

Metabolomic Analysis of *Dendrophthoe pentandra* (L.) Miq. Leaves via UPLC-QToF-MS Coupled with Multivariate Data Analysis using PCA

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Abstract. Mango mistletoe (*Dendrophthoe pentandra*) is a semi-parasitic plant on a host that is potential as a medicinal plant. Thus, it is necessary to conduct metabolite profiling to determine the compounds contained in mango mistletoe leaves. This research aims to find out the difference of metabolite profile of mango mistletoe leaves obtained from Kediri, East Java; Pekalongan, Central Java; Batin Baru Mountain, Lampung and Tanjung, Selor Hilir in North Kalimantan. Extraction method with ultrasonic aid using 96% ethanol solvent with the ratio of 1:10 [b/v] was used to obtain condensed extract of mango mistletoe leaves. The four extracts from different regions were analyzed using UPLC-QToF-MS/MS, mobile phase of mixture of water/formic acid of 99.9/0.1 [v/v] and acetonitrile/formic acid of 99.9 / 0.1 [v/v] with a gradient elution system and a C18 stationary phase. The results of the analysis were then followed up by a chemometric analysis using PCA employing Minitab 17 software. There are differences in the metabolite among the four regions of extract acquisition. The grouping is based on similar metabolite which occurred in Kediri, East Java and Tanjung Selor Hilir, North Kalimantan. Allegedly, methyl-di-octylamine; scortechinone F; 3-Cyclohexyl-N-(Ethoxycarbonyl)-L-Alanyl-N-[(4S, 5E, 7R)-7-carbamoyl-9-methyl-5-decen-4-yl]-lysineamide; and Pheophorbide A were biomarker compounds based on the geographic origin.

Keywords: Metabolomics; *Dendrophthoe pentandra* (L) Miq.; UPLC-QTOF-MS/MS; PCA (Principal Component Analysis)

1 Introduction

The use of traditional medicine (herbal medicine) has been done since a long time ago. It even continues to be used and grows rapidly until now. 8% of Africans use some types of traditional medicine to treat illness. In 2008, markets around the world sell traditional medicine products that reach 60 billion US \$ [1][2][3]. Plant is one of raw materials sources of traditional medicine. Mango mistletoe is a semi-parasitic plant used to treat cough, diabetes, cancer, hypertension, and diuretics [4][5]. It can also stop the ringworm infection in children [6], and it is potential to be developed into immunomodulator [7]. Mango mistletoe leaves contain flavonol glycosides, quercitrine (quercetin-3-*O*-rhamnoside) that have antioxidant activity [8].

A plant that will be used as raw materials of medicinal plants should be standardized by controlling the quality of the metabolome. Metabolome is the total metabolites contained in plants. The composition is influenced by several factors including salinity, light, climate, temperature, weather, humidity, drought and nutrient [9]. Quality control of medicinal plants can be done through a metabolic analysis technique called metabolite profiling. This technique analyzes all analytes detected in the used samples and metabolites identification that is expressed differently in samples that have a clear classification [10]. Metabolite profiling uses a combination of several analytical techniques such as Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS), Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS), or Capillary Electrophoresis-Mass Spectrometry (CE-MS). The techniques can provide detailed chromatographic profiles from the sample and both absolute and relative measurement numbers from the detected compounds [11]. Metabolomic is widely applied in many scientific disciplines, such as diagnostics of human diseases, biomarker discovery, nutrition, food safety, plant science and microbiology [12]. It is comparatively more precise and gives more informative data about the small metabolic molecules synthesized by the organism [13].

Ultra-Performance Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (UPLC-MS) is the development of LC-MS techniques which can be utilized to analyze metabolite profiling. The technique of chromatography is able to present reliable, powerful results of chromatogram, high resolution, accurate measurement of mass and structural information as well as to detect a large number of metabolites in a sample of plants [13]. UPLC that is applied with MS is developed to be a powerful instrument to simultaneously identify and quantify chemical compounds contained in the raw materials of traditional medicines [14]. The component of UPLC-MS analysis results is analyzed using PCA of the chemometric analysis which can show the sample classification and characteristic of the compounds [15].

This research describes the metabolomic analysis in mango mistletoe using UPLC-QToF-MS with a PCA multivariate analysis to determine metabolite profiles and discriminate samples in accordance with the difference of growing locations.

