

The Effect of Giving Croton Leaf Crude Extract (*Codiaeum variegatum*) as an Alternative to The Antibacterial of *Edwardsiella tarda in Vitro*

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Abstract

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Production problems related to aquaculture cannot be separated from diseases that can cause death in fish. Efforts to overcome the bacterial disease *Edwardsiella tarda* can be done by using natural materials such as the leaves of croton (Codiaeum variegatum). This study aimed to analyze the content of active compounds contained in croton leaf extract which is antibacterial against E. tarda bacteria. Inhibition test was performed by dilution method Minimum Inhibition Concentration (MIC test) and agar diffusion (disc test). The MIC test used five concentrations: 1 mg/L, 10 mg/L, 100 mg/L, 500 mg/L, and 1000 mg/L on Tryptone Soy Broth (TSB) media, while the disc test used five doses of croton leaf extract, namely: A (100 mg/L), B (200 mg/L), C (300 mg/L), D (400 mg/L) and E (500 mg/L), 2 controls (positive and negative), and three replications on Tryptone Soy Agar (TSA) media and incubated for 2x24 h. The positive control used chloramphenicol (5 mg/L) antibiotic. Croton leaf extract contains several compounds, namely saponins, flavonoids, tannins, steroids, and polyphenols, which are antibacterial and could kill the test bacteria with the highest average inhibition zone results obtained at a dose of E (500 mg/L) of 6.34 mm, while the lowest results were obtained at dose A (100 mg/L) of 3.12 mm.

INTRODUCTION

One of the obstacles for fish farmers is a disease caused by bacteria. One of the bacterial diseases that are an obstacle to fish farming is the one caused by the Edwardsiella tarda bacteria. E. tarda bacteria included in the are Enterobacteriaceae family, which is a Gram-negative group of bacteria and is motile because it has peritrichous flagella. Murwantoko et al. (2019), said that these bacteria are $1 \,\mu\text{m} \times 2-3 \,\mu\text{m}$ in size, are in the form of short rods, are non-acid fast,

do not have spores, and do not have a capsule. *E. tarda* bacteria are facultatively anaerobic, glucose fermentation but negative in lactose, oxidase-negative, and catalase-positive fermentation. A'yunin *et al.* (2020) explained that *E. tarda* bacteria is the cause of MES (Motile Edwardsiella Septicemia). *E. tarda* infection causes a decrease in the productivity of fish culture, causing losses for farmers. Efforts to overcome infectious diseases such as *E. tarda* bacteria can be done by using

antibiotics, but according to Rosidah and Afizia (2012), these antibiotics will increase the frequency of bacterial isolates that are resistant to antibiotics and the occurrence of accumulation which will endanger environmental health.

One of the other treatment efforts to treat bacterial diseases is the use of bioactive materials from plants. Natural ingredients that can be used in E. tarda bacteria are guava leaf extract (Psidium guajava L.), Rhizophora sp. leaf extract, and red ginger extract (Zingiber officinale var. Rubrum) (Setyowati et al., 2014; Syawal et al., 2017; Prastiti et al., 2015). The alternative medicine is the leaf part of the croton plant (C. variegatum). Croton leaves contain several compounds, namely saponins, flavonoids, tannins, steroids, and polyphenols (Amalia et al., 2014). The antibacterial content is generally able to disrupt the membrane permeability of bacterial cells and cause bacterial lysis so that it is thought to be able to treat fish infected with these bacteria.

Research on the potential of croton leaf extract (*C. variegatum*) as an antibacterial was last published in 2020 which was applied to other bacteria, namely *Escherichia coli*. The use of croton leaf extract (*C. variegatum*) to inhibit *E. tarda* bacteria has never been done either *in vitro* or *in vivo*.

This study aimed to analyze the content of active compounds contained in croton leaf extract which is antibacterial against *E. tarda* bacteria.

METHODOLOGY

Place and Time

This research was conducted at the Fish Cultivation Laboratory, Fish Disease and Health Division (Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences, Brawijaya University), from December 2020 to January 2021.

Research Materials

The materials used in this study include *Edwardsiella tarda* bacteria obtained from the Fish Quarantine Standard Test Center, Quality Control and Fishery Product Safety (BUSKIPM), Jakarta, croton cobra leaves (*C*. variegatum A. Juss) from Technical Implementation Unit (UPT) Materia Medica Batu, Malang, the solvent for maceration is ethanol with pro-analysis quality (PA), filter paper with the trademark Whatman No. 42, aluminum foil and plastic wrap, DMSO, Aquades, alcohol, disc paper with a diameter of 6 mm, and culture media namely Tryptone Soy Agar (TSA) and Tryptone Soy Broth (TSB).

