



# **IN SILICO STUDY: SECONDARY METABOLITES FROM JAMBOLAN (***Syzygium cumini* **L.) AS POTENTIAL BREAST CANCER TREATMENTS**

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 **ARTICLE HISTORY**

# **Abstract**

Breast cancer ranks second in world cancer incidence rates in 2020, contributing to 2,261,419 new cases, or 11.7% of all new cancer cases globally. The search for cancer drugs that work selectively continues to be encouraged to obtain safe and effective therapy, particularly those derived from medicinal plants. Jambolan is a plant that can thrive in both subtropical and tropical climates, including Indonesia. Jambolan (*Syzygium cumini* L.) has 89% antioxidant activity and 69% cytotoxic activity against T47D cells. Pharmacophore modelling and molecular docking were used to study the binding of 117 active jambolan drugs to alpha and beta estrogen receptors. Rutin was found to be potentially selective for ER-β receptors, with a fit score of 53.13. Molecular docking to ER-β revealed that rutin has breast cancer activity with a free bond energy value of -10.5 kcal/mol and better conformation and affinity than native ligands (genistein). It also binds to essential amino acids as an anticancer breast at ARG 346 and GLU 305. Lipinski's rule of five prediction results and in silico ADMET prediction from rutin yielded results that met the candidate drug's parameters. Rutin is a potential therapeutic option for treating breast cancer by targeting the ER-β receptor.

**Keywords:** breast cancer, in silico study, Syzygium cumini, virtual screening

# **Introduction**

Breast cancer is the most prevalent cause of mortality in women and one of the cancers with the highest prevalence. According to GLOBOCAN data, around 2.3 million women were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2020, outnumbering lung cancer diagnoses, and approximately 658,000 women died as a result of breast cancer.<sup>1</sup> Breast cancer has the highest frequency in Indonesia, with approximately 65,858 cases, while the death rate is second only to lung cancer, with approximately 22,430 fatalities attributable to breast cancer.<sup>2</sup> According to the Indonesian Ministry of Health, in 2022, over 70% of breast cancer is detected at an advanced stage, resulting in a high death rate, even though approximately 43% of the death rate can be decreased if patients do routine early detection and minimize cancer risk factors.<sup>3</sup> Breast cancer develops in epithelial cells in the ductus (85%) and lobules (15%) of glandular breast tissue. Breast cancer usually causes no symptoms and spreads slowly. In situ, cancer can spread to the lymph nodes or other organs near the breast over time.<sup>4</sup>

Because of the numerous adverse effects of breast cancer treatments, including chemotherapy, which frequently fails because anticancer medications have poor selectivity, the therapy is currently being researched. Therefore, finding new anticancer potential is essential to overcoming the side effects of current cancer medications, including natural medicine.<sup>5</sup>

Jambolan (*Syzygium cumini* L.) is a plant commonly found and utilized as an alternative medicine because of its antioxidant, antidiabetic, cytotoxic, antibacterial, antiinflammatory, and anticoagulant properties. 8-10 Several sections of the plant have been researched based on Syzygium cumini L. fruit extract, which suppresses the proliferation of breast cancer cells.<sup>6</sup> Fraction of the ethanol extract of *Syzygium cumini* L. leaves had 83% antioxidant activity and 69% cytotoxic activity in suppressing the proliferation of T47D breast cancer cells.<sup>7</sup> However, these studies have not identified active compounds that can act as an anti-breast cancer agent, so more in silico research is required to identify anti-breast cancer drugs against several target receptors, namely ER-α and ERβ, by determining whether the compounds found in jambolan have high affinity for the above receptors.

# **Method**

#### **Material**

One hundred seventeen structures of secondary metabolites of jambolan were obtained from the site https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov. The PDB format of the breast cancer receptor, PDB ID 3ERT for ER-α and PDB ID 1QKM for ER-β receptor-ligand complex, both have resolutions of 1.90 Å and 1.80 Å, respectively, were obtained from the https://rcsb.org website. Hardware: M41TVI0 with Intel(R) Celeron(R) CPU N3050 @ 1.60GHz processing characteristics, 2.00GB RAM, and 250GB SSD with Windows 10 Pro 64-bit operating system, aided by an internet connection utilized to operate many apps and websites online. DESKTOP-0A91EGA is also associated with specs: Intel® Core(T) i5 CPU 750 @2.67GHz, RM 8.00 GB operating system Windows 10 Pro. Software: Discovery Studio Visualizer®, MarvinSketch Version 17.2.13®, Autodock Tools®, Autodock Vina®, KNApSAck (http://www.knapsackfamily.com/KNApSAcK/), PASS (Prediction of Activity Spectra for Substances) Online (http://way2drug.com/passonline/predict.php), Liganscout, PreADMET (http://preadmet.bmdrc.org/), PubChem (http://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov), Lipinski's Rule of Five (http://www .scfbio-iitd.res.in/software/drugdesign/lipinski.jsp), and the Protein Data Bank (PDB) [\(https://www.rscb.org/\)](https://www.rscb.org/).

