Short Communication

Concentrations of Heavy Metals in Three Brown Seaweed (Phaeophyta: Phaeophyceae) Collected from Tourism Area in Sanur Beach, Coast of Denpasar, Bali and Public Health Risk Assessment

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Abstract

Marine brown seaweed are known as one of the potential biological agents to be developed as functional food and medicinal sectors. This study aims to examine the concentration of heavy metals (Pb, Cd, Hg, and As) in brown algae (Sargassum aquifolium, Padina australis, and Turbinaria ornata) and the possible exposure to health risks caused by consumption. Heavy metal concentrations were determined using Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy (AAS) on brown seaweed samples obtained from three different sites. The average concentration of heavy metals in the dry weight of brown seaweed remains within the guidelines established by The Food and Drug Supervisory Agency (BPOM) Number 32 of 2019 concerning the Safety and Quality of Traditional Medicines, which is then used to calculate the estimated daily intake (EDI), target hazard quotient (THQ and TTHQ), and target cancer risk (TCR) for arsenic associated with food exposure to potentially toxic metallic elements. Each species of brown seaweed has a THQ and TTHQ level of <1, indicating that one or more toxic metal elements in the same meal provide no significant non-carcinogenic risk. The TCR for arsenic in these seaweeds are all less than 1 x 10⁻⁴, indicating no cancer risk. There are no chronic health hazards related with the ingestion of brown seaweed harvested from the coast of Sanur Beach at Denpasar, Bali.
1. Introduction

The consumption of seaweed has long been a cultural practice in many Asia countries (Hwang et al., 2019), as well as in several marine areas in Europe and America (Monagail and Morrison, 2020; Pérez-Lloréns, 2019). Coastal communities in Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand, for example, use different forms of fresh seaweed as a dietary element (Gomez-Zavaglia et al., 2019). Seaweed is extensively used to improve products in Japan and South Korea, mostly as a taste dietary supplement and to benefit from algal elements such as natural minerals (Hwang et al., 2019). Consumption and production of seaweed have been commonly recorded in Indonesia (Rimmer et al., 2021). Currently, seaweed cultivators focus on increasing the cultivation of red (Rhodophyceae) and green (Chlorophyceae) seaweeds and are still not aware of the potential of brown algae (Phaeophyceae) as functional food raw materials and biomaterials in the future (Permatasari et al., 2022).

The large potential of seaweed encourages the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) of the Republic of Indonesia to continue to increase productivity, especially through studies of suitable types of seaweed in Indonesia (Zaw et al., 2020; Wiradana et al., 2021). To support this goal, a national plan for the growth of the seaweed sector has been drawn up from 2018 to 2021 to encourage the economy, community empowerment, and national food and nutrition security (Presidential Regulation No. 33/2019) (Rimmer et al., 2021). Until now, brown seaweed (Phaeophyceae) has not been widely used as a consumer market by coastal communities in Indonesian waters (Sudarwati et al., 2020). Several types of brown seaweed, including Padina spp., Sargassum spp., Laminarian spp., and Turbinaria spp., thrive in the coastal waters of Indonesia. Brown seaweed is high in carbohydrates, protein, vitamins (B1, B2, B6, B16, C, and niacin), and minerals (calcium, sodium, magnesium, potassium, iodine, iron) (Choudhary et al., 2021). Some elements of this brown seaweed contain important bioactivity for humans. Brown seaweed polysaccharides (alginate, fucoidan, and laminarin) (Piñeiro-Ramil et al., 2022; Samsonchi et al., 2022; Vijayakumar et al., 2021) and polyphenols (Mekinich et al., 2019), for example, not only do they have promising antibacterial, antifungal, and antiviral properties, but they also have the potential to prevent several chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, obesity, hyperlipidaemia, and diabetes (Reyes et al., 2020; Yamagata, 2021). Recently, the capacity of brown seaweed biopolymers to function as more effective and efficient natural drug delivery systems in releasing certain bioactive constituents in the body has been highlighted (Cunha and Grenha, 2016; Zhong et al., 2020).

