Antibacterial Screening of Mangrove Extract Library Showed Potential Activity against *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*

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ABSTRACT

Humans are at a continuous battle against different types of diseases, so that extraordinary effort to accelerate drug discovery has become a necessity. Indonesian biodiversity is abundant natural resources that can be utilized as potential drug sources. Mangroves are among potential plant medicines that grow nearly at all Indonesian coastlines. The aim of this study was to evaluate the potential of mangrove extracts (extract library) as antibacterial agents. In this study, eight mangroves species with 16 samples from different parts of the plants such as leaf, bark or root were collected. Four types of solvents with different polarity, namely water, ethanol, ethyl acetate and hexane were used in maceration of samples producing 64 extracts. Disk diffusion method was used for antibacterial screening using five bacterial strains. There were 37 extracts showed antibacterial potential with the lowest and the highest inhibition indexes were 0.0283 and 1.8983, respectively. The highest inhibition index was recorded for ethyl acetate extract of *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza* root (*Bgr (Ea)*) against *Escherichia coli*. The second highest inhibition index was 0.7867 recorded water extract of *Avicennia marina* leaf (*AmL (A)*) against *Staphylococcus aureus*. Almost all of extract showed saponin and tannin in considerable amount. This supported the data that mangrove extracts were potential as antibacterial agents.

Keywords: Antimicrobial, drug discovery, drug resistant, extract library, Indonesian biodiversity

Introduction

Drug discovery is a lengthy and expensive process. On the other hand, different types of diseases or drug resistant pathogens are increasing in numbers from time to time. The World Health Organization once reported that as many as 30 new diseases could emerge in 20 years period of time [1]. Therefore, finding alternatives for drug sources is urgently required. Drug discovery through screening process utilizing natural products can become a solution of the slow and expensive drug discovery process using conventional way.

Indonesia is well known as one of world rich countries in biodiversity [2]. The country possesses approximately 14,000 islands, located between Indian and Pacific Oceans. According to Fauna and Flora International (FFI), Indonesia is home of approximately 11% or more than 30,000 of the world’s flowering plants and other biota both in land and marine with significant figures [3].

One of potential plants as medicinal sources and widely spread along Indonesian coastline is mangrove that has potential as medicinal sources [4]. Along roughly 90,000-kilometer coastline, Indonesia is home of about 20 families with hundreds of species of mangroves and their associates...
or about 23% of total world mangrove forests [5]. Previous qualitative phytochemical studies showed that leaf extract of *Rhizophora stylosa* and *Avicenna marina* contains flavonoid, terpenoid, alkaloid, flavonoid and glycosidic phenolic [6]. Bioactivity of mangrove extracts against other types of diseases had also been reported [7]. The aim of this study was to evaluate the potential of mangrove extracts (extracts library) as antibacterial agents.

**Material and Methods**

**Plant materials**

Mangroves plants were collected from the Eastern Coastline of Lampung Province, Indonesia in May 2017. There were eight species of mangroves used in this study with the total of 16 samples collected from different parts of plants such as leaves, barks, and roots (Table 1). The eight species were identified for confirmation at the Herbarium of the Center for Biological Research of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences, Bogor, Indonesia. Species identification required at least two parts of each plant to be submitted to the Herbarium as shown in Figure 1.

**Sample preparations and extraction**

All samples were dried and ground to make powder. Water content analyses was performed according to the Association of Official Analytical Chemist (AOAC) [8]. The dried materials then extracted with maceration [9]. Four different solvents were used, which were *n*-hexane, ethyl acetate, ethanol and water. Ratio between solvent and dried material was 5 : 1 with overnight maceration, 3 : 1 with maceration for 17 and 7 hours. Extracts separated from their residues was concentrated with rotary evaporator. The yields were then determined based on the ratio of concentrated extract weight with initial sample weight. Extractions were performed triplicate.

