

# Effect of Roasting and Kneading on Antioxidant Activity and Consumer Acceptance towards Asiatic Pennywort Tea

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**Abstract.** Nowadays, population have more age and longer life than ancient people which the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that the proportion of the global population will become 'Aging Society' during healthier lifestyles, new advance technologies especially in medical manufacture. This study was aimed to study attitude, behavior and opinion of elderly people towards herbal tea products and to optimize preparation, procedure and process of Asiatic Pennywort tea. According of the study, there are 100% of Thai people ever consume herbs and herbal tea, they consume as beverage. Half of consumer surveys are no chronic health conditions. Safety of product is the most factors that effect to purchasing decision. The consumers are agree (73%) in nutrition value that presented on label as it's claimed on the package. Result from this study shown that roasted and kneading process is highest mean score from consumer's preference  $7.07 \pm 1.51$  ( $P < 0.05$ ) that this method is significantly different in total phenolic content and Ferric reducing antioxidant potential assay but not in DPPH radical scavenging which is highest mean of second significantly level.

## 1 Introduction

There are more than 7 billion living humans on earth and the rate of population in each country is increasing that is determined by births and deaths. Asia is the most populous region in the world or 60% of world population which China is the highest population in the world and follows with India. Rank of Thailand is 19 which have 68 million humans. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reported that the world population has less amount of children population that means elderly population are increasing. The world society will change to Ageing Society. Thailand has chance to be Aging Society because the rate of elderly population is 5.7% in 1984 and grow up to 9.6% in 2003 which can expect that Thailand will has elderly population to 14.7% in 2019. Elderly definition is an old person who has age more than 60 years old. When entering old age, your senses (taste, smell, touch, vision, and hearing) become less acute and have some trouble in daily life. Herbs and spices have used as a tradition flavor enhancement for each characteristics and their medicinal properties. Herbs and spices are small plant that does not produce woody persistent tissues and has medicinal properties. Herbs and spices can use different parts of plant through processes such as roasting, smoked, fermented or fresh which consume herbs and spices in small amounts can help in bioactivities in human body which can provide health

benefits for consumers [1-4]. Thai people have consumed herbal plant as medicines. Herbal plant can use in many ways. Tea is dried leaves of *Camellia sinensis* plant that usually consume by infuse in hot water. *Camellia sinensis* plant contains all kinds of great properties, including vitamins (E, C), caffeine and antioxidants. There are several types of tea that made from *Camellia sinensis* plant. In each types of tea made from different parts such as green tea, black tea, white tea and oolong etc. and different processes such as roasted, air dried and fermentation to create the specific flavors. Herbal tea will be separate from tea. Herbal tea can call "tisanes" (tea zahn) that is commonly used plants from herbs or spices but normal tea use *Camellia sinensis* plant. Herbal tea is the beverage that can get from using parts of herbs or spices then pass though air dried or fermentation process by pass through soaking, brewing or boiling process as normal tea. There are several herbs that are popular in Thailand and contain several benefits with human health. However, there are the most popular one is 'Asiatic Pennywort' or *Centella asiatica* or Gotu kola. Thailand has 4 herbs popular products which is Gotu kola (Asiatic Pennywort), Tumeric, Phlai (Zingiber cassumunar) and Black galingale (*Kaempferia parviflora* Wallich. ex Baker.) that is Thailand's Signature of herbal products. Asiatic Pennywort is important herbal medicinal plant used for many benefits [5]. Ancient people was use in treating all disease for long time such as wound healing

and eczema.[6-7] Asiatic pennywort contains biological activities compounds for human health, during it contain antioxidant [8-11] that can help in anti-inflammatory[12] and memory enhancing property[10-11]. The main active constituents of *Centella asiatica* are triterpenes [13], polyphenols[14] and triterpenes [15] such as asiatic acid, asiaticoside, medecasic acid and madecassoside that resistant with antioxidation reaction[16]. Asiatic acid in the triterpenes component responsible for stimulating collagen synthesis of human fibroblasts[17]. Free radicals have been played an important role in ageing capable of damaging many cellular components[18]. Antioxidant will protect oxidative stress reaction. Reactive species (ROS) is low stable molecule, it need an electron to make itself more stable. So, reactive species will bring electron form other cells as a cycle that effect to mitochondria membrane and cell will damage. Protection against free radicals can be enhanced by intake of dietary antioxidants which may be major importance in disease prevention. Therefore, the aim of this project was to study the effect of roasting and kneading on antioxidant activity and consumer acceptance of Asiatic Pennywort tea.

