

In evaluate the anti-tuberculosis potential of metabolites

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In view of urgent need for new tuberculosis (TB) drugs, which were effective, cheaper and readily available from environment, thus research was carried out to evaluate the anti-tuberculosis potential of metabolites from mangrove actinobacteria against surrogate TB organisms (*M. smegmatis*, *M. fortuitum* and *M.*

kansasii) from Pulau Betong, Penang. 31 strains of actinomycetes were isolated and tested against surrogate TB organisms in primary screening by using cross streak method. In secondary screening, crude extract was produced through fermentation method, extracted by organic solvent extraction method, and tested against surrogate TB organisms by agar well diffusion method. The minimum inhibitory concentration (MICs) of the crude extract against surrogate TB organisms were within 200 - 3200 µg/mL. *M. kansasii* showed the highest activity against crude extract with MIC of 200 µg/mL. The findings of this study revealed that mangrove actinomycetes appeared to have immense potential source of antitubercular compounds worthy of further investigation. CHAPTER 2:

INTRODUCTION Tuberculosis (TB) which caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* was a highly prevalent infectious disease that resulted in morbidity and mortality in human with almost one-third of global population believed to be infected (Bratati & Ganguly, 2013; Manikkam, Venugopal, Subramaniam, Ramasamy, & Kumar, 2014; Sanei Taheri et al.

, 2015). TB still remains as a major cause of global public health problem (Sharma & Mohan, 2013). Based on Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC), in 2016, 10.4 million people around the world became sick with TB disease and 1.

7 million TB-related deaths worldwide. TB was a leading killer of people who were HIV infected as the virus weakens a person's immune system against TB germs. The epidemiology of TB had become more serious due to the emergence of drug resistance among *M. tuberculosis* isolates and long-term therapy using combination of drugs for its treatment (Manikkam et al., 2014).

Hence, new antitubercular drugs to fight against drug resistant *M. tuberculosis* strains were urgently needed (Ginsberg, 2010). Less side effects and improved pharmacokinetic properties were expected from new anti-TB drugs with extensive and potent activity against drug resistant strains and ability to reduce the total duration of treatment (De Souza, 2013).

Actinomycetes were common soil inhabitants with excellent producers of novel antimicrobial agents which had the ability to produce exuberant secondary metabolites with biological significance (Abd-Elnaby, Abo-Elala, Abdel-Raouf, Abd-elwahab, & Hamed, 2016; Rajan & Kannabiran, 2014; Xu, Ye, Han, Deng, & Hong, 2014). Out of 50% of the total microbial bioactive metabolites were reported from the members of actinomycetes (Bibb, 2013). In addition, the discovery of streptomycin shown that the first antibiotic used for antitubercular therapy was from *Streptomyces griseus*, and numerous antitubercular antibiotics such as kanamycin and rifampicin were produced from actinomycetes of terrestrial origin.

However, the survey of Streptomyces and other common terrestrial actinomycetes were nearly exhausted. Recently, isolation of known actinomycetes and antibiotic were frequently reported due to the exploration of actinomycetes from routine ecosystems but bioprospecting of less explored ecosystem such as mangrove had been proved consist a high number of bioactive compound from novel bioactive actinomycetes (Bibb, 2013) including antitubercular metabolites (Wang et al., 2013).

CHAPTER 3:
LITERATURE REVIEW
3.1 TUBERCULOSIS
3.1.1 Overview Tuberculosis (TB)

was an infectious respiratory disease which was one of the oldest known human diseases that was still becoming the major causes of mortality caused by M.

tuberculosis (Smith, 2003). This causal pathogen was spread through airborne droplets and easily infected individuals based on the frequency of contact with infected person, living in crowd population or unhygienic environments, and being an immunocompromised person. There were two types of TB disease that occurred in two different sites which are at pulmonary and extrapulmonary organs. TB disease that infected at the pulmonary site known as Pulmonary TB (PTB) refers to TB disease that affected the lungs with common signs such as cough, chest radiograph abnormality and may be infectious. While, TB disease that occurred in other parts of the body such as the brain, kidneys, larynx, lymph node, bones, or pleura known as Extrapulmonary TB (EPTB).

