

Nanoparticle Synthesis and Cytotoxicity of *Kaempferia pandurata* Roxb. Extract to the Growth of MDA-MB-231 Breast Cancer Cell Line

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History

- Submission Date: 02-09-2019;
- Review completed: 14-10-2019;
- Accepted Date: 21-10-2019.

DOI : 10.5530/pj.2020.12.17

Article Available online

<http://www.phcogj.com/v12/i1>

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ABSTRACT

Breast cancer is the most common cancer worldwide and in Indonesia. *Kaempferia pandurata* Roxb. is a herbal plant from South-East Asia which is known for its ability to inhibit the growth of Estrogen Receptor (ER) + breast cancer cell line from the former study. However, its effect on ER- breast cancer cell lines had not been studied. Therefore, we want to examine the cytotoxicity effect of *K. pandurata* Roxb. on ER- breast cancer cell line (MDA-MB-231). Nanoparticle is a form of preparation that optimizes the activity of any compound to the targeted cell. Therefore, it is expected that it can increase the effectivity of anticancer in *Kaempferia pandurata* Roxb. In this study, the rhizome of *K. pandurata* Roxb. trituration was dried and extracted with n-hexane solvent. Nanoparticle of *K. pandurata* Roxb. was synthesized with CaCl₂, chitosan, and alginate by stirring with a magnetic stirrer, adjusting pH, and centrifugation. Then, nanoparticle was analyzed by UV/VIS spectrophotometry and transmission electron microscopy (TEM). The cytotoxicity of *K. pandurata* Roxb. extract and nanoparticle were examined with MTT assay. The result of this test is data of inhibition percentage and IC₅₀ value. The result showed that n-hexane extract of *K. pandurata* Roxb. is synthesized into nanoparticle form with 99,43% yield percentage (entrapment value). Anticancer activity of n-hexane extract and nanoparticle of *K. pandurata* Roxb. is moderate with IC₅₀ value of the extract is 87,23 µg/ml and the nanoparticle is 24,23 µg/ml. The nanoparticle's activity is better than the extract. n-Hexane extract and nanoparticle of *K. pandurata* Roxb. has cytotoxicity effects towards MDA-MB-231 cell line. Nanoparticle can increase the cytotoxicity effect of *K. pandurata* Roxb. extract because its hydrophobic feature and nanometer size.

Key words: Breast cancer, *Kaempferia pandurata* Roxb., MDA-MB-231 cells, Nanoparticle, *Temu Kunci*.

INTRODUCTION

Breast cancer is one of the most common cancer worldwide. The prevalence of breast cancer is the highest in the world with 6.9 million cases (GLOBOCAN 2018).¹ In Indonesia, breast cancer is the most common cancer which incidence is 30,9% among women at all age. The prevalence of breast cancer in Indonesia is 160.653 cases.²

Approximately 80% of all breast cancer cases are included in estrogen receptor positive (ER+) group and responsive to hormone therapy, while 15% are resistant. The latter are estrogen receptor negative (ER-) dan TNBC (ER-, PR-, dan HER2-).^{3,4} MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cell line is ER-. It tends to be malignant and has worse prognosis.^{5,6} The resistant case brought us to search a natural material that has bioactive compounds as an alternative of anticancer.

Temu Kunci (*Kaempferia pandurata* Roxb.) is a herbal plant from South-East Asia and China. This plant contains flavonoid compound that has antifungal, anti-inflammatory, and anticancer function.^{7,8} The previous research reported that the extract of *K. pandurata* Roxb. can inhibit the

growth of ER+ breast cancer cell line (e.g MCF-7 dan T47D).⁸⁻¹⁰ The effect of *K. pandurata* Roxb towards ER- breast cancer cell line is not much known. Flavonoid is the major compound of *K. pandurata* Roxb. It is nonpolar. In order to increase the bioavailability of the compounds, we do the nanoparticle synthesis.¹¹

