

Effects of Bungur Leaves (*Lagerstroemia speciosa* (L.) Pres.) on Malondialdehyde and Blood Glucose Levels in Hyperglycemic Mice

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ABSTRACT

Background: Bungur leaves have saponins, tannins, ellagitannin and flavonoids that could function as antioxidant and antihyperglycemic. Bungur leaves also consumed in Indonesia people for their diabetes treatment for a long time. **Objective:** The aim of this research is to know bungur leaves as antioxidant and antihyperglycemic so that can be used in the alternative therapy of diabetes mellitus. **Methods:** Mice were made hyperglycemic using alloxan, except normal group. The study was carried out using 30 mice divided into 6 groups: normal group, negative group, positive group, and treated group with 3 dose variation from bungur leaves decoction and taken the data on day 0, 5, and 19. **Results:** The result in normal group, negative group (alloxan), positive group (glibenclamide), treatments group which given by doses 1.6 g/kgBW, 3.2 g/kgBW, 6.4 g/kgBW of MDA levels respectively 0.6993 nmol/mL; 4.1953 nmol/mL; 0.8462 nmol/mL; 4.2873 nmol/mL; 3.3700 nmol/mL; 2.0670 nmol/mL while blood glucose levels on 19th day respectively 107.6 mg/dL; 149.2 mg/dL; 104 mg/dL; 93 mg/dL; 109.6 mg/dL; 104 mg/dL. MDA levels on 6.4 g/kgBW and the averages of

MDA levels have different significantly with a positive group, while blood glucose levels showed all treatments groups doses has no different significantly with positive group analyzed statistically. **Conclusion:** Bungur leaves have an effect to decrease MDA levels but not as well as glibenclamide while they have an effect to decrease blood glucose as well as glibenclamide.

Key words: Anti hyperglycemic, Antioxidant, Bungur, Glibenclamide, Hyperglycemic mice.

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INTRODUCTION

Free radicals are compounds that do not have electron pairs so have a tendency to pair with other compounds. Free radicals also cause the degenerative diseases such as heart disease, cancer, and diabetes mellitus. Diabetes mellitus is a condition where blood glucose levels are above the normal levels (hyperglycemia). Hyperglycemia can lead to the production of Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) or free radicals are excessive and will trigger oxidative stress.¹ This study aimed to obtain active compounds derived from plants that can act as antihyperglycemic and antioxidants that can be used in the alternative therapy of diabetes mellitus. Bungur leaves are one of the plants that long used and utilized for the treatment of diabetes mellitus in Indonesia. The content of tannins, elagitanins, saponins, and flavonoids empirically can act against free radicals in the body. In this study, bungur leaves decoction has been testing its antioxidant *in vivo* by looking at its ability to reduce levels of malondialdehyde and antihyperglycemic activity by looking at the parameters of blood glucose in mice that were previously inducted by alloxan.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials and Instrumentations

Bungur (*Lagerstroemia speciosa* (L.) Pers.) leaves, male mice with DDY strain, anticoagulant heparin, alloxan tetrahydrate, Glibenclamide.

Plant materials

Bungur leaves were determined before use at Herbarium Bogoriense, Biology Research Center– LIPI, Bogor, Indonesia.

Preparation of experimental animals

The experimental animals used were mice (*Mus musculus*), male type, DDY strain aged 8-12 weeks with 20-30 g weight. Before being used in the experiment, all the mice were acclimatized for one week in advance.

Making bungur leaves decoction

Bungur leaves were weighed 80 g, then washed clean. Then boil the bungur leaves with 600 mL of water until boiling until the volume becomes 200 mL.

Effect of bungur leaves decoction to levels of malondialdehyde and blood glucose test

After the mice were acclimatized, mice were divided into six groups each group consisting of 5 mice. See Table 1.

Mice were made hyperglycemic with Alloxan intraperitoneally for 3 days, except normal controls. Tests carried out simultaneously to obtain malondialdehyde levels and blood glucose on day 0, 5 and 19.

