



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***IMMUNOMODULATORY ACTION OF NEW CURCUMIN ANALOGUE
[2,6-BIS(2,5-DIMETHOXYBENZYLIDENE) CYCLOHEXANONE]
ON MAJOR INFLAMMATORY MEDIATOR EXPRESSION
IN ACTIVATED MACROPHAGE AND SYNOVIAL FIBROBLAST CELLS***

LEE KA HENG

FBSB 2012 34

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**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
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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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By

LEE KA HENG

April 2012

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Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic inflammatory disease characterized by abnormal immune phenomena involving macrophage and synovial fibroblast resulting in progressive joints destruction. In this study, a series of newly synthesized curcumin diarylpentanoids were screened for their anti-inflammatory properties by evaluating the nitric oxide (NO) inhibitory activity upon activated macrophages *in vitro*. The preliminary screening results have shown that curcumin-like BDMC33 [2,6-bis(2,5-dimethoxybenzylidene) cyclohexanone] exerted improved nitric oxide inhibitory activity (IC_{50} value = $13.66 \pm 0.61 \mu\text{M}$) as compared to curcumin (IC_{50} value = 27.13 ± 5.58). Therefore, we further investigated the immunomodulatory action of BDMC33 on two cellular systems which are IFN- γ /LPS-stimulated macrophages (RAW 264.7) and PMA-stimulated synovial fibroblast (HIG-82). BDMC33 was found to inhibit the NO and PGE₂ production through down-regulation of iNOS and COX-2 expression in activated macrophages without altering its enzyme activities, respectively. In addition, effect of BDMC33 was observed to inhibit production of TNF- α and IL-1 β at the protein and gene expression level. Further study demonstrated that the inhibitory activities of BDMC33 was mediated by interfering

in NF-κB signal transduction pathway, includes inhibition of NF-κB DNA binding activities and p65 NF-κB nuclear translocation as well as prevent rapid phosphosylation and degradation of IκB subunit. Moreover, DNA binding activities of AP-1 also appear to be inhibited by BDMC33 through attenuation of ERK1/2 and JNK1/2 phosphorylation. On the other hand, BDMC33 significantly inhibited the MMP-9 activities as well as collagenase activities via suppression of MMP-1 expression upon activated synovial fibroblast. Moreover, BDMC33 strongly suppressed *MMP-3* gene expression as well as inhibited *COX-2* and *IL-6* inflammatory gene expression in activated synovial fibroblast. The underlying mechanism of BDMC33 on synovial fibroblast was also mediated via NF-κB signaling pathway; as p65 NF-κB nuclear translocation and NF-κB DNA binding activity are being attenuated. Collectively, the experimental data suggested that the immunomodulatory action of BDMC33 is attributed through interference in inflammatory mediator expression of both macrophages and synovial fibroblast, which could lead to its possibility into future evaluation of the *in vivo* or pre-clinical study.

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

TINDAKAN IMMUNOMODULATOR DARI KUKURMIN ANALOG BARU [2,6-BIS(2,5-DIMETHOXIBENZILIDINE) SIKLOHEXANON] TERHADAP EKSPRESI INFLAMASI MEDIATOR UTAMA DALAM SEL MAKROFAJ DAN FIBROBLAST SINOVIAL YANG DIRANSANGI

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Artritis Reumatoïd adalah penyakit keradangan kronik yang dicirikan oleh fenomena imun yang abnormal melibatkan makrofaj dan sel fibroblas sinovial yang mengakibatkan kerosakan sendi yang progresif. Dalam kajian ini, satu siri diarylpentanoids kurkumin disaring secara *in vitro* bagi sifat anti-inflamasi dengan menilai aktiviti perencatan oksida nitrik (NO) pada makrofaj yang diaktifkan. Hasil pemeriksaan awal mununjukkan bahawa BDMC33 [2,6-bis(2,5-dimethoxibenzilidine) siklohexanon] iaitu salah satu kurkumin analog telah mempamerkan peningkatan aktiviti penghambatan oksida nitrik (nilai $IC_{50} = 13.66 \pm 0.61 \mu\text{M}$) berbanding dengan kurkumin (nilai $IC_{50} = 27.13 \pm 5.58 \mu\text{M}$). Oleh itu, penyelidikan dilanjutkan bagi mengkaji sifat-sifat anti-rematik dari BDMC33 serta mengenalpastikan mekanisme yang mungkin ditindaki oleh BDMC33 pada dua sistem sel, iaitu sel makrofaj (RAW 264.7) yang diaktifkan oleh IFN- γ /LPS dan sel fibroblas sinovial (HIG-82) yang diaktifkan oleh PMA. BDMC33 didapati menghalang penghasilan NO dan PGE₂ melalui perencatan iNOS dan COX-2 sintesis tanpa mengubah aktiviti enzim iNOS dan COX-2 pada sel makrofaj yang diaktifkan masing-masing. Tambahan pula, pengaruh BDMC33 diamati untuk menghalang

