

DISTRIBUTION OF HAND SOAP WITH THE AROMA OF EUCALYPTUS FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

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ABSTRACT

Background: The utilization of liquid hand soap is an alternative to prevent virus transmission in COVID 19 Pandemic. The production of aromatic hand soap and distribution to the public will be an effort to support the prevention of the spread of the corona virus. **Methodology:** Aromatic hand soap made from eucalyptus is produced and distributed to people in Padang City as an alternative product for people to maintain their personal hygiene. **Conclusion:** This eucalyptus-flavored handsoap has received a lot of positive feedback. This product can assist people in maintaining their personal hygiene. The public does not like the smell of eucalyptus oil in this hand soap product. The formulation of this product will need to be completed in the future.

Keywords: eucalyptus, hand soap, community services, andalas university

INTRODUCTION

The recent COVID-19 outbreak has raised awareness of hand cleanliness and hand hygiene around the world. In order to prevent disease transmission, hand cleanliness is a widely acknowledged notion. There are many products have developed to marinating hand cleanness. Hand liquid or bar soap, synthetic detergents, hand sanitizer, and alcohol-based hand sanitizer are all examples of hand hygiene products. The use of soap is known to be the most effective way to maintain cleanliness and get rid of viruses.

The good kind of soap should look beautiful, smells great, and would prevent the health of skin. The utilization of a unique fragrance in the production of hand soap could enhance the acceptability of hand soap. Department of Agricultural Product Technology Andalas University produced the eucalyptus oil that could be used as a fragrance in the production of hand soap. Therefore, the production of hand soap with the utilization of eucalyptus oil as the source of the fragrance had conducted and the product was then distributed to observe the acceptance from the society. This product was expected to be accepted by the public and can become one of the weapons in fighting the Corona virus during this pandemic.

METHODOLOGY

This activity took place in November of 2020. Academic employees from Andalas University's Department of Agricultural Product Technology produced the hand soap on their own. The eucalyptus oil was also separately distilled at Andalas University's Department of Agricultural Product Technology's laboratory. The hand soap's major constituents were alkaline, oil, and eucalyptus oil. After then, the hand soap was distributed in public areas around Padang City, West Sumatra Province.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result of aromatic hand soap with eucalyptus oil as the scent is shown in Figure 1. Bottles with a capacity of 100 mL are used to package the product. Because it can be stored in a clothing pocket or even a bag, this package is quite convenient.



Fig. 1 Hand soap derived from eucalyptus oil

Figure 2 depicts the documentation of community leaders receiving hand soap items in public place in West Sumatra Province. The neighborhood was directly using hand soap goods at the time of delivery. Because of these efforts, the community has responded positively. The benefits of eucalyptus oil as a raw material in fragrance, cosmetics, food, drinks, aromatherapy, and phytotherapy were proposed previously (Vecchio et al., 2016). However, the public has provided a variety of responses to the products that have been supplied. The aroma of eucalyptus oil, which is not overpowering, may be detected in the product. This will be a future contribution that will be developed. The saponification process that conducted in thermal condition (Arasaretnam and Venujah, 2019). This condition might impact the reduction of the aroma of eucalyptus oil in the finished product.



Fig. 2 The distribution of hand soap products to community representatives at the public place in Padang City West Sumatra Province.

CONCLUSION

The academic team of Andalas University's Department of Agricultural Product Technology oversaw the production and distribution of eucalyptus oil-based hand soap. The creation of eucalyptus oil hand soap can serve as a testing ground for essential oil-based goods that can help the community cope with the present COVID 19 pandemic.

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