

Isolation and Structure Elucidation of Eumitrin A₁ from Lichen *Usnea blepharea* Motyka and Its Cytotoxic Activity

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Abstract: The purpose of this research was to isolate and elucidate structure of secondary metabolite compound and to examine its cytotoxic activity of lichen *Usnea blepharea* Motyka obtained from Sulawesi – Indonesia. Powder of lichen was extracted using an acetone and continued separation by employing column chromatography (CC) with *n*-hexane and ethyl acetate solvents in a gradient elution to produce a pure isolate. The structure was determined by UV-Vis, LC-MS, FTIR, ¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR, 2D-NMR (HMBC, HMQC, COSY). The UV-Vis spectrophotometer measurement was obtained maximum wavelength of 229 nm and 334 nm. The LC-MS data of this compound showed a molecular weight of 680. The ¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR with DEPT spectrums showed that this compound has 34 carbon atoms consisting of 2 methyl groups, 2 methoxy groups, 1 methyl group, 6 methine groups, 3 methylene groups, and 20 quaternary atoms. The 2D-NMR (HMBC, HMQC, COSY) spectrums of analysis could be inferred that this compound is a Eumitrin A₁ with the formula structure C₃₄H₃₂O₁₅. The Eumitrin A₁ was examined its cytotoxic activity against Murine Leukemia P388 cells with IC₅₀ 4.5 µg/mL (very active).

Keywords: Eumitrin A₁, *Usnea blepharea* Motyka, Cytotoxic, Murine Leukemia P388 Cells.

Introduction

Lichen is a unique plant because it is formed from two different organism symbiosis through life together of mutual benefit between algae and fungi^{1,2}. The products of lichen have been used as a traditional medicine in some countries and is still considered as an interesting alternative medicine³. In the past, native Americans used lichen for drugs, for examples: *U. longissima* as the smooth skin drug and *Letharea vulpina* as a yellow dye^{4,5}. In India, the lichen was used to cure some diseases, i.e. asthma, bronchitis, stomach pain, allergy, the cracking of bones, liver and blood disorders^{6,7}. Traditionally, the lichen has a number of uses depending on the species, such as *U. misaminensis* was used as anti-diarrhea, influenza, and cough remedy. Lichen *Heterodermia boryi*, *Parmotrema stipitum* (Taylor) Halye, *U. nilgirica*, *Pyrene* sp. and *Parmotrema melanothrix* (Mont.) Hale were utilized as anti-microbial agent for *E. coli*, *Pseudomonas* sp., *Klebsiella* sp., *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus viridians* and *Acinetobacter* sp.^{8,9}. *U. barbata* and *U. dasypogon* was used as anti-tuberculosis^{10,11}.

Based on empirical experience, *Usnea* sp. contain chemical compounds that have efficacy as a traditional medicine, stomach ailments such as diarrhea, bloody stools, thrush drug, cold drug, seizures, abdominal pain, difficult urination, menstrual disorders, hemorrhoids and headache^{12,13}. The majority of *Usnea* plant contain a dominant chemical compound namely usnic acid¹⁴. Maulidiyah, et al. (2015) has reported that in the lichen *Usnea* sp. containing usnic acid compound that has activity to inhibit growth the Murine Leukemia

P388 cells¹⁵. *Usnea* is a genus of lichen that has been classified as a part of the family parmeliaceae, and spread throughout the world as for the type of lichen about 20,000 species^{16,17}.

Lichen plant in Indonesia spread in various regions, i.e. Sulawesi, according to local communities that *U. blepharea* Motyka plant was used as a cure leprosy, cough medicine and drugs to eliminate the warts. Based on the above description the research on the chemical compounds contained in the lichen *U. blepharea* Motyka was carried out for obtaining the bioactivity. The isolation compound was tested the cytotoxic activity against Murine Leukemia P388 cells as an anti-cancer compound.

