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## ANTIBACTERIAL COMPOUNDS ACTIVITY OF MANGROVE LEAF EXTRACT RHIZOPHORA MUCRONATA ON AEROMONAS HYDROPHILA

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### ABSTRACT

Pathogenic bacterial infections such as *A. hydrophyla* in fish cultivation are common problems. *A. hydrophyla* belongs to a group of bacteria resistant to more than one type of antibiotic. This study aims to determine the antibacterial activity of *R. mucronata* mangrove leaf extract and to identify potential antibacterial compounds. The research procedure includes extraction, compound refinement, phytochemical test, antibacterial activity test, and KBM-KHM Test. The results show that the antibacterial ability possessed by *R. mucronata* leaves crude extract increased after the extract was purified utilizing separating funnel. The lowest concentration of methanol fraction extract capable of inhibiting *A. hydrophyla* (KHM) growth was at  $8.25 \pm 0.39$  ppm, while the lowest concentration of *A. hydrophyla* was  $32.99 \pm 1.56$  ppm. Bioactive compounds contained in methanol *R. mucronata* leaves extract are alkaloid compounds, flavonoids, and tannins. Out of the three compounds detected, antibacterial activity is thought to be derived from flavonoid and tannin compounds.

### KEY WORDS

Organic solvents, separating funnel, phytochemicals, extract.

Aquaculture is one sector that plays an important role in fulfilling global food needs. Increasing the need for cultivated fish increases aquaculture activities. Fish deaths during cultivation, especially those caused by pathogenic bacterial infections, are still a common problem. *Haemorrhagic septicemia*, the rot of fan/tail and epizootic ulcerative syndrome are diseases of aquaculture caused by *Aeromonas hydrophila*.

Treatment of fish that have been infected by bacteria, especially *A. hydrophila*, in cultivation to date still use antibiotics. The use of antibiotics is one-factor triggering bacterial resistance, even against some types of antibiotics. *A. hydrophila* is one of the bacteria resistant to several types of antibiotics such as penicillin, ampicillin, cephalothin, streptomycin, amoxicillin, oxytetracycline, and streptomycin (Stratev, 2016; Adanir and Turutoglu, 2007).

Utilization of mangroves as drugs raw material has long been developed traditionally by coastal communities (Bandaranayake, 2002). *Rhizophora mucronata* is one type of mangrove that is known to have biological activity. The bioactive compounds of *R. mucronata* are derived from secondary metabolite products such as saponins (Mahato et al., 1988), alkaloids (Gurudeeban et al., 2013) and flavonoids (Nurdiani, R, and Awaludin, A, 2012). *R. mucronata* has antibacterial properties against several Multi Drugs Resistance bacteria (MDR) that infect humans such as *Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Klebsiella pneumonia* (Joel and Bhimba, 2010).

The purpose of this study was to determine the antibacterial activity of *R. mucronata* mangrove leaf extract and to identify the class of potential antibacterial compounds.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS OF RESEARCH

The research material used was *R.mucronata* leaf. Collected leaves are fresh leaves (still attached to tree trunks) between 10-16 cm. Leaves are then cleaned with aquades to remove dirt and sun-dried. The dried leaves are mashed until the *R.mucronata* leaf turned to powder.

The method used in this study is laboratory experimental. Obtained data were analyzed utilizing the descriptive method.

**Extraction.** A total of 1000 g mangrove leaf powder is macerated utilizing three different solvents based on their polarity levels. The polarity is n-hexane (nonpolar), ethyl acetate (semi-polar) and methanol (polar). It was conducted in order to dissolve all types of bioactive compounds contained in *R.mucronata* leaves. Leaf powder is macerated with a ratio of 1: 2 (leaf powder: solvent) in stages for 3 x 24 hours. The filtrate obtained from the result of maceration was steamed by utilizing rotary evaporator at temperature  $\pm 40^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The filtrate evaporation process aims to remove the solvent from the extract to obtain a crude extract of *R.mucronata* leaf (Trianto et al, 2004; Mulyani et al, 2013 and Lim et al, 2017).

**Compound Separation.** Compound separation used in this study is separation funnel method. This process aims to purify the compounds contained in the extract by attracting other compounds having different polar properties.

