

The Study of Antimicrobial Activity on *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans* of AgNPs Capping with Roselle

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Abstract

The aim of the experiment is to study the antimicrobial effect of silver nanoparticles capping with Roselle (SNP-Ro) against *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans* (Aa).

Silver nanoparticles were prepared from silver nitrate solution and Roselle extract using microwave-assisted synthesis method. The concentration of Roselle used in the synthesis step was varied from 0.1 mM to 2.5 mM. The SNP-Ro were analyzed by UV-Vis spectroscopy, exhibited yellow color and showed maximum absorbance at 400 nm which is the specific value of silver nanoparticles. The particles under the microscope were relatively spherical and the average size of SNP-Ro from 1:0.5 and 1:2.5 ratios were 14.43 ± 3.71 nm and 9.06 ± 3.32 nm in diameter respectively. Their antimicrobial activity against Aa was 99.94 percent reduction.

The statistical analysis of percent reduction showed no significant difference between SNP-Ro and 0.12% chlorhexidine gluconate which is positive control group ($p > 0.05$) and the comparison of antimicrobial effect between each concentration of SNP-Ro had no significant difference ($p > 0.05$).

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Introduction

During the 21st Century, Silver nanoparticles is the topic that has been researched widely as its benefits can be applied to many fields. In the past, according to the knowledge, silver was regarded as the natural antibiotic preventing infection. Generally, the use of antibiotic makes drug-resistance to the bacteria. On the other hand, this is not happening with silver nanoparticles. For this reason, it is interesting to use it with other material to resist bacteria.^{1,2}

The synthesis process of silver nanoparticles mostly uses chemical substance which produces biological toxins. Thus, there is more interest in studying the synthesis process of silver nanoparticles using natural extract to minimize the biological toxins. One step of the process helps to reduce the toxins is the use of

coating from plant extracts. As the coating is anionic that can hold with cation of silver particles and prevent its precipitation. Furthermore, plant extracts function as the reducing agent that synthesize the silver nanoparticles.^{3,4,5} Thus, Roselle is one of the interesting alternatives as it is herb that is generally found and can be used in various purpose such as in cooking or for medicine as the diuretic to treat the malfunction of digestive system and hyperlipidemia, resist atherosclerosis, perspire, reduce blood pressure, prevent and heal infection, including to function as the antioxidant.⁶ The study on antibacterial activity of Roselle stem extract to *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus* in culture medium and milk that had different fat concentration showed that the sterilized Roselle stem extract had antibacterial activity to *Escherichia coli*. Likewise, the study on the antibacterial activity to *Staphylococcus aureus* indicated that sterilized Roselle stem extract had antibacterial activity to *Staphylococcus aureus* after 24 hours.⁷ Thus, Roselle is the herb containing antibacterial activity. For this reason, the researcher is interested to use it in silver nanoparticles synthesis to minimize toxicity.

In dentistry field, silver nanoparticle is diversely used; it is mostly compounded with

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other material to disinfect bacteria in the mouth where numerous microbes adhere in form of plaque that is the cause of many oral diseases such as periodontal disease leading to the loss of tooth.^{8,9,10} Therefore, the researcher was interested in silver nanoparticles synthesis using Roselle extract as the coating and reducing agent. Moreover, the heat waves from microwave was used to activate the completion of synthesis process. It was aimed to produce the non-toxic silver nanoparticles to human and environment. The synthesized silver nanoparticle was used to study the antibacterial activity *Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans*(Aa), which was the cause of periodontal disease¹¹, which would be the primary information for the further research for drug and oral care products development.

Materials and methods

Silver nanoparticles preparation

Microwave-assisted synthesis method was used to prepare SNP capped with Roselle (SNP-Ro). Stock concentration of silver nitrate and Roselle was prepared at 10 mM. The ratio of silver nitrate Roselle and distilled water was showed in Table 1. After mix solution as Table 1, the solution was stirred with magnetic stirrer 2 minutes. All solution was taken to microwave by adjusted power at medium for 2 minutes. The solution was change into yellow color. They were left 48 hours in room temperature. After that they were analyzed via UV-Vis spectroscopy and Transmission electron microscopy.

ratio	AgNO ₃ (ml)	Roselle (ml)	Distilled water (ml)
1: 0.1	5	0.5	44.5
1: 0.5	5	2.5	42.5
1: 1	5	5	40
1: 1.5	5	7.5	37.5
1: 2	5	10	35
1: 2.5	5	12.5	32.5

Table 1. This table showed the proportion of silver nitrate and Roselle which use to synthesize silver nanoparticles.