However, in human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-infected person, both EPTB and PTB diseases can occur. As long as the person was not having PTB,

EPTB was not infectious. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stated that EPTB can also occur in the oral cavity, or involved an open lesion with high concentration of organisms. Miliary TB, a rare type of TB was a widespread lymphohematogenous dissemination of *M. tuberculosis*, which was a lethal disease if not treated early (Ray, Talukdar, Kundu, Khanra, & Sonthalia, 2013). Tuberculous meningitis was another form of TB disease that occurred when the tissues around the brain and spinal cord were infected with TB.

3. 1. 2 Current Statistics of Tuberculosis Infection Reported Tuberculosis in the United States, 2016. Atlanta, by US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC stated that a total of 9, 272 TB cases (a rate of 2. 9 cases per 100, 000 persons) are reported in the United States in 2016. This is a decrease from the number of cases reported in 2015 and the lowest case count on record in the United States. The case rate of 2. 9 per 100, 000 persons is a 3.

6% decrease from 2015. Even though the United States continues to make slow progress, current strategies are not enough to reach the goal of TB elimination in this century. According to World Health Organization, 2015, about 9. 6 million new cases of TB were recorded and 1.

5 million patients died, in which, 1. 1 million and 0. 4 million were HIV-negative and HIV-positive patients, respectively in 2014. For multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) cases, 480 000 cases reported, and 190 000 people were estimated died from MDR-TB. India, Indonesia and China

accounted the largest number of cases of the global total with 23 %, 10 %, and 10 %, respectively. 3. 1. 3 Current Treatment of

Tuberculosis Tuberculosis disease was when the TB bacteria became actively multiplying in the body and disrupted the immune system function to stop the bacteria from continuously growing.

It was very important that people who had infected with TB disease to be treated, finished the medicine, and took the drug exactly as prescribed, otherwise they became sick again and more crucial if the TB bacteria started to develop resistant against those drugs which will be harder and more expensive to be treated. By taking several drugs for 6 to 9 months, probability of the TB disease to be treated was high. There were 10 drugs currently approved by the U. S.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treating TB. Isoniazid (INH), rifampin (RIF), ethambutol (EMB), and pyrazinamide (PZA) were the approved drugs that acted as the first-line antitubercular agents that form the core of treatment regimens. 3. 1. 4 Drug- Resistant Tuberculosis Incidence of TB becomes worst with the emergence of multi-drug resistant (MDR) and extensively-drug resistant (XDR) strains of *M. tuberculosis* worldwide make the incidence of TB became worst as the *M. tuberculosis* started to develop resistance against both the first-line and second-line anti-TB drugs (Gupta et al., 2010; Singh, 2007).

Strains that resistant to at least one of the first-line drugs of isoniazid or rifampicin were known as MDR strains, while the strains that resistant to both

isoniazid and rifampicin, fluoroquinolone and to at least one of the three injectable second-line drugs such as amikacin, capreomycin or kanamycin were known as XDR strains. (Galagan, 2014). The drug-resistant TB was very complicated to treat and cure, and may result into inappropriate management that can lead to life-threatening.

3. 2 ACTINOMYCETES AS A SOURCE OF ANTI-TUBERCULAR AGENTS

1 Properties of Actinomycetes Actinomycetes were Gram positive filamentous bacteria consisting of high guanosine-cytosine (GC) and classified to the phylum Actinobacteria (M Goodfellow & Williams, 1983). Most actinomycetes are slow-growing bacteria and they form well-developed radial mycelium, which can be divided into aerial mycelium and substrate mycelium on isolation plates based on morphology and function (Chen, 2015; M Goodfellow & Williams, 1983). The mycelium may break apart to form rod or coccoid shaped forms in some species.

Many genera also form spores where the sporangia, or spore cases, may be found on aerial hyphae, on the colony surface, or free within the environment. Actinomycetes were the intermediate group between bacteria and fungi due to the presence of a filamentous degree of organization like filamentous fungi (Chen, 2015). Their hyphae were similar to fungi, and their widths of the mycelium are quite similar to the width of bacterial cell. However, actinomycetes had been classified as bacteria since they did not have chitin and cellulose in the cell walls which were often present in fungi.