***A. hydrophila* Bacteria Stock Preparation and Suspension.** *A.hydrophyla* were obtained from BBPAP Disease and Pest Laboratory, Jepara. To obtain a stock of pure cultures, *A.hydrophila* were inoculated into a medium made of Tryptic Soy Agar (TSA) by scraping bacterial colonies utilizing ose needles and incubated at  $\pm 37^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 24 hours.

Preparation of bacterial suspense was performed by inoculating bacterial colonies in 10 ml Tryptic Soy Broth (TSB) liquid medium and incubated at  $\pm 37^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 24 h. Suspense bacteria obtained was put in a vortex process for homogenization prior to use on antibacterial activity test (Sumaryati and Sudiyono, 2015).

**Antibacterial Activity Test.** The antibacterial activity test aimed to determine the antibacterial potency of *R.mucronata* leaf extract and extract the separated funnel fraction. The test was performed in agar diffusion method. *R.mucronata* leaf extract is placed into a petri dish filled with agar medium and suspended *A.hydrophyla* seeped on disc paper. The antibacterial potency is shown from the clear zone formed around the disc, indicating that the compounds contained in the extract are able to inhibit or kill the growth of *A.hydrophyla* (Schlegel and Schmidt, 1994). The antibacterial activity test used three different concentrations at 1000 ppm, 100 ppm and 10 ppm in three repetitions. The incubation period was conducted for 3x24 hours and the measurement of clear zone diameter was conducted every 24 hours. Drag zone value is the diameter of the clear zone - the diameter of the disc paper.

**Minimum Concentration Test (KBM) and Minimum Killing Concentration (KBM).** KHM and KBM test aims to determine the minimum concentrations that can inhibit and kill *A.hydrophyla*. Determination of KHM value was conducted utilizing agar diffusion method with test concentrations of 1000ppm, 2000ppm, 3000ppm, 4000ppm, 5000ppm, and 6000ppm. Positive controls used ampicillin and negative controls used DMSO. The test solution was obtained by diluting the extract with DMSO until the desired concentration was obtained. KHM observation was conducted visually by observing the presence or absence of the inhibit zone formed as well as measuring the size of the inhibit zone diameter (mm). The determination of KHM and KBM values was conducted according to Bloomfield (1991). The concentration KHM and KBM value were obtained utilizing curve between X-axis In Extract concentrations (ln Mo). Y-axis is the quadratic value of resistor area ( $Z^2$ ).

**Qualitative Phytochemical Test.** Phytochemical tests were performed to determine the class of compounds contained in the extract. The test was performed according to the procedure described by Setyowati et al (2014), which is an identification of alkaloids. It involved 0.5 g of extract was added to 1 ml of HCL 2M and 9 ml of aquades, heated for 2 min, cooled and filtered. Reagent dragendorf were added afterward. Should orange to brown color is formed then the extract contains alkaloid compounds. Identification of flavonoids was

conducted to dissolve the extract in hot methanol. 0.1 g of Mg powder and 5 drops of concentrated HCL were added. Should orange color is formed then the extract contains flavonoid compound. Tannin identification was performed by adding 1 ml of FeCl<sub>3</sub> 1% to the extract. The appearance of blue or greenish color indicates the content of tannin compounds. Saponin identification was conducted by dissolving the extract in 10 ml hot water, then shaken for 10 seconds. The content of saponin compound is detected should it formed foam and does not disappear when 1 drop of concentrated HCL is added.

**Quantitative Phytochemical Test.** Quantification of bioactive compounds in *R.mucronata* leaf extract utilizing UV-Vis spectrophotometer at 517 nm wavelength.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Extraction.** The extraction process is carried out by maceration or immersion method to dissolve the bioactive compound contained in *R.mucronata* leaf. Dried and mashed *R.mucronata* leaves are weighed to 1000 g (from 5640 g of initial weight before dried and mashed) of leaf powder. It is then soaked in an organic solvent with multilevel polarity. Extraction results are exhibited in Table 1.