Heavy metals in marine environment present a significant concern and have an impact on human health (Zaynab et al., 2022). Pollution from tourism and industrial activities are the biggest threat to biological systems in many countries (Lloret et al., 2021), including Indonesia. Long-term exposure to stressors, on the other hand, can decrease the bioactive components of seaweed, resulting in the formation of reactive oxygen species and other oxidizing agents (Roleda et al., 2019). In addition, seaweed accumulates metals from fluctuating mineral concentration densities, and heavy metals can accumulate in body functions if consumed for long periods of time (Chen et al., 2018). Heavy metals accumulate in marine and coastal waters from both anthropogenic and lithogenic sources (Anbazhagan et al., 2021).

Toxicology is the study of the potential harmful consequences of exposure to chemicals on living organisms (Costa and Teixeira, 2014). It establishes a comprehensive explanation of the symptoms, bio-mechanisms, and detection of hazardous chemicals, especially the effects of poisoning after consumption (Ganesan et al., 2020). If an ingredient is to be produced as a raw material for functional and therapeutic foods, these activities must be completed to highlight safe concentrations/doses (Wasilah et al., 2021). In addition, bioindicators, in this case seaweed that collects pollutants in the environment, can be used to evaluate and monitor the levels of heavy metal pollution concentration in the marine environment (Rakib et al., 2021). Sanur Beach is one of the water areas in the Province of Bali which is often used as a tourist attraction, it has large marine biological resources in marine habitats (intertidal and near the coast) (Suartika, 2015; Turak and Devantier, 2013). The seagrass beds to the coral reefs of Sanur Beach are considered as one of the core conservation areas. The main causes of heavy metal pollution on the Sanur coast of Denpasar City according to this study include uncontrolled industrial and domestic wastewater runoff, tourism activities, ports and ships, runoff of oil, chemicals, and ship metal waste, as well as fisheries and other related activities.

In fact, no information on the accumulation of heavy metals in brown seaweed collected from the waters of Sanur Beach has been reported to date. As a result, the aim of this study was on the determination of heavy metals (Pb, Cd, Hg, and As) in brown seaweed collected from the waters of Sanur Beach in Denpasar, Bali. This
research also focuses at the health risks of ingesting brown seaweed from Sanur Beach in Denpasar, Bali. The results of the analysis of heavy metals in brown seaweed were compared with the quality standards related to herbal medicines stipulated by the Regulation of the Food and Drug Supervisory Agency (BPOM) No. 32 of 2019 and the risk of consumption based on the provisions of the World Health Organization (WHO). The findings of this study are important because brown seaweed is significant in bioactive ingredients, which can help answer the challenges of food security and provide nutraceutical products to meet the needs of the food and drug industries in the future, thereby increasing the productivity of coastal communities.

2. Materials and Method

2.1 Study Site

We selected three sampling locations: (1) Mertasari Beach (8°42'48.5"S 115°15'02.9"E to 8°42'45.6"S 115°15'06.4"E), (2) Semawang Beach (8°42'27.1"S 115°15'46.2"E to 8°42'13.8"S 115°15'52.3"E), and (3) Sindhu Beach (8°41'02.1"S 115°15'54.5"E to 8°40'57.1"S 115°15'53.5"E) included in the Sanur Coast region to assess heavy metal contamination in brown seaweed (Figure 1).

The major activities of Mertasari Beach are fishing, recreational (including swimming), and water sports, which generate a large number of tourists to the pier. Furthermore, the estuary transports residential wastewater from the Denpasar City region. This residential garbage runs via canals and rivers before ending up at the coast of Mertasari Beach. Semawang Beach is both a recreational location and an area prone to pollution runoff from hotels in the region. Furthermore, boating, fishing, and tourist rubbish pollute the coastal aquatic environment in this region. Sindhu Beach’s popular destinations are water recreation and water sports, which attract a large number of visitors. There is an effluent that approaches the coastal region from hotels near Sindhu Beach and discharges its waste into the beach, exposing marine biota and visitors to polluting contaminants. Crabs, isopods, bivalves, reef fish, seagrass, and gastropods are among the species that approach the three coastal regions vacation.

2.2 Sampling

In September - October 2021, brown seaweed samples were taken from three locations along the Sanur coastline (Mertasari – Semawang) (Figure 1). At each of the three sites, 500 grams fresh weight of three different types of brown seaweed collected at low tide in the

![Figure 1](image_url)

Figure 1. Map of the brown seaweed sampling location along the Sanur Beach Coast, Denpasar City, Bali Province. a) Sindhu Beach, b) Semawang Beach, and c) Mertasari Beach
intertidal zone. Sampling of seaweed at each location was carried out using the random composite sampling method in order to obtain three composites (n = 3)/sample/location (Lancaster and Keller-mcnulty, 1998). At the collection point, samples were cleaned with brine, packed in sterile plastic bags, and transported to the laboratory in a refrigerator (4°C). The brown seaweeds were washed in fresh water to remove sand and epiphytes in the laboratory, oven-dried at 80°C to maintain a consistent weight, and put in for processing (Khaled et al., 2014). The three types of brown seaweed were identified using key determinations conducted at the Central Oceanographic Laboratory of the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Jakarta, Indonesia.