#### **Compound Library Selection and Ligand Preparation**

Jambolan compound was obtained from several library sources and was determined by searching the KNApSAcK online database at http://www.knapsackfamily.com/KNApSAcK/.

#### **Screening Activity**

The PASS Online prediction site was used to assess the anti-breast cancer activity of the jambolan compounds.

#### **Geometry Optimization**

The three-dimensional shape of the secondary metabolites of jambolan was achieved using geometric optimization with MarvinSketch and the semi-empirical AM1 method.

#### **Lipinski's Rule of Five Testing**

The ligands investigated in this study were the secondary metabolites of jambolan. After redrawing the ligands in ChemDraw® Ultra 12.0 and minimizing the energy in Chem3D® Pro 12.0, the files were saved in the pdb format. After the preparation, Lipinski's Rule of Five was used to determine the compound's physicochemical qualities.

#### **Pre-ADMET Testing**

The experiments were performed to investigate the initial characteristics of pharmacokinetics, such as absorption and distribution, and toxicity testing, such as drug mutagenic and carcinogenic properties. Testing uses a unique online tool at http:// preadme.bmdrc.kr. After drawing the test substance's structure, click the "Submit for Analysis" button. The obtained data is in pdb format.

#### **Pharmacophore Modeling**

Pharmacophore modelling is utilized to find and extract the potential interactions between ligand-receptor complexes. The Ligandscout program was used to conduct the testing. Target receptors from the PDB, standard compounds from the binding database, and active and decoy compounds from DUD-E must first be prepared. Following the discovery of the receptor's pharmacophore and validation of the pharmacophore model, the ROC curve—which displayed the hit molecule and the AUC value—was produced. Screening the test ligands after validation generated a list of hit compounds and pharmacophore fit scores.

#### **Protein Selection and Preparation**

Receptors were downloaded from the PDB website (https://www.rscb.org/) with PDB ID 3ERT for ER-α and PDB ID 1QKM for ER-β receptors. The receptor-ligand complex was separated and prepared using Autodock Vina® software before validation.

#### **Molecular Docking**

Redocking natural ligands on the ER-α and ER-β receptors served as a test for the docking technique. When doing molecular docking, previously established parameters are used. Canonical SMILES of the test drug were acquired from the Pubchem website (http://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov). Autodock Vina® and Discovery Studio Visualizer software® were used for optimization, docking, and visualization. The enhanced 3D ligand structures were bound to the active sites of ER-α and ER-β. The binding energy (G) and interaction poses were computed from the results.

#### **Molecular Dynamic**

The open MM MD simulation stage entails building an MD folder with proteins and ligands in pdb format. The first step is to set up the program and connect Google Colab to Google Drive, which holds the folder used during the MD process, ensuring that all data is immediately saved. The next stage is to create a topology by applying the GAFF2 force field to the Ligand and the ff19sb force field to the protein, followed by solvation with the TIP3 model and a cubic-shaped box. Aside from that, neutralization was carried out by adding Na+ and Cl- ions, followed by minimization, equilibration, and production for 15 ns at 310K. RMSD, RMSF, and Radius of Gyration are the parameters utilized in the MD simulation.

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# **Result**









#### **Table 2.** Pharmacophore Study Results Against ER-β









- **Figure 2.** Superimposition of the X-ray crystal structure (green) and docked conformation (pink) (left: 3ERT, right: 1QKM)
- **Table 3.** Size of Grid Centre, Grid Box and RMSD Values from Docking Validation Results



**Table 4.** Results of Molecular Docking of ER-α and Analysis of Linked Amino Acid Residues







**Table 5.** Results of Molecular Docking of ER-β and analysis of linked amino acid residues



# **Table 5.** (Extension)



#### **Table 5.** (Extension)







**Figure 4.** Results of ER-β docking with natural ligands and rutin



#### **Figure 5**. RMSD, RMSF, and radyus of gyration graph for 1qkm 15ns ligand receptor complex



**Table 6.** Results of Lipinski's Rule of Five Analysis, Pharmacokinetics and Toxicity Analysis

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#### **Table 6.** (Extension)



