



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***INDUCTION OF SELECTIVE CYTOTOXICITY AND APOPTOSIS IN
HUMAN T4 – LYMPHOBLASTOID CELL LINE (CEM_{ss}) USING
BOESENBERGIN A ISOLATED FROM BOESENBERGIA ROTUNDA L.***

NG KUAN BENG

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BOESENBERGIN A ISOLATED FROM *BOESENBERGIA ROTUNDA L.***

By

NG KUAN BENG

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

May 2013

DEDICATION

THIS THESIS IS DEDICATED TO
MY BELOVED PARENTS NG SING YAN AND
KHOO SOO HOON
MY BELOVED PARENTS IN LAW
MY BELOVED BROTHER NG KWANG YONG
MY BELOVED WIFE GOH YEE MEI
ALL MY SUPERVISORS AND LECTURERS
ALL MY SOULMATES AND FRIENDS
AND
THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTE IN MY
RESEARCH WORK TO MAKE MY GOAL
BECOMES TRUE

Abstract of thesis presented to the senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment
of the requirement for the Master of Science

**INDUCTION OF SELECTIVE CYTOTOXICITY AND APOPTOSIS IN
HUMAN T4 – LYMPHOBLASTOID CELL LINE (CEMSS) USING
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May 2013

Chairman: Ahmad Bustamam Abdul, PhD

Faculty: Institute of Bioscience

Boesenbergia rotunda (Roxb.) Schlecht (family zingiberaceae) is a rhizomatous herb that is distributed from north-eastern India to south-east Asia, especially in Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia. Previous research has shown that the crude extract of this plant has cytotoxic properties. The current study examines the cytotoxic properties of boesenbergin A isolated from *Boesenbergia rotunda*. MTT assay was used to check the cytotoxicity of boesenbergin A. Boesenbergin A showed that it has the highest cytotoxicity towards human T4- lymphoblastoid cell line (CEMss)(IC₅₀ = 8.11 µg/ml). The morphological assessment of apoptosis was monitored using

normal and fluorescence microscopy. Evidence of apoptosis including blebbing and chromatin condensation was shown during the observation of microscopy analysis. The early and late phase of apoptosis was investigated using annexin V and DNA laddering assays, respectively. Annexin V assay revealed that early apoptosis is induced after treatment and DNA laddering confirmed that DNA fragmentation had occurred during late apoptosis. The mitochondrial membrane potential (MMP) was assessed by fluorescence microscopy and found that there is an increased in mitochondrial membrane potential in the treated CEMss cells. Human apoptosis proteome profiler assays were performed to investigate the mechanism of cell death. In addition, the protein levels of Bax, Bcl2 and Hsp 70 were also analyzed using western blot. Assays of caspase -3/7, -8 and -9 were carried out in order to test for induction during treatment. The activity of caspases -3/7, -8 and -9 was found to increase after treatment which indicates both intrinsic and extrinsic pathways are induced during apoptosis. Lastly, cell cycle progression was analyzed using flow cytometry and found that boesenbergin A is capable of inducing G2/M phase cell cycle arrest. The current findings warrant further research on boesenbergin A as a novel chemotherapeutic agent for leukemia intervention including studies in animal models.

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

**INDUKSI SITOTOKSIK MEMILIH DAN APOPTOSIS DALAM SEL
MANUSIA T4-LYMPHOBLASTOID (CEMSS) MENGGUNAKAN
BOESENBERGIN A YANG DIASINGKAN DARIPADA *BOESENBERGIA
ROTUNDA L.***

Oleh

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Boesenbergia rotunda (Roxb.) Schlecht (keluarga *Zingiberaceae*) adalah herba rhizomatous yang boleh didapati dari utara-timur India sehingga ke selatan-timur Asia, terutamanya di Indonesia, Thailand dan Malaysia. Penyelidikan yang lalu telah menunjukkan bahawa ekstrak *Boesenbergia rotunda* mempunyai nilai antikanser. Kajian ini adalah untuk mengkaji sifat antikanser *Boesenbergin A* yang merupakan sebatian tulen yang diasingkan daripada *Boesenbergia rotunda*. Ujian saringan sitotoksik (MTT) telah digunakan untuk menyiasat sifat sitotoksik boesenbergin A.

