

Different 4T1 Cells Migration under *Caesalpinia sappan* L. and *Ficus septica* Burm.f Ethanolic Extracts

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Abstract

Secang (*C. sappan* L.) and awar (*F. septica* Burm.f) are known of Indonesian traditional medicine that highly consumed throughout centuries in order to cure various diseases. Recently, researchers also concern about its effects as anti-cancer on various cell types. This study was conducted to understand the ethanolic extract of *C. sappan* L. (ECS) and *F. septica* Burm.f (EFS) effects on 4T1 cells migration at various concentrations. Firstly, we examine cell proliferation profile with MTT assay under treatment with the extracts and obtained the IC₅₀ value of ECS (20 µg/mL) and EFS (15 µg/mL). Subsequent assay conducted was to examine the cells migration under low concentration resulting in the migration inhibitory effect of both EFS and ECS with different intensity. EFS performed better migration inhibitory effect than ECS. Finally, we conducted gelatin zymography and western blot and revealed that the migration inhibitory effect of EFS may correlate to the lowering of protein expression of MMP9 and Rac-1 after 24 hours of treatment. We conclude that both extracts are potential to be developed as anticancer agent and EFS is more potent for anti-metastasis.

Keywords: *C. sappan* L., *F. septica* Burm.f, 4T1, anti-migration

INTRODUCTION

Breast cancer is the most happening evidence in the world and contributes highly in mortality index of human over the world due to its malignancy (Torre *et al.*, 2015). Hence, the secondary malignancy could be overcome by the administration of chemotherapeutic agents such as doxorubicin (Dong and Chen, 2014), cisplatin (Ng *et al.*, 2010) and busulfan-siklofosfamid (Majhail *et al.*, 2011). However, inappropriate treatment of chemotherapeutic agent, such as doxorubicin induces resistance of cancer cells as well as cells migration (Bandyopadhyay *et al.*, 2010). Therefore, various strategies should be continuously developed to inhibit its ability on migration activity.

Indonesia has ethnobotanically copious medicines from its natural sources, such as secang (*Caesalpinia sappan* L.) known as sappan wood and awar-awar (*Ficus septica* Burm.f). Sappan wood is one of the most consumed frequently as a medicine as well as

healthy drink (Nirmal *et al.*, 2015). It is also widely used in South East Asia for various usages (Dapson and Bain, 2015). Sappan wood is known for its antioxidant (Mu'nisa *et al.*, 2016), antibacterial, antifungal, anti-inflammatory, and antitumour activities (Mekala and Radha, 2015). These activities were performed due to its secondary metabolite compounds such as sappanone A (Chang *et al.*, 2012), brazilin (Luna-Vázquez *et al.*, 2013), and brazilin (Senthilkumar *et al.*, 2011). Meanwhile, awar-awar leaves contained tylophorine, a phenanthroindolizidine alkaloid with cytotoxic activity (Wu *et al.*, 2002).

Its robust composition of secondary metabolites could be an opportunity to find new co-chemotherapeutic agents. Several informations about its cytotoxic activities were already documented.

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Study in the effect of *F. septica* ethanolic extract with concentration of 6 µg/ml could induce MCF7 cells into apoptosis through downregulation of BCL2 (Seki et al., 2010). Hung et al. (2014) reported that apoptosis in HeLa cell could be induced by methanolic extract of *C. sappan* with IC₅₀ value of 26.50 µg/ml. In some cases, molecular mechanism mediating cytotoxicity effect possibly correlates to the molecular events in cells migration and metastasis as well. However, these plants information about its activity in inhibiting cell migration is still lacking.