2.3 Determination of Heavy Metals

A determination of heavy metal levels was carried out at the Environmental Health Laboratory, Sub-Division of Clinical Pathology, Sanglah Provincial General Hospital (RSUP), Denpasar, Bali. For the quantitative measurement of heavy metals in all samples, standard techniques were used. The Indonesian National Standard was used to quantify the levels of heavy metals in brown seaweed samples (cadmium (Cd), lead (Pb), mercury (Hg), and arsenic (As)). The seaweed is ground into a fine powder using a mortar and pestle. One gram of homogenized brown seaweed sample was added to 10 mL of reagent combination containing 70% nitric acid, 70% perchloric acid, and 98% sulfuric acid in a 5:2:1 ratio. The mineralization procedure was performed on a heated plate at 50°C until the sample was virtually dry. After that, 10 mL of 2N HCl was added, and digestion was continued for 30 minutes. The solution was filtered using Whatman No.1 filter paper, and up to 25 mL of sterile distilled water was added before being kept at room temperature for subsequent examination (FAO/SIDA, 1983).

For heavy metal analysis, an Atomic Adsorption Spectrophotometer (Shimadzu, Japan) model AA-7000 was utilized. Cd (228.8 nm), Pb (217.00 nm), Hg (253.7), and As are the working wavelengths (231.9 nm). The detection limits for the four heavy metals are Cd (≤0.3 ppm), Pb (≤10 ppm), Hg (≤0.05 ppm), and As (≤5 ppm). Blanks and reference standards were included during analysis, and samples were repeated three times. Standard heavy metal measurements were prepared using double-distilled water and analytical components purchased from Merck in the United States.

2.4 Public Health Risk Assessment of Heavy Metals in Brown Seaweed

2.4.1 Estimated Daily Intake (EDI)

The estimated daily intake (EDI) of each heavy metal (Cd, Pb, Hg, and As) was evaluated using the average concentrations in each type of brown seaweed sample and the daily consumption in grams of each food product. The estimated daily intake (EDI) was calculated using the following equation to determine the daily limit for brown seaweed consumption:

\[
EDI = \frac{C \times C_{\text{Cons}}}{Bw}
\]

Where \(C\) represents the heavy metal content in seaweed (ppm/dry weight), \(C_{\text{Cons}}\) is the national average daily consumption of seaweed (8.54 g/day BW), and \(Bw\) represents body weight (adults = 50 kg; children = 15 kg).

2.4.2 Target Hazard Quotients (THQ)

The Target Hazard Quotient (THQ) is the ratio of hazardous element exposure to the reference doses, which is the highest level at which no impact are observed after ingesting a dietary component. Cd (0.0005 ppm), Pb (0.0035 ppm), As (0.0008 ppm), and Hg (0.0001 ppm) are the specific reference doses (FIR) for each identified heavy metal (Kerr et al., 1998; U.S. EPA, 1997). The THQ formula calculates the non-carcinogenic health problems posed by the harmful compounds of each heavy metal. Non-carcinogenic health consequences are not predictable if THQ < 1. However, if THQ > 1, it is possible that significant health implications could occur. A THQ value greater than 1 does not indicate an absolute probability that an adverse non-carcinogenic health consequence will occur, but can be used to refer to the relevant agency. THQ is calculated using the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) approach using the following equation:

\[
THQ = \frac{EF \times ED \times FIR \times C}{RFID \times W \times ATn} \times 10^{-3}
\]

Where \(EF\) is the frequency of exposure (365 days/year), \(ED\) is the duration of exposure (71.5 years) equivalent to the average lifespan in Indonesia, \(FIR\) is the level of food consumption (in grams per person per day) the average daily consumption of seafood including seaweed in Indonesia reaches 85.4 g/day, \(C\) is the concentration of metals in food (ppm), \(RFID\) is the oral reference dose of each heavy metal (ppm/day), \(W\) is the average body weight - average in Indonesia (Adults:
50 kg and Children: 15 kg), and $ATn$ is the average exposure time for non-carcinogens (365 days/year i.e. the number of years of exposure assuming 71.5 years in this study adjusting for life span of average population in Indonesia). It is assumed that cooking or certain processes do not affect the toxicity of heavy metals in seaweed (Antoine et al., 2017).