## 2 Materials and methods

### 2.1 Study attitude, behavior and opinion of elderly people towards tea products

There were 100 people participated in this survey. Questionnaire was developed as a tool to gather the information which it was divided into 6 parts which were Part 1: Consumer's behavior about herbs and tea, Part 2: Consumer's attitude and purchasing behavior, Part 3: The factors influence purchasing decision. this part was asked based on their important factors by rating level of importance which used 1 referred to not at all importance and five referred to extremely importance, Part 4: Food consumption behavior based on their knowledge which ask based on their thinking with ability and expectation from products, Part 5: General Information included questions regarding demographic and socioeconomic position of participants such as age, gender, education, house members, income, occupation and chronic health conditions.

### 2.2 To optimize preparation, procedure and process of Asiatic Pennywort tea

#### 2.2.1 Procedure

Asiatic Pennywort was purchased from local markets in Bangkok, Thailand. The Asiatic Pennywort was graded that the leave should not have yellow color, bite from insects and free from diseases and pesticides. Fresh Asiatic Pennywort was wash with tap water or rinse before use to clean any soil and dust. The Asiatic Pennywort was packed and kept in refrigerator. There are four formulates with different methods: Kneading & roasted, Kneading & not roasted, Not kneading & roasted

and Not kneading & not roasted. Firstly, the Asiatic Pennywort was separated the leaves out from the stalk. The leave was steamed 90 °C for 1 minutes. Cool down at room temperature. After that for kneading process, kneading the leaves by using the hands for 5 minutes and left the leaves sample at room temperature for 30 minutes. For roasted process, after cool down the leaves sample was roasted in the pan at 45 °C for 25 minutes. After that, the leaves were unfolded before put in hot air oven at 80 °C for 2 hours.

#### 2.2.2 Sensory testing and sample preparation

There were 30 elderly people with age between 50 – 75 years old participated in the test whose can be male or female. 2 grams of Asiatic pennywort dried leave was put in tea bag. Brew tea with 150 ml of 90 °C water. The herbal tea bag was soaked for 5 minutes. After that, the herbal tea bag was shaken up and down for 10 times and serve at 65°C - 70°C.

#### 2.2.3 Chemical analysis

The Asiatic pennywort tea was determined amount of antioxidant activities. The basic methods were used. The modified Folin–Ciocalteu method[19], DPPH radical scavenging[20] and Ferric reducing antioxidant potential assay[21] were used for evaluating antioxidant activity.

##### 2.2.3.1 Antioxidant activity by determine total phenolic content

The tea sample The tea sample 20 µl of 10 mg/ml was mixed with 1.58 ml of distilled water and 100 µl Folin–Ciocalteu phenol reagent [22]. The samples were stood for 8 minutes 30 seconds at room temperature. Then, add 300 µl saturated sodium carbonate solution and incubated in dark place at room temperature for 30 minutes. After that, the test samples will be observed the optical density (OD) at 765 nm. The data was calculated as microgram garlic acid equivalent (µgGAE/ml). The experiment was done in triplicate[23].

