

# STI

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## Chemical Characterization of Secondary Metabolite from the Endophytic Fungus *Trichordema reecei* isolated from The Twig of *Syzygium aqueum*

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### Abstract

Endophytic fungi are microorganisms that live in plants, without negative effects and are mutually related to hosting plants. Exploration of bioactive compounds from Endophytic fungi is easier and cheaper because they do not require a large area, a short growing time, and uncomplicated mixed compounds. Endophytic fungi are new and patent base secondary metabolites but they are not extensively characterized and investigated for the exploration of raw materials for drugs. The purpose of this study was to obtain antioxidant secondary metabolites from Endophytic fungi that live in the *Syzygium aqueum* medicinal plant. In this study, Endophytic fungi were isolated from *S. aqueum* twigs and molecular identification. The secondary metabolites were isolated by chromatographic method and chemical structure identified by spectroscopy. Antioxidant activity was evaluated by method 1,1-diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH). Phylogenetic analysis showed the endophytic fungi of *S. aqueum* twig have a high similarity with the *Trichordema reecei* twig 19MSr.B2.3. The secondary metabolites from the ethyl acetate extract of the liquid culture of the fungus were identified as (4-hydroxy-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-5-oxotetrahydrofuran-2-yl) methyl acetate with  $IC_{50} = 75.13 \mu\text{g/mL}$ . The secondary metabolites can be developed into starting molecules for potential antioxidant agents.

### Keywords

Endophytic Fungus, *Trichordema reecei*, *Syzygium aqueum*, Secondary Metabolite, Antioxidant Activity

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Endophytic fungi are microorganisms to colonize the host plant tissue (leaves, fruit, seeds, stems, and roots) without negative effects and having a mutually beneficial relationship. Plants have the function of protecting and providing nutrients for Endophytic fungi. In turn, Endophytic fungi will produce bioactive compounds that help the host plants improve nutritional status for growth, resistance to herbivores and diseases, and physical stress tolerance (Specian et al., 2012; Mbilu et al., 2018; El-hawary et al., 2020). Endophytic fungi are the basis of many promising natural products with varied chemical structures, higher biodiversity, and attractive bioactivity. A few researchers focused on finding secondary metabolites from Endophytic Fungi because they have been identified as a storehouse of bioactive secondary metabolites such as antibiotics, antiviral, antiprotozoal, anti-diabetic antiparasitic, anticancer, antioxidant, and immunosuppressant compounds that can be used in the agricultural, pharmaceutical and food industries.

These compounds are alkaloids, terpenoids, steroids, isocoumarin derivatives, lactones, quinones, flavonoids, phenols, indole derivatives, lignins, tannins, anthraquinones, xanthenes, phenylpropanoids, phenolic acids, and peptides (Khan et al., 2019; Manganyi & Ateba, 2020). Natural products based on endophytic fungi are considered as one of the most relevant sources of discovery and molecular diversity for new drugs. Several studies show up to 51% of the bioactive metabolites produced from endophytic fungi have an unknown chemical structure. They can produce metabolites similar to those produced by the plant itself or new compounds produced by plants. This group of microbes represents a great potential in biotechnology for the discovery of new drugs (Cruz et al., 2020; El-hawary et al., 2020).

*Syzygium aqueum*, known as water guava, is native to Indonesia and Malaysia. The parts of this plant are used for traditional medicine, such as drugs for gastrointestinal disorders, bleeding, diabetes, inflammation, hypertension, antiviral, and analgesics. The use of this plant for medicine cannot be separated from

its phytochemical composition including flavonoids, flavonoid glycosides, chromone glycosides, terpenoids, steroids, tannins, phenols, phenyl glycosides, and acylphloroglucinol derivatives. These compounds have activities as antioxidants, antidiabetic, anticancer, toxicity, antiviral, antibacterial, antifungal, anti-inflammatory and anthelmintic which functions in traditional medicine. This *S. aqueum* plant is rich in bioactive compounds, it is a potential host to obtain endophytic fungi that produce bioactive compounds (Aung et al., 2020; Palanisamy et al., 2011; Sobeh et al., 2018; Osman et al., 2009).

