

UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

CHEMICAL CONSTITUENTS AND POSSIBLE ANTICANCER PROPERTIES OF LAWSONIA INERMIS AND STROBILANTHES CRISPUS

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FPSK (P) 2003 4



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DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

2003



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By

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Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia in Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

April 2003



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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Studies on the cytotoxicity effects, antitumour components and their mechanism of action of *S. crispus* and *L. inermis* were carried out in this study. The nutrients and non-nutrients composition of *L. inermis* were determined to investigate whether the leaves are suitable for herbal tea preparation. The crude protein, ether extract, ash and moisture contents were also determined. Ash samples were further analysed to investigate water insoluble ash, water-soluble ash and alkalinity according to the International standard ISO 1576-1975 (E) and ISO 1578-1975 (E) methods, whereas acid insoluble ash was also determined. Carbohydrate content was determined following the Anthrone method. In fresh *L. inermis* leaves, the moisture content forms the bulk of tissue weight with a mean value of 69.4%. This plant was found to contain high amounts of minerals, such as potassium (29455 mg/100g), calcium (2654 mg/100g), sodium (4094 mg/100g), iron (266 mg/100g) and phosphorus (550 mg/100g). Water insoluble ash and water-soluble ash were 2 and 1.2% respectively.



The value of alkalinity of L. inermis at 8.6 ml acid/g and the leaves also contained 0.3% of acid insoluble ash. The extractive value of L. inermis leaves was 8.6%. Protein, total carbohydrate, ether extract and crude fiber of the leaves were 1.3, 0.3, 0.2 and 7.5%, respectively. The leaves also contained 0.1% caffein and 1.1% catechin. The methanolic extract of S. crispus displayed the strongest cytotoxic effect on colon carcinoma cell lines (Caco-2) followed by human breast cancer nondependent hormone (MDA-MB-231), and liver cancer cell line with IC50-values of 22.3, 27.2, and 29.3 µg/ml, respectively. The chloroform extract of this plant was shown to also have cytotoxic effect against Caco-2 (IC₅₀=25.1µg/ml) and human liver cancer cell lines, HepG2 (IC₅₀= 28 µg/ml). On the other hand, the chloroform extract of L. inermis showed a high cytotoxic effect in HepG2, followed by human breast cancer dependent-hormone (MCF-7) with IC₅₀-value of 0.3 and 24.8 μg/ml, respectively. There was no cytotoxic effect observed using methanol extract of this plant. Results from Ferric Thiocyanate (FTC) method showed the total antioxidant activity of methanol extract of S. crispus (MeS) was the highest (95.7%), followed by chloroform extract of S. crispus (CS), chloroform extract of L. inermis (CL) and vitamin E as control. Similar results were also obtained using the Thiobarbituric Acid (TBA) method. MeS gave the highest total antioxidant activity (82.6%), followed by CS (66.7%), CL (55.7%) and vitamin E (44.4%). Three compounds were isolated using High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) from CL., i.e. lawsone as a major compound, kaempferol, and quercetin. It is believed that all these compounds contributed to the cytotoxic and antioxidant activities of CL. On the other hand, the active compound of CS was isolated using Column Chromatography and analysed using Gas-Chromatography Mass Spectrophotometry (GC-MS) and identified as γ-sitosterol. This compound has cytotoxic effect against Caco-2, HepG2, and MCF-7