Boesenbergin A menunjukkan ketoksikan yang tertinggi terhadap sel kanser CEMss dengan $IC_{50} = 8.11 \mu\text{g/ml}$. Untuk memeriksa morfologi apoptosis, mikroskop biasa dan 'inverted' telah digunakan. Bukti di mana sel mengalami apoptosis seperti sel membengkak dan pemeluwapan chromatin telah didapati. Proses apoptosis samada peringkat awal ataupun akhir telah disiasat melalui Annexin V dan juga 'DNA laddering'. Annexin V telah membuktikan bahawa boesenbergin A telah menyebabkan berlakunya apoptosis awal semasa rawatan. 'DNA laddering' telah sahkan proses apoptosis kehadiran pecahan DNA semasa peringkat lewat apoptosis. Potensi membrane mitokondria didapati telah meningkat dalam sel CEMss yang dirawat apabila dikaji menggunakan mikroskop fluorescence. Untuk mengkaji mekanisme sel mati, kajian 'proteome profiler' manusia telah dijalankan. Selain itu, tahap protein Bax, Bcl2 dan Hsp 70 telah dianalisa menggunakan 'Western Blot'. Analisa terhadap caspase -3/7, -8 dan -9 telah dijalankan untuk mengetahui pasal induksi sel kanser semasa rawatan. Analisa tersebut telah mendapati bahawa kesemua caspase 3/7, 8 dan 9 telah meningkat semasa rawatan dan ini menunjukkan bahawa boesenbergin A mampu menggunakan kedua-dua laluan intrinsik atau ekstrinsik semasa apoptosis. Akhir sekali, analisis kitaran sel telah dijalankan menggunakan alat 'flow cytometry' dan mendapati boesenbergin A mampu untuk menghentikan pertumbuhan sel di fasa G2 / M terhadap sel-sel CEMss semasa rawatan. Keputusan positif daripada kajian ini menjadi asas yang kuat untuk kajian mendalam terhadap boesenbergin A sebagai ubat-ubatan untuk penyakit leukemia melalui kajian melalui haiwan.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 28 May 2013 to conduct the final examination of (Ng Kuan Beng) on his (or her) thesis entitled "Induction of selective cytotoxicity and apoptosis in human T4-lymphoblastoid cell line (CEMSS) using boesenbergin A isolated from *Boesenbergia rotunda L.*" 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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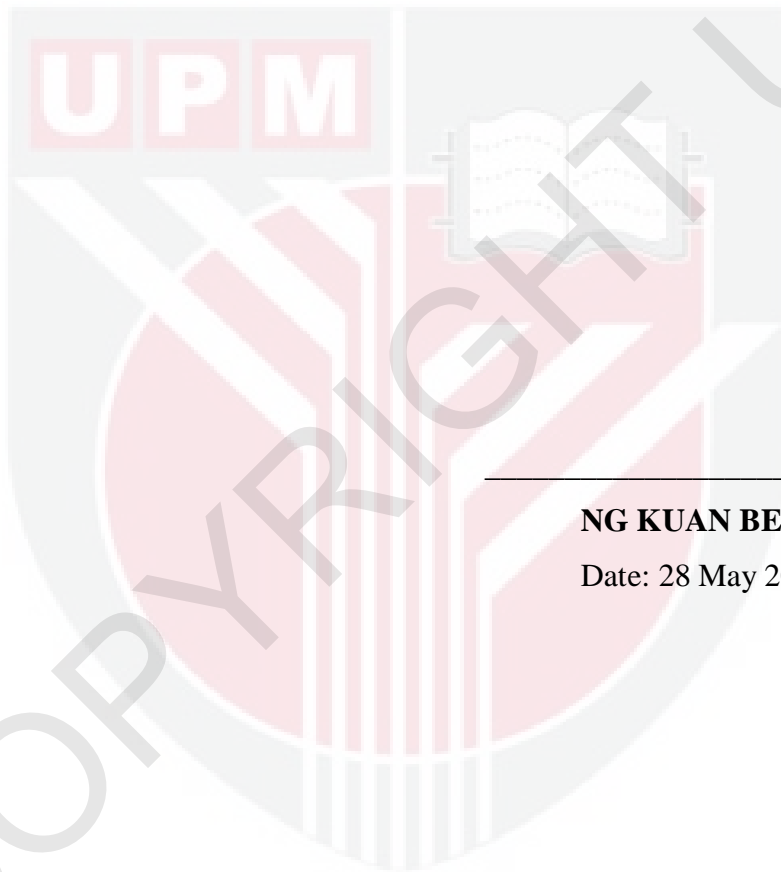
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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for 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.



