



***ISOLATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF ANTIOXIDATIVE AND
CYTOTOXIC PHYTOCONSTITUENTS FROM *Aegle marmelos* (L.) Correa
AND *Murraya koenigii* (L.) Spreng. AND THEIR *In Silico* STUDY***

NG ROU CHIAN

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By

NG ROU CHIAN

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in
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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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NG ROU CHIAN

April 2019

Chair : Nur Kartinee Kassim, PhD
Faculty : Science

Rutaceae family includes *Aegle marmelos* and *Murraya koenigii* had been used as medicinal plants since ancient to treat fever, snake bites, diarrhoea and stomachache. However, scientific validation of medicinal properties on *Aegle marmelos* and *Murraya koenigii* are still limited. In this research, two Rutaceae plants namely *Murraya koenigii* (curry leaves tree) and *Aegle marmelos* (majapahit) were selected for the investigation of their phytochemicals, antioxidant and cytotoxicity properties. The mechanism of cytotoxic will be evaluated by *in silico* docking study.

The isolation of phytoconstituents from *Aegle marmelos* yielded aegeline (**7**), two coumarins: marmin (**33**) and 7-hydroxycoumarin or umbelliferone (**36**) together with two triterpenoids : β -sitosterol (**55**) and epi-lupeol (**31**). Meanwhile, phytochemical constituents isolated from *Murraya koenigii* afforded four alkaloids including girinimbine (**1**), mahanimbine (**45**), murrayanine (**49**), murrayacine (**44**) and β -sitosterol (**55**).

The chloroform extract of *Murraya koenigii* stem bark showed the highest antioxidant activity in CUPRAC (1490.89 mgTE/g extract). Mahanimbine (**45**) was the most active compound with the activity of 927.73 mgTE/g, and 1649.31 mgTE/g based on ABTS and CUPRAC assays respectively. It also showed lipid peroxidation inhibition with the percentage of 70.95%. The CUPRAC and ABTS results are the first report for Malaysian *Murraya koenigii* species.

Cytotoxicity study revealed that the chloroform root extract of *Murraya koenigii* showed the most active (IC₅₀: 11.26 \pm 0.74 μ g/mL) against MDA-MB-231, whilst, hexane root extract of *Murraya koenigii* show the most cytotoxic against MCF-7 (IC₅₀:

15.13 ± 2.37 µg/mL). Girinimbine (**1**) and mahanimbine (**45**) were found to exhibit potent cytotoxic activities toward MCF-7 with the IC₅₀ values of 11.95 ± 3.63 µg/mL and 11.01 ± 0.48 µg/mL respectively. Girinimbine (**1**) also exhibited the most significant cell growth inhibition against MDA-MB-231, followed by mahanimbine (**45**) with IC₅₀ of 8.92 ± 0.03 µg/mL and 12.41 ± 0.61 µg/mL, respectively. Cell death morphology studies revealed that both breast cancer cell lines treated with girinimbine (**1**) and mahanimbine (**45**) showed apoptotic characteristics such as cell shrinkage, nuclear condensation and membrane blebbing. Both girinimbine (**1**) and mahanimbine (**45**) were non-cytotoxic in the MTT cytotoxic screening against 3T3 cell lines (IC₅₀ > 30 µg/mL).

The *in silico* docking studies of girinimbine (**1**), mahanimbine (**45**), murrayanine (**49**) and murrayacine (**44**) revealed that mahanimbine (**45**) showed the highest binding energy with the values of -9.31 and -9.30 kcal/mol towards p38α MAPK and hER-α receptors respectively. Meanwhile, docking of girinimbine (**1**) with p38α MAPK and hER-α receptors produced the binding energies of -8.60 and -8.83 kcal/mol respectively. The binding of both girinimbine (**1**) and mahanimbine (**45**) showed mutual interactions with the amino acids that responsible for the p38α MAP kinase inhibition. The hydrophobic interaction involved protein residues of Leu167, Lys53, Val30 and Val38. Meanwhile, the binding of girinimbine (**1**) and mahanimbine (**45**) showed anti-estrogen properties through the hydrophobic interaction with the amino acids such as Arg394, Glu353, Met421, Leu525, Ala350, Leu387, Leu349 and Leu391. The *in silico* studies of girinimbine (**1**) and mahanimbine (**45**) with p38α MAPK and hER-α were firstly reported. The *in silico* studies revealed that girinimbine (**1**) and mahanimbine (**45**) could be the potent drug nuclei as an anti-estrogen agent in the treatment of ER+ breast cancer and p38α MAP kinase inhibitor. The results suggested that girinimbine (**1**) and mahanimbine (**45**) which was isolated from *Murraya koenigii* could be potential candidates for breast cancer treatment and therapy.

