

Volatile Compound Analysis using GC-MS, Phytochemical Screening and Antioxidant Activities of the Husk of “Julang-Jaling” (*Archidendron bubalinum* (Jack) I.C Nielsen) from Lampung, Indonesia

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History

- Submission Date: 25-08-2017;
- Review completed: 11-09-2017;
- Accepted Date: 20-11-2017

DOI : 10.5530/pj.2018.1.17

Article Available online

<http://www.phcogj.com/v10/i1>

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ABSTRACT

Background: “Julang-jaling” (*Archidendron bubalinum* (Jack) I.C Nielsen) fruits are commonly used as traditional food and in the treatment of blood sugar and heart disease. However, the research about the phytochemicals of the parts of this plants and their bioactivity was rare. **Objective:** The recent study was aimed to analyze volatile compounds in the extract of “julang-jaling” husks and evaluate their antioxidant and antimicrobial activities. **Material and methods:** The extraction was conducted using *n*-hexane, ethyl acetate, and methanol as extracting agent. The phytochemical assay was performed for all extracts, and followed by volatile compound analysis using GC-MS. The antioxidant assay was performed using DPPH method, and the antimicrobial activity was conducted using agar disc diffusion method. **Results:** The phytochemical assay showed that all extracts of “julang-jaling” husks contain various phytoconstituents having potential bioactivity. All extracts exhibit antioxidant activity with different level of activity depend on the type of extract. The IC₅₀ value were 273.57 ppm, 324.913 ppm, 735 ppm, for ethyl acetate, methanol and *n*-hexane, respectively. All extracts were able to inhibit the growth of *Bacillus cereus*, with the highest antimicrobial activity was gained for ethyl acetate extract. Both ethyl acetate and methanolic extract have antimicrobial activity toward *E. coli*, but no extracts yield positive results for *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus niger*. **Conclusion:** GC-MS analysis revealed the presence of hexadecanoic acids and their ester form in all extract, which might largely contribute in the antioxidant and antimicrobial activity.

Key words: *Archidendron bubalinum* (Jack) I.C Nielsen, GC-MS, Phytochemicals, Antioxidant, Antimicrobial Activity.

INTRODUCTION

Archidendron bubalinum (Jack) I.C Nielsen is an evergreen plant indigeneous to Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia and Sumatra in Indonesia, especially in Lampung province. This plant is belongs to Fabaceae or Leguminosae family, and also placed in Mimosaceae. According to Lim (2012), this species has many synonyms e.g *Albizia acradena* Miq., *Cylindrokelupha bubalina* (Jack) Kosterm, *Feuilleea bubalina* (Jack) Kuntze, *Inga bubalina* Jack, *Ortholobium bubalinum* (Jack) Kostern, *Pithecellobium bigeminum* (L.) Mart. var. *bubalinum* (Jack) Benth., *Pithecellobium ellipticum* sensu auct., *Pithecellobium lobatum* sensu Ridley. The fruit of this plant has different local names such as julang-jaling (Lampung), jering utan (Riau), jering kabau (West Sumatra), kabau (Jambi, Palembang, Riau), kabau (Bengkulu), kerdas or jering tupai (Malaysia), and nieng-no (Thailand).^{1,2,3,4,5,6}

The strong pungent smelling fruits have an odor like jering (*Archidendron jiringa*) and petai (*Parkia speciosa*).

The fruits have the flavor of jering and are similarly used to flavor food. Young seeds can be eaten raw in ulam or lalapan (traditional vegetable salad) or in chutney. People also used the fruits for treating blood sugar and heart disease.

To our knowledge, the phytochemical composition, antioxidant and antimicrobial activity of the “julang-jaling” husks have not yet been found. Since the husks were potential as herbal medicine, the phytoconstituents of this husks and the relation between the chemicals and their bioactivity should be studied comprehensively. Mass spectrometry, coupled with chromatographic separations such as gas chromatography (GC/MS) is normally used for direct analysis of components existing in traditional medicines and medicinal plants. In recent years GC-MS studies have been increasingly applied for the analysis of medicinal plants as this technique has proved to be a valuable method for the analysis of

Cite this article: Irawan C, Foliatini, Hanafi, Sulistiawaty L, Sukiman M. Volatile Compound Analysis Using GC-MS, Phytochemical Screening and Antioxidant Activities of the Husk of “Julang-Jaling” (*Archidendron bubalinum* (Jack) I.C Nielsen) From Lampung, Indonesia. *Pharmacogn J.* 2018;10(1):92-8.