NG KUAN BENG

Date: 28 May 2013

TABLE OF CONTENT

	Page
DEDICATION	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vii
APPROVAL	viii
DECLARATION	x
LIST OF TABLES	xv
LIST OF FIGURES	xvi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xviii
CHAPTER	
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Natural Products	6
2.2 Drug Discovery from Plant-Derived Substances	7
2.3 Plant Derived Anticancer Agents	8
2.4 Boesenbergia Species	9
2.5 <i>Boesenbergia Rotunda</i>	9
2.5.1 <i>Boesenbergia Rotunda</i> as Antioxidant	10
2.5.2 <i>Boesenbergia Rotunda</i> as Anti-HIV-1	11
2.5.3 <i>Boesenbergia Rotunda</i> as Anti-Inflammatory	12
2.5.4 <i>Boesenbergia Rotunda</i> as Anticancer	13
2.6 Chemical Constituents of the Rhizome Oils of <i>Boesenbergia Rotunda</i>	15
2.7 Cancer	16
2.8 Classification of Cancer	17
2.9 Leukemia	17
2.10 Human T4-lymphoblastoid Cell Line (CEMss)	21

2.11	Classification of Cell Death	22
2.12	Necrosis	22
2.13	Apoptosis	23
2.14	Pathway of Apoptosis	24
2.15	Apoptosis and Cell Cycle	26
2.16	Distinguishing Apoptosis from Necrosis	29
2.17	Caspase	30
2.18	Caspase and Its Activation During Apoptosis	33
2.19	Caspase Activation by Cell Surface Death Receptors	33
2.20	Caspase Activation by Mitochondria	34
3.	MATERIALS AND METHODS	
3.1	<i>In Vitro</i> Anticancer Properties of the Pure Compound	
3.1.1	Plant materials	36
3.1.2	Cell Culture Condition	37
3.1.3	Cryopreservation	38
3.1.4	Thawing Cryopreserved Cells	38
3.1.5	Cell Growth Inhibition Assay	39
3.1.6	Cytotoxicity of boesenbergin A On Proliferated Primary Human Blood Lymphocytes	40
3.2	Microscopic Observation of Cellular Morphology Using Phase Contrast Inverted Microscope	41
3.3	Quantification of Apoptosis Using Propidium Iodide and Acridine Orange Double Staining	42
3.4	Flow Cytometric Analysis of DNA Cell Cycle	43
3.5	Annexin V Assay	44
3.6	DNA Laddering	45
3.7	Assay of Caspase-3/7, 8 and 9	46
3.8	Detection of Mitochondrial Membrane Potential ($\Delta\psi_m$)	46
3.9	Human Apoptosis Proteome Profiler Array	47
3.10	Protein analysis by Western Blot Analysis	
3.11	3.10.1 Extraction of whole protein from the cell	48
	3.10.2 Western blotting analysis	49