Literature studies show that there are many bioactive components in this plant, but no research has been found on the isolation of endophytic fungi and their pure compounds from *S. aqueum* twigs. Therefore, this paper describes the isolation and identification of endophytic fungi from twigs of *S. aqueum*, followed by the isolation, identification, and evaluation of the antioxidant activity of the secondary metabolites. In this study, it is known whether the secondary metabolites of this endophytic fungus have the potential to be developed as a source of antioxidants.

## 2. EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

### 2.1 Materials

The chemicals used such as ethanol 70%, distilled H<sub>2</sub>O, sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) (Merck), growth medium for fungi: PDA, PDB (Merck), silica gel for gravity column (Merck), TLC silica gel 60 F254 from Merck (Art.5554), DPPH (Sigma-Aldrich), and organic solvents (Merck).

### 2.2 Plant Material Collection

The twig of *S. aqueum* was collected from Indralaya, Ogan Ilir Regency, South Sumatra, Indonesia. Plant identification was conducted at the Biosystematics Laboratory, Biology, FMIPA Sriwijaya University, with herbarium ID 237064.

### 2.3 Isolation of Endophytic Fungal

Isolation of endophytic isolates followed the procedure by Mbilu et al., 2018; Habisukan et al., 2021 with a few modifications. *S. aqueum* twig is washed under running water to remove impurities. The surface of the twigs was sterilized by immersing the plant material in 75% ethanol for 2 minutes followed by 4% NaOCl for 1 minute and then rinsed twice using sterile distilled water. The plant material is allowed to dry on sterile filter paper and then cut to size 2 × 0.5 cm. Furthermore, three pieces were placed on a petri dish containing PDA (200 g potato, 20 g dextrose, and 15 g agar in 1000 mL H<sub>2</sub>O, supplemented with 100 mg/L of chloramphenicol). Colony purification was done by further subculturing the fungal colonies in PDA until pure isolates were acquired.

### 2.4 Identification of Endophytic Fungal

Identification of endophytic isolates followed the procedure by Yohandini et al., 2015 which is molecularly by comparing the similarity of sample sequences with a web-based database known as BLAST (Basic Local Alignment Search Tool).

### 2.5 Cultivation of Endophytic Fungal

Pure isolates of Endophytic fungi were cultured at 6 flasks containing 200 mL of PDB medium (consisting of 20 g dextrose monohydrate, 200 g potatoes, and 1 L (water)). Six mycelia agar plug (5 × 5 mm<sup>2</sup>) were inoculated into each erlenmeyer and then incubated at room temperature under static conditions for four weeks. After the incubation was complete, the media was filtered and extracted three times using ethyl acetate. Ethyl acetate extract was evaporated with a rotary evaporator until a concentrated extract (6.4 g) and stored in a glass bottle (Gustianingtyas et al., 2020; Elfita et al., 2019).

### 2.6 Antioxidant activity test by DPPH method

Antioxidant activity test of ethyl acetate viscous extract using the DPPH method following the procedure by Budiono et al, 2019 with modification. The sample concentrations were prepared with variations of 200, 100, 50, 25, 12.5, 6.25, 0.0 µg/mL, and gallic acid as a positive control. The percentage of DPPH absorption inhibition with the following formula:

$$\% \text{ Inhibition} = \frac{\text{Control Absorbance} - \text{Sample Absorbance}}{\text{Control Absorbance}} \times 100\%$$

### 2.7 Isolation and Identification of Secondary Metabolite

The crude extracts were separated using column chromatography (stationary phase: silica gel) and eluted with a graded eluent (n-hexane: ethyl acetate: methanol). Eluate droplets were collected every 10 ml in the vials and monitored by TLC analysis to group the vials into subfractions. The subfraction was identified as having secondary metabolites, then purified by column chromatography until a pure compound was obtained. The structure was identified by NMR 1D and 2D (Budiono et al., 2019).

