



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***MICROBIOTA PROFILE OF MALAYSIAN KEFIR GRAIN AND
ANTI-METASTATIC EFFECTS OF KEFIR WATER IN MURINE BREAST
CANCER CELLS***

NUR RIZI ZAMBERI

FBSB 2016 33



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CANCER CELLS**

By

NUR RIZI ZAMBERI



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

June 2016

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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my beloved parents, Mr. Zamberi and Mrs. Rohana,
who always picked me up on time
and encouraged me to go on every adventure,
especially this one.



Abstract of thesis presented to Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the Master of Science

MICROBIOTA PROFILE OF MALAYSIAN KEFIR GRAIN AND ANTI-METASTATIC EFFECTS OF KEFIR WATER IN MURINE BREAST CANCER CELLS

By

NUR RIZI BINTI ZAMBERI

June 2016

Chairman : Assoc. Prof. Noorjahan Banu Alitheen, PhD
Faculty : Biotechnology and Biomolecular Science

Breast cancer is the leading cancer in women where metastasis is the major cause of breast cancer death. For years, a cure for cancer is still being researched on and the inhibition of metastasis cascade is one of the goals. The association of functional food such as probiotics with cancer therapy has become an emerging field of study. Kefir is a uniquely cultured product and traditionally used as a daily serving in Eastern Europe for its health benefits. Reports have shown that kefir has health-promoting benefits such as giving rise to antioxidants, stimulates immune response and possesses anti-tumor properties. Recently, it has gained popularity in Asian countries including Malaysia. This study aims to detect microbial diversity present in kefir grain using 16S metagenomic approach, evaluates its antioxidant potential and assesses the anti-metastatic effect of kefir towards murine breast cancer model *in vitro* and *in vivo*. The microbial diversity in kefir water was determined by using Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) and antioxidant assays were performed to evaluate the antioxidant potential of kefir water. *In vitro* and *in vivo* anti-metastasis studies of 4T1 murine breast cancer cells were further investigated. *Lactobacillus* genus was the dominant genus detected in the kefir grain where the predominant species was *L. kefiranofaciens* while *L. kefiri* was the second in abundance. Kefir water displayed prominent antioxidant activities and gallic acid ($0.816 \pm 0.11 \mu\text{g}/\text{mg}$) was detected in the HPLC profile. Kefir water was cytotoxic towards 4T1 cells *in vitro* and further *in vitro* assessment on metastasis was evaluated using wound healing assay, *in vitro* migration and invasion assay and mouse aortic ring assay. In the murine model, a significant reduction in tumor size and weight ($0.91 \pm 0.21 \text{ g}$) and a substantial increase in helper T cells (5-fold) and cytotoxic T cells (7-fold) were observed in the kefir water-treated group. The mechanism of action of kefir water was further demonstrated at the molecular level by conducting real time polymerase chain reaction and proteomic profiler. These findings suggest that kefir water contains largely *Lactobacillus* species and possesses antioxidant property. Kefir water inhibited tumor proliferation *in vitro* and *in vivo* mainly through cancer cell apoptosis, immunomodulation by stimulating T helper cells and cytotoxic T cells, and anti-inflammatory, antimetastatic, and antiangiogenesis effects. This study brought out the potential of the probiotic beverage kefir water in cancer treatment.

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

**PROFIL MIKROBIOTA DARIPADA BIJIRIN KEFIR DI MALAYSIA DAN
KESAN ANTI METASTASIS AIR KEFIR TERHADAP SEL KANSER
PAYUDARA TIKUS**