# **Information**

# **HIA (%):**

70-100 is well absorbed 20-70 absorbed enough <20 poorly adsorbed

# **CaCo-2 (nm sec):** >70 high permeability 4-70 medium permeability <4 low permeability

**PPB (%):** >90 tightly bound <90 weakly bound **Toksisitas:** 

**+ = Mutagen/carcinogen**

**- = Non-mutagen/Noncarcinogen**

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# **Discussion**

#### **Screening of Anti-Breast Cancer Activity**

66 out of 117 compounds were anticipated to be successful when the active ingredient in jambolan was examined for its capacity to prevent breast cancer. The purpose of this screening is to offer preliminary estimates of the test substance's ability to prevent breast cancer. In the PASS Online prediction findings, the metrics showing the test compound's likelihood or opportunity value in inducing the expected biological activity are Activity, Pa (likelihood activity), and Pi (probability inactivity).

# **Pharmacophore Validation**

The test chemicals could be screened using the pharmacophore model, and pharmacophore validation was performed using LigandScout 4.4.5 software. A wellconstructed pharmacophore model can distinguish most active medications from a few decoys. Ten pharmacophore models have been created from a library of 200 chemicals; these will be verified. Five hundred decoy compound datasets and 100 active datasets that were downloaded from the DUD-E website were used for validation. If the AUC-ROC value is more significant than 0.7 or 70%, the pharmacophore model is considered valid; that is, an AUC-ROC value near one is considered good and is believed to be able to distinguish between active and decoy drugs. The AUC-ROC results of active ligands in ER-α reveal that 21 hit compounds were acquired with an AUC value of 1.00 or 100% out of 120 active and decoy compounds. In ER-β, 107 of the total active and decoy compounds had an AUC value of 0.94 or 94%. Another validation metric that might help identify a decent hit score is the GH Score (Godness of Hit Score). Another validation statistic that might help establish a strong hit score is the GH Score. The following computations generate the GH Score:

GH = [Ha4/HtA)(3A+Ht) x (1-(Ht-Ha)/D-A)]

- $D = \text{Total molecules}$  in the database
- $A = \text{Total number of activities in the database}$
- $Ht = Total Hits$

 $Ha = Active Hits$ 

The GH Score computation gave the active ligand  $ER-\alpha$  a score of 0.95 (95%), while ER-β received a score of 0.83 (83%). Pharmacophore modelling using active ligands on ER-α and ER-β is a valid method for screening test ligands. (Figure 1)

# **Pharmacophore Modelling**

By comparing the test drug with an already-existing active ligand, pharmacophore modelling seeks to determine which pharmacophore group is responsible for biological activity.<sup>8</sup> 19 and 18 hit compounds, respectively, coupled with their pharmacophore fitscores were obtained from the pharmacophore research of the test compounds against ER-α and ER-β (Tables 1 and 2). Its pharmacological activity was comparable to that of the reference ligand, according to Pharmacopore investigations. Molecular docking simulations are a valuable tool for future investigation.

# **Docking Validation**

Validation of the docking parameters is performed before the test ligands are docked. Suppose the docking parameter can return the natural Ligand removed from the Jurnal Ilmiah Farmako Bahari Meilia Suherman (Meilia Suherman Meilia Suherman Meilia Suherman Meilia Suherman Vol.15 ; No. 2 ; July 2024 Page 148-162

ligand complex or the natural Ligand to its original location with an RMSD value of less than 2. In that case, it is considered to be valid. $9,10$  The RMSD values derived by redocking natural ligands are displayed in Table 3. The RMSD values were approved as legitimate and appropriate for the test compounds' molecular docking simulations. The docking parameter validation results are displayed in Figure 2.

