

# Antioxidant Activities, Total Phenolic Compound And Pigment Contents of Tropical *Sargassum* sp. Extract, Macerated In Different Solvents Polarity

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## Abstract

Exposure of sunlight lead tropical *Sargassum* sp. to maintain their growth and moreover to bring up their secondary metabolite for life struggling. *Sargassum* sp. has bioactive compounds that has a potential antioxidant activity such as phenolic compounds as well as chlorophyll and carotenoids. This research was conducted to determine antioxidant activities, phenolic compound and pigments of *Sargassum* sp. with different solvent that have different polarities. Sample was macerate with n-hexana, ethyl acetate, methanol and aquadest. All the parameters were done spectrophotometrically. IC<sub>50</sub> was used to determine the antioxidant activity by antiradical scavenging activity using DPPH (515 nm). Total phenolic compound were tested by Folin-Ciocalteu solution and used gallic acid as standard (725 nm). The chlorophylls a content were measured at wavelength 662 nm and 645 nm and carotenoids were measured at wavelength 470 nm. The results showed best IC<sub>50</sub> is achieved by aquadest extract (72.95 ± 0.22 ppm). The highest Total phenolic compound is achieved by ethyl acetat extract (120.29 ± 0.404 mg GAE/g sample). The highest chlorophyll a content is achieved by ethyl acetat extract (18.23 ± 0.049 mg/g sample) and the highest carotenoid content is achieved by ethyl acetat extract (60.65 ± 0.008 μmol/g sample). It can be concluded that aquadest extract can be categorized as the strong antioxidant and antiradical activity, ethyl acetat as a medium antioxidant activity. The simple and save methods of aquadest extract promising that *Sargassum* sp. from Indonesia is a good candidate compound for nutraceutical and cosmeceutical approach.

**Keywords** : *Sargassum* sp.; Antioxidant; TPC; Pigment

## INTRODUCTION

Brown seaweed is an abundant biological resource in Indonesia. Unfortunately, its not utilized optimally. This plant lives in shallow waters to a certain depth until sunlight can penetrate it. This exposure causes the formation of free radicals or another reactive oxygen species, but this plant is able to adapt so that the structural components do not influence to the oxidative damage (Nursid, 2013). Brown seaweed has potential source of bioactive compounds such as alkaloids, glycosides,

tannins and steroids used in the pharmaceutical industry (Sathya *et al.*, 2017). The bioactive compounds are Phlorotannins, phenolic (Tanniou *et al.*, 2014) and flavonoid compounds that can inhibit LDL oxidation, Angiotensin Converting Enzyme (ACE), α-amylase and α-glucosidase (Nagappan *et al.*, 2017). Moreover *Sargassum* sp. compound has antioxidant activity (Diachanty *et al.*, 2017).

Antioxidants are compounds or substances that can inhibit, delay, prevent or slow down oxidation reactions. Oxidation is a

chemical reaction that can produce free radicals such as superoxide anions ( $\text{O}_2^{\cdot-}$ ), hydroxyl radicals ( $\text{OH}^{\cdot}$ ), alkoxyl radicals ( $\text{RO}^{\cdot}$ ), peroxy radical ( $\text{ROO}^{\cdot}$ ), ( $\text{OONO}^{\cdot}$ ), hydrogen peroxide ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ ) and singlet oxygen ( $^1\text{O}_2$ ), which triggers a chain reaction (Nimse and Pal, 2015). This free radical is one of the main cause of various degenerative diseases such as cancer (Padua *et al.*, 2015).

Based on the source, antioxidants are classified as synthetic and natural antioxidants. Synthetic antioxidants are obtained from the synthesis of chemical reactions such as BHA (Butylated hydroxy anisol), BHT (butylated hydroxy toluene), TBHQ (tertiary butyl hydro quinone), Propyl Galat and AAT (Analog alpha tocopherol). Synthetic antioxidants have a usage limit of 0.02% from a total fat. If those used excessively, it can be induced the carcinogenic effect (Fitri, 2013). it makes the source of natural antioxidant compounds important to explore and develop.