Puring leaves contain several compounds, namely in the form of saponins, flavonoids, tannins, steroids, and polyphenols (Amalia et al., 2014). This compound is believed to act as an antibacterial agent by inactivating affecting membrane enzymes. cell function, denaturing proteins, and can damage cell walls due to decreased permeability. Changes in the permeability of the cytoplasmic membrane result in disruption of the transportation of crucial organic ions into the cell, thereby inhibiting growth and even cell death. So, it is hoped that it can repair damage to blood cells and tissues of gourami (O. gouramv).

Bacterial culture procedure according to Budianto et al. (2015), the first thing to do is to prepare 5 ml of TSA media and put it in a test tube. The media was then sterilized in an autoclave for 15 minutes at a temperature of 121 °C and a pressure of 1 atm. The process of planting pure cultures of E. tarda bacteria was taken aseptically, then put into the prepared TSA media, the TSA media which already contained bacteria were then incubated in an incubator at a temperature of 300C for 24 hours so that the results of the initial bacterial density were obtained using the Optical Density method (OD) and Total Plate Count (TPC) of 3.46 \times 10¹⁵ cells/ml. The readings are made visually. The calculation of the number of microbes used is through the TPC method. From the TPC results, the number of bacteria that can be used in the antibacterial activity test is 10¹⁵ CFU/ml. This MIC test is considered to be the lowest drug concentration of an antibacterial agent that inhibits the total growth of microorganisms. The MIC test was carried out using 7 test tubes using TSB media, *E. tarda* bacteria, and croton leaf extract dissolved in DMSO 10%.

Research Design

The research method used in this research is the experimental method. The research design used a completely randomized design (CRD). CRD is the simplest design when compared to other designs. In this design, there is no local control so that the only sources of diversity observed are treatment and errors. This study used the independent variables in the form of croton leaf extract and the active compound in isolation as the dependent variable. The number of treatments in this study was seven concentrations with two types of control, namely positive control and negative control, and three replications.

Work Procedure

In this study, the equipment used included Rotary Evaporator Vacuum, refrigerator, autoclave, petri dish. Erlenmeyer (250 ml, 500 ml, and 1000 ml), beaker glass (500 ml and 1000 ml), micropipette, drop pipette, volume pipette, loop needles, Bunsen burners, Bunsen, test tubes, test tube racks, measuring cups (10 ml, 50 ml, and 100 ml), funnels, spatulas, digital scales, analytical scales, hot plates, and magnetic stirrers.

The extraction process is an important first step in medicinal plant research because the plant extract preparation is the starting point for the isolation and purification of the chemical components contained in plants. Dry simplicial that has been mashed is then extracted by maceration using 96% ethanol solvent (Febrina *et al.*, 2015). By the research of Ogunwenmo *et al.* (2007), where 500 grams of croton leaf powder is

put into 2 jars, in each jar is filled with 250 grams of croton leaf powder and soaked using 96% ethanol solvent with a ratio of 1: 10 as much as 5 liters with each jar filled 2.5 liters for 2 x 24 hours at room temperature (27 - 30°C). The solution obtained is then filtered with filter paper to separate the solution from the precipitate, then the result of the maceration solution is evaporated with a Rotary Vacuum Evaporator and awaited, resulting in a crude extract of croton leaves that is shaped like a paste.

Inhibition test was performed by dilution method (MIC test) and agar diffusion (disc test). The purpose of the MIC test is to test the minimum concentration that can inhibit bacterial growth by more than 90%. The MIC test used 5 concentrations: 1 mg/L, 10 mg/L, 100 mg/L, 500 mg/L, and 1000 mg/L on TSB media. The positive control used chloramphenicol antibiotics at 5 mg/L. Meanwhile. the disc test method according to Ekklesia et al. (2020), namely the test bacterial suspension is spread using a triangle on the media and after that, a disc paper is placed on top of it been soaked which has in each concentration of leaf ethanol extract for approximately 15 minutes. After being incubated at 37°C for 2 x 24 hours, the formed inhibition zone was observed and measured. Disc test using 5 treatment concentrations of croton leaf extract, namely: A (100 mg/L), B (200 mg/L), C (300 mg/L), D (400 mg/L) and E (500 mg/L), 2 controls (positive and negative), and 3 replicates on TSA media.