Antibacterial property against Aa

The antibacterial activity against Aa was tested using the standard method. The SNP films were exposed to 20 µl of Aa in brain heart infusion broth (2 ml). After 24 h incubation at 37 °C, 5% CO₂ condition, the bacteria/broth mixture

was diluted five times. Then 50 µl of diluted bacteria was placed onto brain heart infusion agar using the spread plate method. After 24 h incubation the bacteria were counted. The result was corrected by the dilution factor to give the number of colonies forming units (CFU) per milliliter. The percentage of bacterial reduction was then calculated and compared to blank condition¹². After the experiment, the counting pathogen from each concentration level was calculated for the percentage of pathogen reduction with the following formula:

$$R = \frac{A - B}{A} \times 100$$

From the formula:

R was the percentage of pathogen reduction
 A was the number of pathogen before experiment (CFU/ml)
 B was the number of pathogen after experiment (CFU/ml)

Results

Silver nanoparticles synthesis with Microwave assisted Synthesis method using Roselle extract to AgNO₃ at the different ratio. The concentration of AgNO₃ was stable at 1 mM. and the physical properties was tested by measuring the absorbance using Spectrophotometer. From the experiment, it was found that the silver nanoparticles synthesizing at different ratio changed the color of solution, from no color (before heating) to light yellow to dark yellow (after heating) depending on the ratio of the Roselle, as shown in Figure 1(B). Then, tested the absorbance with the spectrophotometer and it showed that the result was in the range of 350-450 nm., as shown in Figure 1(A). This was to say the silver nanoparticles emerged. After using Transmission Electron Microscope (TEM) to examine SNP-Ro at the ratio 1:0.5 and 1:2.5, it was found that the morphology of SNP-Ro was in round-shaped, both single circle spreading around and the cluster of circle at the size of 14.43 ± 3.71 nm. and 9.06 ± 3.32 nm. respectively, as shown in Figure 2.

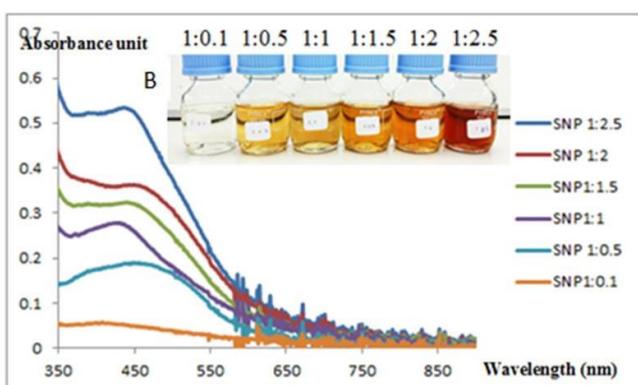


Figure 1. Graph of absorbance of silver nanoparticles coating with Roselle at different ratio (A). Silver nanoparticles coating with Roselle at different rations leaving at room temperature for 48 hours after the synthesis (B).