Oleh

NUR RIZI BINTI ZAMBERI

Jun 2016

Pengerusi : Prof. Madya. Noorjahan Banu Alitheen, PhD
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Kanser payudara adalah kanser yang paling utama dalam kalangan wanita dan metastasis adalah penyebab utama kematian kanser payudara. Setelah bertahun-tahun, penyembuh kepada kanser masih lagi dikaji dan salah satu matlamatnya adalah perencutan kepada urutan metastasis. Pertalian antara makanan pelbagai fungsi seperti probiotik dengan terapi kanser adalah bidang pengajian yang terkini. Kefir adalah produk kultur yang unik dan digunakan secara tradisional sebagai hidangan harian di Timur Eropah untuk manfaat kepada kesihatan. Laporan menunjukkan bahawa kefir telah menyumbang kepada pelbagai kebaikan kepada kesihatan seperti mempunyai antioksidan yang tinggi, merangsang tindak balas imun dan mempunyai ciri anti-barah. Pada ketika ini, ia telah mendapat populariti di negara-negara Asia termasuk Malaysia. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengesan kepelbagaiannya mikrob di dalam bijirin kefir menggunakan pendekatan 16S metagenomik, menilai potensi antioksidan air kefir dan juga menilai kesan anti-metastasis oleh air kefir terhadap model sel kanser payudara tikus *in vitro* dan *in vivo*. Kepelbagaiannya mikrob dalam bijirin kefir telah ditentukan dengan menggunakan Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) dan beberapa ujian antioksidan telah dijalankan bagi menentukan potensi antioksidan dari air kefir. Kajian anti-metastasis oleh air kefir terhadap sel kanser payudara 4T1 telah dikaji dengan lebih mendalam. Genus *Lactobacillus* adalah genus dominan yang dikesan di dalam bijiran kefir di mana spesies yang terbanyak adalah *L. kefirnafaciens* manakala *L. kefiri* adalah yang kedua terbanyak. Aktiviti antioksidan di dalam air kefir adalah memberangsangkan dan asid galik ($0.816 \pm 0.11 \mu\text{g}/\text{mg}$) juga dikesan di dalam profil kromatografi cecair prestasi tinggi (HPLC) air kefir. Air kefir mempunyai kesan sitotoksik terhadap sel-sel 4T1 *in vitro* dan penilaian lanjut pada kesan metastasis telah dinilai melalui analisis penyembuhan luka, analisis *in vitro* migrasi dan invasi dan juga analisis gelungan aortik tikus. Dalam model tikus, air kefir mengurangkan saiz dan berat tumor kanser payudara ($0.91 \pm 0.21 \text{ g}$) dan terdapat peningkatan besar dalam sel-sel T penolong (5 kali ganda) dan sel-sel T sitotoksik (7 kali ganda) di dalam kumpulan rawatan air kefir. Mekanisma tindakan oleh air kefir telah didemonstrasikan pada tahap molekul dengan menjalani analisis rantai polimerasi reaksi masa sebenar dan profil protein. Penemuan-penemuan ini menunjukkan bahawa air kefir mengandungi spesis *Lactobacillus*, mempunyai nilai antioksidan. Air kefir juga menghalang percambahan

tumor *in vitro* dan *in vivo* terutamanya melalui apoptosis sel kanser, tindak balas imunisasi dengan merangsang sel-sel T penolong dan sel-sel T sitotosik, dan ia juga mengandungi kesan anti-radang, anti-barah, dan anti-angiogenesi. Kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa air kefir probiotik ini mempunyai potensi sebagai rawatan penyakit kanser.



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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 3 June 2016 to conduct the final examination of Nur Rizi binti Zamberi on her thesis entitled "Microbiota Profile of Malaysian Kefir Grain and Anti-Metastatic Effects of Kefir Water in Murine Breast Cancer 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 the Master of Science.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

