Phytochemicals Analysis and Cytotoxicity Activity of Ethanol Extract of *Litseacubeba* Lour. Heartwood

Fujiko M.1*, Dalimunthe A.1*, Masfria M2,

1Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Universitas Sumatera Utara, Medan, 20155, Indonesia.

2Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, Universitas Sumatera Utara, Medan, 20155, Indonesia.

**Abstract**

Objective: The purpose of this study was to determine the chemical compounds which contained in the ethanol extract and cytotoxic activity ethanol extract of *Litseacubeba* heartwood induced in T47D cells.

Methods: The ethanol extract was extracted by maceration using ethanol 96% solvent. Cytotoxic activity was determined with MTT method and the IC50 analyzed using SPSS 23.

Results: Phytochemicals screening showed that the ethanol extract of *Litseacubeba* heartwood contained steroids/triterpenoids, glycosides, alkaloids, flavonoids, saponins and tannins. The IC50 of ethanol extract of *Litseacubeba* heartwood were 349.57 ±0.35µg/ml in T47D cells.

Conclusions: Ethanol extract of *Litseacubeba* heartwood has activity as an anticancer to T47D cells breast cancer agents.

Keywords: heartwood, *Litseacubeba* Lour, T47D cell, cytotoxicity, phytochemicals.

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*Address for Correspondence:*
Fujiko M, Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Pharmacy, Universitas Sumatera Utara, Medan, 20155, Indonesia

**Introduction**

*Attarasa* is a plant from the Lauraceae family that contains bioactive alkaloids, essential oils, flavonoids and steroids, which in this plant also contains total phenolic and flavonoids which are known to have antioxidant functions. Traditionally, essential oils in *Attarasa* plants are used as an antidepressant, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, pesticide, antimicrobial, anticancer and neuro pharmacological agent. Piyapat et al. stated that methanol extract from *Attarasa* fruits has an activity that causes apoptosis by activating the caspase 3/7 against Hela cells. Isoquinoline alkaloids can be used as inhibitors of the cholinesterase enzyme, wherein the inhibition of the enzyme coninesterase can treat alzaimer disease, Parkinson's disease, and inhibitors of premature aging.

Cancer is a disease that is very complex and is ranked first as the leading cause of death worldwide. The most common type of cancer suffered by women is breast cancer (30% of all cancer cases in women), and 14% of these cases end in death. Handling cancer with chemotherapy agents is still an option in cancer treatment. However, the presence of a multidrug resistance (MDR) mechanism results in reduced efficacy of chemotherapy drugs. Some research began to be directed at testing the potential of natural ingredients as chemoprevention agents that have the potential as chemotherapy companion agents. The aim is to increase the sensitivity of cancer cells and reduce the side effects caused by chemotherapy agents. Chemoprevention agents referred to here generally have the activity of inhibiting tumor growth through the mechanism of cell cycle arrest, apoptosis tracking or inhibiting the expression of proteins that play a role in Multi Drug Resistance.

Chemopreventive agents can reduce the risk of cancer by inhibiting the initiation of preneoplastic lesions by carcinogens, or reversing cancer progression. One approach...
to finding chemopreventive compounds is through exploration of natural materials, especially plants. The chemical composition of the heartwood in this study is intended to determine the characteristics and content of chemical compounds and to know the anticancer activity of Litseacubeba heartwood extract.

EXPERIMENTAL

Plant and chemicals materials

Fresh heartwood of Litseacubeba (Lour.) were collected from Parsoburan Village, Toba Samosir, North Sumatra, Indonesia. Litseacubeba Lour. was identified in Herbarium Medanense (MEDA) Universityof Sumatera Utara. The chemicals materials used in this study were ethanol 96%, Hepes (Sigma), dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) (Sigma), DMEM media, RPMI-1640 media, FBS (Gibco), penicillin-streptomycin (Gibco), Fungison (Amphotericin B) 0.5%, trypsin-EDTA 0.25% (Gibco), Fetal Bovine Serum (Gibco), PBS, and [3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-il)-2,5 difeniltetrazolium bromide] (Sigma).

Preparation of extract ethanol Litseacubeba Lour.

Heartwood

The air-dried and powdered heartwood of Litseacubeba (Lour.) (1 kg) were repeatedly macerated with ethanol 96% (3x3 d, 7.5 L), the filtrate was evaporated with a rotary evaporator with a temperature of ± 40°C to give a viscous extract.

Phytochemical analysis of ethanol extract Litseacubeba Lour.

Phytochemical analysis was performed on ethanol extract of heartwood Litseacubeba Lour. Included examination of secondary metabolites of alkaloids, flavonoids, glycosides, tannins, saponins, and triterpenoids/steroids were carried out according to standard procedures.

Dosage of extract

The treatment of extract used several concentration series of 500µg /mL; 250µg /mL; 125µg /mL; 62.5µg /mL; 31.25µg /mL and 15.625µg /mL.