*Sargassum* sp. contains bioactive compounds such as flavonoids, triterpenoids, polyphenols (Nurjanah *et al.*, 2016), chlorophyll, carotenoids and alkaloids (Ghazali *et al.*, 2018) which can be used as a source of natural antioxidants. Hwang *et al.* (2010) reported *S. hemiphyllum* had an  $\text{IC}_{50}$  value of 1.58 mg/ml. *S. hytrix* sample collected in the dry season has an inhibition percentage to reduce free radicals at 48.71% and has a total phenolic compound of 21.99 g PGE/100 g extract (Budhiyanti *et al.*, 2012). *Sargassum* sp. has an inhibition percentage to reduce free radicals at 81.35% (Sedjati *et al.*, 2017) and has a total phenolic compound of 127.4 mg/g (Cho *et al.*, 2007).

This study aims to determine the antioxidant activity of n-hexane, ethyl acetate, methanol and aquadest extract of tropical *Sargassum* sp. and determine the content of phenolic compounds, chlorophyll a and carotenoids.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The *Sargassum* sp. sample was collected from Teluk Awur Waters, Jepara and Krakal Waters, Yogyakarta. Soon as

came in to the laboratory, the samples were washed using fresh water and dried up at room temperature. Extraction of the *Sargassum* sp. was done by gradual maceration using solvents with different polarity ie. n-hexane (non-polar), ethyl acetate (semi-polar) and methanol (polar) (Hidayati *et al.*, 2017). Extraction of *Sargassum* sp. with aquadest performed with different sample and macerated with some modification.

A 250 gram dry sample was cut into small pieces ( $\pm 5$  mm) and macerated using 1000 mL n-hexane solvent for 24 hours at  $\pm 27^\circ\text{C}$ , then filtered. The residue is remacerated for 24 hours and refiltered. The n-hexane filtrate was concentrated using a rotary evaporator at  $35^\circ\text{C}$ . The seaweed residue was re-extracted with ethyl acetate and methanol solvent in a similar manner.

Basically, extraction of *Sargassum* sp. by aquadest was administered on method by Sedjati *et al.* (2017) with slight modification. The sample was extracted using aquadest with a ratio of 1:20 (w/v) in a hot plate magnetic stirrer for 30 minutes. The supernatant was filtered using Whatman filter paper No.41. The extract was then concentrated and cool dried. The extract was then stored in the refrigeration for the next test.

## Determination of DPPH Maximum Absorbance

A 4 mg DPPH (2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl) was weighed and dissolved in 100 ml of methanol to produce a DPPH (2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl) solution with a concentration of 0.1 mM. This solution was taken 4 mL then put into the cuvette and observed the absorbance using a spectrophotometer (Shimadzu UV-1280) at a wavelength of 400 - 800 nm (Mardiyah *et al.*, 2014). The highest absorbance at certain wavelength will then be used to measure antioxidant activity.

## The Assessment of Antioxidant Activity

Antioxidant activity determination was carried out using spectrophotometric methods (Moubayed *et al.*, 2017). A total of 3

mL of the test solution was added with 1 mL of DPPH 0.1 mM. The solution was incubated for 30 minutes and then measured the absorbance at the maximum wavelength. The percentage of inhibition is calculated using the formula (Banerjee *et al.*, 2005). The inhibition percentage data was plotted to constructed the linear regression equation and determined the IC<sub>50</sub> value.

### Measurement of Total Phenolic Compound

Determination of total phenolic compound of *Sargassum* sp. was performed using Folin-Ciocalteu and gallic acid reagents as standard (Agustini, 2015). A 5 mg gallic acid is dissolved in 5 mL ethanol to obtain a 1000 ppm stock solution. The stock solutions were diluted using methanol p.a. to obtain some series of concentrations (5, 10,15, 20 and 25 ppm). A 200 µL of each concentration was taken, then followed by the addition of 10 mL of aquadest and 1 mL of Folin-Ciocalteu reagent. The solution was left for 5 minutes then added 1 mL of 7.5% Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> solution and incubated at room temperature for 2 hours in dark conditions (Norra *et al.*, 2016). Absorbance was measured using a spectrophotometer (Shimadzu UV-1280) at a wavelength of 720 nm (Iltera *et al.*, 2018). The value of total phenolics is expressed in mg Galic Acid Equivalent (GAE)/1000 g (Ghafar, 2010).