cell lines. The other compound that was also isolated from CS is known as stigmasterol. The essential oils of L. inermis and S. crispus obtained via hydrodistillation of fresh leaves found that the major component of S. crispus oil known as phytol (46.01%), an acyclyc diterpene alcohol. Other components were alpha cadinol (3.47%), tau murolol (2.49%), ledol (1.81%) and eugenol (1.08%). The essential oil of L. inermis also contained phytol (10.30%) and 0.31% hexahydropseudoionone and has cytotoxic effect against HepG2. It was also shown to have high antioxidant activities, whereas, the essential oil of S. crispus did not have any cytotoxic effect against all cell lines tested. The mechanism of action was studied by apoptosis pathway and expression of c-myc oncogene. Confocal laser scanning microscopy and fluorescence microscopy showed that the crude chloroform extract of S. crispus and L. inermis, essential oil of L. inermis and γ-sitosterol induced apoptosis in HepG2 and Caco-2 cell lines. The TUNEL assay staining revealed cells with intensely yellow fluorescence of PI-FITC. The common features were condensation of chromatin, fragmentation of DNA, and formation of apoptotic bodies. However, cells treated with 30 µg/ml of essential oil of L. inermis showed obvious shrunken cells with either condensed or fragmented nucleus and numerous apoptotic bodies. This was further confirmed with agarose gel electrophoresis DNA ladder analysis which showed that treated HepG2 and Caco2 cells developed multiple 180-200 bp DNA ladder fragments that are associated with apoptosis. The chloroform extract of S. crispus and L. inermis, essential oil of L. inermis and γ -sitosterol also suppress the expression of c-myc oncogene. In conclusion, S. crispus and L. inermis leaves may have potential as anticancer agents.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

KANDUNGAN KIMIA DAN SIFAT ANTIKANSER YANG MUNGKIN DARIPADA *LAWSONIA INERMIS* DAN *STROBILANTHES CRISPUS*

Oleh

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Perubatan dan Sains Kesihatan

Dalam kajian ini, kesan sitotoksik, komponen antitumor dan mekanisme tindakan daripada *Strobilanthes crispus* dan *Lawsonia inermis* telah dikaji. Komposisi nutrien dan bukan-nutrien daripada *L.inermis* telah dilakukan bagi menentukan sama ada daun *L. inermis* adalah sesuai untuk dijadikan sebagai teh herba. Kandungan protein kasar, ekstrak eter (lemak), abu dan kelembapan telah ditentukan. Sampel abu kemudiannya digunakan untuk menentukan nilai abu tak larut air, abu larut air dan nilai alkalinya berdasarkan kaedah piawai antarabangsa ISO 1576-1975 (E) dan ISO 1578-1975 (E), abu tak larut asid juga telah ditentukan. Kandungan karbohidrat telah ditentukan mengikut kaedah Anthrone. Pada daun *L. inermis* segar, kandungan air membentuk "bulk" daripada berat tisu dengan purata nilai adalah 69.4%. Tumbuhan ini mengandungi jumlah mineral yang tinggi seperti kalsium (29455 mg/100g), kalsium (2654 mg/100g), natrium (4094mg/100g), besi (266mg/100g) dan fosforus (550mg/100g). Kandungan abu larut air dan tak larut air adalah sebanyak 2 dan 1.2%. Nilai bes daripada *L. inermis* adalah 8.6 ml asid/g dan daun ini juga mengandungi 0.3% abu tak larut asid. Nilai ekstraktif daripada daun adalah 8.6%



protein, karbohidrat total, ekstrak eter dan serat kasar daun adalah masing-masing 1.3, 0.3, 0.2 dan 7.5%. Daun ini juga mengandungi 0.1% kafein dan 1.1% katekin. Ekstrak metanol daripada S. crispus menunjukkan kesan sitotoksik yang paling kuat ke atas titisan sel kanser kolon (Caco-2) diikuti oleh titisan sel kanser payudara tidak bersandar hormon (MDA-MB-231) dan titisan sel kanser hepar dengan nilai IC₅₀ masing-masing adalah 22.3, 27.2 dan 29.3 µg/ml. Ekstrak kloroform (yang diperolehi daripada kaedah peningkatan nilai kepolaran) daripada tumbuhan ini juga menunjukkan kesan sitotoksik ke atas Caco-2 dan Hep-G2. Di samping itu, ekstrak kloroform daripada L. inermis menunjukkan kesan yang sangat sitotoksik ke atas Hep-G2, diikuti dengan titisan sel kanser payudara bersandar hormon (MCF-7) dengan nilai IC₅₀ masing-masing adalah 0.3 dan 24.8 μg/ml. Tiada kesan sitotoksik yang ditunjukkan oleh ekstrak methanol daripada tumbuhan ini. Hasil kajian menggunakan kaedah Ferik Tiosianat (FTC) menunjukkan aktiviti antioksidan total daripada ekstrak metanol S. crispus (MeS) adalah paling tinggi, diikuti dengan ekstrak kloroform S. crispus (CS), kloroform L. inermis (CL) dan vitamin E. Hasil yang serupa ditunjukkan pula dengan menggunakan kaedah Asid Tiobarbiturat (TBA). MeS mempunyai aktiviti antioksidan total paling tinggi (82.6%), diikuti oleh CS (66.7%), CL (55.7%) dan vitamin E (44.4%). Sebanyak tiga sebatian telah dipencilkan menggunakan kaedah kromatografi cecair prestasi tinggi daripada CL iaitu Lawson yang merupakan salah satu komponen utama, kamferol dan kuersetin. Diyakini ketiga-tiga sebatian ini menyumbang kepada kesan sitotoksik dan aktiviti antioksidan daripada CL. Dari sudut lain, sebatian aktif daripada CS telah pula dipencilkan dengan menggunakan kaedah kromatografi turus dan dianalisis menggunakan kromatografi gas spektrometer massa (GC-MS), dikenali sebagai gamma- sitosterol. Sebatian ini mempunyai kesan sitotoksik ke atas titisan sel kanser



