

# Traditional Usages and Phytochemical Screenings of Selected *Zingiberaceae* from Central Sulawesi, Indonesia

Ramadanil<sup>1,\*</sup>, Damry<sup>2</sup>, Rusdi<sup>2</sup>, Baharuddin Hamzah<sup>3</sup>, Muhammad Sulaiman Zubair<sup>4</sup>

## ABSTRACT

**Background:** *Zingiberaceae* is one of the significant components of the herbaceous ground flora of Southeast Asia tropical forests. This family includes some medicinally important species, in particular the members of genera of *Alpinia*, *Curcuma*, *Etingera* and *Zingiber* (Van Balgooy, 2001). **Objective:** to identify the traditional usages and evaluate for phytochemical screening of selected *Zingiberaceae* from Central Sulawesi, Indonesia. **Material and Methods:** *Zingiberaceae* samples were collected from the Lore Lindu National Park (LLNP), Central Sulawesi Indonesia and its surroundings and evaluated for their phytochemical contents by using TLC method with particular spraying reagents. **Results:** the plants were used by the local ethnics for different daily and medicinal purposes. All part of each selected species of *Zingiberaceae* contain flavonoid, tannins, saponins, triterpenoid and alkaloid although steroids were only found in the leaves of *Etingera flexuosa*, *Curcuma mangga* and *Alpinia galanga*. Alkaloids were only found in the rhizome of *Etingera flexuosa*, *Curcuma aeruginosa*, *Zingiber montanum*. Besides it was also detected in leaves of both *Alpinia rubricaulis* and *Etingera acanthoides*. Additionally, Alkaloids were also discovered in the stem of *Ammomum aculeata*, *Alpinia galanga* and *Curcuma mangga*.

**Key words:** Traditional usages, Phytochemical screening, *Zingiberaceae*, Central Sulawesi Indonesia.

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## INTRODUCTION

Sulawesi is well known for its biogeographical wonders. Its location which is to the east of Wallace's line but is close to the Sunda plate and its formation from several separated islands have resulted in a unique taxonomic composition of flowering plants.<sup>1</sup> The long isolation of the Island and its constituent parts have resulted in a higher rate of endemic taxa both plants and animals in the Island compared to any other islands in the country. Approximately 15% of the known flowering plant species of Sulawesi are endemic to the Island.<sup>2,3</sup>

*Zingiberaceae* is one of the flowering plant families and it is the largest family of the order Zingiberales, an aromatic terrestrial herb with often large-sized rhizome. It contains 53 genera.<sup>4,5</sup> It is widely distributed in the (Sub) tropics, particularly as shade plants in evergreen tropical regions, with several genera being of major economic important such as medicinal products, dyes, condiments and spice. Most member of *Zingiberaceae* are native to Malesia regions and a number of species are grown as ornamental plants in greenhouses and homeyards.<sup>6</sup>

The diversity of *Zingiberaceae* of Sulawesi and its phytochemical studies are poorly known.<sup>7,8</sup> A number of systematics studies on the genera of Sulawesi's *Zingiberaceae* such as *Alpinia*, *Etingera* and *Curcuma* are still being in progress by botanists. Poulsen (2012)<sup>8</sup>

revisions were made to 48 taxa of *Etingera* and 36 of which were new species. *Zingiber ultralimitale* Ardiyani and A.D. Poulsen has recently been described and barcoded (*rbcL*, *trnH-psbA* and ITS) and claimed to be a new species occurring on limestone at the Bantimurung National Park, South Sulawesi, Indonesia.<sup>9</sup> Two new species of *Alpinia* subsection *Cenolophon* (*A. macrocrista* and *A. pusilla*) from Western Sulawesi have also been described previously.<sup>10</sup>

Phytochemical screening is one important step in the efforts to further explore the potentials of any plant resources. Knowledge of the presence of chemical compounds such as steroids/triterpenoids, alkaloids, phenolic, flavonoids, saponins and tannins in the plants will help us to further characterize the plants for economic uses, for example as medicine, cosmetics and others.<sup>11</sup>