3.11	Statistical analysis	51
4.	RESULTS	
4.1	Cell Growth Inhibition Assay	52
4.2	Cytotoxicity of Boesenbergin A On Proliferated Primary Human Blood Lymphocytes	53
4.3	Microscopic Observation of Cellular Morphology Using Phase Contrast Inverted Microscope	54
4.4	Quantification of Apoptosis Using Propidium Iodide and Acridine Orange Double Staining	56
4.5	Cell Cycle Analysis	58
4.6	Annexin V Assay	60
4.7	DNA Laddering	62
4.8	Caspase-3/7, -8 and -9 Analyses	64
4.9	Mitochondria Potential Analysis	66
4.10	Protein Array Analysis	68
4.11	Western Blot Analysis	69
5.	DISCUSSION	
5.1	Cell Growth Cytotoxic Assay	71
5.2	Microscopic Observation of Cellular Morphology Using Phase Contrast Inverted Microscope	72
5.3	Quantification of Apoptosis Using Propidium Iodide and Acridine Orange Double Staining	73
5.4	Cell Cycle Analysis	74
5.5	Annexin V Assay	74
5.6	DNA Laddering	75
5.7	Assay of Caspase-3, Caspase-7, Caspase 8 and Caspase 9	76
5.8	Mitochondria Potential Analysis	77
5.9	Protein Array Analysis	77
5.10	Western Blot	78

6.	SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH	80
	REFERENCE	84
	APPENDICES	93
	BIODATA OF STUDENT	98
	LIST OF PUBLICATION	99



LIST OF TABLES

Table		Page
Table 2.1	Comparison of morphological features of apoptosis and necrosis (Elmore 2007)	30
Table 2.2	The Caspase Family (Fan et al. 2005)	32
Table 4.1	Effect of boesenbergin A on the viability of MCF-7, HELA and CEMss cells for 72 h.	53
Table 4.2	Effect of boesenbergin A on proliferated primary human blood lymphocyte for 48 h.	54
Table 4.3	Flow cytometric analysis of cell cycle distribution in CEMss cells treated with boesenbergin A at 8 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ for 24, 48, and 72 h.	59
Table 4.4	Flow cytometric analysis of Annexin V in CEMss cells which were treated with boesenbergin A 8 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ for 24 h, 48 h and 72 h.	61

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure		Page
Figure 2.1	Picture of <i>Boesenbergia rotunda</i>	10
Figure 2.2a	The normal cell cycle (Evan et al. 1995)	28
Figure 2.2b	Cells which undergo apoptosis (Evan et al. 1995)	28
Figure 3.1	Structure of boesenbergin A (Isa et al. 2012)	37
Figure 4.1	Microscopic Observation of Cellular Morphology Using Phase Contrast Inverted Microscope of CEMss cells.	55
Figure 4.2	Confocal micrograph of acridine orange and propidium iodide double-stained CEMss cells.	57
Figure 4.3	Histogram representing qualitative analysis of confocal micrograph consisting of acridine orange and propidium iodide double-stained treated and untreated CEMss cells.	58
Figure 4.4	Graph of Flow cytometric analysis of cell cycle distribution in CEMss cells treated with boesenbergin A at 8 µg/ml for 24, 48, and 72 h.	60
Figure 4.5	Graph of flow cytometric analysis of Annexin V in CEMss cells which were treated with boesenbergin A 8 µg/ml for 24 h, 48 h and 72 h.	62
Figure 4.6	Electrophoresis separation of fragmented DNA of untreated and treated CEMss cells for 24h and 48h with 16 µg/ml of boesenbergin A.	63
Figure 4.7	The assay of caspase-3/7 in untreated and treated CEMss cells treated and untreated with boesenbergin A 8 µg/ml for 24, 48 and 72 h.	64
Figure 4.8	The assay of caspase-8 in CEMss cells treated and untreated with boesenbergin A 8 µg/ml for 24, 48 and 72 h.	65
Figure 4.9	The assay of caspase-9 in CEMss cells treated and untreated with boesenbergin A 8 µg/ml for 24, 48 and 72 h.	66
Figure 4.10	Mitochondria potential analysis for CEMss cells treated with 8 µg/ml of boesenbergin A.	67

