5th International Conference on Biosciences and Medical Engineering (ICBME 2023)

in parallel with

4th Bionanotechnology Research Seminar and Conference (BIONANOSEM 2023)

> "Advances in Nanotechnology for Biosciences and Medical Engineering"

PROGRAMME & ABSTRACT BO

30th - 31st August 2023 Bali, Indonesia













EDITED BY

Nik Ahmad Nizam Nik Malek Siti Nur Sakinah Ahmad Sabariah Aiis Nor Suriani Sani







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Hak Cipta terpelihara

Programme and Abstract Book 5th International Conference on Biosciences and Medical Engineering (ICBME 2023) *in parallel with* 4th Bionanotechnology Research Seminar and Conference (BIONANOSEM 2023)

Editor: NIK AHMAD NIZAM NIK MALEK SITI NUR SAKINAH AHMAD SABARIAH AJIS NOR SURIANI SANI

https://research.utm.my/csnano/icbme-iciat-2023/ https://research.utm.my/csnano/icbme-2023/

5th International Conference on Biosciences and Medical Engineering (ICBME 2023) *in parallel with* 4th Bionanotechnology Research Seminar and Conference (BIONANOSEM 2023)

"Advances in Nanotechnology for Biosciences and Medical Engineering"

30th - 31st August 2023 Four Points by Sheraton, Ungasan – Bali Indonesia

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i]



Organized by

Udayana University, INDONESIA Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, MALAYSIA

In collaboration with

Centre for Sustainable Nanomaterials (CSNano) UTM International Islamic University Malaysia, MALAYSIA Ondokuz Mayis University, TURKEY



ii







TABLE OF CONTENT

Foreword by Chairman Udayana University	iii
Foreword by Co-Chairman I Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	iii
Foreword by Co-Chairman II Udayana University	iii
Foreword by Co-Chairman III Ondokuz Mayis University	iii
Organizing Committee	iii
Program Schedule	iii
List of Abstracts	xx
Collection of Abstracts	1 - 88
Acknowledgement	89

FOREWORD BY CHAIRMAN



We are very grateful for successfully organizing the joint conference of the 5th International Conference on Biosciences and Medical Engineering 2023 (ICBME 2023) and the 2nd International Conference on Innovative Agricultural Technology 2023 (ICIAT 2023). This joint conference aims to showcase significant research advancements in Nanotechnology research in Biosciences & Medical engineering, as well as sustainable agri-food systems in agricultural technology. Specifically for ICBME 2023, it is aligned with the 4th Bionanotechnology Research Seminar (BIONANOSEM 2023) and the theme is "Advances in Nanotechnology for Biosciences and Medical Engineering".

This joint conference was held in collaboration between the Faculty of Agricultural Technology, Udayana University and Department of Biosciences, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia; Department of Biotechnology, International Islamic University Malaysia; and Ondokuz Mayıs University. We are pleased to welcome you all to this conference, where the best researchers from around the world gather to discuss the results of bio-based research.

This joint conference covers a broad field with various disciplines such as biosciences, biomedicine, biology, agricultural technology, and nanotechnology. Therefore, this joint conference can be a forum for researchers, academics, professionals and students to exchange ideas, knowledge and experiences in related fields. The main aim of this conference is to share the latest scientific findings from researchers around the world and to learn from each other's research and to improve the welfare of humanity.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the keynote speakers, plenary speakers, invited speakers, oral and poster presenters, and all participants who have contributed to this conference. Many thanks to NS Field Sdn Bhd, YouBaby Million Sdn Bhd, Spa Factory Bali, Kaori, Made Tea, Bali Alus Botanical, BUCHI Switzerland, Wiralab, Mandiri Taspen, and Thermo Fisher Scientific for supporting us. We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to all the contributing organizations: Warmadewa University, Undhira University, Mataram University, Brawijaya

iv

University and the conference organizing committee who have worked hard and wholeheartedly to make this conference a success. We couldn't have done it without all of you.

We hope that this conference will benefit all of us. On behalf of the organizing committee, we are pleased to welcome all participants to the 5th International Conference on Biosciences and Medical Engineering 2023, 2nd International Conference on Innovative Agricultural Technology 2023.

Finally, we wish you to enjoy the conference and have a fruitful experience and networking.

Thank you,

Chairman

Dr. Ida Bagus Wayan Gunam

Department of Agroindustrial Technology Faculty of Agricultural Technology Universitas Udayana (UNUD), Bali Indonesia

FOREWORD BY CO-CHAIRMAN I



Bismillahirahmanirrahim,

Assalamualaikum and Salam Sejahtera,

It is very grateful that we are successfully organizing the joint conference of the 5th International Conference on Biosciences and Medical Engineering 2023 (ICBME 2023) and the 2nd International Conference on Innovative Agricultural Technology 2023 (ICIAT 2023). For the ICBME 2023, it is parallel with 4th Bionanotechnology Research Seminar (BIONANOSEM 2023) and the theme for ICBME-BIONANOSEM 2023 is "Advances in Nanotechnology for Biosciences and Medical Engineering". This joint conference is a collaboration between Department of Biosciences and Centre of Sustainable Nanomaterials (CSNano) from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Faculty of Agricultural Technology from Udayana University Indonesia, Department of Biotechnology from International Islamic University Malaysia and Ondokuz Mayıs University. We are delighted to welcome you all to this exciting conference, where top minds from around the globe have gathered to influence the future of biosciences, medical engineering, agriculture, and nanotechnology.

Transdisciplinary research is essential in this new era to keep up with the rapid rate of technological development. The term "bio" or "living things" refers to a broad field that includes many disciplines such as biomedicine, biology, agriculture, and nanotechnology. Therefore, this joint conference could serve as a venue for professionals, researchers, academicians, and students to exchange ideas, knowledge, and experiences in these fields. The primary goals of this conference are to share our findings with researchers worldwide and to learn from one another's research. Our shared objective is to advance sustainability and human well-being.

In conjunction with ICBME 2023, this conference will also feature BIONANOSEM 2023. The main goal of this BIONANOSEM 2023, which was started by CSNano UTM, is to advance knowledge, research, and development in the field of nanotechnology, particularly in the field of bioscience (bionanotechnology). The market for bionanotechnology is expanding daily and the industry is

expanding quickly. According to a report on global bionanotechnology published by www.prnewswire.com, the market for bionanotechnology, which was estimated to be worth US\$104.8 billion in 2022, is expected to grow to US\$160.3 billion by 2030, expanding at a CAGR of 5.5% from 2022 to 2030. This is consistent with the adjustments made following the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the report's segments, the pharmaceuticals and biotechnology industry, is anticipated to grow at a 6.3% CAGR and reach US\$110.3 billion by the end of the analysis period. As a result, it is anticipated that the field of bionanotechnology will see a lot of research, products, and services in the near future.

We see these conferences as strong forces for important change as we share insights, trade ideas, and present breakthroughs during these gatherings. Collaboration between various fields has a great potential to generate original solutions. The concepts cultivated in these discussions have the potential to develop into ground-breaking studies, ground-breaking innovations, and paradigm-shifting methods that will influence the future of our planet.

We sincerely thank all attendees, speakers, sponsors, and organisers for their tireless efforts to advance sustainable development, technology, and science. We appreciate the efforts of the entire organising committee in making this event a success. Many thanks to NS Field Sdn Bhd and YouBaby Million Sdn Bhd for supporting us. Take advantage of this chance to push boundaries, question accepted wisdom, and spark creative ideas that will pave the way for a more promising and peaceful future. Welcome to the 5th International Conference on Biosciences and Medical Engineering 2023, the 2nd International Conference on Innovative Agricultural Technology 2023, and the 4th Bionanotechnology Research Seminar (BIONANOSEM 2023). Together, let us explore, collaborate, and forge ahead on this remarkable journey of discovery and transformation.

Thank You

Co-Chairman I

Assoc. Prof. Ts. ChM. Dr. Nik Ahmad Nizam Nik Malek

Acting Director, Institute Ibnu Sina for Scientific and Industrial Research, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

Director, Centre for Sustainable Nanomaterials, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

FOREWORD BY CO-CHAIRMAN II



Dear Researchers, Authors, and Esteem Readers,

It is a great satisfaction that I write this Foreword to the Book of Abstract for the Joint Conference of the 5th International Conference on Biosciences and Medical Engineering 2023 (ICBME 2023) and the 2nd International Conference on Innovative Agricultural Technology 2023 (ICIAT 2023).

Welcome to Bali Island, Indonesia where the Conference is held. We are honored to be a host of the conference that intended to provide a discussion forum, establish a research network and find global partners for future collaboration. The parallel sessions of the conference are the place for scientists, engineers, and the stakes holders to share their research results, and exchange new ideas, information, and application related to the theory, design, development, testing, or evaluation in the scope area of the conference.

The conference includes more than 10 concurrent sessions in which there are invaluable presentations by both national and international presenters. The conference is expected to bridge the gap between academics, researchers, and policymakers.

Appreciation goes to presenters, participants, sponsors, student volunteers and well-wishers, and all other people who have directly or indirectly and magnificently contributed to making this joint conference a success. I extend my very best wishes to you wherever you may be around the world.

Co-Chairman II Dr. Ni Nyoman Sulastri Faculty of Agricultural Technology, Udayana University, Indonesia

FOREWORD BY CO-CHAIRMAN III



Ladies and Gentlemen,

I extend a warm and hearty welcome to all participants of the 5th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BIOSCIENCES AND MEDICAL ENGINEERING (ICBME) 2023 from across the European continent.

Esteemed Dignitaries, Respected Researchers, and Valued Attendees,

Welcome to the 5th International Conference on Biosciences and Medical Engineering (ICBME) 2023! As we gather here from diverse corners of the world, we not only come together as professionals but also as global citizens, united by a common goal of advancing science and enhancing lives.

I am delighted to offer a special greeting to our colleagues from the captivating continent of Asia. Your presence not only enriches the cultural tapestry of our conference but also symbolizes the wide-reaching influence of our collective endeavors. Hailing from Europe, I appreciate the immense potential of intercontinental collaboration. The exchange of ideas, methodologies, and perspectives across regions fuels innovation that knows no geographical bounds.

While our origins may differ, our aspirations are harmoniously aligned: to push the boundaries of knowledge in biosciences and medical engineering. Our challenges are intricate and often necessitate interdisciplinary solutions that bridge geographical gaps. This conference serves as a precious opportunity for us to initiate meaningful collaborations spanning continents. Envision the possibilities that arise when Asian ingenuity meets European creativity or the fervor of the East merges with the vision of the West.

In the spirit of global camaraderie, I encourage all of you to actively connect with your counterparts from various corners of the world. Engage in discussions that extend beyond lecture halls and conference rooms. Discover shared interests and complementary expertise that could lay the foundation for collaborative research ventures, knowledge exchange initiatives, and partnerships that transcend borders. The connections we establish here possess the potential to accelerate scientific advancement in ways we are yet to fully comprehend.

Once again, I express my gratitude to each one of you for gracing this event with your presence. May you relish your time in Bali during these two days of the conference.

Thank you.

Co-Chairman III Dr. Yilmaz Kaya Ondokuz Mayis University, Samsun, Türkiye

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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xi

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Siti Nur Sakinah Ahmad Sabariah Ajis Nurul Adhah Saini Nurshamimi Atikah Zareman Nani Sazana Hamdan Shahrul Nizam Mahmod Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Malaysia

Programme/Public Relation/Souvenirs Venue/Accommodation

Dr. I Dewa Ayu Anom Yuarini Cokorda Anom Bayu Sadyasmara Desak Kartika I Gede Mahendra Putra Made Surya Pramana Mahardika Ni Kadek Pramana Putri Ni Kadek Ratningsih Dewi Parwati *Udayana University, Indonesia*

xii

Field Trip Dr. Made Mahaputra Wijaya Udayana University, Indonesia

Promotion/Programme Sponsorship & Exhibition

Dr. Luh Putu Wrasiati Dr. Desak Made Wihandani Dr. Ni Nengah Dwi Fatmawati Dr. Luh Suriati Pande Suparyana Dr. A.A.P. Agung Suryawan Wiranatha Dr Dewi Indira Laksmi A.A. Sri Wiadnyani Ida Ayu Rina Pratiwipuja *Udayana University, Indonesia*

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Time (GMT + 8)	Duration	Program	Venue
8:00 - 9:00	1:00	Registration	
9:00 - 9:05	0:05	Welcome Adress by MC	
9:05 - 9:10	0:05	Opening Dance - Janger Kontemporer Dance	
9:10 - 9:13	0:03	Singing Indonesia Raya	
9:13 - 9:15	0:02	Praying	
9:15 - 9:25	0:10	Welcoming Speech by Chairman of 5th ICBME2023 & 2nd ICIAT 2023 - Dr. Gunam	
9:25 - 9:35	0:10	Welcoming Specch by Dean of Faculty of Agricultural Technology (FTP) UNUD	
9:35 - 9:45	0:10	Welcoming Speech by UTM - Prof. Dr fahrul Huyop	-
9:45 - 10:00	0:15	Opening by Rector of UNUD	-
10:00 - 10:10	0:10	Photo Session	Pandawa Ballroom
10:10 - 10:40	0:30	Coffee Break	-
10:40 - 12:15 12:15 - 14:00	1:35	Keynote SessionKeynote Speaker 1 : (30')(Dr. Gyorgy Szekely - King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Saudi Arabia) - ICBMEKeynote Speaker 2 : (30')(Prof. Sakae Shibusawa - Professor Emeritus Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, Japan) - ICIAT Moderator : (QnA - 5' + 30')Lunch - Poster Presentatition and Exhibition - Judging Session	-
14:00 - 17:00	3:00	Parallel Session 1 & 2 - Detail schedule separately (include Coffe Break)	ICBME - Balangan 1, 2 and 3 ICIAT - Padang- padang 1 and 2

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30th

	Time MT -	-	Duration	Program	Venue
8:00	-	8:30	0:30	Registration	Each room
8:30	-	12:00	3:30	Parallel Session 3 & 4 (Include Coffee Break)	CBME - Balangan 1, Balangan 2 and Balangan 3 ICIAT - Padang- padang 1 and Padang-padang 2
12:00	-	13:30	1:30	Lunch - Poster Presentatition and Exhibition - Judging Session	Balangan Area
13:30	-	14:15	0:45	Award announcement - ICBME and ICIAT Closing Ceremony - Assoc. Prof. Ts. ChM. Dr. Nik Ahmad Nizam Nik Malek & Dr. Ni Nyoman Sulastri	Balangan Room

Time (GMT + 8)	Duration	BALANGAN 1
		Floor Manager: Dr Muhammad Hariz asraf
		SLOT BALANGAN 1.1
	Chairperson:	Assoc Prof Dr Azzmer Azzar Abdul Hamid (IIUM)
14:00 - 14:30	0:30	Plenary I: Prof. Fatchiyah F. (Brawijaya University, Indonesia)
14:30 - 14:45	0:15	Invited Speaker: Dr Nurul Hidayah Samsulrizal (International Islamic University Malaysia)
14:45 - 14:55	0:10	P-003 Hamizah Shahirah Hamezah
14:55 - 15:05	0:10	P-004 I Gede Arya Sujana
15:05 - 15:15	0:10	P-015 Nur Amanina Johari
15:15 - 15:25	0:10	P-017 Najatul Su Ad Abdullah
15:25 - 15:40	0:15	Coffee Break
Chairperso	on: Prof Dr Nu	SLOT BALANGAN 1.2 Igrahaningsih WH (Universitas Negeri Semarang, Indonesia)
15:40 - 16:10	0:30	Plenary IV: Prof. I Gusti Ngurah Kade Mahardika (Udayana University, Indonesia)
16:10 - 16:25	0:15	Invited Speaker: Assoc Prof Dr Anita Narang (Acharya Narendra Dev College, University of Delhi)
16:25 - 16:35	0:10	P-030 Nor Wajihan Muda
16:35 - 16:45	0:10	P-031 Nor Faezah Ansari
16:45 - 17:00	0:15	Invited Speaker: Anna Safitri (Brawijaya University, Indonesia)

	'im /IT -	e ⊦8)	Duration	BALANGAN 2
				Floor Manager: Ts. Dr. Mohd. Faez bin Sharif
	_		_	SLOT BALANGAN 2.1
	Ch	airperso	on: Prof. Dr.	. Ir. I Gede Putu Wirawan (Udayana University, Indonesia)
14:00	-	14:30	0:30	Plenary II:
				Prof. Dr Shahrul Hisham Zainal Ariffin
				(Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia)
14:30	-	14:45	0:15	Invited Speaker:
				Dr Mohd Hamzah Mohd Nasir
				(International Islamic University Malaysia)
14:45	-	14:55	0:10	P-024 Thiribuvanesvari Duraivelu
		15:05	0:10	P-025 Dewi Ratih Tirto Sari
15:05	-	15:15	0:10	P-028 Aedrianee Reeza Alwi
15:15	-	15:25	0:10	P-029 Varohthini K. Maharaja
15:25	-	15:40	0:15	Coffe Break
				SLOT BALANGAN 2.2
		Chai	rperson: Pr	of. Dr. Fahrul Huyop (Universiti Teknologi Malaysia)
15:40	-	15:55	0:15	Invited Speaker:
				Ts Dr Rosnani binti Hasham (Universiti Teknologi Malaysia)
15:55	-	16:10	0:15	Invited Speaker:
				Assoc Prof Dr Noraslinda Muhamad Bunnori
				(International Islamic University Malaysia)
16:10	-	16:20	0:10	P-037 Nur Hidayah
16:20	-	16:30	0:10	P-038 Laili Nurzaidah
16:30	-	16:45	0:15	P-033 Nur Fatin Najihah Mat Husin

Time (GMT + 8)	Duration	BALANGAN 3 - BioNanoSem2023			
		Floor Manager: Dr Siti Salwa Alias			
	SLOT BALANGAN 3.1 Chairperson: Assoc Prof Dr Lee Siew Ling, UTM				
14:00 - 14:30	0:30	Plenary III: Prof Dr Nikos Hadjichristidis (King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Saudi Arabia)			
14:30 - 14:45	0:15	Invited Speaker: Assoc Prof Ts ChM Dr Nik Ahmad Nizam Nik Malek (Universiti Teknologi Malaysia)			
14:45 - 14:55	0:10	P-083 Husnul Khotimah			
14:55 - 15:05	0:10	P-011 Sharel Raj Jonson Raju			
15:05 - 15:15	0:10	P-010 Atieya Abdul Hadi			
15:15 - 15:25	0:10	P-016 Muhammad Redza Mohd Radzi			
15:25 - 15:40	0:15	Coffee Break			
		SLOT BALANGAN 3.2 Chairperson: Dr Juan Matmin, UTM			
15:40 - 15:55	0:15	Invited Speaker: Assoc Prof Dr Alyza Azzura Abd Rahman Azmi (Universiti Malaysia Terengganu)			
15:55 - 16:10	0:15	Invited Speaker: Prof Dr Agustina Tri Endharti (Brawijaya University, Indonesia)			
16:10 - 16:20	0:10	P-048 Nur Rabiatul Syuhaidah Mohamed Rusidi			
16:20 - 16:30	0:10	P-051 Wan Nur Iwani Wan Rushdi			
16:30 - 16:45	0:15	Invited Speaker: Assoc Prof Dr Shahrul Bariyah Sahul Hamid (Universiti Sains Malaysia)			

Time (GMT + 8)	Duration	BALANGAN 1			
CI	SLOT BALANGAN 1.3 Chairperson: Dr. I Made Mahaputra Wijaya (Udayana University)				
8:30 - 8:45	0:15	Invited Speaker: Dr. Praseetha Prabhakaran (Universiti Teknologi Malaysia)			
8:45 - 9:00	0:15	Invited Speaker: Prof Ts Dr Tengku Haziyamin Tengku Abdul Hamid (International Islamic University Malaysia)			
9:00 - 9:10	0:10	P-043 Amir Shafiruddin Nordin			
9:10 - 9:20	0:10	P-044 Nurul Fatin Syamimi Khairul Anuar			
9:20 - 9:45	0:25	Coffee Break			
Ch	airperson: As	SLOT BALANGAN 1.4 ssoc Prof Dr Alyza Azzura Abd Rahman Azmi (UMT)			
9:45 - 10:00	0:15	Invited Speaker: Assoc Prof Dr Surinder Kaur (Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Khalsa College, University of Delhi)			
10:00 - 10:15	0:15	Invited Speaker: Dr Widya Abd Wahab (International Islamic University Malaysia)			
10:15 - 10:25	0:10	P-075 Yuslinda Annisa			
10:25 - 10:35	0:10	P-080 Nuning Winaris			
10:35 - 10:45	0:10	P-047 Balqis Nurul Huda Armadi			
10:45 - 10:55	0:10	P-046 Evi Susanti			
10:55 - 11:05	0:10	P-014 Nur Nadia Batrisyia Arman			
11:05 - 11:15	0:10				
11:15 - 13:30	2:15	Lunch			
13:30 - 14:15	0:45	Closing Ceremony			

Time (GMT + 8)	Duration	BALANGAN 2		
	SLOT BALANGAN 2.3 Chairperson: Dr Mohd Hamzah Mohd Nasir (IIUM)			
8:30 - 8:45	0:15	Invited Speaker: Assoc Prof Dr Dayang Norulfairuz Abang Zaidel (Universiti Teknologi Malaysia)		
8:45 - 9:00	0:15	Invited Speaker: Prof Dr Nugrahaningsih WH (Universitas Negeri Semarang, Indonesia)		
9:00 - 9:10	0:10	P-053 Sakae Horisawa		
9:10 - 9:20	0:10	P-057 Afrida Sitompul		
9:20 - 9:45	0:25	Coffee Break		
	SLOT BALANGAN 2.4 Chairperson: Assoc Prof Dr Roswanira Ab wahab (UTM)			
9:45 - 10:00	0:15	Invited Speaker: Dr Mohd Faez Sharif (International Islamic University Malaysia)		
10:00 - 10:15	0:15	Invited Speaker: Prof Dr Sri Rahayu Lestari (Universitas Negeri Malang, Indonesia)		
10:15 - 10:25	0:10	P-069 Abdullah Nur Hakami		
10:25 - 10:35	0:10	P-076 Che Muhammad Khairul Hisyam Ismail		
10:35 - 10:45	0:10	P-060 Rafal Firas Jaber		
10:45 - 10:55	0:10	P-081 Hermalina Sinay		
10:55 - 11:05	0:10	P-092 Wenny Surya Murtius		
11:05 - 11:15	0:10	P-094 Dr. Mufeed Jalil Abdulabbas Ewadh		
11:15 - 13:30	2:15	Lunch		
13:30 - 14:15	0:45	Closing Ceremony		

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Time (GMT + 8)	Duration	BALANGAN 3			
	SLOT BALANGAN 3.3 Chairperson: Ts Dr Rosnani binti Hasham (UTM)				
8:30 - 8:45	0:15	Invited Speaker: Assoc Prof Dr Azzmer Azzar Abdul Hamid (International Islamic University Malaysia)			
8:45 - 9:00	0:15	Invited Speaker: Assoc Prof Dr Normah Haron (International Islamic University Malaysia)			
9:00 - 9:10	0:10	P-045 Nur Nadiah Abdul Rashid			
9:10 - 9:20	0:10	P-059 Nurul Elia Aqila Abu Rahim			
9:20 - 9:45	0:25	Coffee Break			
	SLOT BALANGAN 3.4 Chairperson:Ts. Dr. Naji Mahat Arafat (UTM) (UTM)				
9:45 - 10:00	0:15	Invited Speaker: Prof. Dr. Ir. I Gede Putu Wirawan (Udayana University, Indonesia)			
10:00 - 10:15	0:15	Invited Speaker: Dr Desak Made Wilhandani (Udayana University, Indonesia)			
10:15 - 10:25	0:10	P-012 Vigneswari Sevakumaran			
10:25 - 10:35	0:10	P-055 Asita Elengoe			
10:35 - 10:45	0:10	P-077 Aluh Nikmatullah			
10:45 - 10:55	0:10	P-082 Aulia Rahmi Pawestri			
10:55 - 11:05	0:10	P-085 Indah Sri Rejeki Naibaho			
11:05 - 11:15	0:10	Invited Speaker: Ali Aqeel Salim (Universiti Teknologi Malaysia)			
11:15 - 13:30	2:15	Lunch			
13:30 - 14:15	0:45	Closing Ceremony			

LIST OF ABSTRACTS AND PRESENTERS





LIST OF ABSTRACTS AND PRESENTERS

Speaker	Title and Name	Page
Keynote	Sustainable Pharmaceutical Separations via Continuous	1
	Nanofiltration	
	Gyorgy Szekely, King Abdullah University of Science and	
	Technology, Saudi ARabia	
Plenary	Exploring the Frontier of Stem Cells: Tissue Regeneration and	2
	Drug Discovery	
	Shahrul Hisham Zainal Ariffin, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia	
Plenary	In-situ Formation of Silica Nanoparticles Decorated with Well-	3
	Defined Chains of Linear and Non-Linear Structures	
	Nikos Hadjichristidis, King Abdullah University of Science and	
	Technology, Saudi Arabia	
Plenary	An Orchestra of Cellular Senescence, Inflammaging, Aging and	4
	Age-Related Disease: Mechanism and Therapy	
	Fatchiyah F., Brawijaya University, Indonesia	
Plenary	DNA-Recombinant Based Vaccine Technology: The Promises and	5
	Pitfalls	
	I Gusti Ngurah Kade Mahardika, Udayana University, Indonesia	



Code	Title and Name	Page
P-001	Seasonal Variation in Browning and Contamination of Acacia nilotica	6
	Nodal Explants	
	Anita Narang, University of Delhi, India	
P-003	Effects of Tocotrienol Rich Fraction Extracted from Palm Oil on Brain	7
	Proteome Profiles in Alzheimer's Disease Mouse Model	
	Hamizah Shahirah Hamezah, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia	
P-004	Optimization of Candida orthosilosis R5I3 Growth Media using the	8
	Response Surface Methodology	
	I Gede Arya Sujana, Udayana University, Indonesia	
P-005	Microencapsulation of Bioactive Compounds from Ruellia tuberosa L.	9
	Using Gum Arabic for Therapeutic Applications	
	Anna Safitri, Brawijaya University, Indonesia	
P-006	Development and Assessment of CRISPR/Cas9- Construct Towards	10
	Drought Tolerance in Rice (Oryza sativa subsp. indica)	
	Nurul Hidayah Samsulrizal, International Islamic University Malaysia	
P-007	Fabrication and Characterization of Graphite-based Membrane for	11
	Human Liver Cancer Cell Entrapment	
	Shahrul Bariyah Sahul Hamid, Universiti Sains Malaysia	
P-008	Antibacterial Wound Healing Application of Bio-Inspired Green Silver	12
	Nanoparticles	
	Nik Ahmad Nizam Nik Malek, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	
P-009	Development of Mobile App for the Understanding of Nanomedicine	13
	Nik Ahmad Nizam Nik Malek, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	
P-010	Multifaceted Computational Analysis of Phytosynthesized Silver	14
	Nanoparticles (AgNPs) towards Resistant Bacteria	
	Atieya Abdul Hadi, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	
P-011	Synergistic Antibacterial Effect of Silver Nanoparticles using Zingiber	15
	officinale and Azadirachta indica	
	Sharel Raj Jonson Raju, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	
P-012	Promising Development of Polyhydroxyalkanoates: A Sustainable	16
	Bioplastic for Next Generation Biomaterial	
	Vigneswari Sevakumaran, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu	



