

# A Recent Review on Phytochemical Constituents and Medicinal Properties of Mangosteen

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## ABSTRACT

*Garcinia mangostana* L. (mangosteen, Clusiaceae) has a long history of use as a medical plant, mostly in Southeast Asia. This review is focused on nutritional benefits and beneficial properties of mangosteen. Many tropical plants have interesting biological activities with potential therapeutic applications. *Garcinia mangostana* Linn. (GML) belongs to the family of Guttiferae and is named "the queen of fruits". It is cultivated in the tropical rainforest of some Southeast Asian nations like Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Philippines, and Thailand. People in these countries have used the pericarp (peel, rind, hull or ripe) of GML as a traditional medicine for the treatment of abdominal pain, diarrhea, dysentery, infected wound, suppuration, and chronic ulcer. Experimental studies have demonstrated that extracts of GML have antioxidant, antitumoral, antiallergic, anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, and antiviral activities. The pericarp of GML is a source of xanthones and other bioactive substances. Prenylated xanthones isolated from GML have been extensively studied; some members of these compounds possess antioxidant, antitumoral, antiallergic, anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, antifungal and antiviral properties. Xanthones have been isolated from pericarp, whole fruit, heartwood, and leaves. The most studied xanthones are alpha-, beta-, and gamma-mangosteens, Garcinone E, 8-deoxygartanin, and gartanin. The aim of this review is to summarize findings of beneficial properties of GML's extracts and xanthones isolated from this plant so far. The phytochemicals found in mangosteen make it a natural remedy for a range of health conditions, including inflammation, cancer, diabetes and microbial infection. Mangosteen supplements, such as mangosteen extract and mangosteen juice, are also available and marketed as natural remedies.

**KEYWORDS:** mangosteen (*Garcinia mangostana* L.), xanthones, Chemical Constituents, phytochemistry, medicinal properties, traditional medicine, pharmacology

## I. INTRODUCTION

The purple mangosteen (*Garcinia mangostana*) is a tropical tree most famous for its dark purple mangosteen fruit. The origin of the mangosteen tree is not clearly understood however, it may have possibly originated in Malaysia and can now be found in hot and humid regions throughout Southeast Asia, Central America, and Africa

A notable feature of the mangosteen fruit is its sweet taste and different formulations of the mangosteen, including teas, ointments, tinctures, and other preparations have been used in traditional Eastern medicine to treat skin infections, urinary tract infections, dysentery, inflammation, abdominal pain, diarrhea, and fevers. The mangosteen plant, including the fruit, rind, roots, and leaves, contains a class of phytochemicals called xanthones, and more than 70 different xanthones have been isolated from the mangosteen.

These naturally occurring compounds have a flat planar structure that includes tricyclic aromatic ring systems with different functional groups attached to the A and C rings (commonly methoxy, hydroxy, or isopropyl groups). More recently, studies have used mangosteen xanthones, specifically  $\alpha$ -mangosteen, the most abundant xanthone, as well as some of the less abundant isoprenylated xanthones and reported them to have antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, antifungal, anticancer, and antitumor activities.

Early reports of the traditional uses of infusions and decoctions of its peels and seeds to treat gastrointestinal and urinary tract infections, and as anti-scorbutic, laxative and anti-fever agent, date from almost two hundred years ago. Modern uses of the species comprise the alleviation of infection-related symptoms, such as diarrhea, abdominal pain, and fever, and also complaints linked to inflammatory and immunological diseases, like acne, food allergies and arthritis (Wang et al., 2017). Nowadays, fruit derivatives demand has increased exponentially

Furthermore, mangosteen contains bioactive compounds such as xanthones, terpenes,

anthocyanins, tannins, phenols, and some vitamins<sup>10</sup>. The nutritional value of mangosteen per 100 g includes 80.9 g of water, 0.5 g of protein, 18.4 g of carbohydrates, 1.7 g of fiber, 9 mg of calcium, 14 mg of phosphorus, 0.5 mg of iron, 2 mg of vitamin C, 0.09 mg of vitamin B1 (thiamin), 0.06 mg of vitamin B2 (riboflavin), and 0.1 mg of vitamin B5 (niacin)<sup>11</sup>. In fact, mangosteen's pericarp has many important benefits for health<sup>12,13,14</sup>. The main compounds in the content of mangosteen's pericarp are xanthenes<sup>15</sup>; such as  $\alpha$ -mangostin<sup>16</sup>,  $\gamma$ -mangostin<sup>17</sup>, 8-deoxygartanin, Garcinone E, mangostanol<sup>18</sup>,  $\beta$ mangostin<sup>19</sup>, podophyllin A and B<sup>20</sup>, mangostenin<sup>21</sup>, and Mangostenone C, D, and E<sup>22</sup>. The main xanthone derivative is  $\alpha$ -mangosteen, this compound has a variety of pharmacological activities such as antidiabetic<sup>23,24</sup>, antioxidants, and anti-inflammatory<sup>12,13,14,25</sup>. Therefore, this study aims to generate mangosteen's ethnobotany, toxicology, pharmacology, and phytochemistry of and its future prospects for a further scientific investigation for developing the effective therapeutic compounds.