LAB	Lactic Acid Bacteria
Th1	T-helper 1
Th2	T-helper 2
ER	Estrogen Receptors
EMT	Epithelial to mesenchymal transition
HGF	Hepatocyte growth factor
VEGF	Vascular endothelial growth factor
PDGF	Platelet derived growth factor
MMP	Matrix metalloproteases
LPS	Lipopolysaccharide
dsRNA	Double stranded RNA
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
ROS	Reactive oxygen species
NO	Nitric oxide
DCs	Dendritic cells
NK	Natural killer
APC	Antigen-presenting cells
TILs	Tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes
GALT	Gut-associated lymphoid tissue
FAE	Follicle-associated epithelium
M cells	Microfold cells
PCR	Polymerase chain reaction
RNA	Ribonucleic acid
NGS	Next generation sequencing
O ₂ ⁻	Superoxide
HO	Hydroxyl
ROO	Peroxyl
Alkoxyl	RO
ORAC	Oxygen radical antioxidant capacity
DPPH	1, 1-Diphenyl -2-picryl-hydrazone

GSH	Total glutathione
TPC	Total phenolic content
TF	Total flavonoid content
cDNA	Complementary DNA
PBS	Phosphate buffer saline
CTAB	Cetyltrimethylammonium bromide
EDTA	Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
NaCl	Sodium chloride
RNAse	ribonuclease
TE	Tris-EDTA
NCBI	National Centre for Biotechnology Information
BLAST	Basic local alignment search tool
MEGAN	“MEtaGenome Analyzer
LCA	Lowest common ancestor
DMSO	Dimethyl sulfoxide
FRAP	Ferric reducing antioxidant power
HCL	Hydrochloric acid
TPTZ	2,4,6-Tris(2-pyridyl)-s-triazine
AlCl ₃	Aluminium chloride
NaNO ₃	Sodium nitrate
NaOH	Sodium hydroxide
DTNB	69-78-3; 5,5'-Dithiobis(2-nitrobenzoic acid)
NADPH	Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate
HPLC	High performance liquid chromatography
IC ₅₀	Half maximal inhibitory concentration
NH ₄ Cl	Ammonium chloride
Na ₂ EDTA	Disodium salt of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
KH ₂ PO ₄	Monopotassium phosphate
HRP	Horseshoe peroxidase
DAB	3,3'-Diaminobenzidine
IL-2	Interleukin-2
IFN-γ	Interferon-gamma
IL-10	Interleukin-10

IL-1 β	Interleukin-1 beta
MDA	Malondialdehyde
FACS	Fluorescence-activated cell sorter
GAPDH	Glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase
ACTB	Beta actin
MMP-9	Matrix metallopeptidase 9
iNOS	Inducible nitric oxide synthase
ICAM1	Intercellular Adhesion Molecule 1)
NF- κ B	nuclear factor kappa-light-chain-enhancer of activated B cells
G-CSF	Granulocyte-colony stimulating factor
GM-CSF	Granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor
TNF- α	Tumor necrosis factor alpha
IL-4	Interleukin-4
RIPA	Radioimmunoprecipitation assay
AAE	Ascorbic acid equivalent
TE	Trolox equivalent
AUC	Area under curve
H&E	Hematoxylin and eosin
ELISA	Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
TIMP-1	The tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinase-1
TIMP-2	The tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinase-2
PCR-DGGE	Polymerase chain reaction denaturing gradient gel electrophoresis
TNBC	Triple negative breast cancer
TUNEL	Terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase dUTP nick end labeling

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Cancer is infamous as the leading cause of death in the world. In the United States, breast cancer is the most common type of cancer for women (Siege, Ma, Zou, & Jemal, 2014). One out of 20 woman in Malaysia has the tendency to develop breast cancer in their lifetime (Yip, Taib, & Mohamed, 2006). Cancer is caused by both internal factors such as inherited mutation and immune condition, and environmental factors such as diet and lifestyle (Anand et al., 2008). The majority of breast cancer death is mainly because of cancer metastasis to other parts of the body (Scully, Bay, Yip, & Yu, 2012). Metastasis is the relocation of a disease process from a primary site to a distant one by a movement of the causal agents through the blood vessels or lymph channels (Hoover & Ketcham, 1975). Metastasis is an event that includes several stages that subsequently contribute to the formation of secondary tumors in adjacent organs and nontransformed cells (Martin, Ye, Sanders, Lane, & Jiang, 2000). For years, a cure for cancer is still being researched on and the inhibition of metastasis cascade is one of the goals.