### Assessment of Chlorophyll a and Carotenoids Compounds

Each extract was dissolved with acetone p.a at 100 ppm and 3 mL taken in a cuvette. The solution was measured for absorbance at a wavelength of 645 nm, 662 nm and 470 nm (Kurniawan, 2010). Most carotenoids absorb lights in the region between 400 and 500 nm and chlorophylls absorb light at 645 and 662 nm at room temperature (Fabrowska *et al.*, 2017). The content of chlorophyll a and carotenoids is calculated based on the following formula by Gross (1991).

### Statistical Analysis

All data were subjected to one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) at the level of significance of 0.05. A multiple comparison

(LSD) test was used to examine significant differences among treatments using IBM SPSS Statistics 20 Computer Software. Before the analysis, the raw data were normalized using some transformation depend on the type of data.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this study *Sargassum* sp. extracted step by step with n-hexane (non polar), ethyl acetate (semi-polar) and methanol (polar) solvents. This is intended to get the maximum extraction. This because each solvent has the ability to dissolve compounds with the same polarity (Sarastani *et al.*, 2002). The general principle in solvent extraction "like dissolve like" means that suitable solvent only dissolve suitable substance with similar polarities as the solvent used (Shipeng *et al.*, 2015). The extraction process provides a varied yield and the highest yield obtained by aquadest extract (8.5%). This is postulated due to the heating and stirring process using a magnetic stirrer which is carried out during extraction. According to Frary and Earle (1996) heating and stirring process will accelerate extraction, so, that, will increase the intensity of interaction the materials with solvents. Puspita *et al.* (2017) showed that *S. ilicifolium* extracted with water, produced more yield (14.7±0.8 %) than extracted with ethyl acetate (7.3±1.0 %). The solid-liquid extraction process is influenced by several factors, including extraction time, temperature used, stirring, and the number of solvents used (Harborne, 1996).

The maximum absorbance value of DPPH is reached at a wavelength of 515 nm. Nicklisch and Waite (2014) also identified the maximum absorbance of DPPH compounds at a wavelength of 515 nm, while Hidayati *et al.* (2017) obtain maximum DPPH absorbance at a wavelength of 514 nm. The difference in DPPH maximum wavelength probably caused by type and specificity of the instruments used and time of observation (Molyneux, 2004).

Based on results of the antioxidant activity of *Sargassum* sp. extract, each solvent performed different IC<sub>50</sub> values (Figure

1). Aquadest extract has strong antioxidant activity with IC<sub>50</sub> value of 72.95±0.22 ppm. Ethyl acetate extract has moderate antioxidant activity with IC<sub>50</sub> value of 102.4 ±0,056 ppm, while methanol and n-hexane extracts have very weak antioxidant activity with IC<sub>50</sub> values less then 250 ppm.

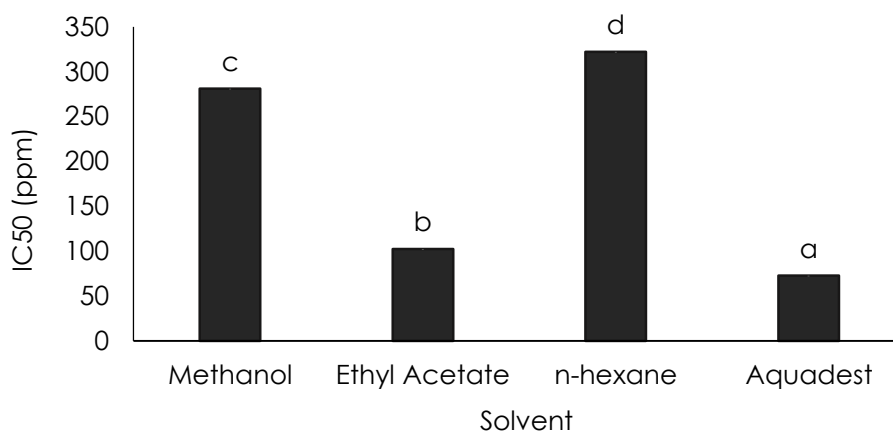
The different solvents resulted different antioxidant activity. The compound will dissolve in solvents that have the same polarity (Harborne, 1987). This indicates that the extract contents of *Sargassum* sp. was dominated by polar compounds. However, there was a significant difference in IC<sub>50</sub> values in two solvents ie. methanol and aquadest extract. In fact, those solvents is cathegorized as polar solvents. According to Senapati *et al.* (2016) aquadest has greater polarity than methanol solvents, so it can attract more polar compounds, especially polyphenols. Research by Yudiati *et al.* (2018a and 2018b) showed that alginate extract from tropical *Sargassum* sp. also has the ability to inhibit free radicals through their hydroxyl groups.

