

**CHEMICAL CONSTITUENTS AND ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITY OF  
TWO VARIETIES OF *ETLINGERA ELATIOR* FLOWERS**

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*Special dedication to my beloved mother and father,  
Muhamad Azhar Baba  
Rosna Hj. Ismail*

*My siblings, my teacher, my supervisor, my beloved friends and all lab members.*

*For all your love, care support, and believe in me.  
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## ABSTRACT

*Etilingera elatior* is synonymous with *Phaeomeria speciosa*, *Alpinia elatior*, *Elettaria speciosa*, *Nicolaia elatior* and *Nicolaia speciosa*. The species is native to Peninsular Malaysia and Indonesia. In Malaysia, it is called *kantan*. The essential oil and phytochemicals of two *Etilingera elatior* flowers varieties (pink and red flower variety) have been studied. The essential oil of the fresh *E. elatior* flowers was extracted using the hydrodistillation technique and analysed by Kovats Indices and Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS). Hydrodistillation of *E. elatior* (pink flower variety) flowers gave 70.63% of essential oil classified as monoterpenes, sesquiterpenes, and oxygenated of monoterpenes and sesquiterpenes derivatives. The major constituent identified in the essential oil is cyclodecane (38.07%). Extraction of the dried flowers was done by soxhlet and cold extraction methods using chloroform and dichloromethane, respectively. Fractionation and purification on the crude extracts using Vacuum Liquid Chromatography (VLC) and Column Chromatography (CC) was successfully isolated  $\beta$ -sitosterol and a mixture of stigmasterol and  $\beta$ -sitosterol. Their structures were elucidated by GC, GC-MS, IR,  $^1\text{H}$  NMR and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectroscopies. The antimicrobial activity of essential oil, crude extracts and  $\beta$ -sitosterol was carried out using disc diffusion method, Minimum Inhibition Concentration (MIC) and Minimum Bactericidal Concentration (MBC) assay with eight strains of bacteria, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus cereus* (Gram positive), *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Klebsiella pneumonia* and *Pseudomonas putida* (Gram negative). Antimicrobial screening showed that the essential oil gave moderate to strong inhibition to most of the bacteria with minimum inhibition concentration between 225-900  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ .

## ABSTRAK

*Etilingera elatior* adalah sinonim dengan *Phaeomeria speciosa*, *Alpinia elatior*, *Elettaria speciosa*, *Nicolaia elatior* dan *Nicolaia speciosa*. Spesies ini berasal dari Semenanjung Malaysia dan Indonesia. Di Malaysia ia dikenali sebagai kantan. Kandungan minyak pati dan fitokimia daripada dua jenis bunga *E. elatior* (jenis bunga merah jambu dan merah) telah dikaji. Minyak pati daripada bunga segar *E. elatior* diekstrak dengan kaedah penyulingan hidro dan seterusnya dianalisis menggunakan Indeks Kovats dan kromatografi gas-spektrometri jisim (KG-SJ). Penyulingan hidro ke atas bunga *E. elatior* (jenis bunga merah jambu) telah memberikan 70.63% minyak pati, yang diklasifikasikan sebagai monoterpena, sesquiterpena, dan terbitan teroksigen monoterpena dan sesquiterpena. Siklodekana (38.07%) dikenalpasti sebagai konstituen utama di dalam kandungan minyak pati tersebut. Pengekstrakan kandungan fitokimia daripada bunga kering dilakukan secara kaedah pengekstrakan 'soxhlet' menggunakan kloroform dan pengekstrakan sejuk menggunakan diklorometana. Pemeringkatan dan penulenan ke atas ekstrak mentah menggunakan kromatografi cecair vakum dan kromatografi turus telah berjaya mengasingkan  $\beta$ -sitosterol dan campuran stigmasterol dan  $\beta$ -sitosterol. Struktur sebatian tersebut telah dikenalpasti melalui teknik spektroskopi iaitu KG, KG-SJ, IM, RMN  $^1\text{H}$  dan RMN  $^{13}\text{C}$ . Ujian antimikrob ke atas minyak pati, ekstrak mentah dan  $\beta$ -sitosterol telah dijalankan menggunakan teknik pembauran cakera, kaedah Kepekatan Minimum Perencatan (KMP) dan Kepekatan Minimum Bakteria (KMB) dengan lapan jenis bakteria iaitu, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Bacillus cereus* (Gram positif), *Escherichia coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Klebsiella pneumonia* dan *Pseudomonas putida* (Gram negatif). Penyaringan antimikrob menunjukkan minyak pati mempunyai aktiviti perencatan bakteria yang sederhana-kuat dengan nilai kepekatan minimum perencatan di antara 225-900  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ .

