



***IN VITRO* ANTI-ALLERGIC ACTIVITY OF ALPHA-CYCLODEXTRIN
MORINGIN COMPLEX IN RAT BASOPHILIC LEUKEMIA (RBL-2H3) CELL
LINE**

By

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**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia in
Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

May 2023

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May 2023

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Allergic disease has become a more prominent public health problem. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the disease affects 30–40% of the world's population. The most common diseases associated with allergies are asthma, atopic dermatitis, allergic rhinitis, and pollen diseases. In Malaysia, the prevalence rate of allergic rhinitis (AR) was estimated at 7.1%, higher than other Southeast Asian countries. Therefore, the strategies of using phyto-therapeutic agents as alternative sources for anti-allergic therapy have become necessary. *Moringa oleifera* Lam is a tropical plant widely used in traditional medicines and possesses antioxidant, antimicrobial, and anti-inflammation properties. Its beneficial effects are believed due to the presence of isothiocyanate (ITC), which is known as moringin (MG). The plant also has been traditionally used to alleviate allergic conditions; however, the bioactive compound in the form of alpha-cyclodextrin moringin (α -CD/MG) complex and its anti-allergic effects remain unexplored. Thus, the purpose of the present study was to investigate the anti-allergic effects of a new formulation of *M. oleifera*-derived 4-(α -L-rhamnopyranosyloxy) benzyl isothiocyanate as a complex with alpha-cyclodextrin α -CD/MG on rat basophilic leukaemia (RBL-2H3) cell line. NMR showed protons H7, H8, and H9 of moringin (benzyl moiety) with alpha-cyclodextrins proton H3 was involved in the complex formation. The cell proliferation was examined by 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-5-(3-carboxymethoxyphenyl)-2-(4-sulfophenyl)-2H tetrazolium, inner salt (MTS) assay reagent to determine the concentration of α -CD/MG with high cell viability. Chemical shifts of H7, H8, and H9 protons were observed due to interactions between alpha-cyclodextrin and moringin molecules. Low concentrations of α -CD/MG (5, 2.5, 1.25 μ M) showed no toxicity against RBL-2H3 at 24, 48, and 72 hours, while a higher concentration (10 μ M) showed significant toxicity. For *in vitro* model of immunoglobulin E (IgE)-mediated mast cell degranulation, monoclonal anti-dinitrophenyl (DNP) IgE-sensitised RBL-2H3 cells were pre-treated with α -CD/MG before being challenged with dinitrophenyl-bovine serum albumin (DNP-BSA) to induce degranulation. The anti-allergic activity of the complex and ketotifen fumarate as a positive control was evaluated for the early and late phases of allergic reactions. The

early phase was determined based on the inhibition of beta-hexosaminidase (β -hexosaminidase) and histamine release; while the late phase was based on the inhibition of interleukin (IL-4), tumour necrosis factor (TNF- α), and prostaglandin D₂ (PGD₂) release. Interestingly, the results showed that α -CD/MG significantly inhibited mast cell degranulation by inhibiting β -hexosaminidase and histamine release for early phases at concentrations of 5, 2.5 μ M and 5, 2.5, 1.25 and, 0.625 μ M respectively with $p < 0.005$. Similarly, 5, 2.5, 1.25 and, 0.625 μ M of α -CD/MG significantly inhibited TNF- α and PGD₂ ($P < 0.001$) during late phases. On the other hand, IL-4 was significantly inhibited at the concentration of 5, 2.5 and 0.625 μ M ($p < 0.001$) compared with the negative control. Therefore, the study suggested that α -CD/MG potentially has an anti-allergic activity by inhibiting both early and late phases of allergic reactions.

Key words: Anti-allergic; alpha-cyclodextrin moringin; RBL-2H3; histamine; PGD₂; β -hexosaminidase; TNF- α ; IL-4.

SDG: GOAL 4: Quality Education, GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-Being.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

AKTIVITI ANTI-ALERGIK *IN VITRO* BAGI KOMPLEKS MORINGIN ALFA-SIKLODEKTRIN DALAM SEL LEUKEMIA BASOFILIK TIKUS (RBL-2H3)