Table 1 – *R.mucronata* leaf extraction results with 3 different solvents

Solvent	Extract Weight (g)	Extract Immersion (%)
n-Heksan	7.07±0.25	0.71
Etil Asetat	37.51±0.45	3.803
Methanol	18.47±0.71	1.91

**Antibacterial Activity Test on *R.mucronata* Leaf Extract.** The antibacterial activity test on the crude extract of *R.mucronata* leaves to *A.hydrophyla* aims to determine the antibacterial activity possessed by the three extracts. The soluble compound in the methanol solvent and ethyl acetate exhibited the presence of antibacterial activity with the formation of the inhibitory zone, whereas in the n-hexane solvent there was no inhibition zone. The result of antibacterial activity test on the crude extract of *R.mucronata* leaf is exhibited in Figure 1.

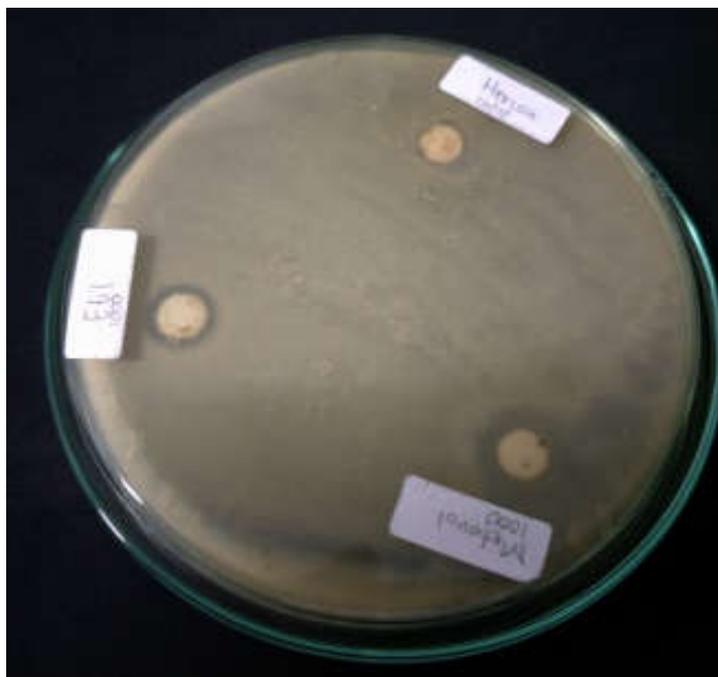


Figure 1 – Results of antibacterial activity test crude extract of *R.mucronata* leaf

The diameter of the inhibition zone formed from the antibacterial activity test of the crude extract of *R.mucronata* was  $6.5 \pm 0.58$  mm (1000 ppm extract with methanol solvent),

$2.7 \pm 0.84$  (1000 ppm extract with ethyl acetate solvent). Observation on the amount of drag zone diameter was conducted for 3x24 hours. Research result exhibited a decrease in drag zone diameter within 48 hours and 72 hours on both extracts and at every concentration. This indicates that the antibacterial activity possessed by *R.mucronata* leaves is bacteriostatic (Dwijoseputro, 1987, Schlegel and Schmidt, 1994). Antibacterial activity test on a crude extract of *R.mucronata* leaves exhibited that the extract produced by methanol solvent has the greatest inhibition zone compared to the others. This indicates that the antibacterial compound *A.hydrophyla* is a polar compound.

Crude extract and methanol solvent were purified utilizing separating funnel. A total of 15 g of crude extract were separated. Extract fraction is shown in Figure 2.