**Antibacterial activity**

All bacterial strains used in this study (*Escherichia coli*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Propionibacterium acnes*, *Pseudomonas mosselii*, and *Rhodococcus equi*) were obtained from the Indonesia Culture Collection (InaCC). Disk diffusion method was used to determine antibacterial activity of mangrove extracts [10]. Media used for *E. coli* strain was Nutrient Agar (NA). Media used for *S. aureus*, *P. acnes*, *P. mosselii*, and *R. equi*...
strains were Tryptone Soya Agar (TSA). All bacterial strains were sub-cultured in Triptic Soy Broth (TSB) and incubated at 37°C overnight. Sterilized agar media was prepared. Bacterial suspension was mixed with the agar and solidified for 5 minutes. Disk paper with the size of 6 mm in diameter was placed on the solid agar media with tweezers and was dropped with 20 µL of 1% extract in 20% DMSO solvent. Tetracycline was used as positive control. Bacterial cultures were incubated at 37°C overnight. Inhibition zone diameter formed was measured in mm and performed in triplicates. Bacterial inhibition index value was calculated by using the following equation:

\[
\text{Inhibition index} = \frac{\Phi \text{ inhibition zone} - \Phi \text{ disk}}{\Phi \text{ disk}}
\]

**Qualitative phytochemical analysis**

Qualitative Phytochemical Analyses of plant samples were performed according to Harborne [11]. All reagents used in this study were obtained from Sigma-Aldrich. Alkaloids test was performed by mixing 4 mL of chloroform-ammonia mixture with 0.1 g crude extract and was then filtered. Few drops of H₂SO₄ 2 M were added into the filtrate and mixed until two layers formed. Transparent layer (acidic layer) was divided into 3 reaction tubes. Mayer, Wagner, and Dragendorf reagents were added into each tube. Positive alkaloids test results indicated by the formation of white, brown or red precipitation by addition of Mayer, Wagner, or Dragendorf reagents, respectively.

Triterpenoid and steroid tests were performed by heating mixture of 0.1 g crude extract with 5 mL ethanol at 50°C and then filtered. The filtrate was then concentrated and dissolved with ether. The ether layer was dropped on a drop plate and air-dried. Few drops of Liebermann-Burchard reagent (concentrated H₂SO₄ and CH₃COOH anhydrate) was added onto the drop plate. Positive triterpenoid test result indicated by the formation of red color and positive steroid test results indicated by the formation of green or blue color).

Phenolic and flavonoid tests were performed by mixing 0.1 gram of crude extract with 5 mL of distilled water and then boiled and filtered. Filtrate was divided into 2 reaction tubes. Saponin test was done by cooling the filtrated and mixed until foam formed. Positive result indicated by the formation of foam that lasts for about 10 minutes. Tannin test was done by mixing the filtrate with FeCl₃ 10% solution. Positive result indicated by the formation of dark blue or blackish green color.

| Samples code | Water content (%) | Samples code | Water content (%) |
|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| RaL          | 8.60             | TpR          | 7.56             |
| RaB          | 2.30             | TpL          | 7.54             |
| RaR          | 7.36             | TpF          | 10.06            |
| BgL          | 5.34             | AmL          | 9.43             |
| BgB          | 3.57             | AmR          | 8.55             |
| BgR          | 8.23             | XgL          | 8.98             |
| RmL          | 4.78             | CtL          | 9.45             |
| RmB          | 4.85             | ScL          | 7.23             |

*Water content of simplicial should be below 10% (suitable for analysis).
Table 3. Yield of extracts (%) *