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Isolation of Endophytic Fungal

*S. aqueum* twig has isolated EF labeled with B11. The molecular identification yields sequence assembly 577 bp endophytic fungus B11 is as follows:

```
CTCCCAAACCCCAATGTGAACGTTACCAATCTGTTC
CCTCGGCGGGATTCTTGCCCCGGGCGGTCCGAG
CCCCGGATCCCATTGGCGCCCCCGGAGGACCAACTC
AAACTCTTTTTCTCTCCGTCGCGGCTTCCGTCGCG
GCTCTGTTTTACCTTTGCTCTGAGCCTTTCTCGGCG
ACCCTAGCGGGCGTCTCGAAAATGAATCAAACTTT
CAACAACGGATCTCTTGGTTCTGGCATCGATGAAGA
ACGCAGCGAAATGCGATAAGTAATGTGAATTGCAGA
ATTCAGTGAATCATCGAATCTTTGAACGCACATTGC
CCCCCGCAGTATTCTGCGGGCATGCCTGTCCGAG
CGTCATTTCAACCCTCGAACCCTCCGGGGGGTTCG
GCGTTGGGGATCGGCCCCCTACCGGGCCGCCCCCG
AAATACAGTGGCGGTCTCGCCGACGCTCTCCTGC
GCAGTAGTTTGCACACTCGCACCGGGAGCGCGCG
CGGCCACAGCCGTAACACCCCAAACTCTGAAATG
TTGACCTCGGATCAGGTAGGAATACCCGCTGAACCT
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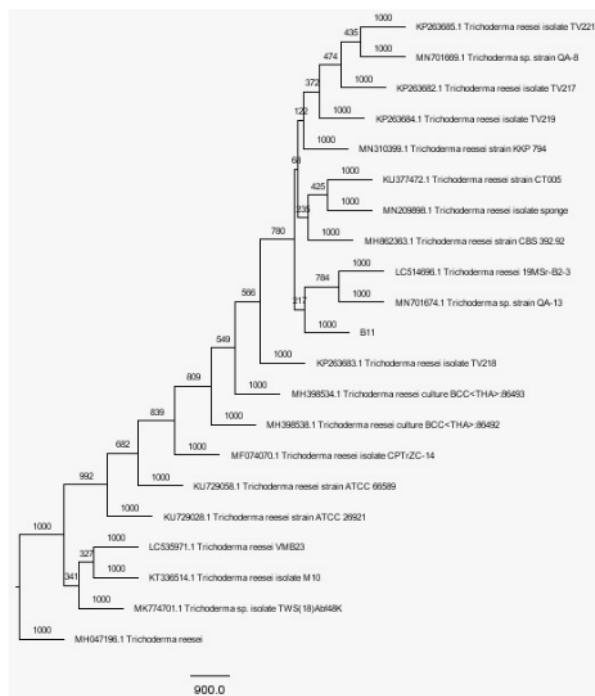


Figure 1. Phylogenetic Tree of the Endophytic Fungal B11

AAGCATA. The strain B11 has the accession number MW527423. The endophytic fungal B11 had the highest homology with *Trichoderma reesei* twig 19MSr.B2.3. Phylogenetic analysis follows the method described shown in Figure 1.

**3.2 Isolation and Identification of Secondary Metabolite**  
Separation of concentrated EtOAc extracts (3.2 g (silica gel: 70-230 mesh; 50 g) obtained subfraction B (0.9 g) with a purple stain on TLC analysis. Purification was done by column chromatography (silica gel 70-230 mesh; 20 g) with eluent n-Hexane - EtOAc (7:3 → 0:10) yielded two fractions (B1-B2). The B2 fraction (426 mg) was purified again by column chromatography until compound 1 (244 mg) was obtained.

Figure 2 shows the  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectrum of the isolated compound 1. The special characteristic of the para-substituted aromatic ring in compound 1 can be identified in the H-NMR spectrum by the presence of a double pair of aromatic proton signals at  $\delta\text{H}$  7.74 and 8.20 ppm each of which has a value of  $J = 8.5$  Hz with two integration. Another characteristic that can be identified from the C-NMR spectrum is the presence of a high-intensity carbon signal at  $\delta\text{C}$  128.3 and 123.9 ppm for two carbons in the same chemical shift respectively. HMQC spectrum analysis showed that the two high-intensity carbons bind to aromatic protons equivalent at  $\delta\text{H}$  7.74 and 8.20 ppm respectively. A methyl acetate-substituted cyclic lactone ring-side group was identified by the presence of two carbonyl ester

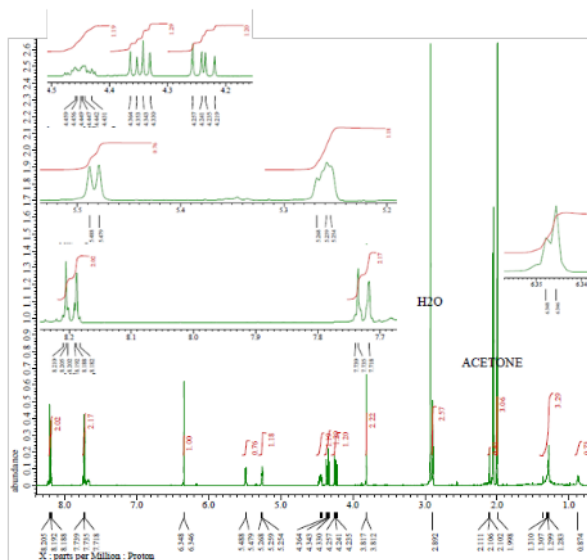


Figure 2. The  $^1\text{H-NMR}$  spectra of compound 1