Code	Title and Name	Page
P-014	Basil/ZnO as Green Materials towards Removal of Amilodipine-Based	17
	Pharmaceutical Waste	
	Nur Nadia Batrisyia Arman, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	
P-015	In vitro Inhibitory Effect of Andrographolide on Fatty Acid Synthesis	18
	in Breast Cancer	
	Nur Amanina Johari, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	
P-016	Chemo-Photothermal Effects of Drug-Loaded Nanomaterial in Breast	19
	Cancer Immunoregulation	
	Muhammad Redza Mohd Radzi, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	
P-017	Diversity Of Bacterial Communities in The Southern Kuantan Coastal	20
	Water Area	
	Najatul Su Ad Abdullah, International Islamic University Malaysia	
P-020	Increased Number of CD4+ and CD8+ T Cells in the Thymus of Mice	21
	(Mus musculus) Exposed to Cigarette Smoke After Administration of	
	Java plum (Syzgium cumini) Fruit Extract	
	A A S A Sukmaningsih K., Udayana University, Indonesia	
P-021	Rosmarinic Acid-Rich Fraction from Orthosiphon aristatus Induces	22
	Apoptosis in Prostate Cancer Cells	
	Rosnani Hasham, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	
P-022	Synergistic Effects of Combined Cisplatin and Clinacanthus nutans	23
	Extract on Triple Negative Breast Cancer Cells	
	Praseetha Prabhkaran, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	
P-023	Larvicidal Activity and Morphological Alteration Induced by Pulutan	24
	Leaves Extracts in Aedes aegypty Linn.	
	Ngurah Intan Wiratmini, Udayana University, Indonesia	
P-024	Ultrasound-Assisted Extraction (UAE) of Ajwa Date Seed (Phoenix	25
	dactylifera L.): RSM-Based Optimisation for Extract's Total Yield and	
	UPLC-QTOF/MS Characterisation of its Saccharides	
	Thiribuvanesvari Duraivelu, Universiti Putra Malaysia	
P-025	Molecular Docking, Dynamic Simulation, and ADMET Studies of	26
	Caulerpin Performed HMG-CoA Reductase Inhibition	
	Dewi Ratih Tirto Sari, Universitas Ibrahimy, Indonesia	
P-026	Salivary Protein as Biomarker for Early Childhood Caries	27
	Noraslinda Muhamad Bunnori, International Islamic University	
	Malaysia	
P-027	The Antioxidant Properties of Active Fraction of The Cashew Shoots	28
	(Anacardium occidentale)	
	Normah Haron, International Islamic University Malaysia	



Code	Title and Name	Page
P-028	Optimization of Qiagen Argus X-12 QS Investigator Kit for blood	29
	samples on FTA card for kinship investigations	
	Aedrianee Reeza Alwi, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	
P-029	Review of Forensic Anthropological Assessment of Skulls for Sex, Age	30
	and Ancestry in Asian Population in Asia	
	Varohthini K.Maharaja, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	
P-030	Electrokinetic Supercharging-Capillary Zone Electrophoresis Approach	31
	by Online Preconcentration for Determination of Cocaine and	
	Morphine in Entomological Samples	
	Nor Wajihan Muda, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	
P-032	In silico Interaction of Nisin-Like <i>Lactococcus lactis</i> Bacteriocin with	32
	Selected Quorum Sensing Protein Members from Vibrio sp.	
	Tengku Haziyamin Tengku Abdul Hamid, International Islamic	
	University Malaysia	
P-033	Anticancer Activity of K. alvarezii Crude Extract Collected from Sabah	33
	Coast	
	Nur Fatin Najihah Mat Husin, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	
P-035	Glucose Uptake Activity of Ganoderma lucidium QRS 5120 in L6	34
	Myotube Cell	
	Faez Sharif, International Islamic University Malaysia	
P-036	Molecular Recognition Of Furin Cleavage Site (FCS) From Sars-CoV-2	35
	Spike by Furin Protease (FP) using Coarse-Grained Simulation	
	Azzmer Azzar Abdul Hamid, International Islamic University Malaysia	
P-037	Assosiation of Litter Size and Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone	36
	Receptor (GNRHR) in Senduro and Ettawa Crossbreed Goat	
	Nur Hidayah, Brawijaya University, Indonesia	
P-038	The Anti-Cancer Activity of Nanoliposome Hedyotis corymbosa	37
	Targeting Estrogen Receptor-Alpha in Breast Cancer Cells: in silico	
	and in vitro Studies	
	Laili Nurzaidah, Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia	
P-039	Nano-sized Solution to Micro-sized Problem: Imine-Functionalized	38
	Nanoparticles for Effective Microplastic Removal from Water	
	Alyza Azzura Abd Rahman Azmi, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu	
P-040	Development of Powdered Sacha Inchi-infused Oil using Maltodextrin	39
	(DE15) and Sodium Caseinate as Encapsulating Materials	
	Widya Abd Wahab, International Islamic University Malaysia	



Code	Title and Name	Page
P-041	Danio rerio: A Versatile in vivo Tool for High-Throughput Biomedical	40
	Screening	
	Mohd Hamzah Mohd Nasir, International Islamic University Malaysia	
P-042	The Antibiotic Susceptibility Pattern of Sreptococcus suis Isolated	41
	from Clinical Specimens at Prof. IGNG Ngoerah Hospital, Denpasar	
	during 2016 – 2022	
	I Putu Bayu Mayura, Udayana University, Indonesia	
P-043	Antimicrobial Activity of Crude Leech Saliva Extract (CLSE) Protein	42
	from Different Starvation Times of Local Leech Hirudinaria	
	manillensis: A Preliminary Study	
	Amir Shafiruddin Nordin, University College of MAIWP International,	
	Malaysia	
P-044	In silico Mutation on Acinetobacter haemolyticus Lipase KV1 for the	43
	Degradation of Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET)	
	Nurul Fatin Syamimi Khairul Anuar, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	
P-045	In silico Design of DNA Hairpin Aptamer for The Detection of Ovarian	44
	Cancer Biomarker, Human Epididymis Protein 4 (HE4)	
	Nur Nadiah Abdul Rashid, International Islamic University Malaysia	
P-046	Production Optimization and Characterization of Fish Protein	45
	Hydrolysate (FPH) from Milkfish Scales (Chanos chanos Forsskal)	
	Enzymatically using Papain	
	Evi Susanti, Universitas Negeri Malang, Indonesia	
P-047	Cadmium Biosorption by Non-Living Biomass of Rhodopseudomonas	46
	sp. strain SBL	
	Balqis Nurul Huda Armadi, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	
P-048	Development of Non-Polar Imine Compound Functionalized Magnetic	47
	Mesoporous Silica Nanoparticles for Microplastics Removal from	
	Water	
	Nur Rabiatul Syuhaidah Mohamed Rusidi, Universiti Malaysia	
	Terengganu	
P-051	Development of Magnetic Mesoporous Silica Nanoparticles	48
	Functionalized with Polar Imine Moiety as a Potential Polystyrene	
	Microplastics Removal from Water	
	Wan Nur Iwani Wan Rushdi, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu	
P-052	Sustainable Approach to Manage Agro-Waste through Cultivation of	49
	Edible Mushrooms	
	Surinder Kaur, University of Delhi, India	



Code	Title and Name	Page
P-053	Influence of Growth Stages on Species Identification and Typing of	50
	Basidiomycetes Based on Whole cell protein Information using	
	MALDI TOF MS	
	Sakae Horisawa, Kochi University of Technology, Japan	
P-054	Enzymatic Hydrolysis of Collagen Hydrolysates from Barramundi Skin	51
	using Alcalase and Papain	
	Dayang Norulfairuz Abang Zaidel, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	
P-055	Molecular Docking Studies on Phytoconstituents against APC, EGFR	52
	and MSH2	
	Asita Elengoe, Lincoln University College Malaysia	
P-057	Bacterial Community Structure in Log Piles Used as Foundations	53
	Analyzed by the Next-Generation Sequencing	
	Afrida Sitompul, Kochi University of Technology, Japan	
P-059	Adsorption Immobilization of Cyclodextrin Glucanotransferase on	54
	Activated Rice Husk Biochar: The Effects of Process Parameters	
	Nurul Elia Aqila Abu Rahim, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	
P-060	AML1-ETO Fusion Gene Detection and Frequency in Acute Myeloid	55
	Leukemia Patients	
	Rafal Firas Jaber, University of Wasit, Iraq	
P-063	Elaeocarpus grandiflorus Increased Immunoglobulin G Activity and	56
	Total Protein of Rat Induced Sheep Red Blood Cell	
	Nugrahaningsih WH, Universitas Negeri Semarang, Indonesia	
P-066	Accurate and Rapid Detection of SARS-CoV-2: Leveraging the Power	57
	of Reverse Transcription Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification	
	(RT-LAMP) and Lateral Flow Immunochromatography Assay	
	Derich Shalbie Simon, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Malaysia	
P-067	Proximate Composition and Identification of Organic Acids in	58
	Different Percentages of Cream and Campaka (Michelia champaka L)	
	Oil	
	Ni Made Suaniti, Udayana University, INdonesia	
P-068	Distribution of Arundo donax, an Energy Crop and Serious Invasive	59
	Species, in Shikoku, Japan using Google Maps	
	Yoh Sakuma, Ehime University, Japan	
P-069	Bioethanol Production from Wild Cassava (Manihot glazoiovii Muel.	60
	Arg) with Combination of Microbial Concentration and Fermentation	
	Times using Simultaneous Saccharification and Co-Fermentation	
	Technique	
	Abdullah Nur Hakami, Udayana University, Indonesia	



Code	Title and Name	Page
P-070	Immunoglobulin Yolk of <i>Canine Parvovirus</i> and its Biological Activity	61
	after Freeze-Dried	
	I Gusti Ayu Agung Suartini, Udayana University, Indonesia	
P-071	Phytochemical Screening and Evaluation of Antibacterial Activity of	62
	Single Aged Garlic on Gram-Positive and Gram-Negative Bacteria	
	Nur Athirah Othman Basri, University College Of MAIWP International,	
	Malaysia	
P-072	Single Bulb Garlic a Promising Antiadipogenic Agent: Bioactivity and	63
	Bioavailability Enhancement Strategy	
	Sri Rahayu Lestari, Universitas Negeri Malang, Indonesia	
P-073	Embryotoxicity and Teratogenic Effects of Local Jamu Maajun on	64
	Zebrafish (<i>Danio rerio</i>)	
	Zulfa Binti Zakuan, University College of MAIWP, Malaysia	
P-074	Comparing Age-Wise Reference Intervals for Serum Urea and	65
	Creatine Levels among ESRD Subjects: A Single-Centre Experience	
	Muhammad Asyraf Salleh, University College of MAIWP, Malaysia	
P-075	In-Silico Study of Active Compounds on Doro Putih (<i>Strychnos lucida</i>)	66
	as an Anti-Breast Cancer Agent Through Inhibition of The MAPK	
	Pathway	
	Yuslinda Annisa, Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia	
P-076	Computational Discovery of Human ACE-2 Inhibitors from Malaysian	67
	Kelulut Honey against COVID-19	
	Che Muhammad Khairul Hisyam Ismail, International Islamic University	
	Malaysia	
P-077	Phenotypic and Biochemicam Changes During Maturation of Bidara	68
	(Ziziphus mauritiana L.) Fruits, Bima Ecotype.	
	Aluh Nikmatullah, University of Mataram, Indonesia	
P-078	Cetuximab and Liposome-Nanoparticle using Pleurotus ostreatus	69
	Extract for Targeted EGFR and TIMP-1-Expressing Colorectal Cancer	
	Combination Therapy	
	Agustina Tri Endharti, Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia	
P-079	Exploration of Four Bali Medicinal Plants Showing from an Anti-	70
	inflammatory to Aphrodisiac	
	I Gede Putu Wirawan, Udayana Brawijaya, Indonesia	
P-080	Transcriptional Responses of Porcine Intestinal Organoids Exposed to	71
	Acetate and Butyrate	
	Nuning Winaris, Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia	



Code	Title and Name	Page
P-081	Local Corn Cultivar from Kisar Island Maluku: Its Potential and	72
	Development for Future Functional Food	
	Hermalina Sinay, University of Pattimura, Indonesia	
P-082	Harnessing the Power of Gut-Brain Axis: Probiotic Supplementation	73
	Ameliorates Neurological Symptoms in Cerebral Malaria	
	Aulia Rahmi Pawestria, Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia	
P-083	Protective Effect of Combination Gel Transfersome Centella asiatica	74
	Extract and Nanoemulsion of Rosemary Essential Oil against UVB-	
	Induced Skin Aging in BALB/C Mice	
	Husnul Khotimah, Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia	
P-085	Structural and Microbiology Analysis of Entrapped IS258 in Na-	75
	Alginate Matrix Upon Repetitive Batch Bio-Ethanol Fermentation	
	Indah Sri Rejeki Naibaho, <i>Udayana University, Indonesia</i>	
P-087	Effect of Media Type and pH on the Growth of Isolate R5I4 in the	76
	Early Stage of Fermentation	
	I Made Febriana, Udayana University, Indonesia	
P-090	The Effect of Hexane Extract of <i>Caulerpa racemosa</i> on HT-29 Cell Line	77
	by Suppressing PI3K/AKT Pathway	
	Happy Kurnia Permatasari, <i>Brawijaya University, Indonesia</i>	
P-091	Effect of Fluctuations in Temperature on the Life Cycle of the	78
	Forensically Important Calliphoridae fly Chrysomya rufifacies	
	(Macquart 1843) (Diptera)	
	Sarika Bansode, Kelkar Education Trust's V.G.Vaze College of Arts,	
	Science and Commerce, INdia	
P-095	Microbial Degradation Potential of Microplastic using Cutinase-like	79
	Microplastic Degrading Enzyme from <i>Cryptococcus</i> sp.	
	Habeebat Adekilekun Oyewusi, Federal Polytechnic Ado Ekiti, Nigeria	
P-096	Analysis of Decolorization Potential of Dye from a Bacterium Isolated	80
	from the Hypersaline Lake	
	Habeebat Adekilekun Oyewusi, Federal Polytechnic Ado Ekiti, Nigeria	
P-097	Synergistic Effect of Medicinal Plants on Liver Damage	81
	Tooba Lateef, University of Karachi, Pakistan	



Code	Title and Name	Page
P-098	Determination of Heavy Metals in Some Selected Herbal Medicinal	82
	Preparations Marketed in Kano State, Nigeria	
	Zainab Auwal Zigau, Bauchi State University, Nigeria	
P-099	Identification of Bacterial Strain Isolated from Antarctica Able to	83
	Degrade Dalapon	
	Yilmaz Kaya, Yildiz Technical University, Turkey	
P-062	Design, Development, and Usability Evaluation of MSU-TCTO Abalone	84
	Hatchery Water Temperature Monitoring System (WaTeMS)	
	Charisa F. Llema, Mindanao State University – Tawi-Tawi College of	
	Technology and Oceanograph, Philippines	
P-100	Understanding Composting and Microbial Behavior in Algerian Urban	85
	Areas	
	Fatma Zohra Derias, University of Benahmed Mohamed, Algeria	
P-101	Characterization of the Genetic Diversity of Citrus Species of Nepal	86
	using Simple Sequence Repeat (SSR) Markers	
	Nabin Narayan Munankarmi, Tribhuvan University, Nepal	
P-102	Green Honey from Banggi Island: A Comprehensive Study on its	87
	Physical and Chemical Properties	
	Nanthini Rajindran, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	
P-064	Anticancer Robustness of Gold-Silver-Cinnamon Nanohybrids	88
	Ali Aqeel Salim, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	



Keynote

Sustainable Pharmaceutical Separations via Continuous Nanofiltration

Gyorgy Szekely

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Saudi Arabia Corresponding author: gyorgy.szekely@kaust.edu.sa

Abstract

Separating molecules dissolved in organic solvents is particularly important in pharmaceutical processing, where separations can account for as much as 70% of the total manufacturing cost. Membrane-based separations, and in particular nanofiltration, have been recognized as sustainable technologies allowing molecular sieving under mild conditions. Recent developments in solvent-resistance nanofiltration resulted in high performance membrane materials. The latest generation of membranes are more robust, and they can operate under harsh conditions including extreme pH and polar aprotic solvents. Moreover, the membranes have excellent selectivity, low molecular weight cut-off with reasonable throughout. These novel membranes enable open new opportunities for various applications such as (bio)pharmaceutical purification and concentration, solvent, reagent and catalyst recovery. Hybrid processes consisting of continuous-flow reactors and membrane separation units are on the rise. In situ solvent recovery coupled to continuous adsorption processes for the isolation of bioactive plant-derived compounds also demonstrated significant improvement in process sustainability

Keywords: pharmaceutical filtration; nanofiltration; membrane



Exploring the Frontier of Stem Cells: Tissue Regeneration and Drug Discovery

Shahrul Hisham Zainal Ariffin

Faculty of Science and Technology, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Malaysia *Corresponding author: hisham@ukm.edu.my

Abstract

Stem cells are classified into four types: embryonic stem cells, cord blood stem cells, adult stem cells, and induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC). Given the difficulties of obtaining stem cells from embryos or cord blood and the risk of developing IPSC, adult stem cells have emerged as the best source for tissue regeneration and drug development. The primary source of adult stem cells has been identified as bone marrow. Nevertheless, the process of extracting marrow is uncomfortable for the patient. Alternative sources, such as peripheral blood and dental pulp stem cells from mice and humans, have been explored. The existence of two stem cell types in mouse/murine and human peripheral blood, notably suspension and adherent cells, refers to hematopoietic and mesenchymal stem cells, which may be separated after being cultured in vitro for 7 days (human blood) and 14 days (mouse blood). Mesenchymal stem cells, in addition, can be extracted from dental pulp tissue via enzyme digestion. Human stem cells derived from these teeth are known as deciduous tooth stem cells (SHED) and dental pulp stem cells (DPSC), respectively. Isolated human and mouse peripheral blood stem cells can differentiate into osteoblasts and chondrocytes, which secrete a real bone-like matrix, and osteoclasts, which degrade the bone matrix. Dental pulp stem cells were also reported to differentiate into osteoblast and neuron, but not osteoclast. As a result, these types of stem cells rival bone marrow stem cells as an alternative source for tissue regenerative treatment and drug discovery. The advancement of stem cell research is expected to significantly improve disease treatment, improving living standards while fostering a sustainable society. This acquired knowledge can offer the public a better understanding of the various options available in the medical and dental fields, beyond traditional approaches like medications and surgeries.



In-situ Formation of Silica Nanoparticles Decorated with Well-Defined Chains of Linear and Non-Linear Structures

F. Aldakheel, K. Ntetsikas, A. Yudhanto, G. Lubineau, N. Hadjichristidis*

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Saudi Arabia *Corresponding author: Nikolaos.Hadjichristidis@kaust.edu.sa

Abstract

Grafting nonpolar polymer chains onto the surface of polar nanoparticles (e.g., silica) is an effective way to enhance particle/matrix interactions and thus promote their homogeneous dispersion within a nonpolar matrix, leading to improved mechanical properties. Current grafting methods have not yet produced nanoparticles with well-defined polymers on the surface and high grafting density. In this work, we used anionic polymerization high vacuum techniques to synthesize ω-tetraethyl orthosilicate (TEOS) PS, PS-b-PI, (PS)2PS-TEOS, (PS)2PI-TEOS, and (PS)2PI-b-PS-TEOS macromonomers (precursors) and then by hydrolysis/ condensation of macromonomers the in-situ formation of grafted silica nanoparticles (NPs) (Scheme). The molecular characteristics of the precursors (polymer-TEOS) were determined by ¹H NMR, SEC, and MALDI-ToF. The formation of polymer@SiO₂ NPs by FT-IR, ²⁹Si solid-state NMR, TEM, TGA, and DLS. Blends of polymer@SiO₂ with commercially available PS and synthesized thermoplastic elastomer (PS-b-PI-b-PS), were obtained either in melt by extrusion or in solution by evaporation. The role of polymer@SiO₂ on the mechanical properties and morphological features of the matrices was examined by tensile testing and SEM. The proposed general method controls the molecular weight, chemical composition, particle size and grafting density of nanoparticles and effectively improves the mechanical characteristics of the nanocomposites.

Keywords: nanoparticles; polymer; polymer-TEOS



An Orchestra of Cellular Senescence, Inflammaging, Aging and Age-Related Disease: Mechanism and Therapy

Fatchiyah Fatchiyah^{a,b,*}

^aDept. Biology, Faculty of Math. & Natural Science, Brawijaya University, Indonesia ^bRC Smart Molecule of Natural Genetics Resources, Brawijaya University, Indonesia *Corresponding author: fatchiya@ub.ac.id

Abstract

Aging is a natural physiological process characterized by a decreased response to various types of stress such as mitochondrial dysfunction, DNA damage, epigenetics, inflammatory factors, and oxidative stress. The complex pathway mechanisms involved in longevity, age-related disease origin, inflammation, and metabolic dysfunction make up the senescence-associated secretory phenotype (SASP) that is a hallmark of cellular senescence. In obese people, the percentage of body fat increases due to increased expansion of visceral adipose tissue, limited lipid storage capacity and uncontrolled distribution of adipose tissue. Interestingly, these adipose cells are older than the body of obese people. In obese people, hyperplasia adipose cells characterized by reduced adipogenesis, dysfunctional adipose tissue, and inflammation-dependent cell senescence triggered by SASP progression and certain interleukins. This study aims to reveal specific bioactive compounds to regulate the aging mechanism in senescence adipose cells into a homeostatic state through appropriate mechanisms. This study concludes that the regulation of PPAR- γ signaling by specific bioactive compounds may produce beneficial effects in preventing cellular senescence from the progression of adipocyte aging.

Keywords: Aging; adipose tissue; bioactive compounds; cellular senescence; inflammation



DNA-Recombinant Based Vaccine Technology: The Promises and Pitfalls

Gusti N Mahardika^{a*}, Tri Komala Sari^b, Henri P. W. Sudipa^c, Bayu K. Mahardika^a

^aThe Animal Biomedical and Molecular Biology Laboratory, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Udayana University, JI Sesetan-Markisa 6A, Denpasar – Indonesia

^bVirology Laboratory, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Udayana University, Jl. Sudirman, Denpasar-Indonesia

^cBacteriology and Micology Laboratory, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Udayana University, JI. Sudirman, Denpasar-Indonesia

*Corresponding author: gnmahardika@unud.ac.id

Abstract

Global vaccine industry is a multi-billion-dollar business to provide protein and protection of health of global community. The traditional vaccine production has the main substantial limitation of the need to handle infectious agent, which is not manageable in developing countries. The modern DNA-recombinant based vaccine technology, such as mRNA, DNA, sub-unit, and adenovirus vectored vaccines, allows researchers and vaccine companies to develop vaccine seeds immediately so it can be made timely ready for global animal husbandry and human population. The pandemic Covid-19 has demonstrated that DNA-recombinant based technology did allow vaccine companies to produce the antidot of the pandemic which lessened its devastating impact. Although the technology is very promising, there are pitfalls in applying it for wider use, such as vaccine delivery, possible long-term impacts of nucleic acid application and the release of live engineered vector. This paper is critically discussing the DNA-recombinant based vaccine technology, it advantages and limitations, and the future negative impact to be anticipated.

Keywords: DNA-recombinant based vaccine; global protein supply; human health protection;



Seasonal Variation in Browning and Contamination of *Acacia nilotica* Nodal Explants

Anita Narang^{a*}, Anupama Shukla^a, Surinder Kaur^b

^aDepartment of Botany, Acharya Narendra Dev College, University of Delhi ^bDepartment of Botany, SGTB Khalsa College, University of Delhi *Corresponding author: naranganita08@gmail.com

Abstract

A major problem encountered in establishing axenic cultures is the high rate of contamination and browning of explants and media. Contamination is initiated in explants excised from either soil-borne tissues or from adult trees. To reduce this, the use of several sterilizing agents (Tween 20, chlorine water, silver nitrate, mercuric chloride, etc.) or a wash in antibiotic solution or culturing the explants on an antibiotic containing medium has been recommended by many researchers. During the present investigations, contamination was a serious problem encountered in establishing in vitro cultures of Acacia nilotica old tree nodal explants. Contamination was controlled by sterilizing the explants by washing in polysan (5%, v/v), thorough washing under tap water, 70% alcohol treatment and finally, 0.1% HgCl₂ treatment. Plant tissues release phenolic substances through their cut ends, which turn the media dark brown and prove toxic to the tissues. Addition of various antioxidants (PVP, AC, ascorbic and citric acids, sodium sulphate etc.), quick transfer of explants to fresh medium twice or thrice, at a few days interval may overcome the problem in some cases. Initial collection of explants in antioxidant solution and a wash in antioxidant solution prior to inoculation was helpful in reducing the phenolic exudation in the present investigations. Addition of antioxidant (100 mg/1 citric acid) to the medium also checked browning to some extent. The rate of infection and browning of explants varied in different seasons; maximum being during winters and minimum during summers. This was inversely related to the morphogenic response of explants i.e. maximum caulogenesis occurred in vitro during July and August.

Keywords: HgCl₂-mercuric chloride; PVP-polyvinyl pyruvic acid; activated charcoal



Effects of Tocotrienol Rich Fraction Extracted from Palm Oil on Brain Proteome Profiles in Alzheimer's Disease Mouse Model

Hamizah Shahirah Hamezah^{a,*}, Lina Wati Durani^b, Nor Faeizah Ibrahim^c, Daijiro Yanagisawa^b, Hanafi Ahmad Damanhuri^c, Wan Zurinah Wan Ngah^c, Ikuo Tooyama^b

^aInstitute of Systems Biology (INBIOSIS), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, 43600, UKM Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia

^bMolecular Neuroscience Research Center, Shiga University of Medical Science, 520-2192, Otsu, Shiga, Japan

^cDepartment of Biochemistry, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Medical Centre, 56000, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

*Corresponding author: hamizahshahirah@ukm.edu.my

Abstract

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a neurodegenerative disorder marked by cognitive impairment. The effect of vitamin E analogs on AD is still unclear. Therefore, this study was conducted to evaluate the effect of tocotrienol rich fraction (TRF) on AD mouse model. APP/PS1 mice received TRF orally for 10 months. Proteomics analysis was performed on the mice brain using LC-MS/MS. TRF altered proteins in the specific brain regions of APP/PS1 mice. The expression of amyloid beta protein in hippocampus was modulated by TRF treatment. TRF potentially exerts its neuroprotective effects in the brain by modulating proteins involved in various biochemical pathways.

Keywords: Alzheimer's disease; tocotrienol; memory; brain; proteomics



Optimization of *Candida orthosilosis* R5I3 Growth Media using the Response Surface Methodology

I Gede Arya Sujana^{a,b*}, Ida Bagus Wayan Gunam^{a,b*}, I Made Mahaputra Wijaya^{a,b}, and I Wayan Wisma Pradnyana Putra^{a,b}

^aDepartment of Agroindustrial Technology, Faculty of Agricultural Technology, Udayana University, Bukit Jimbaran, Badung Bali 80361, Indonesia

^bLaboratory of Bioindustry, Faculty of Agricultural Technology, Udayana University, Bukit Jimbaran Badung Bali 80361, Indonesia

*Email: ibwgunam@unud.ac.id, igedearyasujana2@gmail.com

Abstract

Media is materials that can be used for the growth of microorganisms including bacteria, yeast and mold. Nutrients in the media must meet the basic needs of the microbes being cultured. In this study, the growth medium for *Candida orthosilosis* strain R5I3 that has been optimized is the concentration of each content of Yeast Extract Peptone Glucose medium. The method used in this study was Response Surface Methodology (RSM), and from this method, 20 experimental treatments have been suggested. In this experiment, the analysis that was carried out were changes in pH, total dissolved solids, reducing sugars, total ethanol, and optical density (OD) values. The optimal results obtained in this study were yeast content of 0.6% (v/v), peptone of 0.9 (v/v), and glucose of 7.5% (v/v). The analysis results obtained were final pH value of 3.85, final total dissolved solids (TDS) of 2.4% Brix with a TDS reduction of 66.20% from the initial TDS value. In addition, final reducing sugar was 2.32 mg/mL with a reduction value of 35.64%, total ethanol produced was 2.49% (v/v), and optical density value was 2.55 at a wavelength of 660 nm. The results of this study will be useful for optimizing the growth of the R5I3 strain when used in the bioethanol production process.