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

**PEMENCILAN DAN PENCIRIAN SEBATIAN ANTIOKSIDATIF DAN
SITOTOKSIK DARIPADA *Aegle marmelos* (L.) Correa DAN *Murraya koenigii*
(L.) Spreng. SERTA KAJIAN *In Siliko***

Oleh

NG ROU CHIAN

April 2019

Pengerusi : Nur Kartinee Kassim, PhD

Fakulti : Sains

Keluarga Rutaceae termasuk *Aegle marmelos* and *Murraya koenigii* telah digunakan sebagai tumbuhan perubatan sejak zaman dahulu untuk merawat demam, gigitan ular, cirit-birit dan sakit perut. Walau bagaimanapun, pengesahan saintifik terhadap sifat-sifat perubatan pada *Aegle marmelos* dan *Murraya koenigii* masih terhad. Dalam kajian ini, dua tumbuhan Rutaceae iaitu *Murraya koenigii* (pokok daun kari) dan *Aegle marmelos* (maja pahit) dipilih untuk kajian fitokimia, antioksidan dan sitotoksicitinya. Mekanisme sitotoksik dinilai dengan kajian *in siliko*.

Pemencilan yang dilaksanakan terhadap *Aegle marmelos* membolehkan aegeline (**7**), dua kumarin : marmin (**33**) dan 7-hidroksikoumarin atau umbelliferone (**36**) bersama dengan dua triterpenoid: β -sitosterol (**55**) dan epi-lupeol (**31**). Manakala, pemencilan terhadap *Murraya koenigii* pula menghasilkan empat alkaloid termasuk girinimbine (**1**), mahanimbine (**45**), murrayanine (**49**), murrayacine (**44**) serta β -sitosterol (**55**).

Ekstrak kloroform kulit batang *Murraya koenigii* didapati memiliki aktiviti antioksidan tertinggi dalam CUPRAC (1490.89 mgTE/g ekstrak). Mahanimbine (**45**) merupakan sebatian karbazole alkaloid yang diasingkan daripada kulit batang *Murraya koenigii* didapati sebagai agen antioksidan paling aktif dengan aktiviti 927.73 mgTE /g sampel dan 1649.31 mgTE/g sampel sepadan dengan ujian ABTS dan CUPRAC. Ia juga menunjukkan perencat lipid yang baik dengan peratusan perencatan 70.95%. Keputusan CUPRAC dan ABTS ini merupakan laporan pertama untuk spesies *Murraya koenigii* Malaysia.

Ujian sitotoksik menunjukkan ekstrak chloroform akar *Murraya koenigii* memaparkan sitotoksicitinya yang tertinggi terhadap MDA-MB-231 (IC₅₀ : 11.26 \pm 0.74 μ g/mL).

Manakala ekstrak heksana akar *Murraya koenigii* menunjukkan sitotoksik terhadap MCF-7 (IC_{50} : $15.13 \pm 2.37 \mu\text{g/mL}$). Sebatian terpenil, girinimbine (**1**) dan mahanimbine (**45**) didapati menunjukkan aktiviti sitotoksik yang merangsang terhadap MCF-7 masing-masing dengan nilai IC_{50} $11.95 \pm 3.63 \mu\text{g/mL}$ dan $11.01 \pm 0.48 \mu\text{g/mL}$. Girinimbine (**1**) juga menunjukkan aktiviti sitotoksik yang kuat terhadap MDA-MB-231 diikuti dengan mahanimbine (**45**) masing-masing dengan nilai IC_{50} $8.92 \pm 0.03 \mu\text{g/mL}$ dan $12.41 \pm 0.61 \mu\text{g/mL}$. Ujian pencirian dan pemerhatian kematian sel kanser yang dirawat oleh kedua-dua girinimbine (**1**) dan mahanimbine (**45**) menunjukkan pencirian apoptosis seperti pengecutan sel, pepadatan nuclear dan pelepuhan membran sel. Kedua-dua girinimbine (**1**) dan mahanimbine (**45**) tidak aktif dalam pengujian sitotoksik MTT terhadap sel 3T3 ($IC_{50} > 30 \mu\text{g/mL}$).

