

Free radical scavenging activity of methanol extract and compounds isolated from stems of *Etlingera rubroloba* A.D Poulsen

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ABSTRACT

Etlingera rubroloba (Blume) A.D Poulsen is an endemic plant found in Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia. So far, there is no report on medicinal usages of this species, therefore explorative study of this species is undertaken. *E. rubroloba* was subjected to scavenging DPPH free radicals activity method, and then the anti radical active compounds were isolated and identified. Initially this species was extracted, partitioned to give fractions having simple tlc picture, and the compounds were isolated by radial chromatography. The compounds obtained were identified according their spectroscopic (UV, IR, MS, NMR) properties. Two compounds (1 and 2) were isolated and based on spectroscopic data and comparison with reported data, compound 1 was identified as synapyl alcohol diacetate and compound 2 was identified as stigmasterol. The presence of these two compounds were first reported in *E. rubroloba*. The IC₅₀ (µg/mL) values of 1 and 2 were 182.799, 402.397, methanol extract 41.592 and 20.895 µg/mL was for vitamin C as positive control.

Keywords: *Etlingera rubroloba*, methanol extract, synapyl alcohol diacetate, stigmasterol, DPPH

INTRODUCTION

Etlingera is a plant genus of the Zingiberaceae family that has a large number of species and interesting potential. *Etlingera* population in the world around 150-200 species, in Java as many as 6 species and in Sulawesi Island grows around 48 species with 7 endemic species in Southeast Sulawesi [1]. The potential of this plant genus is very interesting because it has varied properties as traditional medicine.

Only a few species of *Etlingera* species are examined from both pharmacological and phytochemical aspects. Of the total *Etlingera* in Sulawesi, only 2 are reported from 48 species, namely *E. elatior* [2]–[8] and *E. calophrys* [9].

From a pharmacological aspect, the researchers reported that *E. calophrys* stems were antioxidants [9]. The *etlingera elatior* stem is active as an antioxidant [10]. The leaves, stems and rhizomes of *Etlingera coccinea* are active as antioxidants [11]. *E. elatior* active rhizome acts as antibacterial and antioxidant [2], [5]. *E. elatior* flowers are effective as antibacterial, fungal and antioxidant

[4], [6], [7] and the leaves of *E. elatior* are active as anti-antioxidants, wound medicine, eliminates body odor, antibacterial and tyrosinase inhibitors [3], [4], [8]. Whereas *E. rubrostriata*, *E. littoralis*, *E. fulgens* are also active as antioxidants and antibacterial [12].

In addition to the pharmacological aspects, the researchers also reported from the phytochemical aspects that *E. calophrys* stem contains the compound Yakuchinone A, p-Hydroxybenzoic Acid and Stigmasterol [9]. Williams and Harborne, 1977, reported that compounds which were isolated from *E. elatior* leaves were quercetin-3-rhamnoside, quercetin-3-glucuronide, quercetin-3-glucoside and kaempferol-3-glucuronide. Whereas *E. elatior* leaves produce 3-O-caffeoylquinic acid compound, 5-O-caffeoylquinic acid (chlorogenic acid), and 5-O-caffeoylquinic acid methylester [3]. Apart from *E. elatior*, other researchers have also reported that *E. brevibrum* leaves and rhizomes contain β-sitosterol and stigmasterol. The rhizome of *E. sphaerocephala*

var.grandiflora also produces β -sitosterol, stigmasterol, and paeonol [13]. In addition, it also contains volatile oils from *E.brevilabrum*, namely *o*-cymene (7.8%), α -thujene (28.6) and β -pinene (52.6%) [14]. Furthermore, *E. elatior* contained α -bisabolol (5.9%), L-calamenene (18.0%) and borneol (28.3%) [15].

One of interesting plants to study is *E. rubroloba*, which is an endemic plant found in Southeast Sulawesi [1]. Efficacy and activity of this plant, has never been reported before. So that this study will provide information about secondary metabolites from the results of isolation and test activity of methanol extracts and isolates of *E. rubroloba* as antioxidants using the DPPH method.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials

Chromatographic techniques were performed using Kieselgel 60 F254 0.25 mm, silica gel 60 GF254, and silica 60 g (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany). Thin layer chromatography (TLC) plates were derivatized using serum sulfate reagents (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany). DPPH was purchased from Merck (Darmstadt, Germany).

