

RESEARCH NOTE

LAXATIVE ANTHRAQUINONE CONTENTS IN FRESH AND COOKED *SENNA SIAMEA* LEAVES

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Abstract. This study determined the contents of total anthraquinone glycosides in *Senna siamea*, which are active laxative form, and total anthraquinones in the fresh young leaves, the boiled leaves, and the boiled filtrates by a UV-vis spectrophotometric method. Total anthraquinone glycosides and total anthraquinones, calculated as rhein, in the fresh young leaves were 0.0523 and 0.0910% w/w, respectively. The first and second boiled filtrates contained total anthraquinone glycosides 0.0334 and 0.0031% fresh weight, respectively. The first boiled leaves contained 0.0161% fresh weight and the second boiled leaves contained non-detected amount. Total anthraquinones contents in the first and second filtrates and the first and second boiled leaves were found to be 0.0721, 0.0069, 0.0167% fresh weight and non-detected amount, respectively. The results showed that the process of preparation of *khi lek* curry by boiling *S. siamea* young leaves twice with water reduced total anthraquinone glycosides content more than 75%. This confirms the traditional use of *khi lek* curry as a very mild laxative drug.

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