The use of medicinal plants for treating a number of diseases is a primary health care in Indonesia, but the potential of seed plants as a source of new drugs is still largely unexplored. The trend of using natural-products has increased and the active plant extracts are frequently screened for new drug discoveries and for the presence of antimicrobial agents.<sup>11</sup> Latest and previous studies have concluded the beneficial

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aspects of plant-derived drugs as a good source of antibiotics,<sup>12</sup> antioxidants<sup>13,14</sup> and anti-inflammatory agents.<sup>15</sup>

In order to discover and develop new therapeutic agents, a phytochemical study of plants potentially having antimicrobial properties is fundamental. This study was undertaken to screen the phytochemical compounds present in selected species of *Zingiberaceae* from Central Sulawesi, Indonesia.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Plant Materials

This research was carried out from February to July 2018. *Zingiberaceae* samples were collected from the Lore Lindu National Park (LLNP), Central Sulawesi, Indonesia and its surroundings (Figure 1). The park is a protected area covering about 220,000 ha and become the habitat of a number of Wallacean endemic plant and animal species. The area has a considerable conservation value and it functions as a watershed protection for the surrounding areas occupied by different ethnics.

A botanical exploration by using the transect method was done to study the *Zingiberaceae* diversity. The observation included vernacular name, scientific name, family, number collection, collector and plant habitus, geographic position (Altitude, latitude and longitude) ecological data of the plants and their daily usage by the local ethnics. All the plant materials collected were identified at the Laboratory of Biodiversity, the Department of Biology, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences Tadulako University, Indonesia. Plant specimens were determined using a specimen reference available at the Herbarium Celebence (CEB) of Tadulako University and the specimens identification was done by *Zingiberaceae* specialists, i.e A.D Poulsen (E) and W. Ardi (BBG-LIPI). All the specimens were mounted, labeled and kept at the CEB.

### Plant Extraction

Plant extraction and phytochemical analyses of all part of each species was conducted at the Laboratory of Phytochemistry, Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Tadulako University. Vegetative organs (Leaves, rhizome and stem) and inflorescence of all collected species were washed in running tap water three times and cut into 3 cm pieces and again washed and soaked in running tap water for five minutes then air dried. Fresh and dried leaves, rhizomes and inflorescence of each species were extracted thrice with 95% ethanol with maceration. The extracts were filtered, evaporated in a vacuum evaporator and lyophilized to give yield of about 60 g of dry extract.

### Phytochemical evaluation

All part of each species of *Zingiberaceae* (Leaves, rhizome and stem) were tested for the presence of various classes of phytochemical compounds such as alkaloid, phenolic compounds, flavonoid, tannins and saponins using standar procedures of analysis.<sup>16</sup>

### Test for tannins

A small quantity of plant extract was mixed with 5 ml of distilled water and heated on a water bath. The mixture was filtered and ferric chloride was added to the filtrate and observed for dark green solutions that indicated the presence of tannin.

### Test for flavonoids

About 0.2 g of plant extract was weighed in separate test tubes and dissolved in diluted sodium hydroxide. Diluted hydrochloride was added to the solution and observed for yellow solutions that turned colorless. This indicated the presence of flavonoid.

### Test for Saponins

Two ml of each extract in a test tube was vigorously shaken for two minutes and observed for persistent foaming.

### Test for Alkaloids

About 0.2 g of plant extract was weighed in separate test tube and warmed with 2% Sulphuric acid for 2 mins. It was filtered in separate test tube and few drops of Dragencloffs reagent were added and observed for the presence of orange red precipitate for the presence of alkaloid.

### Test for Terpenoids

About 0.5 g of plant extract in separate test tube was taken with 2 ml of chloroform; 5 ml of concentrated sulphuric acid was carefully added to form a layer and observed for the presence of reddish brown color interface to show positive results for the presence of terpenoid.