Experimental

1. Isolation and Purification

A 700 g powder of talus lichen *U. blepharea* Motyka was extracted by soxhlet uses acetone solvent for 8 hours in order to obtain crude extract of acetone. Then extract on acetone solvent was evaporated by using rotary evaporator vacuum to obtain dried extract. Further dried extract was eluted by using thin layer chromatography (TLC) to determine the composition of the solvent to get the best separation. TLC plates sprayed with a stain marker with 10% H₂SO₄ in methanol solution. The dried extract was separated by column chromatography (CC) in stationary phase of silica gel 60G that was eluted with a mixture *n*-hexane and ethyl acetate solvents by gradient elution. Pure isolates obtained then was purified and determined the molecular structure by using spectroscopy i.e. (¹H and ¹³C) NMR, 2D-NMR, Infra Red (IR), Ultra Violet-Visible (UV-Vis), Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS). From the results of spectroscopic measurements, each was determined by comparing the molecular structure of each spectrum with data from literature and based on the basic theory of spectrometry.

2. Cytotoxic activity test against Murine Leukemia P388 Cells

Testing of cytotoxic activity against Murine Leukemia P388 cells was conducted by MTT Assay. In RPMI 1640 medium (with concentrations of >106 cells/mL) of a culture flask was put into 15 mL in a centrifuge tube then centrifuged at 1200 to 1300 rpm for 5 minutes at room temperature. Supernatant was separated by sterile Pasteur pipette and sediment (pellet cells) then was added 1 mL FBS (Fetal Bovine Serum) and 100 μ L of DMSO, mixed gently, then transferred 2 mL into tube and the lid with paraffin. Furthermore, the dissolution of cells and centrifuged for separation process, further do materials testing subculture¹⁵.

Results and Discussion

The compound has been isolated and shaped yellow crystals with a melting point = 263-264 with optical rotation $[\alpha]_D^{20} = -53^\circ$ (CH₂Cl₂, c = 0,0005). Data from spectroscopy UV light that isolated compound (Fig. 1) has been measured at a wavelength of $\lambda = 200$ -400 nm in dichloromethane solvent gives a maximum absorption at a wavelength of $\lambda = 229$ nm dan 334 nm. Absorption at $\lambda_{\max} = 229$ nm showed the presence of double bonds conjugation C = C of benzene with the kind of transition $\pi \rightarrow \pi^*$. Absorption at 340 nm estimated λ_{\max} is derived from the C=C chromoform group that are conjugated with C=O accompanied the extension of double bonds¹⁸.

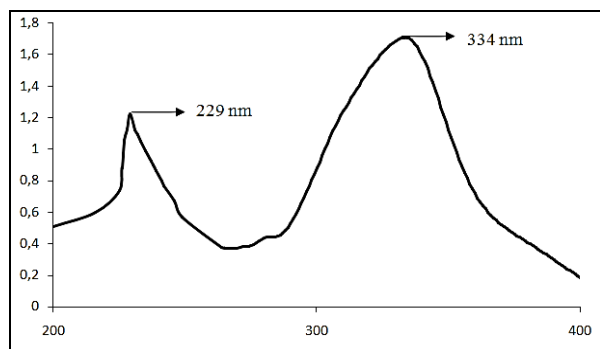


Fig. 1. Data measurement of UV Spectroscopy

Fig. 2 showed the result of LC-MS chromatogram of the molecular ion peaks visible on $m/z = 680$, this the isolated compound have molecular weight $[M^+] = 680$.

