Anti-Elastase, Anti-Tyrosinase, And Anti-Oxidant of Rubus Fraxinifolius Stem Methanolic Extract

Yesi Desmiaty1,2, Fadlina Chany Saputri1, Muhammad Hanafi2,3, Rini Prastiwi4, Berna Elya1,*

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Some Rubus were reported had anti-skin aging activity. Rubus fraxinifolius was one of Rubus genus which lives in Indonesian highland. Objective: This study was to examine elastase, tyrosinase, and oxidant inhibitory activity of R. fraxinifolius stem (RFS) extract. Methods: Extraction was done by a Soxhlet apparatus using methanol as solvent. Elastase inhibition activity was determined, which based on the formation of p-nitroaniline. Tyrosinase inhibition activity evaluated based on inhibition of mushroom tyrosinase by the sample with L-DOPA as substrate. The activity of antioxidant was determined using the DPPH radical scavenger method. LC-MS was used for prediction of naturally occurring phytochemicals. Results: The RFS extract yield was 9.03 %. The RFS extract revealed inhibition activity against elastase and tyrosinase with IC50 128.85 ppm, and 155.19 ppm, respectively. DPPH radical scavenging activity gave IC50 63.04 ppm. Total phenolic content of the extract was 3879±2.31 mg GAE/g extract. The LC-MS analysis showed the presence of at least 13 different organic compounds in RFS extract, which might contribute to the bioactivity. Conclusion: Therefore, this experiment further proved that RFS extract might be useful as a natural product ingredient of anti-photoaging skincare products because of its ability to inhibit elastase, tyrosinase, and as an antioxidant. Key words: Anti-elastase, Antioxidant, Anti-tyrosinase, Rubus fraxinifolius stem.

INTRODUCTION

One of the most common dermatologic concern is skin photoaging. There are many synthetic compounds which claimed as cosmetic anti-aging ingredients, but they can produce adverse reactions such as irritant and allergic contact dermatitis, and photoallergic reactions. Hence, it needs to find a new potent compound as skincare products ingredients from natural resources such as herbal extract. Many in vitro research showed that herbal extracts containing phenolic compounds could scavenge free radical and inhibit elastase, hyaluronidase and tyrosinase enzymes.1-3 Many plants are growing in tropical mountains environments mostly unexplored. Rubus fraxinifolius was one of the plants which live in Indonesia high-elevation and has potential as fresh fruits, beverage raw materials, and medicinal plants.4 Some Rubus genus were reported had a potential anti-skin aging activity such anti elastase, antioxidant, anti collagenase, anti-tyrosinase, etc.5-7 Some publication reported the antioxidant activity, nutrition content, and polyphenol content of R. fraxinifolius fruit.8,9 There is no found report about the stem phytochemical content or activity. Therefore, in this research, we examined the activity of R. fraxinifolius stem (RFS) extract to inhibit elastase and tyrosinase enzyme, and the capability to reduce free radical level.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Chemicals and reagents 2,2-Diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH), methanol, Buffer Trizma base (T1503), Porcine pancreatic elastase (E1250), N-Succinyl-Ala-Ala-Ala-p-nitroanilide (SANA) (S4760), quercetin, Tyrosinase from mushroom (T3824), L-3,4-dihydroxyphenylalanine (L-DOPA), Folin-Ciocalteu’s reagent and gallic acid, were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. Plant material collection and extract preparation Rubus fraxinifolius stem was collected from Cianjur, West Java at altitude 1384 m asl. The taxonomic identification of the plant was confirmed a botanist at Research Center for Biology, Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), Cibinong, Indonesia. Before all analysis, the stem was cut and cleaned to remove any foreign materials and dust, then air-dried and grounded into a fine powder. The stem powder (50 g) were extracted using a Soxhlet apparatus with methanol (750 mL). The extract was evaporated using rotary evaporator (Buchi) under reduced pressure, and then was dried using vacuum oven yield Rubus fraxinifolius stem (RFS) methanolic extract. Anti-elastase assay The RFS extract solution and pancreatic elastase (PPE) were mixed in Trizma®-HCl buffer (pH 8.0), then pre-incubated at 25°C for 5 min. Substrate N-Succinyl-Ala-Ala-Ala-p-nitroanilide (SANA) was added to the mixture and incubated at 25°C for 20 min in 96-well microplate (Nunc). The optical density due to the formation of p-nitroaniline was

