Antibacterial Activity of Microalgae Dunaliella salina, Tetraselmis chuii and Isochrysis galbana Against Aquatic Pathogens

Ita Widowati¹*, Muhammad Zainuri², Hermin Pancasakti Kusumaningrum³, Yann Hardivillier⁴

¹Department of Marine Sciences, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Sciences, Diponegoro University
²Department of Oceanography, Faculty of Fisheries and Marine Science, Diponegoro University
³Department of Biology, Faculty of Sciences and Mathematics, Diponegoro University
⁴Laboratoire du MMS, Le Mans Université
Jl. Prof Soedarto, SH, Tembalang, Semarang -50275, Indonesia
Email: itawidowati@lecturer.undip.ac.id

Abstract

Recently, expanded consideration has been paid to the business and potentiality of microalgae. Some microalgae are at present being studied for their capacity to find important metabolites for the drug industry or aquacultural applications. Concerning these biotechnological challenges, there is a consistent exertion accommodated in both finding and taking advantage of new microalgal assets and fostering their putative business results or modern valorizations. The crude methanol extracts of three microalgae, Dunaliella salina, Tetraselmis chuii, and Isochrysis galbana, have been investigated for antibacterial activity using the disk diffusion method against aquatic pathogens of fish, shrimp, and shellfish e.g. Pseudomonas fluorescence and Vibrio harveyi. This research aimed to analyze the antibacterial activity of crude extract of these microalgae against aquatic pathogens. The disk diffusion method was used to investigate the antibacterial activity. The result showed that only T. chuii has the inhibition zone for both tested bacteria P. fluorescence and V. harveyi with the inhibition zone of 3.0 ± 0.6 mm on 100 µg. g⁻¹ of extract concentration and 4.20 ± 1.1 mm against P. fluorescence on 10000 µg. g⁻¹ of extract concentration. While D. salina and I. galbana have inhibition zone only for V. harveyi with the inhibition zone of 4.4 ± 0.6 mm and 3.2 ± 0.7 mm on 10000 µg. g⁻¹ of extract concentration. These three microalgae may have potential use in aquatic pathogens as antimicrobial agents. It would be possible to develop biologically active compounds of microalgae as a functional feed for aquaculture.

Keywords: antibacterial activity, aquatic pathogens, marine microalgae, microalgal extract.

Introduction

The problems of microbial resistance in aquaculture have led to a search for new antimicrobial compounds. The significant issues of current antimicrobial agents are harmfulness, absence of adequacy, restraining cost, and their frequent use leading to the emergence of resistant strains. Subsequently, there is an earnest need to look for elective biodegradable agents, which should be free from side effects. It is generally that natural compounds are biodegradable and eco-friendly. Microalgae are mainly utilized in aquaculture particularly due to their nutrition contents (Khatoon et al., 2014; Hoai Thu et al., 2015). Besides nutrition advantages, microalgae also have been explored for the use of pigments and other biological purposes. Different species of microalgae are known as a fundamental food source in the rearing of all stages of marine bivalve mollusks (clams, oysters, and scallops), and of the post-larval stages of some marine gastropods (e.g. abalone), larvae of marine fish, penaeid shrimp, and zooplankton. There are three distinct types of live feed, usually utilized in commercial larve culture of fish and shellfish: 1) Different species of microalgae ranging between 2 µm and 20 µm in size for bivalves, penaeid shrimps, rotifers, copepods, and fish; 2) The rotifers Brachionus plicatilis and B. rotundiformis (50 to 200 µm) in size for crustaceans and marine fish; 3) The brine shrimp Artemia sp. nauplii (400 to 800 µm) in size for crustaceans and fish (Lavens and Sorgeloos, 1996).

The bioactive compound also can be found in macroalgae such as Sargassum sp. (antibacterial, antiviral, antioxidants) (Hardouin et al., 2013; Widowati et al., 2014; Susilowati et al., 2015). However, the application of macroalgae for aquaculture is being limited, for example, it cannot be used as feed for larval stages. Microalgae have rich sources of structurally and biologically active metabolites including antioxidants (Widowati et al., 2017) and antibiotics which inhibit bacteria responsible for fish, shellfish, and human pathogens (Pradhan et al., 2011; Najdenski et al., 2013).
Secondary or primary metabolites produced by these microorganisms may be potential bioactive compounds of interest in aquafeed as an antimicrobial agent (Pradhan et al., 2011). Therefore, some microalgae have been suggested as a new functional feed ingredient (Becker, 2004). This research aimed to determine the antibacterial activity of three species microalgae Dunaliella salina (Teodoresco, 1905), Tetraselmis chuii (Butcher, 1959), and Isochrysis galbana against aquatic pathogens Pseudomonas fluorescence (Flügge, 1886) and Vibrio harveyi (Johnson and Shunk, 1936; Baumann et al., 1981).

