

# Effect of ethyl acetate crude extract of *Lasiodiplodia pseudotheobromae* IBRL OS-64 against oral cavity bacteria with emphasis on *Streptococcus mutans*

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## ABSTRACT

*Streptococcus mutans* and *Streptococcus agalactiae* have been reported in human oral diseases including caries and periodontitis. Thus, the present study was performed to investigate the effect of ethyl acetate crude extract of *Lasiodiplodia pseudotheobromae* IBRL OS-64, an endophytic fungus isolated from *Ocimum sanctum* leaf against *S. mutans* and *S. agalactiae*. Disk diffusion and broth microdilution assays were used to determine the antimicrobial activities with minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) and minimum bactericidal concentration (MBC) values. Meanwhile, the microscopic analysis was used to study the structural degeneration of bacterial cells. The fungal crude extracts demonstrated favorable antibacterial activity toward both test bacteria and produced an inhibition zone ranging from 16.0 to 21.2 mm. The MIC and MBC values of the fungal crude extract toward *S. mutans* and *S. agalactiae* were determined and the results showed that the MIC and MBC values were in the range of 125–500 µg/ml and 125–1,000 µg/ml, respectively. The time-kill study suggested that the ethyl acetate crude extract possessed bactericidal effect with concentration and time-dependent. Structural degeneration studies revealed the major abnormalities occurred to *S. mutans* cells after treated with the fungal crude extract where completed alterations of their morphology with the formation of cavities and collapsed cells beyond repair occurred. Therefore, the current study suggested the ethyl acetate crude extract of *L. pseudotheobromae* IBRL OS-64 could be an effective antibacterial agent to treat oral cavity bacteria.

## INTRODUCTION

Dental caries is one of the most chronic diseases affecting the human life and considered as one of the most crucial global oral health burdens by World Health Organization (WHO), which affects various age group of people worldwide (Hoceini *et al.*, 2016; Struzycka, 2014). Cariogenic plaques occurred when aciduric and acidogenic bacterial strains increase with the increment frequency of exposure to carbohydrate. Utilizing of carbohydrate by bacterial strains leads to acidification of biofilm which resulted in demineralization of the dental hard tissues (Filoche *et al.*, 2010). Approximately 700 microbial strains have

been reported to form oral microbial communities in human where they are nourished with nutrients and provided with a conducive habitat (Kuramitsu *et al.*, 2007; Philip *et al.*, 2009). Moreover, the dental plaques supported oral cavity microbes by providing them a cocoon and they secreted dextran which allows them to bind to the surface of the tooth. Dental plaque is a microbial consortium that is found on the tooth surface as a biofilm which consists of bacterial origin and a matrix of polymers of the host (Marsh, 2004; Socransky and Haffajee, 2002). For decades, *Streptococcus mutans* is one of a normal community found in the dental plaque and has been considered as a primary causative agent of dental caries. It is capable to adhere to the enamel surface, synthesize extracellular polysaccharides which lead to dental caries and known as a strong acid producer and thus it creates an acidic environment which enhances the risk of cavity formation (Forssten *et al.*, 2010).

Even though there are several antibiotic drugs that can be used to combat oral cavity bacteria, the interest in searching and