#### **Taxonomy:**

Kingdom: Plantae; Subkingdom: Tracheobionta; Superdivision: Spermatophyta; Division: Magnoliophyte; Class: Magnoliopsida; Subclass: Dilleniidae; Order: Malpighiales; Family: Clusiaceae; Tribe: Garcinia; Genus: *Garcinia* L.; Species: *Garcinia mangostana* L.

#### **Geographical Distribution:**

Mangosteen is a tropical origin plant and native to Malay Peninsula and South East Asia, including Indonesia. Mangosteen is only known as a cultivated species. It was long known that the cultivation has been limited to Southeast Asia, ranging from Indonesia eastwards to New Guinea and Philippines, and north via Malay Peninsula into the southern parts of Cambodia, Vietnam, and Thailand. Only during the last two centuries has the crop spread to other tropical areas, including Brazil, Sri Lanka, Central America, South India, and Queensland. Mangosteen tree can grow in lowlands. The best growth is achieved in the area with the altitudes of 500-600 m a.s.l. In Indonesia, mangosteen tree's planting centers are West Sumatra, Central Kalimantan, Riau, East

Kalimantan, North Sumatra, and North Sulawesi. In Java, the mangosteen production centers are Blitar, Bogor, Banyuwangi, Purwakarta, Cimahi, Cilacap, Purworejo, Sukusuma, Banjar Negara, Wanayasa, and Subang<sup>29</sup>.

#### **ethnopharmacology:**

Mangosteen is an important medicinal plant with several medicinal uses in traditional medication system. It has been used to cure many health problems in different parts of the world. The different parts of mangosteen, which are mostly the fruit hull, the bark, and the roots have been utilized for hundreds of years in Southeast Asia as a medicine within the great variety of medical conditions. In China, India, Thailand and other parts of Asia, the dried and powdered fruit hull is used as antimicrobial agents and antiparasitic treatments in dysentery as well as externally for healing the wounds and chronic ulcers. Mangosteen's leaves and bark are recognized to have strong anti-inflammatory properties and applied for treating hyperkeratosis, eczema, and other skin disorders. The rind decoction is administered to relieve gonorrhoea, gleet, diarrhoea, and cystitis. In addition, the decoction also can be applied externally as an astringent lotion. The astringent qualities of mangosteen are also employed for preventing dehydration and the loss of essential nutrients from the gastrointestinal tract. In Thai traditional medicine, the fruit hulls have been in use for the treatment of skin infections, wounds and a relief of diarrhoea. In the Philippines and Malaya, a tea made from the rind and decoction of the leaves and bark are adopted as a febrifuge as well as in the treatment of dysentery, diarrhoea, and various urinary disorders. A root's decoction is administered by women with menstrual disorders. Similarly, mangosteen has also been used for medical purposes in Caribbean and Latin America. A tea made from mangosteen's fruits is popularly applied as a tonic for fatigue and low energy states. Brazilians use similar tea as a digestive aid<sup>30</sup>. Pedraza-Chaverri et al. reported that traditional medicinal properties of mangosteen is employed for hemorrhoids, food allergies, arthritis, tuberculosis, mycosis, mouth aphthae, fever, thrush, abdominal pain, suppuration, leucorrhoea, and convulsant.