Keywords: Candida orthosilosis strain R5I3; media; optimization; response surface methodology



Microencapsulation of Bioactive Compounds from *Ruellia tuberosa* L. Using Gum Arabic for Therapeutic Applications

Anna Safitri^{a,b}, Firza Rajasa^a, Nabila Almayda^a

^aDepartment of Chemistry, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Brawijaya University, Jl. Veteran, Malang 65145, Indonesia

^bResearch Centre of SMONAGENES (Smart Molecules of Natural Genetic Resources), Brawijaya University, JI. Veteran, Malang 65145, Indonesia

*Corresponding author: a.safitri@ub.ac.id

Abstract

The bioactive compounds naturally present in plants have great importance due to their biological characteristics. These substances could lose their active characteristics since they are highly unstable. Microencapsulation is one of the techniques to improve stability and protect these compounds. In this work, R. tuberosa L. aqueous extracts microcapsules were prepared using a spray-drying method by varying pH, gum Arabic concentration, and stirring time. The encapsulation efficiency (EE), characteristics, alpha-amylase inhibition activity, and release behaviour of the microcapsules were investigated. The results highlighted that the highest encapsulation efficiency for the microcapsules was obtained at pH 5, gum Arabic concentration of 1% (w/v), and 90 min of stirring time (52.7% EE). The alpha-amylase inhibition assay from microcapsules resulted in the IC₅₀ value of 71.61 \pm 0.13 µg/mL, demonstrating high biological activity. Results of characterization using SEM showed that the surface of the microcapsules produced was still heterogeneous, with a tendency to be spherical, with various sizes ranging from 0.933 to 3.08 µm. The bioactive substances from microcapsules were released during intervals of 30-150 min at pH values of 1.2 and 7.4. Only 3.51% of the bioactive substances were released at pH 1.2 after 120 min, compared to 55.78% at pH 7.4. Overall, this work confirms the possibility of developing plant extracts with preserved biological activity using the produced microcapsules.

Keywords: Alpha-amylase; concentration; gum Arabic; microencapsulation; pH; *Ruellia tuberosa* L; stirring time



Development and Assessment of CRISPR/Cas9- Construct Towards Drought Tolerance in Rice (*Oryza sativa* subsp. *indica*)

Nurul Hidayah Samsulrizal^{a,b,e,*}, Anis Afuza Md-Yusof^a, Nurul Asyikin Mohd-Zim^{a,c}, Amin-Asyraf Tamizi^{a,d}, Mohd-Syahmi Salleh^a, Nur Sabrina Ahmad-Azmi^{a,b}, Zarina Zainuddin^{a,b}

^aDepartment of Plant Science, Kuliyyah of Science, International Islamic University Malaysia, 26300, Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia.

^bPlant Productivity and Sustainable Resource Unit, Kuliyyah of Science, International Islamic University Malaysia, 26300, Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia.

^cFGV R&D Sdn. Bhd., FGV Innovation Centre, PT. 23417 Lengkuk Teknologi, 71760, Bandar Enstek, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia.

^dBiotechnology and Nanotechnology Research Centre, Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI), 43400 Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia.

^eResearch Unit for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (RUBIC), Kulliyyah of Science, International Islamic University Malaysia, Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah, Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia. *Corresponding author: hidayahsamsulrizal@iium.edu.my

Abstract

The great majority of the population on earth consume rice (Oryza sativa) as their primary source of carbohydrates, however, seriously threatened by the onset of climate change has posed a significant threat to the cultivation of this staple crop. The revolution of genome editing technology has opened a new era in crop improvement. Hence, this study aims to isolate, characterise, and develop the CRISPR/Cas9 construct for SUMO E2-Conjugating Enzyme (OsSCE1) gene. Development of CRISPR/Cas9 constructs involved several stages, (1) characterisation of OsSCE1 gene, (2) sgRNA design, (3) vector construction, (4) Agrobacterium and in-planta transformation and (5) molecular validations. The OsSCE1 gene was verified by sequencing, showing 99% identity with O. sativa on chromosome 10. The 20 bp sgRNA was designed manually with the help of gRNA prediction programmes including CCTop, and Benchling, and the CRISPR constructs (Level 0, 1 and 2) were confirmed by sequencing. Then, the transgenic rice plants harboring sgRNA: Cas9 targeting IR64 's OsSCE1 gene were generated via Agrobacterium mediated in-planta transformation. Leaves of two-month-old plants were subjected to selection assay (300 mg/L kanamycin) and kanamycin-resistant plants were labelled as putative transformants. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification of Cas9 and OsSCE1 genes using specific primers verified the integration of the transgenes in 29 T0 lines. The mutations were discovered by examining the targeting location on the genome of the relevant transgenic plants. Sequencing analysis revealed the presence of six transgenic lines (D8, C4, C14, B15, C21, and B18) that exhibited a mutagenesis efficiency of approximately 9% for the OsSCE1 gene. This finding suggests that sgRNA: Cas9-induced gene- targeting could be employed to specifically alter agricultural traits and the CRISPR-Cas9 system has the potential to be a highly effective tool for crop breeding trait enhancements.

Keywords: CRISPR/Cas9; Oryza sativa; rice; drought; OsSCE1 gene.



Fabrication and Characterization of Graphite-based Membrane for Human Liver Cancer Cell Entrapment

Nabila Mohd Zailana^a, Siti Noor Fazliah Mohd Noor^b, Shahrul Bariyah Sahul Hamid^{a*}

^aDepartment of Biomedicine, Advanced Medical and Dental Institute, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Sains@Bertam, 13200 Kepala Batas, Penang, Malaysia

^b Department of Dental Science, Advanced Medical and Dental Institute, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Sains@Bertam, 13200 Kepala Batas, Penang, Malaysia

*Corresponding author: shahrulbariyah@usm.my

Abstract

Introduction: Circulating liver cancer cells are emerging as predictors of cancer progression. Therefore, early monitoring by employing nanotechnology is the method of choice for providers of medical care to establish definitive diagnosis for intervention due to its precision and rapid detection advantages. **Objective:** The current study aims to fabricate and characterize graphite-based membrane for the entrapment of circulating liver cancer cells. **Methods**: Graphite-based membrane was fabricated using phase-inversion method. Briefly, graphite powder was oxidized through modified Hummer's method. Polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) was used as a surfactant for membrane stability. Enhancement of membrane stability was achieved through the addition of bioactive glass and polyethylene glycol within the graphite and PVA matrix. Morphological characterizations were analyzed using field emission scanning electron microscope with energy dispersive spectroscopy for surface characteristics, porosities and elemental particulates distribution of the membrane. **Results and Discussion**: Rough surface with different porosity distribution suggests that the size of pores is influenced by the biomaterial composition and particle's size. **Conclusion**: The membrane is suitable for further evaluation for filtration of circulating liver cancer cells.

Keywords: Graphite oxide membrane; liver cancer; polyethylene glycol; bioactive glass



Antibacterial Wound Healing Application of Bio-Inspired Green Silver Nanoparticles

Nik Ahmad Nizam Nik Malek^{a,b*}, Mustaffa Shamsuddin^c, Juan Matmin^{b,c}, Khairunadwa Jemon^a, Azman Abd Samad^a, Muhammad Hariz Asraf^{a,b}

^aDepartment of Biosciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 UTM Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia

^bCentre for Sustainable Nanomaterials (CSNano), Ibnu Sina Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research (ISI-SIR), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 UTM Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia ^cDepartment of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 UTM Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia

*Corresponding author: niknizam@utm.my

Abstract

The market demand for silver nanoparticles (AgNP) as a highly effective antibacterial agent is substantial, surpassing other antibacterial agents and antibiotics. However, the conventional synthesis methods utilizing toxic chemical reducing agents impose limitations on its applications. To address this challenge, a greener approach employing plant extracts as reducing agents has been explored, with the potential to facilitate the utilization of AgNP in human wound healing applications. This research program aims to comprehensively investigate the antibacterial and wound healing properties of AgNP synthesized from plant extracts, particularly focusing on selected Malaysian herbs. The screening process identified plant extracts with high reducing ability and antioxidant activity, resulting in higher yields of AgNP. The synthesis of AgNP using plant extracts obtained from tissue culture requires optimization of plant growth as a prerequisite for efficient bioreduction of AgNP. The biosynthesized AgNP exhibits characteristic features, including peaks in the UV-Vis spectrum at approximately 430 nm, spherical and heterogeneous shapes with sizes ranging from 10 to 50 nm, and remarkable antibacterial activity. Additionally, immobilizing the biosynthesized AgNP onto aluminosilicates such as zeolites and kaolinite demonstrates their sustained antibacterial efficacy. Therefore, the bio-inspired green synthesis of AgNP using plant extracts holds great promise as an antibacterial wound healing agent.

Keywords: Silver nanoparticles; biosynthesis; antibacterial; wound healing



Development of Mobile App for the Understanding of Nanomedicine

Nik Ahmad Nizam Nik Malek^{a,b*},Corrienna Abdul Talib^c, Nur Shafina Mohd Nor^c, Ibrohim^d, Juan Matmin^{b,e}, Lee Siew Ling^{b,e}, Praseetha Prabhakaran^a, Nor Suriani Sani^f

^aDepartment of Biosciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 UTM Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia

^bCentre for Sustainable Nanomaterials (CSNano), Ibnu Sina Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research (ISI-SIR), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 UTM Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia ^cDepartment of Educational Sciences, Mathematics and Creative Multimedia, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 UTM, Skudai, Johor, Malaysia ^dBiology Department, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, State University of Malang, Indonesia

^eDepartment of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 UTM Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia

^fInstitute of Human Centered Engineering (iHumEn), Department of Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 UTM Johor Bahru *Corresponding author: niknizam@utm.my

Abstract

Nanomedicine, an emerging field at the intersection of nanotechnology and medicine, holds great promise for revolutionizing healthcare by enabling targeted diagnostics and treatments at the molecular level. However, due to its complex nature, understanding nanomedicine concepts and applications can be challenging for healthcare professionals, researchers, and the general public. To bridge this knowledge gap and promote awareness, we present the development of a mobile application aimed at enhancing the understanding of nanomedicine, and we named it as "MyNanoRia". The MyNanoRia provides users with easily available knowledge about the concepts, methods, and applications of nanomedicine as an interactive educational tool. Specific facets of nanotechnology, nanomedicine, nanomaterials, and cancer are covered in this app. MyNanoRia also includes definitions for certain key words. This app's creation required consulting subject-matter specialists, such as chemists, biologists, and medical scientists. The development of MyNanoRia is challenging since nanotechnology is a multidiscipline topic that truly emphasises scientific understanding, but the intended users are those who know little to nothing about it. The creation of MyNanoRia app for comprehending nanomedicine seeks to close the knowledge and awareness gap between science and the general public, enabling researchers, healthcare professionals, and the general public to fully appreciate the promise of nanotechnology in healthcare.

Keywords: Nanomedicine, mobile app, nanotechnology



Multifaceted Computational Analysis of Phytosynthesized Silver Nanoparticles (AgNPs) towards Resistant Bacteria

Atieya Abdul Hadi^a, Nik Ahmad Nizam Nik Malek^{a,b*}, Syazwani Itri Amran^a, Juan Matmin^c, Hendra Susanto^d

^aDepartment of Biosciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia

^bCentre for Sustainable Nanomaterials (CSNano), Ibnu Sina Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research (ISI-ISIR), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 UTM Johor, Malaysia

^cDepartment of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia

^dDepartment of Biology, State University of Malang, Indonesia

*Corresponding author: niknizam@utm.my

Abstract

In recent years, computational methods have enabled accurate simulations and cost-effective drug design for nanomaterial applications. Phytosynthesized silver nanoparticles (AgNPs) from Persicaria odorata extract have broad bactericidal activity that obscures their accurate antibacterial mechanisms, preventing significant progress as potential drugs. In this study, computational approaches using STITCH 5.0, molecular docking and density functional theory (DFT) were used to investigate the binding affinities between AgNPs and bacterial proteins of Pseudomonas aeruginosa and methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus. The STITCH 5.0 analysis showed that AgNPs have a high confidence value of ≥ 0.8 for the membrane-bound efflux proteins of P. aeruginosa associated with bacterial resistance. In contrast for MRSA, AgNPs bind to various intrinsic proteins that disrupt cell homeostasis with a confidence value of > 0.6. Molecular docking analyses showed that flavonoids in *P. odorata* have the ability to specifically inhibit target proteins and promote bactericidal activity. DFT studies of the frontier molecular orbitals (HOMO and LUMO) and molecular electrostatic potential (MEP) revealed that flavonoid Procyanidin A1 has active conjugation sites, which accounts for its outstanding antioxidant ability. The results of this work demonstrate that the effective bactericidal interaction between AqNPs and flavonoids of *P. odorata* against drug-resistant bacteria can be essentially inferred using reliable computational tools, which may accelerate the development of effective antimicrobial agents for the future.

Keywords: Silver nanoparticles; antibacterial; computational; Density Functional Theory; docking



Synergistic Antibacterial Effect of Silver Nanoparticles using Zingiber officinale and Azadirachta indica

Sharel Raj^a, Nik Ahmad Nizam Nik Malek^{a,b*}, Praseetha Prabhakaran^{a,c}, Mohd Hayrie Mohd Hatta^d, Rabiatul Basria S.M.N. Mydin^e,

^aDepartment of Biosciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), 81310 Skudai, Johor, Malaysia

^bCentre for Sustainable Nanomaterials (CSNano), Ibnu Sina Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research (ISI-ISIR), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), 81310 Skudai, Johor, Malaysia ^cCancer and Infectious Diseases (CAID) Research Group, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 Skudai, Johor, Malaysia

^dCentre of Research & Development, Asia Metropolitan University, 81750 Johor Bahru, Malaysia ^eResearcher of Advanced Medical & Dental Institute (AMDI), Universiti Sains Malaysia, 13200 Kepala Batas, Pulau Pinang, Malaysia

*Corresponding author: niknizam@utm.my

Abstract

Infections from multidrug-resistant bacteria are increasing worldwide. Therefore, our study was aimed to biosynthesize silver nanoparticles (AgNPs) using *Zingiber officinale* and *Azadirachta indica* aqueous extracts. Ultraviolet-visible spectrophotometry (UV-Vis) was utilized to characterize the synergistic biogenic AgNPs. The results demonstrated the extracts' potential to act as stabilizing and reducing agents. Biosynthesized AgNPs were evaluated for synergistic antibacterial activity against *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) ATCC 11229 using disk diffusion assay. The zones of inhibition proved that synergistic AgNPs have significant antibacterial effects against *E. coli*. The results suggest that the synergistic effects of biosynthesized medicinal plants may provide an alternative to commercial antibiotics.

Keywords: Antibiotic-resistance; Z. officinale; A. indica; synergistic; antibacterial activity



Promising Development of Polyhydroxyalkanoates: A Sustainable Bioplastic for Next Generation Biomaterial

Vigneswari Sevakumaran

Institute of Marine Biotechnology, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, 21030 Kuala Nerus, Terengganu, Malaysia

Corresponding author: vicky@umt.edu.my

Abstract

Bacterial plastic is plastic which is produced by microorganisms under specific conditions. Polyhydroxyalkonoates (PHAs) are bacterial plastics that bacteria produce under conditions of low concentrations of important nutrients. This bacterial derived biopolymer is highly sought after by researcher's world over due to its high levels of biocompatibility and inert in-vivo degradation products. This makes it a desirable candidate to be tailored as scaffolds for tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. Therefore, PHAs are being extensively innovated for biomedical applications. The wide range of biomedical applications includes drug delivery systems, implants, tissue engineering, scaffolds, and artificial organ constructs. Among the various types of PHAs, P(3HB-co-4HB) had gained much attention due to their biodegradability, biocompatibility, and non-cytotoxicity. In order to increase the cell-scaffold interactions and to enhance the cell proliferation, surface modification of the PHA copolymer was carried out. PHAs in various forms are being extensively researched for biomedical applications so as to bring about the future vision for PHAs as biomaterials for the advancement of research and technology. Various surface modification methods such as nanofabrication and chemical modification are employed to develop this bacterial polymer for potential biomedical application.

Keywords: polyhydroxyalkanotaes; biocompatibility; biodegradable



Basil/ZnO as Green Materials towards Removal of Amilodipine-Based Pharmaceutical Waste

Nur Nadia Batrisyia Arman^a, Siti Salwa Alias^{a,b*}, Nik Ahmad Nizam Nik Malek^{b,c}, Muhammad Hariz Asraf^c

^aDepartment of Physics, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 Skudai, Johor Bahru, Malaysia

^bCentre for Sustainable Nanomaterials (CSNano), Ibnu Sina Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research (ISI-ISIR), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 UTM Johor, Malaysia

^aDepartment of Biosciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 Skudai, Johor Bahru, Malaysia

*Corresponding author: siti.salwa@utm.my

Abstract

Pharmaceutical waste such as amlodipine has caused major environmental problems due to the inefficiency of the pharmaceutical waste removal system. However, the study obtained that amlodipine is facing pharmaceutical disposal issues by using the incineration process. Photocatalysts are materials that change the rate of a chemical reaction on exposure to light. Nanostructure ZnO is a photocatalysis material based on the larger initial rates of activities and its absorption efficiency of solar radiations that can be produced using several methods such as hydrothermal while Ag nanoparticles (AgNPs) as heterogeneous photocatalysis. However, there are limitations while using hydrothermal process to produce ZnO nanoparticles. Thus, in this study, the optimum characteristics of nanostructures ZnO adapted from other studies and nanoparticle Ag will be coated on 0.5 g green basil seed to create basil/ZnO/Ag (BZAg). The finest morphology and optical characteristics of BZAg will be chosen for green adsorption-photodegradation of amlodipine at 5 mg. Synthesis nanostructure ZnO using zinc nitrate (precursor), ethanol as solvent, and NaOH as additive to control alkaline condition of solution. Hydrothermal at high temperature was chosen as the synthesis method and calcination was used to remove any impurities during the synthesis process. Several characterisation techniques including X-ray diffraction (XRD), high-resolution transmission electron microscopy (HRTEM) and photoluminescence (PL) were used to characterise the structural properties of nanostructure ZnO. Meanwhile the optical properties of nanostructure ZnO was determined by ultraviolet-visible (UV-Vis) spectroscopy and Raman spectroscopy. Next, by using Fourier transform infrared (FTIR), O-H bond can be detected, and the production of the material could be confirmed. The composite of BZAg is obtained using a direct coating method and characterise its physical properties by optical microscope (UV-Vis). Later the adsorption, photocatalytic and self-cleaning of BZAg towards 5 mg amlodipine-based pharmaceutical waste was determined in dark and under UV light irradiation for 4 hours. XRD and HRTEM results show the synthesised ZnO has nanorod hexagonal structure with the average size of 44.6 nm. The UV-Vis analysis obtained the band gap energy (Eg) of in a range ~3.19 eV. From this study, the sustainability of pharmaceutical disposal technology could ensure better quality of environment and water for the future generations. Initiatives like these can cut waste and emissions alike and help to gain public favour as consumers continue to go green in their purchasing habits of sustainable development goal 6 (Clean water and sanitation) and goal 14 (Life below water).

Keywords: Amlodipine; synthesis ZnO; hydrothermal; structural properties; green adsorbent



In vitro Inhibitory Effect of Andrographolide on Fatty Acid Synthesis in Breast Cancer

Nur Amanina Johari^a, Nurriza Ab Latif^a, Rosnani Hasham^{b,c}, Khairunadwa Jemon^{a,*}

^aDepartment of Biosciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310, Skudai, Johor ^bInstitute of Bioproduct Development, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 Skudai, Johor ^cDepartment of Bioprocess and Polymer Engineering, School of Chemical and Energy Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 Skudai, Johor *Corresponding author: khairun_nadwa@utm.my

Abstract

Deregulated fatty acid synthesis has emerged as a promising cancer therapeutic target. However, a safe and effective fatty acid synthesis inhibitor is clinically limited. This study aims to investigate the inhibitory effect of Andrographolide (ADR) on fatty acid synthesis in MCF7 breast cancer cells. MCF7 cells were treated with different ADR concentrations prior to flow cytometry and immunocytochemistry (ICC) analyses. ICC staining revealed that ADR significantly reduced key proteins for fatty acid synthesis. Furthermore, ADR treatment also significantly increased the number of apoptotic cells compared to untreated. Results from this study suggest that ADR-induced cell death resulted from fatty acid synthesis inhibition in breast cancer.

Keywords: Andrographolide; fatty acid synthesis; breast cancer; apoptosis



Chemo-Photothermal Effects of Drug-Loaded Nanomaterial in Breast Cancer Immunoregulation

Muhammad Redza Mohd Radzi^a, Maheza Irna Mohamad Salim^b, Nik Ahmad Nizam Nik Malek^{a,c}, Khairunadwa Jemon^{a,d,*}

^aDepartment of Biosciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), 81310 Skudai, Johor, Malaysia

^bDiagnostics Research Group, School of Biomedical Engineering and Health Sciences, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), 81310 Skudai, Johor, Malaysia

^cCentre for Sustainable Nanomaterials (CSNano), Ibnu Sina Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research (ISI-ISIR), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), 81310 Skudai, Johor, Malaysia

^dCancer and Infectious Diseases Research Group, Health and Wellness Research Alliance, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), 81310 Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia

*Corresponding author: khairun_nadwa@utm.my

Abstract

Chemo-photothermal therapy is one of the potential alternative strategies to treat breast cancer. Nevertheless, knowledge on its immunotherapeutic benefits in tumour microenvironment were still scarce. Hence, this study aimed to investigate the immunomodulatory effects in tumour microenvironment. Present study performed flow cytometry analysis to target immune cells post-treatment. The results displayed significant infiltration in the percentage of CD4⁺, CD8⁺, macrophages and NK cells population (P>0.05). Moreover, treated tumour recorded low frequency of Tregs population. Altogether, this study revealed that treatment strategy promoted the infiltration of adaptive and innate immune cells in breast tumour microenvironment.

Keywords: Breast cancer, nanomaterials, chemotherapy, phototherapy, immunoregulation



Diversity Of Bacterial Communities in The Southern Kuantan Coastal Water Area

Najatul Su Ad Abdullah^{a,b*}, Muhammad Asraf Ridhuan Sapiee^a, Muhammad Faiz Hanapiah^a, Mohd Azrul Naim^b

^aDepartment of Marine Science, Kulliyyah of Science, International Islamic University Malaysia. ^bResearch Unit for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (RUBIC), Kulliyyah of Science, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia. *Corresponding author: najatul@iium.edu.my

Abstract

The Southern Kuantan coastal water areas is previously undocumented for coral reefs, but the richness of its benthic biodiversity have an impact on the abundance and diversity of bacterial communities living in various organic matter sources, which is in the seawater and sediment. Bacterial communities within the coral reef habitat may interact and provide corals with essential services like biogeochemical activities in the aquatic ecosystem. This research is pioneer to investigate the bacterial community in the southern Kuantan coastal water area via 16s rRNA amplicon sequencing. A total of 14 distinct phyla were identified, with Proteobacteria being the most prevalent and followed by Bacteriodota. Several families such as Thiobacillaceae, Actinomarinaceae, Enterobacteriaceae, and Aeromonadaceae can only be found in specific source samples, suggesting that bacterial communities may be shaped due to fluctuating environments. By performing bacterial gene analysis, it is possible to better understand the diversity of bacterial communities based on their relative abundance and interactions within the marine ecosystem.

Keywords: Bacterial communities; coral reefs; Kuantan coastal water



Increased Number of CD4+ and CD8+ T Cells in the Thymus of Mice (*Mus musculus*) Exposed to Cigarette Smoke After Administration of Java plum (*Syzgium cumini*) Fruit Extract

A A S A Sukmaningsih K*, Ngurah Intan Wiratmini, Ni Made Rai Suarni

Biology Study Program, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Udayana University, Bukit Jimbaran, Badung, Bali, Indonesia 80364 *Corresponding author: sukmaningsih@unud.ac.id

Abstract

Java plum fruit has an activity to reduce free radicals. Uncontrolled free radicals will reduce the immune system in the body. This study aims to determine the compounds, antioxidant activity, and potential of java plum fruit as an immunomodulator. An immunomodulator is a compound or substance that affects the humoral and cellular immune systems. The study was conducted on differences in the number of CD4+ and CD8+ T cells in the thymus of mice exposed to cigarette smoke for 35 days. Java plum that has been freeze-dried is macerated with water. The mice were divided into a control group (KO), commercial cigarettes (K1), java plum fruit extract (K2), cigarettes and java plum fruit extract (K3), as well as a group of mice with cigarettes and java plum fruit extract which were applied to the filter (K4). Java plum fruit extract was administered orally at a dose of 180 mg/kg BW along with exposure to cigarette smoke and java plum fruit extract was coated on cigarette filters at a dose of 180 mg/kg BW. The results showed that java plum fruit extract had an IC50 activity value against DPPH in the very strong category, namely 24.15 mg/L. LCMS data shows java plum fruit extract has various kinds of antioxidants. Flow cytometry analysis of T lymphocyte cells isolated from the thymus that expressed CD4+ and CD8+ showed that java plum fruit extract given to mice orally or applied to cigarette filters was able to increase the number of CD4+ and CD8+ T cells significantly (p<0.05). CD4+ T cells increased by 70% (3.6 million cells), and CD8+ T cells increased by 38% (3.1 million cells).

Keywords: Syzgium cumini; cigarette smoke; CD4+; CD8+



Rosmarinic Acid-Rich Fraction from *Orthosiphon aristatus* Induces Apoptosis in Prostate Cancer Cells

Rosnani Hasham^{a,b*}, Siti Hasyimah Suhaimi^a, Rahimah Sabtu^a

^aDepartment of Bioprocess and Polymer Engineering, Faculty of Chemical Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 Skudai, Johor, Malaysia ^bCentre for Sustainable Nanomaterials (CSNano), Ibnu Sina Institute for Scientific and Industrial

*Centre for Sustainable Nanomaterials (CSNano), Ibnu Sina Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 Skudai, Johor, Malaysia *Corresponding author: r-rosnani@utm.my

Abstract

Prostate cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers in men. High expression of androgen has been identified as the main contribution to this disease. Almost all prostate cancers begin with an androgen-dependent prostate cancer state, which then develops into androgen-independent prostate cancer or castration-resistant prostate cancer. Activation of the PI3K/Akt/mTOR pathway has often been found in many cases of castration-resistant prostate cancer. This pathway is identified as a powerful pathway for the inhibition of prostate cancer. Several herbal plants have been reported for their anti-cancer ability to inhibit the pathways of PI3K/Akt/mTOR due to their phytochemical content. Thus, this project focused on recent plant phytochemical findings that inhibit the PI3K/Akt/mTOR pathway to induce apoptosis, as well as the new extraction techniques used to obtain the bioactive compound that inhibits the PI3K/Akt/mTOR pathway. On the other hand, cancer nanotechnology, also known as drug design and development, uses a variety of nanotechnologies to promote the fundamental problems with cancer treatments and to create safer and more effective therapeutics. In our recent studies, we have developed chitosan-based nanoparticles for targeted drug delivery systems for anti-cancer agents from plants due to their favorable biodegradability and biocompatibility qualities.