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developing new non-toxic antimicrobial compound is increasing due to concern about safety and health. As a result, interest in using natural product or natural antimicrobial compounds has become popular among researchers worldwide. To date, the search for bioactive properties has focused mainly on plant and soil microorganisms. However, an exploration for new biotopes is necessary due to extensively used plant leads to the extinction of some species (Bentley, 2010) and rapid decrease in discovering microorganisms with new metabolites (Guo *et al.*, 2011; Schulz *et al.*, 2002). Endophytes are known as one of the trending sources of the natural bioactive compound and they can be defined as an endosymbiotic group of microbes such as bacteria and fungi that colonize the intra- and intercellular part of the plant (Pimentel *et al.*, 2011; Singh and Dubey, 2015). Endophytes have been reported to enhance the growth of their host by helping in the nutrient uptake and they are also capable to improve host ability to tolerate of various environmental stresses, besides enhancing the resistant to pests and insects. Furthermore, they are able to produce various bioactive compounds with pharmacological interest such as antibiotics and enzymes (Joseph and Priya, 2011; Parthasarathi *et al.*, 2012). *Lasiodiplodia* is a member of the family Botryosphaeriaceae that has been isolated from more than 1,000 host plants worldwide including native forest trees and commercially important agriculture (Mehl *et al.*, 2013). This genus is frequently reported as a plant pathogen especially in mango all over the world, and also associated with several plant disease symptoms including canker (Urbez-Torres *et al.*, 2008), dieback (Ismail *et al.*, 2012), and decline (Burruano *et al.*, 2008). It is also known as the endophytic fungus that has been isolated from various host plants including mistletoe (Qian *et al.*, 2014), mangroves (Chen *et al.*, 2016), *Jatropha curcas* L. (Sulaiman *et al.*, 2012), and *Piper hispidum* (Orlandelli *et al.*, 2015). Secondary metabolites produced by *Lasiodiplodia* species have been reported to exhibit anticancer (Pandi *et al.*, 2011), anti-inflammatory (Chen *et al.*, 2017), herbicidal (Adetunji and Oloke, 2013), anti-proliferative activity (Alves da Cunha *et al.*, 2012), antibacterial (Wei *et al.*, 2014), and antifungal (Orlandelli *et al.*, 2015) properties. Among the bioactive compounds included lasiodiplines (Alves da Cunha *et al.*, 2012), taxol (Pandi *et al.*, 2011), theobroxide (Li *et al.*, 2007), lasioplodin (Kashima *et al.*, 2009), preussomerins (Chen *et al.*, 2016), and indole-3-carboxylic acid (Qian *et al.*, 2014).

Therefore, the present study is focused mainly on the evaluation of ethyl acetate extract of *Lasiodiplodia pseudotheobromae* IBRL OS-64 for its activity against oral cavity bacteria, due to its various medicinal potentials.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

### Maintenance of *L. pseudotheobromae* IBRL OS-64

The fungal endophyte was provided by IBRL, School of Biological Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Penang, Malaysia. The isolate was cultured on potato dextrose agar nourished with host plant powder (2 g/l) and incubated at 30°C for 5 days before storing at 4°C prior to use. The purity and viability of the fungal isolate were maintained by sub-culturing every month on sterile fresh media.

### Culture medium, cultivation, and extraction of extracellular secondary metabolites

Yeast extract sucrose broth, cultivation and extraction process were done according to the method described by Taufiq and Darah (2018).

### Culture maintenance of test microorganisms

Two oral cavity bacteria, *S. mutans* and *S. agalactiae* culture were provided by the IBRL, School of Biological Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, Malaysia. The bacterial culture was cultured and maintained on brain heart infusion agar (BHIA) and incubated at 37°C for 24 hours before storing them at 4°C before use. To ensure their purity and viability, the cultures were sub-cultured every month on fresh BHIA slants.

### Disk diffusion susceptibility assay

The assay was carried out as per the procedure described in Clinical and Laboratory Standard Institute standard M100-S16 (Tong *et al.*, 2011) with slight modifications. The experiments were performed in triplicate and the results were expressed as mean value  $\pm$  standard error of the inhibition zone obtained from three separated occasions.

### MIC and MBC determinations

The determination of minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) and minimum bactericidal concentration (MBC) values of the fungal crude extract was performed using broth micro-dilution assay in sterile 96-wells U-shaped microtiter plate as described by Jorgensen and Ferrero (2009) and Tong *et al.* (2012), respectively, with some modifications.

### Time-kill study of *S. mutans*

Time-kill curve and bacterial cell reduction analysis were carried out according to the method described by Taufiq and Darah (2019) and Ibrahim *et al.* (2015), respectively. The experiments were conducted in triplicate on separate occasions.

### Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and transmission electron microscopy (TEM)

Samples were prepared according to the method described by Taufiq and Darah (2019). The specimen preparations for SEM and TEM were performed according to the method described by Mares (1989) and Yagalatha *et al.* (2011), respectively. The prepared specimens were then viewed under a scanning electron microscope (Leica Cambridge, S-360, United Kingdom) and transmission electron microscope (Philips CM12, Eindhoven, The Netherlands).

### Statistical analysis

Data obtained are presented as means  $\pm$  standard deviations (SD) of triplicate. The antibacterial activity of the ethyl acetate crude extract against two oral cavity bacteria was compared by Student *t*-test, using SPSS Version 18.0. Statistical significance was assumed at the 0.05 levels ( $p < 0.05$ ).

## RESULTS

Antibacterial activity of the ethyl acetate crude extract on the oral cavity bacteria is illustrated in Table 1. The fungal

crude extract exhibited antibacterial activity with the diameter of inhibition zones ranging from 16.0 to 21.2 mm. Results revealed that *S. mutans* was more susceptible to the fungal crude extract compared to *S. agalactiae*. There were significant differences in the antibacterial activities for both bacterial strains as tested using *t*-test, (*p* < 0.05).

Subsequent experiments were performed to determine MIC and MBC values of the crude extract against the oral cavity bacteria. The susceptibility test results for ethyl acetate crude extract are presented in Table 2. The MIC values ranged between 125 and 500 µg/ml, whereas the MBC values ranged between 125 and 1,000 µg/ml. The results revealed that ethyl acetate crude extract showed a significant inhibitory effect on *S. mutans* since the MIC and the MBC were in the same values. As for *S. agalactiae*, the MBC was higher than the MIC values, indicating that the concentration of the fungal extract would have to be increased to kill bacterial cells, instead of inhibiting their growth. However, the results showed that the MBC/MIC ratio was less than four folds which indicated that the fungal crude extract possesses bactericidal effect toward *S. mutans* and *S. agalactiae*. The results obtained confirmed the antibacterial potential of the fungal crude extract. Based on the results of disk diffusion susceptibility assay and the MIC value, bacterial strain *S. mutans* was chosen for a subsequent experiment on the time-kill curve

**Table 1.** Antibacterial activity of the ethyl acetate crude extract of *L. pseudotheobromae* IBRL OS-64 against oral cavity bacteria.

Bacterial strains	Zone of inhibition (mm)		
	EA* extract (1 mg/ml)	Chloramphenicol (30 µg/ml)	Ampicillin (30 µg/ml)
<i>Streptococcus mutans</i>	21.2 ± 0.3 <sup>a</sup>	28.4 ± 0.3	-
<i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i>	16.0 ± 0.2 <sup>b</sup>	-	27.2 ± 0.4

\*EA = ethyl acetate. \*\*Superscript shows the significant different between two means (*t*-test, *p* < 0.05).

**Table 2.** MIC and MBC of fungal crude extract against oral cavity bacteria.

Microorganisms	MIC (µg/ml)	MBC (µg/ml)	MBC/MIC
<i>S. mutans</i>	125	125	1
<i>S. agalactiae</i>	500	1000	2

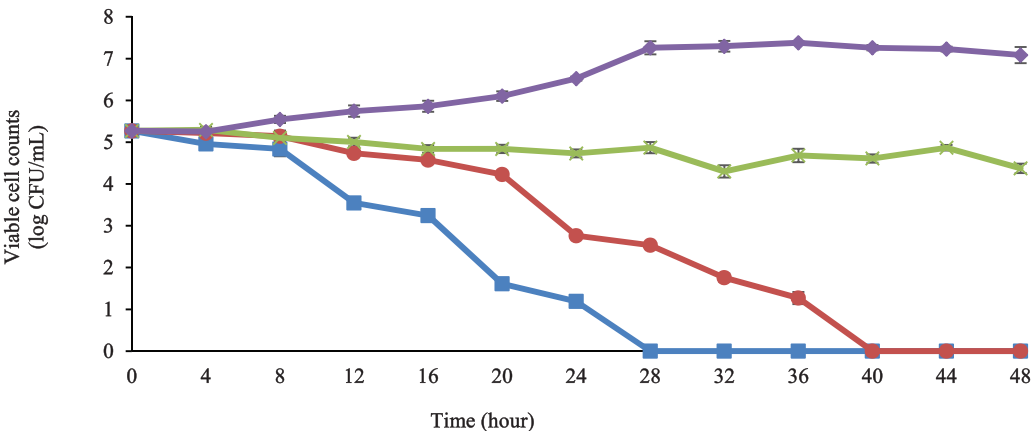
as well as the structural degeneration studies through SEM and TEM observations.