non polar components and volatile essential oil, fatty acids, lipids, alkaloids, terpenoids and steroids, and only few grams of plant material is required.^{21,22,23}

In this recent study, we performed extraction process using several solvents and volatile compound analysis of “julang-jaling” (*Archidendron bubalinum* (Jack) I.C Nielsen) husks using GC-MS technique. The extracts were also evaluated their antioxidant activity using DPPH method and antimicrobial activity using agar disc diffusion method.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant Materials

“Julang-jaling” (*Archidendron bubalinum* (Jack) I.C Nielsen) fruits were harvested from Lampung, Sumatra, Indonesia. The plant was identified by Herbarium Bogoriense, Biological Research Centre, LIPI, Indonesia. The husks were collected from the fresh fruits, and then were washed with running tap water to remove the dirt, prior to the drying process. The husks were cut into small pieces, dried in room temperature, and then were powdered.

All chemicals used were of analytical grade. 1,1-Diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH), Dragendorff’s reagent, Meyer’s reagent, methanol, ethyl acetate, *n*-hexane, concentrated sulfuric acid, concentrated HCl, ferric chloride hexahydrate (FeCl₃·6H₂O), DMSO, acetic acid anhydride, acetic acid glacial, chloroform were purchased from Merck.

Instrumentation

Solvent removal (after maceration process) was done by rotary evaporator. Separation process was conducted by Thin Layer Chromatography, and further structure elucidation was performed by GC-MS.

Sample Extraction

Sample preparation was conducted by maceration using several organic solvents. A 100 g of powdered jolang-jaling husks were immersed in 5 L of *n*-hexane for 3 days, and then filtered. Filtrate was evaporated until dry sample was obtained, and this step resulted in raw extract of *n*-hexane. The residue from first immersion was entirely immersed back in 5 L ethyl acetate for 3 days to obtain raw extract of ethyl acetate. The solution was then filtered and evaporated, and the residue from this step was immersed in methanol for 3 days, resulted in raw methanolic extract. The maceration process was repeated several times to obtain clear extract solution containing all of expected chemical species.

Phytochemical assay

Phytochemical assay of raw extract of *n*-hexane, ethyl acetate, and methanol was performed using standard protocols, which have been reported in previous studies.^{12,13,14} The assay included several test for alkaloid, tannin, saponin, flavonoid, phenolic, and terpenoid.

Antioxidant Activity

Antioxidant activity of extracts was resolved by monitoring radical scavenging activity using DPPH method described in the past with slight modifications.⁷ Briefly, 1 mL of 0.5 mM DPPH (1,1-diphenyl-2-picryl-hydrazil) solution in methanol was pipetted and transferred to vial. The samples were prepared separately to obtain 1 mg/L (ppm), 3 ppm, and 5 ppm solution in methanol, and transferred to the vials which contain 0.5 mM DPPH. Each vial was diluted by adding methanol until the total volume of 5 mL. The absorbance of DPPH solution was measured by UV-Vis spectrophotometer at $\lambda = 515$ nm, every 5 minutes for total of 30 minutes. Antioxidant activity was calculated as a function of absorbance decrease of DPPH solution as a consequence of sample addition.

Structural elucidation of each fraction by GC-MS

Samples of *n*-hexane, ethyl acetate, and methanol extracts were further analyzed by Gas Chromatography – Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) to

determine the species contained in the samples. The chemical components were identified by matching their mass spectra with those recorded in the mass spectral library. GC-MS analysis was performed by using Agilent 7890A GC system, Agilent 5975C series VL MSD, capillary column type, flow rate of 1 mL/min, carrier gas was helium, constant flow model, injector temperature was 250°C, injection volume was 2 μ L, split injection technique, oven temperature was programmed from 40°C for 2 min, with temperature increment rate of 10°C/min, and final temperature of 280°C for 2 min. Total running time was 30 min.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

“Julang-jaling” husks and their extracts have appearance as shown in (Figure 1). After maceration in *n*-hexane, ethyl acetate and methanol, the as-obtained extracts were then examined through several procedures. The first step is preliminary phytochemical assay to qualitatively analyze the phytoconstituents in the extracts. The second step is antioxidant and antimicrobial assay, to prove the prediction of antioxidant and antimicrobial activity from phytochemical test. The third step is performing GC-MS technique to analyze and predicted the structure of bioactive volatile compounds.