Caco-2 dan Hep-G2. Minyak pati daripada L. inermis dan S. crispus juga telah di ekstrak dan komponen utama kedua-duanya dikenali sebagai fitol iaitu alkohol diterpena asiklik. Komponen-komponen lain dari minyak pati S. crispus adalah alfakadinol (3.47%), tau-murolol (2.49%), ledol (1.81%) dan eugenol (1.08%). Manakala minyak pati L. inermis mengandungi 0.31% heksahidropseudoionona dan mempunyai kesan sitotoksik ke atas titisan sel kanser Hep-G2. Ianya juga mempunyai aktiviti antioksidan yang tinggi, manakala minyak pati S. crispus pula tidak menunjukkan kesan sitotoksik ke atas sebarang titisan sel kanser yang telah digunakan, meskipun ianya juga mempunyai aktiviti antioksidan yang tinggi. Mikroskop "Scanning Laser Confocal" dan mikroskop pendaflour menunjukkan bahwa ekstrak kloroform kasar daripada S. crispus dan L. inermis, minyak pati L. inermis dan γ-sitosterol mengaruh apoptosis pada titisan sel kanser HepG2 dan Caco-2. Pewarnaan asai TUNEL mendedahkan sel dengan pendafluor berwarna kuning daripada Propidium Iodida-Fluoresens Isotiosianat (PI-FITC). Ciri-ciri yang biasa terjadi pada apoptosis adalah kondensasi kromatin, fragmentasi DNA dan pembentukan badan apoptotik. Bagaimanapun, sel-sel yang diberi perlakuan dengan 30 μg/ml minyak pati daripada L. inermis menunjukkan pengecutan sel yang ketara diikuti dengan kondensasi dan fragmentasi nukleus serta terbentuknya badan-badan apoptotik. Analisa "DNA-ladder" elektroforesis gel agarosa daripada sel HepG2 dan Caco-2 yang telah diberi perlakuan menunjukkan terdapatnya fragmen-fragmen DNA di antara 180-200pb yang berkaitan dengan apoptosis. Ekstrak kloroform daripada S. crispus dan L. inermis, minyak pati daripada L. inermis dan γ-sitosterol boleh menindas pengekspresan onkogen c-myc. Kesimpulannya, S. crispus dan L. inermis berpotensi sebagai agen antikanser.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

"In the name of Allah, The Most Gracious, The Most Merciful"

I thank Allah for his blessings and guidance in my life as a human, a daughter, a wife, a mother and for what I have achieved so far.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Asmah Rahmat, the Chairperson of my supervisory committee. Her paramount interest, effort and concern on my research project are much valued, words can never describe the personal and professional relationship that we have shared. I would also like to thank the other members of my supervisory committee: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Patimah Ismail for her insightful advice and interest, particularly in the subject of molecular biology, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Y.H. Taufiq-Yap whose expertise has taught me many aspects of chemistry. My cordial appreciation is extended to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fauziah Othman, for offering me various facilities and technical ideas on apoptosis study. Her invaluable suggestions and remarks during this study helped me to complete this thesis successfully.