Materials and Methods

Culture of microalgae

Three species of microalgae Dunaliella salina, Tetraselmis chuii, and Isochrysis galbana were cultured by using batch continuous culture with the comparison between algae and seawater was 1 : 3 L. Walne was used for the nutritional compound for the culture compared by volume of culture 1 mL: 1 L with luminous intensity 1500 lux to 3000 lux and 23 to 25 °C for temperature (Harrison and Berges, 2005).

The density of the culture microalgae was counted with a Neubauer hemocytometer by using a binocular microscope. The density of the microalgae was counted every day. The microalgae were homogenized first before putting the pipet into the hemocytometer and closed with the cover glass. Then, it was observed under a microscope and started to count with the equation (Hadioetomo, 1993):

\[
N = \frac{(N1+N2)}{2} \times \frac{1}{10.2 \text{mm}^2 \times 0.3 \text{mm}^3} \times \frac{1}{10^{-3} \text{mL}}
\]

Note: \(N\) = Cell density (cell. mL\(^{-1}\)); \(N1\) = Total cell in 80 small squares (replica 1); \(N2\) = Total cell in 80 small squares (replica 2); 0.2 mm = Wide of hemocytometer in 80 squares; 0.1 mm = The depth liquid on a hemocytometer.

The microalgae were harvested on the stationary phase of culture. The biomass of microalgae was obtained with a centrifuge at 5000 rpm (1 rpm equal 1/60 Hz) for 10 min and then dried in a room at view days, then called dry biomass (Mishra et al., 2012).

Extraction

Extraction involves the separation of plant or animal tissues from inactive or inert components by using selective solvents in standard extraction procedures. Dry biomass was extracted by using methanol solvent with sonification at 50 Hz for 15 min. Then, the solvents were evaporated by using rotary evaporation until there is no solvent called with crude extract bioactive of microalgae (Trianto et al., 2011).

Antibacterial activities

The screening of antibacterial activities from extract microalgae against two aquatic pathogens bacteria Vibrio harveyi and Pseudomonas fluorescence was performed by using the disk diffusion method. The extract of each microalga was diluted into three concentrations Dunaliella salina 13.32 µg. g\(^{-1}\),1.33 µg. g\(^{-1}\), and 0.13 µg. g\(^{-1}\); Tetraselmis chuii 12.61 µg. g\(^{-1}\),1.26 µg. g\(^{-1}\), and 0.13 µg. g\(^{-1}\); Isochrysis galbana 13.26 µg. g\(^{-1}\), 1.33 µg. g\(^{-1}\), and 0.13 µg. g\(^{-1}\). One of the 50 µL culture of tested bacteria in the logarithmic phase were spread on to agar medium. Several paper disks (8 mm; Advantec Toyo Roshi, Ltd, Japan) containing 30 µL of each concentration were placed on the respective agar surface. The plates were incubated at room temperature for 48 h. Antibacterial activity was defined by inhibition zones around the paper disk (Radjasa et al., 2009).

Results and Discussion

Culture of microalgae

Microalgae were counted for the density every day with a hemocytometer under the microscope binocular. The highest densities are found in Dunaliella salina (4.4 x 10\(^6\) cells.mL\(^{-1}\)), followed by Isochrysis galbana (3.2 x10\(^6\) cells.mL\(^{-1}\)), and the lowest is in Tetraselmis chuii (0.96 x 10\(^6\) cells.mL\(^{-1}\)). However, the highest dry biomass is found in I. galbana (3.54 g) and the lowest is in D. salina (1.026 g). The highest density in D. salina is not in line with the dry biomass, this may be due to the cell size since D. salina cell is (2.8-40 µm, Borovkov et.al, 2019) and I. galbana cell size is 4-6 µm (Cordoba-Matson, 2013). The cell size could change with growth, light intensity, and different condition (Borowitzka, 2021). The result of the density of microalga Dunaliella salina, Tetraselmis chuii, and I. galbana is shown in Figure 1.

