ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITY OF *Persicaria minor* (Huds.) LEAF-EXTRACTS AGAINST BACTERIAL PATHOGENS

MUSA AHMED ABUBAKAR

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA

ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITY OF *Persicaria minor* (Huds.) LEAF-EXTRACTS AGAINST BACTERIAL PATHOGENS

MUSA AHMED ABUBAKAR

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DEDICATION

То

AR-RAZAQ

The provider of assets and all Biotechnogists and Microbiologists who work assiduously towards ensuring the Nutritional values and Antimicrobial actions of naturally occurring plants



HIS EXCELLENCY ENGR. DR. RABIU MUSA KWANKWASO

for providing the scholarship and may the blessings of Allah continue to follow him throughout his future endeavour- Amen.

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ABSTRACT

Persicaria minor (Huds.) Opiz known as Small water-pepper and well recognized locally in Malaysia as "daun kesum" is an edible vegetable with nutritional and medicinal benefits utilized generally by South-east Asians. The present study was conducted to evaluate the antibacterial activity of standardized aqueous-ethanolic and water extracts of P. minor leaves. The leaves of the plant undergone extraction based on Malaysian Standard Guideline which is 30% aqueousethanol and absolute water as normally used in traditional medicine to produce the respective extract concentrates. Both extracts were evaluated for total protein and polysaccharide contents in which aqueous-ethanolic extract was found to possess high contents of proteins (1713.67 µg/ml) while contents of polysaccharides were high in absolute water extract (17.6 μ g/ml). These measurements were used as a standard for different batch extract. The extracts were then tested against four standard strains of bacteria which are Enterococcus faecalis ATCC 29212, Escherichia coli ATCC 11229, Staphylococcus aureus ATCC 6538 and Pseudomonas aeruginosa ATCC 15442 at different concentrations using discdiffusion (qualitative) and microplate dilution (quantitative) assays. For positive and negative control, penicillin and dimethylsulfoxide were used as controls, respectively. Both extracts showed antibacterial activity with minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) and minimum bactericidal concentration (MBC) values in the range of 50 to 100 mg/mL against S. aureus, E. faecalis, and E. coli, respectively with aqueous-ethanolic extract being more potent. However, none of the extracts were active against P. aeruginosa. Results from this study truly illustrated high potential of P. minor leaves as natural antibacterial agent for the elimination of various bacterial disease and infections.

ABSTRAK

Sejumlah besar herba telah digunakan sebagai sumber pemakanan dan perubatan berasaskan tumbuhan dan dianggap berperanan dalam meningkatkan taraf kesihatan . Daun kesum dikenali sebagai Kecil waater-lada dan juga dikenali di Malaysia sebagai adalah sayuran yang membekalkan manfaat nutrisi dan perubatan yang diambil oleh kebanyakan penduduk Asia Tenggara. Kajian ini dijalankan bagi menganalisa aktiviti antibakteria daripada ekstrak daun P. minor iaitu ekstrak akuesetanol dan ekstrak. Untuk penghasilan ekstrak, daun diesktrak mengikut Garis Panduan Piawai Malaysia di mana 30% akeus-etanol digunakan dan juga teknik ekstrak air yang sering digunakan dalam perubatan tradisional. kandungan jumlah protin dan didapati ekstrak ekues-ethanol mempunyai kandungan protein yang tinggi (1713,67 μ g / ml) manakala kandungan polisakarida yang tinggi dalam ekstrak air (17.6 µg / ml). Sukatan ini telah digunakan sebagai piawai untuk kumpulan ekstrak yang berbeza. Ekstrak kemudiannya diuji terhadap empat jenis bacteria piawai iaitu yang Enterococcus faecalis ATCC 29212, Escherichia coli ATCC 11229, Staphylococcus aureus ATCC 6538 and Pseudomonas aeruginosa ATCC 15442 pada kepekatan yang berbeza menggunakan kaedah kualitatif (resapan cakera) dan kaedah kuantitatif (pencairan papan kecil) dengan penisilin digunakan sebagai kawalan positif dan dimethylsulfoxide (pembawa) sebagai kawalan negatif. Keduadua ekstrak menunjukkan aktiviti antibakteria dengan nilai kepekatan perencatan minimum (MIC) dan kepekatan bakteria minimum (MBC) masing-masing dalam lingkungan 50 hingga 100 mg/mL terhadap S. aureus, E. faecalis, dan E. Coli dengan ekstrak akueus-etanol menunjukkan kesan yang lebih ketara. Walau bagaimanapun, tiada ekstrak aktif terhadap P. aeruginosa. Oleh itu, keputusan yang diperolehi dalam kajian ini telah menunjukkan nilai-nilai nutrisi potensi tinggi daun P. minor untuk digunakan sebagai agen antibakteria semulajadi bagi menghapuskan kebanyakan penyakit dan jangkitan bawaan bakteria.