This research, therefore, is to explore *F. septica* and *C. sappan* effect on cancer malignancy using 4T1 cells model. Moreover, due to the complexity of their active compounds composition, we also study their ability to inhibit cancer cells migration solely to select the better candidate in inhibiting cancer cells migration. The purpose of this research is to develop the plant potential (*F. Septica* and *C. Sappan*) as anti cancer fitomedicin that can be applied further together with chemotherapeutic agents, especially in metastatic cancer.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Cell Culture

Breast cancer cell line culture type 4T1 (originally from ATCC^R-CRL-2539TM) was obtained from Prof. Masashi Kawaichi (Nara Institute of Science and Technology, NAIIST, Japan). The cells were maintained in Dulbecco's Modified Eagles medium (DMEM) high glucose (Sigma) supplemented with 10% FBS (Sigma), HEPES, sodium bicarbonate, 1.5% Penicilin-Streptomycin and 0.5% Fungizone (Gibco). Cells were cultured with 5% CO₂ in 37° C.

C. sappan L. (ECS) and *F. septica* Burm.f (EFS) Sample Preparation

Sappan wood and awar-awar leaves were obtained from Medicinal Plant and Traditional Medicine Reseach and Development Center, Tawangmangu, Central Java, Indonesia. They were sliced, dried in oven 40°C, pulverized, and extracted with ethanol 96% by maceration method for 3x24 hours. The macerat was filtered and dried in oven 40°C. The dried extract and doxorubicin was dissolved in DMSO (Sigma), and freshly

diluted in culture medium in several concentration before used.

Cytotoxic MTT assay

Approximately 1x10⁴4T1 cells/well were seeded in 96-well plates and incubated for 24 hours. Cells were treated with increasing concentration of ECS (5, 10, 15, 20, 30, and 40 µg/ml) and EFS extract (0.05, 0.125, 0.25, 0.5, 5, 50, and 100 µg/ml) for 24 hours. Cultured medium was removed and cells were washed with PBS (Sigma). MTT 0.5 mg/ml in medium were added into each well and incubated for 3-4 hours. MTT reaction was stopped by the addition of SDS 10% in HCl 0.01 N, and incubated overnight in the dark room. The absorbance was measured using ELISA reader at λ 595 nm (Biorad). Each treatment were carried out in triplicate, and the absorbance data were provided as percent viability compared to control cells (untreated).

Wound Healing Assay

4T1 cell line was cultured with 7.5 x 10⁴ cell/500 µL density in well plate and incubated for 24 hours at 37°C until reaching percent confluence of 80%. Cultured cell were washed with PBS and added culture media containing 0.5% FBS for then being incubated for 24 hours. Scratch was done in the bottom center of the well within cell layer using cell scratcher. Residue cell in the well plate were washed using culture media and treated with various concentration ECS and EFS. The culture then incubated for 48 hours at 37°C and documented under inverted microscope against cell migration rapidity after 0, 18, 24 and 42 hours.

Quantification of Wound Healing Assay

The space from scratch treatment between control and treatment culture cell at various time incubation was quantified using ImageJ software and defined as cell migration area. Percent closure was further analyzed using ANOVA statistic analysis with 95% percent reliance.

Western Blot

Approximately 10⁶ 4T1 cells were seeded in 10 cm tissue culture dish, and incubated for 24 hours. Cell were treated with ECS 10 µg/ml, EFS extract 2 µg/ml, or doxorubicin 0,4 µM for 24 hours. Protein was extracted using Pro-prep (Intron

Biotechnology), then separated in 14% acrylamide gel by SDS-PAGE electrophoresis. After transferring to polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) membrane, the membrane was incubated overnight at 4°C with either the mouse monoclonal antibody against Rac1 (Santa Cruz sc22475) or β -actin (Santa Cruz sc-47778). After incubation with secondary antibody anti-mouse (Santa Cruz sc-516102) for 1 hour, the protein bands were visualized using ECL (Amersham) and detected using Luminograph. The relative protein levels were calculated in reference to the amount of β -actin protein.