Keywords: Anti-cancer; plant extract nanotechnology; targeted delivery



Synergistic Effects of Combined Cisplatin and *Clinacanthus nutans* Extract on Triple Negative Breast Cancer Cells

Nur Fitriyani Afiqah Binti Abu Bakar^a, Yeo Zhin Leng Yeo^a, Faisal Hussin^b, Priya Madhavan^c, Vuanghao Lim^d, Khairunadwa Jemon^a, and Praseetha Prabhakaran^a

^aDepartment of Biosciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Skudai, Malaysia

^bDepartment of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Skudai, Malaysia ^cSchool of Medicine, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, Taylor's University, Subang Jaya, Malaysia

^dAdvanced Medical and Dental Institute, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Kepala Batas, Penang, Malaysiaa *Corresponding author: praseetha@utm.my

Abstract

Triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) is the most invasive breast cancer subtype enriched with cancer stem cells. TNBCs do not express estrogen, progesterone, or human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) receptors, making them difficult to be targeted by existing chemotherapy treatments. In this study, we attempted to identify the effects of combined cisplatin and Clinacanthus nutans treatment on MDA-MD-231 and MDA-MB468 breast cancer cells, which represent TNBC subtypes. The phytochemical fingerprint of *C. nutans* ethanolic leaf extract was evaluated by LC-MS/MS analysis. We investigated the effects of cisplatin (0-15.23 mg/mL), C. nutans (0-50 mg/mL), and a combination of cisplatin (3.05 mg/mL) and C. nutans (0-50 mg/mL), on cell viability, proliferation, apoptosis, invasion, mRNA expression in cancer stem cells (CD49f, KLF4), and differentiation markers (TUBA1A, KRT18) in TNBC cells. In addition, we also studied the interaction between cisplatin and C. nutans. Derivatives of fatty acids, carboxylic acid ester, and glycosides, were identified as the major bioactive compounds with potential anticancer properties in C. nutans leaf extract. Reductions in cell viability (0-78%) and proliferation (2-77%), as well as a synergistic anticancer effect, were identified in TNBC cells when treated with a combination of cisplatin and C. nutans. Furthermore, apoptotic induction via increased caspase-3/7 activity (MDA-MB-231: 2.73-fold; MDA-MB-468: 3.53-fold), and a reduction in cell invasion capacity to 36%, were detected in TNBC cells when compared to single cisplatin and *C. nutans* treatments. At the mRNA level, cisplatin and C. nutans differentially regulated specific genes that are responsible for proliferation and differentiation. Our findings demonstrate that the combination of cisplatin and C. nutans represents a potential treatment for TNBC.

Keywords: Apoptosis; cisplatin; *Clinacanthus nutans*; differentiation; Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC)



Larvicidal Activity and Morphological Alteration Induced by Pulutan Leaves Extracts in *Aedes aegypty* Linn.

Ngurah Intan Wiratmini^{a*}. Ni Made Suartini^a, Ni Wayan Bogoriani^b, Firman Andani^a, Tiffani Angelita Putri Mileva^a

^aBiology Department, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Udayana University, Bukit Jimbaran Campus, Badung, Bali, Indonesia

^bBiochemistry Department, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Udayana University, Bukit Jimbaran Campus, Badung, Bali, Indonesia

*Corresponding author: wiratminiintan@unud.ac.id

Abstract

Synthetic larvicides are known to bring harmful effects to the environment as well as promoting resistance in disease vectors including Aedes aegypti. Pulutan (Urena lobata L.) is a plant known for its potential use as natural larvicides due to its content of secondary metabolites (i.e. alkaloids and flavonoids). This study aimed to investigate the larvicidal activity and morphological alteration of Aedes aegypti larvae induced by pulutan leaves extract. This experimental, completely randomized design study used various concentration of pulutan crude leaves extract (0%; 0.1%; 0.5%; 1%; 1.5%; 2%; 2.5%; 3%; and 3.5%), previously dissolved in 96% of ethanol, then administered to twenty 3rd instar Aedes aegypti larvae. Posthoc Mann-Whitney analysis result showed that controls, 0.1% and 0.5% concentration group were significantly different (p<0.05), while the rest showed 100% mortality rate (p>0.05). In conclusion, 0.1%; 0.5%; and 1-3.5% of pulutan (Urena lobata L.) leaves extract was associated with 10%; 55%; and 100% mortality rate in in Aedes aegypti larvae, respectively. The observed morphological alterations of Aedes aegypti larvae including body color; increased length of larval neck; antennal damage; narrowed digestive tract; widened anal segment; irregular growth of hair (setae) on thorax, abdomen, and anal segment; as well as hair loss on segment 4-7.

Keywords: Urena lobata L.; mortality; morphology; larvae



Ultrasound-Assisted Extraction (UAE) of Ajwa Date Seed (*Phoenix dactylifera* L.): RSM-Based Optimisation for Extract's Total Yield and UPLC-QTOF/MS Characterisation of its Saccharides

P. Thirubuvanesvari-Duraivelu^a, Siti Salwa Abd Gani^{a,b,c,*}, Masriana Hassan^d, Mohd Izuan Effendi Halmi^e

^aNatural Medicine and Product Research Laboratories (NaturMeds), Institute of Bioscience (IBS), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), 43400 Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia

^bHalal Products Research Institute (HPRI), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Putra Infoport, 43400 Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia

^cDepartment of Agriculture Technology, Faculty of Agriculture, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), 43400 Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia

^dDepartment of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), 43400 Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia

^eDepartment of Land Management, Faculty of Agriculture, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), 43400 Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia

*Corresponding author: ssalwaag@upm.edu.my

Abstract

Often overlooked as waste in the date industries, date seed possesses a plethora of untapped health benefits and nutraceutical components yearning to be discovered. Current study applies Box-Behnken design via response surface methodology (RSM) in optimising the ultrasound-assisted extraction (UAE) conditions namely, ethanol (EtOH) concentration, extraction time and temperature) for the recovery of phytoconstituent from Ajwa date seeds (Phoenix dactylifera L.). Identification of saccharides that unveils the sugar rich matrix in date seed and oftentimes embedded to secondary metabolites were evaluated using UPLC-QTOF/MS. Optimum conditions for the retrieval of an in-range total yield were found to be at 77% EtOH, 39 min and 70°C. Under the optimised condition, the experimental total yield $(0.270 \pm 0.0063 \text{ g/2g powder})$ closely aligned with the predicted value, validating the suitability of the developed model. Furthermore, principal carbohydrate components revealed in the extract include isomaltose, mannotriose, galactose, raffinose and stachyose, while secondary metabolite with glycosidic linkage, such as spinosin, homoplantaginin and kaempferol-3-O-β-D-glucopyranoside was tentatively identified via UPLC-QTOF/MS analysis. These results provide the basis for future investigation of date seed nutritional value which could serve as functional food for human apart from listing the saccharide rich matrix that interacts with the secondary metabolites.

Keywords: Date seed; response surface methodology (RSM); total yield; UPLC-QTOF/MS; saccharides



Molecular Docking, Dynamic Simulation, and ADMET Studies of Caulerpin Performed HMG-CoA Reductase Inhibition

Dewi Ratih Tirto Sari^{a,b*}, Siti Dina Mega Araofah^a

^aPharmacy Department, Faculty of Medical Science, Ibrahimy University, Situbondo, East Java, Indonesia

^bResearch Center of SMONAGENES, Brawijaya University, Malang, East Java, Indonesia *Corresponding author: dewiratihtirtosari@ibrahimy.ac.id

Abstract

Caulerpin is a red pigment of the caulerpaceae green algae family, promoting anticancer, antiinflammatory, antiviral, and antimicrobial properties. Caulerpin also possess unique structural moiety and well known inhibited the cancer cell. However, the inhibition of caulerpin in cholesterol synthesis has not been reported yet. Therefore, the current study tested caulerpin against HMG-CoA reductase by molecular docking, dynamic simulation, and ADMET predictions. The caulerpin was carried out the 3D structure from PubChem Database, while the HMG-CoA reductase was downloaded from Protein Data Bank with accession number 1HWI. Caulerpin and HMG-CoA reductase was interacted using molegro virtual docker version 5.0. the docking results were visualized by Discovery Studio ver 21.1.1. Dynamic simulation of ligand - protein was performed by Webgro. The ADMET properties was conducted by PKCSM online server. The docking study performed interaction of caulerpin with several active sites of HMG-CoA reductase protein and generated lower binding energy than Fluvastatin. Besides that, the caulerpin might inhibited HMG-CoA reductase allosterically. The molecular dynamic revealed the stability of caulerpin - HMG-CoA reductase interactions, ADMET study also showed a proper absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion, and low toxicity. This study suggested that the caulerpin potentially blocked HMG-CoA reductase and revealed a potential drug for hypercholesterolemia.

Keywords: ADMET properties; caulerpin; dynamic simulation; hypercholesterolemia; molecular docking



Salivary Protein as Biomarker for Early Childhood Caries

Noraslinda Muhamad Bunnori^{a,e*}, Nor Asilah Harun^{c,d}, Mohd Zamani Zulkifli^{b,e}, Siti Nurul Fatihah Azahan^{b,e}, Husna Saidin^a, Khazlin Afiqah Khazan^a

^aDepartment of Biotechnology, Kulliyyah of Science, International Islamic University Malaysia, 25200 Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia

^bDepartment of Physics, Kulliyyah of Science, International Islamic University Malaysia, 25200 Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia

^cDepartment of Paediatric Dentistry and Dental Public Health, Kulliyyah of Dentistry, International Islamic University Malaysia, 25200 Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia

^dDental and Maxillofacial Surgery Unit, Sultan Ahmad Shah Medical Centre (SASMEC), 25200 Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia

^eIIUM Photonics and Quantum Centre (iPQC), Kulliyyah of Science, International Islamic University Malaysia, 25200 Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia

*Corresponding author: noraslinda@iium.edu.my

Abstract

Early childhood caries (ECC) has a significant global impact on children's oral health-related quality of life (OHRQoL). Early screening is crucial, and salivary protein has emerged as a promising biomarker for ECC detection. This study explores the potential of salivary protein as a biomarker for ECC, investigating its correlation with caries activity through the analysis of total protein concentration, protein profiles, refractive index, and biophotonic detection using a single-mode fiber. The study examines correlations between caries-free individuals, those with low caries activity, and those with high caries activity, based on total salivary protein concentration measured using the Bradford Assay and salivary protein profiles characterized by SDS PAGE. Samples from Group 3 (HC6) with the highest dmft score and Group 1 (CF1) with the cleanest teeth were selected to explore the potential of biophotonic application in measuring total salivary protein. The protein concentration in Group 3 (high caries group) was 1.015 ± 0.03 mg/mL, the highest among the groups. SDS PAGE analysis revealed various salivary protein bands with molecular weights ranging from 10.5 to 175 kDa, potentially corresponding to albumin, secretory IgA, lactoferrin, amylase, enolase 1, zinc-α2-glycoprotein, and basic and acidic PRPs. Measurements of the refractive index (RI) showed a higher RI value for the sample from Group 3 compared to the sample from Group 1, indicating differences between individuals with higher caries activity and caries-free individuals. Biophotonic analysis using a single-mode fiber demonstrated that different concentrations of total protein exhibited distinct spectra. These findings suggest that total salivary protein concentration can serve as a biomarker for ECC.

Keywords: Early childhood caries; salivary protein; biomarker; biophotonic



The Antioxidant Properties of Active Fraction of The Cashew Shoots (*Anacardium occidentale*)

Normah Haron^{a*}, Puteri Nur Farahin^a, Noor Hasniza Mat Zin^a, Deny Susanti Darnis^b

^aDepartment of Biotechnology, Kulliyyah of Science, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), JIn Sultan Ahmad Shah, 25200 Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia.

^bDepartment of Chemistry, Kulliyyah of Science, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), JIn Sultan Ahmad Shah, 25200 Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia

*Corresponding author: normahh@iium.edu.my

Abstract

Cashew shoots (Anacardium occidentale) exhibits high antioxidant activity to control lipid peroxidation and scavenge free radicals and contribute to the antidiabetic properties. In this study, the A. occidentale shoots crude extract was fractionated into four fractions, namely nhexane, ethyl acetate, n-butanol and water fractions. The active fraction of A. occidentale shoots extract was identified by comparing the antioxidant activity using the DPPH assay, the concentration of selected polyphenol compounds (gallic acid, ferulic acid, quercetin and kaempferol) through HPLC analysis. The presence of flavonoids (myricetin, guercetin and kaempferol) in the active fraction of A. occidentale shoots extract were further determined through LC/MS-QTOF and H-NMR analysis. Results showed that the ethyl acetate fraction of A. occidentale shoots extract had the lowest EC_{50} value (0.011 ± 0.001 mg/mL) in the DPPH assay, indicated the highest antioxidant activity as compared to other fractions (p<0.05). For the HPLC analysis, the same fraction (ethyl acetate) was found to have highest concentration of gallic acid (117.14 \pm 2.63 μ g/g) and ferulic acid (9.77 \pm 0.47 μ g/g) (p<0.05) as compared to other fractions of *A. occidentale* shoots extract. However, the guercetin was observed in ethyl acetate, hexane and butanol fractions with the highest concentration of $16.25 \pm 1.11 \, \mu g/g$ in ethyl acetate fraction. High concentration of polyphenols in ethyl acetate fraction of A. occidentale shoots extract indicated its high antioxidant activity. Therefore, the ethyl acetate fraction of A. occidentale shoots extract was considered as the most active fraction in terms of highest antioxidant activity and highest content of polyphenol compounds (gallic acid, ferulic acid and quercetin). The ethyl acetate fraction of A. occidentale shoots extract was then further characterized by using LC/MS-QTOF and H-NMR analysis. It was found that the flavonoids (myricetin, quercetin and kaempferol) are present in ethyl acetate fraction of A. occidentale shoots extract.

Keywords: antioxidant activity; *Anacardium occidentale*; DPPH assay; HPLC analysis; ethyl acetate fraction



Optimization of Qiagen Argus X-12 QS Investigator Kit for blood samples on FTA card for kinship investigations

Aedrianee Reeza Alwi^{a,b}, Naji Arafat Mahat^{c,d*}, Faezah Mohd Salleh^a, Seri Mirianti Ishar^e, Mohammad Rahim Kamaluddin^f and Mohd Radzniwan A. Rashid^g

^aDepartment of Biosciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), 81310 Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia

^bDepartment of Chemistry Malaysia, Jalan Abdul Samad, 80100 Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia

^cDepartment of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), 81310 Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia

^dCentre for Sustainable Nanomaterials, Ibnu Sina Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), 81310 Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia

^eFaculty of Health Sciences, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia ^fPsychology and Human Well Being Research Centre, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), 43600 Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia

^gFamily Medicine Unit, Faculty of Medicine and Health Science, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM), Bandar Baru Nilai, 71800, Nilai, Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia.

*Corresponding author: naji.arafat@utm.my

Abstract

The utilization of X-chromosomal short tandem repeats (X-STRs) analysis has been proven useful for forensic investigation particularly in resolving complex kinship cases. The Qiagen Argus X-12 QS Investigator Kit enables co-amplification of 12 X-STRs as well as Amelogenin for sex determination and one autosomal marker. Considering that the X-STRs analysis has yet to be incorporated in forensic DNA caseworks in Malaysia, optimization of Qiagen Argus X-12 QS Investigator Kit proves relevant for ensuring the reliability and validity of the analysis. The optimization studies were performed on blood samples on FTA card using the reduced polymerase chain reaction (PCR) volume and capillary electrophoresis sample preparation based on the relevant internal validation parameters (viz., cycle sensitivity, analytical threshold, sensitivity and stochastic, accuracy and precision, concordance and contamination assessment). Under the optimized conditions (purified 1.2 mm blood sample on FTA card, 10 µL of PCR reaction at 21 cycles, 27 s capillary electrophoresis injection time), good DNA profiles were obtained with peak height ratios above 0.7 and heterozygous peak heights in relative fluorescent unit ranging between 3,000 and 12,000. Hence, the optimization studies provided acceptable results, consistent with the the quality assurance standards for forensic DNA testing laboratories, while improving the cost effectiveness of the analysis.

Keywords: Optimization; X-STRs; Qiagen Argus X-12 QS Investigator Kit; blood samples; reduced PCR volume



Review of Forensic Anthropological Assessment of Skulls for Sex, Age and Ancestry in Asian Population in Asia

Varohthini Maharaja^a, Naji Arafat Mahat^{a,b*}Roswanira Abdul Wahab^a, Salina Hisham^c, Khoo Lay See^d, Dzulkiflee Ismail^e, Nurfarhana Hassan^f

^aDepartment of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), 81310 Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia.

^bCentre for Sustainable Nanomaterials, Ibnu Sina Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), 81310 Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia.

^cDepartment of Forensic Medicine, Hospital Serdang, Ministry of Health Malaysia, Kajang, Malaysia.

^dNational Institute of Forensic Medicine, Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Jalan Pahang, 50586 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

^eForensic Science Programme, School of Health Sciences, School of Health Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Health Campus, 16150 Kubang Kerian, Kelantan, Malaysia.

^fMathematical Sciences Studies, College of Computing, Informatics, and Media, Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Johor, Kampus Segamat, Segamat 85000, Malaysia.

*Corresponding author: naji.arafat@utm.my

Abstract

Human identification is particularly important in disaster victim identification (DVI) and/or forensic investigations. As the primary confirmatory tests (e.g., DNA and fingerprint) require comparative samples and often expensive, the secondary means of identification of forensic anthropology has been acquiring popularity. Forensic anthropologists reconstruct a biological profile by establishing important anthropological traits (e.g., sex, age and ancestry) from bones like skulls using the available standards. Despite being an important contributing element for assessing anthropological traits, utilization of skulls remains scarce in Asia (the most populated continent), especially for multi-ethnicity countries like Malaysia. The current advancement of technology has resolved the limitation of absent/limited skeletal reference collection with the application of virtual anthropology. Hence, this review paper aims to highlight the overview, applications of forensic anthropological standards for human identification using computed tomography scanned images of skull in an Asian perspective, as well as its challenges and future insights.

Keywords: Forensic anthropology; skulls; Asian populations; sex; age and ancestry; computed tomography



Electrokinetic Supercharging-Capillary Zone Electrophoresis Approach by Online Preconcentration for Determination of Cocaine and Morphine in Entomological Samples

Nor Wajihan Muda^a, Naji Arafat Mahat^{a,b*}Aemi Syazwani Abdul Keyon^a, Mohamed Afiq Mohamed Huri^a

^aDepartment of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), 81310 Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia

^bCentre for Sustainable Nanomaterials, Ibnu Sina Institute for Scientific and Industrial Research, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), 81310 Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia

*Corresponding author: naji.arafat@utm.my

Abstract

Cocaine and morphine can affect the oviposition and development patterns of forensically important insects, which may subsequently affect the accuracy of the postmortem interval estimation. Hence, developing simultaneous and specific determination methods for such drugs in necrophagous larvae appears relevant. The online preconcentration technique, namely electrokinetic supercharging (EKS) with capillary zone electrophoresis (CZE), was evaluated for determination of cocaine and morphine in necrophagous insects. This method was comprehensively optimized for its buffer condition, leading electrolyte (LE), terminating electrolyte (TE), and sample injection in EKS preconcentration. The optimum conditions utilized were as follows: background electrolyte consisting of 30 mM sodium dihydrogen phosphate containing 20% methanol (v/v); hydrodynamic injection (HI) of 40 mM NaCI (50 mbar, 60 s) as the LE; sample injection (+10 kV, 20 s) followed by the HI of 100 mM L-alanine (50 mbar, 10 s) as the TE. The separation was conducted at +25 kV with UV detection at 200 nm. Calibration curves in the range of 50-300 ppb for cocaine and morphine were prepared in larvae with coefficient of determination (R²) greater than 0.995. The limit of detection and limit of quantitation for cocaine were 35 ppb and 117 ppb, while the same for morphine were 15 ppb and 51 ppb, respectively. The percentage recoveries for cocaine and morphine were within 80-120 %. The intra- and inter-day accuracies and precision for cocaine and morphine were < 10%. Therefore, the simultaneous CZE method developed proves as sensitive and can be of applied value for determining cocaine and morphine in necrophagous larvae for forensic entomotoxicological casework.

Keywords: Forensic entomotoxicology; cocaine; morphine; larval samples; capillary zone electrophoresis



In silico Interaction of Nisin-Like Lactococcus lactis Bacteriocin with Selected Quorum Sensing Protein Members from Vibrio sp.

Ahmad 'Ammar Zainudin^a, Azzmer Azzar Abdul Hamid^{a,b}, Tengku Haziyamin Tengku Abdul Hamid^{a,b*}

^aDepartment of Biotechnology, Kullivyah of Science, International Islamic University Malaysia, Jalan Istana, 25200 Kuantan, Malavsia

^bResearch Unit for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (RUBIC), Kulliyyah of Science, International Islamic University Malaysia, 25200, Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia. *Corresponding Author: haziyamin@iium.edu.my

Abstract

Vibrio parahaemolyticus is a disease-causing bacterium responsible for acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND); or referred to as Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS) disease in shrimp aquaculture. Infected shrimp shows sign of pale or shrunken hepatopancreas that disrupts the digestive tract. Quorum sensing mechanism is one of a common method of communication used by bacteria in survival or adapting to the changing environment. Vibrio parahaemolyticus may use quorum sensing mechanism during shrimp colonisation; or in eliciting its pathogenicity. In a quorum sensing pathway, an autoinducer is initially activated which subsequently triggers other virulent gene expression. Studies have shown that there are 3 quorum sensing proteins leading to virulent gene expression: namely LuxO, AphA and OpaR. Thus, the activation or suppression of any of these proteins could antagonise the pathogen and render them harmless to the host. It is anticipated that nisin-like bacteriocin (a short peptide) from Lactococcus lactis was found to be able to antagonise the V. parahaemolyticus by disrupting or interfering with quorum sensing mechanism in bacteria. To test on this, LuxO, AphA and OpaR were computationally docked with bacteriocin from L. lactis. Having constructed the structures of these 3 three proteins via homology modelling, each protein was then docked with bacteriocin. Docking interaction with bacteriocin showed that LuxO bind with the lowest binding energy (-214.72 kcal/mol), followed by OpaR (-208.39 kcal/mol) and AphA (-195.29 kcal/mol). In addition to polar interaction, hydrophobic interaction plays key role in the binding of bacteriocin with LuxO, but not with AphA and OpaR. Thus, interaction of LuxO protein with bacteriocin will set series of gene expression necessary to make bacteria harmless. Thus, quorum sensing protein LuxO can be considered as a potential target in future works on antagonising V. parahaemolyticus to address EMS disease.

Keywords: Quorum sensing proteins; Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrosis Disease (AHPND); Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS); vibrio parahaemolyticus, nisin like bacteriocin



Anticancer Activity of *K. alvarezii* Crude Extract Collected from Sabah Coast

Nur Fatin Najihah Mat Husin^a, Anisa Natasha Jefri^a, Khairunadwa Jemon^a, Nor Rizan Kamaluddin^b, Nurriza Ab Latif^{a*}

^aDepartment of Biosciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310, Skudai, Johor. ^bCancer Research Centre (CaRC), Institute for Medical Research (IMR), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Block C, No.1, Jalan Setia Murni U13/52 Seksyen U13 Setia Alam, 40170 Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia.

*Corresponding author: nurriza@utm.my

Abstract

K. alvarezii is a red seaweed that grows abundantly in East Malaysia and found to be rich in bioactive constituents. The crude extract of *K. alvarezii* has been reported to exhibit promising pharmacological effects such as anticancer activity by suppressing the proliferation of cancer cells. This study aims to evaluate the antiproliferative and apoptosis effect of *K. alvarezii* crude extract on K562 human leukemia cells. *K. alvarezii* crude extract treatment showed cytotoxic effect by inhibiting K562 cells viability. Distinct morphological characteristic was observed on the treated cells as compared to the untreated indicating the cells undergoing apoptosis. Results from this study highlights the potential of *K. alvarezii* crude extract to have anticancer activity.

Keywords: K. alvarezii; anticancer; antiproliferative; apoptosis; leukemia cells



Glucose Uptake Activity of *Ganoderma lucidium* QRS 5120 in L6 Myotube Cell

Faez Sharif^{a,b*}, Nur 'Aqilah Mohd Shamsuri^a, Nur Hafizah Azizan^a, Wan Abd Al Qadr Imad Wan-Mohtar^c

^aDepartment of Biotechnology, Kulliyyah of Science, International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuantan, Malaysia

^bResearch Unit for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (RUBIC), Kulliyyah of Science, International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia

^cFunctional Omics and Bioprocess Development Laboratory, Institute of Biological Sciences,

Faculty of Science, Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

*Corresponding author: faez@iium.edu.my

Abstract

The increasing prevalence of diabetes mellitus alongside the advancements in industry and technology underscores the urgency to eliminate this disease. Ganoderma lucidum, renowned for its anti-diabetic, anti-microbial, and anti-inflammatory properties, is widely utilized as a therapeutic medication. The aim of this study was to investigate the glucose uptake activity of exopolysaccharides (EPS) derived from the identified Malaysian Ganoderma lucidum strain QRS 5120 on the L6 myoblast cell line. To achieve this, Ganoderma pellets were cultured using a bioreactor, and EPS were extracted from the pellet for testing its glucose uptake activity. EPS production peak at day 12 (83 g/L) of the cultivation. The extracted EPS underwent a sulfation process to enhance compound solubility and flexibility. This was confirmed by Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR), where sulfation resulted in a sharp vibrational stretch at 1622 cm⁻¹, while unsulfated EPS exhibited a medium stretch at 1632 cm⁻¹. The glucose uptake activity assay revealed that a significantly lower concentration of residual glucose was observed at 500 µg/L (0.43 mg/mL) and 200 µg/L (0.45 mg/mL) when compared to the control group, indicating that EPS has a stimulatory effect on glucose uptake activity in L6 myotube cell lines. Consequently, from this preliminary study, it was shown that the EPS derived from the Malaysian strain Ganoderma lucidum QRS 5120 exhibits glucose uptake activity in skeletal muscle cells.

Keywords: Ganoderma lucidum; glucose uptake; exopolysaccharides



Molecular Recognition Of Furin Cleavage Site (FCS) From Sars-CoV-2 Spike by Furin Protease (FP) using Coarse-Grained Simulation

Siti Aishah Sufira Nor Hishamuddin^{a,b}, Mohd Hamzah Mohd Nasir^{a,b}, Jeyanthi A/P Suppiah^c, Ernie Zuraida Ali^d, Khairul Bariyyah Abd Halim^{a,b}, Azzmer Azzar Abdul Hamid^{a,b*}

^aDepartment of Biotechnology, Kulliyyah of Science, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), Bandar Indera Mahkota, 25200 Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia.

^bResearch Unit for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (RUBIC), Kulliyyah of Science, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), Bandar Indera Mahkota, 25200 Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia.