Nanoparticle is a form of preparation that optimizes the activity of any compound to the targeted cell. It also increase the stability and lower the clearance because it is hidrofobic and has large surface area due to its nano size.¹¹ Therefore, it is expected that it can increase the effectivity of anticancer in *K. pandurata* Roxb.¹² This study use MTT assay to rate the cytotoxic effect from the extract and nanoparticle towards MDA-MB-231 cell.¹² The purpose of this research is to conjugate extracts of n-hexane *K. pandurata* Roxb. with alginate nanoparticles with a cross link chitosan medium to increase the effectiveness and efficiencies of breast cancer cell therapy. As well as studying the cytotoxic effects of nanoparticles chitosan cross-link chitosan medium chain integrated with N-heksan *K. pandurata* Roxb Extract in breast cancer cells MDA-MB-231.

Cite this article: Rahmawanti RA, Fadilah F, Edina BC, Wiyono L, Paramita RI. Nanoparticle Synthesis and Cytotoxicity of *Kaempferia pandurata* Roxb. Extract to the Growth of MDA-MB-231 Breast Cancer Cell Line. *Pharmacogn J.* 2020;12(1):109-114.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

This study is an experimental study and conducted at Department of Medical Chemistry - Faculty of Medicine University of Indonesia at Januari to April 2019. The free variables in this study are *K. pandurata* Roxb n-hexane extract and nanoparticle, the bound variable is MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cell, and the confounding variables are temperature and pH.

K. pandurata Roxb. preparation

Kaempferia pandurata Roxb. was used in this study was obtained from Banjarnegara, West Java. MDA-MB-231 cell lines where obtained from Biobank Research FKUI-RSCM. The cell was supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) and incubated at 37°C with 4% CO₂. The viability of the cell is determined with trypan blue 0,1%.

Extraction

One hundred grams of *K. pandurata* Roxb trituration was macerated for 48 hours, 3 times with 200 ml n-hexane (each time) as the solvent in glass vessel. The glass was tightly closed and stirred once in a while. After that, it was filtered concentrated with rotary evaporator. The solids residue was then be dissolved again with n-hexane solvent.

Nanoparticle synthesis

Nanoparticle synthesis of *K. pandurata* Roxb. n-hexane extract use three different test tube. The synthesis nanoparticles extract N-hexane *K. Pandurata* are synthesized using CaCl₂ and chitosan. The first solution, 50 mg CaCl₂ dissolved in water 25 mL and continued 25 mg N-hexa extract of *K. Pandurata* inserted into CaCl₂. was further homogenized by using a magnetic stirrer for 2 hours. Second solution, dissolved sodium alginate as much as 200 mg in 25 mL water and stir until dissolved and done pH arrangement by adding HCl until pH reaches 5.1. The next step of the first solution slowly in the second solution. Stir the stirring for 24 hours. The third solution uses Chitosan 50 mg dissolved in 25 mL of 1% acetic acid. The solution was then mixed and the pH arrangement with NaOH to reach the pH value of 5.5. The solution was homogenized and added the Tween 80 as much as 0.31 G and performed with a magnetig stirrer for 2 hours in the temperature of 60 °C. The third solution is slowly carried over at the first and second solution while stirring, stirring for 24 hours. The results were centrifuged as much as 2-3 times until filtrate nanoparticles were obtained. The obtained nanoparticles are analyzed using TEM and UV-Vis.