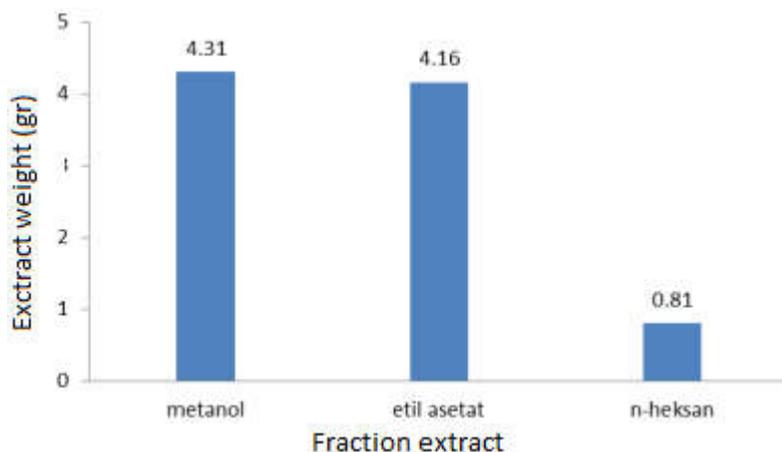


Figure 2 – Graph of weight extract fraction from separated funnel method results

The methanol fraction extract was tested for antibacterial to determine the difference between antibacterial activity possessed and crude methanol extract solvent activity. The results exhibited that the methanol fraction extract had a larger inhibitory zone diameter compared to the crude extract. Nevertheless, both types of extracts possess similar antibacterial bacteriostatic property. Comparison of two extract inhibitory zone diameter at a concentration of 1000 ppm is exhibited in Figure 3. The inhibit zone was formed by methanol fraction extract of 6.9 mm at a concentration of 1000 ppm. It indicates that the *R.mucronata* leaf possesses moderate resistance to *A.hydrophyla* according to Greenwood (1995) (Table 2).

Table 2 – Classification of inhibiting responses according to Greenwood (1995)

Inhibiting diameter (mm)	Inhibiting Power Category
$\geq 20$	Very strong
10-20	Strong
5-10	Medium
$\leq 5$	Weak

In contrast, antibacterial test results of *R.mucronata* against *Staphylococcus aureus* performed by Gurudeeban, et al., (2013) exhibited strong antibacterial activity ( $19.56 \pm 0.19$  mm). The resistance to *A. hydrophyla* growth is lower compared to *S.aureus*. It is thought to be caused by both bacteria types. *A.hydrophyla* is a gram-negative bacteria whereas *S.aureus* is gram-positive. The complexity of the gram-negative structure is higher than that of the simpler gram making the cell wall structure of gram-negative stronger and more difficult to destroy by bioactive compounds (Sari et al 2010).

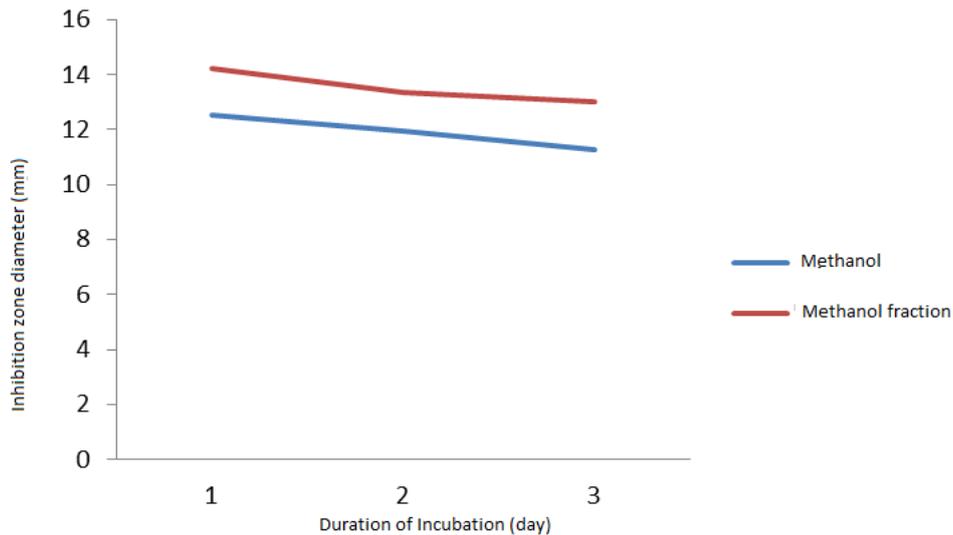


Figure 3 – Graph of inhibition zone diameter comparison between crude extract and methanol fraction extract

**KHM and KBM Test.** KHM and KBM tests were performed on the extract of the separated methanol fraction. This test aims to determine the lowest concentration capable of inhibiting the growth of *A. hydrophyla* and kill the bacteria. Methanol fraction extract was dissolved in DMSO, therefore the negative control used is DMSO. Positive control used ampicillin-type antibiotics. The parameters measured in determining KHB and KBM are the resistor zones forming around the disc paper. The antibacterial test results exhibited that in all test concentrations (6000, 5000, 4000, 3000, 2000, and 1000 ppm) exhibited antibacterial activity.