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Penyakit alahan telah menjadi masalah kesihatan awam yang lebih ketara. Menurut Pertubuhan Kesihatan Sedunia (WHO), penyakit ini menjejaskan 30–40% penduduk dunia. Penyakit yang berkaitan dengan alahan ialah asma, dermatitis atopik, rinitis alergi dan penyakit debunga. Di Malaysia, kadar prevalens rinitis alergi (AR) dianggarkan pada 7.1 %, lebih tinggi daripada negara Asia Tenggara yang lain. Oleh itu, strategi menggunakan agen fitoterapeutik sebagai sumber alternatif bagi terapi anti-alergik telah menjadi keperluan. *Moringa oleifera* Lam adalah tumbuhan tropika yang digunakan secara meluas dalam perubatan tradisional dan memiliki sifat antioksidan, antimikrobial, dan anti-inflamasi. Kesannya yang bermanfaat dipercayai disebabkan oleh kehadiran isotiosianat (ITC), yang dikenali sebagai moringin (MG). Tumbuhan tersebut juga telah digunakan secara tradisional bagi melegakan keadaan alahan; walau bagaimanapun, sebatian bioaktif dalam bentuk kompleks moringin alfa-siklodektrin (α -CD/MG) dan kesan anti-alahannya masih belum diselidiki. Oleh itu, tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk menyiasat kesan anti-alahan formulasi baru *M. oleifera* yang berasal dari 4-(α -L-rhamnopyranosyloxy) benzyl isothiocyanate sebagai kompleks dengan alfa-siklodektrin (α -CD/MG) dalam sel leukemia basofilik tikus (RBL-2H3). NMR menunjukkan proton H7, H8, dan H9 moringin (benzil moiety) dengan alfa-siklodektrin proton H3 terlibat dalam pembentukan kompleks tersebut. Proliferasi sel telah diperiksa melalui reagen asai MTS (3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-5-(3-carboxymethoxyphenyl)-2-(4-sulfophenyl)-2H-tetrazolium garam sebatian (MTS) untuk menentukan kepekatan α -CD/MG dengan viabiliti sel yang tinggi. Perubahan kimia telah dilihat pada proton H7, H8, dan H9 oleh sebab interaksi antara alfa-siklodektrin dan molekul moringin. Kepekatan α -CD/MG (5, 2.5, 1.25 μ M) yang rendah menunjukkan tiada ketoksikan terhadap RBL-2H3 dalam masa 24, 48, dan 72 jam, manakala kepekatan yang lebih tinggi (10 μ M) menunjukkan ketoksikan yang ketara. Untuk model *in vitro* imunoglobulin E (IgE)- pengantara degranulasi sel, RBL-2H3 sel sensitif-anti-dinitrofenil monoklonal (DNP)-IgE telah dirawat terlebih dahulu dengan α -CD/MG sebelum dicabar dengan albumin serum dinitrofenil-bovine untuk mengaruh degranulasi. Aktiviti anti-alergik kompleks tersebut dan fumarat ketotifen sebagai kawalan positif telah dinilai bagi fasa reaksi alergik awal dan lewat. Fasa awal ditentukan berdasarkan perencatan beta-heksosaminidas (β -

hexosaminidase) dan pelepasan histamina; manakala fasa lewat berdasarkan perencatan interleukin (IL-4), alfa-faktor nekrosis tumor (TNF- α), dan pelepasan prostaglandin D₂ (PGD₂). Yang menariknya, keputusan menunjukkan bahawa α -CD/MG secara signifikan merencat degranulasi sel mast melalui perencatan beta-heksosaminidas dan pelepasan histamina pada fasa awal pada kepekatan (5, 2.5 μ M) dan (5, 2.5, 1.25 dan 0.625 μ M) pada $p < 0.005$. Begitu juga, 5, 2.5, 1.25 dan, 0.625 μ M bagi α -CD/MG secara ketara merencat TNF- α dan PGD₂ ($p < 0.001$) pada fasa lewat. Manakala IL-4 secara ketara direncat pada kepekatan (5, 2.5 dan 0.625 μ M) ($p < 0.001$) berbanding dengan kawalan negatif. Oleh itu, kajian ini mengesyorkan α -CD/MG berpotensi mempunyai aktiviti anti-alergik dengan merencat reaksi alergik bagi kedua-dua fasa awal dan lewat.