Extraction using *n*-hexane, ethyl acetate and methanol

Extraction of the “julang-jaling” seeds was conducted using several solvents, i.e. *n*-hexane, ethyl acetate and methanol, as they represent nonpolar, semipolar and polar solvent, respectively. Previous studies reported that the biologically active phytoconstituents may have polarity from low to high, depend on their chemical structure.^{25,26,27}

Extraction of the seeds by maceration in those solvents for several days yielded colored solution: yellow bright for ethyl acetate extract, dark brown for methanolic extract and brownish yellow for *n*-hexane extract, as shown by Figure 2D. After evaporation, the color of the extract solution were reduced. The yields of the extraction were listed in the Table 1. The highest yields was achieved for methanolic extract, and the lowest yield was obtained for *n*-hexane extract.

Preliminary Phytochemical Assay

The *n*-hexane, ethyl acetate and methanolic extracts of “julang-jaling” (*Archidendron bubalinum* (Jack) I.C Nielsen) husks were subjected to several phytochemical test for the detection of different phytoconstituents using standard procedures. The results were shown in Table 2.



Figure 1: Dried “julang-jaling” (*Archidendron bubalinum* (Jack) I.C Nielsen) seeds (A), inner part of seeds (B), husks (C), and extract of husks after evaporation (D)

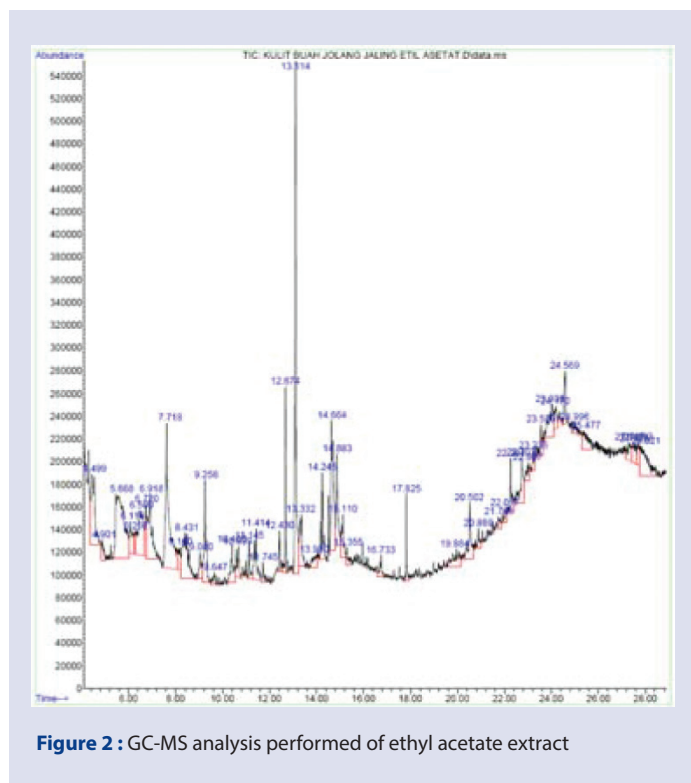
Table 1: The yields of “julang-jaling” husks extracts (per 60 g of samples)

solvent	W ₀ (g)	W ₁ (g)	W ₀ - W ₁ (g)	% yield*
<i>n</i> -hexane	20.8202	22.5481	1.7279	15.2148
ethyl acetate	16.6788	19.0672	2.3884	21.0308
methanol	20.7255	27.2034	6.4779	57.0403

* % yield is calculated using the followed equation : $((W_0 - W_1) / 60) \times 100\%$

Table 2 : Phytochemical assay of extract of “julang-jaling” (*Archidendron bubalinum* (Jack) I.C Nielsen) husks