Furthermore, the effects of exposure to two or more polluting substances can result in additive effects or adverse interactions on the body. Thus, in this study, the cumulative health risk was also evaluated by adding up the THQ values of each metal and expressing them as Total THQ (TTHQ) (Hallenbeck, 1993) with the following:

$$TTHQ = THQ \text{ (toxicant 1)} + THQ \text{ (toxicant 2)} + \ldots \text{THQ (toxicant n)}$$

The higher the TTHQ value, the higher the toxic effect that may be caused (Ullah et al., 2017).

### 2.4.3 Target cancer risk for arsenic

Target cancer risk (TCR) was used to assess the potential for the occurrence of risks associated with exposure to carcinogenic agents over a period of lifetime exposure to metallic arsenic. The equation for the TCR of arsenic is as follows:

$$TCR = \frac{E_{FR} \times E_D \times F_{IR} \times C \times CPS_o}{BWa \times ATc} \times 10^{-3}$$

Where $E_{FR}$ is the frequency of arsenic exposure (365 days), $E_D$ is the duration of exposure (71.5 years), $F_{IR}$ is the level of consumption of seafood including seaweed in Indonesia in grams/day, $C$ is the concentration of arsenic in seaweed dry weight, $CPS_o$ is the baseline factor for oral cancer for inorganic arsenic (1.5 ppm/day) (Antoine et al., 2017), and $BWa$ is the reference body weight. $ATc$ is the average period of carcinogen exposure (365 days 71.5 years), and $10^{-3}$ is the unit conversion factor. The standard TCR value refers to previous studies, which showed values between $10^{-6}$ - $10^{-4}$ and considered acceptable, values less than $10^{-6}$ were negligible, and values greater than $10^{-4}$ were at increased risk for cancer (Shaeen et al., 2016; U.S. EPA, 1997). The carcinogenicity of Pb, Cd, and Hg has not been established to date according to the U.S. EPA (ATSDR, 1999).

### 2.5 Data Analysis

To calculate the average and standard deviation of the seaweed sample data replication using SPSS Version 23.0 software (IBM, USA) (Hussain et al., 2021). Graphs were processed using GraphPad software Version 8.0 (GraphPad, USA) (Widhiantara et al., 2021). Tabulation of EDI, THQ, TTHQ, and target cancer risk of As data using Ms. Software. Excel 2019 (Microsoft, USA) (Wastlah et al., 2021).

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1 Content of Heavy Metals on Brown Seaweed

The highest to lowest Pb content are as following: $T. ornata$, (0.5737 ppm), $P. australis$ (0.3687 ppm), and $S. aquifolium$ (0.2690 ppm). Cd content ranged from 0.2367 ppm in $T. ornata$, 0.2123 ppm in $P. australis$, and 0.1630 ppm in $S. aquifolium$ (Figure 2). Meanwhile, $S. aquifolium$ and $P. australis$ had the same Hg level of 0.00533 ppm, and in $T. ornata$ of 0.00333 ppm. Furthermore, the highest and lowest As levels were shown in $S. aquifolium$ (4.316 ppm), $T. ornata$ (3.7973 ppm), and $P. australis$ (3.421 ppm) (Table 1). All values are reported as dry weight. All concentrations of heavy metals contained in the three samples of brown seaweed are still safe based on BPOM No. 32 of 2019 concerning Safety and Quality Requirements for Herbal Medicines.

This work provides a significant overview of the challenges leading to the development of seaweed which will be further investigated as a pharmaceutical ingredient, especially as an herbal medicine in the future (Widhiantara and Jawi, 2021). However, because heavy metals act as limiting factors, besides having important functions in plant physiology, including seaweed as a source of micronutrients for growth, it becomes dangerous if the amount is above the tolerance threshold (Esposito et al., 2018; Lentini et al., 2018). The presence of non-essential heavy metals Pb and Cd in this study is thought to be related to domestic waste and the presence of hotels in the coastal area of Sanur which subsequently accumulates in seaweed. The marine environment (estuarine/coastal) is more vulnerable to heavy metal exposure from a variety of sources, including agricultural waste that uses synthetic pesticides irresponsibly, household and tourism waste (Zn, Cu, Cd, Ni, and Pb), and industrial activities (Hg, As, zinc, and hydrocarbons) (Tayeb et al., 2015).