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**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

$\alpha$	-	Alpha
BaCl <sub>2</sub>	-	Barium chloride
$\beta$	-	Beta
QCA	-	Caffeoylquinic acid
<sup>13</sup> C	-	Carbon
cm	-	Centimeter
$\delta$	-	Chemical shifts
CHCl <sub>3</sub>	-	Chloroform
CGA	-	Chlorogenic acid
CC	-	Column Chromatography
<i>J</i>	-	Coupling constant
CDCl <sub>3</sub>	-	Deuterated chloroform
CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	-	Dichloromethane
Et <sub>2</sub> O	-	Diethyl ether
DMSO	-	Dimethyl sulfoxide
DEPT	-	Distortionless Enhancement by Polarization Transfer
d	-	Doublet
dd	-	Doublet of doublet
EBV	-	Eipstein-Barr Virus
EtOAc	-	Ethyl acetate
FTC	-	Ferric thiocyanate
GC	-	Gas Chromatography
GC-MS	-	Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry
g	-	Gram
Hz	-	Hertz
IR	-	Infrared
i.d.	-	Internal diameter

kg	-	Kilogram
L	-	Liter
lit.	-	Literature
MeOH		Methanol
MgSO <sub>4</sub>	-	Magnesium sulphate
<i>m/z</i>	-	Mass to charge ion
MHz	-	Megahertz
m.p	-	Melting point
m	-	Meter
µg	-	Microgram
µL	-	Microliter
mg	-	Milligram
mL	-	Milliliter
mm	-	Millimeter
MBC	-	Minimum Bactericidal Concentration
MIC	-	Minimum Inhibition Concentration
min	-	Minute
M <sup>+</sup>	-	Molecular ion
m	-	Multiplet
nm	-	Nanometer
NMR	-	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
NA	-	Nutrient Agar
NB	-	Nutrient Broth
ppm	-	Parts per million
cm <sup>-1</sup>	-	Per centimeter
Prep-TLC	-	Preparative Thin Layer Chromatography
<sup>1</sup> H	-	Proton
R <sub>f</sub>	-	Retention factor
s	-	Singlet
H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub>	-	Sulfuric acid
t	-	Triplet
UV	-	Ultraviolet
VLC	-	Vacuum Liquid Chromatography

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## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

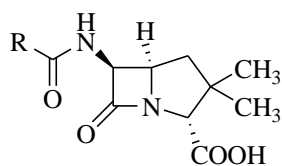
#### **1.1 General Introduction**

Nature always stands as golden mark to exemplify the outstanding phenomena of symbiosis [1]. Natural products produced by plant, animal and minerals have been isolated as biologically active pharmacophores and have been used as the basis of treatment of human diseases [1-3]. Natural products are typically secondary metabolites produced by the organisms in response to external stimuli such as nutritional changes, infection and competition [3].

It is estimated today that about 80% of people in developing countries still relays on traditional medicine based largely on species of plants and animals for their primary health care. Herbal medicines are currently in demand and their popularity is increasing day by day. About 500 plants with medicinal uses are mentioned in ancient literature and around 800 plants have been used in indigenous systems of medicine [1].

History of medicine started practically due to the existence of human civilization. The current accepted modern medicine or allopathy has gradually developed over the years by scientific and observational efforts of scientists. However, the basis of its development remains rooted in traditional medicine and therapies [2]. In pre-industrialized society and agrarian societies, plant-derived natural products were used by indigenous populations as therapies for many diseases raging from infections to emphysema. A seminal point in the use of natural products

as single, pharmaceutical entities was the well-known discovery of penicillin (1) (1928) [3].