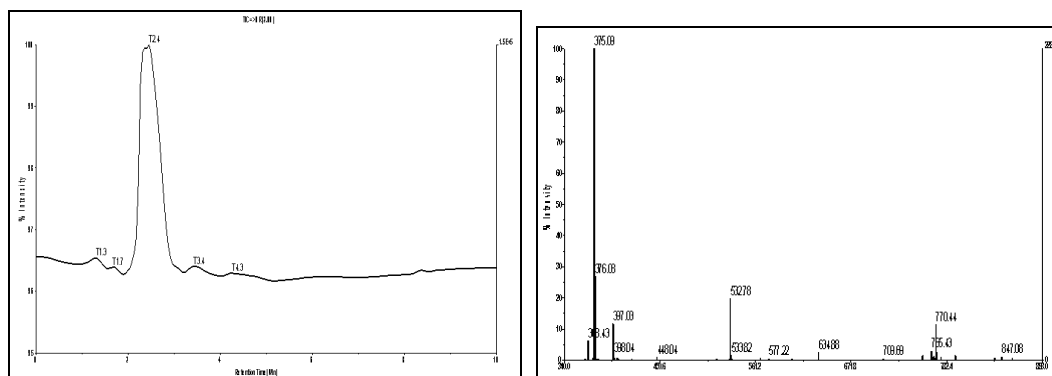


Fig 2. Data measurement of LC-MS Chromatogram

The IR spectra of the absorption bands in wavenumbers area at 3487 cm^{-1} is the stretching vibration of hydroxyl (OH) group. This is supported by the presence of bending vibration in areas of 1249 cm^{-1} for the hydroxyl (OH) group. The absorption band in the area of 2962 cm^{-1} is stretching asymmetric vibration of C-H bond from CH_3 group, supported by the existence of absorption band in wavenumber 1743 cm^{-1} that is stretching asymmetric vibration of C=O from ester group. Absorption band in the wavenumber 1612 cm^{-1} was indicated the presence of aromatic rings, while the absorption bands in wavenumber of 140 cm^{-1} and 1018 cm^{-1} have the binding vibration of C-O-C bonds, as can be seen in Fig. 3.

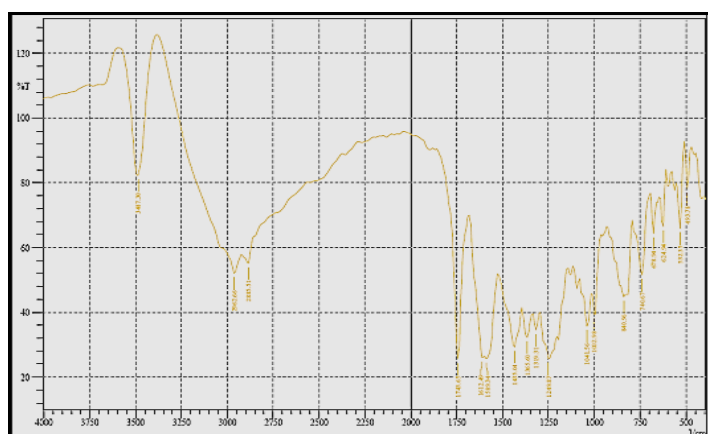


Fig. 3. Data measurement of Infra Red (IR) spectrum

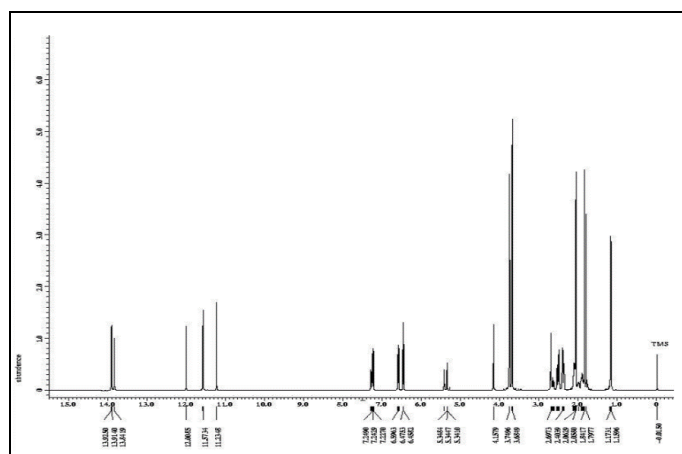


Fig. 4. Data measurement of ^1H -NMR spectrum

^1H -NMR spectrum on isolated compound showed a pair of aromatic protons with AB system on chemical shift δ_{H} 6.58 (1H d, $J = 7,9\text{ Hz}$) and δ_{H} 7.29 (1H d, $J = 7,9\text{ Hz}$). With a protons pair with J coupling 7.9 Hz means that the second proton is contiguous (ortho position). One other aromatic proton does not has a pair seen on δ_{H} 6.47 (1H, s). Two signals on $\delta_{\text{H}} = 3.76$ (3H, s) and 3.68 (3H, s) showed a methoxy groups. An