Cd and Pb accumulation events have also been documented in seaweeds collected from the Gulf Coast of Mannar, India, the source of which has been linked to anthropogenic activities off the coast of Tuticorin, India (Anbazhagan et al., 2021). It should be highlighted that...
changes in heavy metal accumulation in each seaweeds are influenced by a variety of variables, including the type, age, and environment/habitat for algae development. Young tissue absorbs metal elements from the environment rapidly than old tissues, however metal elements are discharged more rapidly as the surrounding water concentration decreases/in low tide environments (Stengel and Dring, 2000).

![Figure 2. Average concentrations of Pb (a), Cd (b), Hg (c), and As (d) in brown seaweed collected from the waters of Sanur Beach, Denpasar-Bali. The concentration of metal elements in this study is below the BPOM quality standard No. 32 of 2019 regarding the Safety and Quality Requirements for Herbal Medicines.](image)

This research found Hg in brown seaweed, which is still below the 2019 BPOM No. 32. According to the earlier research, the Hg concentration in Phaeophyceae collected from various seafood markets in Italy was 0.001 ppm, as well as many varieties of seaweed collected from Spain (0.011 – 0.017 ppm), Korea (0.006 – 0.026 ppm), and China (0.005 – 0.011 ppm) (Filippini et al., 2021). However, further study on the prevalence of this metal from varied sources in the environments is recommended (including season factor). Because naturally occurring Hg is produced continually throughout the weathering process and subsequently migrates to aquatic areas (Spyropoulou et al., 2022). However, it has been recognized that human activities contribute for around 30% of total Hg that enters the atmosphere each year and then impacts the surface environment (soil, fresh water, and seas) (Streets et al., 2011). Bacteria in marine habitats may convert inorganic mercury (Hg) to methylmercury, which can progressively accumulate in aquatic species such as seaweed. Phytoplankton, including seaweed, may absorb mercury greater than other aquatic organisms (Le Faucheur et al., 2014). Greater trophic level organisms (including humans) will have a higher mercury concentration than lower trophic level organisms.

Based on BPOM No. 32 of 2019, the As metal measurement findings in the three species of brown algae in this investigation were remained within the allowable limits. A recent research revealed that the As value of seaweed taken from South Korean seas varied from 1.72 to 9.46 ppm (Ryu et al., 2009), but the reported As value of seaweed in Japan was greater at 46.4 – 147 ppm (Narukawa et al., 2012). Interestingly, multiple investigations have shown that the Sargassum family contains up to 72 % arsenic as inorganic arsenic (Almela et al., 2002). The levels of As (III) and As (V) in the family Sargassaceae obtained from the Gulf of South Korea were 2.35 ppm and 5,347 ppm, respectively, similar to this findings (Khan et al., 2015).

### 3.2 Public Health Risk Assessment

#### 3.2.1 Estimated daily intake (EDI)

The EDI findings are based on a variety of criteria (Table 2). The EDI in this research is based on food balances derived from Food and Agriculture Organization data (FAO). However, the inclusion of numerous criteria in the assessment of EDI may result in an overestimation to quantify the non-carcinogenic risk caused by ingestion of brown seaweed as in this study. As a result, further study is required to understand the non-carcinogenic factors that may result from the intake of this brown seaweed.

*T. ornata* exhibited a significant concentrations of Pb consumption in adults and children, with values of 0.027 mg/kg bw/day and 0.093 mg/kg bw/day, respectively. *T. ornata* had the greatest amount of Cd consumption, with 0.080 mg/kg bw/day (adults) and 0.269 mg/kg bw/day (children). *P. australis* adults (0.091 mg/kg bw/day) and children (0.30 mg/kg bw/day) had the greatest amount of daily Hg intake.
Table 1. Heavy metal concentrations in brown seaweed species collected from different locations were compared to values in this study.