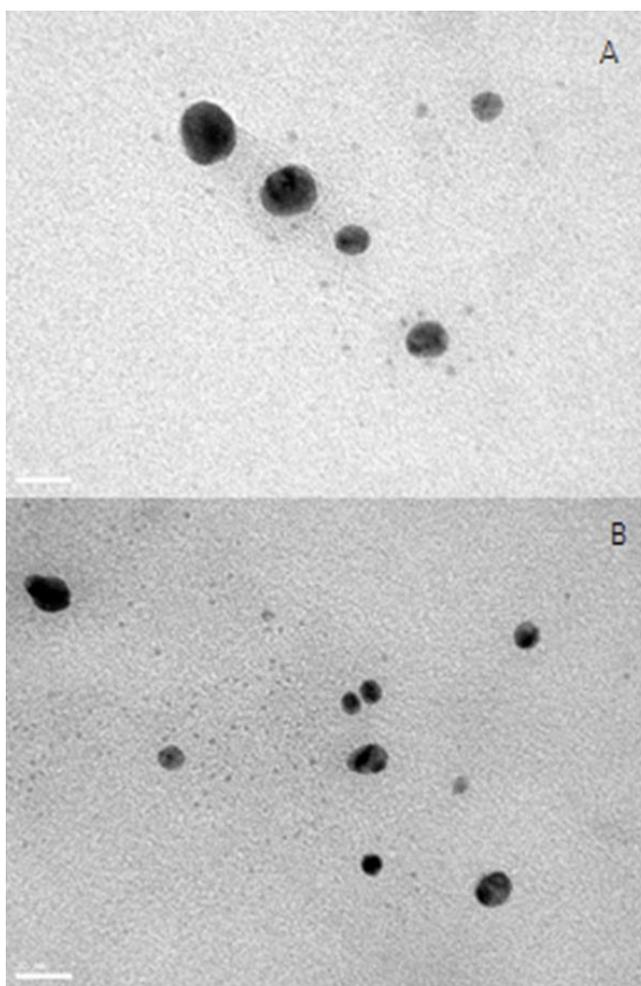


Figure 2. Morphology of (A) SNP-Ro1:0.5 and (B) SNP-Ro1:2.5 from Transmission Electron Microscope (TEM) at magnification 310Kx. (scale bar 20 nm).

The hypothesis test on the antibacterial to *Aa* of the silver nanoparticles coating with Roselle (SNP-Ro) at the ratio of AgNO₃ concentration to the different concentration of Roselle extract at 1:0.1, 1:0.5, 1:1, 1:1.5, 1:2 and 1:2.5 applying the drop plate technique and find the percentage of reduction. The experiment indicated that SNP-Ro at all ratios had the average reduction at 99.70 - 99.99%, as shown in Table 2. Therefore, it was assumed that silver nanoparticles with Roselle coating could restrain the growth of *Aa*.

The positive control group was CHX with 0.12 concentration. The experiment result showed that there was no growth of the pathogen, accounted for 100% of reduction. For the negative control group, Brain Heart Infusion and the pathogen was used. Result illustrated that there were more pathogens than before the experiment, as same as with Roselle extract, as shown in Table 2. The study on the antibacterial activity of SNP-Ro to *Aa* indicated that it could resist *Aa* and at each concentration, there was no difference with statistical significance ($p \geq 0.05$). When comparing to the positive control group, CHX at 0.12 concentration, it was found that the antibacterial activity was not different with statistical significance ($p \geq 0.05$). On the other hand, there was obvious difference in the negative control group, between Brain-Heart infusion and Roselle extract.

samples	Percent of reduction (mean \pm SD)
SNP-RO1:0.1	99.99 \pm 0.01
SNP-RO1:0.5	99.98 \pm 0.03
SNP-RO1:1	99.99 \pm 0.00
SNP-RO1:1.5	99.99 \pm 0.01
SNP-RO1:2	99.99 \pm 0.03
SNP-RO1:2.5	99.70 \pm 0.88
0.12%CHX	100 \pm 0.00
BHI	-
Roselle	-

Table 2. Resistance results of SNP-Ro to *Aa* at the different ratio by percentage of reduction.

Discussion

Nowadays, the medical field is interested in using silver nanoparticle as a compound to resist bacteria. However, the synthesis process that uses the chemical substance as the reducing

agent produce physical toxins. Therefore, the use of natural extract is the approach to minimize such problem. For this reason, the researcher chose Roselle, the natural plant extract, to use in synthesis process. Roselle is not only the non-toxic herb but also contains antibacterial activity to *Acinetobacter baumannii*, which is mostly found in the hospital, according to the study of Emad Mohamed Abdallah in 2016¹³ Moreover, the research of Higginbotham in 2013 revealed that Roselle stem extract was able to resist *Escherichia coli*. The study on antibacterial activity to *Staphylococcus aureus* showed that the sterilized Roselle stem extract restrain *Staphylococcus aureus* after 24 hours⁷. Roselle that is the natural substance was used as the reducing agent and coating in this experiment to prevent precipitation. It was in line with the study of Begum NA in 2009 that black tea leaves extracting with Ethyl Acetate was used in silver nanoparticles synthesis in order to maintain the form and prevent precipitation¹⁴. Furthermore, the study of Song JY in 2009 extracted the fern leaves, persimmon leaves, ginkgo leaves, and magnolia leaves to use as the reducing agent in the synthesis process¹⁵. This research synthesized silver nanoparticles with the Roselle coating with Microwave-assisted synthesis. Results showed that Roselle extract functioned as the reducing agent that helped to synthesize and coat to prevent precipitation of silver nanoparticles. It was found that if the solution was left at the room temperature for 48 hours after the synthesis, its color changed to yellow and would be darker when the time passed. It was consistent with the study of Darshan Singh et al. in 2015 who examined the silver nanoparticles synthesis using *Origanum majorana* extract and *Citrus sinensis* as the coating and reducing agent. Likewise, the solution's color changed to yellow¹⁶.