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2 Antitubercular Potential Actinomycetes hold the important position in production of bioactive metabolites which were responsible for the production of almost half of the discovered bioactive secondary metabolites (Abd-Elnaby et al., 2016; Bérdy, 2005; Rajan, 2014; Xu et al., 2014).

More than 10,000 antibiotics had been isolated from actinomycetes until today (Kekuda, Shobha, & Onkarappa, 2010). Further characterization of these actinomycetes had led to isolation and identification of novel bioactive compounds with significant therapeutic potential. So far, only 3% of all antibacterial agents had been reported synthesized by *Streptomyces* (Watve, Tickoo, Jog, & Bhole, 2001). Actinomycetes regained its position as the center of antibiotic interest due to the concomitant of the information and emerging problem of multi drug resistance (MDR) and new pathogens development which inactivated the antibiotics and rendered an urgent need for new antibiotics that would target the emerging multidrug resistance.

CHAPTER 4: DISCUSSION Sediment samples collected from Pulau Betong, Penang mangrove forest were divided into two parts as wet samples and dry samples.

Wet samples were directly diluted by using serial dilution method while dry samples were allowed to air-dry at room temperature for a week before serially diluted. Results showed the number of isolates from the dry samples were higher than wet samples. All 31 isolates of actinomycetes were screened for their bioactive compound production ability and 13 isolates showed wide range of zone of inhibition against surrogate TB organisms in the primary screening.

Primary screening methods like cross streak or cross spot method were not suitable for highly biohazardous organism like *M. tuberculosis* thus surrogate TB organisms were used. During fermentation process, more yield of crude extract was produced through solid state fermentation method compared to submerged state fermentation method when extracted with methanol and ethyl acetate solvents. The production of higher crude extract in solid state fermentation was due to the lack of water and completely miscible in organic solvent (ethyl acetate and methanol) with the fermented biomass. These results were similar as previous reports (El-Naggar, El-Assar, & Abdul-Gawad, 2009; Mahdi, Termeh, Ehsan, Bahman, & Elnaz, 2012). The low yield production resulted from the submerged state fermentation method was due to the use of water immiscible solvent such as ethyl acetate during extraction. The MIC of the crude extracted from the actinomycetes were determined by using TEM method against the surrogate TB organisms by observing the color change of MTT tetrazolium from yellow to purple due to the oxidation of the reagent. The viable cells with active metabolism converted MTT into a purple color formazan product.

The color remained unchanged when the cells were died as they were unable to convert MTT into formazan, thus, color formation serves as a marker for the viable cells. In this study, the crude extract showed a wide range of activity towards the test organisms with MIC values in the range of 200 – 3200 μ g/mL. The highest activity was shown by crude extract against *M. kansasii* with MIC of 200 μ g/mL. Therefore, the crude extract could be

potent sources of antitubercular drug production, which will lead to the development of novel drugs for the tuberculosis treatments.

Regarding the tested surrogate TB organisms strain, the results showed that the slow-growing *M. kansasii* was more susceptible than the fast-growing *M. fortuitum* and *M. smegmatis*. These results indicated that the cellular growth rate could influence the inhibition whereby the slow grower had a longer doubling time compared to the fast grower. Fast grower organisms had a weaker defense ability, thus when the cells were inoculated into a new medium, they may be lacking in essential enzymes or other components involved in a defense mechanism, so as they took time to synthesize these components, they were more susceptible to chemical attack. Besides that, the ultra-structure of these organisms may differ from each other especially on their unique cell walls, which could have contributed to their defense ability.

A previous study had reported that cell wall thickness was significantly different between resistant and non-resistant strains of *Mycobacterium* (Velayati et al., 2009).

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

This study concluded that actinomycetes isolated from mangrove sediment were priceless natural resources, having immense antitubercular potential to treat tuberculosis as they exhibited inhibitory activity against test *Mycobacterium* species, *M. smegmatis*, *M.*

fortuitum and *M. kansasii* with MICs of 200 -3200 µg/mL. The highest activity was exhibited by crude extract against *M. kansasii* with MIC of 200 µg/mL. In

general, crude extract were complex mixture of compound. However, in this study, only the crude extracts were evaluated and found to be active against surrogate TB organisms, so additional research like bioassay guided fractionation and characterization were needed to validate whether a single useful compound can be found, and it was also needed to determine the MIC and meaningful toxicity and specificity studies.