signals at  $\delta\text{C}$  164.7 and 170.9 ppm respectively and a singlet signal at  $\delta\text{H}$  2.00 ppm with triple integration for the methyl proton. Two multiplet proton signals at  $\delta\text{H}$  4.35 and 4.24 ppm are the methylene groups of the methyl ester which are strengthened by DEPT 135 and HMQC spectrum, which are bound to  $\delta\text{C}$  63.9 ppm. The position of the phenol hydroxyl group was determined based on the  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  spectrum analysis. oxyaryl carbon at  $\delta\text{C}$  150.6 ppm while the other hydroxyl groups in the lactone ring were identified as bound to carbon  $\delta\text{C}$  67.4 ppm.

$^1\text{H}$  and  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR spectrum shows that the basic structure of compound 1 is a para-substituted aromatic ring of which the hydroxyl group and ester. In acetone, the number of hydroxyl groups can be seen from the proton signal that is not bound to carbon. The HMQC spectrum (Figure 3) shows the presence of seven single-bonded  $^1\text{H-}^{13}\text{C}$  correlations, two correlations for aromatic rings and five correlations for ester substituents. There are two uncorrelated protons  $^1\text{H-}^{13}\text{C}$  one bond identified as aromatic hydroxy protons ( $\delta\text{H}$  7.68 ppm) and aliphatic hydroxyl protons ( $\delta\text{H}$  5.48 ppm). The HMBC spectrum in Figure 4 shows that the ester group substituent is a pentacyclic lactone ring. Methine carbon at  $\delta\text{C}$  67.4 ppm (C-4') binds a hydroxyl group that correlates  $^1\text{H-}^{13}\text{C}$  three bonds with signal C-3' and a methine proton which correlates two bonds with carbonyl carbon (C-5'). Methine carbon at  $\delta\text{C}$  71.2 ppm (C-2') binds a methyl ester group is indicated by the  $^1\text{H-}^{13}\text{C}$  correlation of two methylene proton bonds with C-2' and the triple bond correlation with C-3' and C carbonyl methyl ester.

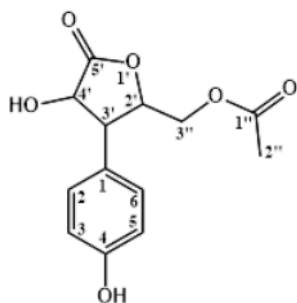
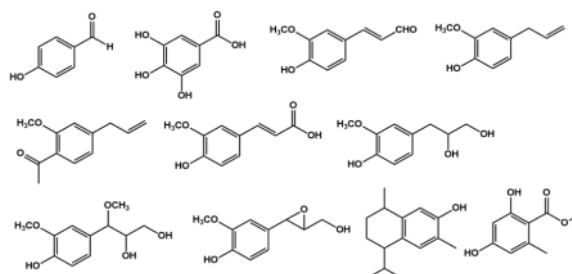
The COSY spectrum in Figure 5 shows the aromatic protons at  $\delta\text{H}$  7.74 ppm  $^1\text{H-}^1\text{H}$  correlated three bonds with aro-





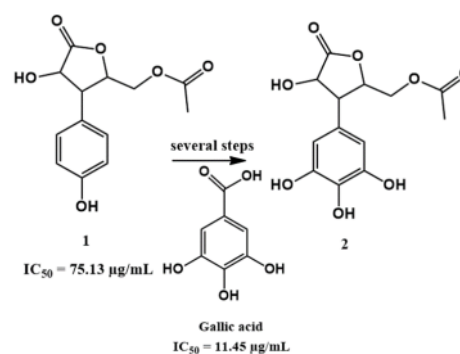
**Table 1.** The NMR Data of Compound 1

No. C	$\delta$ C ppm	$\delta$ H ppm ( $\Sigma$ H, multiplicity, J (Hz))	HMBC	COSY
1	148.2		-	-
2	128.3	7.74 (1H, d, 8.5)	71.2; 128.3; 148.2	8.20; 4.45
3	123.9	8.20 (1H, d, 8.5)	123.9; 148.2; 150.6	7.74
4	150.6		-	-
5	123.9	8.20 (1H, d, 8.5)	123.9; 148.2; 150.6	7.74
6	128.3	7.74 (1H, d, 8.5)	71.2; 128.3; 148.2	8.20
2'	71.2	5.26 (1H, m)	128.3; (150.6k)	4.45
3'	55.1	4.45 (1H, d, m)	63.9	5.26
4'	67.4	6.35 (1H, d, 1)	164.7	-
5'	164.7	-	-	-
1''	170.9	-	-	-
2''	20.7	2.00 (3H, s)	170.9	-
3''	63.9	4.35 (1H, m)	55.1; 71.2; 170.9	-
		4.24 (1H, m)	55.1; 71.2; 170.9	-
4'-OH	-	5.48 (1H, d, 4.5)	55.1	-
4-OH	-	7.68 (1H, br)	-	-

