

## ABSTRACT

The demand for black grass jelly by consumers increases, especially during the approach to the month of Ramadan by up to 50%, because black cincau can be processed into drinks, especially during iftar. Black grass jelly can last for 2 days, if more than 2 days the grass jelly will be damaged with the characteristics of changing the color of the gel, more watery, and easily crushed consistency. To extend the shelf life, manufacturers add preservatives so that they are not easily damaged when marketed. Borax and formalin are the most common harmful preservatives found in food and it turns out that the use of borax and formalin preservatives is still being carried out throughout the year. This study aims to determine the percentage of borax levels contained in black jelly sold in the Surabaya market area. This research is a qualitative descriptive study using qualitative methods with BaCl<sub>2</sub> test and quantitative methods with UV-vis spectrophotometry tests. A total of 6 samples were taken from random black grass jelly sellers in several markets in the Surabaya area. After determining the sample that has been selected, then each sample is tested for 3 repetitions. Based on the results of the research, in the qualitative test all samples of grass jelly at 6 markets in Surabaya have not been detected to contain borax with a quantitative test all samples of black grass jelly tested are detected to contain borax, with the highest borax content of 97.41 g/ml and the lowest 17.22 g /ml.

Keywords: black grass jelly, preservatives, borax, BaCl<sub>2</sub>, uv-vis spectrophotometry

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Permintaan cincau hitam oleh konsumen meningkat terlebih pada saat menjelang bulan ramadhan hingga 50%, karena cincau hitam dapat diolah menjadi minuman khususnya pada saat berbuka puasa. Cincau hitam dapat bertahan selama 2 hari, bila lebih 2 hari cincau akan rusak dengan ciri-ciri berubahnya warna gel, lebih berair, dan konsistensi mudah hancur. Untuk memperpanjang daya simpan produsen menambahkan bahan pengawet agar tidak mudah rusak ketika dipasarkan. Boraks dan formalin yaitu bahan pengawet berbahaya yang paling banyak ditemukan didalam makanan dan ternyata pemakaian bahan pengawet boraks dan formalin ini masih terus dilakukan sepanjang tahun. Penelitian ini bertujuan mengetahui persentase kadar boraks yang terdapat dalam cincau hitam yang dijual di pasar daerah Surabaya. Penelitian ini merupakan studi deskriptif kualitatif dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan uji BaCl<sub>2</sub> dan metode kuantitatif dengan uji spektrofotometri uv-vis. Diambil total 6 sampel dari penjual cincau hitam secara acak di beberapa pasar di daerah Surabaya. Setelah ditentukan sampel yang telah dipilih lalu masing-masing sampel di uji sebanyak 3 kali pengulangan. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian,pada uji kualitatif semua sampel cincau jitam pada 6 pasar di Surabaya belum terdeteksi mengandung boraks dengan uji kuantitatif semua sampel cincau hitam yang diuji terdeteksi mengandung boraks, dengan kadar boraks tertinggi sebesar 97,41 µg/ml dan terendah 17,22 µg/ml.

Kata kunci: Cincau hitam, bahan pengawet, boraks, BaCl<sub>2</sub> ,spektrofotometri uv-vis