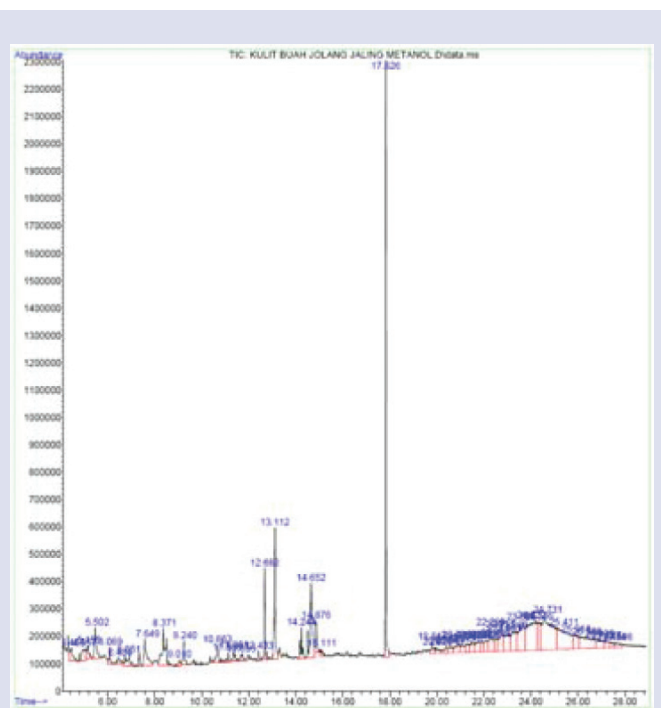
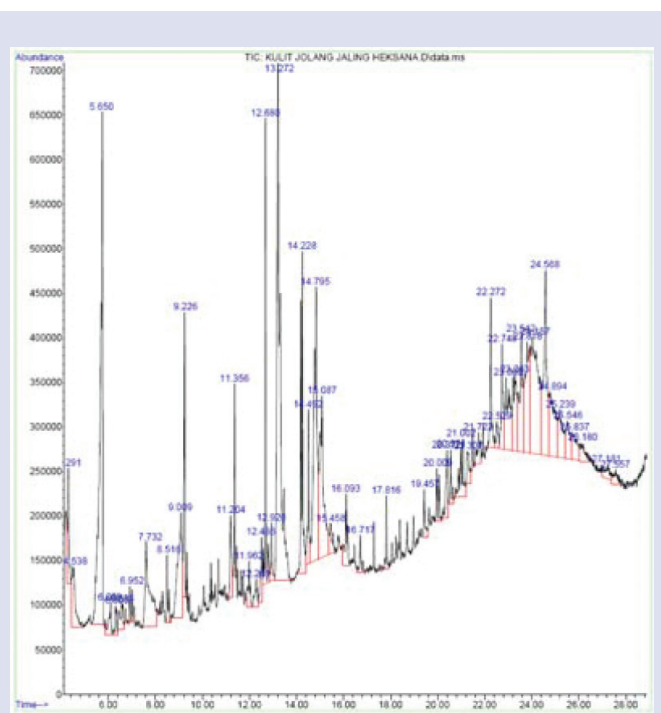
Phytochemicals	Extracting agent		
	hexane	ethyl acetate	methanol
Alkaloids :			
-Meyer	+++	-	-
-Dragendorff	+++	++++	+
-Wagner	+++	-	-
Flavonoids	+++	-	++
Tannins	+++	+++	+++
Phenols	-	+++	+++
Saponins	+	++	-
Terpenoids	+++	+	+

**Figure 2 :** GC-MS analysis performed of ethyl acetate extract**Table 3 : Antioxidant activity of “julang-jaling” (*Archidendron bubalinum* (Jack) I.C Nielsen) husks extracts**

Extracting agent	IC ₅₀ (ppm)
ethyl acetate	273.57 ppm
hexane	735. ppm
methanol	324.913 ppm

Phytochemical screening of various plants has been reported by many workers.^{15,16,17} These studies have revealed the presence of numerous chemicals, including alkaloids, flavonoids, tannin, phenols, saponins and terpenoids.

Table 2 showed that all extracts contain alkaloid, tannins, and terpenoids, although the concentration was varied for each extract. Both ethyl acetate and methanolic extracts contain phenols. Flavonoids were present in both *n*-hexane and methanolic extract, whereas saponins were present

**Figure 3 :** GC-MS analysis performed of methanol extract**Figure 4 :** GC-MS analysis performed of hexane extract

in both *n*-hexane and ethyl acetate extract. The *n*-hexane extract exhibited negative yields for phenols test.

A number of studies have focused on the biological activities of tannins, phenols, flavonoid and terpenoid compounds, which are antioxidants and free radical scavengers.¹ Thus, based on the phytochemical assay, all extracts may be predicted to possess significant antioxidative and anti-

microbial properties. In order to evaluate the antioxidant and antimicrobial activity of all extracts, we performed antioxidant assay using DPPH method, and antimicrobial assay using agar disc diffusion method.