acetyl group ($\text{CH}_3\text{CO}-$) indicated on δ_{H} 1.79 ppm (3H,s). This compound has five hydroxy group which forms hydrogen bonds with $\text{C}=\text{O}$ group seen on δ_{H} (ppm) 13.92 (1H, s), 13.91 (1H, s), 12.00 (1H, s), 11.57 (1H, s), 11.23 (1H, s). Metin protons were indicated on δ_{H} (ppm) 5.34 (1H, s); 4.15 (1H, s); 6.58; 6.47; 7.10; 2.69. The existence of the metin pair (CH) group with the chemical shift 2.63 (1H dd, $J = 7,3$ Hz; 4,9 Hz) with $\delta_{\text{H}} = 2.66$ (1H dd, $J = 7,3$ Hz; 4,3 Hz) has predicted the existence of a methylene (CH_2) group but apparently one proton with one another are not identical, then occur germinal coupling with coupling constant of 7.3 Hz. The presence of methylene group was shown in 2.64 δ_{H} 2.40 (2H, m) and 2.5 (2H, m). Isolated compound similar to compound that has been reported by Maulidiyah(2011) the difference is the 18 atoms C quartener and 8 metin groups¹⁹, while this compound obtained 20 atoms C quartener and 6 metin groups. The ^1H -NMR spectrum can be seen in Fig. 4.

^{13}C -NMR spectrum showed the carbonyl atoms from carbonyl at position $\delta_{\text{C}} = 188.05$ ppm, 170.95 ppm, 169.07 ppm, 187.30 ppm and 184.86 ppm. Quaterner carbon atom that bind atoms O shown on position $\delta_{\text{C}} = 161.25$ ppm; 177.48 ppm; 84.96 ppm; 149.93 ppm; 159.57 ppm; 128.96 ppm, 150.52 ppm and 116.04 ppm. The atom of C quartener are shown in the chemical shift $\delta_{\text{C}} = 100.3$ ppm; 157.44 ppm; 111.29 ppm; 139.98 ppm; 117.71 ppm; 140.24 ppm and 100,65 ppm.

The results of ^{13}C -NMR and DEPT (Fig. 5 and 6) described an overview of this compound that has 34 carbon atoms consists of 2 methyl groups, 2 methoxy groups, 1 methyl group from acetyl group, 6 metin groups, 3 methylene groups and 20 C quartener atoms with the formula structure $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{32}\text{O}_{15}$. The results can be calculated and isolated compound has a number of rings and double bonds as much 19 pieces. From spectroscopy data can be known that hydrogen deficiency indicate of 5 groups from $\text{C}=\text{O}$, 8 from $\text{C}=\text{C}$ groups, and the remainder is 6 rings.