2 Experimental Section

2.1 Materials

Fresh and clean mango mistletoe was obtained from some areas, namely Kediri, East Java (225 masl); Pekalongan, Central Java (8 masl); Tanjung Selor Hilir, North Kalimantan (6 masl) and Gunung Batin Baru, Lampung (30 masl). It was dried in an oven with a temperature of 50 °C for 5-7 days before turning it into powder. The powder was separated according to the location of samples. The mango mistletoe that was processed to be samples had been identified as *Dendrophthoe pentandra* by Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI)

2.2 Instrumentation

The instruments used were rotary evaporator (IKA, Ohio, USA), ultrasonic cleaner (Sonica Soltec, Milano, Italy), and Ultra Performance Liquid Chromatography-Quadrupole Time of Flight-Mass Spectrometry (UPLC-QToF-MS) (Waters, Massachusetts, USA).

2.3 Procedure

Extraction of Plant Material

50 grams of mango mistletoe powder was extracted using 500 ml of ethanol 96% by the aid (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany) by using ultrasonic waves for 20 minutes. The gained extract was filtered using filter papers, and was subsequently condensed using a rotary evaporator until it turned into solid extracts. Afterward, the solid extract was stored in a temperature of -4 °C before having next treatment.

Ultra Performance Liquid Chromatography-Quadrupole Time of Flight-Mass Spectrometry (UPLC-QToF-MS) Analysis

The analysis of UPLC-QToF-MS employed UPLC-MS systems with QToF as the analyser and positive ESI as the ionization source with the Acquity C18 column 1,8 µm; 2,1 × 150 mm. The applied Eluent was mixture between (A) Water (HPLC grade)/formic acid (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany) 99,9/0,1 [v/v]; (B) Acetonitril (Merck, Darmstadt, Germany)/formic acid 99,9/0,1 [v/v] and the system of gradient elution. The comparison is presented in table 1.

Table 1. The Ratio of Eluent Used

Time (minutes)	% Eluent A	% Eluent B
0,00	95,0	5,0
2,00	75,0	25,0
3,00	75,0	25,0
14,00	0,0	100,0
15,00	0,0	100,0
19,00	95,0	5,0
23,00	95,0	5,0

The source temperature was 100°C and the desolvation temperature was 350°C. A 10 mg extract sample was solved in 10 ml volumetric flask with absolute methanol then, 5 µL volumes were injected into UPLC-MS system. From chromatogram data, the area was in percentage. The chromatogram was processed using Masslynx version 4.1 software (Waters, Massachusetts, USA). The component identification was based on the ratio of measured m/z in Masslynx and chemdraw version 12.0 (CambridgeSoft, Cambridge, USA).

Statistical Analysis

The identification data of extract component were classified based on the sample origin place and the percentages of its area were analyzed using Principal Component Analysis (PCA) to get loading plot and score plot. PCA was performed using Minitab 17 (Minitab Inc, Pennsylvania, USA)

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 UPLC-MS profiling of *Dendrophthoe pentandra* leaves metabolome

UPLC-MS is a method to analyze metabolite profile with a high resolution, speed and sensitivity. It is also widely used for pharmaceutical analysis, such as long-chain fatty acid,

underivatized amino acid and opiate in various matrixes [16]. The employed UPLC-MS uses an MS detector with ion source ESI (+) and MS analyser of Q-ToF.

The sample chromatogram was obtained by injecting sample into injection port which led to chromatography column and it created a component separation of injected extract. The research employed C18 or octadecyl silica as the column stationary phase, formic acid and water mixture 99.9/0.1 [v/v] as the eluent and acetonitril/formic acid 99.9/0.1 [v/v] with a gradient elution system, the ratio of both solvents was always changing [17]. Octadecyl silica was a stationary phase commonly used since it was able to separate low, medium and high polarity compounds [18]. The mixture of water/formic acid and acetonitrile/formic acid helped the separation process in the column efficiently and eluted the analyte in less than 10-15 minutes [15] [19]. The use of this kind of UPLC-MS system produced chromatogram with polar compound at first and its polarity was gradually decreased [15]. After that, the sample of elution product went to MS detector.

In the MS system, the liquid sample was turned into drops through needle and was positively charged, since ESI that was used as ion source was the positive ones. Then, the ion was separated by Q-ToF analyzer. The product of the separation process was identified by the detector and presented as a chromatogram which was processed using the application of Masslynx 4.1 to present m/z spectrum of each chromatogram peak [20]. Figure 1 below is the chromatogram of *Dendrophthoe pentandra* from each location where the sample obtained.