| Samples code | Yield  | Samples code | Yield  | Samples code | Yield  | Samples code | Yield  |
|--------------|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------|
| Ral (H)      | 1.28 ± 0.38 | BgB (H)      | 0.26 ± 0.02 | TpR (H)      | 0.14 ± 0.04 | AmR(R)      | 0.50 ± 0.07 |
| Ral (Ea)     | 3.22 ± 2.09 | BgB (Ea)     | 0.27 ± 0.06 | TpR (Ea)     | 0.15 ± 0.01 | AmR (Ea)    | 0.89 ± 0.03 |
| Ral (Et)     | 6.54 ± 3.69 | BgB (Et)     | 2.30 ± 0.09 | TpR (Et)     | 3.59 ± 0.30 | AmR (Et)    | 1.98 ± 0.02 |
| RaL (A)      | 16.20 ± 5.20 | BgR (A)      | 5.45 ± 4.24 | TpL (A)      | 2.53 ± 1.14 | AmR (A)     | 10.31 ± 1.83 |
| RaH (H)      | 0.42 ± 0.20 | BgR (H)      | 0.29 ± 0.05 | TpL (H)      | 2.46 ± 0.34 | XgL (H)     | 0.76 ± 0.08 |
| RaB (Ea)     | 0.54 ± 0.23 | BgR (Ea)     | 0.32 ± 0.01 | TpL (Ea)     | 2.73 ± 0.12 | XgL (Ea)    | 1.79 ± 0.15 |
| RaB (Et)     | 3.40 ± 0.23 | BgR (Et)     | 8.95 ± 0.32 | TpL (Et)     | 3.55 ± 0.32 | XgL (Et)    | 6.94 ± 0.76 |
| RaB (A)      | 1.84 ± 0.31 | BgR (A)      | 4.14 ± 0.64 | TpL (A)      | 15.10 ± 3.14 | XgL (A)     | 21.18 ± 2.76 |
| RaH (H)      | 0.25 ± 0.03 | RmL (H)      | 1.04 ± 0.13 | TpF (H)      | 3.08 ± 0.79 | Cfl (H)     | 2.41 ± 0.03 |
| RaH (Ea)     | 0.25 ± 0.02 | RmL (Ea)     | 2.36 ± 0.74 | TpF (Ea)     | 3.64 ± 1.23 | Cfl (Ea)    | 2.27 ± 0.09 |
| RaR (Et)     | 11.92 ± 1.11 | RmL (Et)     | 2.49 ± 0.51 | TpF (Et)     | 2.99 ± 0.43 | Cfl (Et)    | 10.86 ± 1.00 |
| RaB (A)      | 5.99 ± 1.30 | RmL (A)      | 13.26 ± 3.75 | TpF (A)      | 13.41 ± 12.11 | Cfl (A)     | 19.58 ± 3.28 |
| Bgl (H)      | 2.6 ± 0.71   | RmB (H)      | 0.26 ± 0.04 | AmL(H)       | 1.7 ± 0.45  | ScL (H)     | 1.52 ± 0.25  |
| Bgl (Ea)     | 1.34 ± 0.06  | RmB (Ea)     | 0.23 ± 0.02 | AmL(Ea)      | 1.4 ± 0.07  | ScL (Ea)    | 1.43 ± 0.09  |
| Bgl (Et)     | 7.09 ± 0.14  | RmB (Et)     | 4.88 ± 2.38 | AmL (Et)     | 7.42 ± 1.17 | ScL (Et)    | 9.46 ± 0.10  |
| Bgl (A)      | 21.58 ± 3.03 | RmB (A)      | 3.72 ± 1.26 | AmL (A)      | 26.23 ± 5.13 | ScL (A)     | 7.06 ± 2.97  |

Note: *Solvents abbreviation in parenthesis; H = n-hexane, Ea = ethyl acetate, Et = ethanol, A = water

Results and Discussions

Water content

Water content of simplicial (Table 2) showed that 15 out of 16 samples were kept below 10% which is a suitable percentage for simplicial analysis according to Indonesian Herbal Pharmacopeia [8]. Only one sample with sample code 83 which was originated from fruit of *Thespesia populnea* showed a slightly higher water content than 10% (10.06%) (Table 2).

Yield percentage

The yield of extracts of the 16 samples were between 0.14% (highlighted in green) to 26.23% (highlighted yellow) that belonged to n-hexane extract of root of *R. mucronata* and water extract of leaf of *A. marina*, respectively as shown in Table 3. The data clearly showed that root extract using non polar solvent (n-hexane) resulted in lower yield percentage compared to more polar solvents (samples 74, 77, 81, and 85). This indicated that root sample contains less nonpolar constituents compared to other parts of plants.