| No. | Species                  | Location                              | Heavy metals (ppm) | Reference                        |
|-----|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1   | Sargassum polycystum    | Gulf of Mannar, Kerala Coast, India    | Pb 12.36, Cd 0.38  | (Anbazhagan et al., 2021)        |
| 2   | Cystoseira crinita       | Marsa-Matrouh beaches, Egypt, Mediterranean Sea | Pb 16.32 – 19.75, Cd 0.34 – 0.83 | (Khaled et al., 2014) |
| 3   | Laminaria sp.            | Seaweed market in Italy                | Pb 0.11, Cd 0.21, Hg 0.03, As 7.14 | (Filippini et al., 2021) |
| 4   | Padina pavonica          | Wandoor area, Southern Andaman Island, | Pb - 0.006, Cd - | (Kaviarasan et al., 2018)        |
| 5   | Sargassum aquifolium.    | Sanur Beach Coast, Denpasar, Bali Province | Pb 0.269, Cd 0.163, Hg 0.005, As 4.316 | This study |
| 6   | Padina australis         | Sanur Beach Coast, Denpasar, Bali Province | Pb 0.368, Cd 0.212, Hg 0.005, As 3.421 | This study |
| 7   | Turbinaria ornata        | Sanur Beach Coast, Denpasar, Bali Province | Pb 0.573, Cd 0.236, Hg 0.003, As 3.797 | This study |

Quality Standards

| Pb | Cd | Hg | As |
|----|----|----|----|
| ≤ 10 | ≤ 0.3 | ≤ 0.5 | ≤ 5 |

Table 2. Estimated daily intake of Pb, Cd, Hg, and As through consumption of brown seaweed collected from the waters of Sanur Beach, Denpasar-Bali

| Heavy metals | Species                  | Adult (mg/kg bw/days) | Children (mg/kg bw/days) |
|--------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Pb           | Sargassum aquifolium     | 0.013                 | 0.043                    |
|              | Turbinaria ornata        | 0.027                 | 0.093                    |
|              | Padina australis         | 0.017                 | 0.059                    |
| Cd           | Sargassum aquifolium     | 0.055                 | 0.185                    |
|              | Turbinaria ornata        | 0.04                  | 0.269                    |
|              | Padina australis         | 0.02                  | 0.241                    |
| Hg           | Sargassum aquifolium     | 0.03                  | 0.03                     |
|              | Turbinaria ornata        | 0.056                 | 0.018                    |
|              | Padina australis         | 0.091                 | 0.03                     |
| As           | Sargassum aquifolium     | 0.739                 | 2.466                    |
|              | Turbinaria ornata        | 0.584                 | 2.161                    |
|              | Padina australis         | 0.648                 | 2.161                    |

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Table 3. THQ and TTHQ values for heavy metals were analyzed in brown seaweed collected from the coastal waters of Sanur, Denpasar-Bali

| Heavy metals | Species         | Population | THQ (mg/kg/days) |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| Pb           | *S. aquifolium* | Adult      | 0.00612         |
|              |                 | Children   | 0.00184         |
|              | *T. ornata*     | Adult      | 0.00131         |
|              |                 | Children   | 0.00392         |
|              | *P. australis*  | Adult      | 0.00839         |
|              |                 | Children   | 0.00137         |
| Cd           | *S. aquifolium* | Adult      | 0.00260         |
|              |                 | Children   | 0.00779         |
|              | *T. ornata*     | Adult      | 0.00377         |
|              |                 | Children   | 0.00113         |
|              | *P. australis*  | Adult      | 0.00338         |
|              |                 | Children   | 0.00102         |
| Hg           | *S. aquifolium* | Adult      | 0.00425         |
|              |                 | Children   | 0.00127         |
|              | *T. ornata*     | Adult      | 0.00266         |
|              |                 | Children   | 0.00797         |
|              | *P. australis*  | Adult      | 0.00425         |
|              |                 | Children   | 0.00127         |
| As           | *S. aquifolium* | Adult      | 0.00424         |
|              |                 | Children   | 0.00130         |
|              | *T. ornata*     | Adult      | 0.00335         |
|              |                 | Children   | 0.00100         |
|              | *P. australis*  | Adult      | 0.00372         |
|              |                 | Children   | 0.00110         |

Total Target Hazard Quotients (TTHQ) 0.07902

Table 4. Target Cancer Risk (TCR) for arsenic analysis in brown seaweed in this study

| Species     | Adult         | Children       |
|-------------|---------------|----------------|
| *S. aquifolium* | 7.56 × 10⁻⁶  | 2.52 × 10⁻⁷   |
| *P. australis* | 6.63 × 10⁻⁶  | 2.21 × 10⁻⁷   |
| *T. ornata*   | 5.97 × 10⁻⁶  | 1.99 × 10⁻⁷   |
The same quantity of Hg was detected in *S. aquifolium* for adults and children - 0.030 mg/kg bw/day. *S. aquifolium* had the largest daily As consumption, namely in adults (0.739 mg/kg bw/day) and children (2.466 mg/kg bw/day).