I also very grateful to the entire technical staff of the Department of Nutrition and Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, UPM, especially to Mrs. Siti Muskinah Hj Mansor, Mr. Simon Md Rawi, Mrs. Che Maznah Ahmad, and Mrs Noraina Ahmad for their cooporation and friendly assistance during my research work at UPM. Many thanks are accorded to Miss Azila, Mrs. Aza from Toxicology Laboratory for their advice and help on molecular biology work. I am also thankful to Mr. Tengku Shahrul, Mr. Ravi, Mr Ho Oi Kuan, Miss Azila and Miss Aini, for providing me the



technical assissance of Confocal Laser Scanning Microscope and Fluorescence Microscope.

I am indebted to the Government of Malaysia, for providing me the financial assistance from 1999-2000 under the IRPA 06-02-04-0050 programme. I am grateful to the Governor of Riau Province, Bapak Salleh Yazid, for providing me the scholarship from 2000-2002. Without the funding, it would have been impossible to carry out. My special thanks also goes to Bapak Salleh and Ibu Tengku, for providing me various assisstance to obtain this scholarship.

My deep gratitude and special thanks to all my friends and postgraduate students at UPM, especially, Fadhilah Jailani, Siti Sabariah Buhari, Norashikeen Mokti, Shashikala Sivapathy, Desy Arisanty, Azizah Othman, Huzaimah Abd. Sani, Rosnah Mohammed, Loh Su Peng, and Emi, for their encouragement and friendly cooperation during my study. My special love and gratitude go to my family members in Indonesia: My late father, Soewarno; My mother, Hj. Marlaini; My mother-in-law, Jariyah; sisters and brothers, Leni Wardes, Joharman, Elvanelin, Alamsyah, Desvi Werni, SE., Novialdi, SHI., Jasmaniar, Mastaniyah, Norhasanah, Maulana, and Jaya for their love and continuous support; My son, Muhammad Dhiyaulhaq, who has helped me to comprehend the events in our lives better, to appreciate life and people and not to take things in life for granted. Finally, my love and appreciation to my wonderful husband, Suherman, who has always been an anchor in my life. We have been through hard and easy times together but he has never failed to amaze me with his support, encouragement and love for Ulhaq and me.



I certify that an Examination Committee met on 3rd April 2003 to conduct the final examination of Susi Endrini on her Doctor of Philosophy thesis entitled "Chemical Constituents and Possible Anticancer Properties of *Lawsonia inermis* and *Strobilanthes crispus*" in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (HigherDegree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowleged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

SUSI ENDRINI

Date: 2/5/2003



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CDK Cyclin Dependent Kinase

APC Anaphase-Promoting Complex

SPF S-Phase Promoting Factor

DNA Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid

VHL Von Hipplel-Lindau syndrome

FAP Familial Adenomatous Polyposis

HCC Hepatocellular Carcinoma

AFP Alfa-Feto Protein

TACE Transcaetheter Arterial Chemoembolization

PEI Percutaneous Ethanol Injection

ROS Reactive Oxygen Species

SOD Superoxide Dismutase

RDA Recommended Daily Allowance

FTC Ferric Thiocyanate

TBA Thiobarbituric Acid

GC-MS Gas Chromatography- Mass Spectrophotometry

IR Infra Red

HPLC High Performance Liquid Chromatography

MRNA messenger Ribose Nucleic Acid

RT-PCR Reverse Transcriptase- Polymerase Chain Reaction



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The use of natural products with therapeutic properties is as ancient as human civilisation and, for a long time, mineral, plant and animal products were the main sources of drugs (Hernandez-Ceruelos *et al.*, 2002). In recent years, there has been growing interest in alternative therapies and the therapeutic use of natural products, especially those derived from plants (Schwartsmann *et al.*, 2002). However, the potential use of plants as a source of new drugs is still poorly explored. Of the estimated 250,000 - 500,000 plant species, only a small percentage has been investigated phytochemically and an even smaller percentage has been properly studied in terms of their pharmacological properties (Rates, 2001)