### Test for Steroids

Two ml of acetic anhydride was added to 0.5 g extract with 2 ml of Sulphuric acid and observed for the color change from violet to blue or green in samples indicating the presence of steroid.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

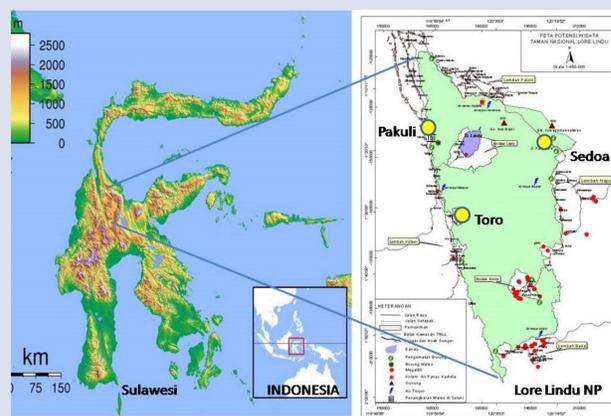
### Traditional use of selected species of *Zingiberaceae*

There were Fifteen selected species of *Zingiberaceae* that were analysed for phytochemical testing and its traditional use information. The list of the species is provided in Table 1. All the species were selected from our previous research (Pitopang *et al.* 2018) that reported 24 species of *Zingiberaceae* and its traditional usage by 3 indigenous tribes living in the surroundings of the Lore Lindu National Park (LLNP), Central Sulawesi, Indonesia.

### Chemical Component

The results of the phytochemical screening on the selected species of *Zingiberaceae* for the presence of chemical compounds such as tannins, saponins, alkaloids, flavonoids, triterpenoids/steroids are presented in Table 2.

Traditional usages of the selected *Zingiberaceae* were different significantly among ethnics group (Table 1). Topo Baria ethnic who live in Sedoa valley was the only group that used a few species of *Zingiberaceae*,



**Figure 1:** Map of *Zingiberaceae* Species Collected from Lore Lindu National Park, Central Sulawesi (Yellow Spots).

**Table 1: Fifteen Selected of *Zingiberaceae* and its Traditional uses by Three Different Indigenous Ethnics who Lives in Lore Lindu National Park, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia (Ramadanil et al. 2018).**

No	Local name	Scientific name	Usage
1	Katimba*	<i>Etlingera flexuosa</i> A.D. Poulsen	Fr = cooking, flavor
2	Tikala*	<i>Alpinia eremochlamys</i> K. Schum	Lf= wrapping, tonic
3	Unknown	<i>Alpinia rubricaulis</i> K. Schum	Unknown
4	Tikala*	<i>Etlingera acanthoides</i> A.D. Poulsen	Fr = edible
5	Tumoni Karondo**	<i>Hedychium coronarium</i> J. Konig	Rhy=fever, stomach ache, febrifuge, Schistosomiasis
6	Tikala Bola**	<i>Etlingera elatior</i> (Jack) R.M.Sm.	Infl = vegetable, Fr=spice
7	Tikala Walehu**	<i>Ammomum aculeata</i> (Roxb.) Scomic and Newman	Unknown, wild
8	Tikala tete**	<i>Alpinia sp1</i>	Unknown, wild
9	Tikala Marangkaleke**	<i>Plagiostachys sp</i>	Unknown, wild
10	Kuni Vuri***	<i>Curcuma aeruginosa</i> Roxb.	Rhy= cure of hookworm
11	Lempuya***	<i>Zingiber zerumbet</i> L	Rhy= cosmetics, rheumatics, stomach, neck problem
12	Bangle***	<i>Zingiber montanum</i> (J. Konig) Link ex. A. Dietr	Rhy= menstrual disorder, stomach ache
13	Balintua***	<i>Alpinia galanga</i> (L.) Willd.	Rhy= dermatomycosis, spice
14	Kuni Taipa***	<i>Curcuma mangga</i> Valetton	Rhy= Cure for hook worm, antiinflammatory, anticancer, stabilize menstrual disorder
15	Kuni***	<i>Curcuma longa</i> L	Lf= Spice, Rhy= HIV treatment, spice, antibactery, infection disease

Notes: \*= Topo Baria ethnic, \*\*= Toi Toro Muma, \*\*\*= To Kaili Ledo. Fr.= Fruit, Lf= Leaves, Infl= Inflorescent, Rhy.= Rhizome.

especially for spice, medicine and wrapping food. They utilized fruit of *Etlingera flexuosa* and *Etlingera acanthoides* for cooking fish dishes and as a flavour enhancer. The leaves of *Alpinia eremochlamys* were also used by the group s food wrappers, while its decoction rhizome was used as a tonic.