Figure 4.11	Protein array analysis of CEMss untreated and treated cells for 72h with 8 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ of boesenbergin A.	69
Figure 4.12	Effect of boesenbergin A on the levels of apoptosis regulatory proteins.	70



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

AIDS	Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ALL	acute lymphocytic leukemia
AML	acute myeloid leukemia
ATP	Adenosine triphosphate
CD3	Antigen
Hela	Cervical cancer cell line
CLL	chronic lymphocytic leukemia
CML	chronic myeloid leukemia
HT-29	Colon cancer cell line
cdks	cyclin dependent kinases
caspase	cysteine dependent aspartate-cleaving proteases
DD	death domains
DED	death effector domains
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
FADD	Fas-associated via death domain
HPLC	High Performance Liquid Chromatographic
MDA-MB-231	Homo sapiens mammary gland
h	hour
MCF-7	Human breast cancer cell line
HIV-1	Human immunodeficiency virus type-1
PC3	Human prostate cancer cell line
DU145	Human prostate cancer cell line
CEMss	Human T4- lymphoblastoid cell line

μM	Micro Molar
μg	Microgram
mg	Milligram
ml	Milliliter
min	Minute
CaOV3	Ovarian cancer cell line
RAPD	Random amplification of polymorphic DNA
rpm	rotation per minute
TCL	T-cell lymphoma
TNF	Tumor necrosis factor
TRAIL	Tumor Necrosis factor-Related Apoptosis-Inducing Ligand

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

For a very long time, an important role has been played by natural product especially in health care and prevention of diseases. This is further strengthened by the written evidence of man's ingenuity in using plants for the treatment of a selection of diseases since the ancient civilizations. Examples are such as North Africans, Indians and Chinese (Phillipson 2001). Besides that, natural products have also numerous applications in the fields of biology, pharmacy and medicine. There has already been a number of a variety of essential novel commercialized drugs that has been discovered from natural sources through structural alteration of natural compounds, or by synthesizing novel compounds, and also designed according to a natural compound as a model (Gordaliza 2007). Eighty percent of drug substances were either from natural produce or stimulated by a natural complex and there are over a 100 new products which are currently undergoing clinical trials are compounds copied from natural products and there are also at least 100 similar projects are in preclinical advancement (Harvey 2008).

It is reported by Said (1999) that Malaysia is known to have about 20,000 species tropical plants of which around 1,300 are said to be medicinal. However, to date only around a hundred of these plant species have been investigated fully for their

therapeutic potential. Natural products which are often being used as main traditional health care agents over the past 20 years have generated interest from western countries to use it to sustain health and of alternative therapy (Wills, Bone, and Morgan 2000). One of the possible sources for screening of anticancer agents is plants from tropical regions. Thai people have been using various vegetables, herbs, and fruits for spice flavors, and condiments in their daily cuisine. Some of these items have been used as ancient medicines. Some of the plant extracts that were obtained are reported to have tendency to be developed as drugs (Manosroi, Dhumtanom, and Manosroi 2006). The explore for anti-cancer agents from plant resources has since took place in the 1950s with the finding and improvement of vinca alkaloids, vinblastine and vincristine, and later with the isolation and discovery of cytotoxic podophyllotoxins (Bickenbach et al. 2007).