Dalam kajian *in silico* pendokkan, girinimbine (**1**), mahanimbine (**45**), murrayanine (**47**) dan murrayacine (**44**) telah disimulasikan dengan reseptor p38 α MAPK (PDB ID : 4FA2) dan hER- α (PDB ID : 3ERT). Mahanimbine (**45**) menunjukkan tenaga pengikatan yang tertinggi iaitu -9.31 dan -9.30 kcal/mol masing-masing terhadap reseptor p38 α MAPK dan hER- α . Girinimbine (**1**) berinteraksi ke dalam reseptor p38 α MAPK dan hER- α dengan tenaga pengikatan sebanyak -8.60 kcal/mol dan -8.83 kcal/mol. Hasil kajian *in silico* menunjukkan bahawa girinimbine (**1**) dan mahanimbine (**45**) berinteraksi dengan asid amino yang merangsangkan aktiviti pemerencatan oleh p38 α MAPK. Dalam kajian pengikatan dengan p38 α MAPK, kedua-dua girinimbine (**1**) dan mahanimbine (**45**) membina interaksi hidrofobik dengan asid amino yang dilaporkan bertanggungjawab dalam aktiviti pemerencatan pertumbuhan sel seperti Leu167, Lys53, Val30 dan Val38. Di samping itu, girinimbine (**1**) dan mahanimbine (**45**) membina interaksi hidrofobik dengan beberapa asid amino yang merangsang reseptor estrogen yang boleh digunakan sebagai agen anti-estrogen. Antara asid amino yang terlibat termasuklah Arg394, Glu353, Met421, Leu525, Ala350, Leu387, Leu249 dan Leu392. Kajian *in silico* daripada girinimbine (**1**) dan mahanimbine (**45**) dengan p38 α MAPK dan hER- α dilaporkan untuk pertama kali. Girinimbine (**1**) dan mahanimbine (**45**) mempunyai potensi untuk dijadikan sebagai agen anti-estrogen dalam perawatan kanser jenis perangsang estrogen positif seperti MCF-7 dan sebagai pemerencat p38 α MAP kinase. Hasil kerja kajian mencadangkan bahawa girinimbine (**1**) dan mahanimbine (**45**) yang dipencilkan daripada *Murraya koenigii* berpotensi untuk digunakan dalam rawatan dan terapi kanser payu dara.

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This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

Nur Kartinee binti Kassim, PhD

Senior Lecturer
Faculty of Science
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Chairman)

Mohd. Basyaruddin bin Abdul Rahman, PhD

Professor
Faculty of Science
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Member)

Latifah binti Saiful Yazan, PhD

Associate Professor
Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Member)

ROBIAH BINTI YUNUS, PhD

Professor and Dean
School of Graduate Studies
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LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

A	Absorbance
Ala	Alanine
α	Alpha
Å	Angstrom
AA	Antioxidant Activity
Arg	Arginine
ABTS	Azinobis(3-Ethyl-Benzothiazoline-6-Sulphonic Acid)
β	Beta
br	Broad
BHT	Butylated Hydroxytoluene
C	Carbon
^{13}C	Carbon-13
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
δ	Chemical Shift
CHCl ₃	Chloroform
R^2	Coefficient of Determination
c	Concentration
COSY	Correlation Spectroscopy
J	Coupling Constant
CuCl ₂	Cupric Chloride
Cu ²⁺	Cupric Ion
CUPRAC	Cupric Reducing Antioxidant Capacity
Cu ⁺	Cuprous Ion