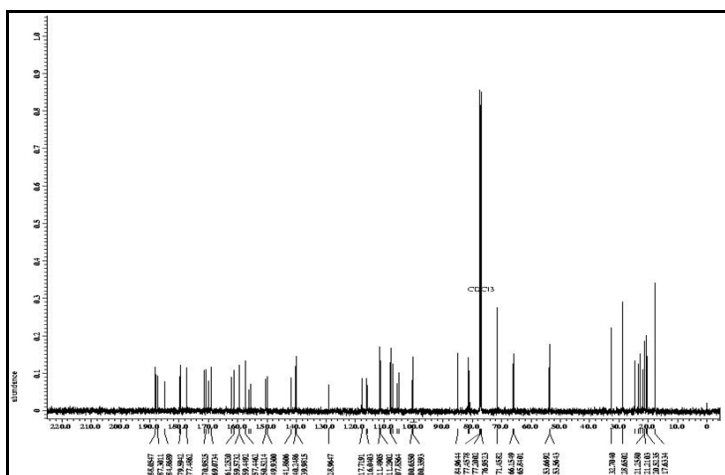


Fig. 5. Data measurement of ^{13}C -NMR spectrum

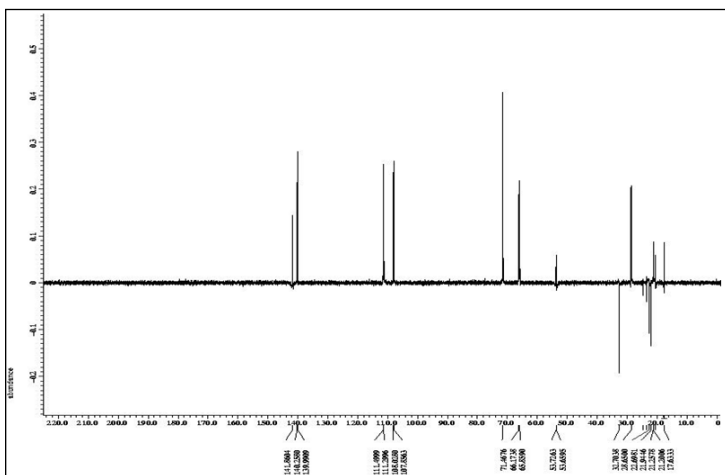


Fig. 6. Data measurement of DEPT spectrum

HMQC and HMBC (Fig. 7 and 8) can be determined proton pair that bonded with C atom, then the correlation between proton with C neighboring atom has distance between 2-3 bonds as may be seen in Fig. 8. From data shows (Fig. 7) the aromatic protons $\delta_H = 6.58$ ppm bound on position C-4' (107.85 ppm), while the aromatic protons $\delta_H = 7.29$ ppm bound on position C-3' (141.86 ppm). Other aromatic protons on $\delta_H = 6.47$ ppm bound on position C-2' (111.49 ppm). Methoxy groups with $\delta_H = 3.68$ ppm and $\delta_H = 3.76$ ppm bound on position $\delta_C = 53.56$ ppm and $\delta_C = 53.66$ ppm. Acetyl group ($\text{CH}_3\text{CO}-$) on position $\delta_H = 1.79$ ppm bound at a position $\delta_C = 21.25$ ppm. Methyl group on $\delta_H = 2.06$ ppm bound on position $\delta_C = 28.65$ ppm, while the other methyl groups on $\delta_H = 1.17$ ppm bound on position $\delta_C = 17.63$ ppm. The methylene group on $\delta_H = 2.40$ ppm bound on $\delta_C = 21.21$. Other methylene group on $\delta_H = 2.54$ ppm bound on position $\delta_H = 22.68$ ppm. Metin group on $\delta_H = 4.15$ ppm, 5.34 ppm and 2.69 ppm bound on position $\delta_C = 71.45$ ppm, 66.15 ppm and 20.52 ppm, respectively.