Time-kill study of the ethyl acetate extract against oral cavity bacteria, *S. mutans* for 48 hours of the incubation period is shown in Figure 1. Growth control of *S. mutans* demonstrated a normal growth pattern with four typical growth phases of bacteria, namely, lag, exponential, stationary, and death phases. The bacterial cell experienced a lag phase for the first 4 hours of the incubation period. After that, they undergo an exponential phase up to 28 hours of incubation period with the highest colony count achieved was approximately 1.8 × 10<sup>7</sup> CFU/ml. The growth of bacterial cells was then into a stationary phase (up to 38 hours of incubation) and followed by the death phase thereafter.

The growth curve of *S. mutans* which was exposed to ½ MIC (62.5 µg/ml) of extracts showed almost a stagnant line with no significant cell growth throughout the 48 hours of the incubation period. The viable cell counts of the bacteria declined gradually in which the lowest number of bacterial cell count recorded was 2.0 × 10<sup>4</sup> and 2.3 × 10<sup>4</sup> CFU/ml, at incubation hours of 32 and 48, respectively. The results indirectly revealed that the fungal extract had not exerted bactericidal effect on the test bacterial cells, *S. mutans* at low concentration such as ½ MIC.

Following that, with the addition of MIC (125.0 µg/ml) concentration of the extract, the number of viable cells was gradually declined from the 0 to 20<sup>th</sup> hour of the incubation period. After that, the growth curve showed a steep decline of the viable cells counts after 20<sup>th</sup> hour of treatment. Moreover, all *S. mutans* cells were killed after 40 hours of treatment with the extract without regrowth of bacteria cell throughout the experiment. Besides that, a similar phenomenon was observed when the bacterial culture was treated with double MIC (250.0 µg/ml) concentration in which the number of bacterial cell decreased drastically. However, the higher concentration of extract has rapidly killed the cells up to 99.9% after 28 hours of the incubation period. Therefore, the results revealed that the fungal crude extract possesses strong bactericidal effect on *S. mutans* without the emergence of new resistance cells and the bactericidal effect of the extract was concentration-dependent.

The killing efficiency of the fungal crude extract on *S. mutans* is shown in Table 3 with no bacterial cell reduction was



**Figure 1.** Time-kill curve of fungal crude extract against *S. mutans* at different concentrations.

**Table 3.** Reduction in viable *S. mutans* cell counts in the presence of fungal extract at different concentration levels.

Percentage of reduction (%)	Time (hour)			
	Control	½ MIC	MIC	2 MIC
50	NR	4–8	4–8	0–4
90	NR	12–16	8–12	8–12
99	NR	NR	20–24	8–12
99.9	NR	NR	20–24	16–20

NR: not reach.

observed for the growth control. As for ½ MIC concentration, 50% and 90% reduction of initial inoculum was achieved after (4–8 hours) and (12–16 hours) treated with the extract, respectively. Meanwhile, MIC and 2 × MIC showed growth reduction up to 99.9% of initial inoculum after an incubation period of 40 and 28 hours, respectively, with double MIC able to shortly kill all the bacterial cells. Overall, the effects exerted by the fungal crude extract were observed through the growth curve of *S. mutans* where the extract was able to reduce the growth of bacterial cell compared to non-treated culture. The results revealed that a longer time of exposure was required to achieve a higher percentage of bacterial growth reduction and higher concentration, the crude extract was also required for the rapid inhibition of all the bacterial cells. Based on the time-kill analysis, it was obviously seen the potency of the ethyl acetate extract of *L. pseudotheobromae* IBRL OS-64 as antibacterial agents against oral cavity bacteria.

