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Discrimination of the Indonesian Roasted Arabica Coffees using ¹H NMR-based Metabolomics

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Abstract

In this report, the roasted Arabica coffees obtained from 4 Indonesian regions were analyzed with ¹H NMR based-metabolomics. In total, 23 compounds were detected in the coffee ¹H NMR spectra. Orthogonal projection to latent structure-discriminant analysis (OPLSDA) model successfully classified metabolites of the coffees based on their origins. S-plots of two-classes partial least square discriminant analysis (PLSDA) models successfully identified discriminant metabolites for every coffee. Chlorogenic acids, trigonelline, arabinoses were found as the discriminant compounds for Preanger-Java coffee. Lipids, acetic acid and lactic acid were discovered as the characteristic metabolites for Gayo-Sumatra coffee. γ -quinide was found as the most important marker for Bajawa-Flores coffee. Meanwhile, Toraja-Sulawesi coffee were characterized with a balance chemical composition indicating its well-balanced taste. The findings revealed the diversity of Indonesian Arabica coffees and shed more light on scientific information of Indonesian coffees.



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Keywords

Arabica coffee; Indonesia; Metabolomics; NMR.

Introduction

One of the most popular drinks in the world is coffee. The rise of coffee consumption is mainly caused by its distinctive taste, health benefits, social and historical factors.¹ Arabica (*Coffea arabica*) and Robusta (*Coffea canephora*) are well known as the most widely cultivated coffee species in the world. Compared to Robusta, Arabica is recognized has a higher quality with a less bitter taste, an intense aroma, and lower caffeine content.²

Indonesia is one of the largest coffee producers in the world. In Indonesia, coffee is cultivated in several islands, including in Sumatra, Java, Bali, Flores and Sulawesi. Although majority cultivated coffee in Indonesia is Robusta, however its Arabica is still

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well known as one of the famous coffees in the world. For instance, Gayo-Sumatra Arabica coffee recently accepted a Geographical Indication certification from European Union.³

Arana *et al.*, listed reports concerning application of metabolomics for classifying coffees based on their origins.⁴ Some of those reports used Indonesian coffees as the samples. Indonesian coffees have been successfully discriminated from other coffee samples by MS-based metabolomics approaches.⁵⁻⁸ Moreover, Indonesian coffees also were discriminated from coffees obtained from other countries using NMR-based metabolomics.⁹⁻¹¹ However, none of the studies we are aware of, ever reported the use of metabolomics to discriminate Indonesian coffees that cultivated in the different regions, whereas this country has various coffees with the different tastes.

Arabica coffee taste of each Indonesian region is unique. For instance, Gayo-Sumatra coffee has a strong body taste with low acidity and savory taste, meanwhile Toraja-Sulawesi coffee has a wellbalanced taste with sensation of chocolaty, sweet and herb taste.¹² In chemical point of view, the various tastes of coffee indicate their different metabolite profiles since the taste of coffee is strongly related to its chemical composition. However, to the best of our knowledge, chemical information of Indonesian coffees in literature is still limited.

This research aims to differentiate the metabolite profiles of roasted Arabica coffees obtained from various Indonesia regions, including Gayo-Sumatra, Preanger-Java, Bajawa-Flores and Toraja-Sulawasi, using ¹H NMR-based metabolomics approach. OPLSDA technique has been applied for classifying the coffees based on their origins. Meanwhile, the characteristic metabolites for each coffee were investigated with S-plot of two-classes PLSDA models. This report exhibited the ability of ¹H NMRbased metabolomics in the discrimination of roasted Arabica coffees from one country that cultivated in different regions. Moreover, it revealed the diversity of Indonesian Arabica coffees and might lead to a better understanding of Indonesian coffees.

Materials and Methods Chemicals and Reagents

Deuterated water (D_2O), sodium-3-(trimethylsilyl)-2,2,3,3-tetradeuteriopropionate (TSP), KH₂PO₄ and K₂HPO₄ were purchased from Merck (Darmstadt, Germany).