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measured at 401 nm with a microplate spectrophotometer (Versamac). The reaction mixture was contained 0.07M Trizma*-HCl buffer, 16 mU elastase, 0.29 mM substrate. The sample was performed in triplicate. The elastase inhibitory activity of each sample was calculated according to the following formula:

\[ \text{Elastase inhibition activity (\%) = } \left( \frac{\text{OD}_{\text{blank}} - \text{OD}_{\text{extract}}}{\text{OD}_{\text{blank}}} \right) \times 100, \]

where \( \text{OD}_{\text{blank}} \) and \( \text{OD}_{\text{extract}} \) were the optical densities in the absence and presence of extract, respectively.\(^{13} \)

**Anti-tyrosinase assay**

Tyrosinase inhibitory assay was performed according to the method previously described by Moon with modification.\(^{15} \) The reaction was done with a potassium phosphate buffer (0.1 M, pH 6.7) containing 10 mM L-DOPA and mushroom tyrosinase aqueous solution (50 units/mL) at 37°C in Nunc 96 well microtitre plate. The mixture was incubated for 15 min before adding the substrate. The change of the absorbance of dopachrome was measured at 475 nm using a microplate spectrophotometer (Versamac). The sample was performed in triplicate. The tyrosinase inhibitory activities were calculated as described in the elastase inhibitory activity.

**Antioxidant assay**

Antioxidant activity of RFS extract was determined using DPPH free radical reagent with the method previously described with slight modification.\(^{19} \) Briefly, an amount of 20 μL of five serial concentrations of RFS diluted extract (12.5–100 μg/mL) and 180 μL of DPPH (60 μmol/L) in methanol were mixed in each well of the 96-well microplate. The absorbance was measured at 516 nm after 30 min in the dark by a microplate reader (Versamac). Gallic acid was used as positive controls. The experiment was done in triplicate. The DPPH radical scavenging activity was calculated according to the equation: % Inhibition activity = [(Acontrol – Asample)/Acontrol] × 100, where Acontrol was the absorbance of the control and Asample was the absorbance of the sample. The IC\(_{50}\) value which was the concentration of the sample that inhibited it can be a target to protect elastin protein overcome the ROS, tissue, such as collagen and fibronectin. If the activity of elastase determinant was performed to test the ability of the extract to degrade elastase. In terms of premature skin aging, to find inhibitors of elastase can be useful to overcome the loss of skin elasticity and skin sagging.\(^{18} \) Elastase enzyme, a serine protease that can degrade elastin and hydrolyze almost all extracellular matrix proteins in connective tissue, such as collagen and fibronectin. If the activity of elastase inhibited, it can be a target to protect elastin protein overcome the ROS, photaging, and prevent damage to the structure of the extracellular matrix.

**Anti-tyrosinase assay**

The study revealed that RFS extract inhibited tyrosinase with IC\(_{50}\) 155.19 ppm. Figure 2 shows the linear regression of the activity of RFS extract at concentrations of 50-250 ppm. RFS extract (IC\(_{50}\) 128.85 ppm) has lower elastase inhibition activity in comparison with control positive (quercetin IC\(_{50}\) 78.70 ppm), but this study demonstrated that RFS extract has an activity to inhibit elastase enzyme. Quercetin was reported to have an inhibitory effect on elastase enzyme.\(^{12} \) The anti-tyrosinase determination was performed to test the ability of the extract to degrade elastase. In terms of premature skin aging, to find inhibitors of elastase can be useful to overcome the loss of skin elasticity and skin sagging.\(^{18} \) Elastase enzyme, a serine protease that can degrade elastin and hydrolyze almost all extracellular matrix proteins in connective tissue, such as collagen and fibronectin. If the activity of elastase inhibited, it can be a target to protect elastin protein overcome the ROS, photaging, and prevent damage to the structure of the extracellular matrix.