Antioxidant Assay

The *n*-hexane, Antioxidant assay of all extracts was conducted using DPPH method. The DPPH free radical method is an easy, rapid and sensitive technique to evaluate the antioxidant activity of certain compounds, including extract of plants.²⁴ In this technique, the antioxidant compounds were able to reduce the DPPH radicals, resulting color change of the solution from deep violet to yellow. The decrease in absorbance at wavelength of 517 nm was recorded and converted to % inhibition. Antioxidant activity was reported as % inhibition, and this values were then plotted as a function of extract concentration to obtain IC₅₀ value. The lower the IC₅₀ value, the higher the antioxidant capacity.

The result showed that all extracts give rise to the % inhibition as the concentration was increased, thus these extracts possessed a certain degree of antioxidant activity. Table 3 showed that the methanolic extract have IC₅₀ value of 324.913 ppm and the ethyl acetate have IC₅₀ value of 273.57 ppm or have moderate antioxidant activity. However, the *n*-hexane showed high IC₅₀ 735 ppm, thus the extracts have low antioxidant activity. This result was in agreement with the qualitative prediction from phytochemical assay. Various phytoconstituents which largely contained in the ethyl acetate and methanolic extract were responsible for the antioxidant activity of these extracts.

In order to evaluate the chemical compounds which may have large contribution to the antioxidant activity of the ethyl acetate and methanolic extract, and explained the absence of the antioxidant activity for *n*-hexane extracts, the GC-MS analysis was conducted for all of the extracts

Antimicrobial Assay

Antimicrobial assay was conducted for all of extracts toward 2 strains of bacteria (*Bacillus cereus* and *E. coli*) as representatives of Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria, respectively, and 2 strains of fungi (*Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus niger*). The assay was performed by measuring inhibition zone around the disk. The results of the assay were shown in Table 4. According to the categorization by David Stout,¹⁹ the inhibition zone of < 5 mm was categorized as low activity, 5 – 10 mm as moderate activity, and > 10 mm as strong activity.

According to the Table 4, it is clear that all extracts have ability to inhibit the growth of Gram positive bacteria *Bacillus cereus*, but were not able to inhibit the growth of fungi. The highest inhibition ability against microorganism was shown by ethyl acetate extract with inhibition zone of 19 mm, or categorized as strong (stronger than antibiotic standard of penicillin). The *n*-hexane and methanolic extract exhibited low to moderate activity against the bacteria. Both ethyl acetate and methanolic extract have antimicrobial activity toward Gram negative bacteria *E. coli*. The antimicrobial activity of the extracts were simply explained by result of the phytochemical assay, which revealed many constituents with antimicrobial potency.

The phenolic groups in the extract may inhibit the growth of bacteria through the formation of protein-phenolic groups between hydroxyl groups and cell membrane of protein, resulting the disruption of the cell membrane and causing the death of the bacteria.³² According to previous study, the Gram negative bacteria constituted of complex cell walls besides peptidoglycans, i.e. outer cell wall composed of liposaccharide, lipoprotein, and peptide attached- periplasm. The proin type-lipoprotein is hydrophilic and cannot interact with hydrophobic antibacterial.³¹

The difficulties of the three types of extracts in penetrating the sterol membranes at the cell wall of fungi caused the growth of the *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus niger* fungi cannot be inhibited, as shown by the

Table 4 : Antimicrobial assay of “julang-jaling” (*Archidendron bubalinum* (Jack) I.C Nielsen) husk extracts

Extract ^{*1}	Inhibition zone (mm)			
	<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Aspergillus flavus</i>	<i>Aspergillus niger</i>
<i>n</i> -hexane	2	-	-	-
ethyl acetate	19	5	-	-
methanol	5	3	-	-
standard ^{*2}	15	20	20	3

*1 the extract concentration were the same for all type of extracts

*2 the standard used in the experiment was amoxillin for bacteria and ketokonazole for fungi.