Antibacterial zone of inhibition

Antibacterial screening of mangrove extracts in this study were targeted against gram positive bacteria represented by *S. aureus*, *P. acnes* and *R. equi* and against gram negative bacteria represented by *P. mosselii* dan *E. coli*. There were 37 out of 64 extracts that showed antibacterial activity as indicated by clear (inhibition) zone around the disk dropped with extract (Tabel 4). Only extracts that produced inhibition zone mentioned in the Table. Based upon inhibition index value obtained, root of *R. apiculata* (sample code 74) showed inhibition zone on agar media with gram positive bacteria *P. acnes* for all four solvents (74H, 74Ea, 74Et, and 74A) and extracts 74Ea and 74Et on media with *R. equi*. Sample 76Et also produced inhibition zone on agar media with *P. acnes* and *R. equi* bacterial strains.

Figure 2 showed an inhibition zone formed due to the addition of extract of root of *B. gymnorrhiza* (77Ea) on agar media with gram negative bacteria *E. coli*. The formed inhibition zone was the largest one with diameter 17.39 mm with inhibition index value of 1.8983. Extracts 77Ea also produced inhibition zone as large as 7.89 mm in diameter on agar media with *P. mosselii* and *S. aureus*. Extracts 76H, Ea and Et showed inhibition zone on agar media with *P. acnes*, *P. mosselii* and *R. equi*. The second highest inhibition index was 0.7867 recorded for leaf of water extract of *A. marina* (84 A) screened against *S. aureus*. Taken altogether, these data strongly suggested that mang-
**Table 4. Bacterial inhibition zone (mm) and inhibition index of extracts from different solvents***

| No. | Sample code | Bacterial strains | Disk diameter + inhibition zone (mm) | Inhibition index |
|-----|-------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
|     |             |                   | Positive control | Samples | Positive control | Samples |
| 1   | RaL (H)     | *P. acne*         | 15.95             | 7.54 ± 0.76 | 1.6583 | 0.2567 |
|     |             | *E. coli*         | 25.88             | 7.26 ± 0.35 | 3.1330 | 0.2100 |
| 2   | RaL (A)     | *S. aureus*       | 17.32             | 7.11 ± 0.25 | 1.8875 | 0.1850 |
| 3   | RaL (Et)    | *E. coli*         | 25.88             | 6.94 ± 0.13 | 3.3133 | 0.1567 |
| 4   | RaB (H)     | *R. equi*         | 20.40             | 6.21 ± 0.04 | 2.4000 | 0.0350 |
| 5   | RaB (Ea)    | *R. equi*         | 25.36             | 6.77 ± 0.01 | 3.2275 | 0.1275 |
| 6   | RaB (Et)    | *P. acne*         | 25.66             | 6.50 ± 0.02 | 3.2767 | 0.0833 |
| 7   | RaB (A)     | *P. acne*         | 25.66             | 6.99 ± 0.40 | 3.2767 | 0.1650 |
| 8   | RaR (H)     | *P. acne*         | 15.95             | 6.17 ± 0.06 | 1.6583 | 0.0283 |
|     |             |                   | 11.25             | 6.29 ± 0.06 | 0.8750 | 0.0483 |
| 9   | RaR Ea      | *R. equi*         | 25.36             | 7.98 ± 0.00 | 3.2275 | 0.3300 |
|     |             |                   | *P. acne*         | 28.74     | 6.87 ± 0.14 | 3.7892 | 0.1450 |
| 10  | RaR (Et)    | *R. equi*         | 23.48             | 7.91 ± 0.06 | 2.9125 | 0.3183 |
| 11  | RaR (A)     | *P. acne*         | 28.74             | 7.49 ± 0.18 | 3.7892 | 0.2483 |
| 12  | BgL (Ea)    | *R. equi*         | 25.36             | 6.44 ± 0.17 | 3.2275 | 0.0733 |
| 13  | BgL (A)     | *S. aureus*       | 16.90             | 6.43 ± 0.16 | 1.8175 | 0.0717 |
| 14  | BgB (H)     | *P. acne*         | 12.49             | 6.90 ± 0.24 | 1.0817 | 0.1500 |
|     |             |                   | 17.88             | 6.89 ± 0.15 | 1.9800 | 0.1483 |
| 15  | BgB (Ea)    | *P. mosselii*     | 11.63             | 7.59 ± 0.06 | 0.9383 | 0.2650 |
|     |             |                   | *P. acne*         | 23.32     | 7.30 ± 0.21 | 2.8858 | 0.2167 |
| 16  | BgB (Et)    | *R. equi*         | 25.41             | 6.52 ± 0.05 | 3.2342 | 0.0867 |
|     |             |                   | *S. aureus*       | 31.60     | 7.74 ± 0.58 | 4.2667 | 0.2900 |