penghasilan TNF- α dan IL-1 β pada tahap protein dan expresi gen. Lanjutan kajian menunjukkan bahawa kegiatan rencat BDMC33 diperantarkan oleh gangguan dalam pusat isyarat transduksi NF- κ B, termasuklah perencatan kegiatan pengikatan DNA NF- κ B dan p65 NF- κ B translokasi nuklear serta mencegah pantas fosforilasi dan degradasi subunit I κ B. Selain itu, aktiviti kegiatan pengikatan DNA AP-1 juga dihambat oleh BDMC33, kemungkinan melalui perencatan ERK1/2 dan JNK1/2 fosforilasi. Di sisi lain, BDMC33 secara signifikan merencat aktiviti MMP-9 serta aktiviti kolagenase melalui penurunan ekspresi MMP-1 pada sel fibroblas sinovial yang diaktifkan. Selain itu, BDMC33 kuat menekan ekspresi gen MMP-3 serta menghalangkan ekspresi gen inflamasi COX-2 dan IL-6 meskipun dalam tahap yang sederhana pada sel fibroblas sinovial yang diaktifkan. Mekanisme yang mendasari BDMC33 pada sel fibroblas sinovial juga dimediasi melalui isyarat NF- κ B: seperti p65 NF- κ B translokasi nuklear dan kegiatan pengikatan DNA NF- κ B. Secara keseluruhan, data kajian menyarankan bahawa tindakan immunomodulator BDMC33 yang disebabkan gangguan dalam ekspresi pathogen mediator utama dari kedua-dua sel makrofaj dan fibroblas sinovial, membawa kemungkinan bagi penglibatan dalam kajian in vivo atau pra-klinikal pada masa depan.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 27th April 2012 to conduct the final examination of Lee Ka Heng on his PhD thesis entitled “Immunomodulatory action of new curcumin analogue [2,6-bis(2,5-dimethoxybenzylidene) cyclohexanone] on major inflammatory mediator expression in activated macrophage and synovial fibroblast cells” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for the synthesis of tested compounds, quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