Cancer affects all communities around the world and this disease have taken 10 of millions of life annually (Stewart and Kleihues 2003) and it is consider one of the leading cause of fatality (Farooqui et al. 2011). It is approximate that in 2008, 12.7 million cancer cases and 7.6 million cancer deaths occurred worldwide (Jemal et al. 2011). In Malaysia, cancer is also a major health problem and is increasingly significant as a public health anxiety due to expansion and growth that is happening (Lim 2002). In the year of 2007, an overall of 18,219 new cancer cases were diagnosed and registered, and from the total it comprised of 8,123 males and 10,096 females (Loo et al. 2013). It is also found in 2007 that cancer was the third most common cause of death after heart diseases and diseases of pulmonary circulation and septicaemia (Zainal Ariffin and Nor Saleha 2011).

Leukemia which is a malignant hematopoietic disease is capable of affecting organ for instance bone marrow and this result in the overproduction of unusual blood cells (Lee et al. 2007b). Leukemia refers to white blood cells cancer, which also called as leukocytes or white blood cell. The production of other blood cell such as red blood cells and platelets will be interrupted when leukemia continued (Rakel and Bope 2007). Basically, leukemia is a type of cancer of the blood or bone marrow that is categorized by an unusual increase of undeveloped white blood cells called "blasts". Leukemia is a very wide definition which covers a variety of diseases. Even though the overall incidence is rare compare to other cancer, but it is a common childhood cancer where 30% of all cancers diagnosed among children under age 15 years (Linnet et al. 1999). Treatment of leukemia is an effort by multiple group of people. The treatment that is normally used include chemotherapy, radiotherapy, hormonal therapy, symptomatic, supportive therapy and immune therapy. The problem is that the current and most commonly used drug has severe side-effects.

Tropical plants are considered the richest sources of anti-cancer agents, in this research we have investigated an herbal plant, *Boesenbergia rotunda* (L.), formerly known as *Boesenbergia* or *Kaempferia pandurata* (Roxb). Schltr. (Zingiberaceae) local name known as temu kunci, found in Southeastern Asian countries for example Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia. It is being used in the treatment of a variety of diseases such as peptic ulcer, urinary disorders, oral diseases, colic, inflammation and dysentery (Saralamp et al. 1996). Numerous studies proposed this plant to be anti-inflammatory, neuroprotective, anti-mutagenic, chemopreventive, anticancer, anti-dermatophytic, anti-*Helicobacter pylori* and anti-dengue-2 virus NS3 protease (Bhamarapravati, Mahady, and Pendland 2003). This plant consists of both anti-

oxidant and also anti-cancer properties which can help to cure cancer. There is insufficient information currently accessible on the mechanism of *Boesenbergia rotunda* and also its effects on leukemia. Therefore, the present study was proposed to determine the potential biological activities of pure compound isolated from *Boesenbergia rotunda* on leukemia cells. In this study, *in vitro* (CEMss Cells) models are used to evaluate the anticancer properties of pure compound isolated from *Boesenbergia rotunda*.

In vitro methods were applied to the CEMss cells included the Cytotoxic (MTT) assay, fluorescent microscopy and also confocal microscope. Several analytical techniques are available to examine the cell biology of leukemic cells. Flow cytometry was utilized to study the progression of changes of leukemic cells under treatment. In this study, Annexin V assay and Cell cycle analysis had been performed using flow cytometry to determine the drug effect on the distribution of cell cycle and DNA content. One of the easiest way to measure the characteristic of apoptotic cells is the breakage of the genomic DNA by cellular nucleases. Agarose gel electrophoresis DNA laddering was used to detect these fragments.

Objectives of the study

Main objective:

To evaluate the anti-cancer activities of boesenbergin A from *Boesenbergia rotunda* in *vitro*.

Specific objectives:

- To perform in vitro assessment on CEMss cell line using boesenbergin A.
- To determine and evaluate apoptosis induction of *Boesenbergin A* on CEMss cell line.
- To determine the effect of boesenbergin A on caspases and other apoptotic proteins in CEMss cells.

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LIST OF PUBLICATION

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