|    | BgR (Ea)    | *E. coli*         | 34.40             | 7.39 ± 0.13 | 4.7325 | 1.0983 |
| 17  |             |                   | *P. mosselii*     | 11.63     | 7.89 ± 0.06 | 0.9383 | 0.3150 |
| 18  | BgR (Et)    | *P. acne*         | 31.60             | 7.02 ± 0.41 | 4.2667 | 0.1700 |
| 19  | BgR (A)     | *P. acne*         | 31.60             | 7.96 ± 0.26 | 4.2667 | 0.3267 |
| 20  | Rml (Ea)    | *E. coli*         | 34.40             | 7.71 ± 1.23 | 4.7325 | 0.2850 |
| 21  | Rml (A)     | *R. equi*         | 20.81             | 6.48 ± 0.35 | 2.4683 | 0.0890 |
| 22  | Rmb (H)     | *S. aureus*       | 17.32             | 8.47 ± 0.34 | 1.8875 | 0.4117 |
| 23  | Rmb (Ea)    | *S. aureus*       | 30.31             | 6.79 ± 0.22 | 4.0517 | 0.1317 |
| 24  | Tpr (H)     | *R. equi*         | 21.80             | 6.68 ± 0.07 | 2.6325 | 0.1133 |
| 25  | Tpr (Ea)    | *R. equi*         | 21.80             | 6.25 ± 0.01 | 0.9792 | 0.0417 |
| 26  | Tpl (H)     | *P. acne*         | 11.85             | 6.91 ± 0.23 | 0.9750 | 0.1517 |
|     |             |                   | *R. equi*         | 21.80     | 7.13 ± 0.01 | 2.6325 | 0.1883 |
| 27  | Tpf (H)     | *P. mosselii*     | 10.46             | 7.60 ± 0.02 | 0.7442 | 0.2667 |
|     |             |                   | *S. aureus*       | 21.80     | 6.92 ± 0.07 | 2.6325 | 0.1533 |
| 28  | Tpf (Ea)    | *E. coli*         | 36.31             | 6.59 ± 0.33 | 3.5825 | 0.0983 |
| 29  | Tpf (Et)    | *R. equi*         | 23.40             | 6.80 ± 0.13 | 2.8992 | 0.3000 |
| 30  | AmL (H)     | *R. equi*         | 21.60             | 6.80 ± 0.04 | 2.6325 | 0.1333 |
| 31  | AmL (A)     | *S. aureus*       | 16.90             | 10.72 ± 0.72 | 1.8175 | 0.7867 |
| 32  | Amr (H)     | *P. acne*         | 21.60             | 6.41 ± 0.17 | 2.5067 | 0.0683 |
| 33  | XgI (H)     | *R. equi*         | 19.37             | 7.78 ± 0.16 | 2.2283 | 0.2967 |
| 34  | Cfl (H)     | *R. equi*         | 19.37             | 6.81 ± 0.11 | 2.2283 | 0.1350 |
| 35  | ScL (H)     | *R. equi*         | 19.37             | 6.49 ± 0.08 | 2.2283 | 0.0817 |
| 36  | ScL (Et)    | *P. acne*         | 24.78             | 8.39 ± 0.24 | 3.1292 | 0.3983 |
| 37  | ScL (A)     | *P. acne*         | 24.78             | 7.58 ± 0.04 | 3.1292 | 0.2633 |

Note: *Solvents abbreviation in parenthesis; H = n-hexane, Ea = ethyl acetate, Et = ethanol, A = water.
Mangrove extracts used in this study were potential as antibacterial agents with inhibition index value from the lowest to the highest were 0.0283 and 1.8983, respectively. Previous studies reported that mangrove extracts had shown their activity against microbes or pathogen parasites in animals and plants [7, 12] including HIV [13] and hepatitis-B virus [14].