Sample Preparations

This experiment was carried out using roasted Arabica coffee beans obtained from different Indonesian islands. A total of 24 fresh medium roasted coffees from Gayo-Aceh-Sumatra (6 samples), Bandung(Preanger)-West Java (6 samples), Bajawa-Flores (6 samples) and Toraja-Sulawesi (6 samples) were obtained from some companies/suppliers of Indonesian coffees. The detail information of the coffee origins was shown in Table 1. The roasted beans were further ground into powders less than 1 mm in size using Encore mill (Baratza, Bellevue, United States). The samples were extracted based on Wei et al.,13 with slight modifications. 200 mg of ground roasted coffee in a plastic tube were mixed with 1 mL of deuterated water containing TSP 1.00 mM and then sonicated for 20 minutes. Afterward, the samples were incubated at 90°C for 30 minutes, cooled on water for 10 minutes and followed with centrifugation for 5 minutes at 12,000 rpm. 400 µL of the supernatant was transferred to a new tube containing 100 µL of phosphate buffer (pH 5). The samples were then moved into 5 mm NMR tubes.

Measurements of ¹H NMR Spectra

¹H NMR spectra of the roasted coffee samples were measured by a Varian Unity INOVA-500 spectrometer (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, United States) operating at 500 MHz. The ¹H NMR spectra were recorded with a presaturation pulse program using following parameters: time of acquisition = 2.72 s, delay of relaxation = 2 s, number of data points = 64 K, width of spectra = 8012 Hz, and number of scans = 128.

¹H NMR Spectra Processing

+H NMR spectra processing was performed using ACD/Labs 12.0 software (ACD/Labs, Toronto, Canada). The ¹H NMR spectra processing comprised

Fourier transformation of free-induction decay (FID) data, baseline correction, chemical shift scaling, alignment and bucketing. All ¹H NMR spectra were scaled to TSP signal and then aligned. Bucketing was performed by dividing the spectra into integrated bins with the equal width (0.04 ppm) within δ 0.50 - 10.00 ppm. Intelligent bucketing mode was applied in this

bucketing process. The residual signals of water (δ 4.73 - 5.22 ppm) were excluded from the analysis. The signals of caffeine at δ 3.22 - 3.49 ppm and δ 3.82 - 3.88 ppm were also removed for avoiding spurious principal components (PCs) since their signals shift.¹⁴ The extracted data were normalized to a total integral to avoid dilution effects of samples.

Sample code	Coffee origin	Company/Supplier
GS1	Gayo, Aceh, Sumatra	Ottencoffee
GS2	Gayo, Aceh, Sumatra	JPW Coffee
GS3	Gayo, Aceh, Sumatra	Infokopi
GS4	Gayo, Aceh, Sumatra	Fulcaf Coffee
GS5	Gayo, Aceh, Sumatra	Mr. O Coffee
GS6	Gayo, Aceh, Sumatra	Coffindo
PJ1	Bandung/Preanger, West Java, Java	JPW Coffee
PJ2	Bandung/Preanger, West Java, Java	Coffindo
PJ3	Bandung/Preanger, West Java, Java	Kopi Florist
PJ4	Bandung/Preanger, West Java, Java	Eastindischekoffie
PJ5	Bandung/Preanger, West Java, Java	Eastindischekoffie
PJ6	Bandung/Preanger, West Java, Java	Eastindischekoffie
TS1	Sapan, Toraja, Sulawesi	Ottencoffee
TS2	Sapan, Toraja, Sulawesi	JPW Coffee
TS3	Sapan, Toraja, Sulawesi	Infokopi
TS4	Sapan, Toraja, Sulawesi	Mr. O Coffee
TS5	Sapan, Toraja, Sulawesi	Eastindischekoffie
TS6	Sapan, Toraja, Sulawesi	Coffindo
BF1	Bajawa, Ngada, Flores	Ottencoffee
BF2	Bajawa, Ngada, Flores	JPW Coffee
BF3	Bajawa, Ngada, Flores	Infokopi
BF4	Bajawa, Ngada, Flores	Eastindischekoffie
BF5	Bajawa, Ngada, Flores	Coffindo
BF6	Bajawa, Ngada, Flores	Fry and Roast