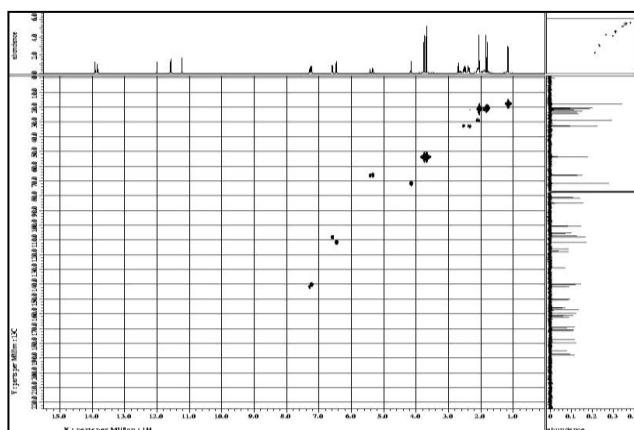


Fig. 7. Data measurement of HMQC Spectrum

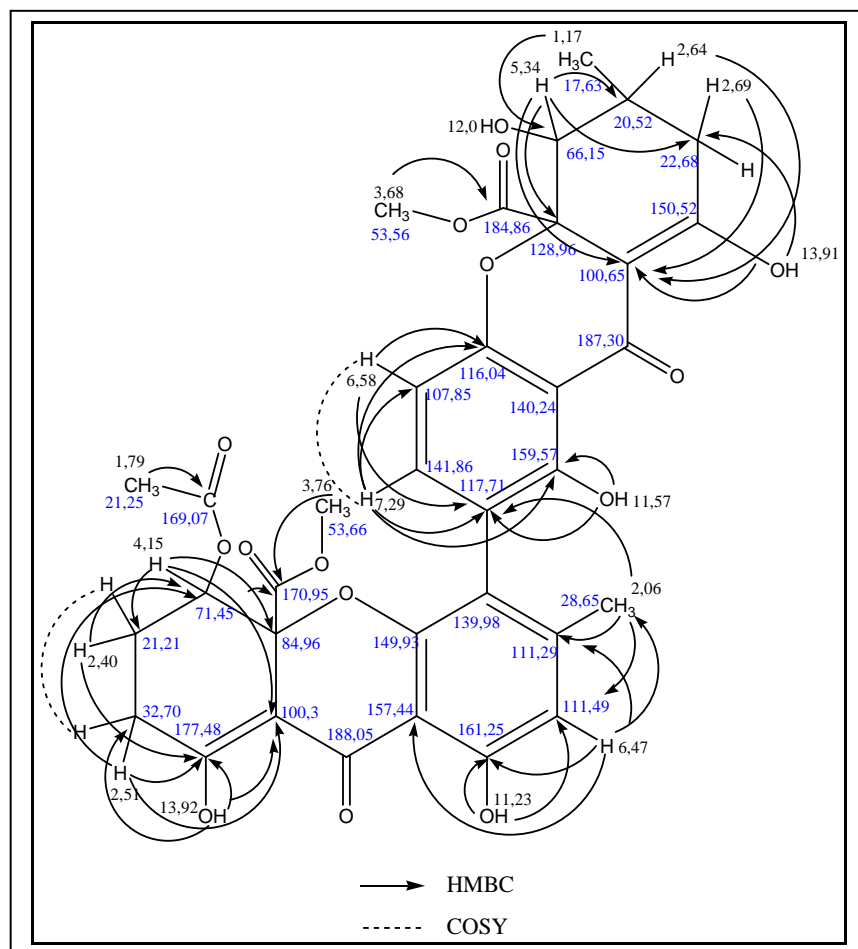


Fig. 8. The HMBC analysis of isolate compound

From the data of HMBC spectrum shows the resonance from one signals of aromatic proton on $\delta_H = 6.47$ ppm have a correlation with carbons of C-1 (161.25 ppm), 3-CH₃ (28.65 ppm), C-3 (111.29 ppm) and C-1a (157.44 ppm). The aromatic proton on $\delta_H = 6.58$ ppm has correlated with carbons of C-2' (117.71 ppm) and C-4'a (116.04 ppm). Other aromatic proton on $\delta_H = 7.29$ ppm has correlated with carbon proton of C-1' (159.57 ppm), C-2' (117.71 ppm) C-4' (107.85 ppm) and C-4'a (116.04 ppm). Signal of methoxy proton with $\delta_H = 3.68$ ppm has correlated with carbon that has a chemical shift $\delta_C = 184.86$ ppm, while other methoxy proton with $\delta_H = 3.76$ ppm has correlated with carbon on $\delta_C = 170.95$ ppm. The proton of hydroxy group with $\delta_H = 13.92$ ppm has correlated with carbon on C-7 (32.70 ppm) and C-8 (177.48 ppm). C-9 (100.35 ppm) proton from hydroxy group $\delta_H = 11.23$ ppm has correlated with carbon C-1 (161.25 ppm) and C-2' (111.49 ppm). Hydroxy protons at $\delta_H = 11.57$ ppm has a correlated with carbon C-1' (159.57 ppm), and C-2' (117.71 ppm), while other hydroxy protons on $\delta_H = 13.91$ ppm has correlated with carbon C-9' (100.65 ppm) and C-7' (22.68 ppm). Methylene protons at $\delta_H = 2.40$ ppm has correlated with carbons C-5 (71.45 ppm) and carbon C-8 (177.48 ppm). Methylene protons at $\delta_H = 2.54$ ppm has correlated with carbons C-5 (71.45 ppm), C-8 (177.48 ppm) and C-9 (100.3 ppm). The other metin protons at $\delta_H = 2.69$ ppm has correlated with carbon C-9' (100.65 ppm). Proton of methyl group at $\delta_H = 2.06$ ppm have correlated with carbons C-3 (111.29 ppm), C-2 (111.49 ppm) and C-2' (117.71 ppm). The other proton of methyl group at $\delta_H = 1.17$ ppm has correlated with carbon C-5' (66.15 ppm). Proton of metin group at $\delta_H = 4.15$ ppm has correlated with carbons C-5 (100.3 ppm), C-6 (21.21 ppm) dan C-10 (84.96 ppm). Metin proton at $\delta_H = 5.34$ ppm has correlated with carbons C-10' (128.96 ppm), C-6' (20.52 ppm), C-7' (22.68 ppm) and C-9' (100.65 ppm). The geminal proton of metin at $\delta_H = 2.66$ ppm has correlated with carbon C-9' (100.65). The methyl proton of acetyl group at $\delta_H = 1.79$ ppm has correlated with carbon $\delta_C = 169.07$ ppm. The analysis of HMBC from isolated compound can be seen at Fig. 9.