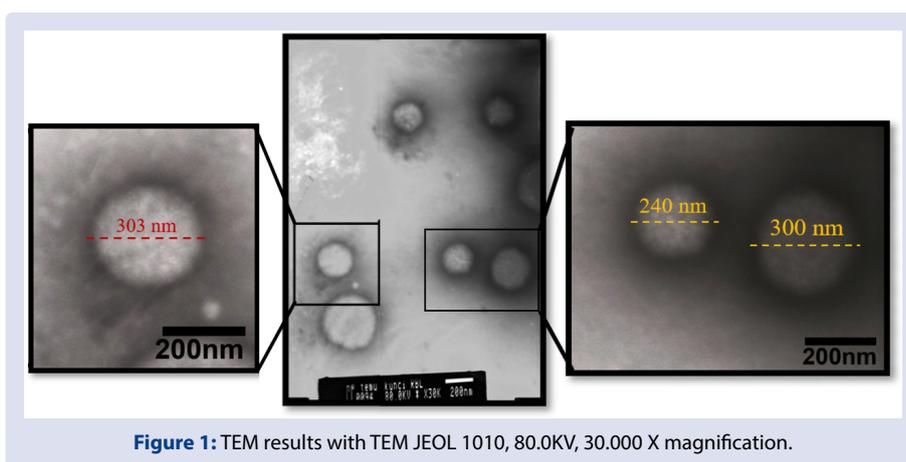


Figure 1: TEM results with TEM JEOL 1010, 80.0KV, 30.000 X magnification.

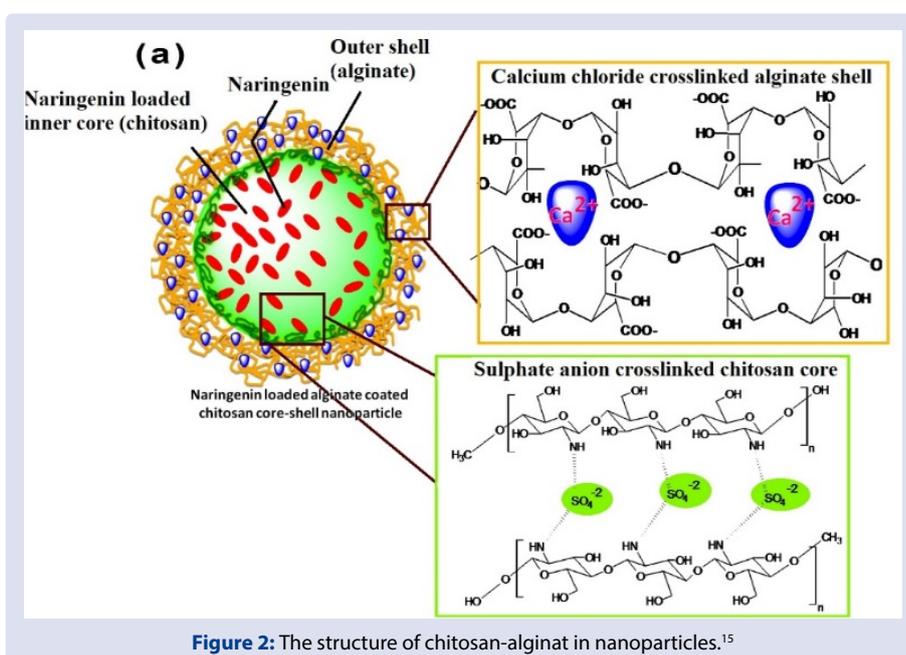


Figure 2: The structure of chitosan-alginat in nanoparticles.¹⁵

Spectrophotometry UV/VIS

Spectrophotometry UV/VIS is a simple and common method to quantitatively measure the absorbance of compounds in a solution. This spectrophotometry uses a UV light source and a visible light source with a certain range of wavelength. The principle is light emitted will cause the transition of electrons from low-energy orbits to high-energy orbits so that the detector can measure the absorption of light by these compounds. The concentration of the compound will be directly proportional to the absorbance value. This test is carried out in the Department of Medical Chemistry - Faculty of Medicine University of Indonesia.¹³

Transmission electron microscopy (TEM)

TEM test was carried out to determine the size and surface morphology of chitosan-alginate nanoparticles. The initial step in the processing of TEM is the sample preparation with 2% uranyl acetate in ddH₂O (double distilled H₂O) at room temperature. Samples were dropped on carbon film paper called *carbon coated copper grid* and then dried at room temperature. After drying, the sample was analyzed by TEM. The TEM test was conducted at the Eijkman TEM and Histology Laboratory, Central Jakarta.