Based on the measurement of the drag zone formed, it is known that the size of the inhibit zone is directly proportional to the test concentration. The higher the concentration of the inhibitory, the higher the formed drag test zone is (Figure 4). The smaller zone of inhibition was formed at a concentration of 1000 ppm. It is suspected due to decreasing bioactive content contained on the paper disc as the concentration decreases. In addition, the small inhibitory zone may also be affected by the presence of bacterial colonies that are resistant to the bioactive compounds contained in the extract (Trianto et al., 2004; Edberg and Berger, 1986).

The existence of the inhibit zone formed indicates that the bioactive compound contained in the extract of the methanol fraction works to inhibit the growth of *A. hydrophyla* and is not the activity of the test solvent (DMSO). This is exhibited from the absence of inhibition zone in the negative control.

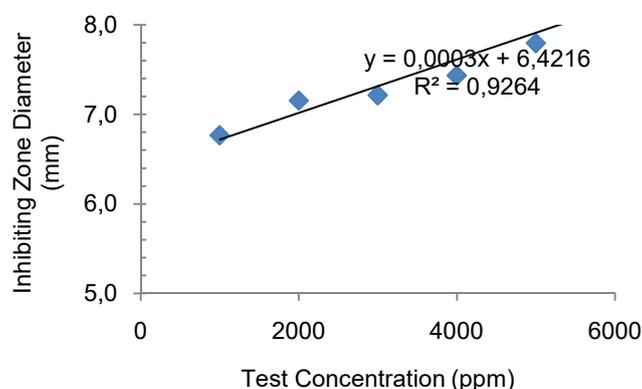


Figure 4 – Graph of inhibiting zone diameter on methanol fraction extract

The result of diffusion disc test exhibited KHM value of methanol fraction extract at  $9.46 \pm 0.39$  ppm. This indicates that *A. hydrophyla* growth can be inhibited by the extract at the lowest concentration of 8.25 ppm. While the ability to kill *A. hydrophyla* from *R. mucronata* extract is found at the lowest concentration of  $37.84 \pm 8.51$  ppm. The value of KHM and KBM is exhibited in Table 3.

Table 3 – Graph of inhibit zone diameter on methanol fraction extract to *A. hydrophyla*

Parameter	Repetition			Average	Stdev
	1	2	3		
KHM	7.84	8.67	11.87	9.46	2.13
KBM	31.36	34.67	47.472	37.84	8.51

**Phytochemical Test.** The phytochemical test aims to detect the bioactive compounds contained in the extract of *R. mucronata* leaf methanol fraction. The test results are exhibited in table 4.

Table 4 – Results of Phytochemical Test

Compound	Detection	Concentration (ppm)
Alkaloid	+	135
Flavonoid	+	1205
Tanin	+	580
Saponin	-	-

+ Exists; - None

The test results exhibited that the bioactive compounds contained in the extract are phenolic compounds such as flavonoids and tannins. The largest concentration of compounds contained in the extract is flavonoids. Flavonoids are polyphenolic compounds produced by plants (Tarahovsky, et al., 2014). These compounds are commonly found in leaves, stems, flowers, and fruits. Flavonoid compounds and their derivatives have the potential to become antibiotics for bacteria resistant to many antibiotics, such as *A. hydrophyla*. In addition, there are fewer side effects caused by these compounds compared to other natural compounds (Tarahovsky et al., 2014; Cushnie and Lamb, 2005). In addition to flavonoids, suspected antibacterial activity in *R. mucronata* leaf extract also comes from Tannin compounds. According to Hogarth (1999), complex phenolic compounds such as tannins are able to inhibit bacterial activity, therefore, it is often used in the pharmaceutical field. Tannin compounds work as antibacterial to bind and precipitate proteins and promote dehydration of mucosal tissue. In addition, tannins are also able to precipitate other macromolecules such as cellulose and pectin (Manito, 1981 in Trianto et al., 2004).

## CONCLUSION

Research results exhibited that the compound possessing antibacterial ability on *R. mucronata* leaves dissolved in methanol solvent. Bioactive compounds that potentially possess antibacterial activity were flavonoids and tannins. The lowest concentration of methanol fraction extract capable of inhibiting the growth of *A. hydrophyla* (KHM) was  $9.46 \pm 2.13$  ppm, while the lowest concentration of *A. hydrophyla* was  $37.84 \pm 8.51$  ppm.

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