**Fig.1: Mangosteen fruit and showing a mangosteen tree.**

**XANTHONE:**

Xanthenes are the major bioactive component found in mangosteen. At least over 68 xanthenes derivatives isolated from mangosteen fruit were reported [1,3]. Some xanthenes of mangosteen included  $\alpha$ -mangostin,  $\beta$ -mangostin,  $\gamma$ -mangostin, gartanin, 8-deoxygartanine, Mangostenone, 11 $\alpha$ -mangostin, Mangostanol, 1-isomangostin, 3-isomangostin, and garcinone E. The most abundant xanthenes in mangosteen pericarp and bark are  $\alpha$ - and  $\gamma$ -mangostin [6].  $\alpha$ -mangostin is the major xanthenes derivatives

isolated from mangosteen and have been drawn attention in the medicinal plant research area due to its extensive biological and pharmacological activities.

**Phytochemical Composition:**

Phytochemical screening, based on ethnomedicinal data, is considered as an effective approach for the discovery of new therapeutic agents. The major bioactive secondary metabolites of mangosteen are xanthone derivatives.

Table1: Mangosteens secondary metabolites

Number	Compound name	type	Plant part
1	$\alpha$ -Mangosteen	xanthenes	Pericarp, whole fruit, stem, seed
2	$\beta$ -Mangosteen	xanthenes	Pericarp, whole fruit, stem
3	$\gamma$ -Mangosteen	xanthenes	Whole fruit
4	(16E)-1,6-Dihydroxy-8-(3-hydroxy-3-methyl but-1-enyl)-3,7-dimethoxy-2-(3-methyl but-2-enyl)-xanthone	xanthenes	Whole fruit
5	1,3,6,7-Tetrahydroxy xanthone	xanthenes	Pericarp
6	1,3,6-Trihydroxy-7-methoxy-2, 8-(3-methyl-2-butenyl) xanthone P2	xanthenes	Leaves
7	1,3,8-Trihydroxy-4-methyl-2,7-diisoprenylxanthone	xanthenes	Heartwood
8	1,3,7-Trihydroxy-2,8-di-(3-methyl but-2-enyl)-xanthone	xanthenes	Leaves
9	1,3-Dihydroxy-2-(2-hydroxy-3-methyl but-3-enyl)-6,7-dimethoxy-8-(3-methyl but-2-enyl)-xanthone	xanthenes	Heartwood

10	1,5-Dihydroxy-2-(3-methyl but-2-enyl)-3-methoxy-xanthone	xanthenes	Heartwood, stem
11	1,5-dihydroxy-2-isopentyl-3-methoxy xanthone	xanthenes	Heartwood
12	1,5,8-Trihydroxy-3-methoxy-2-(3-methyl but-2-enyl) xanthone	xanthenes	Heartwood
13	1,6-Dihydroxy-2-(2-hydroxy-3-methyl but-3-enyl)-3,7-dimethoxy-8-(3-methyl but-2-enyl)-xanthone	xanthenes	Pericarp
14	1,6-Dihydroxy-3-methoxy-2-(3-methyl-2-butenyl)-xanthone	xanthenes	Pericarp
15	1,6-Dihydroxy-3,7-dimethoxy-2-(3-methyl but-2-enyl)-8-(2-oxo-3-methylbut3-enyl)-xanthone	xanthenes	Whole fruit
16	1,6-Dihydroxy-3,7-dimethoxy-2-(3-methyl but-2-enyl)-xanthone	xanthenes	Heartwood
17	1,7-Dihydroxy-2-(3-methyl but-2-enyl)-3-methoxy-xanthone	xanthenes	Pericarp
18	1,7-dihydroxy-2-isopentyl-3-methoxy xanthone	xanthenes	Pericarp
19	11-Hydroxy-1-isomangostin	xanthenes	Not stated
20	1-Isomangostin	xanthenes	Pericarp
21	1-isomangostin hydrate	xanthenes	pericarp
22	3-isomangostin	xanthenes	pericarp
23	3-isomangostin hydrate	xanthenes	Pericarp
24	6-Deoxy-7-demethylmangostanin	xanthenes	Whole fruit
25	Calabaxanthone	xanthenes	Arils
26	cudraxanthenes	xanthenes	Pericarp
27	Demethylcalabaxanthone	xanthenes	Whole fruit, stem, arils
28	Garcimangosone a	xanthenes	Fruit hull
29	Garcimangosone b	xanthenes	Pericarp
30	Garcimangosone c	xanthenes	Pericarp
31	gartanin	xanthenes	Pericarp, whole fruit
32	mangosharin	xanthenes	Stem
33	Mango statin	xanthenes	Pericarp
34	Mangostanol	xanthenes	Whole fruit, stem
35	Mangostenol	xanthenes	Pericarp
36	Mangostenone A	xanthenes	pericarp
37	Mangostenone B	xanthenes	Pericarp
38	Mangostenon C	xanthenes	Whole fruit