For measuring the absorbance of SNP-Ro using Spectrophotometer with UV-Vis spectroscopy technique, it was found that the solution with six concentration levels had the absorbance result at 390-450 nm. This result was in line with the study result of Darshan Singh et al. in 2015 who synthesized silver nanoparticles with marjoram and used *Origanum majorana* leaves extract as the coating. The absorbance was 340-410 nm¹⁶. Further, the study of Krishnara et al. in 2010 used leaf extract of *Acalypha indicain* the synthesis and the

absorbance were 450 nm¹⁷. Lastly, the study of Preetha Devaraj et al. in 2013 applied Cannonball leaves extract in the experiment and the absorbance was 434 nm¹⁸. Anyway, the absorbance value was slightly different, because of the use of different extract, comparing to other researches, however, they were still in the same range. When analyzing SNP-Ro synthesizing with the TEM, it was found that silver nanoparticles were in round-shaped at the size 10-15 nm. This was similar to the study of Darshan Singh et al. in 2015 who had the particle size less than 70 nm.¹⁶ Furthermore, the research of Krishnara et al. in 2010 had 20-30 nm. size in the round shaped as well¹⁷. Report from Preetha Devaraj et al. in 2013 show that the particles were likely in round-shaped at 13-61 nm.¹⁸

The study of the antibacterial activity on SNP-RO to *Aa* found that it could resist *Aa*. This was consistent with the previous study on the antibacterial activity of silver nanoparticles using plant in the synthesis process which found out that it contained the antibacterial activity as well. The study that used aloe vera extract to examine the antibacterial activity indicated that it was able to resist *S. epidermidis* and *P. aeruginosa*¹⁹ Moreover, there was the research that used *Bidens biternata* (Lour.) Merr. & Scherff. extract to observe the antibacterial activity of silver nanoparticles. Results showed that it resisted both Gram-positive bacteria and Gram-negative bacteria, which were *S. aureus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Salmonella typhi*, and *Escherichia coli*.²⁰

Silver nanoparticle has various mechanisms for antibacterial activity. There was the assumption that silver nanoparticles adhered and got through to the microbes' cell wall which caused the change of plasma membrane structure. Consequently, it could not control the movement of cytoplasmic membrane so many things got through the membrane. Finally, the cells died.²¹ Besides, the report about the mechanism for disinfection of silver nanoparticles that it derived from the free radicals which destroyed the membrane. Therefore, silver nanoparticle got through the cells and they died eventually.²² Another mechanism was the reaction between silver nanoparticles and DNA compound which did not allow the fission and DNA creation. Finally, the cells died.^{23,24} In the meantime, the research of Shrivastava et al.²⁵ explained that silver nanoparticles minimized

phosphotyrosine in bacteria's peptide which influenced the cell signal to obstruct the growth of cells. As a result, the cells died.²⁶

Conclusions

SNP-Ro solution containing the different ratio of Roselle could be reduced with Microwave-assisted synthesis to obtain the yellow solution in small size, about 10-15 nm. Making the silver particle became smaller would increase the special properties such as more efficiency in antibacterial or the easy access to the cells. It could be seen from SNP-Ro that all ratios were able to resist bacteria at 100%. The experiment results could be concluded that silver nanoparticles synthesis could be processed with natural extract to reduce toxicity and utilize in medical area efficiently. Furthermore, this knowledge might be applied to dental supplies development to resist bacteria and decrease the risk of disease.

Declaration of Interest

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