To get MDA, blood placed in centrifuge tubes that had been given anticoagulant heparin, the blood obtained centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 10 min. Once separated the top layer (plasma) taken as many as 200 mL added 1.0 ml trichloroacetic (TCA) 20% and 2 ml tiobarbiturat acid (TBA) 0.67%. The solution is mixed with homogeneous heat in water for 10 min. After that centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 10 min. The pink filtrate measured the absorption wavelength of 530 nm using a UV-VIS spectrophotometer. MDA levels are calculated using a standard TEP curve.

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Table 1: Distribution of experimental animal group.

Group	Treatment
I	Normal control
II	Negative control, aquadest
III	Positive control with administration of Glibenclamide dose 5 mg/kg BW
IV	Decoction of bungur leaves dose 1.6 g/kg BW
V	Decoction of bungur leaves dose 3.2 g/kg BW
VI	Decoction of bungur leaves dose 6.4 g/kg BW

Table 2: The averages of MDA plasma levels on mice (nmol/mL).

Group	Day-0	Day-5	Day-19
I	0.8338	0.8188	0.6993
II	0.8204	4.7802	4.1953
III	0.8007	4.3882	0.8462
IV	0.7593	4.5057	4.2873
V	0.8103	4.6457	3.3700
VI	0.8175	4.5635	2.0670

To get blood glucose levels, measure mice blood glucose levels using glucometer. When the blood glucose level is measured, the mice should be fast first for about 16 h. Measurement of MDA and blood glucose in mice: before administration of Alloxan (day 0), after 5 days of administration of Alloxan (at the time of a hyperglycemic condition/day 5) and after offering the treatment (19th day). The data have been tested statistically using ANOVA to see whether there is a difference or not.

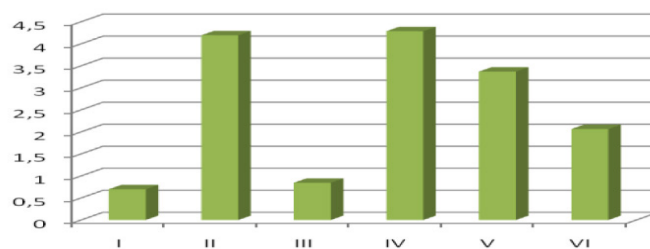
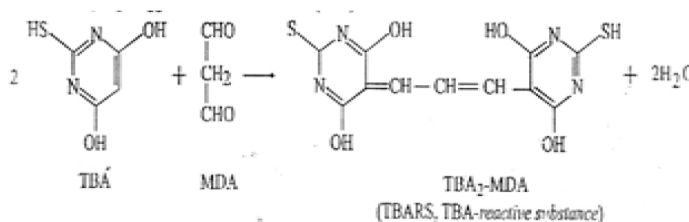
RESULTS

Effects of bungur leaves decoction on malondialdehyde levels (MDA)

In the effectiveness of antioxidant testing, it is known that the levels of MDA in plasma shown in the table. See Table 2.

In the day-0, the averages of MDA plasma is 0.7593 – 0.8338 nmol/mL. After being induced by alloxan (day-5th), that is showed an increase of the MDA by all groups except normal group (group I). It can lead that was redox reaction on β pancreatic cells caused by alloxan. The results of that process is dialuric acid, which together with alloxan generates superoxide radical compound. After the mice became hyperglycemic, then the mice were given bungur leaves decoction with 3 variations dose and measured the levels of MDA on day 19.