RESULTS

The effect of ECS and EFS in cells proliferation

To understand the potential effect of ethanolic extract *F. septica* (EFS) and *C. sappan* (ECS) in inhibiting cells migration, firstly we measured the cytotoxicity effect of both extracts to the tested cells, 4T1. The result showed that both extracts decreased cells viability in dose dependent manners with IC_{50} values of 20 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ for ECS, and 15 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ for EFS. These IC_{50} values seems not significantly different but exhibited a characteristic effect in each treatment in viability profiles as seen in morphology changes (Figure. 1). The IC_{50} values then used as standard concentration for wound healing migration assay by which the concentration should not affect the cells viability significantly.

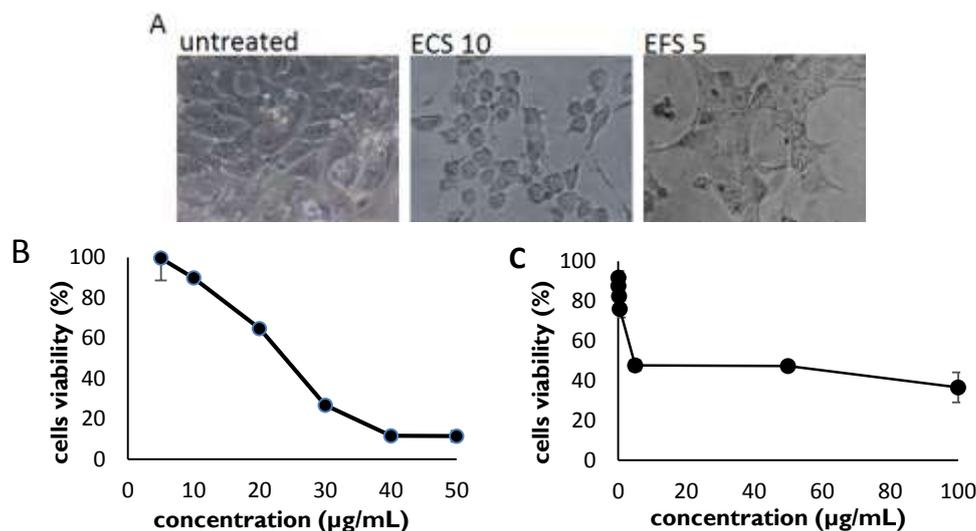


Figure 1. Cytotoxicity of ECS and EFS on 4T1 cell after 24 hour. Cytotoxicity was analyzed using series concentration and measured by ELISA reader after treated with MTT reagent. (A) Morphology changes of 4T1 cells after treated with ECS and EFS. (B) IC_{50} of ECS were calculated and had given value of 12 $\mu\text{g/ml}$. (C) EFS have IC_{50} value of 15 $\mu\text{g/ml}$.

The effect of ECS and EFS in cells migration

Migration of 4T1 cell cultures were analyzed by scratching the cell culture and observed periodically up to 48 hours. In this study, we use low concentration of ECS and EFS to give different migration effect to the 4T1 cell culture. Low concentration of ECS 5

and 10 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ restrict cell migration 71,7% and 42,4% respectively compared to untreated cells (99,1%) within 48 hours. Whereas, low concentration of EFS 1,25 and 2,5 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ could inhibit cell migration 23,5% and 22,1% respectively. Compared to ECS, we believe that EFS more effective to inhibit cell migration.