Based on this observation, the heavy metal intake in each brown seaweed studied in this research may be utilized as a reference value for customers or relevant authorities who produce brown algae as a raw material for herbal medicines. This is associated because seaweed is an essential component of food additives (Leandro *et al.*, 2020) and, on the other hand, is thought to be suited for use as an objective bioindicator of aquatic environments (Hasselström *et al.*, 2018). The accumulation of heavy metals in the food chain as a result of human pressure has increased the value of information that highlights the estimated daily consumption of a food item from public waterways (Ali *et al.*, 2019).

3.2.2 Target Hazard Quotients (THQ)

THQ and TTHQ were approved to examine potential non-carcinogenic impact (Table 3). THQ was calculated using the average heavy metal content of brown seaweed samples. THQ value of each metal is less than one, indicating that the general public or consumers will not face major health hazards because they just consume individual heavy metals from each variety of seaweed (Table 3) (Ullah *et al.*, 2017). Additionally, the TTHQ in this study was 0.07902 mg/kg/day (<1), indicating that there is no possible health risk from consuming seaweed containing a combination of the four heavy metals examined (Wasilah *et al.*, 2021).

3.2.3 Carcinogenic Risk for Arsenic (As)

The value of our findings ranged from $5.97 \times 10^{-6}$ in *T. ornata* up to $7.56 \times 10^{-6}$ on *S. aquifolium* which is this range for target adults. Arsenic for the target children, the range from $1.99 \times 10^{-5}$ in *T. ornata* and $2.52 \times 10^{-7}$ on *S. aquifolium* (Table 4). This results are important because the consumption of foodstuffs contaminated with heavy metals such as As in the long term throughout life every day can be considered a carcinogenic effect. According to the U.S. EPA (i) if the value of cancer risk is between $10^{-6}$-$10^{-4}$, it is considered to be acceptable; (ii) if the value is less than $10^{-6}$, it may be disregarded; and (iii) if the value is more than $10^{-4}$, it is unacceptable (Hussain *et al.*, 2021). According to the findings of this study, the arsenic found in three types of brown seaweed does not pose a major hazard to human health. However, further studies are needed to establish the carcinogenic effects demonstrated in in vivo trials (Shaheen *et al.*, 2016).

4. Conclusion

In summary, according to the BPOM No. 32 of 2019 concerning the criteria for the Safety and Quality of Herbal Medicines, the evaluated brown seaweed had permissible levels of heavy metal elements. In the case of EDI, THQ, and TTHQ, there is no unacceptable danger of hazardous health consequences to consumers, since there is no carcinogenicity. Although further information is required to confirm this conclusion, the examined brown seaweed was under the tolerable cancer risk level for arsenic. Future research is required to be more comprehensive in evaluating the effect value on many other seaweed species, particularly in Bali Province. This is important because seaweed is a biological resource with high quality value in the pharmaceutical sector, and the situation of Bali’s waters, which is exploited as a tourist industry, allows for the establishment of increasing anthropogenic exposure in coastal waters.

Acknowledgment

The researcher would like to appreciate to the Oceanography Laboratory of the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), Jakarta for the support of scientific and technical assistance in this research.

Author’s Contribution

I Wayan Rosiana and I Gede Widhiantara; conceptualization, supervision, grant administration. Putu Angga Wiradana and Anak Agung Ayu Putri Permatasari; data analysis, writing, editing, and drafting the manuscript. Yesha Ainensis El G. Pelupessy and Matius Victorino Ola Dame; designed the sampling and collected the data. Agoes Soegianto and Bambang Yulianto; review and proofread the manuscript. All authors discussed the results and contributed to final manuscript.

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Funding Information

This research was partially supported by the Institute for Research and Community Service (LP2M)
University of Dhyana Pura (UNDHIRA) Bali through a Beginner Lecturer Grant with a contract number: 41/UNDHIRA-LPPM/PPM/2021.

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