^cVirology Unit, Infectious Disease Research Center (IDRC), Institute for Medical Research (IMR), Ministry of Health, Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia

^dInborn Error of Metabolism (IEM) and Genetic Unit, Nutrition, Metabolism and Cardiovascular Research Center (NMRC), Institute for Medical Research (IMR), Ministry of Health, Shah Alam, Selangor, Malaysia

*Corresponding author: azzmer@iium.edu.my

Abstract

SARS-CoV-2, a novel coronavirus responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic, has caused widespread disruption and necessitated global lockdown measures. While sharing similarities with the previous SARS virus, SARS-CoV-2 possesses unique attributes, notably the presence of a distinctive furin cleavage site (FCS) of Spike protein. The FCS, characterized by the amino acid sequence XRRAR, plays a critical role in viral infectivity. However, there is limited information on the potential impact of newly emerging mutations at the FCS. In this study, we assessed the molecular recognition of FCS by Furin Protease (FP) using coarsegrained simulation in GROMACS 2022. The triplication simulations were conducted for 2 µs and compared between existing FCS (Wildtype, Delta, and Omicron) and three designed charged FCS mutations (P681L, P681E & P681D). Molecular dynamics simulations showed all complexes stabilized their conformations with consistent energy and minimal molecular changes at ~15 Å. Specifically, the basic FCS system has a significantly higher Solvent Accessible Surface Area (SASA) and exposed residue area, which are ~8.0 nm² and ~7.5 nm² compared to the acidic system, $\sim 1.9 \text{ nm}^2$ and $\sim 1.3 \text{ nm}^2$. Despite the less accessible area of acidic FCS, FP can still recognize and bind to the cleavage site with consistent interaction but low binding affinity. This may explain the difficulty of spike activation and the low virus's survivability. Overall, significant findings from this study provide evidence for the rapid replacement of the wildtype variant, the Delta variant's heightened severity, and the Omicron variant's exceptional infectiousness based on the FCS binding properties.

Keywords: Furin cleavage site; furin protease; COVID-19; coarse-grained simulation; spike protein



Assosiation of Litter Size and Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone Receptor (GNRHR) in Senduro and Ettawa Crossbreed Goat

Nur Hidayah, Tri Eko Susilorini, Ari Ardiantoro, Wike Andre Septian, Guruh Prasetyo, Heri Damayanti, Ahmad Zarkasi Efendy, Suyadi*

Department of Animal Reproduction, Faculty of Animal Sciences, Brawijaya University, Malang, Indonesia

*Corresponding author: suyadi@ub.ac.id

Abstract

This study aimed to investigate Senduro goat (SG) and Ettawa Crossbreed Goat (ECG) on association of litter size and *Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone Receptor* gene using the PCR-RFLP method. Litter size data and blood sample were taken from seventy-six Senduro goats and thirty-five Ettawa crossbreed goats. There are two steps in this research (in the field and laboratory). The research in the field was taking blood sample and litter size data. DNA isolation, amplification as well as restriction were conducted in the laboratory. This study showed that Senduro goat gave higher litter size (1.5 ± 0.2) significantly (P<0.05) than Etawa crossbreed goat (1.3 ± 0.15). Molecular analysis of DNA isolation was precise, then the amplification and restriction analysis used enzyme Msp1 (CCGG) with a product length of 702 bp revealed AA genotype in GNRHR gene fragment. Allele frequencies and genotypes obtained in Senduro goat and Ettawa crossbreed goat GNRHR genes are monomorphic. Eventually, GNRHR gene between Senduro and Ettawa crossbreed goat did not associated with litter size.

Keywords: Senduro goat; Ettawa Crossbreed Goat; Litter Size; PCR-RFLP; GNRHR gene



The Anti-Cancer Activity of Nanoliposome *Hedyotis corymbosa* Targeting Estrogen Receptor-Alpha in Breast Cancer Cells: in silico and in vitro Studies

Laili Nurzaidah^a, Sofy Permana^b, Agustina Tri Endharti^{c,d*}

^aMaster Program in Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia ^bDepartment of Biology, Faculty of Mathematic and Natural Sciences, Universitas Brawijaya Indonesia ^cDepartment of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia ^dBiomedical Central Laboratory, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Brawijaya, Indonesia *Corresponding author: tinapermana.fk@ub.ac.id

Abstract

Breast cancer (BC) expresses high levels of the Estrogen Receptor Alpha (ER -alpha). This study aimed to discover a natural active compound from Hedvotis corymbosa (H. corymbosa) with anti-cancer properties that targeted ER-alpha (ER alpha) in breast cancer cells. This study used molecular docking to analyze the interaction between ER alpha and active compounds from H. corymbosa. The compounds' properties were assessed, and the H. corymbosa extract was converted into nanoliposomes. The nanoliposomes' characteristics were examined, combined with tamoxifen, and applied to breast cancer cell cultures. Viability, proliferation, and ER alpha expression were evaluated, and statistical tests were conducted (p < 0.05). Findings indicate that compounds from *H. corymbosa* extract, particularly rutin, can effectively inhibit ER-alpha binding to estradiol. Rutin also acts as a substrate for P-glycoprotein, transporting small molecules to binding sites. The nanoliposomes derived from H. corymbosa exhibit favorable characteristics, such as a spherical shape, monodisperse size distribution (73.01 ± 39.24 nm), and stability (-49.8 ± 8.24 mV). Nanoliposome H. corymbosa at a dose of 100 µg/mL, in combination with tamoxifen, significantly reduces ER alpha expression but does not significantly affect cell viability. Combining H. corymbosa extracts with tamoxifen at specific concentrations (10 mg/mL and 16 mg/mL) enhances the treatment's efficacy, with an IC50 value of 11.4 mg/mL. The combination treatment group can be administered for up to 72 hours, reducing T47D breast cancer cell proliferation through the flavonoid's pro-oxidant effects. Therefore, *H. corymbosa* extract and nanoliposomes are promising therapeutic approaches for breast cancer treatment.

Keywords: Breast cancer; Estrogen Receptor Alpha; *Hedyotis corymbosa*; nanoliposom; T47D



Nano-sized Solution to Micro-sized Problem: Imine-Functionalized Nanoparticles for Effective Microplastic Removal from Water

Alyza Azzura Azmi^{a,b*,} Nur Rabiatul Syuhaidah^{a,b}, Wan Nur Iwani Wan Rushdi^{a,b}, Wan Mohd Khairul Wan Mohamed Zin^b, Sofiah Hamzah^c, Nor Salmi Abdullah^d, Nasehir Khan E.M. Yahya^d ^aMicroplastics Research Interest Group (MRIG), Faculty of Science and Marine Environment,

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Kuala Nerus, 21030 Terengganu, Malaysia

^bFaculty of Science and Marine Environment, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Kuala Nerus, 21030 Terengganu, Malaysia

^cFaculty of Ocean Engineering Technology and Informatics, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Kuala Nerus, 21030 Terengganu, Malaysia

^dWater Quality Laboratory, National Water Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM), Lot 5377, Jalan Putra Permai, Rizab Melayu Sungai Kuyoh, Seri Kembangan, 43300, Selangor, Malaysia *Corresponding author: alyza.azzura@umt.edu.my

Abstract

Plastics, known as synthetic polymers, composed of long chain-like molecules with high molecular weight, are a major environmental concern due to their persistence and potential toxicity. Upon release into the environment, plastic debris undergoes fragmentation, forming micron-sized particles called microplastics. Microplastics act as vectors for the long-term sorption of aromatic contaminants, leading to increased toxicity when ingested by organisms. Therefore, the development of reliable techniques for removing microplastics from environmental water sources is of utmost importance. In this study, we investigated the potential of imine-containing derivatives with varving numbers of hydroxyl groups and aromatic rings as functional linkers on the surface of mesoporous silica nanoparticles (MSNPs) for microplastic adsorption. The physicochemical properties of the imine-MSNPs were thoroughly characterized, revealing polydisperse nanospheres with high crystallinity and strong superparamagnetic properties. To assess the sorption capacity of the developed system, polystyrene (PS) microplastics was employed, known for their enhanced sorption capacity for aromatic compounds due to π - π interactions. The performance of microplastic removal was evaluated by considering parameters including imine- MSNPs concentration, size, and loading of PS. Our findings demonstrated that the interaction between phenanthrene and nitrobenzene-loaded polystyrene and imine- MSNPs was primarily governed by non-covalent interactions involving π -system and dipole-dipole forces. In contrast, the interaction with polar compounds was predominantly driven by hydrogen bonding. Notably, smaller PS microplastics exhibited higher loading of aromatic compounds, thereby promoting a higher removal rate of polystyrene microplastics. Importantly, the imine-MSNPs is a promising material to the end, as it combines ease of use with minimum technological requirements and expected to be a success towards clean and safe water supply.

Keywords: Imine; intermolecular forces; microplastics; magnetic mesoporous silica nanoparticles; removal



Development of Powdered Sacha Inchi-infused Oil using Maltodextrin (DE15) and Sodium Caseinate as Encapsulating Materials

Widya Abd Wahab

Department of Biotechnology, Kulliyyah of Science, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), 25200 Kuantan, Pahang Darul Makmur Corresponding author: widya@iium.edu.my

Abstract

Plukenetia volubilis, or sacha inchi (inca nut) seed oil has gained more recognition worldwide to be consumed as health-promoting food or supplement, due its unique content of unsaturated fatty acids (FA) including omega-3 (ω 3), omega-6 (ω 6) and omega-9 (ω 9). Sacha inchi oil has been associated with the reduction of blood pressure, LDL (bad) cholesterol, and inflammation along with the improvement of HDL (good) cholesterol levels. However, due to its high content (93%) of FA, sacha inchi oil might have a short shelf life which reduces its functional bioactivities and results in undesirable organoleptic properties. Conversion of oil to powder could preserve against the degradation, allow the fortification with antioxidants such as essential oils and raise the sensory characteristics of the food. Therefore, this work was aimed to develop powdered sacha inchi oil using microencapsulation. Sacha inchi oil added with essential oil was emulsified using a combination of maltodextrin (DE15) and sodium caseinate. The infused-sacha inchi powder was obtained following the dehydration of freezedrying. Analysis of the encapsulated powder infused with Zingiber zerumbet essential oil indicated that the moisture, total oil content, and surface oil content were 2.43%, 29.85%, and 17.61%, respectively. Whereas the encapsulated powder infused with Eucalyptus sp. essential oil indicated that the moisture, total oil content, and surface oil content were 2.66%. 17.10%, and 8.64%, respectively. Gas chromatographic analysis revealed that almost all content linoleic and linolenic acids were retained after the microencapsulation, for both products: encapsulated powder infused with Zingiber zerumbet and the encapsulated powder infused with Eucalyptus essential oil. In view of this development, the use has been intended as a dry mix salad dressing or as a more palatable sachet-size powdered supplement, with all the nutritional values retained.

Keywords: sacha inchi; microencapsulation; maltodextrin (DE15); sodium caseinate



Danio rerio: A Versatile in vivo Tool for High-Throughput Biomedical Screening

Khairiah Razali^a, Mohd Hamzah Mohd Nasir^{b,c}

^aDepartment of Basic Medical Sciences, Kulliyyah of Medicine, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia

^bDepartment of Biotechnology, Kulliyyah of Sciences, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia

^cResearch Unit for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (RUBIC), Kulliyyah of Science, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia.

*Corresponding outbor: homzehn@ijum edu my

*Corresponding author: hamzahn@iium.edu.my

Abstract

Danio rerio, commonly known as zebrafish, is a highly versatile model organism for biomedical research due to its genetic similarity to humans, rapid development, and high fecundity. This versatility allows for diverse applications at different life stages, including the use of zebrafish embryos for teratogenic assays, larvae for behavioral and cancer implant studies, and adults for toxicology, behavioral research, neuroscience, metabolism, and hyperglycemic investigations. Zebrafish embryos offer a transparent and externally developing system, facilitating non-invasive observation of embryonic development and efficient screening of compounds for teratogenic effects. They provide a cost-effective model for studying developmental abnormalities and uncovering the underlying mechanisms of birth defects. Zebrafish larvae, with their small size and ease of handling, serve as a practical platform for high-throughput behavioral screenings and investigations into tumor growth, metastasis, and drug responses through human tumor xenograft implantation. Adult zebrafish are invaluable for toxicological studies, enabling the evaluation of chemical toxicity through acute and chronic exposure experiments. They also serve as a model for exploring complex behaviors, neurobiological processes, and metabolism-related research. Adult zebrafish contribute to our understanding of social behavior, learning and memory, anxiety, addiction-like behaviors, as well as lipid metabolism, energy homeostasis, and drug metabolism. Furthermore, adult zebrafish can be employed for hyperglycemic studies by utilizing repeated blood sampling. This technique allows for the monitoring of glucose levels in response to various treatments or genetic manipulations, providing valuable insights into the regulation of hyperglycemia and metabolic disorders. In summary, Danio rerio, the zebrafish, represents a versatile in vivo tool for biomedical screening across a wide range of investigations. The zebrafish model system serves as a valuable link between basic research and clinical applications, advancing our understanding of human biology and facilitating the development of novel therapeutic approaches.

Keywords: Zebrafish; hyperglycaemic; blood-glucose; repeated blood sampling



The Antibiotic Susceptibility Pattern of *Sreptococcus suis* Isolated from Clinical Specimens at Prof. IGNG Ngoerah Hospital, Denpasar during 2016 – 2022

I Putu Bayu Mayura^{a*}, Ni Made Adi Tarini^a, Ni Made Susilawathi^b, Putu Yuliandari^a, Ni Nengah Dwi Fatmawati^a

^aDepartment of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine, Udayana University, Bali, Indonesia ^bDepartmen of Neurology, Faculty of Medicine, Udayana University, Bali, Indonesia *Corresponding author: bayu_mayura@unud.ac.id

Abstract

The zoonotic bacteria Streptococcus suis causes meningitis in humans. Recently, S. suis meningitis has become a major health concern in Indonesia, particularly in Bali. The antibiotic susceptibility pattern of S. suis in Bali remains unknown. The purpose of this research was to determine the antibiotic susceptibility pattern of S. suis isolates in Bali. Clinical specimens were obtained from the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory of Prof. IGNG Ngoerah Hospital. The Vitex2 Compact (Biomeriuex®) was used to identify and test the sensitivity of isolates from 2016 to 2022. Sixty-nine S. suis isolates were successfully isolated, mostly from cerebrospinal fluid. The majority of S. suis isolates were serotype 2 (95.65%), with the remainder being serotypes 1/2. (4.35%). 100 percent of isolates were sensitive against Benzylpenicillin, Ampicillin, Cefotaxime, Ceftriaxone, Levofloxacin, Linezolid, and Vancomycin. All isolates showed resistance toward Tetracycline (100%), however, 1 isolate was also resistant toward Erythromycin (1.45%) and Clindamycin (1.45%). Few isolates of S. suis were successfully isolated in this investigation, which may be due to the low number of S. suis illnesses reported and the inability of regional hospitals in Bali to detect infections caused by S. suis. Intriguingly, we discovered one isolate that was resistant to Tetracycline, Erythromycin, and Clindamycin; this corroborated the idea that human S. suis isolates exhibited co-resistance to Tetracyclines and Macrolides/Lincosamides. This result is extremely valuable for future research to detect Tn916-like conjugative transposons in mechanisms of co-resistance between these three antibiotics that have been described solely in porcine isolates.

Keywords: Streptococcus suis; susceptibility pattern; co-resistant; Bali; Indonesia



Antimicrobial Activity of Crude Leech Saliva Extract (CLSE) Protein from Different Starvation Times of Local Leech *Hirudinaria manillensis*: A Preliminary Study

Amir Shafiruddin Nordin^a*, Wan Mohd Azizi Wan Sulaiman^b, Nur Athirah Othman Basri^a, Jamaliah Mohd Isa^c, Norfarah Asyikin Baharudin Anthony^c

^aDepartment of Medical Sciences and Technology, Faculty of Health Sciences, University College MAIWP International (UCMI), 68100 Batu Caves, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

^bFaculty of Pharmacy, University College of MAIWP International (UCMI) Batu Caves 68100, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

^cDepartment of Laboratory, University College of MAIWP International (UCMI) Batu Caves 68100, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

*Corresponding author: shafiruddin@ucmi.edu.my

Abstract

Hirudinaria manillensis is the freshwater leeches found in Peninsular Malaysia displays various fascinating antimicrobial and biochemical studies. The saliva of *Hirudinaria manillensis* is a good model for studying the annelid body's evolution in leech therapy. This study aimed to evaluate protein and microbial activity concentration using crude leech saliva extracts (CLSE). CLSE was collected after feeding leeches on the phagostimulatory solution through the parafilm membrane. The total protein concentration was estimated using the Bradford assay. The antimicrobial activity of CLSE of Hirudinaria manillensis was assessed using disc diffusion and minimal inhibitory concentration tests. Few studies have reported that the influence of the production of protein concentration and secretion of large quantities of CLSE is dependent on the duration of starvation. From the results, it was obvious that the concentration of protein of CLSE still reasonably dropped after 4 weeks to 8 weeks. The total protein concentration was 49.8 ± 0.0331 mg/L, at the 2 weeks and decreased to 40.34 ± 0.0529 mg/L at 4 weeks, in the last 8 weeks it dropped drastically to 24.45 ± 0.00265 mg/L. The decrease in the concentration of protein in the CLSE after the eighth week is believed to be related to the exhaustion of the leeches condition. In microbial activity observation using disk diffusion test showed that CLSE collected after a starvation period of 4 weeks has a remarkable inhibitory against inoculum E. coli, Klebsiella pneumoniae, and Salmonella enterica except for Staphylococcus aureus. But after the fourth week to the eighth week, there was no significant change in the inhibitory zone against all test organisms. These results show that the starvation period of leeches significantly increases the total protein concentration in the CLSE. CLSE's findings in the antimicrobial activity test prove the effect of zone inhibition on certain organisms. This showed similar findings to the results in studies that have been conducted by several researchers. The study of relationship between starvation and protein concentration on microbial activity needs to be studied in more depth since the collected CLSE is often an obstacle to obtaining a sufficient volume of CLSE.

Keywords: starvation, Crude Leech Saliva Extract (CLSE); total protein concentration; disk diffusion test; antimicrobial activity



In silico Mutation on *Acinetobacter haemolyticus* Lipase KV1 for the Degradation of Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET)

Nurul Fatin Syamimi Khairul Anuar^{a,b}, Roswanira Abdul Wahab^{b,c,*}, Fahrul Huyop^a, Yahaya. M. Normi^{d,e}

^aDepartment of Biosciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru 81310, Malaysia

^bEnzyme Technology and Green Synthesis Research Group, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru 81310, Malaysia

^cDepartment of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Johor Bahru 81310, Malaysia

^dEnzyme and Microbial Technology Research Center, Faculty of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang 43400, Malaysia

^eDepartment of Cell and Molecular Biology, Faculty of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences,

Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang 43400, Malaysia

*Corresponding author: roswanira@kimia.fs.utm.my

Abstract

Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) accumulation could be potential hazards to the environment due to its high resistance to biodegradation. Therefore, Acinetobacter haemolyticus lipase KV1 enzyme may be able to tackle future PET waste by introducing *in silico* mutagenesis. This study first modified LipKV1 enzyme by deleting the lid region, which prevented PET substrate from entering the active site. Several LipKV1 binding site residues predicted by COACH and MOLE 2.0 were further mutated into alanine to expand the PET-binding space. Docking results revealed that lipase Var9 (-6.2 kcal/mol), Var18 (-6.0 kcal/mol), and Var181 (-6.0 kcal/mol) produced lower binding affinity in comparison to wild-type LipKV1 (-2.5 kcal/mol) and LipKV1 LE mutant (-5.3 kcal/mol). TfCut2, the reference structure, gave a considerably lower affinity (-4.6 kcal/mol) when compared to the generated LipKV1 variants, suggesting that lipases had higher affinity toward PET prior to active site mutation. MD simulations of LipKV1 variants in complex with PET produced good conformations in RMSD (~0.35 nm). Meanwhile, RMSF data revealed that mutated and catalytic residues of LipKV1 variants fell within acceptable fluctuation limits (<0.5 nm). Thus, this research offered a new strategy in computational lipase design with increased PET hydrolytic activity as a means to eradicate PET from the environment.

Keywords: Lipase KV1; mutation; polyethylene terephthalate; degradation; active site



In silico Design of DNA Hairpin Aptamer for The Detection of Ovarian Cancer Biomarker, Human Epididymis Protein 4 (HE4)

Nur Nadiah Abdul Rashid^{a,d,e,*}, Mohd Hamzah Mohd Nasir^{b,d}, Nurasyikin Hamzah^{c,d}, Izzat Fahimuddin Mohamed Suffian^a, Azzmer Azzar Abdul Hamid^{b,d}

^aDepartment of Pharmaceutical Technology, Kulliyyah of Pharmacy, International Islamic University of Malaysia, Bandar Indera Mahkota, 25200, Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia

^bDepartment of Biotechnology, Kulliyyah of Science, International Islamic University of Malaysia, Bandar Indera Mahkota, 25200, Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia

^cDepartment of Chemistry, Kulliyyah of Science, International Islamic University of Malaysia, Bandar Indera Mahkota, 25200, Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia

^dResearch Unit for Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (RUBIC), Kulliyyah of Science,

International Islamic University Malaysia, Bandar Indera Mahkota, Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia ^eDepartment of Chemistry, Centre for Foundation Studies, International Islamic University of Malaysia, 26300, Gambang, Pahang, Malaysia

*Corresponding Author: nadiahrashid@iium.edu.my

Abstract

Human epididymis protein 4 (HE4) is an ovarian cancer (OC) biomarker which has been studied extensively to aid the prognosis of OC. In this study, the three-dimensional (3D) structure of HE4, modelled by AlphaFold, is used to design DNA hairpin aptamers, which have the potential to pre-screen the presence of the OC biomarker. Molecular docking between the HE4 model with five DNA aptamers (A1 to A5) revealed that the A3-HE4 complex has the lowest binding energy (-6.5 kcal/mol) while the A5-HE4 complex formed the highest number of hydrogen bonds (H-bonds). However, the A4-HE4 complex, with a binding energy of -6.0 kcal/mol proved to be the most suitable DNA aptamer, as it formed 24 H-bonds with five at the loop of the hairpin aptamer. Subsequently, the A4 hairpin was mutated to 256 hairpins (H1 to H256). Analysis of the molecular docking and molecular dynamic (MD) simulations, which include the root-mean-square-deviation (RMSD,) radius of gyration, and H-bond occupancy, manifested that H256 is the most promising DNA hairpin aptamer against HE4. It exhibited a binding energy of -11.6 kcal/mol and a high number of H-bonds at the hairpin loop throughout the simulation. This research outcome holds potential for future OC diagnostic applications, offering a deeper understanding of the interactions between the protein and the aptamers.

Keywords: HE4; DNA hairpin aptamer; binding energy; RMSD; hydrogen bond



Production Optimization and Characterization of Fish Protein Hydrolysate (FPH) from Milkfish *Scales (Chanos chanos Forsskal*) Enzymatically using Papain

Ginta Ayu Wulansari^a, Najla Aulia Arief^b, Evi Susanti^{a,b*}

^aDepartment of Chemistry, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, State University of Malang, Indonesia

^bBiotechnology Program, Department of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, State University of Malang, Indonesia

*Corresponding author: evi.susanti.fmipa@gmail.com

Abstract

This study aims to produce the optimum method of Fish Protein Hydrolysate (FPH) production from milkfish scales with papain. The highest yield of $45.70 \pm 0.594\%$ was obtained from 1 gram of *pre-treatment* NaOH milkfish scales with 0.305 U papain in phosphate buffer pH 7 with a total volume of 8 mL, incubated at room temperature for 3 hours, continued at 75°C for 1 hour and 90°C for 5 minutes. Fourier Transform-Infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy analysis showed that the FPH produced had a typical spectrum indicating the presence of peptide bonds, 10-35 kDa, having antibacterial against bacteria *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*, and antioxidant with an IC50 of 81.91 ppm.

Keywords: Milkfish scales; hydrolysed fish protein; papain; milkfish

45



Cadmium Biosorption by Non-Living Biomass of *Rhodopseudomonas* sp. strain SBL

Balqis Nurul Huda Armadi, Shafinaz Shahir, Zaharah Ibrahim, Siti Halimah Hasmoni*

Department of Biosciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310, Johor Bahru, Johor Malaysia

*Corresponding author: sitihalimah@utm.my

Abstract

Cadmium, a toxic heavy metal, is frequently released into the environment through various human activities such as mining, production and use of phosphate fertilizers, and disposal of waste. It poses a significant threat as cadmium can accumulate in aquatic organisms and agricultural crops, ultimately leading to human exposure and potential toxicity through ingestion. Biosorption is a sustainable biotechnological approach which contributes to the minimization of cadmium pollution. It also has various advantages over conventional methods because it is cost-effective, environmental friendly, and is a reversible and fast process. The biosorption capacity of cadmium by Rhodopseudomonas sp. strain SBL was investigated via one factor at a time (OFAT) method with various environmental factors such as biomass dosage, pH of cadmium solution, incubation temperature, and contact time between cadmium and *Rhodopseudomonas* sp. strain SBL. The final concentration after biosorption process was then quantitatively analysed by Perkin Elmer Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS). The results were calculated and analysed, and it showed that *Rhodopseudomonas* sp. strain SBL removed the highest amount of cadmium with 0.5 mg/ mL of non-living *Rhodopseudomonas* sp. strain SBL biomass at pH 5 of cadmium solution, 30°C incubation temperature and at 30 minutes. The data obtained also fit into the pseudo-second order model.

Keywords: *Rhodopseudomonas* sp.; Purple Non-Sulfur Bacteria (PNSB); Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS); biosorption; cadmium

46



Development of Non-Polar Imine Compound Functionalized Magnetic Mesoporous Silica Nanoparticles for Microplastics Removal from Water

Nur Rabiatul Syuhaidah Mohamed Rusidi^{a,b}, Wan Nur Iwani Wan Rushdi^{a,b}, Wan Mohd Khairul Wan Mohamed Zin^b, Sofiah Hamzah^c, Wan Mohd Afiq Wan Mohd Khalik^{a,b}, Nor Salmi Abdullah^d, Nasehir Khan E.M. Yahya^d, Alyza A. Azmi^{a,b},*

^aMicroplastic Research Interest Group (MRIG), Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, 21030 Kuala Nerus, Terengganu, Malaysia.

^bFaculty of Science and Marine Environment, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, 21030 Kuala Nerus, Terengganu, Malaysia.

^cFaculty of Ocean Engineering Technology and Informatics, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, 21030 Kuala Nerus, Terengganu, Malaysia.

^dNational Water Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM), Lot 3557, Jalan Putra Permai, Rizab Melayu Sungai Kuyoh, 43300 Seri Kembangan, Selangor.

*Corresponding author: alyza.azzura@umt.edu.my

Abstract

Microplastics (MPs) pollution in the environment has recently been documented as an emerging environmental problem due to their detrimental impacts to the aquatic environment and human health. MPs have great characteristics including large specific surface area and strong hydrophobicity that allow them to adsorb the pollutants including heavy metals, organic pollutants and inorganic pollutants in the water. Nanotechnology approaches for microplastics removal have gained significant attention as potential solutions to mitigate the environmental impact of MPs pollution. In this study, phenanthrene and nitrobenzene were used as a pollutant on the surface PS MPs and nonpolar-imine compound with the presence of benzene ring functionalized magnetic mesoporous silica nanoparticles (naphthaldehyde-mMSNPs) were developed as a potential material for PS MPs loaded pollutants removal from water. The physicochemical properties of naphthaldehyde-mMSNPs including morphology, nature characteristics, vibrational, elemental composition, and magnetic properties were determined using SEM-EDX, HR-TEM, XRD, FTIR, XPS and VSM. The optimization for removal efficiency by naphthaldehyde-*m*MSNPs with initial concentration (0.1–3.1 mg/L), PS MPs size (150-425 µm), and PS MPs loading (50-750) were investigated for each pollutant by 17 experiments designed via BBD-based RSM. The regression analysis of phenanthrene and nitrobenzene shows a good fit of the experimental data to the quadratic model with coefficient of determination (R²) value of 0.9868, model F-value of 58.04 and (R²) value of 0.9820, model F-value of 42.48 which shows that both models were significant. The ANOVA shows that the most relevant individual factor was the concentration of imine-mMSNPs, followed by loading of PS MPs and size of PS MPs. The percentage removal efficiency of PS MPs was affected by all of the factor and the strong π - π interactions between nonpolar-imine-*m*MSNPs and PS MPs loaded pollutants.