##### 2.2.3.2 Antioxidant activity by DPPH radical scavenging activity

DPPH radical scavenging activity assay[20]. This assay uses to show free radical scavenging activity between DPPH solvent (2, 2-diphenyl -1-picrylhydrazyl) and an antioxidant. Tea sample 2 µl was mixed with 2 ml of methanol. Then, DPPH was mixed with 100 ml of methanol. After that, volume of DPPH reagent was varied with the volume of tea sample. The varied sample was leaved in the dark place for 30 minutes. The test samples was measured the optical density (OD) at 517 nm. The result will be expressed as percentage reduction of DPPH. All measurements should analyze in triplication and three replications.

$$\% \text{ reduction of DPPH} = 100 \left( \frac{A_0 - A_c}{A_0} \right) \quad (1)$$

Where  $A_0$  is the initial absorbance and  $A_c$  is the value for add sample concentration.

### 2.2.3.3 Antioxidant activity by Ferric Reducing Antioxidant Potential Assay (FRAP)

The tea sample was used for 2 µl mixed with FRAP reagent 1,000 µl, mix well. The mixture was kept in the dark place at room temperature for 30 minutes. After that, the mixture solution was measured the optical density (OD) at 593 nm. The value will be calculated as mmol Fe<sup>2+</sup>/mg of sample. All measurements should analyze in triplication and three replications. FRAP reagent is mixture between sodium acetate buffer pH 3.6, Iron chloride and 2,4,6 tripyridyl-s-triazine.

### 2.2.4 Statistical analysis

Data of survey information were processes using SAS version 9.4 (Copyright © [2017] SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA.), Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) was applied as experimental design. The data in this experiment was analyzed by using ANOVA (analysis of variance) and Fisher’s LSD test(p<0.05) for multiple comparison. Sensory testing was used about liking score with 9 point hedonic scale.

## 3 Result and discussion

### 3.1 Study attitude, behavior and opinion of elderly people towards tea products

#### 3.1.1 Demographic information

There are 100% of Thai people and nationality who ever consumed herbs and herbal teas. There were male 35% and female 65% participated in this survey with age of 51-55 years old(48%), 56-60 years old(31%), and 61 - 65 years old (17%). Most of the elderly stayed with family that had 4-5 people(46%), 2-3 people (33%), more than 5 people (11%) and stay alone(10%). They obtained in Bachelor degree (37%), Lower than high school (20%), Master degree or higher(19%), High school(13%) and Vocational Certificate or High Vocational Certificate(11%). The income that they earned in a month is more than 50,000 baht(25%), 20,001 – 30,000 baht(21%), and 10,001 - 20,000 baht(19%).Most of them are no health conditions or chronic health(39%), Hypertension(22%), Dyslipidemia (15%), Diabetes mellitus(10%), Obesity and overweight (6%).

#### 3.1.2 Consumer behavior

They consumed Thai herbs (66%) and consumed as beverage (42%), as medicines (31%) and eat as food in meals (27%). The highest herbal tea that consumers had ever consumed is Chrysanthemum tea (16%), Ginger tea (14%) and Lemon glass tea (13%). They like to consume They tea from tea bag (34%) and consume only 1 time in a month (23%) which no specific the time to consume herbal tea (45%), in morning (26%) and afternoon (21%). Consumers purchase herbal tea at hypermarket the most

(37%), and in each time will purchase more than 75 baht (41%) for herbal teas. The consumers agreed (73%) in nutrition value that presented on label as it’s clamed on the package which they think that their body will absorb the nutrients from herbal teas only 50 percent (39%), 25 percent (33%) and 75 percent (24%). The reason of consumers consume herbal tea is contain medical benefit (28%), make them feel fresh (23%) and relaxing (18%).

**Table 1.** The important factor effect on purchasing decision.

Factors	Mean ± SD
Safety	4.5 ± 0.9 <sup>a</sup>
Certification	4.3 ± 1.0 <sup>b</sup>
Nutrition	4.3 ± 1.0 <sup>b</sup>
Taste	4.1 ± 0.9 <sup>bc</sup>
Medical properties	4.0 ± 1.0 <sup>c</sup>
Organic	3.7 ± 1.2 <sup>d</sup>
Source	3.6 ± 1.2 <sup>de</sup>
Package	3.4 ± 1.2 <sup>ef</sup>
NET	3.3 ± 1.1 <sup>ef</sup>
Brands	3.2 ± 1.1 <sup>fg</sup>
Trend	3.1 ± 1.2 <sup>g</sup>