Each chromatogram peak indicated one compound. The application of Masslynx 4.1 was used to process the chromatogram to find out the m/z spectrum. Therefore, the molecule formula of the interpretation product compound could be predicted. Then, chemspider website helped the researcher to find out the compound name of the prediction. When typing down the molecule formula, the total molecule should be taken away by one molecule. It was due to the fact that the ion source of positive ESI would add the H charge on the compound, so it was needed to subtract the total m/z with the real mass of H atom that was 1.0078. After finding out the name of the compound and structure, the measured and calculated m/z were compared by drawing the compound structure using Chemdraw Ultra 12.0 [21]. If the difference was ≤ 0.0005 then the peak was belong to the predicted compound [22]. The result of chromatogram data interpretation was presented in the following Table 2. The data showed that 76 compounds were from Tanjung Selor Hilir, North Borneo; 17 compounds were from Kediri, East Java; 61 compounds were from Gunung Batin Baru, Lampung; and 56 compounds were from Pekalongan, Central Java.

Principal Component Analysis

The PCA multivariate data analysis is one of chemo metric analyses commonly used for multicomponent analysis [20]. It analyzes the data from chromatogram in the form of compound name and m/z value using Minitab 17 software. The data for PCA analysis consisted of compound names found in area presented in percentage from four sampling places. The results were Score Plot and Loading Plot presented in Figure 2 and Figure 3. The score plot indicated the similarity among samples. Similar samples went to a same group or a close point. Plot loading described the relation among variables – the origin and the new ones [23]. It was used to analyze the contribution of each metabolite on PC (Principal Component), so the furthest component from the group significantly contributed on the difference among groups. The result of PCA analysis on the *Dendrophthoe pentandra* leaves extract showed 89.6% total variants (PC1 = 59.8% dan PC2 = 29.8%). Figure 2 shows the pattern of sample grouping. The sample from Kediri, East Java (K) was in the same group with the sample from Tanjung Selor Hilir, North Borneo (TSH). On the other hand, the samples from Gunung Batin

Baru, Lampung (GBB) and Pekalongan, Jawa Tengah (P) were not grouped. It indicated that the type of metabolite from K and TSH were similar compared to that of GBB and P.

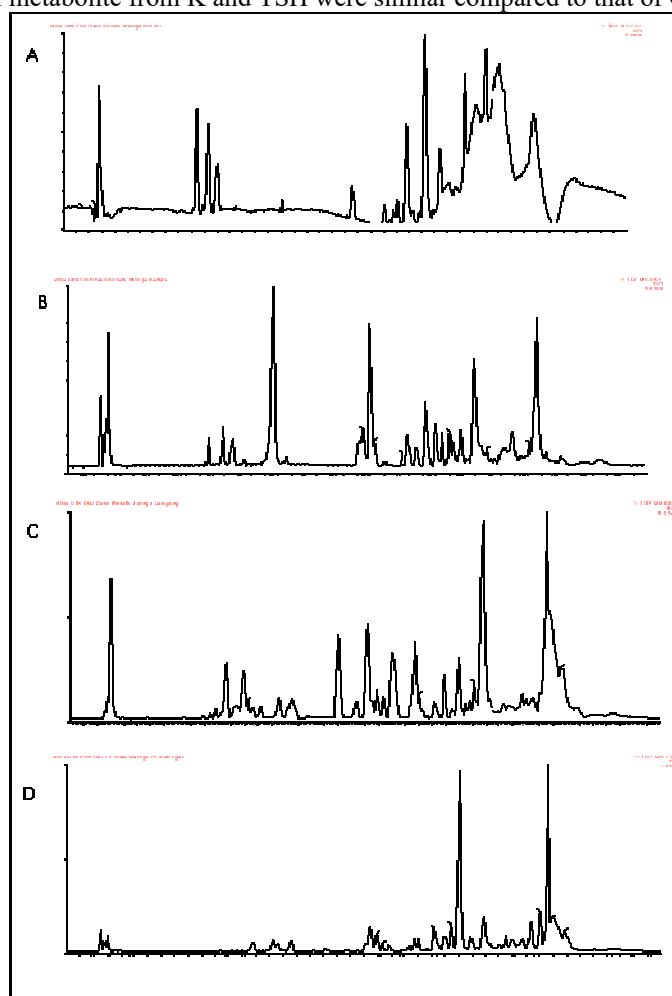


Figure 1. UPLC-MS Chromatogram of *Dendrophthoe pentandra* leaves extract. A) Chromatogram of *Dendrophthoe pentandra* leaves extract from Kediri, East Java. B) Chromatogram of *Dendrophthoe pentandra* leaves extract from Tanjung Selor Hilir, North Borneo. C) Chromatogram of *Dendrophthoe pentandra* leaves extract from Gunung Batin Baru, Lampung. D) Chromatogram of *Dendrophthoe pentandra* leaves extract from Pekalongan, Central Java

