

**KARAKTERISTIK DAN SIFAT FISIKO-KIMIA BERBAGAI KUALITAS  
KEMENYAN DI SUMATERA UTARA**

(Characteristics and physico-chemical properties of benzoin gum qualities in North  
Sumatera )

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Abstrak

Sumatera Utara merupakan sentra produksi kemenyan di Indonesia. Kemenyan di pasaran dikelompokkan menjadi 6 kualitas berdasarkan kriteria uji ukuran (besar kecilnya) lempengan/bongkahan dan warna kemenyan, yaitu kualitas I s/d VI. Tujuan penelitian ini dimaksudkan untuk mengetahui perbedaan sifat fisiko-kimia kemenyan berbagai kualitas yang ada di pasaran, sehingga diharapkan nantinya pengelompokkan kualitas kemenyan dapat dipertimbangkan secara kuantitatif berdasarkan unsur-unsur sifat fisikokimianya. Sifat fisiko-kimia kemenyan yang diuji adalah warna, bentuk, ukuran, kadar air, kadar kotoran, kadar abu, titik lunak dan kadar asam balsamat. Hasil analisa menunjukkan bahwa kadar air dan kadar abu relatif sama antara kemenyan kualitas I, II, III, IV dan V. Kadar kotoran dan titik lunak kemenyan kualitas I, II, III dan IV adalah relatif sama, sedangkan kadar asam balsamat kemenyan kualitas I, II dan III relatif sama. Dengan demikian disarankan pembagian kualitas kemenyan menjadi 4 kelas kualitas yaitu kualitas I berasal dari kemenyan kualitas I s/d III, kualitas II berasal dari kemenyan kualitas IV, kualitas III berasal dari kemenyan kualitas V dan kualitas IV berasal dari kemenyan kualitas VI.

Kata kunci : kualitas, kemenyan, sifat fisik-kimia, asam balsamat.

Abstract

North Sumatera has long been the center of benzoin gum products in Indonesia. The existing gum in the market can be categorized into 6 qualities, i.e. I, II, until VI, based on the sizes (lump or flake) and colors. This experiment looked into the difference in physico-chemical properties of various benzoin gum qualities with their common varieties, existing in the market. In this way, expectedly, the grouping of benzoin gum qualities can later be improved using the elements of its physical-chemical properties. The properties observed are moisture, impurities, ash and balsamic acid content as well as colors, forms, sizes and melting point. Results of analysis suggested that moisture content and ash content were relatively similar among those qualities of I, II, III, IV and V. Impurities and melting point were also similar among the qualities of I, II, III and IV. There have been no difference in balsamic acid content among the qualities of I, II and III. It can be suggested that the quality of benzoin gum has to be simplified into 4 qualities, i.e. quality I originated from the former qualities of I until III, quality II from the former quality of IV, quality III from the former quality of V, and quality IV from the former quality of VI.

Keywords : qualities, benzoin gum, physico-chemical properties, balsamic acid.