Kata kunci: Anti-alergik; moringin alfa-siklodektrin; RBL-2H3; histamina; PGD₂; β -hexosaminidase; TNF- α ; IL-4.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AD	Allergic diseases
AIT	Allergen-specific immunotherapy
AKT	Protein kinase B
AP-1	Activator protein-1
AR	Allergy rhinitis
ARE	Antioxidant response element
ATRs	Allergic transfusion reactions
BAL fluid	Bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) fluid
C/EBP	CCAAT/enhancer binding proteins
COX2	Cyclooxygenase-2
CREB	cAMP-response element binding protein
D ₂ O	Deuterium oxide
DMSO	Dimethyl sulfoxide
DNP IgE	Monoclonal anti-dinitrophenyl (DNP) IgE antibody produced in mouse
DNP-BSA	Dinitrophenyl-bovine serum albumin
ERK $\frac{1}{2}$	Extracellular signal-regulated protein kinase $\frac{1}{2}$
FA	Food allergy
FBS	Foetal bovine serum
FcRI	High-affinity IgE receptor (FcRI)
FcεRI	Fc receptor for IgE
GINA	Global Initiative for Asthma
GSH	Glutathione
HMC-1	Human mast cell-1

HO-1	Heme oxygenase-1
IAV	Influenza A virus
IFN-g	Interferon-g (IFN-g)
IFN- γ	Interferon gamma
IgE	Immunoglobulin E
I κ B	Inhibitor nuclear factor Kappa B
IL-12a	Interleukin-12a
IL-17A and IL-17 receptor A	Interleukin-17A (IL-17A) and IL-17 receptor A (IL-17RA)
IL-1 β	Interleukin-1 β
IL-4, 6, 8, 12, 13, 17, 22, 23, and 27	Interleukin-4, 6, 8, 12, 13, 17, 22, 23 and 27
ITC	Isothiocyanate
JAK2	Janus kinase
JNK	c-jun NH ₂ -terminal kinases
KEAP1	Kelch-like ECH-associated protein 1
LPS	Lipopolysaccharide
MAPK	Mitogen-activated protein kinases (MAPK)
MEM	Minimum essential media with Earle's salts and L-glutamine and sodium pyruvate
MHC II	Histocompatibility complex (MHC II)
MTS	(3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-5-(3-carboxymethoxyphenyl)-2-(4-sulfophenyl)-2H tetrazolium, inner salt) assay
NADPH	Nicotinamide adenine di nucleotide phosphate
NF- κ B	Nuclear factor of Kappa- light- chain- enhancer of activated B cells
NO	Nitric oxide

NQO-1	Quinone oxidoreductase 1
Nrf2	Nuclear factor (erythroid-derived 2)-1
OVA	Egg ovalbumin
P65	Phosphorylation 65
PBS	Phosphate buffer saline
PGE ₂	Prostaglandin E ₂
PMACI	Phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate and the calcium ionophore A23187
RBL-2H3	Rat basophilic leukaemia
ROS	Reactive oxygen species
RT-PCR	Real time-polymerase chain reaction
SCID	Severe combined immunodeficiency disease
STAT3	Signal transducer and activator of transcription 3
TCR _s	T cell receptors
Th1 and Th2	T helper type 1 and T helper type 2
TLR4	Toll-like receptor 4
TNF- α	Tumour necrosis factor-alpha
TSLP	Thymic stromal lymphopoietin
TSP	Trimethylsilylpropanoic acid
WAO	World Allergy Organization

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Allergic diseases (AD) is an inappropriate hypersensitive reaction to antigen(s). Over the past few years, the number of AD in the public has increased. According to World Health Organization (WHO), AD affects 30 to 40% of the global population which, in turn, significantly affects global health and medical services as well as the economy of some nations (Biagioni et al., 2020). The prevalence of AD has increased globally due to factors such as indoor and outdoor allergens, air pollution, and changing environmental conditions. Allergies affect individuals of all ages and can lead to health issues, particularly in children (Mwakalukwa et al., 2019). AD such as bronchial asthma and allergy disorders are life-threatening. Approximately 420, 000 people died of asthma every year, meaning that a little over 1000 people died of asthma every day. As such, in 2019, the activities of the World Allergy Organization (WAO) and Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) focused on life-threatening pathological illnesses (Hossny et al., 2019)(Gumeniuk et al., 2020).

Allergies result from abnormal immune responses to specific substances like foods, pollen, and animal dander. Types of AD have different induction mechanisms and symptoms. Type I AD, caused by mast cells and basophils, is the most common (Lei et al., 2021). There is a rising prevalence of type I hypersensitivity-related conditions like food allergies, allergic rhinitis, and asthma. These conditions are characterized by symptoms such as sneezing, tissue swelling, and erythema. Mast cells, found in various tissues, are involved in allergic reactions. Mast cells play a crucial role in type I AD by releasing histamine and other mediators. They degranulate in response to different stimuli (Subramanian et al., 2019). In type I AD, allergens bind to IgE on mast cells, triggering degranulation and the release of inflammatory substances (Xiaolei et al., 2018). Allergic reactions can be categorized into early and late-phase reactions, involving the release of histamine, granule proteins, leukotrienes, prostaglandins, and cytokines from activated mast cells (Tan et al., 2017).