39	Mangostenone D	xanthenes	Whole fruit
40	Mangostenone E	xanthenes	Whole fruit
41	Tovophyllin A	xanthenes	Pericarp
42	Tovophyllin B	xanthenes	Pericarp
43	Euxanthenes	xanthenes	Pericarp
44	Caloxanthone A	xanthone	Pericarp
45	Garcimangosone D	benzophenone	Pericarp
46	Maclurin	benzophenone	pericarp
47	Epicatechins	Flavonoids	Pericarp
48	Chrysanthemum	Anthocyanins	Pericarp
49	Cyanidin-3-O-glucoside	Anthocyanins	Not stated

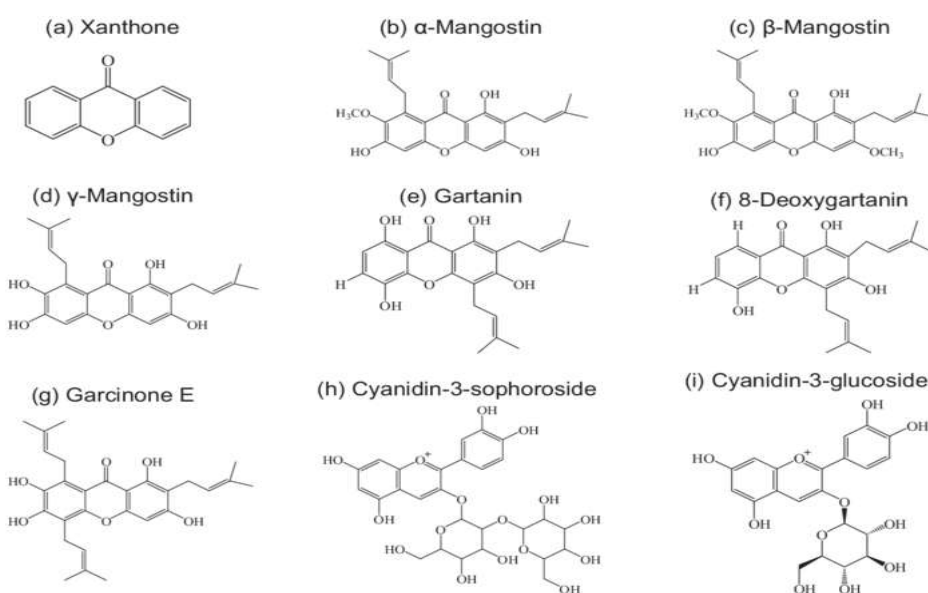


Fig: chemical structure of xanthone and its derivatives

### Pharmacological Studies:

Studies of mangosteen's pharmacological has started in the 1990's. Mangosteen is an important medicinal plant in the family of Clusiaceae. In recent history, this plant is reported for various medicinal properties (see Figure 3). Antibacterial Activity: Suksamrarn et al. stated that  $\gamma$ -mangostin, garcinone D, mangostanin,  $\alpha$ -mangosteen, and demethylcalabaxanthone have a strong inhibitory effect on Mycobacterium tuberculosis<sup>21</sup>.  $\alpha$ -mangostin has antimicrobial activity against vancomycin-resistant Enterococci (VRE) and methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)<sup>36</sup>. As reported by Voravuthikunchai and Kitpipit, the ethanol extract from mangosteen has antimicrobial activity against methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus<sup>37</sup>. Furthermore, Chomnawang et al. found that the

crude extract of mangosteen can inhibit the growth of Propionibacterium acnes and Staphylococcus epidermidis.

### Antihyperglycemic and Antidiabetic Activities:

Several studies showed the antihyperglycemic and antidiabetic activity of mangosteen. Husen et al. stated that the extract of mangosteen's pericarp has been proven to be effective for decreasing the fasting blood cholesterol level and lipid peroxidation in the type-2 diabetic mice<sup>12</sup>. In addition, Husen et al. also tested the antioxidant and antidiabetic activity from the extract of mangosteen's pericarp in the streptozotocin-induced diabetic mice<sup>13</sup>. Moreover, Ansori et al. demonstrated the Reno protective effect from the extract of mangosteen's pericarp in the streptozotocin-induced diabetic mice<sup>14</sup>.