Data Analysis

Based on the research results obtained from the inhibition zone or clear zone giving extract of croton leaves against *E. tarda* bacteria, statistical data analysis was carried out using variability analysis or F test Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) by the design used, namely completely randomized design (CRD). To determine the form of the relationship between the treatments and the inhibition zone (test parameters), the orthogonal polynomial test is used which provides information on the effect of the best information.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC Test)

The MIC test was carried out using puring leaf extract as an antibacterial in several concentrations (ppm) which aims

MIC test results

to determine the minimum concentration that can inhibit the growth of E. tarda bacteria. Determining the dose of puring leaf extract by measuring the turbidity value at graded dose levels and bacterial substances through the optical density (OD) value using a Spectrophotometer with a wavelength of 615 nm. made Observations were on а spectrophotometer to measure Optical Density The MIC test results in this study are presented in Table 1.

No.	Concentration (mg/L)	Absorbance					
1.	Control (-)	0,573					
2.	1	0,204					
3.	10	0,382					
4.	100	0,189					
5.	500	0,227					
6.	1000	0,223					
7.	Control (+)	0,049					

Note:

Table 1.

Positive control using *chloramphenicol* antibiotic (5 mg/L), negative control without treatment only bacteria.

The MIC test results above indicate that the leaf extract of croton (C. variegatum) has an inhibitory power against the growth of E. tarda bacteria, where the minimum concentration of inhibition is 0.189 at a concentration of 100 mg/L. In the negative control, the highest value was obtained, namely 0.573, this means that the negative control could not inhibit the growth of *E. tarda* bacteria because it was not treated with croton leaf extract (C. variegatum) or antibiotics. The increase in absorbance value after a dose of 100 mg/L indicates that there is the bacterial resistance to puring leaf extract because at a dose of 100 mg/L it has shown the first lowest value or the best from other doses. The minimum inhibitory concentration is the lowest concentration of antibiotics that will inhibit the growth of microscopic microorganisms (Budianto et al., 2015). From the data above, croton leaf extract (C. variegatum) with a concentration of 100 mg/L was chosen as the reference for the minimum dose to determine the concentration of the disc test.

Antibacterial Activity

Before discussing the antibacterial activity, the LC₅₀ test can be carried out to determine the effective dose for use in the antibacterial test. A toxicity test (LC_{50}) is a preliminary test to determine the toxicity of a substance in test animals so that the dose of the substance can be effective which can kill 50% of the population of test animal organisms. The potential toxicity of a chemical is often shown as the LC_{50} . The results of the toxicity test obtained were that at a dose of 100-300 mg/L it could be said that it was not so toxic because there were no dead fish. The dose of 400 mg/L experienced the death of 1 fish at the 48th hour and the dose of 500 mg/L experienced the death of 50%, namely 2 fish that died at the 96th hour. So, the dose to be used in the second phase of the study is more than 500 mg/L.

Based on the results of observations during the study regarding the effect of giving croton leaf extract as an antibacterial alternative to *E. tarda*, it was shown that the size of the inhibition zone formed in each treatment was different, depending on the number of doses given. Inhibition test results data from croton leaf extract can be presented in Table 2.

Та	ble 2. Dat	a from the te	st results of	the inhibition	of croton le	af extract (C. variegatum)
Treatment		Repetition			Total	$M_{con} + STDV$
	Heatiment	1	2	3	TOLAI	Weall ± 31DV
-	А	3.37	2.95	3.17	9.49	$3.6 \pm 0,21$
	В	3.49	3.46	3.21	10.16	$3.39 \pm 0,15$
	С	4.02	4.97	4.61	13.6	$4.53 \pm 0,48$
	D	4.24	4.98	5.12	14.34	$4.78 \pm 0,47$
	E	4.98	5.12	6.34	16.44	$5.48 \pm 0,75$
	Control (+)	14.15	13.96	14.05	42.16	$14.05 \pm 0,10$
	Control (-)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00 ± 0.00
	Total	34.25	35.44	36.5	106.19	



Puring Leaves Extract Concentration(mg/L)

Antibacterial activity of croton leaf extract (C. variegatum) against E. tarda Figure 1. bacteria.