Table 5 : GC-MS analysis of ethyl acetate extract

No	Constituents	Retention time (min)	% Area	% Similarity
1	Hexadecanoic acid, methyl ester	12.670	2.81	99
2	Hexadecanoic acid	13.111	9.22	92
3	9-octadecenoic acid, methyl ester	14.241	2.00	95
4	(Z)-11-Octadecenoic acid	14.664	5.62	94

Table 6 : GC-MS analysis of methanolic extract

No	Constituents	Retention time (min)	% Area	% Similarity
1	Hexadecanoic acid, methyl ester	12.679	1.80	99
2	Hexadecanoic acid	13.111	4.24	98
4	6-octadecenoic acid, methyl ester	14.241	1.29	93
5	(Z)-11-Octadecenoic acid	14.655	4.61	99
6	Octadecanoic acid	14.879	1.00	91

clear zone diameter of zero. The growth of fungi was more difficult to be inhibited by antimicrobial agent since the cell wall of fungi was constructed from rigid material such as chitin, glucan, and mannan, and the extract of plants (or parts of plants) have no capability in blocking the synthesis of such rigid materials.³¹

The further analysis performing by GC-MS instrumentation could provide a more detail elucidation of the phytochemicals, thus capable of explaining the structure of the compounds which act as major contributor for the bioactivity of the extracts.

GC-MS Analysis

GC chromatogram of the extracts were shown in Figure 2, 3, 4 and the predicted constituents in the extracts were listed in 2-7. A total of 27 compounds were found in *n*-hexane extract, 4 compounds in ethyl acetate extract, and 6 compounds in methanolic extract. It can be understood that there was larger amount of compounds found in *n*-hexane, compared to that found in ethyl acetate and methanolic extract, since the GC-MS technique only performed well for analyzing volatile com-

Table 7 : GC-MS analysis of *n*-hexane extract

No	Constituents	Retention time (min)	% Area	% Similarity
1	1-(1-Butyldithio) Butane	5.649	9.01	91
2	(2E)-3-Phenyl-2-Propenoic Acid	7.735	2.91	90
3	2,4-Di-tert-butylphenol	9.013	3.24	91
4	Lenthionin 1,2,3,5,6-Pentathiepane	9.224	2.20	94
5	Tetradecanoic acid	11.200	0.98	97
6	9-icosene (trans)-2-nonadecene	11.068	0.68	90
7	Hexadecanoic acid, methyl ester	12.679	2.89	99
8	1-Pentadecane carboxylic acid	13.267	12.25	91
9	cis-13-Octadecenoic acid, methyl ester	14.223	3.68	95
10	methyl stearate	14.490	1.32	90
11	5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2(5h)-one	19.461	0.46	90
12	1,3,4-Oxadiazol-2(3H)-one, 5-(4-nitrophenyl)	20.013	0.68	95
13	3-Dimethylamino-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-thioacrylamide	21.308	0.67	95
14	5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2(5h)-one	22.237	1.42	90
15	5-(4-nitrophenyl)	22.253	0.38	93
16	5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2(5h)-one	22.999	2.32	97
17	(2E)-2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-3-(dimethylamino)-2-propen-ethioamide	23.284	2.14	96
18	3-Dimethylamino-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-thioacrylamide	23.542	2.88	95
19	5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2(5h)-one	23.817	3.90	95
20	2-p-nitrophenyl-oxadiazol-1,3,4-one-5	24.157	6.45	97
21	2-p-nitrophenyl-oxadiazol-1,3,4-one-5	24.892	2.76	98
22	2-p-nitrophenyl-oxadiazol-1,3,4-one-5	25.242	1.68	98
23	5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2(5h)-one	25.545	1.18	95
24	5-(4-nitrophenyl)-1,3,4-oxadiazol-2(5h)-one	25.839	0.96	96
25	(2E)-2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-3-(dimethylamino)-2-propen ethioamide	26.179	0.74	95
26	(2E)-2-(4-Chlorophenyl)-3-(dimethylamino)-2-propen ethioamide	27.181	0.50	96
27	1,3,4-Oxadiazol-2(3H)-one, 5-(4-nitrophenyl)	27.557	0.46	95

pounds, which largely contained in the *n*-hexane extract compared to that in the ethyl acetate and methanolic extract.