Extraction

The microalgae were harvested on the stationary phase of culture. Biomass and crude extract of microalgae are shown in Table 1 and 2. The potential of extract microalgae to produce substances
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The antibacterial activities were carried out by using disk diffusion methods. The tested bacteria were counted for their density by using the McFarland standards method (Table 3). The result of antibacterial activity by using the disk diffusion method against Vibrio harveyi is shown in Table 4 and against Pseudomonas fluorescence is shown in Table 5. Antibacterial activity of various extracts of the microalgae Spirulina platensis (Pradhan et al., 2011), Euglena viridis (Das et al., 2005), cyanobacteria (Najdenski et al., 2013), have been reported as the main groups of microalgae to produce antimicrobial substances.

The result of antibacterial activities in this study showed that only Tetraselmis chuii provided the inhibition zone against two tested bacteria V. harveyi with the inhibition zone 3.0±0.6 mm on 100 µg.g⁻¹ of extract concentration and 4.2±1.1 mm against P. fluorescense on 10 000 µg.g⁻¹ of extract concentration. The result is similar to the finding that methanol extracts of Tetraselmis sp. showed maximum zone of inhibition against Pseudomonas sp (Rajendran et al., 2014). Furthermore, Kokou et al (2012) found that Tetraselmis chuii and Isochrysis sp showed antibacterial activity against six (6) Vibrio bacterial strains: V. parahaemolyticicus, V. anguillarum,

Table 3. Results of McFarland standard for bacteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bacteria</th>
<th>OD</th>
<th>Cell density (cell. mL⁻¹)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vibrio harveyi</td>
<td>0.671</td>
<td>12 x 10⁸</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pseudomonas</td>
<td>0.107</td>
<td>1.5 x 10⁸</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note : OD: Optical Density
Table 4. Antibacterial activity of microalgae against Vibrio harveyi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>24 h</th>
<th>48 h</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a*)</td>
<td>b*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunaliella salina</td>
<td>4.4±0.6</td>
<td>1.8±0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetraselmis chuii</td>
<td>3.5±0.7</td>
<td>2.3±0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isochrysis galbana</td>
<td>3.2±0.7</td>
<td>2.9±0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The concentration of V. harveyi for a: 10 000 µg. g⁻¹; b: 1000 µg. g⁻¹; c: 100 µg. g⁻¹; *) Mean ± SD

Table 5. Antibacterial activity of microalgae against Pseudomonas fluorescense.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>24 h</th>
<th>48 h</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a*)</td>
<td>b*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunaliella salina</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetraselmis chuii</td>
<td>4.2 ± 1.1</td>
<td>3.2 ± 0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isochrysis galbana</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The concentration of P. fluorescense for a: 10 000 µg. g⁻¹; b: 1000 µg. g⁻¹; c: 100 µg. g⁻¹; *) Mean ± SD

V. splendidus, V. scophthalmi, V. alginoiyticus, and V. lentus. Besides antibacterial activity, *Tetraselmis chuii* is an important producer of fatty acid, and this is an insignificant relationship with environmental conditions (Mohammadi et al., 2015).

Meanwhile, two microalgae, *Dunaliella salina* and *Isochrysis galbana* tested, have the inhibition zone only against *V. harveyi* with the inhibition zone 4.4±0.6 mm and 3.2±0.7 mm on 10000 µg. g⁻¹ of extract concentration. This result is in agreement with the finding of Molina-Cárdenas et al. (2014) that demonstrate *Isochrysis galbana* synthesizes antibacterial fatty acids that inhibit the growth of pathogenic bacteria such as *V. harveyi*, *V. alginoiyticus*, and *V. campbellii*.

The antimicrobial compounds of microalgae are expected due to their lipids contains. Lipids and some free fatty acids are known to show antibacterial activities from algae (Desbois and Smith, 2010; Plaza et al., 2010). It has been shown that the promoting effect on membrane damage leads to a leakage of molecules from the microbial cells, reduction in nutrient uptake, or inhibition of cellular respiration (Smith et al., 2010). An antiobiotically active fatty acid is presented in a high concentration in algae as stated by Hoai Thu et al. (2015), found that *I. galbana* Parke, strain HP has the highest content of Docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), up to 14.7% of total fatty acid and maximal Polysaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) values at the early stationary phase. The primary PUFAs are stearidonic acid (18:4n-3) (Naider et al., 2015).

**Conclusion**

The crude extract of three species microalgae, *Dunaliella salina*, *Tetraselmis chuii*, and *Isochrysis galbana*, can be used as antibacterial activity against aquatic pathogens *Vibrio harveyi* and *Pseudomonas fluorescense*. The best result for the aquatic purpose was *T. chuii* which can inhibit both pathogenic bacteria *V. harveyi* and *P. fluorescense* and also have antibacterial activities for three replicas. Hence, it is necessary to carry out further research about the availability of microalgae resources as a new functional feed for aquaculture.

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