Furthermore, Husen et al. reported an antioxidant activity assay of the alpha-mangostin for amelioration of kidney's structure and function in the diabetic mice<sup>16</sup>. Moreover, Husen et al. also mentioned that the hepatoprotective effect of gamma-mangostin for amelioration of the impaired liver's structure and function in the streptozotocin-induced diabetic mice.

**Wound Healing Activity:**

Nganlasom et al. confirmed that the mangosteen's folkloric utilization and suggested the beneficial effects of mangosteen's extracts for treating diabetic wounds in human being. Interestingly, the further studies with purified constituents were required to understand the complete mechanism of wound healing promotion induced by the mangosteen.

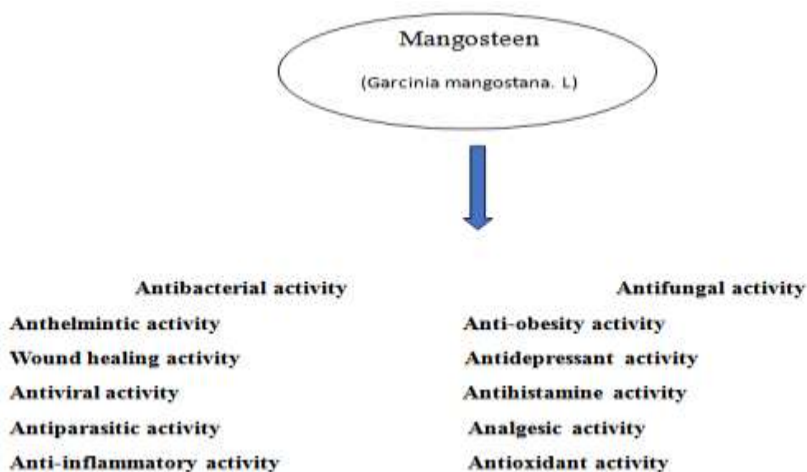
**Anticancer, Anti-tumorigenic, and Antiproliferative Activities:**

alpha-Mangostin induces the apoptotic cell death against canine osteosarcoma D-17 cells<sup>46</sup>. It also alpha showed the potent effects against HCT 116 colorectal carcinoma in an in vitro and in vivo<sup>47</sup>. Nakagawa et al. reported that alpha-mangostin also is able to induce the cell death via caspase-independent apoptosis with the release of endonuclease-G from mitochondria and increases miR143 expression in human colorectal cancer DLD-1 cells<sup>48</sup>. In addition, Wang et al. stated that alpha-mangostin has a potential cytotoxic effect against human melanoma SK-MEL-28 cell line<sup>49</sup>. Meanwhile, Suksamrarn et al. argued that alpha-mangostin leads cell death in breast cancer and epidermoid carcinoma of the mouth cell lines through apoptosis, as gartanin also causes apoptosis

in small cell lung cancer cell lines<sup>22</sup>. Furthermore, Matsumoto et al. reported that alpha-mangostin, beta-mangostin, and gamma-mangostin are particularly effective for the significant inhibition against human leukemia HL60 cell growth<sup>50</sup>. While, Moongkarndi et al. argued that methanol extract of mangosteen's pericarp can induced the apoptosis of SKBR3 human breast cancer cell line<sup>51</sup>. Additionally, alpha-mangostin and gamma-mangostin can induces cell-cycle arrest and apoptosis in human colon cancer DLD-1 cells<sup>52</sup>. Yu et al. said that immunomodulatory and anticancer activities can be found in phenolics which is derived from the mangosteen's fruit pericarp<sup>53</sup>. Mohamed et al. showed that new xanthenes and cytotoxic constituents from mangosteen's fruit hulls can induce the apoptosis against human hepatocellular, breast, and colorectal cancer cell lines<sup>54</sup>. Moreover, Li et al. claimed that polyphenols from mangosteen fruit can induce apoptosis against breast and prostate cancer<sup>55</sup>. In addition, Doi et al found that in vivo antitumorigenic activity that uses panaxanthone (75%-85% alpha-mangostin, 5%-15% gamma-mangostin) is effective in suppressing the tumor volume and lung metastasis<sup>56</sup>. Lastly, Johnson et al revealed that alpha-mangostin decreases the tumor growth in human prostate carcinoma

**Antiviral Activity:**

alpha-Mangostin and gamma-mangostin from mangosteen inhibited HIV-1 with IC50 values of 5.1 and 4.8 micromolar, respectively<sup>63</sup>. Furthermore, Vlietinck et al. discovered that the role of alpha-mangostin as a non-competitive inhibitor of HIV-1 protease by inhibiting the HIV virus replication cycle.