Table 2 above presents the results of the inhibition zone diameter (mm) at different concentrations of *E. tarda* bacteria. Table 2 shows that with the increasing concentration of croton leaf extract, the inhibition zone diameter also increased. This shows that croton leaf extract has antibacterial compounds that can inhibit bacterial growth, where the highest average inhibition zone results were obtained at concentration E (500 mg/L) of 5.48 \pm 0.75 mm, while the lowest results were obtained at concentration A (100 mg/L) of 3.16 \pm 0.21 mm. According to Salni et al. (2016), the classification of the inhibition zone diameter is categorized as follows: weak \leq 5 mm, moderate 5-10 mm, strong 10-20 mm.

While the results of the inhibition zone test on the negative control did not produce an inhibition zone, because the solution used was distilled water which

did not have antibacterial compounds. Meanwhile, the inhibition zone diameter produced positive by control chloramphenicol showed a difference with a mean value of 14.05 ± 0.10 mm, this is chloramphenicol because is а bacteriostatic antibiotic chemical. Observations are made by measuring the vertical and horizontal diameters in millimeters (mm) using a caliper so that they can be called the zone of drag. The difference in the area of the inhibition zone formed can be seen from the zone variations in each experimental material. This difference is caused by several factors, including the size of the inoculum, incubation time, extract concentration and the antibacterial power of the nutritious substance.

In the data above, E. tarda bacteria are only bacteriostatic, which means that croton leaf extract can only inhibit bacterial growth, this is based on observations for 24 hours which show that the dose is only able to inhibit the growth of *E. tarda* bacteria by inhibiting protein synthesis by binding ribosome of an organism. Putri *et al.* (2019), stated that the bond was not so strong that when the concentration and stability decreased, the antimicrobials would release ribosomes which resulted in bacteria being able to grow back.

The mechanism of action of antibacterial is classified into four main things, namely, inhibition of cell wall synthesis, inhibition of cell membrane function, inhibition of protein synthesis, and inhibition of nucleic acid synthesis. According to Dhuha *et al.* (2016), several active compounds are antibacterial, including flavonoids, tannins, saponins, and phenols. The antibacterial effect is due to the compounds contained in organisms damaging the cell walls and affecting their integrity.

In the research of Bijekar and Gavatri (2014), it is revealed that croton leaves are rich in flavonoids, phenols, and terpenoids. Qualitative phytochemical test results were obtained, namely alkaloids in the range (4,66 – 10,2%), flavonoids (33,1 - 37,63%), saponins (11,36 - 13,76%), phenolic (35,43 - 39,76%), tannins (10,5 - 15,32%), and terpenoids (27,56 -30,3%). Here it can be concluded that phenolic compounds have the highest value in the crude extract of croton leaves. Phenolic compounds have been shown to inhibit cyclooxygenase and lipoxygenase pathways. Phenolic compounds can also act as chemo preventive or stimulate inhibition of the cell cycle or apoptosis. The damage that can occur to microbial cells due to the administration of croton leaf extract is the inhibition of cell wall synthesis. It is based on the presence of phenol compounds. This is supported by Brewster et al. (1991), that phenol can also cause cell wall damage. Phenols bind to proteins through hydrogen bonds, causing the protein structure to be damaged. Most of the structure of the cell wall and cytoplasmic membrane of bacteria contain protein and fat.

The alkaloid compounds produced by croton leaf extract have the potential as antibacterial because they can damage cell walls. The mechanism of action of alkaloids as antibacterial is predicted through inhibition of cell wall synthesis which will cause cell lysis so that the cells will die (Nimah *et al.*, 2012).

Tannin compounds act as antibacterial. The mechanism of tannin inhibition is using bacterial walls that have been lysed due to flavonoid compounds, causing tannin compounds to easily enter bacterial cells and coagulase the protoplasm of bacterial cells (Devi and Mulyani, 2017).

CONCLUSION

Based on research on the effect of giving croton leaf extract (*C. variegatum*) as an in vitro alternative to E. tarda antibacterial, it can be concluded that the best treatment was at a concentration of 600 mg/L and croton leaf extract can be used as an alternative medicinal ingredient as an antibacterial agent against E. tarda bacteria by inhibiting the growth of *E. tarda* according to bacteriostatic properties. This has been proven by the presence of a clear zone around the disc paper which has been tested on E. tarda bacteria from croton leaf indicates extract. The clear zone sensitivity and antibacterial activity against croton leaf extract.

Based on the results of the study, it is suggested to utilize other parts (stems, roots, flowers) in croton plants, then further research is needed through in vivo tests to prove the effectiveness of these materials in cultivated organisms infected with *E. tarda* bacteria.

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