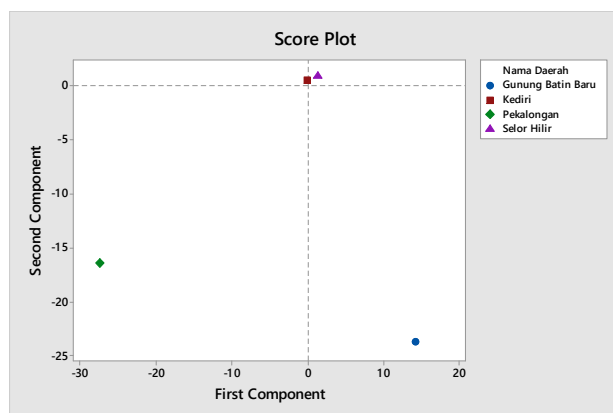


Figure 2. Scoring plot which showed the metabolic grouping from Kediri, East Java and Tanjung Selor Hilir, Kalimantan Utara.

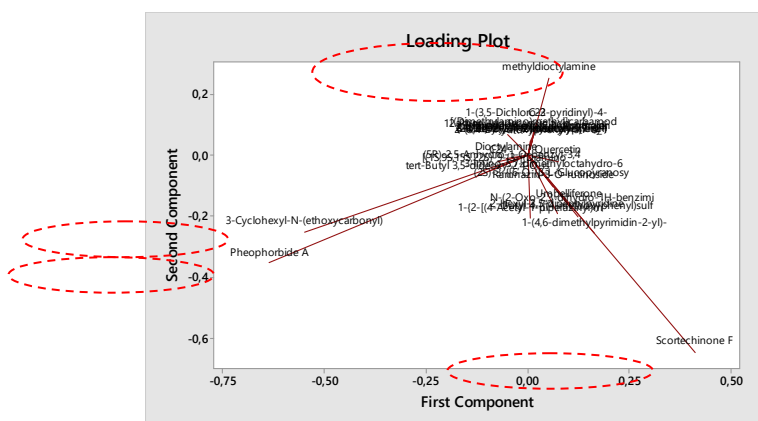


Figure 3. Plot loading which showed the findings of several identifying compounds

The grouping according to metabolic resemblance could be influenced by plants environment or other abiotic factors like weather, climate or rainfall [24]. TSH and K were estimated to have similar abiotic factors. Rainfall and average temperature of these areas were relatively similar; K's rainfall was 2.043 mm and the average temperature was 24.4°C. Meanwhile, TSH's rainfall was 2.738 mm and the average temperature was 26.8°C. Although the temperatures of both areas were different, those areas were in the same main climate: type A climate. According to Koeppen, A climate is tropical forest with extreme weather along the year [25]. Moreover, K and TSH have the dominant soil type similarity that is alluvial soil type. The previous sub chapter explained that this type of soil has good fertility level. With several similarities of abiotic factors from those areas, it could be inferred that those areas' metabolic were almost the same.

Figure 3, plot loading shows the hypothesis of biomarker compound from the extracts of mango mistletoe leaves which were collected from several areas. In the plot loading, there were four metabolics, they were methyldioctylamine; scortechinone F; 3-Cyclohexyl-N-(ethoxycarbonyl)-L-alanyl-N-[(4S,5E,7R) - 7 - carbamoyl-9-methyl-5-decen-4-yl]-L-

lysineamide; and Pheophorbide A which were estimated to be able to be used as identifying compound for grouping basics for mango mistletoe leaves according to their geographical origin. Those four compounds were dominant or major compounds from their areas. Methyldioctylamine compound was from Tanjung Selor Hilir with area percentage of 11.448%; 3-Cyclohexyl-*N*-(ethoxycarbonyl)-*L*-alanyl-*N*-[(4*S*,5*E*,7*R*)-7- carbamoyl -9-methyl-5-decen-4-yl]-*L*-lysineamide compound were from Pekalongan (21.11%) and Tanjung Selor Hilir (2.54%); Pheophorbide A compound was from Pekalongan (23.96%); 1-(4,6-dimethyl pyrimidin-2-yl)-3-(4-methyl-3-nitrophenyl) guanidine compound was from Gunung Batin Baru (13.57%), Pekalongan (5.20%), and Tanjung Selor Hilir (10.14%); and Scortechinone F compounds were from Gunung Batin Baru (21.76%) and Tanjung Selor Hilir (0.82%). The spectras of those compounds were shown in figure 4. One of those identifying compound had scortechinone F compound. Scortechinone F compound was from the group of xanthenes compound. It had been found in *Garcinia scortechinii* plant [26]. There was not much information about this compound. Recently, there are several kinds of Scortechinone compound; they are Scortechinone U, Scortechinone J, Scortechinone F, Scortechinone E, Scortechinone H, Scortechinone I [27].