The current clinical guidelines suggest a comprehensive treatment approach that includes patient education, allergen avoidance, pharmacotherapy, and allergy immunotherapy. Despite the availability of safe and affordable drugs for treating allergic symptoms, a considerable number of patients express dissatisfaction with the level of symptom relief achieved (Larsen et al., 2016). Molecular and clinical studies guide the management of allergic inflammation, with anti-allergic medications developed to inhibit inflammation. Treatment should be tailored to the specific type of allergic inflammation. Certain natural food components, like flavonoids and polyphenols, which have anti-inflammatory or antioxidant properties, have been found to decrease allergy symptoms (Han et al., 2017). Phytochemicals like sulforaphane (SFN) derived from cruciferous vegetables are used to alleviate symptoms of allergic dermatitis (AD) (Jeon et al., 2020). SFN inhibits caspase-1 activation, mitogen-activated protein kinases (MAPK), and nuclear factor of Kappa-

light-chain-enhancer of activated B cells (NF- κ B) signalling pathways, reducing inflammatory cytokines. SFN also decreases the expression of interleukin-1 β (IL-1 β), cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2), tumour necrosis factor-alpha (TNF- α), and inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS) in macrophages (N. R. Han et al., 2018; Yehuda et al., 2012). Phenethyl isothiocyanate (PEITC) and 6-(methylsulfinyl) hexyl isothiocyanate (6-MSITC) were studied for their impact on mast cells. PEITC reduced IL-13 and TNF- α levels while increasing thymic stromal lymphopoietin (TSLP). 6-MSITC decreased COX-2, cytokine production, and inhibited iNOS, key mediators of inflammation. These findings highlight the potential of phytochemicals in managing inflammatory responses in mast cells and AD (Uto et al., 2012). The anti-allergy effect of alpha-cyclodextrin moringin (α -CD/MG) relies on its suppression of mast cell degranulation. Therefore, this present study assesses the anti-allergy activity of α -CD/MG on rat basophilic leukaemia cells (RBL-2H3) stimulated by dinitrophenyl-IgE/bovine serum albumin (DNP-IgE/BSA).

1.2 Problem Statement

Allergy reactions are becoming more common over time. The responses can be as minor as a rash or as serious as anaphylactic shock, which can be fatal. Following allergen contact, mast cells degranulated, producing mediators that cause allergic symptoms. *Moringa oleifera* Lam is a tropical plant widely used in traditional medicines and possesses antioxidant, antimicrobial, and anti-inflammation properties (Abd Rani et al., 2019). Its beneficial effects are believed due to the presence of isothiocyanate (ITC), which is known as moringin (MG). The plant also has been traditionally used to alleviate allergic conditions; however, the bioactive compound in the form of alpha-cyclodextrin moringin (α -CD/MG) complex and its anti-allergic effects remain unexplored.

1.3 Significance of the Study

This present study is significant due to the following reasons:

- a. Apart from the known effects of α -CD/MG, this study describes its effect on the suppression of the early- and late-phases of allergies.
- b. Although α -CD/MG from *M. oleifera* seed is rich in glucosinolate and ITC, its *in vitro* anti-allergy activity has not been examined.
- c. This present study thoroughly examines the therapeutic impact of α -CD/MG on common health issues, especially its *in vitro* anti-allergy activity via the modulation of histamine, β -hexosaminidase, IL-4, TNF- α , and prostaglandin D₂ (PGD₂).

1.4 Research Hypothesis

1.4.1 Null hypothesis (H₀)

Alpha-cyclodextrin moringin (α -CD/MG) isolated from *M. oleifera* does not show anti-allergy activity in *in vitro* model of allergic disease.

1.4.2 Alternate Hypothesis (H_A)

Alpha-cyclodextrin moringin (α -CD/MG) isolated from *M. oleifera* has anti-allergy activity in *in vitro* model of allergic disease.

1.5 Research Objectives

1.5.1 General Objective

To evaluate the *in vitro* anti-allergic activity of α -CD/MG and mechanism through which it elicits the anti-allergic effect on RBL-2H3.

1.5.2 Specific Objectives

- a. To elucidate the characterization of α -CD/MG by using NMR
- b. To determine the cytotoxicity effect of α -CD/MG on the RBL-2H3 cell line.
- c. To evaluate the anti-allergic effect of α -CD/MG on RBL-2H3 for early and late phases of the allergic reactions.

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