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LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

(A)	-	Staphylococcus aureus
ATCC	-	American Type Culture Collection
(B)	-	Escherichia coli
BaCl ₂	-	Barium chloride
B-caryoph	-	Beta-caryophyllene
BSA	-	Bovine Serum Albumin
(C)	-	Enterococcus faecalis
C10	-	Position 10 carbon
C12	-	Position 12 carbon
(D)	-	Pseudomonas aeruginosa
DDT	-	Disc diffusion test
DMSO	-	Dimethylsulfoxide
E. coli	-	Escherichia coli
E. faecalis	-	Enterococcus faecalis
e.t.c	-	Et cetera
FRIM	-	Forest Research Institute of Malaysia
H_2O	-	Water molecule
H_2SO_4	-	Sulphuric acid
М	-	McFarland standard solution
MBC	-	Minimum Bactericidal Concentration
mg	-	Milligram
MIC	-	Minimum Inhibitory Concentration
mL	-	Milliliter
mm	-	Millimeter
MRSA	-	Methicilin resistant Staphylococcus aureus
Ν	-	No activity

NA	-	Nutrient agar
NB	-	Nutrient broth
NHCP	-	National Health Care Programmes
nm	-	Nanometer
No	-	Number
P. minor	-	Persicaria mionr
P. odorata	-	Persicaria odorata
R	-	Resistant
rpm	-	Revolution per minute
\mathbf{R}^2	-	Fitness value
SD	-	Standard deviation
Sample-A	-	30% aqueous-ethanolic extract
Sample-B	-	100% aqueous extract
S. aureus	-	Staphylococcus aureus
S. epidermidi	<i>S</i> -	Streptococcus epidermidis
S. pneumonia	t –	Streptococcus pneumonia
S. pyogenes	-	Streptococcus pyogenes
TSI	-	triple Sugar Iron
TSS	-	Toxic Shock Syndrome
TSSE	-	Toxic Shock Skin Exfoliation
UTCTAD	-	United Nations Conference on Trade Development
USSR	-	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
UTI	-	Urinary tract infection
UTIs	-	Urinary tract infections
UTM	-	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
nm	-	Nanometer
UV	-	Ultra violent
VRSA	-	Vancomycin resistant Staphylococcus aureus
WHO	-	World Health Organization
Х	-	Concentration of the unknown
Y	-	Absorbance
%	-	Percentage
μg	-	Microgram
μL	-	Microliter

+	-	Addition
±	-	Plus or minus
>	-	Greater than
<	-	Less than

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The utilization of medicinal plants as raw materials in the development of drugs is again getting to be well known in the world. Since the beginning of time, plants have been the backbone of medicinal remedies of which is a vital part of every society where the Food and Drug Administration and control have approved many plant herbs for therapeutic purposes (Basu, 2004).

Medicinal plants are said to be considered as vital element in various traditional systems of medications such as Traditional Chinese and Ayuverdic. China utilized about 50% of total consumption of medicine by its people through traditional herbal medication. However, in Africa, almost 60% of its countries such as Nigeria, Mali and Zambia utilize herbal medicine traditionally at home to treat some children infectious diseases which includes malaria, typhoid fever and many more (Krainsitu, 2003).

The potential plant herb for the present study is *Persicaria minor* (Huds.) Opiz which is previously known as *Polygonum minus* is a species in the family *Polygonocaea* collectively referred to as smart-weeds (Thomson *et al.*, 2013). *Persicaria minor* has many common names depending on the country. Its English name includes Small water pepper, Pygmy smart weeds, Tear-thumb, Slender persicaria (Christophe, 2003 and Hamidun *et al.*, 2011). Nevertheless, based on the reports of Vimala *et al.*, 2011, small water pepper is recognised as "kesom" in Malaysia, Vietnam and Singapore. The plant has a cosmopolitan distribution in Southeast Asia and some wild-weather areas of Canada, Europe and USA.