Keywords: Magnetite mesoporous silica; microplastics,;nanotechnology; imine compound; microplastic removal



Development of Magnetic Mesoporous Silica Nanoparticles Functionalized with Polar Imine Moiety as a Potential Polystyrene Microplastics Removal from Water

Wan Nur Iwani Wan Rushdi^{a,b}, Nur Rabiatul Syuhaidah Mohamed Rusidi^{a,b}, Wan Mohd Khairul Wan Mohamed Zin^{a,b}, Sofiah Hamzah^c, Wan Mohd Afiq Wan Mohd Khalik^{a,b}, Nor Salmi Abdullah^d, Nasehir Khan E.M. Yahya^d, Alyza A. Azmi^{a,b*}

^aMicroplastic Research Interest Group (MRIG), Faculty of Science and Marine Environment, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, 21030 Kuala Nerus, Terengganu, Malaysia.

^bFaculty of Science and Marine Environment, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, 21030 Kuala Nerus, Terengganu, Malaysia.

^cFaculty of Ocean Engineering Technology and Informatics, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, 21030 Kuala Nerus, Terengganu, Malaysia.

^dWater Quality Laboratory, National Water Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM), Lot 5377, Jalan Putra Permai, Rizab Melayu Sungai Kuyoh, 43300, Seri Kembangan, Selangor, Malaysia. *Corresponding author: alyza.azzura@umt.edu.my

Abstract

Polystyrene (PS) is a prevalent type of microplastic (MP) found in the environment. Its hydrophobic surface and high sorption capacity make it an excellent vector for long-term sorption of both polar and non-polar aromatic pollutants. This poses substantial risks to both aquatic ecosystems and human health and necessitating the development of efficient techniques for MP removal. In this study, we employed a magnetic separation technique to extract PS MPs from water. To facilitate this process, magnetic mesoporous silica nanoparticles (mMSNPs) were synthesized and functionalized with a polar imine compound containing a hydroxyl group (imine-mMSNPs) through a condensation reaction, which resulted in the creation of a magnetic medium carrier. The physicochemical properties of the iminemMSNPs, encompassing morphology, crystallinity, vibrational and elemental composition, were comprehensively characterized using SEM-EDX, HR-TEM, XRD, VSM, FTIR, and XPS analyses. The optimization of experimental conditions for PS MP removal was achieved through the implementation of response surface methodology (RSM) based on Box-Behnken designs (BBD). The statistical analysis demonstrated the significance of the models, as evidenced by p-values <0.0001 for PS@Phenanthrene and PS@Nitrobenzene, respectively. The proposed equations exhibited strong agreement with experimental outcomes, yielding high regression R2 values of 0.9860 for PS@Phenanthrene and 0.9854 for PS@Nitrobenzene. An analysis of variance (ANOVA) revealed that the concentration of iminemMSNPs was the most influential parameter, followed by the loading of PS MPs and the size of PS MPs. The concentration of imine-mMSNPs, along with the polarity of nitrobenzene and phenanthrene, exerted significant effects on the percentage of removal performance, which can be attributed to intermolecular forces such as π - π interactions and ionic hydrogen bonding.

Keywords: Microplastics; imine; magnetic mesoporous silica; intermolecular forces



Sustainable Approach to Manage Agro-Waste through Cultivation of Edible Mushrooms

Surinder Kaur^{a*}, Gurpreet Kaur^a, Anita Narang^b

^aDepartment of Botany, Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Khalsa College, University of Delhi ^bDepartment of Botany, Acharaya Narendra Dev College, University of Delhi *Corresponding author: surinder@sgtbkhalsa.du.ac.in

Abstract

Agriculture based country like India generates huge amounts of agricultural and food wastes which have potential to be recycled. These agro-wastes like wheat or rice straw, sawdust or wood chip, sugarcane bagasse, cotton waste and cotton seed hull, corn cob, rice or wheat bran, chicken or horse manure can be used for cultivation of nutrient rich food in the form of mushroom. Mushroom cultivation not only reduces disposal problems caused by residue accumulation but also provides an economically acceptable alternative for the production of high-quality food. This is regarded as an environmental friendly solution with potential economic benefit. Moreover, by-products like spent mushrooms can be used as animal feed and crop fertilizer. The technique of mushroom cultivation on agro-waste also check air pollution associated with burning which is a common agro-waste disposal method used by farmers. Its cultivation can be one of the rational methods to utilize locally available wastes. The mushrooms chosen for cultivation are *Pleurotus* (oyster mushroom), *Calocybe* (milky mushroom) which are edible, are easy to cultivate and don't need huge investment. The other reason of selecting them is their booming demand in India and related culinary, nutritional and health benefits. We compared the yield and biological efficiency of these mushrooms on different agrowastes like wheat, rice, saw dust and sugarcane bagasse separately and in combinations. We found that yield of milky mushrooms is more on rice compost as compared to oyster mushroom. However, there is no significant difference observed in the yield of these mushrooms on wheat compost.

Keywords: Agrowastes; saw dust; sugarcane bagasse; oyster mushroom; milky mushroom

49



Influence of Growth Stages on Species Identification and Typing of Basidiomycetes Based on Whole cell protein Information using MALDI TOF MS

Sakae Horisawa*, Koki Iwamoto

School of Engineering Science, Kochi University of Technology, 185 Miyanokuchi, Tosayamada, Kamicity, Kochi, Japan

*Corresponding author: horisawa.sakae@ukochi-tech.ac.jp

Abstract

The accurate identification of basidiomycetes is necessary in various fields, such as microbial utilization, medical applications, hygiene management, and agriculture. Currently, identification methods using DNA have been developed and are frequently used due to their high detection sensitivity and reliability. However, DNA cloning is time-consuming, and the cost of analyzing a large number of base sequences is high. Therefore, we investigated an identification method based on information about proteins in the cells that is rapid, simple, and cost-effective. In this method, we used MALDI-TOF MS to generate spectra combining all relatively small peptides (2000-20000 Da) present in the cells. Databases of spectra have been created for bacteria and yeasts, but there have been fewer reports for filamentous fungi. This study aimed to examine the identification and typing of basidiomycete species. During mycelial cultivation, strains exhibiting different mycelial morphologies depending on the growth stage were observed, and the influence of this growth stage on the MS spectra was investigated. Mycelia on agar media were collected, washed with ethanol to prevent cellular degradation and inactivate protein-degrading enzymes, and then subjected to vacuum drying. Proteins extracted using 70% formic acid and acetonitrile were analyzed by observing the mass spectra of the test strains using AutoflexTM speed (Bruker, Bremen, Germany). The acquired spectra were compared between different strains or different cultivation times, and the similarity was calculated as a score using MALDI Biotyper (ver.3). The spectral patterns for all of the peptides produced in the cells were characteristic of the fungal species or strain, indicating the possibility of using the extracted proteins to identify fungal species and detect intraspecific variation even in the filamentous fungi, the basidiomycetes. However, the spectral pattern changed in some species such as Bjerkandera adusta, in which the coloration and morphology of the colony changed depending on the growth stage. If the proliferation stages were identical, the spectral patterns were highly reproducible. Therefore, it is thought that the identification corresponding to various growth stages will be possible by registering the spectra of various proliferation stages in the database.

Keywords: Wood-rotting fungi, identification; MALDI TOF MS; Biotyper



Enzymatic Hydrolysis of Collagen Hydrolysates from Barramundi Skin using Alcalase and Papain

Umi Hartina Mohamad Razali^{a,b}, Lim Dao Sen^a, Harisun Yaakob^c, Norizah Sarbon^d, Nur Hidayah Zainan^a, Dayang Norulfairuz Abang Zaidel^{e,f*}

^aFood and Biomaterial Engineering Research Group, Faculty of Chemical and Energy Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 Johor Bahru, Malaysia

^bFaculty of Food Science and Nutrition, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, UMS Road, 88400 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia

^cInstitute of Bioproduct Development, School of Chemical & Energy Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia

^dFaculty of Fisheries and Food Science, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Kuala Nerus, Terengganu 21030, Malaysia

^eDepartment of Chemical and Environmental Engineering, Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 54100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

^fInnovation Centre in Agritechnology for Advance Bioprocessing, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia,

Pagoh Campus, 84600 Pagoh, Johor, Malaysia

*Corresponding author: dnorulfairuz@utm.my

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Abstract

Barramundi skin, a by-product of the fish processing industry, has shown potential as an alternative collagen and collagen hydrolysate source. However, the commonly used acid extraction method to produce collagen rendered a low yield requires a lengthy time and is not environmentally friendly. Thus, enzymatic hydrolysis, with a suitable type of enzyme, such as Alcalase and Papain were applied in order to obtain the hydrolysate that contains bioactive peptides. The resulting collagens hydrolysate were evaluated for their colour, hydroxyproline and protein recovery content, FTIR spectra, antioxidant activity and solubility. Enzyme concentration of 1%, 2% and 3% were used in the hydrolysis. Alcalase 1% was the most suitable enzyme and enzyme concentration which possesses 61.44% of ABTS radical scavenging, 0.03479 mg/mL of protein recovery content and 85% of solubility on all the study range of pH. Besides, both collagen hydrolysate obtained from both enzymes showed the ability to open up the triple helix structure of crude collagen in the analysis of FTIR spectroscopy.

Keywords: Collagen, collagen hydrolysate, barramundi skin, Alcalase, Papain, physicochemical properties



Molecular Docking Studies on Phytoconstituents against APC, EGFR and MSH2

Asita Elengoe

Department of Biotechnology, Faculty of Applied Science, Lincoln University College, 47301 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia

Corresponding Author: asitaelengoe@yahoo.com

Abstract

Colon and rectum cancer is the third leading cause of death worldwide, accounting for nearly 1.93 million deaths in 2020. The search for a cancer cure is never-ending. It has been discovered that certain plant chemicals have anti-cancer effects. Consequently, phytocompounds may hold the potential for novel therapeutic development. In this study, the threedimensional (3-D) structure of colon cancer cell line proteins, adenomatous polyposis coli (APC), epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) and MutS homolog 2 (MSH2) were generated, and docking with plant compounds (allicin, gingerol, catechin, indicaxanthin and naringenin) was studied. Swiss model was used to develop the 3-D structure of the protein models. After that, the protein models were evaluated by protein validation tools such as PROCHECK, ProQ, ERRAT and Verify 3D programs. Finally, each protein was docked successfully with allicin (PubChem ID: 65036, gingerol (PubChem ID: 442793), catechin (PubChem ID: 9064), indicaxanthin (PubChem ID: 6096870) and naringenin (PubChem ID: 932) using SwissDock server and viewed via Discovery Studio (DS) 4.0 software. The analyses revealed that the protein structures were stable after the validation process. The best binding affinity of the target protein-phytoconstituents complexes (APC-allicin, EGFRindicaxanthin and MSH2-gingerol) were -7.56, -7.55 and -7.50 kcal/mol respectively. These proteins had the most stable bond with their phyto-compounds. The interaction between protein and phytocompound complexes is now being studied, which will aid in developing novel prescription drugs.

Keywords: Adenomatous polyposis coli (APC), Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR), Docking, Gingerol, MutS homolog 2 (MSH2)



Bacterial Community Structure in Log Piles Used as Foundations Analyzed by the Next-Generation Sequencing

Sitompul Afrida^{a*}, Sakae Horisawa^a, Tadashi Hara^b

^aSchool of Engineering Science, Kochi University of Technology, Kami City, Kochi, 782-8502, Japan ^bScience and Technology Unit Kochi University, Akebono-cho, Kochi, Kochi, 780-8502, Japan *Corresponding author: afrida@kochi-tech.ac.jp

Abstract

The characteristics of soft soil or fluid-like soil trigger liquefaction during an earthquake due to loss of soil shear strength and increased pore water pressure. Thus, log piles inserted into the ground have been shown to effectively mitigate the liquefaction. However, it is necessary not only to assess the effect of placing piles in the ground for soil improvement but also to determine the biological deterioration of the logs. Many research papers have reported patterns of bacterial degradation in log piles but it is such a rare report on microbial community structure in log piles. Therefore, our research focused on the relationship between bacterial communities in soil and log piles used as foundations. It may bacteria communities in the soil affect biodegradation in the logs. In this study, the extraction of bacterial DNA from soil and logs was analyzed by the next-generation sequencing (NGS) method because this method could provide significant information data about microbial communities quickly, accurately, and objectively. The community structures of bacteria in soil and log samples were sequenced based on the V3-V4 genes of 16s rDNA. Soil samples contained 42 phyla, but only 17 phyla had a relative abundance of \geq 1%. Of the 17 phyla, five showed the most dominant such as Proteobacteria, Actinobacteriota, Firmicutes, Bacteroidota, and Acidobacteriota. On the other hand, sequencing results from logs found 17 phyla and three main phyla that revealed the most bacterial communities namely Proteobacteria, Actinobacteriota, and Firmicutes. Bacterial diversity at the genus level with an abundance \geq 1% showed 23 genera in soil and 21 genera in log. The genera found in soil and logs were guite different. Only four genera of Proteobacteria had similarities such as Sphingomonas, Pleomorphomonas, Massilia, dan Allorhizobium-Neorhizobium-Pararhizobium-Rhizobium. From the results shown, we concluded that the bacterial communities present in logs buried for 590 days (± 1.6 years) did not originate entirely from the soil. Most likely the bacterial communities in the log have existed before the logs were inserted into the ground as a foundation.

Keywords: Bacteria, log pile, next-generation sequencing, foundation

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Adsorption Immobilization of Cyclodextrin Glucanotransferase on Activated Rice Husk Biochar: The Effects of Process Parameters

Nurul Elia Aqila Binti Abu Rahim^a, Nur Izyan Binti Wan Azelee^{a,b}, Siti Fatimah Zaharah Mohd Fuzi^c, Nasratun Masngut^d, Nor Hasmaliana Abdul Manas^{a,b,*},

^aFaculty of Chemical and Energy Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 Skudai, Johor, Malaysia.

^bInstitute of Bioproduct Development, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 Skudai, Johor, Malaysia ^cDepartment of Technology and Natural Resources, Faculty of Applied Sciences and Technology, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia, Pagoh Campus, Panchor 84600, Johor, Malaysia

^dFaculty of Chemical and Process Engineering Technology, Universiti Malaysia Pahang, Lebuhraya Tun Razak, 26300 Gambang, Pahang, Malaysia.

*Corresponding author: hasmaliana@utm.my

Abstract

Cyclodextrin glucanotransferase (CGTase) is known as a multifunctional enzyme that converts starch into cyclodextrin (CD), a functional compound that is widely used in pharmaceutical and food industries. CGTase is extremely sensitive under harsh reaction conditions and the free enzyme form is impossible to be recycled, thus making CD production expensive. Therefore, enzyme immobilization technique is introduced to improve the CGTase stability to ensure high production of CD with high recyclability. In this study, CGTase was immobilized by adsorption method on an activated rice husk biochar (RHB) as the support matrix. The effects of parameters such as immobilization time (6, 12, 18, 24) hr, immobilization temperature (15, 20, 25, 30)°C, the ratio of RHB to CGTase volume (1:3, 1:5, 1:10, 1:15), the agitation rate (100,150, 200, 250,300) rpm, and the pH (4, 5, 6, 7, 8) on CGTase immobilization were studied. pH 5 was the best pH achieved for the CGTase immobilization, with a 86.69% of immobilization yield. The optimal temperature and contact time that produced the highest immobilization performance were 20 °C and 12 hr, respectively. Meanwhile, the optimum agitation rate achieved at 200 rpm and the ratio RHB:CGTase was optimum at 1:5. The immobilized CGTase were found has the capability to increase the CGTase stability and recyclability, and RHB as the suitable and valuable added product as the support matrix for the immobilization process to increase the CD production.

Keywords: Activated biochar; effects of parameters; cyclodextrin glucanotransferase; enzyme immobilization; adsorption



AML1-ETO Fusion Gene Detection and Frequency in Acute Myeloid Leukemia Patients

Rafal F. J. Aleiqabie^a, Ahmed D. Jabbar^b, Fahrul Huyop^{c*}

^aDepartment of Pathological analysis, College of Science, University of Wasit, Iraq. ^bDepartment of Biology, College of Science, University of Wasit, Iraq. ^cDepartment of Biosciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 UTM Johor Bahru, Malaysia. Corresponding author: fahrul@utm.my

Abstract

Fusion genes are the consequences of rearrangement and instability of genomic material. There have been approximately 800 distinct fusion genes found in human cancer, the majority of them recorded in hematological cancers. The basic forms of chromosomal rearrangements that lead to fusion gene formation are deletion, inversion, translocation, and amplification which in their turn are the outcome of aberrant DNA transcription. This study aims to detect frequency of the AML1-ETO fusion gene which according to studies are the most common fusion in acute myeloid leukemia patients, among Iraqi AML patients by nested PCR and flow cytometry assay for further detection and conformation. Results indicated that AML1-ETO fusion was detected in 19 AML patient with percentage of 31.67%. in conclusion, this research indicated the frequency of AML1-ETO fusion gene in Iraqi AML patient's cases relying on the most frequent fusions suggested by previous studies, providing a further knowledge about the type of AML in hope to widen the patient's therapeutic strategies.

Keywords: Fusion gene; Myloid leukimia; EML-1ETO



Elaeocarpus grandiflorus Increased Immunoglobulin G Activity and Total Protein of Rat Induced Sheep Red Blood Cell

Nugrahaningsih WH*, Necya Melynia Daniardi

Biology Department Universitas Negeri Semarang, Jl. Raya Sekaran-Gunungpati, Semarang, Indonesia

*Corresponding author: nugrahaningsihwh@mail.unnes.ac.id

Abstract

Immune system is important factor to prevent virus attacks such as Covid 19. Elaeocarpus grandiflorus contains active compounds including flavonoids, saponins, polyphenols and tannins. The main flavonoids found in *E. grandiflorus* are kaempferol, quercetin, procyanidin, naringin, orientin, iso orientin, vitexin, isovitexin, rutin, luteolin and epicatechin, Kaempferol and guercetin show their role in anti-inflammatory and immune system enhancement. The purpose of this study was to examine the effect of E. grandiflorus leaves extract on the immunoglobulin G activity and total protein of rat induced by sheep red blood cells. A total of 25 Wistar rats were randomly divided into 5 groups. A suspension of ethanol extract of E. glandiflorus leaves was given on day 1-7 with a concentration of 100 mg/kg BW (P1), 200 mg/kg BW (P2), 400 mg/kg BW (P3), Na.CMC 1% w/v (Neg control) and mix herbal immunostimulant (positive control). On day 7 the rat was intraperitoneally injected 1 mL 2% v/v sheep red blood cells as antigen. The blood was taken from the orbital vein on day 12. The IgG activity was examined by agglutination test. The total protein determination test uses a photometric test based on the biuret method in the form of blood serum. The average of agglutination titers was 3.77 (neg control), 3.89 (pos control), 3.77 (P1), 3.65 (P2) and 4.61 (P3). By the statistics analyzed only P3 group that showed the difference. The average value of total protein of the five groups tested was 1.440 mg/dL (neg control), 1.000 mg/dL (pos control), 1,180 mg/dL (P1), 1.220 mg/dL (P2), 1.460 mg/dL (P3. The statistical analysis of total serum protein values obtained by the positive control group against the experimental group had no significant difference. There is an indication of the same effect between supplement with ethanol extract of E. grandiflorus leaves. It can be concluded that the extract of E. grandiflorus has the potential to be developed as an immunostimulant.

Keywords: E. grandifloras; immunostimulant; kaempferol; quercetin; total protein



Accurate and Rapid Detection of SARS-CoV-2: Leveraging the Power of Reverse Transcription Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification (RT-LAMP) and Lateral Flow Immunochromatography Assay

Derich Shalbie Simon, Chee Wei Yew and Vijay Kumar*

Biotechnolgy Research Institute, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, 88400 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia *Corresponding author: vijay@ums.edu.my

Abstract

To control the spread of COVID-19, it is important to promptly detect and isolate individuals who are infected in the early stages of infection. However, the current diagnostic methods present drawbacks such as high costs, time-intensive processes, and varying levels of accuracy. Furthermore, the mutations at primer binding sites of SARS-CoV-2 variants leads to evasion of detection via existing PCR-based tests, further diminishing the reliability of conventional tests. To tackle this challenge, a promising solution is the implementation of a reverse transcription loop-mediated isothermal amplification (RT-LAMP) in combination with a lateral flow immunochromatographic assay. This approach offers a rapid and user-friendly molecular test with the potential to overcome the limitations of existing diagnostic methods. In this study, the conserved regions of all SARS-CoV-2 variants were identified on the Envelope, Membrane and Nucleocapsid genes, and LAMP primers were subsequently designed with modifications of DIG-Biotin or Fluoresceine-Biotin, to be used for visualization via lateral flow immunochromatographic assay. Using synthetic genes as the positive control, specificity and sensitivity tests were conducted on using both LAMP and PCR-based tests for comparison to the gold standard. Specificity tests were conducted by screening the gene sequences of closely related coronaviruses gathered from Genbank, followed by running the assays on control genes of related coronaviruses; SARS-CoV, MERS-CoV and IBV. The sensitivity was assessed by conducting the assay on positive controls of 10-fold dilution, to obtain the detection limit of assays. The results showed that the LAMP based primers were specific only towards the positive control plasmid, leaving no amplification on the other coronaviruses. Whereas the LAMP assay detection limit was found to be as little as 10² copies depending on the target site. This was equivalent to the detection limit of PCR-based tests on the same target. In conclusion, the RT-LAMP in combination with lateral flow immunochromatographic assay proved to be a simple, highly specific, and sensitive method for the rapid molecular diagnosis of COVID-19.

Keywords: RT-LAMP; Lateral Flow Immunochromatographic assay; SARS-CoV-2; envelope gene; membrane gene; nucleocapsid gene

57



Proximate Composition and Identification of Organic Acids in Different Percentages of Cream and Campaka (*Michelia champaka L*) Oil

Ni Made Suaniti^{a*}, I Nyoman Putu Riasa^b, Putu Udiyani Prayika Putri^a

^aDepartment of Chemistry, Faculty of Mathematics and Natutral Sciences, Udayana University, Bali Indonesia

^bDepartment of Plastic Surgery, Faculty of Medicines, Udayana University, Bali Indonesia *Corresponding author: madesuaniti@unud.ac.id

Abstract

Cream as a skin protector from UV exposure requires other ingredients from nature to utilize Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO) as a development of laboratory-scale chemical analysis. The purpose of this study was to identify organic acids and the composition of water content, volatile compounds, ash, and fixed carbon in cream and cream added with enfleurat champaka with various weight percentages. The analytical methods used were Proximate and Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS). The results of proximate analysis showed that the lowest water content in cream added with enfleurat champaka with a volatile compound content of more than 70%. Identification of organic acid compounds by GC-MS, well separated and varied in type and amount. The detected acidic compounds such as limonene, acetic acid, octanoic acid, hexadecanoic acid, oleic acid, and lauric anhydride.

Keywords: Campaka oil, cream, identification, organic acid, proximate



Distribution of *Arundo donax*, an Energy Crop and Serious Invasive Species, in Shikoku, Japan using Google Maps

Makoto Nagase^a, Asahiko Yoshikawa^a, Sakae Horisawa^b, Masahiro Inoue^c, Yoh Sakuma^{c*}

^aFaculty of Science, Ehime University

^bSchool of Engineering Science, Kochi Univ. Technology,

°Graduate School of Science and Engineering, Ehime University

*Corresponding author: sakuma.yo.mg@ehime-u.ac.jp

Abstract

Arundo donax is a large grass native to East Asia. In JAPAN, it grows naturally along the coasts of the southwestern half of the country and is common in Shikoku Island, especially along the Pacific coast. Because of its high growth rate and robustness to environmental disturbances, A. donax has attracted attention as an energy crop for 2nd generation biofuel production and for use bioremediation of wastelands. On the other hand, A. donax has been introduced into Europe, North America, and Australia, and is considered one of the most dangerous invasive species. A. donax does not produce fertile seeds but reproduces vegetatively by buds at each node of the culm. Presumably, culms that became detached from the main body due to some cause, such as strong winds during typhoons have become established themselves where they were washed ashore and have expanded their distribution area. Despite these interesting characteristics, no detailed distribution survey has been conducted in Japan. Due to the large and unique dome-shaped plant type, it is identifiable on Google Maps satellite photos, and with higher reliability on Street View. Therefore, by using this information available on the Internet, we can efficiently conduct distribution surveys with a minimum of field work. We identified colonies in Shikoku Island using Google Maps. We set up a 2 km square grid of 5476 plots in Shikoku Island, and surveyed 1820 plots, excluding mountainous areas. As a result, we identified a total of 15613 A. donax colonies. In addition, we have evaluated these colonies in relation to environmental factors such as climate and topography.



Bioethanol Production from Wild Cassava (Manihot glazoiovii Muel. Arg) with Combination of Microbial Concentration and Fermentation Times using Simultaneous Saccharification and Co-Fermentation Technique

Abdullah Nur Hakami^a, Ida Bagus Wayan Gunam^{a,b*}, I Wayan Arnata^a, I Gede Arya Sujana^b ^aDepartment of Agroindustrial Technology, Faculty of Agricultural Technology, Udayana University, Bukit Jimbaran, Badung Bali 80361, Indonesia

^bLaboratory of Bioindustry, Faculty of Agricultural Technology, Udayana University, Bukit Jimbaran Badung Bali 80232, Indonesia

*Corresponding author: ibwgunam@unud.ac.id

Abstract

The use of fossil fuels has been increasing every year, followed by the resulting environmental damage. Efforts to overcome these problems can be done by switching to alternative renewable energy sources, one of which is bioethanol. Bioethanol is a fuel derived from plants that contain glucose, starch, and cellulose. One of the plants that has potential as a raw material is wild cassava (*Manihot glaziovii* Muel. Arg), wild cassava contains about 40-70% starch. This study aims to determine the effect of a combination of microbial concentration and fermentation time in the production of bioethanol by co-culture technique of isolates R5I3, R5I4, and *Aspergillus niger*. The microbial concentrations used in this study were 1.5%, 3%, and 4.5% (v/v) and the fermentation time used in this study were 5, 6, and 7 days. The research stages include; gelatinization of wild cassava flour, simultaneous saccharification and co-fermentation, and distillation. The results obtained to produce the highest total ethanol was at a microbial concentration of 4.5% (v/v) with a fermentation time of 7 days, the ethanol produced was 2.01±0.26% (w/v). While the final total soluble solids produced was 5.70±0.28 %Brix, with a final pH of 3.25±0.07 and a final reducing sugar of 0.974±0.11 mg/mL.