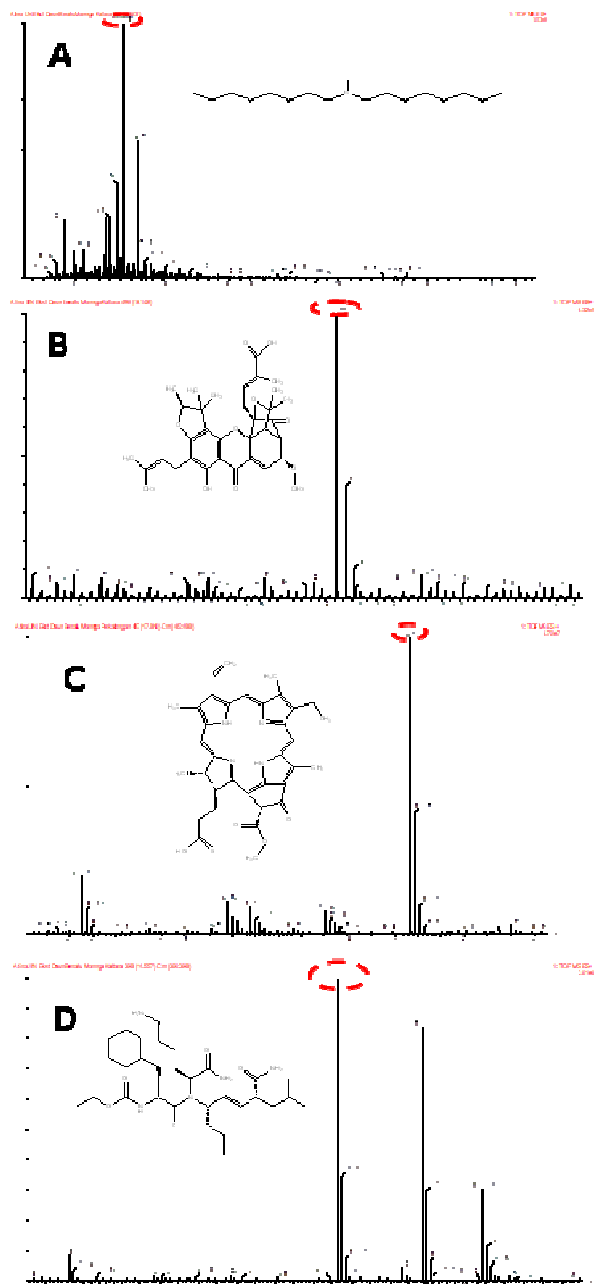


Figure 4. The spectra of biomarker compounds. A) *methyl dioctylamine*; B) *Scortechinone F*; C) *Pheophorbide A*; D) *3-Cyclohexyl-N-(ethoxycarbonyl)-L-alanyl-N-[(4S,5E,7R)-7-carbamoyl-9-methyl-5-decen-4-yl]-L-lysineamide*

4 Conclusion

There are some differences of metabolic profile of mango mistletoe leaves extract obtained from Kediri, East Java; Pekalongan, Central Java; Gunung Batin Baru, Lampung; and Tanjung Selor Hilir, North Kalimantan. The marker compounds obtained were methyldioctylamine compound from Tanjung Selor Hilir, North Kalimantan; 3-Cyclohexyl-*N*-(ethoxycarbonyl)-*L*-alanyl-*N*-[(4*S*,5*E*,7*R*)-7-carbamoyl-9-ethyl-5-decen-4-yl]-*L*-lysine compound was from Pekalongan, Central Java and Tanjung Selor Hilir, North Kalimantan; Pheophorbide A compound was from Pekalongan, Central Java; 1-(4,6-dimethylpyrimidin-2-yl)-3-(4-methyl-3-nitrophenyl)guanidine compound was from Gunung Batin Baru (Lampung), Pekalongan (Central Java), and Tanjung Selor Hilir (North Kalimantan); while Scortechinone F compound was from Gunung Batin Baru (Lampung) and Tanjung Selor Hilir (North Kalimantan).

Acknowledgements. The researchers express their deep gratitude to the Directorate of Islamic Higher Education (DIKTIS), Ministry of Religious Affairs for the research funding support from the Science Integration so the research can be completed. This paper in conjunction with the 1st International Conference On Islam, Science, And Technology (ICONIST) 2018, Malang, East Java.

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