Cytotoxicity test (MTT assay)

The cytotoxicity activity of n-hexane extract and nanoparticles of *K. pandurata* Roxb. was measured by the MTT assay (3-[4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl] -2,5 diphenyl tetrazolium bromide). 100µl of MDA-MB-231 cell suspension with a density of 3 x 10⁴ cells / 100 µl of media was distributed to a 96-well plate well and incubated for 24 hours. After that incubation, 100µl of the solution is put into the well in various levels of concentration 100; 50; 25 12.5; 6.25; and 3,125 µg/mL as much as 100 µL (dilution) sentence structure using. The positive control is 100 µl of different concentration of with doxorubicin as a postive control. The positive control was put into the well in various levels of concentration. For cell control, 100µl of culture medium was added to 100µl of cell. The plate was incubated for 24 hours in an incubator with 5% CO₂ and 95% O₂ flow. After 24 hours, the plates were removed and 10 µl of MTT solution was dissolved in 5 mg/mL Phosphate-Buffered Saline (PBS). After that the plates are re-incubated for 3-4 hours. The MTT reaction was stopped by adding 100 µl SDS stopper reagent. The plates were allowed to stand for about 5 minutes and then wrapped in aluminum foil and incubated for 1 night at room temperature. The survived cells in plate will react with MTT solution and form a purple color (formazan). The test results are then read with an ELISA reader at a wavelength of 595 nm.

Data processing

Absorbance value data from the MTT assay will be processed using Microsoft Excel into percentage inhibition, calculated by the formula:

$$\% \text{Inhibition} = \left(1 - \frac{\text{Absorbance of sample}}{\text{Absorbance of control}} \right) \times 100\%$$

After obtaining the inhibition rate, the data is plotted into a linear regression graph. Through the graphical equation, IC₅₀ is obtained from the anti-logX calculation (y = 50).

RESULTS

Extraction of *K. pandurata* Roxb.

The parameter to assess extract quality is the extract yield. The extract yield is the ratio between the extract obtained with the initial simplicia. The extract yield in this study was 13.25%. It is obtained from the formula:

$$\text{Extract yield}(\%) = \frac{\text{Extract mass that is obtained (grams)}}{\text{Simplisia mass before extraction (grams)}} \times 100\%$$

Spectrophotometry UV/VIS

The spectrophotometry UV/VIS produces an absorbance graph of the concentration with the line equation $y = 0.0054x - 0.0122$. Through this line equation, it is obtained that the free concentration of the extract which is not captured by nanoparticles is 5.7 ppm. This concentration is used to calculate yield (%) which is the percentage of nanoparticle capture. The yield (%) in this study was 99.43%. Yield (%) is obtained from the formula:

$$\text{Yield}(\%) = \frac{\text{initial concentration (ppm)} - \text{free concentration (ppm)}}{\text{initial concentration (ppm)}} \times 100\%$$

Transmission electron microscopy (TEM)

TEM test results describe the shape and size of nanoparticles of *K. pandurata* Roxb n-hexane extract. The shape of nanoparticles are round like vesicles. The size of nanoparticles according to Figure 2 is 240-303 nm.

MTT assay

MTT assay produce the percentage inhibition of each sample group. In general the percentage inhibition of n-hexane extract of *K. pandurata* Roxb., nanoparticle of *K. pandurata* Roxb. n-hexane extract, and doxorubicin showed a relationship that was directly proportional to its concentration (Table 1). The percentage inhibition increases with increasing concentration. At the same concentration, the order of percentage values of inhibition from highest to lowest was doxorubicin, nanoparticle of *K. pandurata* Roxb. n-hexane extract, and n-hexane extract of *K. pandurata* Roxb., for example at a concentration of 12.5, the percentage inhibition with high to low values for doxorubicin, nanoparticles of *K. pandurata* Roxb. n-hexane extract, and n-hexane extract of *K. pandurata* Roxb. were 72.5%, 39.1%, and 18.5%.