The morphological changes of *S. mutans* cells treated with fungal crude extract for 36 hours are illustrated in Figure 2. Structural degeneration of the bacterial cells at different time intervals (12 hours, 24 hours, and 36 hours) was compared to the treated cells at 0 hour (control). In general, the degree of disruption of *S. mutans* cells was depending on exposure time to fungal extract, whereby the severity of the cell alterations increased with the increment time of exposure. Figure 2a shows the treated control cells appeared as smooth surface of shape and its rigidity with the normal coccal chains. However, changes were observed on the bacterial cells after 12 hours exposure with the fungal crude extract which was indicated by the formation of cavities (Figure 2b).

After 24 hours of the exposure period, more cavities formed and cell debris were observed on the bacterial cells treated with the extract. In fact, some of the *S. mutans* cells started to lyse, shrunk, and collapsed (Fig. 2c). The disruption of the bacterial cells has continuously occurred after 36 hours of incubation period whereby more cavities formed and cell debris were observed. Most of the bacterial cells were lysed, shrunk abruptly, and completely collapsed (Fig. 2d). The normal and smooth coccal chains shape of *S. mutans* was no longer observed but only the crumpled cell residues were left. Overall, the abnormalities of bacterial cells were observed after treating with fungal extract and this destruction could be due to severe alterations indicated by morphological disorganization and invaginations. At this time, the bacterial cells begun to clump together as a quick response to stress condition. Ron (2006) suggested that bacteria were able to secrete sticky mucus under stress condition as part of their responsive

mechanisms which led the bacterial cell to clump together which finally affected their normal function.

Morphological and cytological changes of the bacterial cells that were observed under SEM were then further observed under TEM. In general, the effect of the fungal extract was proven to change the morphology and cytology of *S. mutans* cells. Figure 3 exhibits the effect of the ethyl acetate crude extract of *L. pseudotheobromae* IBRL OS-64 against bacterial cells as observed under TEM at different exposure time. Results revealed the intact structures of the cell organelles including nucleus and granules in the cytoplasm.

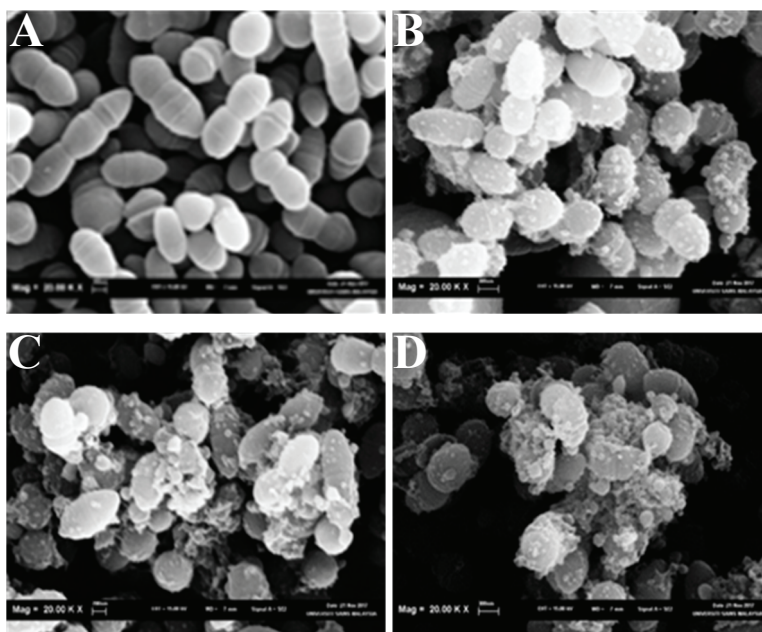
The dark color of the cell indicated the cytoplasm occupying the cell and the cell was enclosed with a cell wall with uniform thickness. The cell wall of the bacteria was slightly burst indicated by smeared line at a certain part of the cell wall after 12 hours exposure to the fungal extract (Fig. 3a). However, some of the organelles in the cytoplasm were still maintaining their rigidity. Figure 3b illustrated the bacterial cells after treated with fungal extract for 24 hours. The photomicrographs clearly showed the cytolysis or cell bursting and leakage of cytoplasm occurred whereby some of the organelles were observed to out-flow. At this point, the invagination of the bacterial cell started and drastically formed. This condition could be due to the metabolism of the fungal extract that prevents the function of organelles inside the cytoplasm. However, some part of the bacterial cell wall was still maintaining their rigidity.