Keywords: Bioethanol; fermentation time; microbial concentration; simultaneous saccharification and co-fermentation; wild cassava

60



Immunoglobulin Yolk of *Canine Parvovirus* and its Biological Activity after Freeze-Dried

Suartini IGAA^{a*}, Suarsana IN^b, Nyoman Mantik Astawa^a

^aVeterinary Biochemistry Laboratory, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Udayana University. ^cVeterinary Immunology Laboratory, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Udayana University *Corresponding author: aa_suartini@unud.ac.id

Abstract

The use of antibodies for the treatment of various diseases is growing very rapidly. Antibodies for therapy are generally formulated in liquid form and stored at freezing temperatures, making them very susceptible to various stress factors. Temperature fluctuations and shock factors during storage can reduce the biological activity of antibodies. Freeze-dried is the best method used to stabilize proteins/antibodies. Damage to antibodies during the freeze-dried process can be prevented by adding a stabilizer. Yolk Immunoglobulin (IgY) anti Canine parvovirus is an antibody that has been proven effective in curing dogs infected with CPV. CPV infection is very dangerous in unvaccinated puppies with a mortality rate of up to 90% even vaccinated dogs can be infected with this virus. This study aims to find the best formula and stabilizer for freeze-dried IgY anti-CPV so that its biological activity remains optimal. The freeze-dried IgY process for pure anti-CPV uses the HETOTRAP CT-60 apparatus, while the in vitro IgY biological activity test uses the HI test. The results showed that the best formula for IgY anti-CPV was: IgY (5 mg/ml) + sucrose (50 mg/ml) + 65 mg/ml Trehalose + 5ml Tween 80. The optimal biological activity of IgY anti-CPV was 27 HI units. Morphology and topography of IgY anti-CPV and mineral composition in the samples, the best in the sample formulas F1A, F2A and F4A.

Keywords: IgY; Canine parvovirus; antibodies; freeze-dried; formula

61



Isolation and Identification of Microorganisms from Malaysian Local Leech *Hirudinaria manillensis* Associated with a Sterilization Technique

Nur Athirah Othman Basri^a, Nur Sa'adah Ab Rahman^a, Nurul Aini Ahmad^a, Amir Shafiruddin Nordin^a, Jamaliah Md Isa^b, Norfarah Asyikin Baharudin Anthony^b, Wan Azizi Wan Sulaiman^c ^aFaculty of Health Science, Department of Medical Science and Technology, University College of MAIWP International (UCMI) Batu Caves 68100, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

^bDepartment of Laboratory, University College of MAIWP International (UCMI) Batu Caves 68100, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

^cFaculty of Pharmacy, University College of MAIWP International (UCMI) Batu Caves 68100, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

*Corresponding author: athirah@ucmi.edu.my

Abstract

Hirudinaria manillensis is one of the species that are well-known for their benefits to treat vascular disorders among alternative and complementary medicine practices. Sterilization methods in reducing bacterial colonies on *H. manillensis* are medically important to lower the risk of bacterial infections after the therapy session. The concern was that when leeches expose to the patient's wounds, they can introduce their own bacterial flora, potentially leading to infections. This study focuses on isolating and identifying microorganisms that address this issue, by conducting with various antibiotic solutions to disinfect the leeches. Four commercially available antibiotics (ciprofloxacin, chloramphenicol, co-amoxiclav, and amoxicillin) were used in this study. A total of 24 leeches isolated from the mouths and surface area of *H. manillensis* were tested for antibiotic susceptibility. The bacteria found from the mouth and leech surface before the sterilization process are Aeromonas sp., Chryseobacterium gambrini, and Bacillus cereus which is categorized as pathogenic bacteria to humans. Based on the susceptibility, it was observed that all the isolated bacteria were found to be susceptible to ciprofloxacin, and chloramphenicol, but not to co-amoxiclav and amoxicillin. This study also found that the bacterial species Aeromonas sp., C. gambrini, and B.cereus have displayed resistance against co-amoxiclav and amoxicillin. Among all the antibiotics tested, ciprofloxacin was found to be the best and significant as bactericidal agent p-value = 0.0381(p-value<0.05). These findings propose that pre-treating the leeches with ciprofloxacin before their application to the patient could potentially offer benefits in preventing invasive infections and observing post treating leech behaviour should be one of the areas of focus in future.

Keywords: Sterilization; ciprofloxacin; leech; Aeromonas sp.; bactericidal; susceptibility test



Single Bulb Garlic a Promising Antiadipogenic Agent: Bioactivity and Bioavailability Enhancement Strategy

Sri Rahayu Lestari^{a*}, Abdul Gofur^a, Suharti^b, Yunita Rakhmawati^a, Alif Rosyidah El Baroroh^a, Dewi Sekar Miasih^a, Yuslinda Annisa^c, Liza Md. Salleh^d

^aDepartment Biology, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Universitas Negeri Malang, 65145, Malang, Jawa Timur, Indonesia

^bDepartment Chemistry, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Universitas Negeri Malang, 65145, Malang, Jawa Timur, Indonesia

^cDepartment Biology, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Universitas Brawijaya, 65145, Malang, Jawa Timur, Indonesia

^dDepartment of Bioprocess Engineering, Faculty of Chemical Engineering, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310, Skudai Johor

*Corresponding author: srirahayulestari@um.ac.id

Abstract

Single bulb garlic is one of the indigenous Indonesian plants widely used as an ingredient in herbal medicine. The results of in vivo studies conducted prove the potential of single bulb garlic in inhibiting and reducing cholesterol synthesis, inducing a decrease in cholesterol and blood lipid levels in obesity-related metabolic syndrome models. Single bulb garlic have 5 times higher content of active compounds compared to regular garlic. However, the utilization of active compounds in singular garlic is less than optimal due to its lipophilic properties, volatility, intense aroma and low stability in gastrointestinal fluids, which reduces the bioavailability of garlic compounds to the systemic circulation after oral administration. Selfnanoemulsifying drug delivery system (SNEDDS) is becoming one of the new delivery and solubilization techniques that is gaining wide attention due to its excellent properties in improving the solubility and oral absorption rate of drugs/active compounds with poor solubility in water. SNEDDS has the potential to control the release rate of active compounds and lead to increased bioavailability of active compounds in the gastrointestinal tract, as well as optimize the potential of single-bulb garlic extract as an antiadipogenic agent. The use of SNEDDS was shown to improve the stability of the active compound of single-bulb garlic in gastrointestinal simulation, increase bioavailability, non-induced hemolysis, and maintain its antioxidant capacity. In vitro evaluation of adipogenesis models showed that SNEDDS of single bulb garlic extract had low toxicity and was able to suppress the expression of adipogenesis-specific mediators and inhibit lipid droplet formation in adipocyte cells.

Keywords: single bulb garlic, anti-adipogenic agent



Embryotoxicity and Teratogenic Effects of Local Jamu Maajun on Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*)

Zulfa Zakuan^a*, Rushduddin Al-Jufri Roosli^a, Nur Diyana Mahmood^a, Syarifah Nabila Syed Jaafar^a, Wan Azizi Wan Sulaiman^{b*}

^aDepartment of Medical Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, University College of MAIWP International

^bFaculty of Pharmacy, University College of MAIWP International

*Corresponding author: zulfa@ucmi.edu.my

Abstract

Complementary and alternative medicine is widely available and heavily used especially in Asia as there are diversity in medicinal plants and its practices is ingrained in the culture. In Malaysia, locally sourced herbal supplements known as Maajun is generally taken orally as postpartum care, general well-being, or as pain relief. Although there are several reports on adulterated Maajun products in the market, this alternative supplement still has its own demand and markets in spite lacking in study of its toxicity. This study assesses the toxicity of two popular local brand Maajun on the embryo of zebrafish. Wild-type zebrafish embryos were exposed to different concentrations (0-1600 µg/ml) of Maajuns to test the embryotoxicty and teratogenicity from 6 hours post fertilization (hpf) until 120 hpf. Developmental endpoints were scored, and Therapeutic Index (TI) was calculated using ratio of LC50/E50. Generally increasing concentration and exposure time increases the mortality rate of the embryo. Both Maajuns were shown to have toxicity at concentration above 400 µg/ml and 200 µg/ml and teratogenicity at above 100 µg/ml and 400 µg/ml, respectively for MJ 1 and MJ 2. At higher concentrations, coagulations of embryos, delayed hatching of embryos and abnormal developmental points were apparent in the larvae such as skeletal deformities and low motility. Therapeutic Index values for both products ranged from 0.98-1.16 at different concentration points tested. In conclusion, traditional Maaiun poses significant toxic effects on embryo of zebrafish and detailed assessments are needed for human consumption.

Keywords: Complementary and alternative medicine; Maajun; embryotoxicity; Danio rerio



Comparing Age-Wise Reference Intervals for Serum Urea and Creatine Levels among ESRD Subjects: A Single-Centre Experience

Muhammad Asyraf Salleh^a, Wan Mohd Azizi Bin Wan^{b*}, Vasudevan Ramachandran^a

^aFaculty of Health Sciences, University College of MAIWP International, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia ^bFaculty of Pharmacy, University College of MAIWP International, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia *Corresponding author: drwanazizi@ucmi.edu.my

Abstract

Haemodialysis (HD) is usually conducted for the renal replacement therapy for end-stage renal disease (ESRD) patients. This study aims to determine the prevalence and correlation of Serum Urea and Creatine levels of age categories among ESRD patients undergoing haemodialysis. In this preliminary cross-sectional study, 102 subjects were recruited from outpatient Centre of Excellence Haemodialysis, Taman Batu Muda, Malaysia. The data were recorded form the patients' medical record and tabulated. The demographic characteristics of the subjects were presented using percentage and the reference range was calculated on 102 ESRD subjects (age range 22 to 80 years). The reference ranges of Serum Creatine (SCr), Urea, Uric acid and Serum ferratin (SFe) were <133mmol/l, 1.7 - 8.4 mmol/l, 0.14 - 0.34 mmol/l and 40 - 200 µg/l for males and females respectively. There was a female predominance (n=53) over males (n=49). The mean age of the subjects was 54.26±13.85 and the dry weight was 65.88±14.57 among the ESRD subjects. Among all the three ethnics, Malay was higher (94.1%) compared to the other ethnics. Most of the subjects were married (77.5%) followed by single (16.7%) status. When male and female subjects were analyzed age-group wise, the data showed a significant difference in mean SCr values (p<0.05) in three age groups (21-40, 41-60 and 61-80 years), however there was no significant among Urea, Uric Acid and SFe levels (p>0.05). Elevated SCr levels among females are common and are strongly associated with all the age ranges. Longitudinal studies are required to determine the clinical outcomes of individuals with elevated levels of SCr, Urea, Uric Acid and SFe and to examine factors related to the progression of renal disease in the community too. In addition, this study needs further analysis on drug adverse effects and complimentary medicine in reducing the blood pressure and diabetes among haemodialysis subjects.

Keywords: ESRD; Urea; Creatinine



In-Silico Study of Active Compounds on Doro Putih (*Strychnos lucida*) as an Anti-Breast Cancer Agent Through Inhibition of The MAPK Pathway

Yuslinda Annisa^a, Siti Mariyah Ulfa^b, Sri Rahayu Lestari^c, Fatchiyah Fatchiyah^a, Nashi Widodo^{a*} ^aDepartment of Biology, Faculty Mathematics and Natural Science, Universitas Brawijaya, 65145, Malang, Indonesia

^bDepartment of Chemistry, Faculty Mathematics and Natural Science, Universitas Brawijaya, 65145, Malang, Indonesia

^cDepartment of Biology, Faculty Mathematics and Natural Science, Universitas Negeri Malang, 65145, Malang, Indonesia

*Corresponding author: widodo@ub.ac.id

Abstract

Breast cancer is the most widely diagnosed type of cancer and the most common cause of cancer-related death in women worldwide, with a prevalence of one-third of all types of cancer affecting women. Herbal products as a source of bioactive compounds have a high diversity and varied benefits. Many studies have been conducted using various plant extracts as anticancer by focusing on various cancer cell death pathways. Specific molecular mechanisms of herbal bioactive compounds are needed as a basis for the development of anticancer drugs that work in a targeted and effective. The in-silico approach can be used to predict the specific molecular mechanism of the active compound Strychnos lucida. Research methods include selecting active compounds, predicting bioactivity, drug-likeness, protein target prediction, data mining, molecular docking, molecular dynamics simulation, and visualization of results. The bioactivity screening results showed that there are 6 potential anticancer compounds from Strychnos lucida, namely 3-O-caffeolyquinic acid, adenosine, loganin, secoxyloganin, sweroside, and tachioside. Docking analysis showed the best inhibitory activity of 3-Ocaffeolyquinic acid on MAPK3, MAPK9, and MAPK8 based on binding affinity, amino acid residue profile, and number of hydrogen bonds. Molecular dynamics simulation showed a stable interaction between 3-O-caffeolyquinic acid/MAPK9 compared to its native ligand. Bioactive compounds from *Strychnos lucida* have potential as inhibitors of the MAPK pathway, which acts as a key regulator of cellular signaling in cell cancer.

Keywords: Breast cancer; *Strychnos lucida*; molecular docking; molecular dynamics; MAPK pathways



Computational Discovery of Human ACE-2 Inhibitors from Malaysian Kelulut Honey against COVID-19

Che Muhammad Khairul Hisyam Ismail^{a,b*}, Azzmer Azzar Abdul Hamid^{a,b}, ,Mohd Ridzuan Mohd Abd Razak^d, Khairani Idah Mokhtar^c, Widya Lestari, Basma Ezzat Mustafa Alahmad^c, Azlini Ismail^{c*}

^aDepartment of Biotechnology, Kulliyyah of Science, International Islamic University Malaysia, 25200 Kuantan, Pahang Malaysia

^bHD Research Unit for Bioinformatics & Computational Biology, Kulliyyah of Science, International Islamic University Malaysia, 25200 Kuantan, Pahang Malaysia

^cDepartment of Fundamental Dental and Medical Sciences, Kulliyyah of Dentistry, International Islamic University Malaysia, 25200 Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia.

*Corresponding author: dr_azlini@iium.edu.my

Abstract

In December 2019, the world was threatened with severe acute respiratory diseases (COVID-19), affecting public health and causing pandemic worldwide. The novel coronavirus, known as SARS-CoV-2, was initially reported to have originated in Wuhan, Hubei province, China. As of now, the virus continues to emerge and spread, giving rise to new variants with distinct characteristics, including improved transmissibility, severity, and the ability to evade the immune system. Such condition urges researcher to explore alternative treatment besides vaccination and FDA-approved drugs. When it comes to natural product, honey is a natural sweetener that has been consumed for decades due to its medicinal and nutritional properties. Kelulut honey (KH), a local Malaysian honey, has recently gained attention due to its unique flavour and taste. However, the potential of KH to exhibit antiviral effects against SARS-CoV-2 remains unexplored. Therefore, this study aims to investigate the ability of phytochemical compounds from KH to inhibit the human ACE-2 receptor using in silico approaches. KH sample from Kuantan, Pahang were subjected to sugaring-out assisted liquid extraction (SULLE) and LC-MS-QTOF analysis for non-targeted metabolite profiling. Prior to docking, 10 ACE-2 protein ensemble was created through a 100 ns molecular dynamic simulation, and an ensemble docking-based virtual screening approach was used to identify phytochemical compounds from KH with high binding affinity to ACE-2. LC-MS-QTOF analysis revealed 110 phytochemical compounds identified in KH. Among the compounds tested, 4.4'-6,7-Dimethyl-9-(2-acetoxyethyl)isoalloxazine consistently Stilbenedicarboxamidine and demonstrated the lowest free binding energy to 10 ACE-2 protein conformations. Specifically, they exhibited free binding energies of -9.719 kcal/mol and -9.473 kcal/mol, respectively, at the ACE-2 active site, surpassing the potent inhibitor MLN 4760, which had a free binding energy of -9.353 kcal/mol. Moreover, 4,4'-Stilbenedicarboxamidine and 6,7-Dimethyl-9-(2acetoxyethyl)isoalloxazine capable of modulate ACE-2 allosteric site with free-binding energy of -7.305 kcal/mol and -7.464 kcal/mol, respectively. Molecular dynamics simulation and MMPBSA analysis showed stable binding interaction to both active and allosteric sites of ACE-2. KH's compounds demonstrate potential for preventing SARS-CoV-2 binding to ACE-2 receptors, suggesting its possible use as a preventive measure or in combination with other COVID-19 treatments. Further experimental studies are necessary to validate the antiviral properties of KH and its potential therapeutic applications against SARS-CoV-2.

Keywords: Kelulut Honey, LC-MS-QTOF, Phytochemical compound, Molecular docking, and Molecular Dynamic Simulation.

67



Phenotypic and Biochemicam Changes During Maturation of *Bidara* (*Ziziphus mauritiana* L.) Fruits, Bima Ecotype.

Nikmatullah Aa*, Nairfana Ib, Sarjan Mc, Layyina Nd

^aAgroecotechnology Study Program, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Mataram. ^bFaculty of Agriculture Technology, University of Technology Sumbawa.

^oPostgraduate, University of Mataram.

^dBiology Study Program, Faculty of Mathematic and Natural Sciences, University of Mataram.

*Corresponding author: aluh_nikmtullah@unram.ac.id

Abstract

Bidara is an important tree grown naturally in semi-arid and arid region of Sumbawa Island and found from West Sumbawa to Bima regions. The fruit has an economic and nutritional values for the community, and some types of bidara fruits are consumed and sold in traditional markets during the fruiting season (commonly, July to August). The bidara fruits are known for the nutritional and medicinal values, and the guality of the fruits are varied depending on the variety, maturation stages and growing environment. This study examines morphological and biochemical changes during maturation of nine bidara ecotypes, grown naturally in Bima region of Sumbawa Island. The fruits of nine bidara ecotypes were harvested in July 2023, and then grouped into five different developmental stages, based on the color of the fruits. At mature stage (stage 3; S3), the nine different ecotypes have either round or oblong fruits, with fruit size from 1.410 to 2.018 cm (length) and 1.240 to 2.057cm (width), weight between 1.50 and 3.73 g, total soluble solid content (TSS) between 11.3 and 18.1°Brix. The titratable acidity (TA) and reduced sugar of the fruits increases from S1 to S3 and then decreases at S4 and S5 for seven ecotypes, but for two ecotype the increase in TA is observed to S4. On the other hand, flavonoid content decreased from S1 and S2 toward the maturation. In all fruits, the S1 remains unripe, but the S2 reaches S3 (optimum maturity) after 2 days of storage at ambient temperature.

Keywords: Bidara; titratable acidity; reduced sugar; flavonoid; maturity



Cetuximab and Liposome-Nanoparticle using *Pleurotus ostreatus* Extract for Targeted EGFR and TIMP-1-Expressing Colorectal Cancer Combination Therapy

Agustina Tri Endharti^{a*}, Elsafira Akrama Nabilahasna^b, Sofy Permana^c

^aDepartment of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Brawijaya, Malang ^bMaster Program in Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Brawijaya, Malang, Indonesia

^cDepartment of Biology, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences Universitas Brawijaya, Malang *Corresponding author: tinapermana.fk@ub.ac.id

Abstract

Background: Colorectal cancer is a worldwide problem that made up the second highest cause of death in cancer especially in developing country. *Pleurotus ostreatus* has potential as cancer therapy. This study aims to investigate the effect of cetuximab combined with *Pleurotus ostreatus* extract nanoparticles on the HT-29 cell line.

Methods: *Pleurotus ostreatus* was extracted by maceration. This extract was then formulated into nanoparticle. The extract was treated with cetuximab on HT-29 cells *in vitro*. EGFR and TIMP-1 expressions were analysed by *immunofluorescence*.

Results: There was a decrease both of EGFR and TIMP-1 expressions in treated cells compared to the control group. The group with the highest dose of therapy combinations gave the highest reduction in both EGFR and TIMP-1 expression compared to the control group and other treated groups. The *Pleurotus ostreatus* extract is able to decrease EGFR and TIMP-1 expressions.

Conclusion: The combination of cetuximab and *Pleurotus ostreatus* nanoparticle reduce EGFR and TIMP-1 expressions in HT-29 cells.

Keywords: Anticancer; colon cancer; *Pleurotus ostreatus*; EGFR; TIMP-1



Exploration of Four Bali Medicinal Plants Showing from an Antiinflammatory to Aphrodisiac

I Gede Putu Wirawan

Faculty of Agriculture, Udayana University, Jl. P.B. Sudirman, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia *Corresponding author: igpwirawan@unud.ac.id

Abstract

Medicinal plants have been used in Bali since old times as mentioned in many ancient manuscripts namely Lontar Usada, Lontar Taru Premana, and others. Among many medicinal plants mentioned in the lontar, we have studied four plants those were red algae Bulung Sangu, Purnajiwa, Kemangi (Basil), and Jeruju (*Acanthus montanus*). These plants were first analysed using DNA Barcode to determine whether these plants were unique to Bali, analyzed using Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrophotometry (GC-MS) to determine the bio-active compounds, and then functional analysis of the ethanol extracts. The results showed that red algae bulung sangu contains an anti-inflammatory, rich antioxidants especially astaxanthin, and anti-cholesterol compound. Purnajiwa showing a strong aphrodisiac compound, vincadifformine and has been confirmed increased mount and mate as well as increased testosterone level of mice that used in the experiments. Kemangi with four species showed some different bio-active compounds and mainly were citral, eugenol and methyl-eugenol. The last plant Jeruju contains vanillic acid and phytol which both were aromatic and aphrodisiac as well. The results showed that the four medicinal plants studied were unique in Bali and showed biomedical evidence.

Keywords: Medicinal plants; DNA Barcode; GC-MS; anti-inflammatory; aphrodisiac



Transcriptional Responses of Porcine Intestinal Organoids Exposed to Acetate and Butyrate

Nuning Winaris^{a,b*}, Bart van der Hee^a, Ellen Kranenbarg^a, Jerry M. Wells^a

^aHost-Microbe Interactomics Group, Department of Animal Science, Wageningen University & Research, Wageningen, Netherlands

^bMaster Program in Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Brawijaya, Malang, Indonesia

*Corresponding author: nuning_winaris@ub.ac.id

Abstract

Short-chain fatty acids (SCFA), such as butyrate, acetate, and propionate, have been reported to reduce the risk of gastrointestinal disorders. A previous study reported that incubation of ileum organoids with bacterial culture supernatant of Akkermansia muciniphila and Faecalibacterium prausnitzii (which contained different SCFA), as well as individual SCFA affected the expression of metabolic cellular growth and cell survival pathways. However, these results are difficult to interpret because of the mixture of SCFA and other metabolites present in the bacterial culture supernatants. Furthermore, the combined concentration of SCFAs used was high and possible toxicity was not assessed. In this study we aimed to investigate the effects of non-toxic concentrations of acetate and butyrate on gene expression in 3D organoid cultures in order to gain more insight into their transcriptional effects on epithelial functions. Porcine 3D ileal organoids were exposed to non-toxic concentration of butyrate and acetate for 5 hours or buffer control and RNA was purified for RNA sequencing. Differentially expressed genes and pathways were identified using various bioinformatics software. Butyrate treatment induced the largest set of differentially expressed genes (DEG) compared to acetate. The top canonical pathways activated by acetate treatment mostly related to cellular processes-related pathways, whereas butyrate evoked many cell-cycle related pathways. Moreover, butyrate was predicted to reduce cell proliferation through inhibition of histone deacetylase 3 (HDAC3). In contrast, the effect of acetate on histone 3 acetylation is still unclear. These results reveal that acetate and butyrate regulate different intestinal epithelial functions.

Keywords: Porcine ileal organoids; transcriptomic; epithelial function



Local Corn Cultivar from Kisar Island Maluku: Its Potential and Development for Future Functional Food

Hermalina Sinay*, Ritha Lusian Karuwal

Biology Education Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Educational Sciences, University of Pattimura

*Corresponding author: elinasinay08@gmail.com

Abstract

Corn (Zea mays L.) is one of the most important food crops in almost all places in the world, after wheat and rice. In several areas in Indonesia, people also use corn as a staple food. In Maluku there is one area, namely Kisar Island, which is an area in Southwest Maluku Regency whose people also consume corn as a staple food. Seven local corn cultivars have been found in this area which have been characterized by their structure including leaf anatomy, proline content, yield components, and expression of drought resistance genes. While the characterization of proximate composition, phenolic and flavonoid content and antioxidant activity was also carried out. The results of the characterization showed that local corn cultivars from Kisar Island had a high range of adaptation to drought which could be seen through several indicators such as high proline content which was correlated with yield and yield components, as well as very high drought tolerance gene expression that even exceeded normal range. The results of the proximate analysis also showed a high protein content, as well as the results of the phenolics and flavonoids content, while the results of the antioxidant activity showed a very strong free radical inhibitory activity even exceeding that of quercetin. Therefore it can be concluded that local corn cultivars from Kisar Island have the potential to be developed as functional food to support food security and self-sufficiency in the future.

Keywords: local corn cultivar; Kisar island; potential and development; functional food



Harnessing the Power of Gut-Brain Axis: Probiotic Supplementation Ameliorates Neurological Symptoms in Cerebral Malaria

Aulia Rahmi Pawestri^{a,b}, Tita Rachma Ayuningtyas^c, Nuning Winaris^{a,b}, Shahdevi Nandar Kurniawan^d, Teguh Wahju Sardjono^{a,b}, Loeki Enggar Fitri^{a,b*}

^aDepartment of Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Brawijaya, Malang, Indonesia ^bAIDS, Toxoplasma, Opportunistic Disease and Malaria Research Group, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Brawijaya, Malang, Indonesia

^cMaster Program in Biomedical Science, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Brawijaya, Malang, Indonesia

^dDepartment of Neurology, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Brawijaya, Malang, Indonesia *Corresponding author: lukief@ub.ac.id

Abstract

Background: Malaria remains an unresolved global threat with spiking incidence and mortality rates, with cerebral malaria being the leading cause of death. The complex pathogenesis of cerebral malaria involves host immune and parasite interactions. Lately, with the concept of the gut-brain axis, the gut microbiota was identified to protect against systemic pathogen invasion through the activation of immune signalling pathways. Here, we aimed to explore the effect of probiotic supplementation toward clinical outcomes of cerebral malaria in vivo. Methods: C57BL/6 mice were given oral probiotic supplementation with either Lactobacillus casei, Bifidobacterium longum, or the combination of both five days before to seven days after Plasmodium berghei infection. Clinical manifestations were recorded using the SmithKline, Harwell, Imperial College, Royal Hospital, Phenotype Assessment (SHIRPA) score. The data was analysed using One-way ANOVA. Results: The were significant differences of motor behaviour (p = 0.001), muscle tone (p = 0.0001), reflex and sensory (p = 0.001) 0.025), and neuropsychiatric state (p = 0.015) between the control group and that receiving combination of L. casei and B. longum. Conclusion: Probiotic supplementation showed promising effects in improving the neurological manifestations during cerebral malaria. Further studies are required to elucidate the immunological pathways involved and the best formulations. In the future, it is propitious that the mortalities by cerebral malaria could be mitigated by harnessing the gut-brain axis using the power of probiotics.

Keywords: Probiotics; gut microbiota; cerebral malaria; dysbiosis; immune regulation



Protective Effect of Combination Gel Transfersome Centella asiatica Extract and Nanoemulsion of Rosemary Essential Oil against UVB-Induced Skin Aging in BALB/C Mice

Husnul Khotimah^a, Dina Dewi Lestari Ismail^b, Dhelya Widasmara^c, Wibi Riawan^d, Ekowati Retnaningtyas^e, Raditya Weka Nugraheni^f, Oktavia Eka Puspita^g, Oktavia Rahayu Adianingsih^g, Mardiyah^h, Andri Setiawan^h

^aDepartment of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Brawijaya, Malang 65145, Indonesia ^bDepartment of Nursing, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Brawijaya, Malang 65145, Indonesia ^cDepartment of Dermatovenereology, Saiful Anwar Hospital Malang, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Brawijaya, Malang 65145, Indonesia

^dDepartment of Biochemistry and Biomolecular, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Brawijaya, Malang 65145, Indonesia

^eMalang State Health Polytechnic, Ministry of Health, Indonesia, Malang 65119, Indonesia
^fDepartment of Pharmacy, Muhammadiyah University of Malang, Malang 65145, Indonesia
^gDepartment of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Brawijaya, Malang 65145, Indonesia
^hMaster Program of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Brawijaya, Malang 65145, Indonesia

*Corresponding author: husnul_farmako.fk@ub.ac.id

Abstract

Background: Ultraviolet B (UVB) irradiation induces physiological and morphological skin aging, resulting in skin dryness, wrinkle formation, and loss of elasticity. This study analyzed nanoencapsulation of combination transfersome *Centella asiatica* (CA) and nanoemulsion *rosemary essential oil* (REO) with a lipid-based nanocarrier to synergize for the prevention of UVB radiation ability of both compounds, along with ameliorative and anti-aging effects.