R = the variable group

(1)

Malaysia has been classified as the world's 12 mega biodiversity-rich countries in term of number of plant species with an abundance of variety of medicinal plants [4]. Among the famous plant species used in traditional medicinal purpose are ginger, nutmeg, cloves, turmeric, black pepper and cardamom. Various studies have been carried out on the phytochemicals and bioactivities of these plants because of the wide usage of these plants in traditional medicines.

Ginger is one of the most useful and well-known spice in the world. Most gingers are used not only as spice but also for drugs purposes. Many gingers have been used in traditional medicine which appeared in prescriptions of Chinese medicine, Ayurveda in India and Jamu in Indonesia. Gingers are medicinal plants belonging to Zingiberaceae family that consists of about 47 genera and 1400 species [5]. Ginger is native to Southeast Asia and has been cultivated in countries such as India and China for over 3,000 years [5].

In Chinese traditional medicine, the fresh rhizome of common ginger, *Zingiber officinale* is prescribed as antiemetic, a cough and cold remedies, an antitoxic and digestive stimulant. The dried rhizome of *Z. officinale* is regarded as a good remedy for stomach-ache. Ginger also had been used for the remedies of arthritis, rheumatism, sprains, muscular aches, sore throats, cramps, constipation, vomiting, hypertension, dementia, infectious disease and helminthiasis [5, 6]. The rhizomes of some members of the Zingiberaceae family such as galangal (*Alpinia galangal*), ginger (*Z. officinale*), turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) and krachai



(*Boesenbergia pandurata*) have been extensively used as condiment for flavouring and local medicines for relief from stomach-ache, carminative and treating diarrhoea. They are known to contain various antimicrobial agents [7-9].

The recent progress of science has brought out developments in the studies of the chemistry, pharmacology and biochemistry of natural products such as ginger [5]. Many plants of the Zingiberaceae family traditionally used as spices and drugs possess a variety of important biological properties, the chemical constituents of the plant of the family Zingiberaceae and the biological activities of these constituents must be studied to determine the medicinal and pharmaceutical values of the plant species. Further investigations are required for the prevention of disease and improvement of human health by these plants and their bioactive compounds.

## 1.2 Statement of Problem

*Etilingera* is one of the genera in Zingiberaceae family. Several species of *Etilingera* are widely used for many different purposes; as condiment, food flavouring, and as medicine to treat headaches, stomach ache, earache and for cleaning wounds. There have not been many phytochemicals and bioactivity studies conducted on the species of *Etilingera*, however several species have been reported on *Etilingera elatior*. Previous research conducted on *E. elatior* mostly done on the rhizomes and leaves, and there are only a few reports on the flowers. Thus, the isolation and evaluation of chemical compounds in the flowers of *E. elatior* is essential to be carried out to determine the chemical compounds. It is also important to study the bioactivities of the chemical compounds to determine the medicinal value of the plant.

### 1.3 Objectives of Study

The objectives of this research are to investigate the chemical composition of the essential oil and the phytochemicals present in the two varieties of *E. elatior* flowers. The first part is to identify the essential oil constituents from the fresh samples. The second part is to isolate and elucidate the structure of the phytochemicals from the dried samples. The final objective is to evaluate the antimicrobial activities of the essential oil, crude extracts and isolated compounds.

### 1.4 Scope of Study

This research is divided into three parts. The first part is focused on the extraction of the essential oil constituents from the fresh flowers of two varieties of *E. elatior* using hydrodistillation technique. The essential oil constituents will be analysed using GC-MS and Kovats Indices. The second part is to extract the compounds from dried flowers using soxhlet and cold extraction methods. The crude extracts will be fractionated by using vacuum liquid chromatography (VLC), followed by purification of the fractions using gravity column chromatography (CC), and preparative thin layer chromatography (Prep-TLC) to obtain the compounds. The structure of the isolated compounds will be characterized using spectroscopic methods including GC, GC-MS, IR, NMR. The third part is to evaluate the antimicrobial activities on the essential oil, the crude extracts and isolated compounds from two varieties of *E. elatior* flowers by using disc diffusion method.

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