The bacterial cell that was exposed to the fungal extract for 36 hours is shown in Figure 3d. Results revealed that the bacterial cells were completely collapsed, which are indicated by uniform cell wall formation and loss of their integrity. The organelles inside the cytoplasm were not clearly observed and this may be due to out-flow. Overall, the structural degenerations of *S. mutans* can be observed by the formation of crumpled cells, disintegration of the cell wall, uneven organelles formation, and leakage of cytoplasm that leading to severe cell damage. Thus, the results revealed the effect of ethyl acetate crude extract of *L. pseudotheobromae* IBRL OS-64 on *S. mutans* cells as an effective and potential antibacterial agent against oral cavity bacteria.

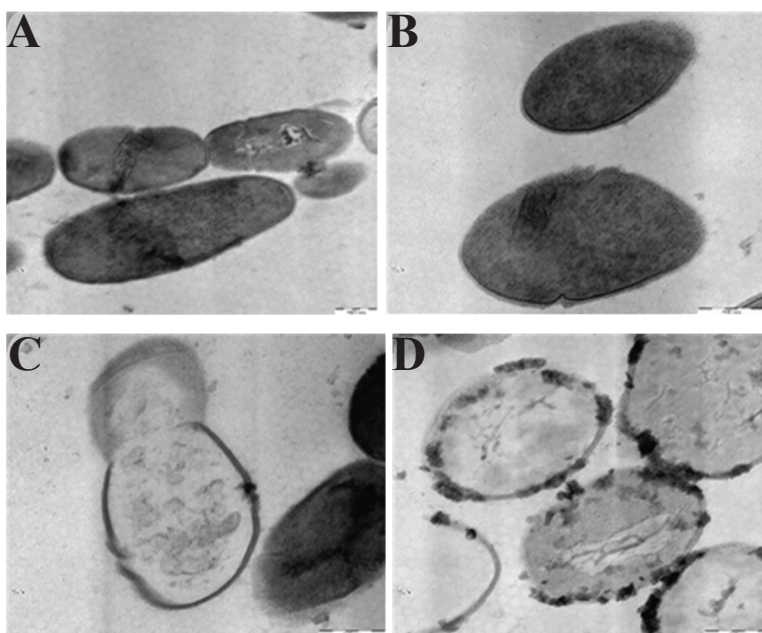
## DISCUSSIONS

The use of the ethyl acetate crude extract of endophytic fungi with antimicrobial activities can be a great significance in the pharmaceutical field. Many endophytic fungi have been studied and utilized due to their antimicrobial properties. The present study showed that the ethyl acetate crude extract of *L. pseudotheobromae* IBRL OS-64, an endophytic fungus isolated from the leaves of a medicinal plant, *Ocimum sanctum* possesses a promising antibacterial activity against oral cavity bacteria. This medicinal plant was selected as a host plant to isolate endophytic fungi since it is widely used in the traditional treatment (Pattanayak *et al.*, 2010). The selection of organic solvent for extraction is crucial since it can influence the presence of bioactive substances in the extracts and might affect its activity (Kandasamy and Arunachalam, 2008). Therefore, several organic solvents were used to extract fermentative broth and the results revealed that the ethyl acetate was the best organic solvent (data not shown). Current result was in agreement with the previous studies that employed ethyl acetate as organic solvent in order to obtain bioactive





**Figure 2.** SEM micrographs of *S. mutans* treated with 1 mg/ml of *L. pseudotheobromae* IBRL OS-64 ethyl acetate extract at different time of exposure. (a) 0 hour [control], (b) 12 hours, (c) 24 hours, and (d) 36 hours. Scale bars: 200 nm.