Name	Criteria					
	Condition	Distribution Traditional use		Types of active ingredients		
	Flourishes well	Tropical,	1. Mainly used as	Aldehydes		
	in wet and damp	sub-tropical,	culinary herb.	(decanals, do-		
Р.	environments. It	Canada,	2. Used for	decanal),		
minor	grows best at	Europe and	stomach	alcohols,		
	temperatures	USA.	indigestion,	terpenes,		
	between 15 to		dandroff,	flavonoids,		
	35 [°] C.		diarrhea, taken	phenolic mixes,		
			after chil-birth.	oxalic acids and		
			3. For sexual	proteins.		
			desire			
			suppression			

Table 1.0Persicaria minor Description (Syarul et al., 2010; Thomson et al.,
2013 and Vimala et al., 1999)

The species of *Persicaria*, is made up to about 150 different species with cosmopolitan distribution in Southeast Asia. The decoction or boiling down the crushed leaves or the plant itself of many species of *Persicaria*, including *P. barbata* and, *P. odorata* and *P. chinensis*, are used for the treatment of skin diseases such as scabies, ring-worms, boils, and ulcers (Wilson, 1990); and also used for the treatment of fresh wounds, snake bites, dog bites and insect bites due to the disinfection property of the plants (Nguyen, 1993). *Persicaria chinensis* alone, is therefore considered, traditionally for the treatment of eye infection, cholera, dysentery and

headache (Do, 2001). *Persicaria minor* is used as vegetable for cooking or mixed into salads. It has a pungent taste and therefore used as a spice , but also reported to have some medicinal importance especially as antioxidant agent (Vimala *et al.*, 2011). Some populace of the regions utilize its leaves to be used in folk medicine to treat various ailments; the leaves have generally been controlled to treat the following : indigestion, stomach associated wounds and fungal infections. Its volatile aromatic components are utilized as flavor and fragnance agents (Vimala *et al.*, 2011) and hence, its leaves are used worldwide in medicine, cuisines, pharmacy and cosmetics.

Generally, the medicinal value of a drug plant is due to the presence of some bioactive chemical substances that produce a definitive physiological action on the body. The most important of these substances include aldehydes, alcohols, alkaloids, compounds of carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, and many more. Some of these substances are poisonous so that the preparation and administration of the drug are left in the hands of skilful pharmacists and physicians (Geissman, 1963).

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

Some microorganisms of bacterial species have beneficial role in nature such as *Lactic-acid bacteria, Enterobacter* and some species of *Clostridium*, in which they contribute immensely to the production of many useful biological end-products in the fermentation industries. However, some species of bacteria are etiological agents of human diseases. *Persicaria minor* (Huds.) has long been used traditionally by most of the people in Southeast Asia especially in Malaysia for the treatment of dandroffs, fugal infections, diarrhoea and other digestive tract disorders (Thomson *et al.*, 2013 and Wilson, 1990). However, to date, little is known about its effect on various pathogenic bacteria. Therefore, the antibacterial activities of *Persicaria minor* leafextracts against some pathogenic bacterial isolates need to be re-investigated to explore its antimicrobial properties and scientifically support its traditional claims for preventive health care.

1.3 Significance of the Study

To help in creating awareness on the therapeutic potentials of *Persicaria minor* plant other than its vegetable uses. Likewise to generate standard information about the plant on which different studies can be based upon that can be valuable for exploration and pharmaceutical industries.

1.4 Specific Objective of the Study

- i. To extract *Persicaria minor* leaves using aqueous-ethanol and absolute water.
- ii. To standardize *Pesicaria minor* leaf-extracts by quantitative analysis.
- iii. To evaluate the antibacterial activity of *P. minor* extracts against some pathogenic bacterial strains using disc diffusion method.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The present study focused only on plant **extraction**, **standardization** and **antibacterial screening**. The dry leaves of *Persicaria minor* herb were crushed and extracted (by 30% aqueous-ethanol and absolute water). After the extraction process, standardization of the extracts were demonstrated using calorimetric analysis for the quantitative identification of total protein and polysaccharide contents present in the plant leaves. Bioassay procedure using disc-diffusion method for each of the extracts was conducted for antibacterial sensitivity testing against four strains of bacteria namely; *Enterococcus faecalis, Escherichia coli, Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. Finally, concentration of minmum inhibition (MIC) and that of minimum bactericidal (MBC) of both extracts were also demonstrated. All data designed for the experiment were measured and presented statistically.

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