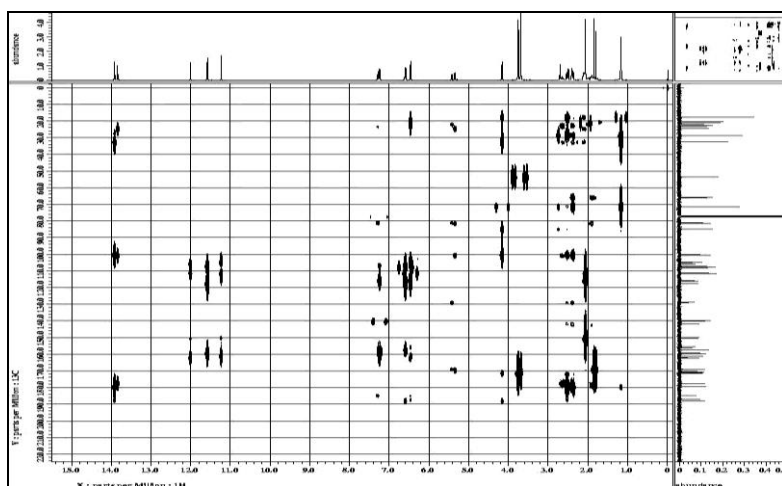


Fig. 9. Data measurement of HMBC spectrum

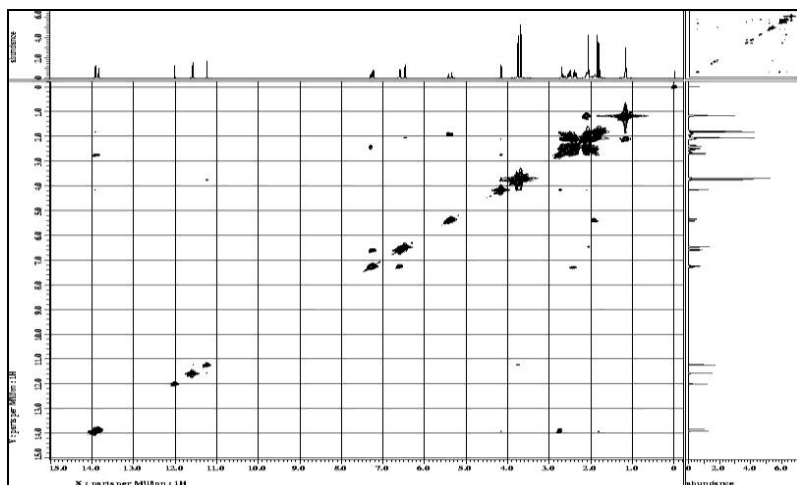


Fig. 10. Data measurement of COSY spectrum

Fig. 10 is an 2D-NMR COSY spectrum showed couples of proton spins i.e. H-4¹ 6.59 ppm and H-3¹ 7.2