**Figure 3.** TEM micrographs of *S. mutans* treated with 1 mg/ml of *L. pseudotheobromae* IBRL OS-64 ethyl acetate extract at different time of exposure. (a) 0 hour [control], (b) 12 hours, (c) 24 hours, and (d) 36 hours. Scale bars: 200 nm.

compounds produced by endophytic fungi (Pongcharoen *et al.*, 2008). Moreover, most antimicrobial compounds exist in nature as mid-polar substances and therefore, they can be extracted using dichloromethane and ethyl acetate (Tong *et al.*, 2014).

The current findings revealed that the *S. agalactiae* was less susceptible to the extract than *S. mutans* and we suspected this phenomenon is caused by the mechanism of drug resistance

and antibiotic inactivation enzyme. Previous studies reported the resistant of *S. agalactiae* toward erythromycin due to efflux pump mediated by *mefA* genes and ribosomal modification encoded by *erm* genes (Arpin *et al.*, 1999). Besides that, mechanism of antibiotic inactivation enzyme such as O-adenyltransferases and N-acetyltransferases encoded by gene *ant* and *aac*, respectively, resulted in high resistance level of *S. agalactiae* toward

aminoglycosides (Poyart *et al.*, 2003). It is also noteworthy that the current study of *S. agalactiae* strain showed resistance mechanism toward chloramphenicol whereby its growth was not inhibited by the antibiotic. Morici *et al.*, (2017) suggested that chloramphenicol resistance mechanism might be due to a new mosaic integrative and conjugative element produced by *S. agalactiae* strains that carrying the resistance genes known as *catQ*.

The effect of the crude fungal extract toward *S. mutans* and *S. agalactiae* can be considered as bactericidal due to low ratio of MBC/MIC. According to Levison (2000), the MBC value was not more four-fold higher than their MIC value for bacterial drugs. On disk diffusion assay, the fungal crude extract produced a larger diameter of clear zone toward *S. agalactiae* but did not show lower MBC values. This may be due to the capability and rate of the crude extract to diffuse through the disk as well as the depth of agar medium. The difference results obtained in MBC values and the diameter of clear zones may be due to the diffusion of small- or medium-sized polar compound (Tong *et al.*, 2014). In addition, the rate of extract diffusion and hydrophobicity of the bioactive compounds were also affect the diameter of the clear zone in disk diffusion assay (Thamlikitkul *et al.*, 2008). Meanwhile, Scorzoni *et al.* (2007) suggested that non-polar antimicrobial compounds and volatile compounds such as sequesterpene cannot easily diffuse into the agar and the disk diffusion assay was not suitable to be implemented. Silva *et al.* (2005) reported if a mixture constituent of bioactive compounds was applied on disk diffusion, the different rate of diffusion may occur and the result might be unreliable. Besides that, Barry (1991) reported that the depth of the agar medium also influence the diameter of inhibition zone whereby in relatively thin agar, the downward diffusion of the fungal extract was limited and the outward diffusion becomes rapid resulting in a "false positive" result with larger of inhibition zone. Therefore, the broth microdilution assay as more sensitive as compared to disk diffusion assay and it provides more information regarding on relative degree of susceptibility of bacteria to the natural products (Luber *et al.*, 2003).