Equipment

The instruments used are UV spectrophotometer, Perkin Elmer Spectrum One fourier transform-IR spectrophotometer, and JEOL ECP 500 nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometer (500 MHz for ^1H and 125 MHz for ^{13}C).

Sample

E.rubrloba stems used in this study were taken from other sub-districts of South Konawe Regency, Southeast Sulawesi, April 2019. This plant was identified at LIPI Bogor Indonesia.

Extraction and Isolation

E. rubroloba (6 kg) stem powder, macerated with methanol (3 x 15 L) at room temperature, and produced a dark green extract (125 g). Percentage value of extract yield obtained by 3%. This extract was fractionated using liquid vacuum chromatography with silica gel (10 x 5 cm, 125 g), then eluted gradiently with N-Hexan-Ethyl acetate (9: 1 to 0:10), washed with pure methanol, and produced 6 main fractions (F1-F6) weighing each (1 g, 1.4g, 12.4g, 12.6g, 18.4g and 68.4g). The F3 fraction (12.4 g) was fractionated again using liquid vacuum chromatography with silica Gel (5 x 5 cm, 12.4 g), then eluted graded with n-hexane eluent: ethylacetate (5: 5, 8: 2, 9: 1, 9.5: 0.5) then washed with pure methanol and produced 6 sub

fractions namely F31 (2.6 g), F32 (3.2 g), F33 (4 g), F34 (2.3 g), F35 (4 g) and F36 (0.9 g). Then the F34 sub-fraction was chromatographed using silica gel Radial Chromatography (RC) with N-hexane-ethyl acetate (7: 3) eluent and washed with pure methanol to produce 1 pure compound (0.058 g). Subsequently the F33 sub-fraction was purified using the recrystallization technique using methanol as a solvent. The results of this recrystallization resulted in pure compound 2 (0.305 g)

Free Radical Scavenging Test.

The antioxidant activity test of *E. rubroloba* stem isolates was carried out qualitatively and quantitatively using the DPPH method. For qualitative tests based on [16]. using a semi-quantitative approach where the diameter and intensity of yellowish white or pale yellow stains on the purple background plate formed can be known or estimated depending on the amount and concentration of the solution used. The method of doing this is by dipping (dipping technique) the TLC plate that has been dotted with the analyte (known concentration and quantity) into DPPH which has been dissolved in methanol where the stain formed can be determined its activity. The concentration of DPPH solution used was 0.2 mM while the number of analytes used was 25 μg , 12.5 μg , 6.25 μg and 3.125 μg .

Quantitative Test

Meanwhile, the quantitative test can be obtained by observing the color change / decolorization by monitoring the absorbance at the optimum wavelength of DPPH, namely 515 nm in methanol solvent [17] and 540 nm in DMSO solvent [18] . The quantitative test was carried out according to (Clarke et al., 2013). A total of 100 μL of sample solution (concentration of 400 μg / mL in DMSO) was added to the well and then added 100 μL of DPPH solution (concentration 0.2 mM in DMSO) was added. The sample mixture and DPPH were then incubated for 30 minutes at room temperature in the dark and their absorbance was measured at a wavelength of 540 nm. The absorbance obtained is then corrected for the blank absorbance which is the absorbance of 100 μL sample and 100 μL DMSO solvent. The controls in this test were 100 μL DPPH solution and 100 μL DMSO solvent. The test sample that showed% inhibitory activity above 50% was then determined the IC₅₀ value using two series of dilutions at a concentration of 200-1.5625 μg / mL. Ascorbic acid or vitamin C were used as positive controls for this test.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Two chemical compounds (1-2) were successfully isolated and identified from the methanol extract of *E. rubroloba* stem. The structure of this compound is determined based on the physicochemical properties and spectra of IR and NMR spectroscopy. These values are also compared with those reported in previous studies. The spectroscopic data of the compound isolates from the *E. rubroloba* stem can be seen below.