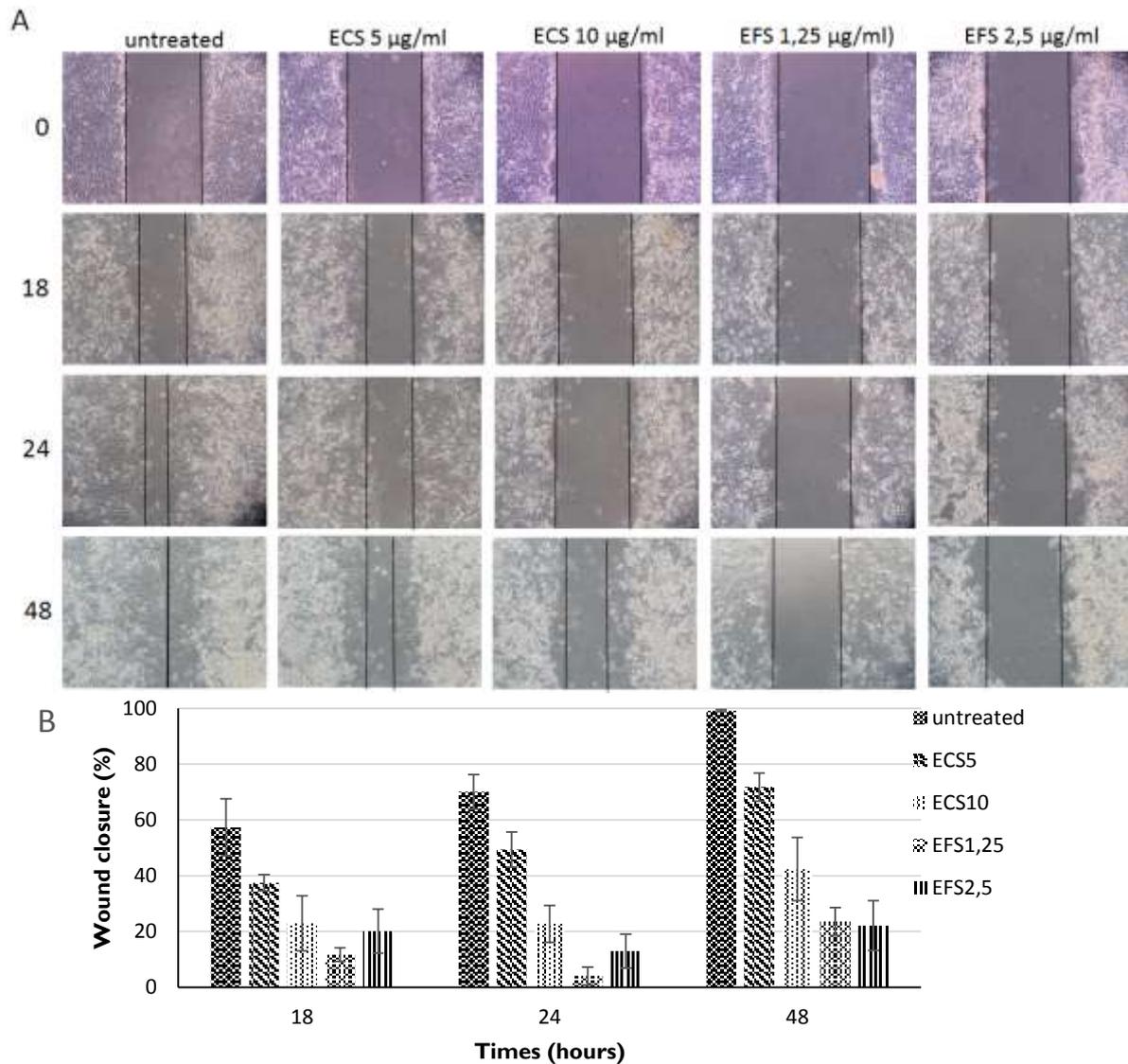


Figure 2. Migration effect of ECS and EFS on 4T1 cells. Cell culture morphology after scratch and treated with ECS 5 and 10 µg/ml and EFS 1,25 and 2,5 µg/ml for 48 hours under 100X magnification (A). Graphic B showed quantification of wound closure by imagej software, performed in triplicate, and represented as mean ± SD.