Table 1: Origins of Arabica roasted coffees analyzed in this report

Multivariate Data Analysis

The obtained data sets were then transferred into SIMCA-P version 12.0 (Umetrics, Umeå, Sweden) for the statistical multivariate analysis. The data were scaled with the Pareto scaling type. At first, the principal component analysis (PCA) was carried out for examining intrinsic variation in the data. Partial least square discriminant analysis (PLSDA) and orthogonal projection to latent structurediscriminant analysis (OPLSDA) were applied as primary methods for obtaining maximum separation among samples. The data sets of the roasted coffee were classified into 4 groups according to their geographical origins (Gayo, Preanger, Bajawa, and Toraja) and then examined using PLSDA or OPLSDA models. The variation explained by the models (R2X and R2Y) and the variation predicted by the models based on cross validation (Q2) were computed. The PLSDA and OPLSDA models were validated with a permutation test applying 200 iterations.

Results and Discussion Metabolite Identification

The collected ¹H NMR spectra were analyzed for identifying metabolites in the Indonesian roasted

Arabica coffees. Caffeine, trigonelline, acetic acid, formic acid and 3 isomers of chlorogenic acids (3-caffeoyl quinic acid, 4-caffeoyl quinic acid and 5-caffeoyl quinic acid) were found as the most abundant metabolites in the samples. Proton signals of caffeine were easily detected in the spectra. The intense signals belong to the 3 N-methyl of caffeine were detected at δ 3.26, 3.45 and 3.88 ppm, meanwhile the signal corresponding to its aromatic proton was found at δ 7.83 ppm. The signals

belonging to the protons of trigonelline were explicitly detectable in the spectra, as described in Fig. 1. The proton signals of trigonelline were identified in the spectra at δ 4.43, 8.09, 8.82, 8.84 and 9.12 ppm. Proton resonances of acetic acid and formic acid were found easily as strong singlet signals in the spectra at δ 1.98 and 8.46 ppm, respectively. The signals correspond to protons of chlorogenic acids were detected in the aliphatic and aromatic regions of ¹H NMR spectra as depicted in Fig. 1.



Fig. 1: Metabolite signal assignments in the ¹H NMR spectra of Indonesian roasted Arabica coffees. 1: lipids; 2: lactic acid; 3: acetic acid; 4:quinic acid; 5: γ-quinide; 6: 3-caffeoylquinic acid; 7: 4-caffeoylquinic acid; 8: 5-caffeoylquinic acid; 9: citric acid; 10: malic acid; 11: choline; 12: caffeine; 13: inositol; 14: mannose; 15: 3-galactose; 16: 6-galactose; 17: 3-arabinose unit; 18: 5-arabinose; 19: N-methyl-pyridinium; 20: trigonelline; 21: 2-furyl-methanol; 22: formic acid; 23: 5-(hydroxymethyl) furfural

Further investigation in the aliphatic region revealed the presence of other organic acids including lactic acid (δ 1.35 ppm), malic acid (δ 2.36 and 2.68 ppm), citric acid (δ 2.61 and 2.74 ppm) and quinic acid (δ 1.86, 1.96, 2.06, 3.56, 4.03 and 4.16 ppm). Broad signals belong to coffee lipids were also detected at δ 0.92 (methyl protons) and 1.30 ppm (methylene protons) as suggested by a previous report.10 Signals belong to ester cyclic of quinic acid, δ -quinide, were successfully detected at δ 1.95, 2.14, 2.41, 2.49, 3.89, 4.06 and 4.91 ppm. Inositol was also detected in the ¹H NMR spectra (δ 3.28, 3.52, 3.62 and 4.06 ppm).

