



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***ANTI-OBESITY STUDY OF *Elateriospermun tapos* BLUME HOT
AQUEOUS EXTRACT IN HIGH-FAT DIET Sprague-Dawley RATS***

NOR LIYANA BINTI JA'AFAR

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By

NOR LIYANA BINTI JA'AFAR

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

April 2018

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

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April 2018

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Obesity is a major public health burden and currently became a global pandemic. Current pharmacotherapy often accompanied with myriads of adverse side effects thus, the search for a safer novel cure is crucial. This study focus on the protective effects of *Elateriospermum tapos* extract on rats fed with high-fat diet and its potential as an anti-obesity agent through inhibition of lipoprotein lipase (LPL) and triglyceride (TG) absorption. Thirty-six male *Sprague-Dawley* rats were allocated to negative control group (NC) fed with normal diet, while positive control (PC), drug control (DC), and treatment groups (T10, T100 and T200) were fed with high-fat and cafeteria diet. The DC group was given orlistat of 10mg/kg bodyweight and treatment groups were supplemented with 10, 100 and 200mg/kg bodyweight of *E. tapos* shell extract respectively. The bodyweight and caloric intake were measured weekly. After 4 weeks, the rats were euthanized and the plasma, liver and retroperitoneal white adipose tissues (RpWAT) were collected for biological assays of TG, LPL and plasma lipid profiles. Liver and adipose tissues were stained with Haematoxylin & Eosin for histological analysis. The PC group had significantly ($p<0.05$) higher in bodyweight, caloric intake and weight of RpWAT compared to NC group. The extract significantly ($p<0.05$) lowered the bodyweight and the weight of fat depots in treatment groups as compared to PC group. Nonetheless, the *E. tapos* shell extract supplementation has no positive inhibiting effects on the tissues TG and LPL level. Further, only T100 group had significantly ($p<0.05$) lowered plasma TG level as compared to PC. The size of both hepatocytes and adipocytes of supplemented groups were significantly ($p<0.05$) smaller as compared to those in obese group. Based on the findings, this study suggests that supplementation of *E. tapos* shell extract exhibited preventive effects on high-fat and cafeteria diet-induced obesity in rats. The extract however has no potential in the inhibition of TG and LPL level.

Keyword: *Elateriospermum tapos*, obesity, cafeteria diet, triglycerides, lipoprotein lipase



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

**KAJIAN ANTI-OBESITI DARIPADA EKSTRAK AIR-PANAS
Elateriospermum tapos BLUME KEATAS TIKUS *Sprague-Dawley* YANG
DIBERI MAKAN DIET TINGGI-LEMAK**

Oleh

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Obesiti merupakan satu masalah kesihatan awam yang utama dan kini menjadi pandemik global. Farmakoterapi sering diiringi dengan pelbagai kesan sampingan, oleh yang demikian, kajian penyembuhan baharu yang lebih selamat adalah sangat penting bagi mengatasi masalah ini. Kajian ini menumpukan kepada kesan perlindungan ekstrak *Elateriospermum tapos* keatas tikus yang diberi makan diet tinggi-lemak dan potensinya sebagai agen anti-obesiti melalui perencatan penyerapan trigliserida (TG) dan lipoprotein lipase (LPL). Tiga puluh enam tikus *Sprague-Dawley* jantan dibahagikan kepada kumpulan kawalan negatif (NC) yang diberi makanan normal, manakala kawalan positif (PC), kawalan dadah (DC), dan kumpulan rawatan (T10, T100 dan T200) diberi makan diet tinggi-lemak dan diet kafeteria. Kumpulan DC diberikan Orlistat 10mg/kg berat badan dan kumpulan rawatan masing-masing diberikan ekstrak *E. tapos* 10, 100 dan 200mg /kg berat badan. Berat badan dan pengambilan kalori diukur setiap minggu. Selepas 4 minggu, tikus dimatikan dan plasma, organ hati, dan tisu adiposa putih (RpWAT) diambil untuk ujian biologi TG, LPL dan profil lipid plasma. Tisu hati dan adiposa putih diwarnakan dengan Haematoxylin & Eosin untuk analisis histologi. Kumpulan PC mempunyai berat badan, pengambilan kalori dan berat lemak yang tinggi yang ketara ($p < 0.05$) berbanding dengan kumpulan NC. Pengambilan ekstrak menurunkan berat badan dan tisu lemak dengan ketara ($p < 0.05$) dalam kumpulan rawatan berbanding dengan kumpulan PC. Walaupun begitu, pengambilan ekstrak kulit *E. tapos* tidak mempunyai kesan positif dalam pencegahan keatas paras TG and LPL dalam tisu. Selanjutnya, hanya kumpulan T100 menunjukkan penurunan paras TG plasma yang ketara ($p < 0.05$) berbanding dengan kumpulan PC. Saiz hepatosit dan adiposit dalam kumpulan rawatan lebih kecil ($p < 0.05$) berbanding dengan kumpulan kawalan positif. Berdasarkan penemuan ini, kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa suplemen ekstrak *E. tapos* menunjukkan kesan pencegahan ke atas obesiti yang disebabkan oleh diet tinggi-lemak dan kafeteria pada tikus. Walau