LEE KA HENG

Date: 27th April 2012

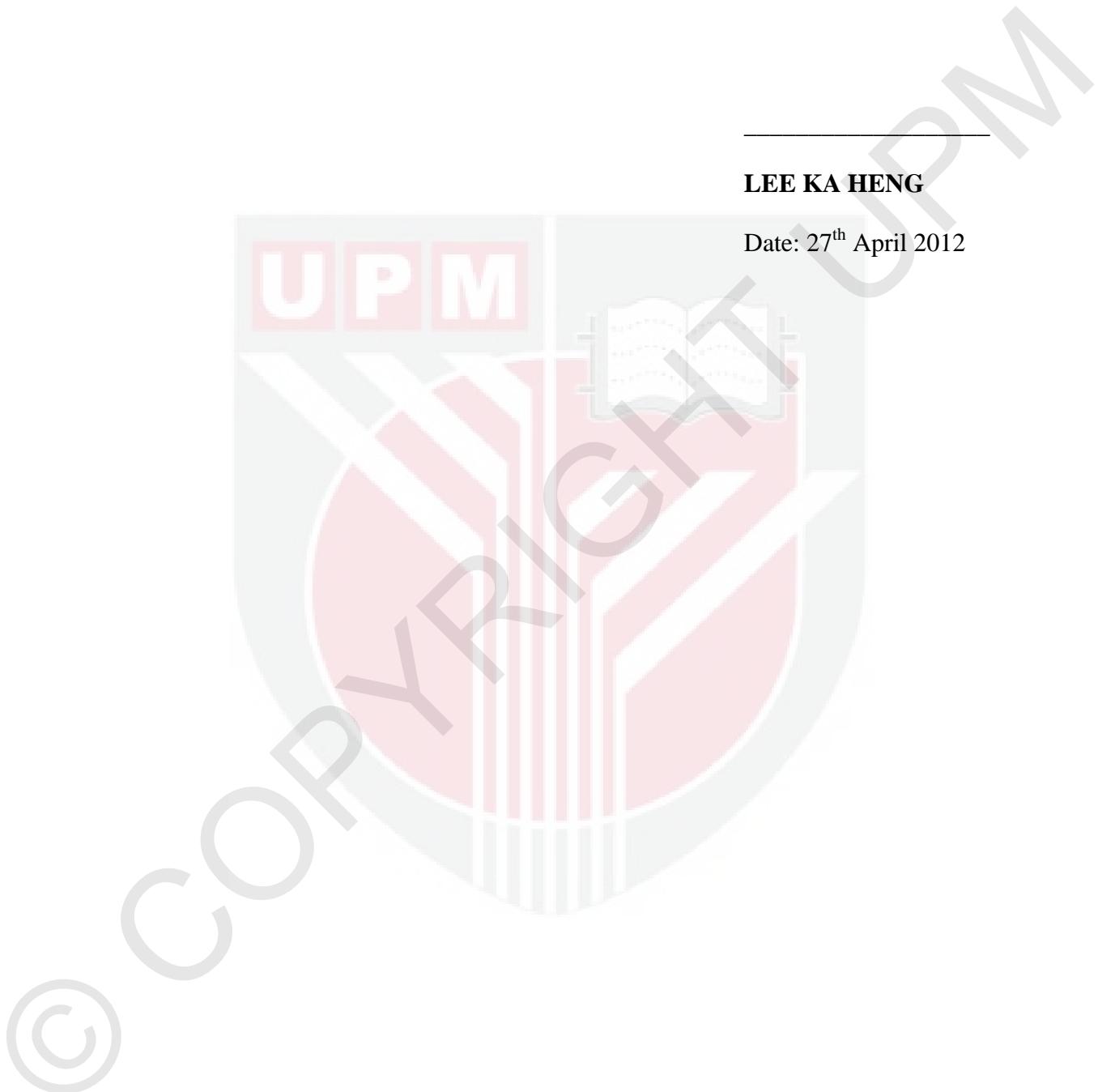


TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page	
ABSTRACT	II	
ABSTRAK	IV	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	VI	
APPROVAL	VII	
DECLARATION	IX	
LIST OF TABLES	XIV	
LIST OF FIGURES	XVI	
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	XX	
LIST OF ANNOTATIONS	XXII	
CHAPTER		
1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	LITERATURE REVIEW	4
	Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)	4
	Brief History	4
	Epidemiology and classification	4
	Aetiology	7
	Pathogenic Cellular of RA	11
	Synovial Fibroblast (SF)	15
	Monocytes/Macrophage (M ϕ)	19
	T Cell and B Cell	23
	Cellular Interaction in RA Synovium	24
	Effector Molecules and Pathogenic Mediators in RA	27
	Matrix Metalloproteinase (MMP)	27
	Nitric Oxide (NO) and Inducible Nitric Oxide Synthase (iNOS)	33
	Prostaglandin E ₂ (PGE ₂) and Cyclooxygenase (COX)	38
	Inflammatory Cytokines	42
	Tumour Necrosis Factor- alpha (TNF- α)	45
	Interleukin-1beta (IL-1 β)	47
	Dual Role of Interleukin-6 (IL-6)	50
	Cellular Signaling Pathway in RA	51
	Nuclear Factor-Kappa B (NF- κ B)	51
	Mitogen Activated Protein Kinase (MAPK)	57
	Cross-talk of NF- κ B and MAPK	63
	Pharmacotherapy and Treatment of RA	64
	Disease Modifying Anti-rheumatic Drug (DMARD)	64
	Corticosteroids	66
	Non-steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drug (NSAID)	68
	Biological Agents	70
	Natural Product	71
	Curcumin and Analogues	74