Other metabolites found in the aliphatic region were carbohydrates including α -(1-3)-L-arabino-furanose unit (3-arabinose), α -(1-5)-L-arabino-furanose unit (5-arabinose), β -(1-4)-D-manno-pyranose unit (mannose), β -(1-3)-D-galacto-pyranose unit (3-galactose), and β -(1-6)-D-galacto-pyranose unit (6-galactose). The signals corresponding to the carbohydrates were described in Fig. 1. Further

analysis in the aromatic region of the ¹H NMR spectra successfully identified several metabolites including N-methyl-pyridine (δ 4.37, 8.02, 8.52 and 8.77 ppm), choline (δ 3.20 ppm), 2-furyl-methanol (δ 4.56, 6.43 and 7.50 ppm) and 5-(hydroxymethyl)-furfural (δ 9.49 ppm). In this work, the characteristic signals of the identified metabolites were verified by comparing with corresponding reference spectra

and further confirmed with NMR data of roasted and green bean coffees from the literature.^{10,13,15-19} The structures of some compounds identified in the coffee samples were documented in Fig. 2. Meanwhile, the characteristic signals of the identified metabolites in the ¹H NMR spectra were depicted in Table 2.



Fig. 2: Structures of some compounds detected in the ¹H NMR spectra of Indonesian roasted Arabica coffees

Metabolite	Chemical shift (ppm)	GS	PJ	BF	TS
3-arabinose	4.27 (br s), 5.25 (br s)	+	+	+	+
5-arabinose	4.21 (br s), 5.10 (br s)	+	+	+	+
3-caffeoyl quinic acid	2.04 (m), 2.16 (m), 5.40 (m), 6.35 (d), 6.82 (br s), 6.96 (m), 7.02 (m), 7.51 (m)	+	+	+	+
4-caffeoyl quinic acid	2.04 (m), 2.16 (m), 4.92 (m), 6.35 (d), 6.82 (br s), 6.96 (m), 7.02 (m), 7.53 (m)	+	+	+	+
5-caffeoyl quinic acid	2.04 (m), 2.16 (m), 5.33 (m), 6.27 (d), 6.82 (br s), 6.96 (m), 7.02 (m), 7.48 (m)	+	+	+	+
2-furyl-methanol	4.58 (s), 6.43 (m), 7.57 (br s)	+	+	+	+
5-(hydroxymethyl) -furfural	9.49 (s)	+	+	+	+
3-galactose	3. 65 (m), 4.62 (d)	+	+	+	+
6-galactose	3.73 (m), 4.44 (br s)	+	+	+	+
Acetic acid	1.98 (s)	+	+	+	+
Caffeine	3.26 (s), 3.45 (s), 3.88 (s), 7.83(s)	+	+	+	+
Choline	3.20 (s)	+	+	+	+

Table 2: Characteristic signals of the identified metabolites in the ¹ H NMR
spectra of Indonesian roasted Arabica coffees. GS: Gayo-Sumatera; PJ:
Preanger-Java; BF: Bajawa-Flores; TS: Toraja-Sulawesi. + : detected

Citric acid	2.61 (d), 2.74 (d)	+	+	+	+
Formic acid	8.46 (s)	+	+	+	+
Lactic acid	1.35 (d)	+	+	+	+
Lipids	0.92 (m), 1.30 (m)	+	+	+	+
Malic acid	2.36 (m), 2.68 (m)	+	+	+	+
Mannose	3.55 (m), 3.82 (m), 3.93 (m), 5.17 (br s)	+	+	+	+
Inositol	3.27 (t), 3.52 (m), 3.62 (m), 4.06 (m)	+	+	+	+
N-methyl-pyridine	4.37 (s), 8.02 (m), 8.52 (t) and 8.77 (d)	+	+	+	+
Quinic acid	1.89 (m), 1.96 (m), 2.06 (m), 3.56 (m),	+	+	+	+
	4.03 (m), 4.16 (m)				
γ-quinide	1.95 (m), 2.14 (m), 2.41 (m), 2.49 (m),	+	+	+	+
	3.89 (m), 4.06 (m), 4.91 (m)				
trigonelline	4.43 (s), 8.09 (t), 8.82 (m), 8.84 (m), 9.12 (s)	+	+	+	+

Classification of the Indonesian Roasted Arabica Coffees

Metabolite profiles of Indonesian coffees from Gayo-Sumatra, Preanger-Java, Toraja-Sulawesi and Bajawa-Flores were investigated using chemometric approach. Data of the ¹H NMR spectra were extracted and analyzed with multivariate statistical analysis. Since PCA (unsupervised method) did not give good classifications (data not shown), PLSDA and OPLSDA (supervised method) were chosen as the principal models. PLSDA applies a discrete class matrix and is based on the partial least squares (PLS) model, in which the dependent variable is selected to determine class identity.²⁰ OPLSDA combines the strengths of PLSDA and soft independent modelling of class analogy (SIMCA) classification, thus enhance group separation and provide better explanation of variances among groups.²¹