bagaimanapun, ekstrak ini tidak mempunyai potensi dalam pencegahan paras TG dan LPL.

Kata kunci: *Elateriospermum tapos*, obesiti, diet kafeteria, trigliserida, lipoprotein lipase



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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 Master of Science. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

°C	Degree Celsius
µg	Microgram
µl	Microliter
L	Litre
LC ₅₀	Lethal concentration required to kill 50% of the population.
LDL	Low-density lipoprotein
HDL	High-density lipoprotein
TC	Total cholesterol
mL	Millilitre
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
TG	Triglycerides
LPL	Lipoprotein Lipase
g	Gram
Kg	Kilogram
mg	Milligram
mmol/L	Milimole per Litre
RpWAT	Retroperitoneal white adipose tissue
BW	Bodyweight
PC	Positive control
NC	Negative control
DC	Drug control
T10	Group treated with <i>E. tapos</i> 10mg/kg of body weight
T100	Group treated with <i>E. tapos</i> 100mg/kg of body weight
T200	Group treated with <i>E. tapos</i> 200mg/kg of body weight
US	United States
UK	United Kingdom
USA	United States of America
WHO	World Health Organisation

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

Obesity is an eminent global health challenge associated with a myriad of consequences to the society at large. Overweight and obesity prevalence has been increasing drastically over the last few decades. World Health Organization (2017) estimated that almost 2 billion adults worldwide aged above 18 years old were overweight and more than 600 million of those were considered obese. National Health and Morbidity Survey (2015) reported that almost 20% of Malaysian population were considered obese and those who categorized as overweight make up to 30 % of the population. The occurrence of obesity has multiplied drastically from 4.4% in 1996 to 17.7% in 2015 (Ghee, 2016).

The prevalence of obesity and overweight are escalating in most developing countries including Malaysia due to swift growth of socio- economic in recent years (Jan et al., 2015). Major shift of dietary practices from healthy balanced to popular “Westernized” diets that are energy-rich, nutrient-deprived and small in fibre is one of the predisposing factors of obesity (Popkin, 2003). The parallel of obese patient with the expansion of fast food restaurant is no coincidence. Sustained sedentary behaviour among the population also contribute to the incidence of obesity (Maguire & Haslam, 2010). Individuals with less physical activity more prone to gain weight (Hurt et al., 2010). Prevention of obesity nowadays is very demanding as the disease is influenced by many elements.

Literatures have reported a clear causal correlation between surplus body weight and high risk of morbidity and mortality (Ferguson et al., 2013). By estimation, obesity alone may contribute for almost 3 million deaths and \$2 trillion in medical expenses and lost productivity every year (Dobbs et al., 2014). Obesity is often associated with several chronic disorder like dyslipidaemia and coronary atherosclerosis which are predisposing elements for cardiovascular disease (Boden, 2011). The typical dyslipidaemia of obesity marked by high level of triglycerides (TG) and free fatty acid, low level of high-density lipoprotein (HDL) and high level of low-density lipoprotein (LDL) (Franssen et al., 2011).

Lipoprotein lipase (LPL) and triglyceride (TG) are two primary aspects in obesity study. The LPL is a fundamental enzyme in lipids and lipoprotein metabolism in the body (Kusunoki et al., 2012). The LPL hydrolysed the TG-rich lipoproteins, then taken up in peripheral tissues for metabolic energy. The unused TG are stored in adipose tissue. Disparity of LPL level may change the

balance of plasma TG between muscle and adipose tissue, thus can lead to obesity. Mode of action of LPL has been intensively examined *in vitro* and *in vivo* (Wang and Eckel, 2009).

