Hypoglycemic and antioxidant effects of *Syzygium polyanthum* leaves extract on alloxan induced hyperglycemic Wistar Rats

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**ABSTRACT**

**Introduction**: Hyperglycemia is a common signature of Diabetes Mellitus (DM) which could be defined as fasting blood glucose higher than 110 mg/dL or 2-hour post prandial blood glucose higher than 180 mg/dL. One of the consequences of hyperglycemia is increased rate of the oxidative process that could potentially damage many organs. The damage could be assessed by measuring 8-Hydroxy-2 Deoxygroanosine (8-OHdG) that represent the damage of the plasma membrane. In this study, we aimed to evaluate the efficacy of *Syzygium polyanthum* leaves extracts as antioxidant agent on hyperglycemic Wistar rats.

**Methods**: 40 Wistar rats were used in this study. Hyperglycemic state was achieved by administration of alloxan for two weeks for each rat. 3 Kg of *S.polyanthum* leaves was used for extraction which yields 0.730 ethanol extract. The rats were divided into positive control, P1 (alloxan only), P2 (Alloxan + 0.5 mg kg⁻¹ body weight Z polyanthum extract), P3 (Alloxan + 2.0 mg kg⁻¹ body weight Z polyanthum extract), P4 (Alloxan + 5.0 mg kg⁻¹ body weight S.polyanthum extract), P5 (Alloxan + 0.18 mg/day/kg body weight glibenclamide).

**Result**: The result shown that the rats which received *S.polyanthum* extract had significantly lower blood glucose level (65.91 % lower than control) and lower level of 8-OHdG (50.20% lower than control). The effective dose to optimally lower blood glucose and 8-OHdG was found at 5.0 mg kg⁻¹.

**Conclusion**: *S.polyanthum* ethanolic leaves extract was an effective anti-hyperglycemic and antioxidant agent with optimal dose found at 5.0 mg kg⁻¹.

**Keywords**: *Syzygium polyanthum* leaves extract; blood glucose; 8-Hydroxy-2 Deoxyguanosine (8-OHdG)


**INTRODUCTION**

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is one of the most prevalent non-communicable diseases worldwide and contribute significantly to the chronic disease related mortality and morbidity.¹ The signature mark of DM is elevated blood glucose which is defined as fasting glucose level higher than 110 mg/dL or more than 180 mg/dL for 2-hours post prandial glucose. Hyperglycemia has been proved to play a direct role in many of diabetic-related complication such as retinopathy, nephropathy, atheroclerosis, diabetic foot, and neuropathy.² ³ The mechanisms that link hyperglycemia with these complications include induction of subclinical inflammation, the formation of glycation product, as well as increased production of free radicals which result in oxidative stress. Hyperglycemia increases free radicals productions through polyol pathway, hexosamine pathway, and by inflammation induced by advanced glycation end product (AGE). ⁴

Current therapy of DM relies on hypoglycemic agents to lower blood glucose level which ranged from insulin sensitizing agents like metformin and thiazolidinedione to insulin and insulin secretagogue like sulfonylurea and glinid.⁵ However, these agents only focus on lowering blood glucose and just have little or no effect on oxidative stress that directly results from hyperglycemia and the main mechanism that lead to the diabetic-related complications.⁶ Some studies have shown that some agents like thiazolidinedione could increase internal antioxidant capacity, but these reports were still conflicting. Furthermore, its adverse effects such as hepatotoxicity also hinder its clinical application.⁷

*Syzygium polyanthum* is a plant that belongs to Myrtaceae family that commonly consumed in Indonesia and Malaysia. Several studies had proved that its extract holds anti-hyperglycemic potential that could be applied as a new therapy for DM. Furthermore, due to the rich tannins, flavonoids and terpenoids content, it also a potential sources of the antioxidant agent. This combination could offer a new perspective in anti-diabetic treatment and hold potency to more efficient way to not only control the hyperglycemia but also to effectively prevent the development of diabetic complications.⁸

However, both the effects of *S.polyanthum* extract have not been investigated thoroughly, especially its antioxidant effect. Therefore, this study aimed to study both its hypoglycemic and antioxidant effect of *S.polyanthum* ethanolic leaves extract.
METHODS

A true experimental study with pre- and post-test control group design was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of *S. polyanthum* leaves extract as a hypoglycemic and antioxidant agent. 40 Wistar rats were used in this study which grouped into five groups namely P0 (positive control), P1 (negative control), P2 (alloxan-induced diabetes + 0.5 mg kg\(^{-1}\) *S. polyanthum* leaves extract), P3 (alloxan-induced diabetes + 2.0 mg kg\(^{-1}\) *S. polyanthum* leaves extract), P4 (alloxan-induced diabetes + 5.0 mg kg\(^{-1}\) *S. polyanthum* leaves extract), and P5 (alloxan-induced diabetes + 125 mg/kg glibenclamide). The alloxan was used to induce hyperglycemic condition in the rats by applying it for one week for each rat except those that included in the negative control group. The blood glucose level and 8-OHdG level were assessed at Laboratory of Organic Chemistry Departement of Chemistry and Analytical Science faculty of Udayana University.

