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Dyeing using Pulverized Mangosteen husk and *Sepang* wood on Cotton and Silk

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Abstract

The traditional way of natural dyeing is a complex process that lacks in convenience in terms of preparation and storage as fresh plant materials need to be processed immediately. Dried plant materials are expected to have a better shelf life and it would be more convenient if the plants are pulverized into powder form. This paper highlights an on-going research to evaluate the dyeing and colour shades of pulverized Mangosteen husk and *Sepang* wood on cotton and silk. Two sachets containing the powder of each plant sample were boiled separately and only one sachet was left to stay in the dyebath. The dyeing experiments were carried out using alum mordant. It was observed that the shades of the fabrics dyed with the sachet that remained in the dyebath were more vibrant. The Mangosteen produced light brownish-yellow shades, while the *Sepang* wood produced deep red shades. Finally, the Shibori technique was used to create textile design to highlight the interesting textured effects of natural colours instead of the direct dyeing that only produced a flat coloured fabric.

Keywords: Natural dyes, Colour shades, Shibori

1.0 Introduction

A dye is a coloured substance that has the ability to colour materials such as textiles, paper, ink, foodstuff, cosmetics, medicine and many others. Hence, a natural dye means an extracted coloured component from any organic materials such as plants, animals and minerals (Siva, 2007). The dyeing process is described as a permanent colouring action resulting from leaving or boiling the fabric in the dyebath.

The discovery of mauveine, the first synthetic organic chemical dye, by Perkin in 1856 has resulted in a considerable decline in the use of natural dyes. Synthetic dyes are still mainly used in the textile industry as the use of natural