**Figure 6.** Compound 1 as (4-hydroxy-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-5-oxotetrahydrofuran-2-yl)methyl acetate**Figure 7.** Phenyls of *S. aqueum* and other emph Syzygium spp (Aung et al., 2020)

(Palanisamy et al., 2011)). Besides that, taxol compounds from *Trichoderma sp.* isolated from *Taxus chinensis* (Liu et al., 2009). Five sesquiterpene compounds from *Trichoderma sp.* from the stem of *Paeonia delavayi* (Wu et al., 2011), Trichodermin compounds (4b-acetoxy-12, 13-epoxytrichothec-9-ene) from *T. koningiopsis* VM115 isolated from Vinca plants have antifungal activity (Leylaie and Zafari, 2018). This trichodermin compound is also produced by the endophytic compound *Trichoderma brevicompactum* isolated from *Allium sativum* (Shentu et al., 2014). Compound 1 has not been found in the endophytic fungus *Trichoderma sp.* so that it can complete the chemical profile of the genus.

Compound 1 has moderate antioxidant activity with a value of  $IC_{50} = 75.13 \mu\text{g/mL}$ , while gallic acid as a standard antioxidant has a value of  $IC_{50} = 11.45 \mu\text{g/mL}$ . However, higher antioxidant activity can be obtained by semisynthesis of compound 1 to produce phenyl similar to gallic acid. The OH group in the aromatic ring of compound 1 is ortho-directing

**Figure 8.** Estimates Semisynthesis Reaction of Compounds 1 to Produce a New Compound which is more Active with the Standard like Structure Antioxidant Gallic Acid

so that the electrophilic reaction of Nitration (2 mol HNO<sub>3</sub> / H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) is followed by reduction of the nitro group (Fe/HCl) will produce two amine groups on both ortho sides of the hydroxyl group.

The next step is the transformation of the amine functional group by reaction with cold nitrous acid (HONO) in HCl solution to yield aryldiazonium chlorides (ArN<sup>2+</sup>Cl). Displacement by -OH may be prepared from diazonium salts by reaction with hot aqueous acid. This series of reactions is estimated to produce the compound (4-hydroxy-5-oxo-3-(3,4,5-trihydroxyphenyl) tetrahydrofuran-2-yl) methyl acetate (Figure 8) (Fessenden and Fessenden, 1982).

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

Secondary metabolites isolated from *T. reecci* different from the secondary metabolites produced by its host. Moreover, these secondary metabolites have never been found in the endophytic fungus *Trichoderma* family. The antioxidant activity of this compound is classified as moderate, but the production process is easier and cheaper so that it can be turned into star molecules through a semisynthetic process to produce potential antioxidant compounds.

#### 5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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