Sinaphyl alcohol diacetate (1); Slightly oily yellow;

¹H NMR (500MHz, CDCl₃) δH(ppm): 6.62 (s, 2H, H-2/H-6), 6.58(d, 1H, H-7), 6.22 (dt, 1H, H-8), 4.71 (dd, 2H, H-9), 2.32 (s, 3H, H-11), 2.10 (s, 3H, H-13), 3.82 (s, 6H, H-14/H-15)

¹³C NMR (125MHz, CDCl₃) δC(ppm): 170.98 (C-10), 168.86 (C-12), 152.25 (C-3/C-5), 134.73 (C-1), 134.07 (C-7), 128.64 (C-4), 123.71 (C-8), 103.30 (C-2/C-6), 64.97 (C-9), 56.21 (C-14/C-15), 21.13 (C-11), 20.57 (C-13)

The NMR spectra data are identical to those given in the literature [19].

Stigmasterol (2); white crystals

¹H NMR (500MHz, CDCl₃) δH(ppm): 5.33 (br d, 1H, H-6), 5.15 (dd, J = 15, 12 Hz, H-22), 4.98 (dd, J = 15 Hz, 1H, H-23), 3.50 (m, 1H, H-3), 2.28 (m, 1H, H-4a), 2.24 (m, 1H, H-4b), 2.03 (m, 1H, H-12), 1.99 (m, 1H, H-20), 1.97 (m, 1H, H-2a), 1.92 (m, 2H, H-7), 1.83 (m, 1H, H-2b), 1.81 (m, 1H, H-1^a), 1.65 (m, 1H, H-25), 1.51 (m, 2H, H-15), 1.48 (m, 1H, H-8), 1.47 (m, 2H, H-11), 1.42 (m, 2H, H-28), 1.22 (m, 1H, H-16), 1.13 (m, 1H, H-1b), 1.05 (m, 1H, H-17), 1.00 (br s, 3H, H-21), 1.00 (br s, 3H, H-19), 1.00 (br s, 1H, H-26a), 0.98 (m, 1H, H-14), 0.90 (m, 1H, H-24), 0.90 (br d, 1H, H-9), 0.90 (br d, 1H, H-27a), 0.88 (br d, 1H, H-29a), 0.88 (br d, 1H, H-18a), 0.81 (br d, 2H, H-26b), 0.81 (br d, 1H, H-27b), 0.78 (br d, 1H, H-29b), 0.78 (br d, 1H, H-18b),

¹³C NMR (125MHz, CDCl₃) δC (ppm): 141.0 (C-5), 138.3 (C-22), 129.7 (C-23), 121.9 (C-6), 71.9 (C-3), 56.9 (C-14), 56.2 (C-17), 51.4 (C-

24), 50.2 (C-9), 42.4 (C-4/C-13), 40.7 (C-20), 39.9 (C-12), 37.4 (C-1), 36.6 (C-10), 32.06 (C-7/C-8), 31.8 (C-2), 30.7 (C-25), 28.4 (C-16), 26.1 (C-28), 24.4 (C-15), 21.3 (C-19/C-21), 21.2 (C-11), 19.2 (C-26), 18.8 (C-27), 12.2 (C-29), 12.0 (C-18). The NMR spectra data are identical to those given in the literature [9], [13].

DPPH free radical scavenging activity testing

Testing the activity of the isolates from the *Etlingera rubroloba* stem methanol extract, namely Stigmasterol and Sinaphyl alcohol diacetate compared to the positive control (ascorbic acid) shows the IC₅₀ can be seen in table 1

DISCUSSION

Isolation and identification and purification of the stem methanol extract of *E. rubroloba* using silica gel chromatography techniques were carried out to obtain isolates of Sinaphyl alcohol acetate (1) and stigmasterol (2) compounds. To our knowledge, the presence of two compounds in *E. rubroloba* was reported for the first time in this study in an *Etlingera* species. For compound 2 is a steroid that is commonly found in plants and has been reported from the leaves of *E. brevibrum* and rhizomes [14] and *E. sphaerocephala* var. *Glandiflora* rhizome [13]. The structure of this compound is shown in Fig. 1 and 2

The extract of *E. rubroloba* showed significant free radical scavenging activity compared to ascorbic acid as a positive control. The Sinaphyl alcohol acetate and stigmasterol compounds showed lower free radical scavenging activity than methanol extract. While the antioxidant activity of sinaphyl alcohol acetate is higher than stigmasterol. The activity of free radical scavenging Methanol extract is higher than isolate compounds (1 and 2), this is possible because there are other synergistic compounds that increase free radical scavenging activity. Therefore, both methanol extract and isolate compounds can be further developed as natural antioxidants. IC₅₀ values can be seen in Table 1 and Figure 3-6.