On the other side, the Toi Toro Muma at the Western part of the Lore Lindu National Park have used a number species of *Zingiberaceae* to meet their daily needs such as food, spice, cosmetics, ornamental and medicine. They used the rhizome of “Tumoni karodo” (*Hedychium coronarium*) and “Karondo wana” (*Hedychium flavescen*) as traditional medicines for fever, stomach complaints and schistosomiasis. while “tikala bola” (*Etlingera elatior*) was used as a vegetable.

Meanwhile, the Topo Kaili Ledo used a number species of *Zingiberaceae* for medicine, spice and cosmetics. They utilized the “Kuni vuri” (*Curcuma aeruginosa*) for curing the hook worm. Three species of *Zingiberaceae*, namely “Lempuya” (*Zingiber zerumbet*), “Bangle” (*Zingiber montanum*), “Temulawak” (*Curcuma zanthorrhiza*) and “Kula” (*Zingiber officinale*) were used as a medication for digestive system disorders. Additionally, “Kuni taipa” (*Curcuma mango*) and “Kuni” (*Curcuma longa*) were also utilized for cancer treatment and HIV disease, respectively.

The uses of plant as herbal medicine in the studied area have also been reported by some researchers. For example, Paik et al. (2013)<sup>17</sup> have described 329 species of medicinal plants from Lore Lindu National Park. Among them were *Alpinia eremochlamys*, *Alpinia sp*, *Etlingera elatior*, *Etlingera sp*, *Curcuma aeruginosa*, *Curcuma mangga* and *Hedychium coronarium*. Gailea et al. (2016)<sup>18</sup> who studied the uses of various plant species as medicines by local people in the enclave of Lore Lindu National Park reported that there were 96 species of medicinal plants, among them were *Zingiber zerumbet* that was used for Elephantiasis treatment, *Etlingera elatior* for Hyperuricemia and a food.

The ethnobotanical studies of *Zingiberaceae* worldwide were reported by some botanists, including on local tribal at Siak Hulu, Kampar district, Riau<sup>19</sup> and Banjarbaru community, South Kalimantan.<sup>20</sup> Ethnobotanical,

phytochemistry and pharmacological studies of *Zingiber cassumunar* have also been reported.<sup>21,22</sup>

This study found that all parts of each species of the selected *Zingiberaceae* contain flavonoid, tannins, saponins, triterpenoid, alkaloid although steroids were only found in leaves of *Etlingera flexuosa*, *Curcuma mangga* and *Alpinia galanga*. Alkaloids were found in rhizome of *Etlingera flexuosa*, *Curcuma aeruginosa*, *Zingiber montanum*. They were also detected in leaves of both *Alpinia rubricaulis* and *Etlingera acanthoides*. In addition, alkaloids were also discovered in the stem of *Ammomum aculeata*, *Alpinia galanga* and *Curcuma mangga*.

Flavonoids were found in different organs of each plant but mostly found in rhizome of *Etlingera flexuosa*, *Alpinia rubricaulis*, *Etlingera acanthoides*, *Hedycium coronarium*, *Etlingera elatior*, *Curcuma aeruginosa*, *Zingiber montana* and *Curcuma longa*. Meanwhile, It was also discovered in leaves of *Alpinia eremochlamis*, *Hedycium coronarium*, *Etlingera elatior*, *Amomum aculeata*, *Alpinia sp*, *Plagiostachys sp*, *Curcuma aeruginosa*, *Zingiber montanum*, *Curcuma mangga* and *Curcuma longa*. *Hedycium coronarium*, *E. elatior* leaf were reported to contain flavonoids of kaempferol 3-glucuronide, quercetin 3- glucuronide, quercetin 3-glucoside, quercetin 3-rhamnoside, 3-O-caffeoylquinic acid, 5-O-caffeoylquinic acid (Chlorogenic acid), 5-O-caffeoylquinic acid methyl ester, isoquercitrin, quercitrin and (+)-catechin.<sup>23-25</sup>

Tannins were discovered in all parts of the selected *Zingiberaceae* organs, except for the rhizome of *Alpinia sp*, *Plagiostachys* and leaves of *Curcuma aeruginosa* and *Zingiber zerumbet*.