# **Molecular Docking Simulation**

With PDB ID 3ERT and 1QKM, the first molecular docking was performed on 19 test compounds against the Er receptor and 18 test compounds against Er-. The test chemical was discovered by pharmacophore screening and has a fit score of. All test compounds had affinity values, suggesting that they can bind to the receptor; nevertheless, compared to the comparator medication, 4-hydroxytamoxifen (4OHT), there is no single chemical with a lower affinity value. According to the study, substances with a lower affinity value than the comparative medication had higher activity.<sup>11</sup> The analytical results suggest that only one molecule may connect to the receptor's active site, namely kaempferol, which binds to ARG A:394 and GLU. A:353 via hydrogen bonding interactions.<sup>12</sup> (Figure 3). Rutin's binding free energy (G) in ER-β is lower compared to the native Ligand, genistein. In Figure 4, The hydrogen contact residues surrounding the catalytic site cavity are evident in the docking tests conducted between rutin and ERβ (ARG 346 and GLU 305).<sup>13</sup>

# **Lipinski's Rule of Five Analysis, Pharmacokinetics and Toxicity**

Lipinski's rule of five is a drug-likeness prediction that looks at the capacity of medicines to penetrate membranes. These parameters include a molecular weight of 500 daltons, which indicates that the compound will pass through the membrane more efficiently, and a partition coefficient (Log-p) 5, which is related to hydrophobicity and hydrophilicity; the higher the Log-p value, the more hydrophobic it is, while the lower the Log-p value, the more hydrophilic it is. The higher the p, the more hydrophilic the chemical; the hydrogen binding acceptor is ten, and the hydrogen binding donor is 5. This relates to biological activity; the more potent the hydrogen bonds between the acceptor and donor, the more energy is required for absorption.<sup>14,15</sup> Pharmacokinetic and toxicity profiles are critical for determining absorption, distribution, and toxicity. Human Intestinal Absorption (HIA) and Caco-2 cells are the two forms of absorption process characteristics. The goal of HIA parameters is to predict drug absorption in the gut.

There are three types of HIA: 70-100% well absorbed, 20-70% moderately absorbed, and 0-20% low absorbed. Meanwhile, the Caco-2 cell characteristics are designed to assess permeability and measure drug passage across epithelial cells in the intestine. Caco-2 cell permeability is divided into three categories: >70 nm/sec is considered high, 4-70 nm/sec is considered medium, and 4 nm/sec is considered low.<sup>16</sup> Protein Plasma Binding (PPB) is one of the factors utilized in the distribution process. PPB is a protein in the plasma that binds to the medication, allowing it to be transported to the tissues. This metric calculates the plasma protein binding capability as a percentage of binding units. Compounds more than 90% bound to PPB are said to be firmly bound, whereas compounds that are 90% bound to PPB are weakly bound. Compounds highly linked to PPB suggest that the compound can be widely spread. 17 The Amest test and the carcinoma mouse are the measures used in toxicity screening. The amest test is used to determine the effects of mutagens on compounds. If a compound's amest test is positive, it has mutagenic qualities and may be a carcinogen; therefore, a carcinogen test is required to identify chemicals that can cause cancer.<sup>9</sup>

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Table 6 shows the results of Lipinski's Rule of Five Analysis, Pharmacokinetics and Toxicity Analysis.

# **Molecular Dynamic Simulation**

The analysis performed in molecular dynamics simulations is RMSD, RMSF, and Radius Of Gyration, where the analysis is performed to determine the stability of the ligand-receptor interaction. The system reached stability throughout the 15-ns MD simulation, as evidenced by the RMSD value of the genistein and routine complexes for the ER- receptor in the range of 2-5  $\AA$ <sup>11</sup> Figure 5 demonstrates that the routine-ERcomplex is more flexible than the genistein-ER-β complex due to a more excellent RMSD value, namely 1.4807 Å. The RMSF value describes the conformational changes in each amino acid residue that allow proteins to be more flexible. According to the complex analytical results of the compounds genistein-Er-β and rutin-Er-β, they exhibited low fluctuations at the same residue, namely ARG A:346 and GLU A:305. Low fluctuations suggest that residues bind stably to the active site.<sup>11,18,19</sup> The genistein and rutin complexes were subjected to a radius of gyration analyses. The predictions reveal that both compounds are stable because the range of RG values for each complex is not too wide, indicating that the two complexes are stable in binding. According to the average RG value, the rutin complex is no more stable than the genistein complex, which has an RG value of 17.7>17.6 Å.<sup>11,20</sup> Figure 5 shows the results of RMSD, RMSF and Radius Of Gyration.

# **Conclusion**

As demonstrated by many virtual screens, the research results reveal that the ordinary chemical can be employed as a lead compound to develop into an anti-breast cancer agent. Molecular dynamics simulations show that the interaction of the rutin with the Er- receptor is stable but not more stable than the drug genistein and cannot be used as an oral preparation due to the Lipinski rule of five factors. Hence, it must be optimized for better activity and stability derived from genistein.

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