Lawsonia inermis Linn (Henna) is a plant, which grows wild in abandoned areas (Muhammad and Mustafa, 1994) and commonly known as 'inai' in Sumatra and Malaysia or 'Pachar kuku' in Java. This plant is a known worldwide as a cosmestic agent used to stain hair, skin and nails (Hanna et al., 1998). In India and Pakistan, henna is widely used by both men and women for coloring of the nails, fingers, hands, and hair. However, it is not only relevant to cosmetics. Henna also was reported to have anti tuberculostatic activity (Sharma, 1990). Shihata et al., (1978) showed that henna extracts possess hypotensive, intestinal antispasmodic, and uterine sedative effects. Alcoholic extracts of henna leaves showed mild anti bacterial activity against Micrococcus pyrogenes var Aureus and Eschericia coli (Kritikar and Basu, 1981). The leaves also used in the manufacture of perfumed oils



and as a tanning agent (Uphof, 1968). According to Burkhill (1966), the leaves are used in wounds, ulcers, cough, bronchitis, lumbago, rheumatalgia, inflammations, diarrhoea, dysentry, leucoderma, scabies, boils, anaemia, haemorrhages, fever, falling of hair and greyness of hair (Vaidyaratnam, 1995). Poultices of the leaf are said to remedy various types of tumours (Hartwell, 1971).

In Malaysia, the leaf decoction is used after childbirth, and for beri-beri, rheumatism, skin disorders, stomach disorders, and venereal disease. In Indonesia, leaves are used for jaundice, leprosy, and scurfy affections (Perry, 1980). Mixed with the poisonous *Plumbago*, it is said to be an abortifacient. A tea of the leaves is said to be taken to prevent obesity, and an ointment made of very young fruit has been suggested for the treatment of itch. Elsewhere, the plant is used for amebiasis and headache (Leung, 1980). Cambodians drink a root decoction as a diuretic. In Arabic medicine, the bark decoction is used for jaundice and nervous symptoms (Uphof, 1968). In the Philippines, the shrub is used as an antiherpetic.

On the other hand, *Strobilanthes crispus* ZII 109 (L) Bremek or *Saricocalix crispus* ZII 109 (L) Bremek (Acanthaceae) plant is native to countries from Madagascar to Indonesia (Sunarto, 1977) and was first authored by Thomas Anderson (1832-1870) who classified the plant under Spermatophyta (Flowering plants and Gymnosperma) (Brummit and Powell, 1992).

Strobilanthes (cone-head) was named from the combination of 'strobilos' which means a pine-cone, and 'anthos' which means flower (Plowden, 1968).

Crispus means to be phyllostachyus or spike-like leaf ('phyllo' means leaf, and



'stachyus' means spike) (Jackson, 1960). The conjunction of the names leads to the meaningful definition of the plant physical. It is commonly known as daun picah beling in Jakarta or enyoh kilo, kecibeling or kejibeling in Java (Sunarto, 1977).

This bush-like plant can be found on riverbanks or abandoned fields while some Javanese use this plant as fence. The leaves are oblong-lanceolate rather obtuse and shallowly crenate-crispate (Backer & Bakhiuzen, 1965). The top surface of the leaves is darker green in colour and less rough as compared to underside (Sunarto, 1977). The leaves covered with short hairs whereas the flowers are short, dense and panicled spikes (Backer and Bakhuizen, 1965). This plant has many cystoliths of calcium carbonate, and an infusion is mildly alkaline (Perry & Metzger, 1980).

A study in Indonesia found that an infusion of the dried leaves of *S.crispus* has been used as antidiabetic, diuretic, antilytic and laxative (Sunarto, 1977). A recent study (Kusumoto *et al.*, 1992) indicated that the water extract of *S.crispus* contained compounds with very high binding affinity to protein molecules that bind the active site of reverse transcriptase. It inhibits the proliferation of retrovirus; an agent in viral disease such as acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and Adult T-cell Leukemia.

In this study, the anticarcinogenic effect of *S. crispus* and *L. inermis* were investigated. The active compounds were extracted and determinations of their mechanism of action were done, through the suppression of *c-myc* gene expression and apoptosis pathway. Concurrently, nutrient composition of *L. inermis* was also