3	BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF CURCUMIN-LIKE DIARYLPENTANOID ANALOGUES FOR ANTI-INFLAMMATORY AND ANTIOXIDANT	78
	Introduction	78
	Materials and Methods	80
	Material	80
	General Procedure for the Preparation of Curcumin Analogues	81
	Chemical Syntheses	83
	Cell Culture	84
	Nitrite Determination	85
	Stimulation of Macrophages and Treatment	85
	Griess Assay	87
	Cell Viability (MTT assay)	88
	DPPH Radical Scavenging Assay	89
	Direct NO Scavenging Assay	90
	Statistical Analysis	91
	Results	92
	Effects of the diarylpentanoids analogues on NO production in RAW 264.7	92
	Effects of the diarylpentanoids analogues on radical scavenging activity	98
	Discussion	101
	Conclusion	105
4	EFFECTS OF BDMC33 ON INFLAMMATORY RESPONSES IN ACTIVATED MACROPHAGE CELLS	106
	Introduction	106
	Materials and Methods	110
	Materials	110
	Synthesis of 2,6-bis(2,5-dimethoxybenzylidene)-cyclohexanone (BDMC 33)	111
	Cell Culture	112
	Stimulation and Treatment	112
	Nitrite Determination and Nitrite Scavenging assay	112
	Indirect measurement of iNOS activities	113
	Prostaglandin E ₂ (PGE ₂) Determination	113
	Measurement of COX-2 activities	114
	Tumor Necrosis Factor- α (TNF- α) and Interleukin-1 β (IL-1 β) Enzyme Immunoassay	114
	Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR)	116
	Cell stimulation and treatment	116
	Quantification of RNA	116
	RNA Integrity Confirmation	117
	RT-PCR and agarose gel electrophoresis	117
	Western Blotting Analysis	118
	Cell Stimulation and Treatment	118
	Preparation of Whole Cell Lysate	119
	Protein Quantification (Bradford Assay)	119

Immunoblotting	120
Electrophoretic Mobility Shift Assay (EMSA)	121
Cell Stimulation and Treatment	121
Preparation of Nuclear Extracts	122
Oligonucleotide labelling	122
Gel shift assay	123
Fluorescence Microscopic Analysis	124
Flowcytometric Analysis	125
Statistical Analysis	126
Results	127
Inhibitory action on NO production via down-regulation of iNOS expression	127
Inhibitory action on PGE ₂ production via down- regulation of COX-2 expression	131
Interference in pro-inflammatory cytokines production	136
Attenuation of NF-κB and AP-1 DNA binding activity	141
Effects of BDMC 33 on NF-κB activation	144
Effects of BDMC 33 on MAPKs phosphorylation	148
Effects of BDMC 33 on CD-14 and TLR-4 surface expression	152
Discussion	154
Conclusion	160
5 EFFECTS OF BDMC33 ON INFLAMMATORY RESPONSES IN ACTIVATED SYNOVIAL FIBROBLAST CELLS	162
Introduction	162
Materials and Methods	165
Materials	165
Chemical Synthesis of 2,6-bis(2,5- dimethoxybenzylidene)cyclohexanone (BDMC 33)	165
Cell culture	166
Stimulation and treatment	166
Gelatin Zymography	167
Collagen degradation assay	168
Western blotting analysis of MMP-1	169
Semi-quantitative RT-PCR	170
Fluorescence microscopic analysis of NF-κB translocation	171
Electrophoretic Mobility Shift Assay (EMSA)	172
Cell Viability	173
Statistical analysis	174
Results	170
Inhibition of MMPs activities and MMP-1 expression	175
Inhibition of the pro-inflammatory gene expression	180
Attenuation of the NF-κB signaling pathway	185
Discussion	189
Conclusion	193

6	SUMMARY, GENERAL CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH	195
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REFERENCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY	197
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APPENDICES	222
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BIODATA OF STUDENT	247
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LIST OF PUBLICATION	248
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