Lifestyle and pharmacotherapy interventions has resulted in limited efficacy as yet, thus the debate over treatment is currently raging. Orlistat, current drug treatment for obesity has been approved by Federal Drug and Administration in 2007 as an over-the-counter weight loss aid can result in adverse side effects like faecal incontinence, flatulence and steatorrhea (Birari and Bhutani, 2007; Kaya et al., 2004). Orlistat, act primarily in the interior of stomach and small intestine is a reversible lipases inhibitor that which form a stable bond with serine residue (Cudrey et al., 1993). The bonding then lead to the inactivation of lipase thus hydrolysis of dietary lipid in triglycerides form become unavailable which then excreted out (Hadvary et al., 1988). Caloric deficit may occurred causes by the undigested triglycerides, subsequently lead to weight reduction. At the suggested therapeutic dose of 120 mg three times a day, orlistat is able to inhibit dietary fat absorption by approximately 30% (Hadvary et al., 1998; Apovian et al., 2015).

In addition, Meridia a sibutramine drug was retracted from the U.S. market after strong associations between the drug and several acute disorders like heart failure and stroke was found (Felix and West, 2013). Due to very little efficacy in terms of current drug intervention, a novel alternative should be offered that directly target obesity. Supplementation from the natural sources is one of the initiative program that yet to be further studied. The significant progress of the development of anti-obesity from medicinal plants has provided potential therapeutic measure for obesity (Abdul Rahman et al., 2017). Numerous studies have reported natural sources from plants and other organisms are effective to reduce bodyweight that targeting pancreatic lipase activities (Birari and Bhutani, 2007; Lunagarua et al., 2014). Malaysia has over 6000 plants of medicinal values. It is an opportunity to utilise our natural resources in promoting naturopath approach in health which eventually lead to economic enhancement.

In current study, we proposed that *Elateriospermum tapos* is able to replicate the effect of orlistat as an inhibitor of lipase. *E. tapos* is widely distributed in Southeast Asian tropical rain forest. In Malaysia, this species is widely distributed in Jengka Forest Reserve, Peninsular Malaysia. The *E. tapos* seed has a great potential for commercial development in the pharmacological industry due to its nutritive seed oil contents. Several known phytochemicals were found in *E. tapos* including flavonoid, tannins and alkaloid which hold therapeutic properties against many diseases (Ling et al., 2006). Study by Ooi and Salimon, (2006) showed that *E. tapos* seed oil contain α -linolenic acid (ALA:18:3n-3), the parent of omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs). Omega 3 is one of the essential PUFAs that carry a potential value to combat obesity.

The natives from Sarawak or Pahang often consumed the *E. tapos* seed in raw or in fermented forms and the shell would be thrown away. However, despite often considered as waste material, *E. tapos* shell carries abundant of beneficial properties according to recent studies (Chang et al., 2017; Bakhtiar et al., 2017). In fact, several studies mentioned that peeling fruits or vegetables will reduce the nutritional contents (Slavin & Lloyd, 2012; Vinha et al., 2014). Therefore, in present study we sought out the anti-obesity potential of the *E. tapos* shell extract as well as to sustain the development of novel therapeutic from natural product.

Study has revealed that the flavonoid has significant effect in reducing body weight through the inhibition of the triglycerides level in obese model (Yamamoto and Que, 2006). Further, the flavonoids also play a focal role in the pathway of lipid hydrolysis in adipose tissue (Frayn et al., 2003). As of today, no study has highlight the potential role of *E. tapos* shell against obesity, hence deeper understanding on the mechanisms are necessary. Here, this study aims to explore the protective effects of *E. tapos* shell on body weight gain, caloric intake, triglyceride, lipoprotein lipase and plasma lipid profiles in high-fat diet *Sprague-Dawley* rats.

1.2 Hypothesis

Elateriospermum tapos shell extract is able to exert anti-obesity effect in rats fed with high fat diet through inhibition of triglyceride absorption and lipoprotein lipase.

1.3 Objective

1.3.1 General objectives:

To assess the effects of *E. tapos* shell extract on rats fed with high fat diet and to evaluate its potential as an anti-obesity agent.

1.3.2 Specific objectives:

- (1) To investigate the effects of *E. tapos* shell extract supplementation on body weight gain and caloric intake in rats fed with high-fat diet.
- (2) To determine the effects *E. tapos* shell extract supplementation on triglyceride and lipoprotein lipase level in liver and adipose tissue of rats fed with high-fat diet.
- (3) To determine the effects of *E. tapos* shell extract supplementation on plasma lipid profiles (total cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein, high-

- density lipoprotein, and triglyceride) and lipoprotein lipase in rats fed with high-fat diet.
- (4) To study the effects *E. tapos* supplementation on the size of the liver and adipose tissue of rats fed with high-fat diet.



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