A small IC₅₀ value indicates high activity as an anticancer. Doxorubicin as a positive control had the smallest IC₅₀ value, with an average of 1.66 µg / ml. The average IC₅₀ value of nanoparticle of *K. pandurata* Roxb. n-hexane extract is lower than the average IC₅₀ value of n-hexane extract of *K. pandurata* Roxb..

Table 1: Percentage inhibition of n-Hexane extract of *K. pandurata* Roxb., nanoparticle of *K. pandurata* Roxb. n-Hexane Extract, and Doxorubicin to MDA-MB-231 cells.

Concentration	Percentage Inhibition (%) (Mean ± S.D)		
	Extract	Nanoparticle	Doxorubicin
0,781	N/A	N/A	38,2 ± 0,47
1,562	N/A	N/A	50,8 ± 0,42
3,125	2,4 ± 6,20	-9,6 ± 1,50	60,8 ± 0,20
6,25	9,9 ± 4,41	17,9 ± 1,34	67,2 ± 0,47
12,5	18,5 ± 2,57	39,1 ± 0,82	72,5 ± 0,69
25	31,5 ± 0,78	48,9 ± 2,01	87,5 ± 0,27
50	38,1 ± 2,66	61,5 ± 1,29	N/A
100	55,7 ± 2,05	91,7 ± 0,18	N/A

N/A: was not conducted in this study

Table 2: IC₅₀ value of n-Hexane extract of *K. pandurata* Roxb. and nanoparticle of *K. pandurata* Roxb. n-Hexane extract and doxorubicin.

Sample	IC ₅₀ Value (µg/ml)			
	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Mean ± S.D
Extract	79,88	89,94	93,12	87,23 ± 6,91
Nanoparticle	24,15	24,59	23,94	24,23 ± 0,33
Doxorubicin	1,65	1,66	1,67	1,66 ± 0,01

IC₅₀ values are calculated through the line equation from the log concentration graph (X axis) to the percentage of inhibition (Y axis). The log line equation for the concentration of n-hexane extract of *K. pandurata* Roxb. to percentage inhibition was $y = 34,594x - 17,135$. The log line equation for the concentration of nanoparticle of *K. pandurata* Roxb. n-hexane extract to percentage inhibition was $y = 61,383x - 34,978$. The log line equation for doxorubicin concentration to percentage inhibition is $y = 30,174x - 43,362$. The Y axis is the percentage of inhibition, while the X axis is the log of concentration. The IC₅₀ value is the concentration when the percentage of inhibition is 50%. This formula is used for all three samples (Table 2).

DISCUSSION

Nanoparticle analysis

Nanoparticles in this study were synthesized from the basic ingredients of chitosan and alginate by the ionic gelation method. The crosslinking agents in these nanoparticles are alginate and CaCl₂. n-Hexane extract of *K. pandurata* Roxb. is hydrophobic, while the outer portion of nanoparticles is hydrophilic. The mechanism of ionic gelation of compounds in nanoparticles is still unclear, but in principle nanoparticles are formed from the process of "wrapping" a calcium-alginate complex which is negatively charged in the pre-gelation phase with cationic polymers. This pre-gelation phase plays an important role in the ionic interactions between chitosan, alginate, and calcium. Comparison between chitosan: alginate: CaCl₂ (50: 250: 50) is used to keep calcium-alginate in the pre-gelation phase and chitosan concentration as a cationic polymer is suitable in the process of forming nanoparticles.¹⁴

Research by Maity, et al. said that naringenin is one of flavonoids that have nonpolar properties like the major compounds in n-hexane extract of *K. pandurata* Roxb., pinostrobin and pinocembrin.^{15,16} The structure of the flavonoids in the chitosan-alginate nanoparticles as Figure 4. shows that naringenin is inside the nuclear envelope with the crosslinking of sulfate anions in chitosan. While alginate is outside the nucleus, forming a cloak with a cross bond to the calcium ion.¹⁵

UV / VIS spectrophotometry was used to calculate yield, in this study the yield of nanoparticle of *K. pandurata* Roxb. n-hexane extract was 99.43%. Yield describes the concentrations of extracts that are captured in nanoparticles. There is no classification of nanoparticle characteristics based on yield, but in general in the synthesis of yield values above 75% declared successful.