Table 5 revealed that the ethyl acetate extract contains fatty acid ester (hexadecanoic acid, methyl ester and 9-octadecenoic acid, methyl ester) and carboxylic acid (hexadecanoic acid and (*Z*)-11-octadecenoic acid). Palmitic acid ester (hexadecanoic acid, methyl ester) have various bioactivities including antifungal, antioxidant, hypocholesterolemic, nematocidal, pesticide, antiandrogenic flavour, haemolytic, 5- α reductase inhibitor, potent antimicrobial activity.²⁹ Hexadecanoic acid is also has the same properties as explained above, based on Duke's Phytochemical and Ethnobotanical Database and Jim Duke Agricultural Research Service/ USDA.³⁰ Phytochemical compound of 9-octadecenoic acid, methyl esters have been reported as Antibacterial and antifungal.²⁸ Based on the potent activity of the phytocompound, the antioxidant and antimicrobial activity shown by ethyl acetate extracts were mostly due to the content of hexadecanoic acids and their ester form.

Table 6 revealed that the composition of the methanolic extract similar to that of the ethyl acetate extract. This simply explained why the bioactivity of the two extracts were similar, both antioxidant and antimicrobial activity.

Table 7 revealed that the main constituents in the *n*-hexane extract includes alkanes, alkenes, ester, ketones, carboxylates, amide, phenolic

and aromatic compounds. Except phenolic groups and of methyl ester of hexadecanoic acid, those compounds do not possess any conjugates double bonds or functional groups which have reducing capacity, thus they could hardly show any antioxidant activity. This phenomenon can be seen from the percentage of inhibition of the *n*-hexane extract which was much lower than that of ethyl acetate and methanolic extracts. Though phenolic groups is widely known as an antioxidative agent, their presence in this extract might be very low, as supported by the absence of this groups in the phytochemical assay. The GC-MS analysis performed in the experiment did not use any standard solution, thus the quantity of each fraction cannot be exactly calculated. It implied that the relatively high percentage of area of phenolic compounds may not represent the high concentration of these species in the sample extract.

CONCLUSION

The phytochemical assay showed that both ethyl acetate and methanolic extracts of “julang-jaling” husks contain various phytoconstituents having potential bioactivity. GC-MS analysis revealed the presence of hexadecanoic acids and their ester form in ethyl acetate and methanolic extract, which might largely contribute in the antioxidant and antimicrobial activity. Ethyl acetate, methanol and *n*-hexane extracts showed antioxidant activity with IC₅₀ value of 273.57 ppm, 324.913 ppm, and 735 ppm, respectively. All extracts also have capability to inhibit the

growth of *Bacillus aureus*, with the highest inhibition properties was achieved for ethyl acetate extract. The results showed that all extracts exhibit antioxidant and antimicrobial properties, thus “julang-jaling” could be recommended as plant of pharmaceutical importance.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This work was partially supported by Department of Chemical Analysis, Department of Food Industrial Quality Assurance, and Department of Industrial Waste Treatment Polytechnic of AKA Bogor, Bogor 16158, Indonesia.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

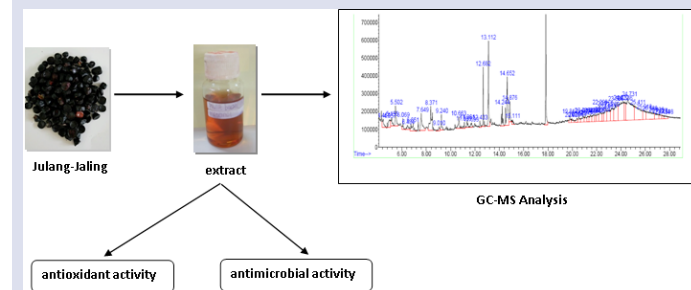
ABBREVIATION USED

GC-MS: Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry; **DPPH:** Diphenylpicrylhydrazyl.

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GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



SUMMARY

- Methanolic extract of Julang - Jaling husks was proven to contain large amount of phytochemicals especially alkaloids, flavonoids, tannins and phenol.
- Methanolic extract of Julang – Jaling husks possessed significant antioxidant activity.
- Methanolic extract of Julang – Jaling husks also showed antimicrobial activity against *Bacillus cereus*.

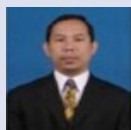
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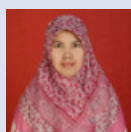
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Cite this article: Irawan C, Foliatini, Hanafi, Sulistiawaty L, Sukiman M. Volatile Compound Analysis Using GC-MS, Phytochemical Screening and Antioxidant Activities of the Husk of “Julang-Jaling” (*Archidendron bubalinum* (Jack) I.C Nielsen) From Lampung, Indonesia. *Pharmacog J.* 2018;10(1):92-8.