°C	Degree Celcius
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
CDCl ₃	Deuterated Chloroform
CD ₃ OD	Deuterated Metahanol
DMSO	Dimethyl Sulfoxide
DPPH	1,1-Dimethyl-2-Picrylhydrazine
<i>d</i>	Doublet
<i>dd</i>	Doublet of doublet
MTT	3-(4,5-Dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-DiphenyltetrazoliumBromide
DEPT	Distortionless EnhancementbyPolarizationTransfer
EtOH	Ethanol
EI-MS	Electron Impact – Mass Spectroscopy
eV	Electrovolt
MCF-7	Estrogen-Dependent Human Breast Adenocarcinoma Cell Line
MDA-MB-231	Estrogen-Independent Human Breast Adenocarcinoma Cell Line
EtOAc	Ethyl Acetate
EDTA	Ethylenediaminetetraacetic Acid
FeCl ₃ ·6H ₂ O	FerricChloride Hexahydrate
Fe ³⁺	Ferric Ion
FRAP	Ferric Reducing AntioxidantPower
Fe(III)-TPTZ	Ferric-Tripyridyltriazine
Fe ²⁺	Ferrous Ion
FBS	Fetal Bovine Serum
GCMS	Gas Chromatography Mass Spectroscopy
² J _{CH}	Geminal Carbon-Proton Coupling Constant

$^2J_{\text{HH}}$	Geminal Proton-Proton Coupling Constant
ΔG	Gibbs Free Energy
Glu	Glutamic Acid
Gly	Glycine
g	Gram
GCC	Gravity Column Chromatography
IC ₅₀	Half Maximal Inhibitory Concentration
HMBC	Heteronuclear Multiple Bond Correlation
HMQC	Heteronuclear Multiple Quantum Correlation
Hex	Hexane
K562	Human Erythroleukemic Cell Lines
HCT-15	Human Colorectal Adenocarcinoma Cell Line
CEM-SS	Human T-4-lymphoblastoid Cell Line
HUVEC	Human Umbilical Vein Endothelial Cell
HeLa	Human Cervical Adenocarcinoma Cell Line
HT-29	Human Colorectal Adenocarcinoma Cell Line
hER- α	Human Estrogen Receptor Alpha
HepG2	Human Hepatocellular Carcinoma Cell Line
A-549	Human Lung Carcinoma Epithelial Cell Line
p38 α MAPK	Human p38 Alpha Mitogen-Activate Protein Kinase
HL-60	Human Promyelocytic Leukemia Cell Line
HCl	Hydrochloric Acid
Trolox	6-Hydroxy-2,5,7,8-Tetramethylchroman-2-Carboxylic Acid
IR	Infrared
Kcal	Kilocalories

Kg	Kilogram
Leu	Leucine
L	Litre
Lit.	Literature
$^3J_{CH}$	Long Range Carbon-Proton Coupling Constant
Lys	Lysine
m/z	Mass over Charge Ratio
MS	Mass Spectrometry
λ_{max}	Maximum Wavelength
ν_{max}	Maximum Wavenumber
MHz	Mega Hertz
m.p.	Melting Point
P388	Menogaril-resistant Mouse Leukemia Cell Line
MeOH	Methanol
Met	Methionine
μg	Microgram
μL	Microlitre
μM	Micromolar
mg	Milligram
mM	Milimolar
min	Minute
ϵ	Molar Absorptivity
M	Molar Mass
M^+	Molecular Ion
<i>m</i>	Multiplet

nm	Nanometer
Nc	Neocuproine
CCD-841	Normal Human Colon Epithelium
NMR	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
1-D	One-Dimensional
ppm	Part per million
%	Percentage
PCV	Percentage of Cell Viability
PBS	Phosphate Buffered Saline
Phe	Phenylalanine
KBr	Potassium Bromide
K ₂ S ₂ O ₈	Potassium Persulphate
pH	Potential of Hydrogen
H	Proton
¹ H	Proton-1
q	Quartet
ROS	Reactive Oxygen Species
R _f	Retention Factor
Rpm	Revolution <i>Rer</i> Minute
s	Singlet
Na	Sodium
NaCl	Sodium Chloride
SD	Standard Deviation
Ser	Serine
H ₂ SO ₄	Sulphuric Acid

3T3-L1	Swiss Mouse Embryo Fibroblast Cell Line
TMS	Tetramethylsilane
TLC	Thin Layer Chromatography
Thr	Threonine
<i>t</i>	Triplet
TPTZ	2,4,6-Tris(2-Pyridyl)-s-Triazine
TE	Trolox Equivalent
TEAC	Trolox Equivalent Antioxidant Capacity
2-D	Two Dimensional
UATR	Universal Attenuated Total Reflection
UV	Ultraviolet
UV-Vis	Ultraviolet-Visible
Val	Valine
$^3J_{CH}$	Vicinal Carbon-Proton Coupling Constant
Λ	Wavelength

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Natural products are chemical substances that produced by the living organism. They were found naturally to possess the medicinal properties and had been a source of medicinal agent since thousand years ago (Pawar, 2014). Natural product research continue to explore a variety of lead structure, which may be used as the basic for new drug development in pharmaceutical industries (Shelar and Shirote, 2011).