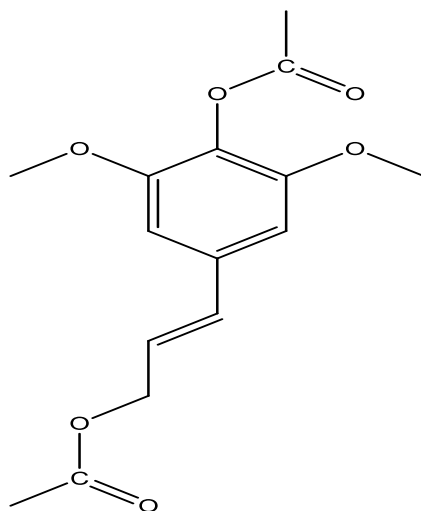


Fig.1: Structural formula for Sinaphyl alcohol diacetate

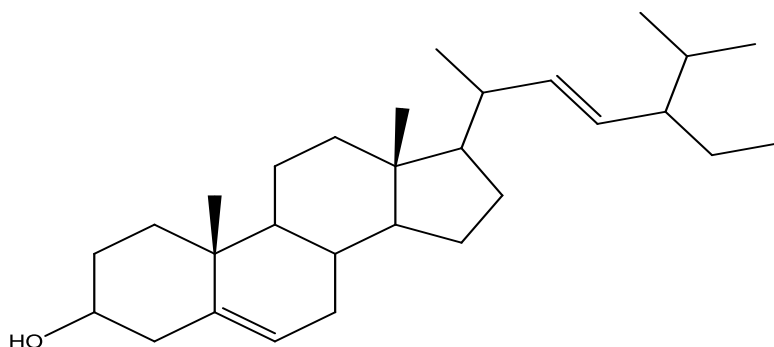


Fig.2: Structural Formula for Stigmasterol

Table 1: IC₅₀ values (DPPH) of methanol extract and compounds 1-2

Sample	IC ₅₀ (µg/mL)
Methanol extract	41,592
Sinaphyl alcohol diacetate	182,799
Stigmasterol	402,397
Ascorbic acid (Positive control)	20,895

IC₅₀: Half maximal inhibitory concentration,
 DPPH: 2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl

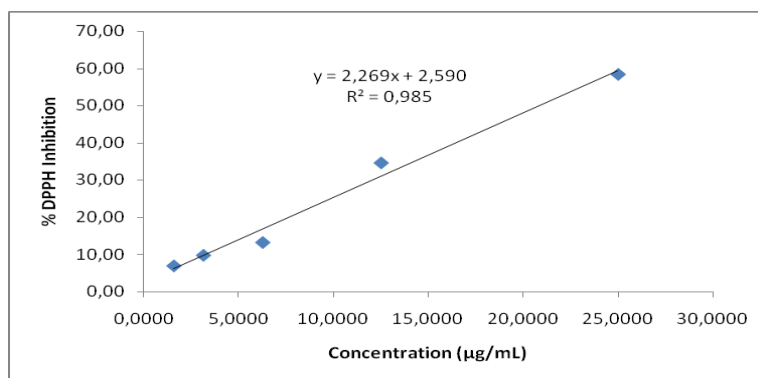


Fig.3: Ascorbic acid (Vitamin C)