Cytotoxicity Assay And Selectivity Index

T47D cells were grown on RPMI media supplemented with 10% (Gibco) Fetal bovine, Penicillin 1% Streptomycin 1% (Gibco) and Fungizone 0.5% (Gibco) were incubated at 37°C, CO2 5%. The inoculums seeded on a 96 well plate (Iwaki), each well 1 x 104 cells/0.1 mL. Cell culture were incubated at 37°C, 5% CO2 for 24 hours. After 24 hours the media was discarded and the cell plus ethanol extract and doxorubicin were incubated for 24 hours then the medium was removed and 0.5 mg / mL of MTT was added and incubated for 4 hours at 37°C, 5% CO2. After crystal formazan was formed and 10% SDS was added to dissolve the formazan crystals, then incubated for 24 hours at room temperature and shielded from light. The absorbance was measured with microplate reader at λ 595 nm. The resulting absorbance was converted to a percentage of cell viability, then the selectivity index (IS) ethanol extract was determined against T47D cells.

The equation to determine the viability of cells

%Viability = (Absorbance of treatment - absorbance of medium) / absorbance of control cells - absorbance of medium × 100%

Statistical Analysis

The results were presented as means ± SD. The statistical analysis was carried out by using SPSS edition 23.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results of phytochemicals constituent analysis from ethanol extract of heartwood Litseacubeba Lour. were determined to obtain the information of the group of phytochemical which contain in Litseacubeba Lour. The results can be seen on Table 1. Alkaloids from ethanol extract and Phenolic; flavonoid from ethyl acetate extract were identified active as antioxidant activity, alkaloids fraction active as inhibited the development cell cancers.

Table 1: Phytochemicals content heartwood of Litseacubeba Lour.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Metabolite secondary</th>
<th>Simplicia</th>
<th>Extract</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Alkaloids</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Flavonoids</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Saponin</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tannins</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Glikosid</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Steroid/Triterpenoid</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Description: (+) shows that the simplicia and ethanol extract contains secondary metabolite, (-) shows that the simplicia and ethanol extract not contain secondary metabolite.

Phytochemical compounds in simplicia and ethanol extract isn't different.

Cytotoxic effect of ethanol extract Litseacubeba Lour. was carried out by MTT method and IC50 values obtained from ethanol extract of heartwood Litseacubeba Lour. against T47D cell were 349.57±0.35µg /mL. Dalimunthe et al. states that an extract which is declared active when giving an IC50 value of 10-100µg / mL, with the results obtained from the alkaloid fraction of attarasa heartwood and fruit at pH 7 and 9 were 46.60± 0.19; 123.01 ± 14.63dan 35.89 ± 1.04; 98.31 ± 2.51µg/mL. The smaller the IC50 value means the higher the value of its cytotoxic activity. Cytotoxicity can be grouped into three namely; (1) cytotoxic potential if IC50 <100µg / mL, (2) moderate
cytotoxic if 100μg / ml <IC50<1000μg / ml and non-toxic if IC50> 1000 μg / ml. Groups of compounds with potential cytotoxicity can be used as anticancer agents while moderate cytotoxicity can be used for chemoprevention that can prevent and inhibit the growth of cancer cells. NCI (National Cancer Institute) has established anticancer activity criteria based on Inhibition Concentration 50 (IC50), which is the concentration of substances needed to inhibit cell growth by 50%. A substance is called cytotoxic (anticancer) if its activity on a test has an IC50 value <4μg / mL.

Ethanol extract of *Litsea cubeba* Lour. cytotoxic activity was also showed by changes in T47D cells morphology and viability data after treatment. T47D cells morphology and viability data can be seen in figure 1 and figure 2.

![Figure 1](image1.png)

**Figure 1**: The cytotoxic effect of the sample on T47D cell. The observation was performed under inverted microscope with 100x magnification. A: Ethanol Extract 500 μg/mL, B: Ethanol Extract 31.25μg/mL, C: Control Cell

![Figure 2](image2.png)

**Figure 2**: Percentage of viability Ethanol Extract of *Litseacubeba* (500μg/ml, 250μg/ml, 125μg/ml, 62.5μg/ml and 31.25μg/ml) on T47D cell.

From figure 1, can viewed ethanol extract leaded death in T47 D Cell morphology was changed and having damaged. If concentration of ethanol extract was increased, then it will cause percentage of viability will decreased. Figure 2 showed, an increased in ethanol extract concentration caused decreased percentage of viability at 51, 25%, 69, 21%, 75, 96%, 86, 41% and 99, 32%.

**CONCLUSION**
Based on the results we obtained ethanol extract of heartwood *Litsea cubeba* Lour. had potentially used as to co-chemotherapy agent for breast cancer therapy.

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