#### Antihistamine Activity:

$\alpha$ -Mangostin and  $\gamma$ -mangostin are histaminergic and serotonergic receptor blocking agents<sup>18</sup>. In addition,  $\alpha$ mangostin inhibits allergic mediators in bone marrow-derived mast cell<sup>60</sup>. Furthermore, Nakatani et al. presented that ethanol extract of the mangosteen's pericarp inhibits both histamine release and prostaglandin E2 synthesis.

#### Antiparasitic and Anthelmintic Activities:

$\alpha$ -Mangostin and  $\beta$ -mangostin were reported to be inhibitory for the growth of *Plasmodium falciparum* clone D6. Several modified derivatives were prepared based on the skeleton of  $\alpha$ -mangostin. Among these compounds, xanthone derivatives with alkylamine groups exhibits the most potent inhibitory activity against *P. falciparum* in an in vitro assay.

#### Anti-obesity Activity:

$\alpha$ -Mangostin has in vitro cytotoxicity against 3T3-L1 cells as well as inhibiting the fatty acid synthase.

#### Antimalarial:

Antimalarial activity of  $\alpha$ -mangostin was demonstrated by virus titer assay through plaque assay method. Alpha-mangostin was tested against the dengue virus infection (DENV2) in human peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC). Alpha-mangostin could potentially inhibit virus replication due to its higher concentration. The results showed 50% viral reduction after treatment using 10 and 20  $\mu$ M of  $\alpha$ -mangostin at 24- and 48-h post-infection, in which the 48-h treated group had a more percentage reduction effect. The IC<sub>50</sub> values were 5.47 and 5.77  $\mu$ M for 24- and 48-h treatments, respectively [52]. Another in vitro study was conducted on the antimalarial activity of  $\alpha$ -mangostin in DENV infection in hepatocellular carcinoma HepG2 and Huh-7 cell lines. The results demonstrated that  $\alpha$ -mangostin inhibited both DENV production and cytokine/chemokine expression in HepG2 cells.

#### Inflammatory bowel disease:

Mangosteen extract and  $\alpha$ -mangostin reduced the degree of ulcerative colitis (UC) induced by dextran sulfate sodium (DSS) in mice. Furthermore, a recent study revealed that this mechanism occurred by suppressing nuclear factor-kappa B (NF- $\kappa$ B) activation due to mangosteen's anti-inflammatory and antioxidant effect

#### Antioxidant:

The fresh and frozen peel (pericarp) and the flesh (pulp) of *G. mangostana* were extracted by ultrasound-assisted extraction method for 15-, 30- and 60-min. Ethanol within 20%, 40%, 70% and 96% (v/v) concentrations were used as solvent. The antioxidant activity was measured using 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH), 2,2'-azino-bis-(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid (ABTS), cupric reducing antioxidant capacity (CUPRAC), ferric reducing antioxidant power (FRAP) and ferrous ion chelating (FIC) methods, whereas the total phenolic content was measured using the Folin-Ciocalteu (F-C) method. The result indicated that a higher antioxidant activity in fresh peel extracts corresponds to several antioxidant compounds. The F-C technique measured the highest polyphenol content from the fresh plant material extract [8]. Pectin was isolated from the mangosteen peel extract and the antioxidant potential was observed by the DPPH method. The result showed a moderate antioxidant activity with the IC<sub>50</sub> of about 161.93  $\pm$  31.57  $\mu$ g/ml.

## II. CONCLUSION:

The mangosteen (*G. mangostana* L.) contained several chemical compounds, especially xanthenes, benzophenones, flavonoids, and anthocyanins. These components were proven to generate beneficial human health conditions through various pharmacological activities such as antioxidant, anti-acne, anti-aging, anti-hyperpigmentation, antibacterial, antidiabetic, antiobesity, anti-inflammatory, antimalarial, antiparasitic, and antitumor. Furthermore, chemical compounds isolated from mangosteen have shown advantageous outcomes for multiple pathological conditions includes Alzheimer's, various cancers, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, neuropathic pain, CKD, and pulmonary fibrosis. This review indicated that xanthone in mangosteen has the potential to be developed as a promising drug candidate. Further exploration of mangosteen as drug candidates may include pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamic, and xanthone targeting effects that possible to be carried out in the future study.

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