

**PHYTOCHEMICAL SCREENING AND ANTIFUNGAL
ACTIVITIES OF THE ROOT EXTRACT OF *Casuarina
equisetifolia***

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**Final Year Project Report Submitted in
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the
Degree of Bachelor of Science (Hons.) Biology
in the Faculty of Applied Sciences
Universiti Teknologi MARA**

JANUARY 2016

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Prima facea. First of all, thanks to ALLAH S.W.T for his mercy and guidance in giving me good health and full strength to complete this FSG 610 Final Year Project. Even facing with some difficulties in completing this project, I still managed to complete it. Besides that, I wish to express my sincere thanks to Ms. Siti Suhaila binti Harith, coordinator of FSG 610, for providing me with all the necessary facilities for the research. A lot of thanks to my supervisor, Prof. Madya Mohd Supi bin Musa for all of his support and guidance in helping me to finish my project that really tested my abilities mentally and physically. I am extremely thankful and indebted to him for sharing expertise, sincere and valuable guidance and encouragement extended to me. I am also grateful to all lecturer in the Department of Applied Sciences for their help and support. My special thanks also go to Mrs. Zairus binti Ismail as Head Lab Assistant, Mr. Suhairi bin Suib and Mr. Norafidzan bin Mahbob as Lab Assistant in Biology Laboratory 3 and 4 of Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Jengka and to all parties that involves directly or indirectly in my research and eager to help me in order to find all the materials and apparatus that are needed in this project and willing to sacrifice their time. Not forgotten, I would like to show my gratitude to my parents that never give up giving their encouragement, attention, financial and moral support to me. I also grateful to my partner who also give a hand to help and who supported me through this venture.

I also place on record, my sense of gratitude to one and all, who directly or indirectly, have lent their hand in this venture.

Thank you.

Raihanah Wajihah binti Mohamed Taib

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ABSTRACT

PHYTOCHEMICAL SCREENING AND ANTIFUNGAL ACTIVITY OF ROOT EXTRACT OF *Casuarina equisetifolia*

Casuarina equisetifolia also known as “Pokok rhu” by Malaysian belong to family Casuarinacea was one of wind break tree. The root was selected because of its numerous benefits in traditional folk medicine to treat astringent, diabetes and ulcers. This study was done to evaluate the antifungal activity on *C. albicans* and *A. niger* as well as to identify the phytochemical compounds that present in the roots of *C. equisetifolia*. The methods used in this study started by obtaining crude extract through extraction procedure with three selected solvents such as petroleum ether (non-polar solvent), chloroform (medium polar solvent) and methanol (polar solvent). The antifungal activity of each extract was tested using disc diffusion method for fungi *C. albicans* and well diffusion method for *A. niger* fungi. The detection and identification of the phytochemical compound was performed through phytochemical screening. Thin layer chromatography (TLC) analysis was developed to detect the number of compounds present in each extract. The highest antifungal activities showed by *C. albicans* that extracted with methanol solvent with zone of inhibition (4.9 mm) followed by chloroform (5.7 mm) and petroleum ether (2.6 mm). Meanwhile *A. niger* showed no inhibition in this study. The phytochemical screening showed positive result for the presence of alkaloid, flavonoid, tannin, terpenoids, and saponin. Each secondary metabolite has medicinal value in antifungal activity exhibited by *C. equisetifolia*. The TLC analysis revealed that number of compound present in petroleum ether and methanol extract similar which was 6 compounds while chloroform produces 5 compounds. *C. equisetifolia* root extract could be source of antifungal drugs as it can inhibit growth of *C. albicans*, so further investigation should be conducted.