The results of plasma MDA levels showed an increase of negative group that is the groups of experimental animals induced by alloxan and not receive bungur leaves and glibenclamide. In the positive group and the treatment group given bungur leaves decoction with 3 variations dose there were a decrease of MDA level compare to negative group. It can be interpreted that lipid peroxidation process that occurs in hyperglycemia mice can be prevented by giving glibenclamide and bungur leaves decoction. The average of MDA plasma of each group were shown in Figure 1tB which can show that the treatment group given bungur leaves decoction with 6.4 g/kgBW having the lowest MDA level compared to other group. The higher dose of bungur leaves decoction given the greater decrease in MDA levels. The average of 6.4 g/kg BW treatment group was 2.067 nmol/mL and that were statistically significant differences with positive group, that means a dose of 6.4 g/kgBW of bungur leaves decoction

**Figure 1:** The averages of MDA plasma levels on mice (nmol/mL).**Figure 2:** The reaction between MDA and TBA.⁵**Table 3: The averages of mice blood glucose levels (mg/dL).**

Group	Day-0	Day-5	Day-19
I	98.2	100.0	107.6
II	96.0	158.2	149.2
III	105.4	174.6	104.0
IV	108.0	172.2	93.0
V	108.6	166.4	109.6
VI	108.6	167.0	104.0

could not be able to decrease the MDA plasma levels as well as the positive group that given glibenclamide.

Effects of bungur leaves decoction on blood glucose levels

The averages of mice blood glucose levels shown in the table. See Table 3. The average of mice blood glucose levels on day-0 is 80-118 mg/dL, which is based on the literature that data meets requirements of normal fasting blood glucose levels (70-120 mg/dL).² Based on ANOVA statistical analysis, known that was not significant difference.

Measurement of blood glucose levels on day 5 was done to find whether in groups II, III, IV, V and VI the mice got hyperglycemic after induced by alloxan, by looking at group I as comparator where group I was not induced by alloxan. Blood glucose levels experienced an increase of 142-202 mg/dL. Based on statistical analysis of Mann-Whitney test, known that blood glucose levels of group II, III, IV, V and VI were not significantly different.

Measurement of blood glucose levels on day 19 after the treatment was done to know whether the group of mice given the treatment decreased blood glucose levels or not. From table 3 known that hyperglycemic mice given treatment got decrease blood glucose levels. From ANOVA statistical analysis, there was significance 0.022 ($p < 0, 05$). This shows that there is a significant difference from blood glucose levels on the day 19th between groups I, II, III, IV, V and VI which means there is a difference between mice treated with mice did not treated. Because there is significant

Table 4: LSD test of blood glucose levels on day 19.

Group	I	II	III	IV	V	VI
I						
II	41.6 *					
III	3.6	45.2*				
IV	14.6	56.2*	11.0			
V	2.0	39.6*	5.6	16.6		
VI	3.6	45.2*	0.0	11.0	5.6	

*There is a significant difference

I: Normal Control; II: Negative Control; III: Positive Control; IV: Dose 1.6 g/kgBW; V : Dose 3.2 g/kgBW; VI: Dose 6.4 g/kg BW.

difference then analysis continued with LSD test. LSD test results shown in Table 4.

DISCUSSION

Alloxan is a diabetogenic agent and often used to induce diabetes on experimental animals. Alloxan injection in animals leads to degeneration of β pancreatic cells in the islets of Langerhans. The mechanism of action of alloxan begins with the occurrence of redox reactions in alloxan entering to β pancreatic cells. Alloxan has high activity against cellular compounds containing SH, reduced glutathione (GSH), cysteine, sulfhydryl protein related compounds (eg, SH-containing enzyme). The result of alloxan reduction process is dialuric acid, then re-oxidation becomes alloxan again continuously. The alloxan and dialuric acid formed generates superoxide radical compounds ($O_2 \bullet$). Superoxide radicals release ferric ions from ferri-nitin which then reduces to ferrous ions, and undergoes dismutase into hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2). The ferro and H_2O_2 ions undergo a redox reaction (Fenton reaction) forming a hydroxyl radical resulting in DNA fragmentation of the nucleus. The fragmentation of nuclear DNA begins with the loss of the DNA proximal chain. The damage sustained so as to stimulate the poly (ADP-ribose) synthetase is involved in DNA repair processes, which then resulted in the depletion of Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD +) intracellular and finally make pancreatic β cell death.³