Saponins were observed in a number of *Zingiberaceae* species, especially in leaves extract of *Etlingera flexuosa*, *Alpinia eremochlamys*, *Alpinia rubricaulis*, *Etlingera acanthoides*, *Etlingera elatior*, *Ammomum aculeata*, *Alpinia sp*, *Zingiber zerumbet*, *Zingiber montanum*, *Alpinia galanga* and *Curcuma mangga*. It was also detected in the rhizome of *Etlingera flexuosa*, *Alpinia eremochlamis*, *Hedycium coronarium*, *Etlingera elatior*, *Ammomum aculeatum*, *Alpinia sp*, *Curcuma aeruginosa*, *Zingiber montanum*, *Alpinia galanga* and *Curcuma longa*. The saponins were also found in the stem of *Alpinia eremochlamis*, *Etlingera acanthoides*,

**Table 2: Phytochemical contents of Zinger collections from Central Sulawesi Indonesia.**

No	Botanical name	Organ	Chemical contents					
			Flavonoid	Tannin	Saponins	Terpenoid	Alkaloid	Steroid
1	<i>Etilingera flexuosa</i> A.D. Poulsen	Leaves	-	+	+	-	-	+
		Stem	-	+	-	+	-	-
		Rhizome	+	+	+	+	+	-
2	<i>Alpinia eremochlamys</i> K. Schum	Leaves	+	+	+	+	-	-
		Stem	-	+	+	+	-	-
		Rhizome	+	+	+	-	-	-
3	<i>Alpinia rubricaulis</i> K. Schum	Leaves	+	+	+	+	+	-
		Stem	-	+	+	+	-	-
		Rhizome	+	+	-	+	-	-
4	<i>Etilingera acanthoides</i> A.D. Poulsen	Leaves	-	-	+	+	+	-
		Stem	-	-	+	+	-	-
		Rhizome	+	-	-	+	-	-
5	<i>Hedychium coronarium</i> J. Konig	Leaves	+	+	+	+	-	-
		Stem	+	+	-	+	-	-
		Rhizome	+	+	+	+	-	-
6	<i>Etilingera elatior</i> (Jack) R.M.Sm.	Leaves	+	+	+	+	-	-
		Stem	-	+	+	+	-	-
		Rhizome	+	+	+	+	-	-
7	<i>Ammomum aculeata</i> (Roxb.) Scomix and Newman	Leaves	+	+	+	-	-	-
		Stem	+	+	+	+	+	-
		Rhizome	+	+	+	+	-	-
8	<i>Alpinia sp 1</i>	Leaves	+	+	+	-	-	-
		Stem	-	+	+	+	-	-
		Rhizome	-	-	+	+	-	-
9	<i>Plagiostachys sp</i>	Leaves	+	+	-	-	-	-
		Stem	-	+	+	+	-	-
		Rhizome	+	+	+	+	-	-
10	<i>Curcuma aeruginosa</i> Roxb.	Leaves	+	+	-	+	-	-
		Stem	+	+	+	+	+	-
		Rhizome	+	+	+	+	+	-
11	<i>Zingiber zerumbet</i> L.	Leaves	+	+	+	+	-	-
		Stem	+	+	-	+	-	-
		Rhizome	+	+	+	+	-	-
12	<i>Zingiber montanum</i> (J. Konig) Link ex. A. Dietr	Leaves	+	+	+	+	-	-
		Stem	+	-	+	-	-	-
		Rhizome	+	-	+	+	+	-
13	<i>Alpinia galanga</i> (L) Willd.	Leaves	+	+	+	-	-	+
		Stem	-	+	+	-	+	-
		Rhizome	+	+	+	-	-	+
14	<i>Curcuma mangga</i> Valetton	Leaves	+	+	+	-	-	+
		Stem	-	+	+	-	+	-
		Rhizome	-	+	-	-	-	-
15	<i>Curcuma longa</i> L.	Leaves	+	+	-	+	-	-
		Stem	+	+	+	+	-	-
		Rhizome	+	+	+	+	-	-

*Hedycium coronarium*, *Etingera elatior*, *Amomum aculeata*, *Alpinia* sp, *Plagiostachys*, *Zingiber montanum*, *Alpinia galanga* and *Curcuma mangga*.