ppm. Based on the results of analysis spectra by UV-Vis, FTIR, $^1\text{H-NMR}$, $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$, 2D-NMR, it can be concluded that the isolated compound are Eumitrin A₁ compound with formula structure $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{32}\text{O}_{15}$. This is supported by results measurement of LC-MS which suggests these compounds have a molecule weight 680. According to Lee et al. the study of Eumitrin A₁ structure is very difficult to elucidate²⁰. These compound has been found in previous lichen *Usnea bayleyi*(Stirt.) Zhlbr^{12,21}, and derivatives of species i.e. parmeliaceae *parmotrema cristiferum*(taylor) Hale²², but it was discovered in *U. blepharea* Motyka and was carried out its cytotoxic activity test for the first time. The structure of Eumitrin A₁ can be seen in Fig. 11.

Cytotoxic activity test of Eumitrin A₁ against Murine Leukemia P388 cells based on MTT assay²³. The IC_{50} specified by logarithmic equation. The results of measurement against cytotoxic activity shows the value of IC_{50} 4,509 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ (Fig. 12). This done in triplo value with SD of 0.73. According to categories based on the study of cytotoxic cancer cells towards some of compounds stated very active if it has the value of $\text{IC}_{50} < 5$ $\mu\text{g/mL}$, active (IC_{50} 5-10 $\mu\text{g/mL}$), moderate (IC_{50} 11-30 $\mu\text{g/mL}$) and inactive ($\text{IC}_{50} > 30$ $\mu\text{g/mL}$)^{15,24}.

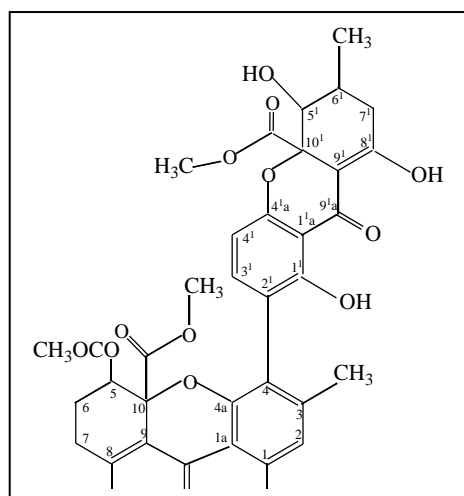


Fig. 11. Structure of isolated compound (Eumitrin A₁)

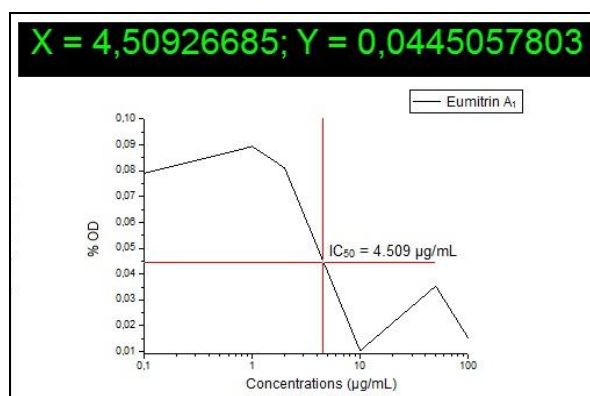


Fig. 12. Result measurement of Murine Leukemia P388 Cells

Conclusion

From the data analysis spectra by using UV-Vis, FTIR, $^1\text{H-NMR}$, $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$, 2D-NMR, it can be inferred the secondary metabolite compound has isolated from lichen *U. blepharea* Motyka plant is a Eumitrin A₁ with the formula structure of $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{32}\text{O}_{15}$ with molecule weight of 680. The cytotoxic activity test against Murine Leukemia P388 cells showed very active with IC_{50} values of 4.5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$.

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