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extract in inhibiting tyrosinase. Tyrosinase is the main enzyme involved in skin pigmentation because it can activate the melanin pigment, so hyperpigmentation is formed in two reactions: (1) the hydroxylation of L-tyrosine become L-DOPA (L-3,4- dihydroxyphenylalanine), and (2) the oxidation of L-DOPA become dopaquinone. This dopaquinone is very reactive and could be polymerized spontaneously to form melanin.

**Antioxidant assay**

The scavenging activity of RFS extract was determined using DPPH (2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl) free radicals. The study revealed that RFS extract has an intense antioxidant activity with IC<sub>50</sub> 63.04 ppm. The linear regression of activity was showed in Figure 3. The result from previous studies in leaves and fruit of *R. fraxinifolius* have excellent antioxidant activity. 19

**Total phenolic content assay**

In this research showed that RFS extract had high phenol content (387.99 + 3.21 mg GAE/g extract). As informed in other publications, that *R. fraxinifolius* fruit and leaves also contain a high polyphenolic compound. 10,21 Phenolic and flavonoid compounds have been reported to present significant antioxidant properties. Phenolic compounds can act as antioxidants because of their ability as reducing agents. The hydroxyl groups in polyphenolic compounds will donate their hydrogen so it can reduce DPPH radicals. Besides, its low molecular weight also contributes to the high scavenging activity to DPPH. Furthermore, polyphenolics can scavenge and deactivate reactive oxygen intermediates to avert oxidative reactions. 22

**Phytochemical determination using LC-MS**

RFS extract was analyzed by UPLC-MS XEVO G2-XS QTOF, the spectra was shown in Figure 4. We identified each compound based on the Waters databases, and the prediction was listed in Table 1. There is no information found about *R. fraxinifolius* stem phytochemical content, and from this research known that RFS contained triterpenoid and its derivatives which might also contribute to the activity. Some report shows that Rubus containing triterpenoid and have significant bioactivity. 23-25

**CONCLUSION**

Our results demonstrate that RFS extract has potential activity as anti-tyrosinase, anti-elastase, and antioxidant. Further studies are necessary to investigate the active components and safety of these extracts.
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GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT

ABOUT AUTHORS

Yesi Desmiaty

A doctoral student at Faculty of Pharmacy, Universitas Indonesia (UI) and also currently a lecturer and researcher at Faculty of of Pharmacy, University of Pancasila, Indonesia. She conducted research on Phytochemical Isolation of Natural Products and Analytical Chemistry.
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Fadlina Chany Saputri
An Associate Professor at Department Pharmacology-Toxicology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Universitas Indonesia (UI) Depok, West Java, Indonesia. Her research focused on herbal plants and its activity on degenerative disease (such as diabetes mellitus, antihypertension, and other cardiovascular disease).

Muhammad Hanafi
A Research Professor at Research Center for Chemistry, Indonesian Institute of Science (LIPI), Serpong, Indonesia and also as lecturer at Faculty of Pharmacy Universitas Pancasila, Depok, West Java, Indonesia.

Rini Prastiwi
A lecturer and researcher at Faculty of Pharmacy and Sciences, University of Muhammadiyah Prof. Dr. Hamka, Klender, Jakarta, Indonesia, and as a student at Faculty of Pharmacy Universitas Indonesia.

Berna Elya
A Professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Universitas Indonesia. She is the Head of Laboratory of Phytochemistry and Pharmacognosy. Has expertise in the area of Phytochemistry and Natural Products.

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