Fig. 3: Score plots of PLSDA (a) and OPLSDA (b). GS: Gayo-Sumatera; PJ: Preanger-Java; BF: Bajawa-Flores; TS: Toraja-Sulawesi. Loading plot of OPLSDA model (c) shows metabolites contributed in the coffee classification based on their origins

PLSDA model of the roasted Indonesian coffees comprised 5 PLSDA components and explained 65.3% and 82.8% of total variations (R2X and R2Y, respectively). The model showed a weak predictive ability (Q2 = 33.4%), however the permutation test of the model showed the Q2 regression lines cut the y-axis at point below zero [Q2 = (0.00, -0.37);R2 = (0.00, 0.69)]. Therefore, the permutation test confirmed the statistical validity of the PLSDA model. The best class separation on score plot of the PLSDA model was obtained by combining PLS 2 and PLS 3 components as depicted in Fig. 3a. The score plot discriminated almost all roasted coffee samples based on their island origins. Moreover, Bajawa-Flores roasted coffees could be distinguished from the other coffee samples as documented in Fig. 3a.

OPLSDA model of the roasted coffee samples was created for a better group separation. In total, the model had 5 OPLSDA components with R2X = 65.2%, R2Y = 82.2%, and Q2 = 37.1%. Score plot of the OPLSDA model showed 4 well-separated

groups corresponding to their geographical origins as documented in Fig. 3b. The corresponding loading plot was investigated for identifying the discriminant metabolites in the classification. The loading plot (Fig. 3c) exhibited some identified metabolites giving important contributions to the classification, including chlorogenic acids, trigonelline, 3-arabinose, 5-arabinose, malic acid, citric acid, γ -quinide, mannose, N-methyl-pyridine, acetic acid, lactic acid and lipids.

Identifying Characteristic Metabolites for Every Coffee

In this work, metabolite profiles of the roasted coffees obtained from 4 regions including Gayo-Sumatra, Preanger-Java, Bajawa-Flores and Toraja-Sulawesi were investigated. The 4 coffees were chosen since each has a unique taste. Two-classes PLSDA models were created for evaluating characteristic metabolites for each Indonesian coffee. In total, 6 PLSDA models had been made and detail information of the models was summarized in Table 3.

No.	Samples	Number of PLSDA components	R2X (%)	R2Y (%)	Q2 (%)
1.	Gayo-Sumatera and Preanger-Java	3	68.1	95.4	74.7
2.	Gayo-Sumatera and Bajawa-Flores	4	68.6	99.6	58.3
3.	Gayo-Sumatera and Toraja-Sulawesi	3	59.8	98.7	70.8
4.	Preanger-Java and Bajawa-Flores	3	58.3	98.5	80.8
5.	Preanger-Java and Toraja-Sulawesi	4	60.4	99.6	67.4
6.	Bajawa-Flores and Toraja-Sulawesi	4	64.1	99.6	78.7

Table 3: Information of two-classes PLSDA models of Arabica roasted coffee samples

To obtain a better evaluation of signals affecting the coffee differentiation, the S-plots of two-classes PLSDA models were investigated. Based on the corresponding S-plots, Gayo-Sumatra coffees were marked with acetic acid (bucket at δ 1.95 ppm), lactic acid (bucket at δ 1.33 ppm), lipids (buckets at δ 0.89 and 1.27 ppm), mannose (bucket at δ 3.93 ppm) and γ -quinide (bucket at δ 2.38 ppm) as depicted in Fig. 4a, 4b and 4c. Among them, buckets belong to acetic acid, lactic acid and lipids were always found as the discriminant metabolites in the differentiation of Gayo-Sumatra coffee from others. These results indicated that acetic acid, lactic acid and lipids were the characteristic metabolites of Gayo-Sumatra coffee. These characteristic compounds probably could be the candidate compounds contributing to the taste of coffee Gayo-Sumatra that possessing a strong body sensation and a savory taste. Lipids were correlated with the formation of coffee body.^{18,22} Besides that, lipids are surface-active agents contributing on the foam and emulsion formations of coffee brew and giving creamy sensation as well.¹⁹ Thus, it seems reasonable to suppose that abundant amounts of lipids in the Gayo-Sumatra coffee contribute significantly on the strong body sensation and savory taste of the coffee.



