

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**MUTAGENIC EFFECT AND
ANTIMUTAGENIC POTENTIAL OF
AQUEOUS AND METHANOL
EXTRACTS FROM
Hydrocotyle bonariensis AND
*Centella asiatica***

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ABSTRACT

Mutations are the cause of innate metabolic defects in cellular system, triggering morbidity and mortality in living organisms. Since the mutagens are involved in the initiation and promotion of several human diseases, including cancer, the significance of novel bioactive phytochemicals in counteracting these pro-mutagenic and carcinogenic effects is now gaining attention. The aims of this study are to evaluate the phytochemical constituent, to determine the antioxidant capacity and to determine the mutagenic effect and antimutagenic potential in the absence and presence of metabolic activation (S9) in the plants extracts. In these study two samples namely *H.bonariensis* and *C.asiatica* aerial parts and roots in aqueous and methanol extracts were used to determine its bioactive compound via phytochemical screening and antioxidant capacity using the FRAP assay. Determination of the mutagenic effect and antimutagenic potential for both plants species were done using the Ames test after the bacterial strains fulfill the genotype characteristics needed. The finding revealed that both plants extract possessed alkaloid, phenol and tannins on its phytochemical content except for flavonoid which was only found in methanol extracts of *H.bonariensis* aerial parts. In the FRAP assay, both plants extracts showed antioxidant power. The results indicated that both methanol extracts of *H.bonariensis* aerial parts and methanol extracts of *C.asiatica* aerial parts and roots contain strong antioxidant power with high value of ascorbic acid equivalent. In the mutagenicity study, the methanol extracts of the aerial parts of *H.bonariensis* showed significant different ($p<0.05$) when compared to the negative control which shows positive response mutagenic effect at the concentration of 50 mg/ml with the mean number of revertant colony of 36.7 ± 6.4 for strain *S.typhimurium* TA 98 with the presence of metabolic activation (+S9). However, no mutagenic effect was observed by the roots of *H.bonariensis* in both extracts. On the other hand, the methanol extracts of the aerial parts of *C.asiatica* showed mutagenicity effect when tested in the presence of metabolic activation (+S9) by *S.typhimurium* TA 98 strain. The methanol extracts of the aerial parts of *C.asiatica* showed a significant difference ($p<0.05$) when compared to the negative control in all concentrations studied and also a dose-response relationship. The mean number of revertant colony at concentration of 50 mg/ml was 94.0 ± 2.6 , 66.3 ± 7.8 for the concentration of 12.5 mg/ml and 38.0 ± 2.6 for the concentration of 3.125 mg/ml. No mutagenic effects were seen when treated with *C.asiatica* roots in both aqueous and methanol extracts. In contrast, both aerial parts and roots of *H.bonariensis* and *C.asiatica* in aqueous and methanol extracts exhibited an antimutagenic effect against direct mutagen. The strong antimutagenic effect was found in methanol extracts of *C.asiatica* aerial parts and roots against the direct mutagen in *S.typhimurium* TA 98 with the percentage of inhibition valued 64.39% and 67.80% respectively. In conclusion, both extracts of *H.bonariensis* and *C.asiatica* aerial parts and roots have alkaloid, phenol and tannins and also antioxidant capacity which possibly contribute to the antimutagenic potential against direct mutagen by both plants species. The mutagenic effect was only showed by the methanol extracts of aerial parts of *H.bonariensis* and *C.asiatica* in the presence of metabolic activation (+S9).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
AUTHOR'S DECLARATION	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
LIST OF TABLES	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xiv
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Background of Study	1
1.2 Significance of Study	4
1.3 Scopes and Limitations of Study	5
1.3 Objectives of Study	5
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	
2.1 Medicinal Plants	6
2.2 Plant Materials	8
2.2.1 <i>Hydrocotyle bonariensis</i>	8
2.2.2 <i>Centella asiatica</i>	11
2.3 Phytochemical Constituent in Medicinal Plants	17
2.4 Phytochemical Constituents as a Cancer Prevention	19
2.5 Antioxidant Activity	25
2.5.1 Antioxidant activity in medicinal plants	25
2.5.2 Assessment of antioxidant activity in medicinal plants	27
2.5.2.1 The principle of Ferric Reducing Antioxidant Power (FRAP) assay	28
2.6 Mutagenic Effects	30
2.6.1 What is mutation?	30
2.6.2 The principle of the Ames test	32
2.6.3 Bacterial strains	33
2.6.4 Metabolic activation (S9)	33

2.6.5	Mutagenic effects in medicinal plants	34
2.7	Antimutagenic Effect	38
2.7.1	Introduction	38
2.7.2	Mechanisms of the antimutagens	39
2.7.3	Antimutagenic effects in medicinal plants	40
CHAPTER THREE: MATERIAL AND METHODS		
3.1	Materials	44
3.1.1	Raw materials	44
3.1.2	Chemicals	44
3.2	Apparatus	45
3.3	Experimental Design	45
3.4	Samples Preparation	47
3.5	Samples Extractions	47
3.5.2	Aqueous extraction	47
3.5.3	Methanolic extraction	47
3.6	Phytochemical Screening	48
3.6.1	Screening for alkaloid	48
3.6.2	Screening for flavonoid	48
3.6.3	Screening for saponins	48
3.6.4	Screening for phenols	48
3.6.5	Screening for tannins	49
3.6.6	Screening for anthraquinones	49
3.7	Ferric Reducing Antioxidant Power (FRAP) assay	49
3.8	Genetic Analysis of <i>Salmonella typhimurium</i> Bacterial Strains	50
3.8.1	Pre-culture of the bacterial strains for genetic analysis	50
3.8.2	Purification of the bacterial strains for genetic analysis	50
3.8.3	Assessment of amino acid histidine (<i>his</i>) dependence	51
3.8.4	Assessment of biotin (<i>bio</i>) dependence	51
3.8.5	Assessment of the presence of <i>uvrB</i> mutation	52
3.8.6	Assessment of the presence of <i>rfa</i> mutation	52
3.8.7	Assessments of the presence of plasmid pKM101	52
3.9	Growth Curve of the Bacterial Strains	53
3.9.1	Growth curve of <i>S. typhimurium</i> TA 98	53