The most important components of cell membranes are phospholipids, glycolipids, and cholesterol. The first two components contain unsaturated fatty acids which are particularly vulnerable to free radical attacks, especially hydroxyl radicals that can cause lipid peroxidation chain reactions. The end result of this reaction is the breakdown of fatty acid chains into various compounds that are toxic to the cell, including various aldehydes, such as malondialdehyde (MDA). Malondialdehyde is the product of the lipid peroxidation process of the cell membrane by the reactive oxygen compound resulting in the breakdown of the fatty acid chain by producing malondialdehyde and cell membrane damage. Thus indirectly malondialdehyde can be used to measure lipid peroxidation.⁴

The principle of measurement of MDA with TBA reagent, based on the reaction between one molecules of MDA with two TBA molecules under acidic conditions. The result is a pink and measurable MDA-TBA complex compound at a wavelength of 532 nm. The reaction between MDA and TBA is shown in Figure 2.⁵

The amount of MDA detected illustrates the amount of lipid peroxidation that occurs. The MDA level is calculated by inserting it into the standard TEP standard curve equation. 1, 1, 3, 3-tetraethoxypropane is an MDA precursor which, when hydrolyzed with water, results in MDA. Analysis of free radical levels in this study was done by measuring blood plasma

MDA levels using UV-VIS spectrophotometer. This method is the most method widely used to measure the presence of free radicals and lipid peroxidation because it has a fairly high sensitivity, easy to apply to a variety of samples at different lipid oxidation stage.⁴ Decreased levels of MDA in groups of mice given bungur leaves with 3 variations of dosage due to bungur based on phytochemical screening has saponin, flavonoid, tannin and elegitanin compound which can act as an antioxidant. Flavonoid compounds are a class of secondary antioxidants that can have synergistic effects with primary antioxidants that can increase the effectiveness of primary antioxidant action in the body.

In the test of bungur leaves decoction effect on blood glucose levels, blood glucose levels of mice in group I had average blood glucose levels is normal 107.6 mg/dL. Group II was used as a negative control induced by Alloxan without any treatment to determine the hyperglycemic effect of Alloxan. On the 5th day of group 2 mice experienced an increase in blood glucose level by an average of 158.2 mg / dL and only slightly decreased by 149.2 mg/dL on the 19th day. This is caused by the presence of regeneration and neogenesis of pancreatic β cells that can happen within 12 days after the use Alloxan, so that after a given Alloxan will be an increase in blood glucose that can be returned normally in a few months.⁶

Group III was used as a positive control induced by Alloxan prior to treatment of the comparative drug Glibenclamide. On day 5, group III mice experienced an average increase in blood glucose of 174.6 mg/dL, then after treatment with Glibenclamide for 14 days, mean blood glucose levels decreased to 104 mg/dL. This indicates that Glibenclamide is an effective antihyperglycemic in reducing glucose levels.

Groups IV, V and VI were used as the Alloxan-induced group before treatment, after the mice had hyperglycemic conditions, on the 5th day the mice were given the treatment of the bungur decoction with variation dose 1.6 g/kg BB, 3.2 g/kg BB and 6.4 g/kg BW. On the 19th day, blood glucose levels of mice group III, IV, V and VI had decreased blood glucose levels to normal with an average blood glucose level of 93-109.6 mg/dL.

CONCLUSION

Bungur leaves with 6.4 g/kg dose has significantly different to the positive control group, so it has not been able to reduce MDA levels as well as positive control group. Bungur leaves with 3 variant doses can decrease blood glucose levels as well as positive control group.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BW: Body Weight; **MDA:** Malondialdehyde; **DDY:** Deutch Democratic Yokohama; **TEP:** tetraethoxypropane ; **h: hour** ; **ANOVA:** Analyze of Variance ; **LSD:** Least Significant Difference

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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