The TEM test produces an image of nanoparticles are black on the outside and transparent on the inside. Polar compounds are in the black part, while nonpolar compounds are in the transparent part. n-Hexane extract of *K. pandurata* Roxb. is classified as nonpolar extract so that it occupies an area inside the nanoparticles.¹⁷

Analysis of cytotoxicity effect of *K. pandurata* Roxb. n-Heksana extract and nanoparticles towards MDA-MB-231 cell

IC₅₀ value is the concentration value needed for a compound to inhibit 50% biological function or 50% growth (in this case cancer cells). The smaller IC₅₀ value indicates strong anticancer properties. The IC₅₀ value of key Intersection n-hexane extract was higher than the IC₅₀ value of the nanoparticles, this showed that the cytotoxicity of the extract was weaker than the cytotoxicity of the nanoparticles.

Studies on the cytotoxicity test of *K. pandurata* Roxb n-hexane extract and nanoparticles were also carried out on ER + breast cancer cells. According to Edina BC (2018), IC₅₀ extracts of n-hexane key and nanoparticles were 94.37 µg / ml and 31.297 µg / ml, respectively. This shows that cytotoxicity of *K. pandurata* Roxb. n-hexane extracts and

nanoparticles is better to ER- cancer cells. Specific compounds that cause differences in strength in ER + and ER-cancer cells have not been established in this study.¹⁸

According to Ostad et al, the classification of anticancer activity based on IC₅₀ values is: IC₅₀ values <10 µg / ml were classified as strong, IC₅₀ <100 µg / ml were moderate, and IC₅₀ ≥100 were classified as weak or non-cytotoxic.¹⁴ Based on this classification, the anticancer activity of *K. pandurata* Roxb. n-hexane extract and its nanoparticles is classified as moderate.¹⁹

n-Hexane extract of *K. pandurata* Roxb. contains anticancer compounds from the flavonoid group such as pinostrobin, pinocembrin, and pinocembrin chalcone. Previous research has shown that compounds found in these key findings can interact with estrogen receptors and vascular endotheliate growth factor (VEGF). This can inhibit the growth of cancer cells. MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cells do not express estrogen receptors, but express VEGF receptors.²⁰

The synthesis of nanoparticle of *K. pandurata* Roxb. n-hexane extract increases the cytotoxic effect of the extract on MDA-MB-231 cancer cells. Nanoparticle of *K. pandurata* Roxb. n-hexane extract have a better cytotoxic activity against MDA-MB-231 cells than its extract because of the favorable chitosan-alginate nanoparticle characteristics in the administration of compounds in n-hexane extract of *K.pandurata* Roxb.¹⁷

Chitosan-alginate nanoparticles are safe because they are natural polymers. The outermost part of nanoparticles which are hydrophilic but can carry major compounds in the extract, namely pinostrobin and pinocembrin which are hydrophobic, will prolong the contact time between the substrate and cell membrane, and increase the uptake of anticancer compounds. The size of the nanoparticles also facilitates the compounds inside to pass through the cell membrane. Those characteristics increase the bioavailability of a compound so that nanoparticles are ideal as a drug career.¹⁷⁻²⁰

The MDA-MB-231 cell is used as an example of ER- because it is one of the ER- and TNBC group that tends to be malignant, has a poor prognosis, and resistant to some drugs. The percentage of breast cancer sufferers in Indonesia for the basal type (including MDA-MB-231 cells) is 37.4%, higher than the percentage in the world which is 15%.²¹

Previous studies by Fadilah et al. (2018) who conducted an *in vitro* test with MTT assay of *K. pandurata* Roxb. extract on MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cells gives the IC₅₀ results of n-hexane extract by 20.54 µg / ml and ethyl acetate extract by 70.32 µg / ml.¹⁵ However, there are no studies that synthesize and test the cytotoxicity of *K. pandurata* Roxb. nanoparticles. In addition to using the *in vitro* test, Fadilah F et al. also conducted *in silico* tests based on bioinformatics with molecular docking and molecular dynamic methods. The results of the *in silico* test showed that the pinostrobin and pinocembrin compounds from the *K. pandurata* Roxb. could interact with estrogen and VEGF receptors so that they could be used as anticancer drugs for ER + and ER- breast cancer cells.²⁰