In this present research, The IC<sub>50</sub> value was slightly higher (72.95 ±0.22 ppm) than Sedjati *et al.* (2018) (69,274 ppm) and lower than Hidayati *et al.* (2017) (99.166 ppm). The different result occurs because the antioxidant activity are varied, depends on the species of seaweed (Parthiban *et al.*, 2014), location (Mirghani *et al.*, 2018) and seasons (Khairy and El-Sheikh, 2015), respectively. The low IC<sub>50</sub> value indicates a

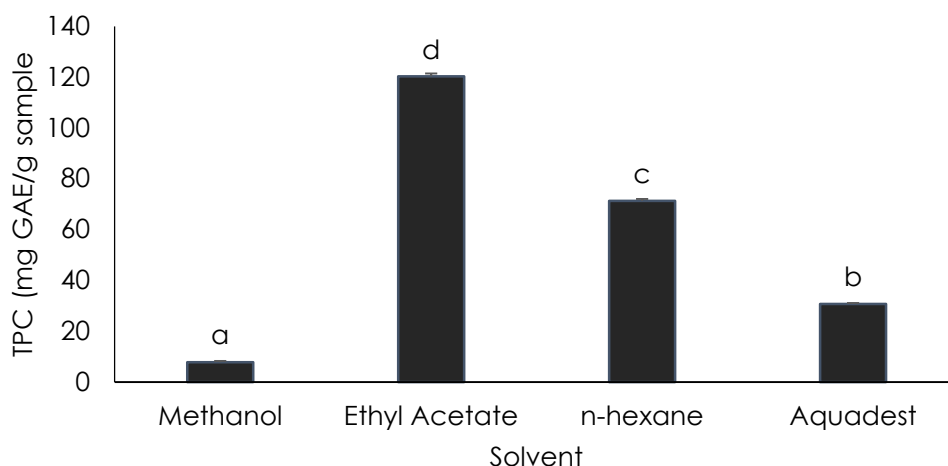
strong antioxidant activity. Those act as a hydrogen atom donor (Sarini *et al.* 2014). Antioxidant compounds can directly react with free radicals and turn them into new, less active and less dangerous free radicals (Sayuti and Yenrina, 2015).

Phenolic compounds have a direct correlation with antioxidant activity. Gazali *et al.* (2018) shows that 99% of antioxidant activity is the result of the phenol compounds contribution, whereas 1% is thought to be a contribution from other compounds that have antioxidant abilities. The ability to reduce free radicals is related to the hydroxyl groups present in phenol compounds (Mehdinezhad *et al.* 2016). The hydroxyl group function act as a contributor to hydrogen atoms. It will reacting with free radicals through the electron transfer mechanism.

