Mulberry

The Story of Potential Miracle Plant

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PREFACE

Mulberry plant is a well-known medicinal plant. The plant is commonly known as *Morus*, the genus of a flowering plant belonging to the Moraceae family. In Asian countries, mulberry plant has been grown to produce silkworms as the leave is a major and important nutrient source for silkworms. Mulberry not only used in cooking and silk but it also provides a number of health benefits that make them highly appealing.

This book aims to provide a brief and simple description of the background, agronomy aspects and physicochemical properties of mulberry plant. This book will provide readers a comprehensive aspect of pre-processing methods of mulberry plant, and the potential of this plant as antimicrobial agent. Finally, this book also provides readers with a self-contained guide on the application of statistical analysis in mulberry plant related research.

Therefore, this book is designed as a quick reference text, with the aim that researchers, students, academicians with little experience in mulberry plant could grasp their understanding of the scientific aspects of the plant. This book will also be of significant interest to those working or doing research in the applied sciences.

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PHYSICOCHEMICAL PROPERTIES OF MULBERRY PLANT EXTRACT AND ANALYSIS OF PLANT EXTRACT

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INTRODUCTION

Mulberry plant is a well-known medical plant. The plant is commonly known as *Morus*, the genus of a flowering plant belonging to the Moraceae family. In Asian countries, mulberry plant has been grown to produce silkworm as the leave is major and important nutrient source for silkworms. Besides, this plant has been utilised as an excellent source of nutrient or functional food (Srivastava et al., 2006).

The mulberry leaves are single toothed with small-pointed ridges around its edge as shown in Figure 4.1(A). The leaves are usually shiny, dark green and smooth. These non-toxic leaves are found to be more palatable than other leafy vegetable. In China, mulberry leave has been used as a medicinal herb while leaf juice has been served as traditional drink.