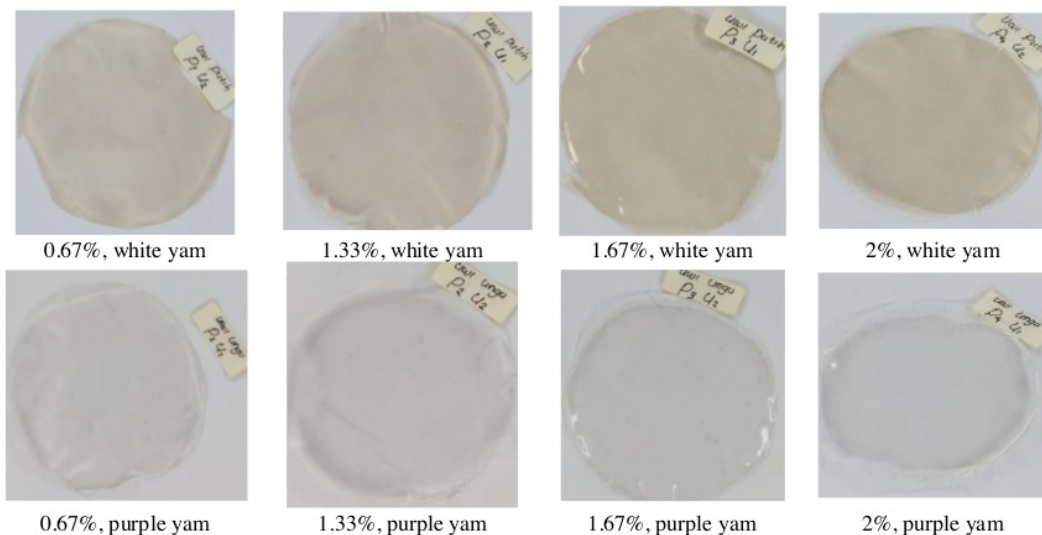


Figure 1. Yam Starch Edible Film Produced Using Different Concentration of Starch

Cultivar of yam significantly affect amylose content (Nadia et al, 2014) which further may affect edible film characteristic which depends on the amylose content of the starch. However current experiment showed that edible film characteristics were not

affected by cultivar of water yam. Both purple and white water yam starches produced edible films which have similar thickness, transparency, water vapour transmission rate, compressive strenght and solubility in water (Table 1).

**Table 1.** The Characteristics of Yam Starch Edible Film produced Using Two Different Cultivars and Four Levels Concentration of Starch

Cultivar	Starch Concentration (%)			
	1,33	2,00	2,67	3,33
<b>Thickness (mm)</b>				
White	0.10±0.01a	0.12±0.01ab	0.12±0.01bc	0.14±0.00c
Purple	0.10±0.00a	0.12±0.02ab	0.13±0.01bc	0.15±0.02c
<b>Transparency (%/mm)</b>				
White	17.77±2.59c	15.11±1.21b	13.24±1.20ab	12.51±0.35a
Purple	16.40±0.88c	14.28±1.68b	12.42±1.13ab	12.06±0.88a
<b>Solubility (%)</b>				
White	90,84±0.40a	86.54±1,73a	86.60±0.62a	83.65±1.57a
Purple	89,05±0.95a	86.07±1,26a	84.36±1.19a	84.79±2.14a
<b>WVTR (gram/sec/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>				
White	1.55x10 <sup>-2</sup> ±	1.58 x10 <sup>-2</sup> ± 4.14x10 <sup>-</sup>	1.16 x10 <sup>-2</sup> ±	1.19x10 <sup>-2</sup> ±
	1.65x10 <sup>-3</sup> c	<sup>4</sup> bc	2.14x10 <sup>-3</sup> a	6.31x10 <sup>-4</sup> ab
Purple	1.43 x10 <sup>-2</sup> ±	1.30 x10 <sup>-2</sup> ± 2.07x10 <sup>-</sup>	1.08 x10 <sup>-2</sup> ±	1.17 x10 <sup>-2</sup> ±
	3.31x10 <sup>-3</sup> c	<sup>4</sup> bc	4.14x10 <sup>-4</sup> a	1.65x10 <sup>-3</sup> ab
<b>Compressive Strenght (N/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>				
White	36.20±2.26a	53.60±3.68b	49.35± 5.44b	53.05±2.05b
Purple	34.65±4.17a	49.80±5.09b	48.10±6.22b	42.20±0.57b

Note: The numbers in the same row followed by the same letter are not significantly different ( $p>5%$ )

**The Effect of Starch Concentration on Edible Film Characteristics**

Yam starch concentration affected thickness, transparency, water vapour transmission rate and compressive strenght of edible film ( $p<5%$ ) but did not affect edible film solubility in water (Table 1). The thickness of edible film relates to the amount of total solid in the filmogenic solution (Carneiro, et al., 2009). Present study generated similar results to other studies (Pettersson & Stading, 2005; Kusumawati & Putri, 2013), that the increase in starch concentration increased thickness of edible film.

Transparency exhibit the amount of lights pass through the film. As shown in Table 1, the increase in starch concentration significantly decreased transparency of edible film ( $p<5%$ ). Chemical structure of starch affect the amount of crystallinity present in the filmogenic solution. The higher crystallinity gives rise to less transparent edible film. The crystallinity of a starch depend on the origin of the starch (Basiak et al., 2017). Potato starch for example gives more transparent film compare to corn and wheat starch film. Other factor affecting transparency of the film is film thickness, where the thickness decreased transparency. In this experiment, the higher

starch concentration in filmogenic solution produced thicker film and hence less transparency film.

Solubility of edible film in water relates to the ability of edible film to pack high water content food. The solubility of yam starch edible film from current experiment showed that the films are very soluble (solubilities are over 80%). Further formulation with non polar substance or modification in yam starch is required to decrease the solubility of edible film.

Water Vapour Transmition Rate (WVTR) measures flow of moisture through certain area of a film in a certain time. The value of WVTR showed the ability of the film to pass through moisture. The higher the value of WVTR means the higher the ability of film to pass through moisture which is undesirable for film as packaging material. Current experiment showed that starch concentration affect WVTR significantly ( $p<5%$ ). The increase in starch concentration decreased WVTR due to the increase in film thickness which further limits the ability of moisture to pass through the film (Basuki, et al., 2014).

Compressive strenght is capacity of a material to withstand loads tending to reduce size. It is a parameter to describe how strong it

is to hold a load. The analysis of variance showed that concentration of starch significantly affect compressive strength of edible film ( $p < 5\%$ ). The higher the concentration of starch produced edible film with higher compressive strength (Table 1). Similar result was reported by Santoso, et al., (2011).

## CONCLUSION

White yam starch and purple yam starch edible films are different in their physical appearance due to the color of their originated starches. Yam starch concentration significantly affect transparency, thickness, water vapor transmission rate and compressive strength ( $p < 5\%$ ), but did not affect film solubility in water. Starch concentration 2,67% is the most appropriate concentration to produce edible film with thickness 0.12 to 0.13 mm, transparency 12.42 to 13.24%/mm, solubility 84.36 to 86.60%, water vapor transmission rate  $1.16 \times 10^{-2}$  to  $1.08 \times 10^{-2}$  g/sec/m<sup>2</sup>, and compressive strength 48.10 to 49.35 N/m<sup>2</sup>.

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