

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**PHYTOCHEMICAL ANNOTATION,  
IDENTIFICATION, AND ISOLATION  
OF *ELEUSINE INDICA* (L.) GAERTN.,  
AND ITS ANTIPROLIFERATIVE  
AND ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITIES**

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## ABSTRACT

*Eleusine indica*, locally known as ‘rumput sambau’ is traditionally used to treat various ailments including sprained muscle, asthma, influenza, and pneumonia. Pharmacological investigations revealed that this plant possesses diverse arrays of activities such as antibacterial, cytotoxic, antiinflammatory, antiplasmodial, and hepatoprotective. Despite many reports on its traditional uses and wide array of biological activities, limited chemical databases are available for this plant. Thus, the aims of this study were to identify and isolate phytochemicals from *E. indica* through conventional (hexane extract), and advanced (methanolic extract) tandem LCMS-based annotation techniques, and to evaluate its antiproliferative and antibacterial activities. The phytochemicals were annotated through tandem LCMS-based analysis using MZmine, GNPS, Compound Discoverer and SIRIUS platforms. Isolation and structural elucidation of phytochemicals were carried out using various chromatographic and spectroscopic techniques, respectively. The antiproliferative activity was evaluated using 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyl tetrazolium bromide (MTT) assay against human liver cancer (HepG2) and African green monkey kidney epithelial normal (Vero) cell lines, while the antibacterial activity was assessed using disc and agar well diffusion methods against eight bacterial strains namely *Yersinia enterocolitica*, *Enterobacter cloacae*, *Shigella sonnei*, *Salmonella enterica*, *Staphylococcus cohnii*, *Staphylococcus haemolyticus*, *Enterobacter Aerogenes* and *Serratia marcescens* with ciprofloxacin as the positive control. A total of 65 phytochemicals were annotated and identified, while 42 were characterized in methanolic extract. A phytochemical annotated as loliolide (**Me-1**) was subjected to further isolation, purification, and structural elucidation process to verify the reliability on the annotated phytochemicals. The structure of **Me-1** was confirmed to be loliolide (10 mg), thus consequently increase the level of confidence in the other phytochemicals identification. This is the first report on the loliolide isolation from *E. indica*. Phytochemistry work on the hexane extract afforded two compounds elucidated as stigmasterol (8 mg) and  $\beta$ -sitosterol (7 mg). The hexane and methanolic extracts exhibit low activity against both cell lines with the IC<sub>50</sub> value of  $91.02 \pm 5.74$  and  $85.30 \pm 3.03$   $\mu\text{g/mL}$ , but more selective towards cancer cells compared to the normal cells with 10.99 and 7.50 SI values, respectively. The hexane extract showed diverse antibacterial activity, while the methanolic extract was more selective towards the bacteria *Y. enterocolitica subsp. enterocolitica*, *E. aerogenes* and *S. sonnei* with inhibition zone range of 8 – 12 mm.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b>CONFIRMATION BY PANEL OF EXAMINERS</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>AUTHOR'S DECLARATION</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>LIST OF PLATES</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>LIST OF SYMBOLS</b>	<b>xiv</b>
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	<b>xv</b>
<b>LIST OF NOMENCLATURE</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Research Background	1
1.2 Motivation	3
1.3 Problem Statement	3
1.4 Objectives	4
1.5 Significance of Study	4
<b>CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 Family <i>Poaceae</i>	5
2.2 Genus <i>Eleusine</i>	8
2.2.1 Traditional Uses of the <i>Eleusine</i> Genus	9
2.2.2 Phytochemistry of the <i>Eleusine</i> Genus	10
2.2.2.1 Flavonoids	10
2.2.2.2 <i>Miscellaneous</i> Compounds	16
2.2.3 Biological Activities of <i>Eleusine</i> Species	25

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Research Background

Malaysia is rich in plants diversity including flowering plant, ferns, and herbs. It is reported that in Peninsular Malaysia alone has more than 1300 plants which are being used for medicinal purpose (Burkill, 1935). Plants are being used for medicinal purpose due their therapeutic properties executed by the secondary metabolites or also known as phytochemicals presence. Among the plants that are utilised widely for its medicinal values is the *Eleusine indica* (L.) Gaertn. *E. indica* is a perennial herb belongs to the Poaceae family and it can be found in the tropical region South America, Asia, Micronesia, American Samoa and most of the rest of the Pacific Islands from the tropical to subtemperate regions (Lim, 2016).

*E. indica* is known as Goose grass or locally called “rumput sambau” and it is the only *Eleusine* species that is abundantly found in Malaysia (Lim, 2016). *E. indica* has been used as traditional medicine to treat various diseases around the world including influenza, pneumonia, sprained muscle, hypertension, retention of urine, oliguria and blood coughing (Abdul, Normah, & Khatijah, 2015; De Melo et al., 2005). In Malaysia, the leaf of the plant is pounded to extract its juice traditionally to hasten the delivery of placenta for women and the infusion of the leaves also has been used to help ease vaginal bleeding. In addition, the whole plant can be used to treat inflammatory diseases by using it either dried or fresh. The roots of the plant are useful in treating asthma by drinking decoction of the roots (Abdul et al., 2015). The roots of *E. indica* and *Capsicum* sp. (Solanaceae) were mixed and boiled to treat piles (Kulip et al., 2000). The infusion of the aerial part of *E. indica* with rice also has been used by the local people of KadazanDusun in Sabah to treat symptoms related to flu (Piah, 2017). Cattle, goats, dogs, cats, rats, and chickens consume the young and soft leaves of *E. indica*, which are also used as an antipyretic for herbivores (Morah & Otuk, 2015; Pattanayak & Maity, 2017).

Pharmacological investigations revealed that this plant possess diverse arrays of