Fig. 3: Score plots of PLSDA (a) and OPLSDA (b). GS: Gayo-Sumatera; PJ: Preanger-Java; BF: Bajawa-Flores; TS: Toraja-Sulawesi. Loading plot of OPLSDA model (c) shows metabolites contributed in the coffee classification based on their origins

According to the corresponding S-plots (Fig. 4a, 4d and 4e), Preanger-Java coffees were characterized with chlorogenic acids (buckets at δ 6.32, 6.79, and 6.95 ppm), trigonelline (buckets at δ 4.40 and 8.79 ppm), 3-arabinose (bucket at δ 4.24 ppm) and 5-arabinose (bucket at δ 4.18 ppm). Interestingly, these compounds always were detected as the discriminant compounds in all corresponding S-plots indicating they were important markers for Preanger-Java coffees. The characteristic taste of Preanger-Java coffees is more sourness compared to the other coffees. Previous report depicted that chlorogenic acids are positively correlated with the sour taste of coffee.¹⁹ The finding chlorogenic acids

as the marker of Preanger-Java coffees proposed that these compounds are possibly responsible compounds for the characteristic acidity taste of Preanger-Java coffees.

Corresponding S-plots of Bajawa-Flores coffees (Fig. 4b, 4d and 4f) were identified by quinic acid (buckets at δ 3.99 and 4.05 ppm), γ -quinide (buckets at δ 2.38 and 4.12 ppm), mannose (bucket at δ 3.93 ppm), malic acid (bucket at δ 2.60 ppm), citric acid (bucket at δ 2.74 ppm), lactic acid (bucket at δ 1.33 ppm) and lipids (buckets at δ 0.89 and 1.27 ppm). Among them, γ -quinide was found as the most important marker for Bajawa-Flores coffees,

since the compound was detected giving significant contributions in all corresponding S-plot. Moreover, one of characteristic tastes of Bajawa-Flores coffee is the sensation of citrus aftertaste.¹² Identification of citric acid as one of the characteristic compounds of Bajawa-Flores coffee might confirm its citrus aftertaste.

In the corresponding S-plots (Fig. 4c, 4e and 4f), the Toraja-Sulawesi coffees were attributed with trigonelline (buckets at δ 4.40 and 8.79 ppm), chlorogenic acids (buckets at δ 6.32, 6.79, and 6.95 ppm), malic acid (bucket at δ 2.60 ppm), acetic acid (bucket at δ 1.95 ppm), γ -quinide (buckets at δ 2.38 and 4.12 ppm) and mannose (bucket at δ 3.93 ppm). However, none of them was discovered as the discriminant compound in all corresponding S-plots. For instance, trigonelline was discriminant compound for Toraja-Sulawesi coffees when compared with Gayo-Sumatra and Bajawa-Flores coffees (Fig. 4c and 4f). However, this compound was not the discriminant compound when comparing Toraja-Sulawesi coffees with Preanger-Java samples (Fig. 4e), indicating the amounts of trigonelline in both coffees were similar. These results indicated that the coffees had a balance chemical composition which probably explains the well-balanced taste of the Toraja-Sulawesi coffees.

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Conclusions

In this work, ¹H NMR-based metabolomics, relying on OPLSDA modeling, successfully discriminated roasted Arabica coffees that cultivated in the different regions of Indonesia. Investigation on the S-plots of two classes PLSDA models revealed the characteristic compounds for each roasted Indonesian coffee. This study also provided scientific data for confirming the diversity of Indonesian Arabica coffees. Overall, our present study confirmed that ¹H NMR-based metabolomics is a promising tool for discriminating roasted coffee metabolomes based on their origins.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest with any person or organization in publishing this article.

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