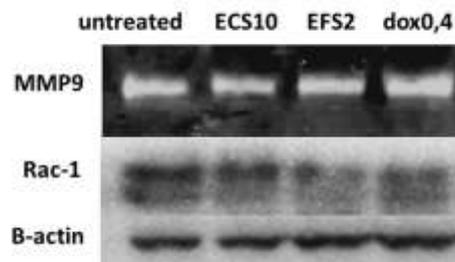


Figure 3. Protein Expression in 4T1 cell after treatment with ECS and EFS. Expression was compared between control (untreated), ECS, and EFS treatment. Gelatin Zymography showed the MMP9 expression were observed differently among the treatment condition after 24 hour treatment. Rac1 expression was observed with western blot shown different expression between groups. The levels of Expression were normalized by comparing with β-actin expression level and doxorubicin treatment as a positive control.

Activity of MMP9 protein that representing its expression level performed different result under different treatment. ECS treatment (10 µg/mL) induces cell to restrain MMP9 production compared to the control cell. Treatment with EFS (2 µg/mL) also gave similar MMP9 expression with ECS treatment. Here we include doxorubicin treatment (IC₅₀ concentration) as a comparison of up-regulated expression of MMP9 and gave migration inhibitory effect to the cells. Cells migration also occurred as a consequence of Rac-1 protein expression. Treatment with ECS give similar expression compared with the control. Lowest Rac1 expression was obtained from EFS treatment. This phenomenon represent that EFS could obstruct cell migration in relation with Rac-1 expression.

DISCUSSION

Cancer cells migration is the critical step of cancer metastasis that challenge to be solved. The main purpose of this research is to find the most potential metastasis-inhibitor to be developed as anti-cancer agent. In this study we demonstrated that ECS and EFS are relatively active as cytotoxic agent towards 4T1 cells with seems to be similar IC₅₀. By having this IC₅₀ value, both extracts have a relatively strong cytotoxic effect and could be further explored as an anti-cancer agent. Effect of sappan wood extract on HeLa cell give IC₅₀ value on 26.50 µg/mL (Hung et al., 2014). Another study of *C. sappan* ethanolic extract give IC₅₀ value of 37 µg/mL on MCF-7 cells (Khamsita et al., 2012) and 25 µM/mL on MCF7/HER2 cells (Rahmawaty et al., 2016). Meanwhile, *F. septica* ethanolic extract on T47D cells giving IC₅₀ of 13 µg/mL (Fitriasari et al., 2011) and 48 µg/mL on MCF-7/HER2 (Sutejo et al., 2016). Compared with previous

study, our experiment on 4T1 cells give another perspective about the inhibitory effect of *C. sappan* and *F. septica* extracts on metastatic cells.

Since the cytotoxic effect of both extracts are relatively strong, we use lower concentration to investigate the migration effect. Interestingly, both extract gave different effect on cell migration. In our experiment, EFS looked better in inhibiting cells migration than ECS. This phenomenon possibly occurred due to its different active compound such as Brazilein and Brazilin (phenolic compounds) in *C. sappan* and tylophorine (alkaloid) in *F. septica* Burm.f Tylophorine, isolated from *Tylophora indica*, was revealed could inhibit angiogenesis via vascular endothelial growth factor receptor 2 (VEGFR2) signaling pathway (Saraswati et al., 2013). Our data give insight for further investigation to gain the detail information about this effect.

Since migration is a physiological process of cells mediated by some molecular signaling events, then we identify status of Rac-1, a protein that plays an important role in early stage of migration (Katoh et al., 2006). Interestingly, EFS slightly suppressed the level of Rac-1, but not ECS. Even there are some possibilities of molecular changes in the down regulation of migration, but this data suggest that the lowering expression of Rac-1 may contribute significantly to the decreasing of the cells migration. Moreover, EFS also exerts lowering MMP-9 expression, thus there will be contribute to the inhibition of cells metastasis. Hereby, we suggest that EFS has strong potential as an anti-metastasis agent compared to ECS. Further Study should be done to explore more deeply the potency of EFS to overcome the migration effect of doxorubicin as well as cisplatin in highly metastatic cancer cells.

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