There are significant different between factors effect on purchasing decision (p<0.05). The most important factor is a safety; it means that they like to safe in consume the tea. Next factors are certification, nutrition, and taste. It means that consumer want to consume good products which should has approved from FDA or other warranties due to their age. The taste is also significantly important in the same level as medical properties. Taste relate to perception of consumer that should be good and more benefits together. Moreover, they are not concern in organic product or source, the reason might be the properties contain in herbs are mostly the same benefits. Package, Net weight and Brand of herbal tea products also not affect to purchasing decision. Paper tissue has used for package of tea both inside or outside for tea infusion. Plastic bottle has used as package of tea bottle that easy to consume than tea infusion or when you want to consume tea immediately. Volume or weight is not affected to their decision. Elderly people is not care much in the volume because they are more concern in taste than others factors. From survey found that they are consume only 1 time in a month. Brand and trend are lowest factors for elderly people; it means that famous products, social products or popular products are not effect to their purchasing decision. Nowadays, several was produced and lunched by small group of villagers or they can make it by themselves.

Table 2: Liking score of Asiatic Pennywort tea from 30 consumers in 10 attributes.

Process	Overall liking*	Color	Greeny aroma*	Roasted aroma	Sweet
Roasted & Knead	7.1 ± 1.5 <sup>a</sup>	7.4 ± 1.3 <sup>a</sup>	7.1 ± 1.1 <sup>a</sup>	6.6 ± 1.5 <sup>a</sup>	6.8 ± 1.2 <sup>a</sup>
Roast & no knead	6.9 ± 1.3 <sup>a</sup>	7.1 ± 1.0 <sup>ab</sup>	6.6 ± 1.5 <sup>ab</sup>	6.3 ± 1.7 <sup>a</sup>	6.7 ± 1.4 <sup>a</sup>
No roast & knead	6.3 ± 1.5 <sup>b</sup>	7.1 ± 1.3 <sup>ab</sup>	6.3 ± 1.6 <sup>b</sup>	6.3 ± 1.1 <sup>a</sup>	6.4 ± 1.3 <sup>a</sup>
No Roast & no knead	6.2 ± 1.4 <sup>b</sup>	6.6 ± 1.4 <sup>b</sup>	6.2 ± 1.5 <sup>b</sup>	6.1 ± 1.4 <sup>a</sup>	6.2 ± 1.7 <sup>a</sup>
Process	Bitter	Greeny Flavor	Roasted Flavor	Greeny Aftertaste *	Astringent
Roast & knead	6.5 ± 1.3 <sup>ab</sup>	6.9 ± 1.6 <sup>a</sup>	6.7 ± 1.4 <sup>a</sup>	6.9 ± 1.6 <sup>a</sup>	7.0 ± 1.4 <sup>a</sup>
Roast & no knead	6.8 ± 1.3 <sup>a</sup>	6.8 ± 1.4 <sup>a</sup>	6.6 ± 1.3 <sup>a</sup>	6.7 ± 1.2 <sup>ab</sup>	6.7 ± 1.3 <sup>ab</sup>
No roast & knead	6.1 ± 1.2 <sup>b</sup>	6.4 ± 1.5 <sup>a</sup>	6.2 ± 1.3 <sup>a</sup>	6.1 ± 1.5 <sup>bc</sup>	6.5 ± 1.6 <sup>ab</sup>
No Roast & no knead	6.3 ± 1.5 <sup>ab</sup>	6.5 ± 1.5 <sup>a</sup>	6.2 ± 1.6 <sup>a</sup>	6.0 ± 1.6 <sup>c</sup>	6.1 ± 1.9 <sup>b</sup>

Table 3 : Result of Total phenolic content, Ferric reducing antioxidant potential and DPPH radical scavenging of Asiatic Pennywort tea from different processes.