The association of functional food such as probiotics with cancer therapy has become an emerging field of study. In infectious disease prevention and therapy, probiotics help in modulating both innate and acquired host's defenses mechanism (Oelschlaeger, 2010). Probiotics refer to live microorganisms which when administered in adequate amounts confer a health benefit on the host (World Health Organization, 2006). Although the usage of probiotics as a therapeutic agent is most common in colon-related diseases (Altonsy, Andrews, & Tuohy, 2010; Le Leu et al., 2005) due to the ability of the bacteria to interact directly with the colon after consumption, it also has the anti-tumor properties in breast cancer cells (de Moreno de LeBlanc, Matar, Farnsworth, & Perdigon, 2006).

Kefir was introduced over a thousand years ago in the Caucasus Mountains in Central Asia. It is a traditional beverage made from the fermentation of kefir grains with milk or water (Otles & Cagindi, 2003). The microbiota community present in kefir grains is varied depending on the source of the grains and its environment of culture (Vardjan, Mohar Lorbeg, Rogelj, & Čanžek Majhenič, 2013). Thus, it is essential to obtain an accurate microbial identification in a population to get insights of which specific organism is responsible as an etiological agent such as for diagnosis purposes as well as antimicrobial potential (Clarridge, 2004). Kefir grains contain various kinds of microbial flora including the most commonly studied species due to their probiotic potential such as *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus casei*, and *Lactococcus lactis* subsp. *Lactis* (Kakisu, Irigoyen, Torre, De Antoni, & Abraham, 2011; Otles, Cagindi, & Akcicek, 2003). Since these species have numerous different strains, not every single strain has the potential to be probiotic. This important characteristic makes kefir suitable as a probiotic beverage. In Malaysia, people have started to acknowledge

the benefits of kefir and consume kefir as daily health supplement. However, up to date, there is no report made on the metagenomics of kefir grains obtained locally.

Kefir has been consumed extensively for years as it is believed to promote greater health and this claim was verified by recent studies in which kefir was shown to aid in alleviating lactose intolerance (De Vrese, Keller, & Barth, 1992), inflammation (Huseini, Rahimzadeh, Fazeli, Mehrazma, & Salehi, 2012; Rodrigues, Carvalho, & Schneeldorf, 2005) and high total cholesterol (Huang et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2009), and exhibited immunomodulation properties (Vinderola, Duarte, Thangavel, Perdigón, Farnsworth, & Matar, 2005a). It has also been reported that kefir has the ability to induce cytotoxicity and reduce cancer growth *in vivo* (de Moreno de LeBlanc et al., 2006; Shiomi, Sasaki, Murofushi, & Albara, 1982). Furthermore, studies by de Moreno de LeBlanc et al. (2006) on the administration of commercial milk kefir from Canada in breast cancer murine model determined that it can slow down cancer by elevating local immune response and selected cytokines (de Moreno de LeBlanc et al., 2006; de Moreno de LeBlanc, Matar, Farnsworth, & Perdigón, 2007). Nevertheless, in-depth study is needed on the anti-tumor and anti-metastatic effects of kefir in murine breast cancer model.

Therefore, the objectives of this study are:

- 1) To detect microbial diversity present in kefir grain using 16S metagenomic approach.
- 2) To evaluate the antioxidant properties of kefir water.
- 3) To assess the anti-metastasis effects of kefir water towards murine breast cancer cell, 4T1, *in vitro*.
- 4) To investigate the anti-metastasis effects of kefir water towards 4T1 challenged BALB/c mice *in vivo*.

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LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

- Zamberi, N., Abu, N., Mohamed, N., Nordin, N., Keong, Y., & Beh, B. et al. (2016). The Antimetastatic and Antiangiogenesis Effects of Kefir Water on Murine Breast Cancer Cells. *Integrative Cancer Therapies.* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1534735416642862>
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