Early researches of *Murraya* species indicated that plants from this genus are enriched with interesting bioactive compounds. The previous studies on *Murraya koenigii* revealed this plant as a potential antioxidant, chemopreventive and antimicrobial agent (Rao *et al.* 2007; Ningappa *et al.* 2008; Sasidharan and Menon 2011). The phytochemical studies of the species revealed that carbazole alkaloids were the most abundance chemical constituents (Rao *et al.*, 2007; Mandal *et al.*, 2010), in which they played an important roles in cytotoxic effect (Mohan *et al.*, 2012). The isolated carbazole alkaloid, girinimbine (**1**) was reported to induce an apoptosis effect against several cancer cell lines and it could be developed into a potential pharmaceutical agent (Wang *et al.*, 2007; Cai, 2008; Syam *et al.*, 2011 ; Mohan, 2012). Although *Murraya koenigii* was extensively studied, yet there were limited studies on the metal ion reducing antioxidant activities and cytotoxicity against the hormone independent breast adenocarcinoma cell lines (MDA-MB-231). Meanwhile, *Aegle marmelos* is also one of the species belongs to Rutaceae family. This plant is extensively used in the Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha systems of Indian medicine as anti-diabetic agent (Sankeshi *et al.*, 2013). It is also found to be very useful in treating pain, fever, inflammation, respiratory disorder, cardiac disorder, dysentery and diarrhea (Arul *et al.*, 2005; Kesari *et al.*, 2006). This plant contains a wide variety of chemical constituents including coumarins and alkaloids. Although several biological activities had been reported on *Aegle marmelos*, however, the antioxidant activities and cytotoxicity of Indonesian *Aegle marmelos* has not been well studied. Therefore, the phytochemical and biological activities of *Murraya koenigii* and *Aegle marmelos* were further investigated in this study.

Breast cancer is the most common malignancy found in women population (Ghoncheh *et al.*, 2016). The side effects and drawbacks from current breast cancer chemotherapy such as heart disease problem had promoted the discovery for new drug that can overcome the heart failure problems of the patients who received the chemotherapy treatment (Mitry and Edwards, 2015). In addition, the consequences of chemotherapy and radiotherapy are the generation of the reactive oxygen species (ROS) which induces DNA damages or affects DNA replications to target the tumor cells (Thyagarajan and Sahu, 2017) thus leads to the serious side effects (Fuchs-Tarlovsky, 2013). Some of the chemopreventive compounds with the antioxidant properties were reported to increase the efficacy of the cytotoxic effects against the tumor cells while reducing the toxicity of normal surrounding cells (Thyagarajan & Sahu, 2017).

Therefore, the biological activity studies of *Aegle marmelos* and *Murraya koenigii* were focused on the cytotoxicity against breast adenocarcinoma cell lines and antioxidant properties.

In our attempt to isolate pure compounds from the plant species, various chromatography techniques were incorporated in the isolation process and the structures of the isolated compounds were analyzed by spectroscopic techniques including Infrared (IR), Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR), and Mass Spectrometry (MS). Antioxidant activities were studied through DPPH, ABTS, CUPRAC, FRAP and β -carotene bleaching assays. Meanwhile, the cytotoxicity of the extracts and isolated compounds were investigated via MTT assay. The mechanism of the isolated compounds as cytotoxic agents were further investigated by *in silico* docking method against Human P38 alpha Mitogen-Activated Kinase and Human Estrogen Receptor Alpha. The general objective of this research was to find a lead compound which may be a good candidate for anti-cancer and antioxidant.

The specific objectives of this research were to:

- i. isolate, identify and characterize the selected compounds from *Aegle marmelos* and *Murraya koenigii*.
- ii. evaluate the antioxidant capacities of extracts and the selected compounds from *Aegle marmelos* and *Murraya koenigii*.
- iii. investigate *in-vitro* cytotoxicity of the extracts and the selected compounds against human breast adenocarcinoma cell lines.
- iv. perform *in-silico* study of the binding interaction between the selected compounds and Human P38 alpha Mitogen-Activated Kinase and Human Estrogen Receptor Alpha.

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