CONCLUSION

Nanoparticle of *K. pandurata* Roxb. hexane extract can be synthesized using chitosan and alginate as the basis with ionic gelation method. n-Hexane extract of *K. pandurata* Roxb. with IC₅₀ value of 87.23 µg / ml has a moderate cytotoxic effect on MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cells. Nanoparticle of *K. pandurata* Roxb. n-hexane extract with IC₅₀ values of 24.23 µg / ml have moderate cytotoxic effects on MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cells. The nanoparticles have a higher cytotoxicity against MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cells than the extract.

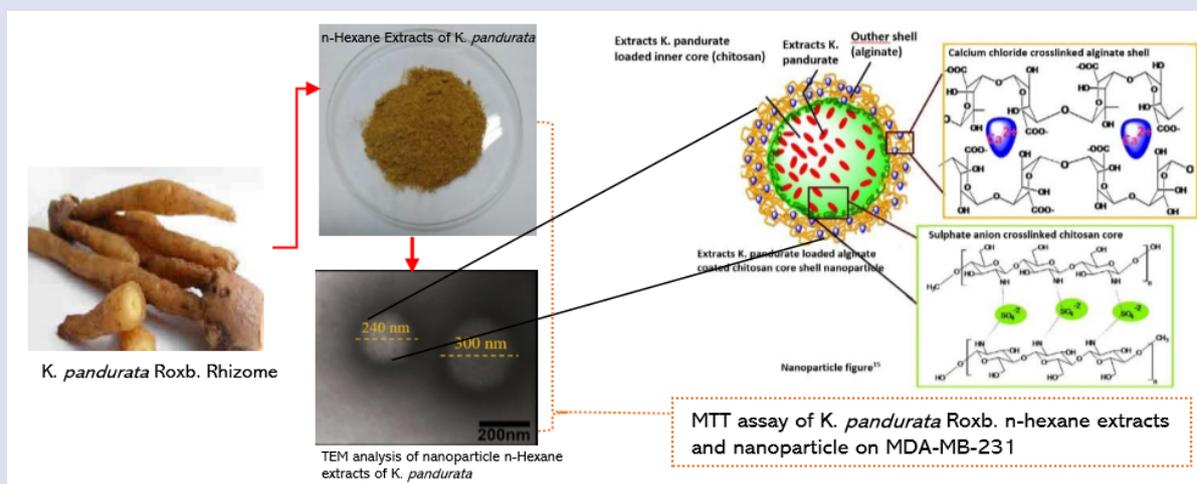
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors are thankful to team research of Bioinformatics Core facilities, Biobank Research FKUI-RSCM, Cluster of Drug Development IMERI FKUI and Universitas Indonesia (UI), for supported by a research Grant from PITTA 2019

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GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



SUMMARY

Nanoparticle is a form of preparation that optimizes the activity of any compound to the targeted cell. Therefore, it is expected that it can increase the effectivity of anticancer by MTT assay on cell line from extracts of *Kaempferia pandurata* Roxb. In this study, rhizome of *K. pandurata* Roxb. as anticancer activity on MDA-MB-231 breast cancer cell line of n-hexane extract and nanoparticle of *K. pandurata* Roxb. is moderate with IC_{50} value of the extract is 87,23 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ and the nanoparticle is 24,23 $\mu\text{g/ml}$.

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Cite this article: Rahmawanti RA, Fadilah F, Edina BC, Wiyono L, Paramita RI. Nanoparticle Synthesis and Cytotoxicity of *Kaempferia pandurata Roxb.* Extract to the Growth of MDA-MB-231 Breast Cancer Cell Line. *Pharmacog J.* 2020;12(1):109-14.