Time-kill curve has been used to investigate tremendous antimicrobial agents. It is a flexible alternative approach that provides more dynamic information regarding on relationship effect of concentration over the time of antimicrobial agents (Nunart *et al.*, 2017). This approach was frequently used as the basis in the investigation of pharmacodynamics drug interactions and it provides descriptive information on the pharmacodynamics of antimicrobial drugs (Tam *et al.*, 2005). The antimicrobial effect of various extract concentrations levels can be directly compared over a wide range of concentrations and times through this approach (Mueller *et al.*, 2004). To the best of authors' knowledge, this is the first research regarding on the *in vitro* activity of ethyl acetate crude extract of *L. pseudotheobromae* IBRL OS-64, an endophytic fungus that was isolated from the medicinal herb. The time-kill curve of control showed the bacterial growth exponentially until reaching maximum bacterial concentration at the stationary stage. As for the lowest extract concentration ( $\frac{1}{2}$  MIC), the reduction of bacterial was observed in the first 4 hours of exposure and the re-growth occurred. The result was consistent with the previous study in the bacterial kill-time curve of tedizolid (Nunart *et al.*, 2017). At low extract concentration, the post-antibiotic effect might occur whereby the remaining bacteria would begin to

resume their growth. Biphasic killing curve with A decline in killing rate over the time was observed when bacterial cells were exposed to a lower concentration of extract, indicating the presence of persister which less susceptible to antimicrobial drugs (Nielsen *et al.*, 2007). The regrowth phenomenon was attributed to two distinct sub-populations with different susceptibility in which the selective growing of resistant sub-population take over the preferential killing of the susceptible sub-population at a specified time of interaction (Tam *et al.*, 2005).

In the current study, the SEM and TEM photomicrograph's views clearly demonstrated the inhibitory effects of the fungal extract on *S. mutans*. SEM study showed that the fungal extract induced the formation of blebs on the surface of bacterial cells. Similar observations were reported by Hartmann *et al.* (2010). The formation of blebs or vesicle-like structures could be suggested as antibiotic resistance mechanism of *S. mutans* toward fungal extract. Membrane vesicles enclosed eDNA which is one of the crucial major components in biofilm formation and acts as a cell to cell communications in several bacteria including *S. mutans* (Tashiro *et al.*, 2017). However, these vesicles could be used by fungal extract to counterpart the bacterial cell since it can be a target site for antibiotics. The abnormal cell would be inherited through cell communications and thus, resulted in the disintegration of bacterial membrane cell which leads to cell death. Besides that, Hyde *et al.* (2006) suggested that morphological changes of the bacteria cells exposed to antibiotic occur when the antimicrobial agent attacked the cell membrane. The present study revealed that the bioactive substance of the ethyl acetate extract attached on the cell surface structure had permeabilized the cell membranes and any abnormalities occur in cell wall integrity would have a tremendous influence on bacterial growth. This prediction was in agreement with Ibrahim *et al.* (2013) who reported the inhibitory effect of crude methanolic extract from *Phyllanthus niruri* on the bacteria's cell wall which leads to the complete damage to the cells. As shown by TEM photomicrographs, the irregular shape, loss of integrity, and the leakage of bacterial cells due to extensive loss of organelles in cytoplasm, damage of cell envelope, the initiation of cell's autolytic mechanisms, and removal of crucial ions and molecules (Ibrahim *et al.*, 2015). Black (2008) suggested that a cell with abnormalities such as non-rigid and non-sturdy usually tends to burst when exposed to the low osmotic pressure that leads to cell leakage. Thus, these unstable cells were collapsed beyond repair and resulted in bacterial cell death. Therefore, the present study clearly showed that an endophytic fungus, *L. pseudotheobromae* IBRL OS-64 isolated from the medicinal herb, *O. sanctum* possesses antibacterial activity against cariogenic bacteria, *S. mutans*. The fungal extract was proven to be bactericidal at higher concentration and could be a resource in the development of therapeutically natural products.

## CONCLUSION

In summary, the present study confirms that the antibacterial potential of the extract of the endophytic fungus, *L. pseudotheobromae* IBRL OS-64. The fungal crude ethyl acetate extract is proven to be an antibacterial agent for oral cavity bacteria, *S. mutans*. Furthermore, it may have the potential for dental caries treatment although this use will require additional investigation. However, it is important to point out that crude extract such as this

needs to be further purified to obtain pure active substance(s) and its individual antibacterial activity analysis can be suggested on the basis of the present study.

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