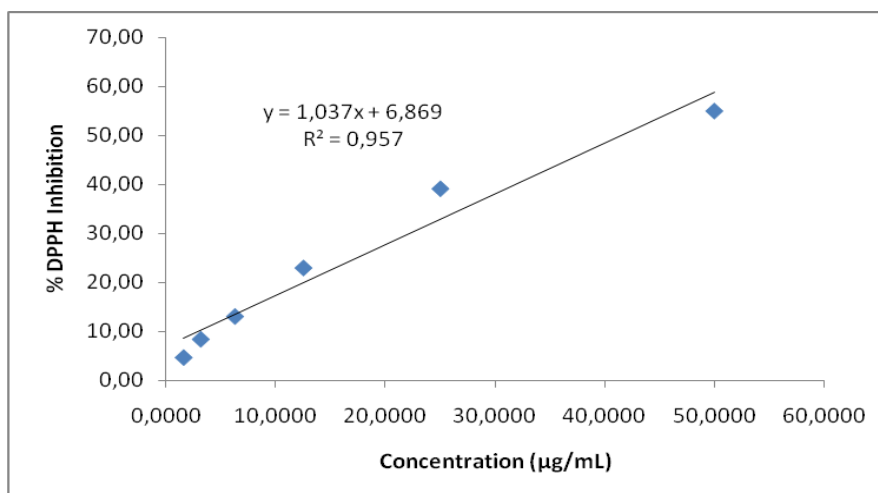


Fig.4: E. Rubroloba extract

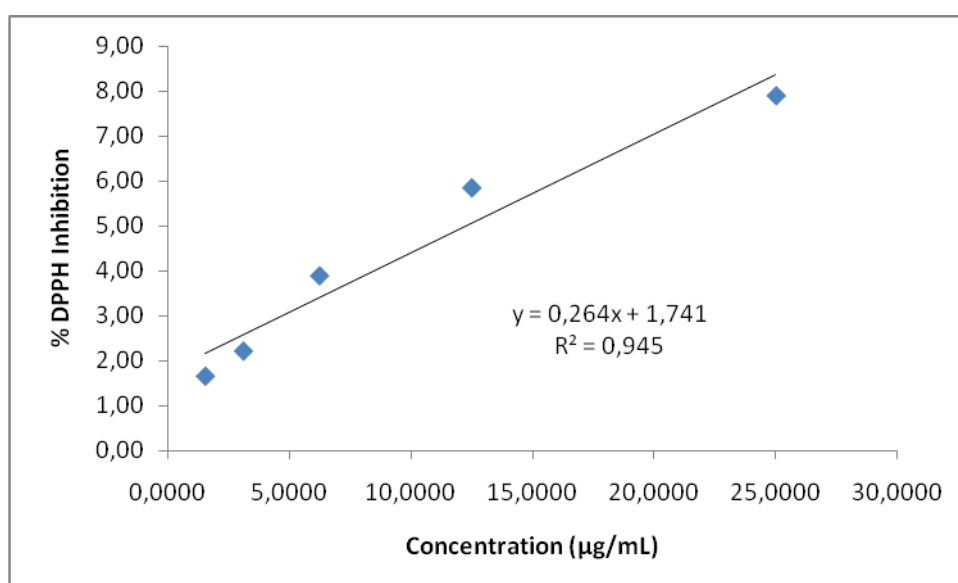


Fig.5. IC₅₀ Sinapyl alcohol diacetate

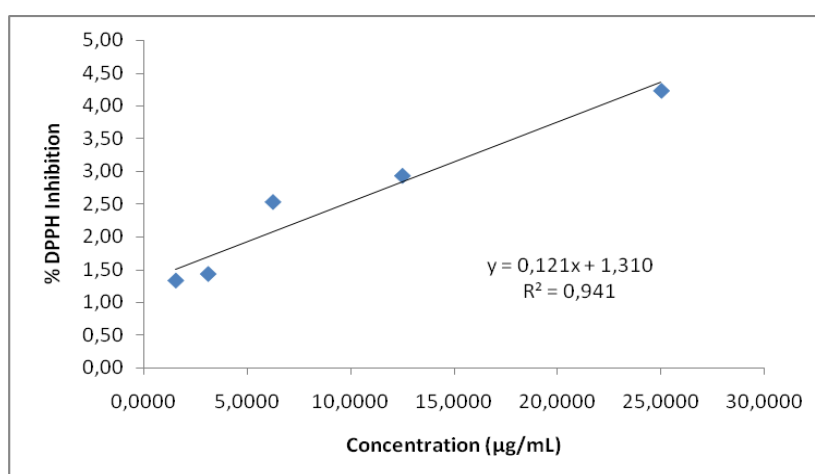


Fig.6: Stigmasterol

CONCLUSION

This study succeeded in isolating two secondary metabolites, namely Sinaphyl alcohol diacetate and Stigmasterol. This study was first reported on the *E. rubroloba* species. The free radical scavenging activity of the two compounds showed lower activity compared to Methanol Extract and Vitamin C as positive controls. Compounds (1-2) and methanol extract can be developed as natural antioxidants.

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AUTHORS CONTRIBUTIONS

AJ collects data, examines samples and prepares manuscripts. SW, IS and IP design research, analyze data, and make critical thinking on research texts.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The author states that there is no conflict of interest, all authors agree that manuscripts are confidential and will not be submitted, or published elsewhere.

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