

Foreword

Welcome to the third issue of 2025 for the *Pertanika Journal of Tropical Agricultural Science (PJTAS)*!

PJTAS is an open-access journal for studies in Tropical Agricultural Science published by Universiti Putra Malaysia Press. It is independently owned and managed by the university for the benefit of the world-wide science community.

This issue contains 21 articles: four review articles; two short communications; and the rest are regular articles. The authors of these articles come from different countries namely Afghanistan, Bhutan, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

A regular article entitled “Development of Herbal Tea Product Based on *Crossandra infundibuliformis* and *Justicia betonica* Leaves for Functional Drink: Antioxidant Activity, Sensory Evaluation, and Nutritional Value” aims to determine antioxidant activity in extracts, including sensory evaluation of herbal tea products from both *Crossandra infundibuliformis* and *Justicia betonica*. Leaf extracts were taken to determine total extractable phenolic content (TPC), total extractable flavonoid content (TFC), and antioxidant activity, including compound contents, using the high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) technique. The results showed that *C. infundibuliformis* extract exhibited a higher activity value for TPC, TFC, and antioxidant activity than *J. betonica*. Moreover, the *C. infundibuliformis* and *J. betonica* leaf extracts contained eight and nine types of phenolic and flavonoid compounds, respectively. Further details of this study are found on the page 719.

A selected article entitled “Effect of Solid-State Fermentation on Nutritional Value of Pineapple Leaves” assessed how pineapple leaves, often discarded as waste, were valorised using solid-state fermentation (SSF) to enhance their nutritional value for animal feed. This study investigated the enrichment of pineapple leaf nutritional values using SSF. The process parameters such as fermentation time, inoculum type and size, additional carbon source and particle size were optimized using the one-factor-at-a-time (OFAT) method. SSF proved to enhance the nutrient content of pineapple leaves, offering an alternative nutrient source for animal feed. The detailed information of this article is available on the page 767.

A study by Norlyiana and team entitled “*Bazzania spiralis* Extracts Exhibit Effective Toxicity and Oviposition Deterrence against *Bemisia Tabaci*” analyzed the insecticidal potential of crude methanol extracts from the liverwort *B. spiralis* against *B. tabaci*. The silverleaf whitefly, *B. tabaci*, is a major agricultural pest that has developed resistance to many synthetic pesticides, necessitating the search for effective, eco-friendly alternatives. The results indicate that *B. spiralis* extracts may serve as a natural alternative to synthetic pesticides for managing *B. tabaci*. However, further studies are required to isolate the active compounds, evaluate their effectiveness under field conditions, and assess their environmental persistence and impact on beneficial insects. Full information on this study is presented on the page 1055.

We anticipate that you will find the evidence presented in this issue to be intriguing, thought-provoking and useful in reaching new milestones in your own research. Please recommend the journal to your colleagues and students to make this endeavour meaningful.

All the papers published in this edition underwent Pertanika’s stringent peer-review process involving a minimum of two reviewers comprising internal as well as external referees. This was to ensure that the quality of the papers justified the high ranking of the journal, which is renowned as a heavily-cited journal not only by authors and researchers in Malaysia but by those in other countries around the world as well.

We would also like to express our gratitude to all the contributors, namely the authors, reviewers and Editorial Board Members of PJTAS, who have made this issue possible.

PJTAS is currently accepting manuscripts for upcoming issues based on original qualitative or quantitative research that opens new areas of inquiry and investigation.

Editor-in-Chief

Mohamed Thariq Hameed Sultan