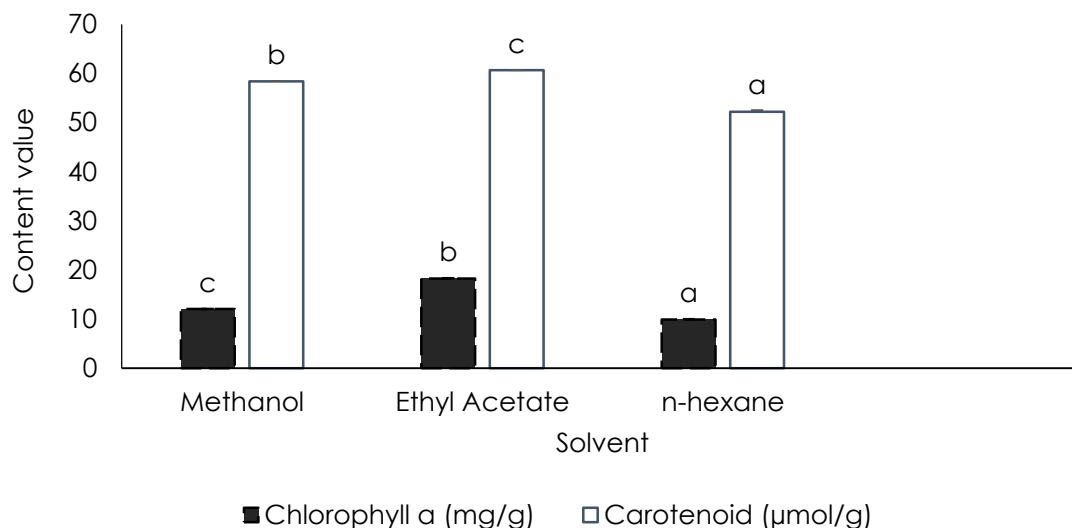
Different extract had a different total phenolic compound (Figure 2.) The highest content was found in ethyl acetate extract with a value of 120.29 ±0.404 mg GAE/g sample. This result is much higher than *S. vulgare* ethyl acetate extract which is 5.77±0.33 mg GAE/g sample (Khaled *et al.*, 2012). Sadati *et al.* (2015) also showed the lowest result total phenolic compound of *S. swartzii* ethyl acetate extract which is 0.81 ±0.35 mg GAE/g sample. The high content of this compound in *Sargassum* sp. ethyl acetate extract is thought to have a soluble polyphenols biocompounds such as tannins and flavanols.



**Figure 1.** IC<sub>50</sub> value of *Sargassum* sp. Extract (ppm) macerated in different solvents. Bars with different letters indicate the significantly difference (p < 0.05)



**Figure 2.** TPC value of *Sargassum* sp. Extract (ppm) macerated in different solvents. Bars with different letters indicate the significantly difference ( $p < 0.05$ ).



**Figure 3.** Pigment content of *Sargassum* sp. macerated in different solvents. Bars with different letters indicate the significantly difference ( $p < 0.05$ ).

Antioxidant activity can also be affected by pigment content. Chlorophyll a and carotenoids are extracted using organic solvents such as methanol, ethyl acetate and n-hexane. It is because carotenoids are hydrophobic (Saini and Keum, 2018). Hydrophobic is a property of a substance that repels water, lacking affinity for water, and tend to repel or not to absorb water. Results of *Sargassum* sp. extract pigment (Figure 3.) shows that the highest chlorophyll a and carotenoid was reached by ethyl acetate extract  $18.23 \pm 0,049$  mg/g and  $60.65 \pm 0,008$   $\mu\text{mol/g}$ .

Chlorophyll is the main pigment found in seaweed and has the potential effect to reduce the free radicals from DPPH (Sayuti and Yenrina, 2015). Another pigment that have the same functions is carotenoids. This pigment acts to help chlorophyll to absorb energy from light. One of the pigments from the carotenoid group produced by brown seaweed is fucoxanthin. This pigment has the potential to be developed as cosmeceutical and nutraceuticals materials especially as an antioxidant agent (Mise et al., 2011) and also suitable to be applied into food products (Yip et al., 2014)

## CONCLUSION

*Sargassum* sp. Extract macerated in aquadest solvent has the strongest antioxidant activity with IC<sub>50</sub> value (72.95 ±0.22 ppm). Total phenolic compound (120.29 ±0.404 mg GAE/ g sample), chlorophyll a content (18.23 ±0.049 mg/g) and carotenoid content (60.65 ±0.008 μmol/g). Extraction using aquadest solvent, combined with stirring and heating can increase the antioxidant activity of the sample.

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