**Phytochemical constituents**

Phytochemical qualitative analysis showed that most if not all extracts contain saponin and tannin in considerable amount (Table 5). The two phytochemical constituents and flavonoid had shown their activities against some bacteria [15]. Samples collected contained flavonoid and steroid in fewer amounts and no alkaloid detected in almost all samples.

Different colors shown in phytochemical analysis indicated that different species of mangroves as well as different parts of the plants contain different chemical constituents. It is important to note that chemical constituents and bioactivity of mangrove extracts and plants in general vary depend upon not only from species to species but also due to geographical conditions. This is also important to identify factors contributing to bioactivity, such as season, location and reproduction cycle stage [16]. Therefore, documentation of samples collection includes taxonomy, time and location, collector either individual or institution and species availability. This will be very helpful in tracing and sample monitoring during research process for accessibility purpose and benefit sharing and recollection.

The phenolic content, flavonoid content, and antioxidant activity of *R. mucronata* extract has been reported [17]. Considering the very large area covered by mangroves in Indonesia and worldwide, mangrove research, particularly for the purpose of drug discovery is still very limited. This opens up opportunities for researches to start putting their efforts individually and collaboratively on mangrove research which also applies to mangrove’s associates.

**Conclusion**

In this study, different species and different

| Sample code | Alkaloid | Triterpenoid | Steroid | Quinone | Flavonoid | Saponin | Tannin |
|-------------|----------|--------------|---------|---------|-----------|---------|--------|
| RaL         | -        | -            | ++      | -       | +         | ++      |        |
| RaB         | -        | -            | +       | -       | -         | +++     | +      |
| RaR         | -        | -            | -       | -       | +         | +++     | +      |
| BgL         | -        | -            | ++      | -       | +++       | +++     | +      |
| BgB         | -        | -            | +       | -       | +         | +++     | +      |
| BgR         | -        | -            | -       | -       | -         | +++     | +      |
| RmL         | -        | -            | ++      | -       | +         | +++     | +      |
| RmB         | -        | -            | -       | +       | -         | +++     | +      |
| TpR         | -        | -            | -       | +       | +++       | +++     | +      |
| TpL         | -        | -            | +++     | -       | -         | +++     | +      |
| TpF         | -        | -            | +       | -       | -         | +++     | +      |
| AmL         | -        | -            | +       | +       | ++        | +       | +      |
| AmR         | -        | -            | -       | +       | -         | +       | -      |
| XgL         | -        | -            | +       | -       | -         | +++     | +      |
| CtL         | +        | +            | -       | +       | +         | +       | ++     |
| ScL         | -        | -            | -       | +       | +         | ++      | +++    |

Note: -: absent; +: low amount; ++: considerable amount; +++: high amount as indicated by color intensity (data not shown)
parts of mangroves had been collected and had shown various phytochemical contents. Phytochemical contents found in mangroves strongly indicated that different species as well as different parts of the plants have different potentials as medicinal sources. There were 37 out of 64 extracts showed antibacterial potential with the lowest and the highest inhibition indexes were 0.0283 and 1.8983, respectively. The highest inhibition index was recorded for ethyl acetate extract of Bruguiera gymnorrhiza root (BgR (Ea)) against Escherichia coli. The second highest inhibition index was 0.7867 recorded water extract of Avicennia marina leaf (AmL (A)) against Staphylococcus aureus.

Further studies have to be conducted to elucidate potential compounds that possess bioactivity against tested bacteria or other microbial pathogens.

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