The *S. polyanthum* extract was obtained by macerating 3 kg of *S. polyanthum* leaves in 1000 ml ethanol for 48 hours. The resulting solution then filtered and evaporated using rotary vacuum evaporator. The resulting product then analyzed using gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) to unveil its content. The extract was fed to the rats by using a feeding tube.

RESULTS

The leaves of *S. polyanthum* were successfully extracted and analyzed using GC-MS. The result of GC-MS analysis of showed eight peaks of compounds with different retention (t\(_R\)), shown in Figure 1 with a retention time (t\(_R\)), peak area (%), and molecule weights presented in Table 1. The retention time showed 18.93 which indicates a function to modulate the transcription factor peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor –alpha (PPAR-α) retinoid receptor X (RX). Eight major compounds contained in the extract are shown in Table 1 which majority is the precursor of chlorophyll. The highest peak was found to be the phytol group.

The animal analysis showed that the *S. polyanthum* extract effectively decreased blood glucose with the extent of hypoglycemic effect was in linear proportion to its dosage (Table 2). The most significant drop in mean plasma glucose level was observed at the dosage 5.0 mg kg\(^{-1}\) which decrease blood glucose level 65.91% than control. It hypoglycemic effect was found to be higher compared to glibenclamide at 0.18mg/day/200g body weight. One-way ANOVA and posthoc analysis showed that the results were statistically significant.

Furthermore, the antioxidant effect of *S. polyanthum* leaves extracts also proved in this study (Table 3). The results showed a steady decrease in the 8-OHdG concentration in linear proportion to the extract dosage. The anti-oxidant effect of this extract also proved to be significantly higher than glibenclamide.

DISCUSSION

Diabetes mellitus is a chronic debilitating disease that affects approximately 422 million people in...
Table 3  8-OHdG Level Before and After Treatment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Observation of 8-OHdG level (ng/dL)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pretest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P₀</td>
<td>6.35 ± 0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P₁</td>
<td>6.75± 0.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P₂</td>
<td>6.65± 0.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P₃</td>
<td>6.41± 0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P₄</td>
<td>6.38± 0.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P₅</td>
<td>6.40± 0.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


discuss the results of their study. Since diabetes is a chronic disease, the long-term management is crucial to prevent the development of complications. The authors provide evidence on the potential of certain compounds derived from plants, such as methanol extract of S. polyanthum leaves, as a potential anti-diabetic agent. The extract was shown to have both hypoglycemic and antioxidant properties, which are essential in managing diabetes.

2014. It grave consequences mostly caused by its complication which mainly affect macrovascular and microvascular. Macro-vascular complication includes atherosclerosis, stroke, and acute myocardial infarction while the microvascular complication manifests as neuropathy, retinopathy, nephropathy as well as the diabetic foot which contribute to most diabetic-related morbidity. With its health burden, it is important to find and evaluate new agent for diabetic therapy that addresses not only the hyperglycemia but also the oxidative stress that resulted from it.

The oxidative stress that resulted from the hyperglycemic condition is deeply entrenched in the pathogenesis of diabetic related complication. The primary mechanisms of increased oxidative stress in hyperglycemic condition are due to increased rate of polyol pathway, increased protein kinase C activation, increased intracellular AGE formation, and increased hexosamine pathway activation. The resulting free radicals damage cellular compartments and leading to cellular dysfunction, apoptosis and low-grade inflammation, all of which play the central role in the pathogenesis of microvascular and macrovascular dysfunction.

S. polyanthum leaves are commonly consumed in South-East Asia region including Indonesia. However, besides as food, it holds several therapeutic potentials for several diseases. It also proved to have the cytotoxic effect that could be exploited as an anti-cancer agent. It also had some antimicrobial and antioxidant effect. However, its hypoglycemic activity is only recently revealed.

The blood glucose lowering effect of S. polyanthum is still poorly understood. Nevertheless, several mechanisms are thought to be involved. Widyawati et al showed that methanol extract of S. polyanthum could inhibit a α-glucosidase enzyme which yields an effect similar to acarbose. Furthermore, it also enhances the expression and translocation of GLUT-4 which increase glucose uptake by muscle and adipose tissues. The flavonoid compounds of the extract also could help regenerate the dysfunctional pancreatic β-cell which could improve glucose control by optimizing insulin production.

Unlike its hypoglycemic property, the antioxidant effect of S. polyanthum is only mentioned in one study by Widyawati et al. It was stated that its antioxidant properties mainly due to its flavonoids content that has strong antioxidant properties. However, our research confirms this notion by showing a lower level of 8-OHdG in S. polyanthum extract-fed rats. This antioxidant property could offer great benefit in preventing the complication of DM which is mainly caused by oxidative stress.

However, despite the extent of our findings and facts from previous researchers, the clinical application of S. polyanthum extract is still needed to be evaluated carefully. Toxicology research is needed to assess its dosage range before it could administer to human. Furthermore, elucidation and isolation of its active components are also necessary to enable mass production while avoiding adverse reaction as well as interaction with another therapeutic agent.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, the ethanol leaves extract of S. polyanthum was showed significant antihyperglycemic and antioxidant properties, especially at 5.0 mg Kg⁻¹ bw dosage. Thus, it made it as a potential candidate for the new anti-diabetic agent. However, further studies are needed to evaluate its dosage range and isolate the active compounds.

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