Process	Total phenolic content (µg GAE/mg dried weight)	DPPH (% reduction)	FRAP (mmol Fe <sup>2+</sup> /mg dried weight)
Roast & knead	62.7 ± 32.8 <sup>a</sup>	0.2 ± 0.0 <sup>b</sup>	1.6 ± 0.1 <sup>a</sup>
Roast & no knead	28.6 ± 4.4 <sup>b</sup>	0.1 ± 0.0 <sup>b</sup>	1.7 ± 0.4 <sup>a</sup>
No roast & knead	54.0 ± 14.7 <sup>ab</sup>	0.3 ± 0.1 <sup>a</sup>	1.4 ± 0.6 <sup>a</sup>
No Roast & no knead	41.5 ± 10.7 <sup>ab</sup>	0.2 ± 0.0 <sup>b</sup>	1.9 ± 0.2 <sup>a</sup>

### 3.2 To optimize preparation, procedure and process of Asiatic Pennywort tea

#### 3.2.1 Sensory analysis

All attributes were selected from characteristic of sample. There were 30 consumers that participating in the sensory test. There are significant different in overall liking, greeny aroma and greeny aftertaste after taste in different processes of tea ( $p < 0.05$ ). The significantly most preferred for all attributes is Roast & knead process and Roast & no knead process, it means that most of consumers are like to consumer roasted processes. Two processes are similar in roasted aroma, sweetness, greeny flavor and roasted flavor. But others all attributes were second level that is color, greeny aroma, greeny aftertaste and astringent of Roast & no knead process. The bitterness of Roast & knead process is the second level. Moreover, greeny aftertaste has a lowest mean score from consumers which sample No roast & knead process and No roast & no knead process. From result, roasted greeny aroma and greeny aftertaste, both attributes has lowest mean score in the same process that is not roasted. Roasted also help in bitter taste process can help to reduce greeny attributes. Focusing on (vellarine compound) and astringent (tannin compound) which heating can reduce the level of tannin in winged bean.

Roasted also reduce greeny aroma that occur in the tea products [24-25].

#### 3.2.2 Chemical analysis

Herbs are rich in phenolic compounds which are active compound and act as antioxidant properties. Asiatic Pennywort also has active compounds such as triterpenes [13] and polyphenols [14] which contains high total phenolic contents. Total phenolic content was determined with standard gallic acid in term of µg GAE/ mg dried weight. The highest antioxidant activity represented by amount phenolic compound that is 62.7 ± 32.8 µg GAE/mg dried weight which use Roasted & kneading process. This process is most significant different but not significant different from another 2 processes that is Not roasted & kneading and Not roasted & not kneading ( $p < 0.05$ ). Thermal process is a big influence in active compound which depend on their magnitude, duration and different heating methods. Thermal process lend to degradation of phenolic compounds. For example, roasting barley at 280 °C for 20 seconds can decrease 8% of phenol content[26]. For DPPH assay is significantly different in all processes that the highest mean is Not roasted & kneading process 0.3 ± 0.1 % DPPH radical scavenging ( $P < 0.05$ ). Using convection oven drying with spearmint can decrease antioxidant activities

antioxidant activities approximately 60% which heating go to inactivate enzyme. [27]. Kneading was used to macerate the cells of leaf which can activate enzymes (mixing of chemical with enzyme) inside the leaf and can be easily being extracted during brewing.[28] For Ferric reducing antioxidant potential assay, there are not significantly different in all processes which the highest mean score is Not roasted & not kneading process  $1.9 \pm 0.2$  mmol Fe<sup>2+</sup>/mg (P < 0.05).

## 4 Conclusion

The obtained result in this project was used to study habit, attitude and decision of elderly people. The process that will be selected to produce the Asiatic Pennywort tea depend on what is the most concern that if we concern at highest in both testing from sensory analysis from consumer and active compound, Roasted & kneading process will be selected to produce the Asiatic Pennywort tea. This process is get most significant different in mean scores for sensory, total phenolic content and ferric reducing antioxidant except DPPH radical scavenging has highest mean score from second significant.

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