Terpenoid was found in all parts of *Hedycium coronarium*. It had been reported that this plant rich of terpenoid compounds such as diterpenes (Coronararin A, Coronarin B, Coronarin C, Coronarin D and Isocoronarin D), Alcohol terpen (Linalool), Cyclic monoterpen (Limonene), trans-meta-mentha 2,8 diene,  $\gamma$ -terpinene and 10-epi- $\gamma$ -eudismol. Isocoronarin D was reported to possess anticancer activity by inhibiting NF-NB. Terpenoid is also responsible for antimicrobial activity.<sup>26-28</sup>

Our study is the first to report the phytochemical compounds that are present in *Zingiberaceae* species of Sulawesi. Results reported herein are expected to enhance those of similar studies reported previously, for example, the essential oils from rhizome of *Zingiber officinale* var. *rubrum*, *Zingiber amaricans*, *Kaempferia galanga* and *Boesenbergia pandurata*,<sup>29</sup> the chemical constituents of the aerial parts of *Etingera brevilabrum*,<sup>30</sup> Dhanik et al. (2017)<sup>31</sup> that reviewed *Zingiber officinale*, Joseph et al. (2015)<sup>32</sup> on the anticonvulsants activity of *Zingiber zerumbet* and Rannema and Reddy (2017) on the phytochemical investigation of *Curcuma caesia* from different geographical region of India.<sup>33</sup>

Other studies of the *Zingiberaceae* species focussing on the antibacterial and antioxidant properties of the phytochemical compounds have also been reported. For example, Villaflores et al. (2011)<sup>34</sup> who worked on the phytoconstituent of *Alpinia purpurata* and their *in vitro* inhibitory activity against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, Tripathi et al. (2013) on the essential oil from the family of *Zingiberaceae* for antimicrobial activity,<sup>35</sup> on phytochemical screening and evaluation of its antimicrobial activities of *Zingiber officinale*,<sup>36</sup> phytochemical and antimicrobial activities of turmeric,<sup>37</sup> Ghasemzadeh et al. (2016) on variation of phytochemical constituents and antioxidant activity of *Zingiber officinale* var. *rubrum*<sup>38</sup> and Azam et al. (2014) on the phytochemical screening and antipyretic effect of *Curcuma zedoria* Rosc.<sup>39</sup>

## CONCLUSION

It was concluded that the plants were used by the local ethnics for different daily and medicinal purposes. All part of each selected species of *Zingiberaceae* contain flavonoid, tannins, saponins, triterpenoid, alkaloid although steroids were only found in the leaves of *Etingera flexuosa*, *Curcuma mangga* and *Alpinia galanga*. Alkaloids were only found in the rhizome of *Etingera flexuosa*, *Curcuma aeruginosa*, *Zingiber montanum*. Besides it was also detected in leaves of both *Alpinia rubricaulis* and *Etingera acanthoides*. Additionally, alkaloids were also discovered in the stem of *Amomum aculeata*, *Alpinia galanga* and *Curcuma mangga*.

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

## ABBREVIATIONS

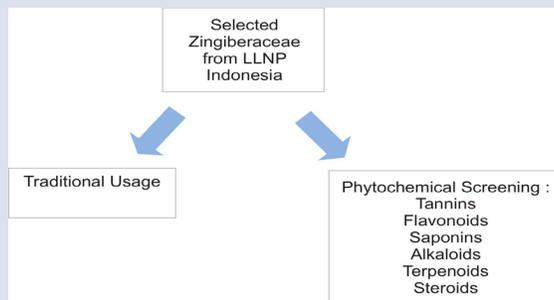
**LLNP:** Lore Lindu National Park; **TLC:** Thin layer Chromatography; **HIV:** Human Immunodeficiency Virus.

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## GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



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