Methods: To ensure the quality, lipid-based nanocarrier of transfersome and nanoemulsion were characterized for size, polydispersity index, zeta potential. Well-established in vivo studies were used to determine the biological effects of combination gel transfersome CA, and nanoemulsion REO were applied topically upon UVB-irradiation of BALB/c hairless mice.

Results: The results showed lipid-based nanocarrier had an particle size range of $43,97 \pm 5,6$ nm, polydispersity index range of $0,64 \pm 0,01$, zeta potential range of $-10,91 \pm 1,99$ mV. In vivo study revealed that topical application of combination gel transfersome CA and nanoemulsion REO significantly ameliorated wrinkle formation, epidermal hyperplasia, and degradation of collagen fibers caused by UVB irradiation. Further, combination gel transfersome CA and nanoemulsion REO suppressed lipid peroxidation by decreasing the expression of *malondialdehyde* (MDA) and collagen destruction by inhibiting *matrix metalloproteinase-9* (MMP-9) expression. Moreover, combination gel transfersome CA and nanoemulsion REO upregulated type I collagen through activation of the *transforming growth factor-* β (TGF- β) /Smad pathway, thereby recovering the density of collagen reduced by UVB.

Conclusions: Overall, these data indicate that topical application of combination gel transfersome CA and nanoemulsion REO could synergistically act and potentially prevents oxidative stress and collagen degradation in the skin from UVB-induced photoaging.

Keywords: Transfersome; nanoemulsion; Centella asiatica; Rosemary; skin aging; UVB

74



Structural and Microbiology Analysis of Entrapped IS258 in Na-Alginate Matrix Upon Repetitive Batch Bio-Ethanol Fermentation

Indah S. Naibaho, I M. Mahaputra Wijaya*, I Wayan Arnata, I. B. Wayan Gunam

Department of Agro-Industrial Technology, Udayana University, Bali-Indonesia 80361 *Corresponding author: mahaputrawijaya@unud.ac.id

Abstract

Cell immobilization is aimed to fix and limit the movement of working cells which are held in specific matrix and used as functional catalyst. Cell immobilization has advantages which are more efficient and cost effective in comparison with free yeast culture in the ethanol fermentation process. Yeast isolate named IS258 is superior isolate previously obtained from the Balinese Arrack industry which functions as bioethanol fermentation agent. IS258 yeast cells was entrapped in sodium-alginate matrix for cell immobilization. The IS258 Na-alginate matrix was then used for repetitive-batches ethanol fermentations of coconut sap analog. This study aimed to analyze the structure of initial conditions and running conditions on the IS258 alginate matrix. As the alginate matrix was used for bioethanol fermentation, the result indicates that the matrix structure underwent expansion due to increasing population of IS258 yeast inside the matrix to breaks apart. The condition of the IS258 alginate matrix structure, thus causing the matrix to breaks apart. The condition of the IS258 alginate matrix will be discussed based on the Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) results.

Keywords: Immobilization; matrix; IS258; ethanol; fermentation



Effect of Media Type and pH on the Growth of Isolate R5I4 in the Early Stage of Fermentation

I Made Febriana^a, Ida Bagus Wayan Gunam^{a,b,*}, Anak Agung Made Dewi Anggreni^{a,b}, I Gede Arya Sujana^{,b}

^aDepartment of Agroindustrial Technology, Faculty of Agricultural Technology, Udayana University, Bukit Jimbaran, Badung Bali 80361, Indonesia

^bLaboratory of Bioindustry, Faculty of Agricultural Technology, Udayana University, Denpasar, Bali 80232, Indonesia

*Corresponding author: ibwgunam@unud.ac.id,

Abstract

Media is a material that can be used as a place for the growth of microorganisms such as bacteria, yeasts and molds. Some types of microbes can live well on very simple media, which only contain inorganic salts plus organic carbon sources such as sugar. However, there are also microbes that require a very complex medium that not only contains carbon and nitrogen sources but also needs the addition of blood or other complex ingredients. Therefore, this research aims to determine the best type of media as the growth of isolate R5I4 and its optimal pH. The types of media used are: nutrient broth, starch broth and yeast peptone glucose and the pH used is pH 6, 7, and 8. The best treatment in this study was the M2P1 treatment which uses starch broth media at pH 6 which was able to produce an OD value of 1.925 ± 0.11 at a wavelength of 660 nm and a total microbial value of 8.76×10^6 CFU/mL. It also produced amylase enzyme activity of 2.720 ± 0.036 IU/mL with total reduction sugar produced of 2.20 ± 0.036 IU/mL and final total soluble solids of 6.5 ± 0.14 %Brix.

Keywords: Isolate R5I4; nutrient broth; pH; starch broth; yeast peptone glucose



The Effect of Hexane Extract of *Caulerpa racemosa* on HT-29 Cell Line by Suppressing PI3K/AKT Pathway

H.K. Permatasaria*, N. Amalia^b, H.W. Sulistomo^c

^aDepartment of Biochemistry and Biomolecular, Faculty of Medicine, Brawijaya University, Malang, Indonesia

^bBiomedical Science Master Program, Faculty of Medicine, Brawijaya University, Malang, Indonesia ^cDepartment of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, Brawijaya University, Malang, Indonesia *Corresponding author: happykp@ub.ac.id,

Abstract

Background: Colon cancer is a malignancy of the gastrointestinal system, the most common malignancy and the second most common cause of death. One of the challenges in the treatment of colon cancer is therapy resistance due to inappropriately targeted therapy and the several adverse side effects in patients. Tumorigenesis of colon cancer involved oncologic pathway such as PI3K/AKT as the common pathway on colon cancer. Therefore, an alternative colon cancer treatments is needed that comes from biological resources. One of them is utilizing sea grapes abundant in Indonesian waters. **Objectives:** This study aims to determine the effect of hexane extract from sea grapes (Caulerpa racemosa) on the colon cancer HT-29 cell line based on PI3K/AKT pathway. Methods: The study was conducted in vitro using the hexane extract of Caulerpa racemosa at concentrations of (0, 400, 800, and 1.200) µg/mL on the HT-29 cell line based on the level expression of p-akt. Result: The research results found that the hexane extract of Caulerpa racemosa decreased the expression level of p-akt (Kruskal wallis, p=0,027). The hexane extract of Caulerpa racemosa had a strong negative correlation (Spearman, p=0,000 and r=-0,907) to level expression of pakt, indicating that decreasing of p-akt level occurred with increasing doses. Conclusion: Caulerpa racemosa hexane extract can inhibit PI3K/AKT pathway based on decreased the expression level of p-akt.

Keywords: Caulerpa racemosa; HT-29; colon cancer; PI3K/AKT; p-akt



Effect of Fluctuations in Temperature on the Life Cycle of the Forensically Important Calliphoridae fly *Chrysomya rufifacies* (Macquart 1843) (Diptera)

Bansode S.A.a*, More V.R.b

^aDept. of Zoology, Kelkar Education Trust's V.G.Vaze College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Mithagar Road, Mulund (East) Mumbai - 400 081 ^bDepartment of Zoology, Government College of Arts and Science, Aurangabad-431004 (Maharashtra), India *Corresponding author: vitthal67@gmail.com

Abstract

In the field of forensic entomology, Chrysomya rufifacies has emerged as an important species for the assessment of the postmortem interval (PMI) in criminal investigations. Understanding the geographically specific developmental patterns of C. rufifacies in response to temperature and seasonal changes is crucial to improving the precision of PMI forecasts. In this work, we examined the growth rates of *C. rufifacies* at several temperatures (20°C, 25°C, 30°C, 35°C, and 40°C) in order to gather precise developmental data for PMI calculations in a particular region. Our research indicates that temperature significantly affects the growth of C. rufufcaies. We also investigated how seasonal variations affect the growth and development of C. rufifacies. The length of developmental phases and morphological features varied seasonally, with winter showing longer durations and colder temperatures and summer showing shorter durations and hotter temperatures. The importance of temperature in affecting an insect's life cycle was highlighted by the discovery that higher temperatures are a direct cause of faster development. Our work highlights the need to gather data on regionally unique developmental trends for accurate PMI calculations in forensic entomology investigations. Understanding the interactions between temperature, seasonal fluctuations, and morphological characteristics is crucial for creating baseline data for PMI estimates. The accuracy of PMI estimates will ultimately increase thanks to the use of this information, and forensic entomologists will have even more power to contribute to criminal investigations.

Keywords: Forensic entomology; stages of decomposition; Calliphoridae; forensic investigation; *Chrysomya rufifacies.*



Microbial Degradation Potential of Microplastic using Cutinase-like Microplastic Degrading Enzyme from *Cryptococcus* sp.

Oladipo O.O., Olaleye A.C., Oyewusi, H.A.*

Department of Science Technology, School of Science and Computer Studies, Federal Polytechnic Ado Ekiti, Nigeria

*Corresponding author: haoyewusi@utm.my

Abstract

The study revolves around a remarkable biodegradable plastic-degrading enzyme known as Wr CfCLE, sourced from *Cryptococcus* sp. This specific enzyme exhibits the ability to degrade various biodegradable plastics (BPs), including polybutylene succinate (PBS), polybutylene succinate-co-adipate (PBSA), poly ε -caprolactone (PCL), and polylactic acid (PLA). However, the rise in BP consumption has led to environmental challenges, as these materials often fail to degrade completely within a desirable timeframe. This investigation dives deep into the physicochemical properties of Wr CfCLE, encompassing secondary structure prediction and 3D homology modelling of protein sequences. The sequence's characteristics, including amino acid count, molecular weight, theoretical pl values, molecular formula, and total atom count, are meticulously scrutinized. Notably, the sequence consists of 239 amino acids with a molecular weight of 24,303.04 Da, holding an acidic nature with a pl value of 6.39. Further, the composition includes 33.47% alpha helices and 49.37% random coils, while alanine and glycine constitute 14.2% and 12.1% respectively. In summary, the study underscores the structural attributes of Wr CfCLE, spotlighting its potential as a bioremediation agent addressing environmental challenges posed by biodegradable plastics.

Keywords: Structural analysis; cutinase; biodegradable; plastic; degrading enzyme; *Cryptococcus* sp.



Analysis of Decolorization Potential of Dye from a Bacterium Isolated from the Hypersaline Lake

Habeebat Adekilekun Oyewusi^{a,b*}, Kolajo Adedamola Akinyede^a, Roswanira Abdul Wahab^{c,d}, Evi Susanti^e, Syariffah Nuratiqah Syed Yaacob^b, Fahrul Huyop^b

^aDepartment of Science Technology, Biochemistry unit, The Federal Polytechnic P.M.B 5351, Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria.

^bDepartment of Biosciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 UTM Johor, Malaysia.

^cDepartment of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 UTM Johor, Malaysia.

^dEnzyme Technology and Green Synthesis Research Group, Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 UTM Johor, Malaysia.

^eDepartment of Biotechnology, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Universitas Negeri Malang, 65145, Indonesia

*Corresponding author: haoyewusi@utm.my

Abstract

The research investigated the decolorization potential of a dye by utilizing Bacillus megaterium H2 azoreductase (AzrBmH2), extracted from a bacterium in a hypersaline lake. The ability of AzrBmH2 to degrade four synthetic dyes, namely reactive blue 4, Remazol brilliant red, thymol blue, and methyl red, was monitored spectrophotometrically. Subsequent in-silico analysis using GROMACS was conducted. The findings revealed that Bacillus megaterium H2 effectively degraded all four synthetic dyes, achieving up to 60% degradation across various tested concentrations. Genomic analysis identified five distinct azoreductase genes, which were then modelled into three templates: AzrBmH21, AzrBmH22/3, and AzrBmH24/5. Binding energies of AzrBmH2-substrate complexes ranged from -10.6 to -6.9 kcal/mol, forming 4 to 6 hydrogen bonds with predicted catalytic binding residues (His10, Glu 14, Ser 58, Met 99, Val 107, His 183, Asn184, and Gln 191). Among these, AzrBmH21-substrates exhibited the lowest binding energy with all dyes (-10.6 to -7.9). Molecular dynamic simulations indicated enhanced stability of AzrBmH21-substrate complexes. In conclusion, this study underscores the effective decolorization capacity of Bacillus megaterium H2, and its potential for largescale dye remediation applications. The findings shed light on the bacterium's promising role in addressing dye pollution concerns.

Keywords: azodyes; Bacillus megaterium sp.; In silico study of azodye; Lake Tuz



Synergistic Effect of Medicinal Plants on Liver Damage

Tooba Lateef*, Sidra Sajjad, and Shamim A Qureshi

Department of Biochemistry, University of Karachi, Karachi-75270, Pakistan *Corresponding author: t.lateef12@gmail.com

Abstract

Liver diseases are one of the major problems worldwide. In recent years focus on effective hepatoprotective medicinal plant has been increased. It has been reported that the principles of synergy and combining herbs improves efficacy and decreases harmful effect. Therefore, in the present investigation, seeds and fruits extracts of plants in different combinations including 1. C. anthelminticum, Vitis vinifera (raisins) and W. coagulans (CRW), 2. C. anthelminticum, A. fatua and V. vinifera (raisins) (CAR) and 3. C. anthelminticum and V. vinifera (raisins) (CV) were studied against carbon tetrachloride (CCl₄) induced hepatotoxicity in animal model. Female Wister rats were distributed into 6 groups normal (1 mL distilled water), hepatotoxic control (3 mL/kg CCl₄), positive control (100 mg/kg silymarin), Test A (800 mg/kg CRW), Test B (800 mg/kg CAR) and Test C (800 mg/kg CV), administered with their respective doses for 5 consecutive days. CCl₄ (3 mL in equal proportion with olive oil) was administered intraperitoneally on third and fifth day of animal trial after administration of test doses in all groups expect group I. After 24 hours of last dosage of CCI4, rats were decapitated, and their serum was collected. CRW, CAR and CV in dose of 800 mg/kg each in their respective test groups significantly ameliorate the biochemical parameters by observing reduction in alanine and aspartate transaminases, alkaline phosphates, gamma glutamyl transpeptidase, total bilirubin both direct & indirect and uric acid whereas elevation in total protein & albumin levels when compared with CCl₄ hepatotoxic control group. Therefore, the present investigation concludes that different combinations of extracts of A. fatuva, C. anthelmenticum, raisins and W. coagulans are strong liver regenerative and hepatoprotective herbal agents which bring all liver confined parameters back to normal when compared with carbon tetrachloride induced hepatotoxicity.

Keywords: Hepatoprotective; liver diseases; synergistic; CCl₄; medicinal plants



Determination of Heavy Metals in Some Selected Herbal Medicinal Preparations Marketed in Kano State, Nigeria

Zigau Z.*a, Huyop F.^b, Aliyu B.S^c, Yakasai, M.A.^d, Sanusi, H.^e

^aDepartment of Biological Science, Faculty of Science, Bauchi State University Gadau, Nigeria ^bDepartment of Biosciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Malaysia ^cDepartment of Plant Biology, Faculty of Life Science, Bayero University Kano, Nigeria. ^dDepartment of Biology, Aliko Dangote University of Science and technology, Nigeria ^eDepartment of Plant science and biotechnology, Federal University Dutsinma, Nigeria *Corresponding author: zainabauwalzigau87@gmail.com

Abstract

Herbs are extensively consumed in Nigeria, for their medicinal properties and availability. Due to the increasing rate of pollution in the environment, heavy metal contamination has been reported in herbal medicines globally. However, there is little information on heavy metal contamination of herbal medicines in Kano State, Nigeria. This study aimed at determining the concentration of heavy metals residues in some selected traditional medicinal herbs consumed in Kano State, Nigeria. This is to assess their relative safety and potential health risks to local inhabitants based on the world health organization standard limit. A total of ten (10) powdered samples of medicinal preparations labeled A to J were purchased from the local markets in Kano metropolis and were analyzed for the presence of lead, chromium, cadmium and mercury contents. Plant samples were digested according to the method described by Street *et al.*, 2008, and heavy metal concentration was determined using Atomic Absorption Spectrometry (AAS). Metals found to be present varied in different concentrations in the herbal samples. The presence of heavy metal ranges as follows: 0.6-6.5mg/kg for chromium, 3.10-22.10mg/kg for lead, 0.08-0.60mg/kg for cadmium and 0.09-0.30mg/kg for mercury. However, the content of mercury was not detected in some samples.

The findings of the study suggest that most of these samples were contaminated with high amount of lead chromium and cadmium, thus these herbs contain unsafe levels of heavy metals that exceeded the World Health Organization (WHO) permissible limits, and in some of the samples the levels of Mercury found present did not exceed the permissible limit by W.H.O.

Keywords: Traditional medicine; heavy metals; permissible limits and contamination



Identification of Bacterial Strain Isolated from Antarctica Able to Degrade Dalapon

Suleyman Faruk Kirkinci^a, Hasan Murat Aksoy^a, Sevgi Marakli^b, Yilmaz Kaya^{a*}

^aDepartment of Agricultural Biotechnology, Faculty of Agriculture, Ondokuz Mayis University, Turkey ^bDepartment of Molecular Biology and Genetics, Faculty of Science and Letter, Yildiz Technical University, Turkey

*Corresponding author: yilmaz.kaya@omu.edu.tr

Abstract

This study focuses on psychrophilic microorganisms found in extreme environments, such as Antarctica, and their potential contributions to environmental and industrial biotechnology. Specifically, a newly discovered psychrophilic bacterial strain TaeBurcu001 was isolated from Galindez Island, Antarctica. This strain was capable of thriving at lower temperatures, with an optimal growth temperature of 5 °C. Interestingly, TaeBurcu001 exhibited the ability to utilize the herbicide Dalapon (2,2-dichloropropionic acid, 2,2-DCP) as its sole carbon source, which is a unique adaptation to its extreme habitat. Phylogenetic analysis based on the 16S rRNA gene sequence revealed that TaeBurcu001 was closely related to members of the genus Psychrobacter, sharing 99% similarity. Comparisons of phenotypic and biochemical characteristics between TaeBurcu001 and other known Psychrobacter species showed significant similarities. Additionally, a colorimetric assay detected the release of chloride ions, with a maximum value recorded at 0.27 mmol/L in the presence of 30 mM of 2,2-DCP. This research sheds light on the previously unreported ability of psychrophilic bacteria to utilize halogenated compounds as carbon sources, providing valuable insights into their unique metabolic capabilities. The findings suggest potential applications of these microorganisms in environmental processes and the remediation of contaminated ecosystems. This study serves as a steppingstone for further investigations into harnessing the potential of extreme microorganisms for practical applications.

Keywords: Dalapon; dehalogenase; pollutant degradation; psychrophilic; Antarctic



Design, Development, and Usability Evaluation of MSU-TCTO Abalone Hatchery Water Temperature Monitoring System (WaTeMS)

Charisa F. Llema^a*, Abdul-Aziz J. Tiblana^a, Al-ameen P. Abdurahima^a, Joseph V. Andas^a ^aMindanao State University – Tawi-Tawi College of Technology and Oceanography, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi 7500, Philippines

*Corresponding author: charisa.llema@g.msuiit.edu.ph

Abstract

This study presents the design, development, and evaluation of the MSU-TCTO Abalone Hatchery Water Temperature Monitoring System (WaTeMS), a hardware and software system aimed at enhancing abalone production, especially in Hatcheries. Utilizing microcontrollers and sensors, WaTeMS continuously monitors water temperature in real-time, enabling hatchery managers to remotely access data on their desktop/laptop or cellphone and make informed decisions. The system employs temperature sensors, and microcontrollers to facilitate remote monitoring and data analysis. With optimal water temperature being crucial for abalone growth and survival, this cost-effective and user-friendly solution offers potential applications in other aquaculture settings. Further, the system garnered 78.33333, equivalent to a 'Good' adjective rating based on the System Usability Scale rate that makes the system usable. Finally, the research is recommended to expand WaTeMS' functionality, incorporating additional environmental parameters for a comprehensive monitoring system.



Understanding Composting and Microbial Behavior in Algerian Urban Areas

Fatma Zohra Derias

Laboratory for Sustainable Industrial Development and Engineering Safety, Institute of Industrial and Maintenance, University of Benahmed Mohamed, Oran 2, Algeria *Corresponding author: manarderias7@gmail.com

Abstract

The purpose of the paper is to monitor the behavior of five different types of waste (household waste, coffee waste, green waste, humus and waste smaller than 8 mm) during composting to see the impact of the nature of the substrate on the quality of mature compost and the process. The study focuses on monitoring the evolution of microflora and determining physicochemical parameters and characteristics. The results show that there is a correlation between the parameters of each substrate and that if the process conditions are respected (moisture level and N/C ratio), household waste, coffee waste, green waste, and very small waste can give the best quality compost. The study also found that there is no concentration of pathogenic microorganisms such as *Shigella* and *Salmonella* in composting. The results suggest that composting can be used as an effective method for reducing waste in Algeria and promoting industrialization by valorizing waste.

Keywords: Solid waste; Algeria; composting; solid waste treatment



Characterization of the Genetic Diversity of Citrus Species of Nepal using Simple Sequence Repeat (SSR) Markers

Nabin Narayan Munankarmi^{af*}, Neesha Rana^b, Bal Krishna Joshi^e, Tribikram Bhattarai^a, Sujan Chaudhary^c, Bikash Baral^d, Sangita Shrestha^b

^aCentral Department of Biotechnology, Tribhuvan University (TU), GPO Box 44613, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

^bMolecular Biotechnology Unit, Faculty of Science, Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), GPO Box 3323, Khumaltar, Lalitpur, Nepal

^oDepartment of Botany, Amrit Campus, Tribhuvan University (T.U), Kathmandu, Nepal

^dDepartment of Biochemistry, University of Turku, FIN-20014 Turku, Finland

^eNational Gene bank, Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC), Nepal

¹Department of Research and Development, Biotechnology Society of Nepal (BSN), 44600, Nepal *Corresponding author: nabin2045@gmail.com

Abstract

Nepal has very low Citrus fruit production compared to other countries, which is due to lack of elite varieties and cultivars having desirable traits. Therefore, breeding of elite cultivars is crucial to address ever increasing market demand of citrus fruits in Nepal. Genetic diversity characterization of Citrus germplasm at molecular level is important and crucial step for their utilization in breeding and conservation. In the present investigation, we aimed to utilize 12 SSR markers to characterize genetic diversity of forty-five Citrus accessions of Citrus collected from National Citrus Research Program (NCRP), Dhankuta and Kathmandu valley. A total of 60 putative alleles were amplified at 12 SSR loci with an average of five alleles per locus. PIC value ranged from 0.497 with primer TAA 27 to 0.802 with primer TAA 41 with an average value of 0.662. Probability of identity (PI) ranged from 0.075 to 0.383 with an average value of 0.143. Observed Heterozygosity (Ho) ranged from 0.460 to 0.794 and Expected Heterozygosity (He) ranged from 0.460 to 0.794. Shannon's Information Index (I) ranged from 0.677 to 1.678. Principal co-ordinate analysis (PCO) revealed the first principal co-ordinate axis accounting 20.35% and second axis accounting 11.43% of the total variation. UPGMA clustering using Jaccard's similarity coefficient grouped 45 accessions into four clusters. The information generated from this investigation will be useful for National Agriculture Genetic Resources Center (Gene bank) of Nepal and other relevant Citrus researchers and breeders for their conservation, Molecular Breeding-based Research & Development and their sustainable future utilization.

Keywords: Citrus; SSR; Genetic diversity; Nepal



Green Honey from Banggi Island: A Comprehensive Study on its Physical and Chemical Properties

Nanthini Rajindran and Fahrul Huyop

Department of Biosciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 UTM Johor Bahru, Malaysia *Corresponding author: fahrul@utm.my

Abstract

The exclusive green honey from Banggi Island in Sabah commands a premium price due to its uniqueness. Yet, its limited availability makes it susceptible to adulteration, posing health risks. With no established standard to reduce sugar in green honey, our study aimed to analyze its properties. Results showed its physicochemical profile is comparable to other honey types. The green hue is from chlorophyll and island flowers. The acidity is low (28–33 Meq/100 g), HMF content minimal, and phenolic content noteworthy (16-19 mg GAE /100 g). Its reducing sugar content (~37.9 %) is lower than processed honey due to moisture removal. Protein content is high (1-2 gm/kg), especially trans-4-hydroxyproline, a source of healing agents. Trace metals (arsenic, lead, nickel, cadmium, copper, and cobalt) are within safe limits. Our findings support its safe consumption and quality certification for local and export markets.

Keywords: Green honey; Banggi Island; physico chemical



Anticancer Robustness of Gold-Silver-Cinnamon Nanohybrids

Ali Aqeel Salim, Sib Krishna Ghoshal and Hazri Bakhtiar

Laser Center & Physics Department, Faculty of Science, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, 81310 UTM Johor Bahru, Johor, Malaysia

*Corresponding author: asali@utm.my

Abstract

We present a demonstration of the anticancer potency against HCT-116 colorectal cancer cells and the cytotoxicity of novel highly fluorescent, surface-functionalized gold-silvercinnamon nanohybrids (Au-Ag-Cin-NHs) synthesized using the pulsed laser ablation in liquid (PLAL) method. Furthermore, we propose the first anticancer mechanism of these nanohybrids against malignant cell membranes. The preparation of these nanohybrids involved immersing separate solid targets of gold (Au), silver (Ag), and cinnamon bark in deionized water (used as the liquid medium), followed by ablation using a Q-switched Nd:YAG pulse laser under optimal conditions (pulse duration of 10 ns, repetition rate of 10 Hz, and wavelength of 1064 nm). This resulted in the synthesis of colloidal Au-Ag-Cin-NHs with tailored physicochemical characteristics, showcasing excellent spherical morphologies, structures, and fluorescence, all desirable for therapeutic drug formulation. Comprehensive characterizations of these nanohybrids revealed their strong potential for use in therapeutic applications. Notably, these proposed nanohybrids exhibited significant anticancer efficacy (with a high IC50 of 20 µg/ml) during in vitro testing against both HCT-116 colorectal adenocarcinoma and CCD-18co normal colon cell lines. This remarkable anticancer and cytotoxicity performance can be attributed to the synergistic interaction between inorganic components (Au/Ag) and the organic component (Cin) in the nanomaterials. The presence of bioactive agents such as cinnamaldehyde and polyphenols within cinnamon nanoparticles contributes to their favorable nanobiomedical effects. Simultaneously, the localized surface plasmon resonance of small Au/Ag components induces strong fluorescence, which proves to be effective in targeting and eliminating cancer cells. We assert that our systematic study serves as a foundation for the production of high-performance Au-Aq-Cin-NHs. These nanohybrids, with their sustainable and cost-effective nature, can be tailored to possess advantageous properties for a wide array of nanomedicinal applications.

Keywords: Au-Ag-Cin-NHs; PLAL; fluorescence; MTT assay; anticancer

- [89]

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