

Streptomyces sp. strain MUSC 5 from mangrove forest in Malaysia: Identification, antioxidant potential and chemical profiling of its methanolic extract

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Abstract: The present study explored the antioxidant potential of a *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5 from the mangrove forest soil in the Pahang State, Peninsular of Malaysia and determined the presence of biologically active chemical constituents contained in the methanolic extract. The 16S rRNA genomic DNA extraction, phylogenetic analysis and phenotyping methods were used to confirm identity of strain. The antioxidant potential of methanolic extract from *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5 was assessed using a number of antioxidants assays which included free radical scavenging assays, metal chelation and ferric reduction antioxidant power (FRAP) assay. Furthermore, Gas chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS) was used to determine the presence of biologically active chemical compounds in methanolic extract of *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5. The strain was confirmed as belonging to *Streptomyces* genus. Antioxidant studies of the methanolic extract from *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5 revealed antioxidant activity of $24.97 \pm 0.99\%$, $22.95 \pm 3.21\%$ and $26.81 \pm 1.05\%$ against free radicals ABTS, DPPH and metal chelation, respectively. The result of FRAP assay was expressed in dose of 1-2 mg which was equivalent to 1.73- 2.15 microgram (μg) of ascorbic acid. GC-MS analysis carried out on the methanolic extract of *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5 detected the presence of 11 known compounds belonging to pyrrolopyrazine, esters, fatty acid esters, triterpene and an alkane group of compounds. The study supports the notion that *Streptomyces* from underexplored mangrove forest offer promising *Streptomyces* with antioxidant activity and could serve as important sources for new antioxidant agents.

Keywords: *Streptomyces*; Antioxidative; Mangrove; Radical scavenging

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Introduction

Oxidative stress is a pathological condition caused by presence of high levels of reactive oxygen species (ROS) with an insufficient amount of defensive antioxidants

in the body originating from mitochondria, in some instances, can be acquired as air pollutant such as carbon monoxide^[1]. To date, there is growing evidence linking oxidative stress caused by mitochondrial dysfunction with the progression of degenerative diseases in the

adult population^[2]. The role of antioxidant is to supply the body with optimal antioxidants, thereby reducing unwanted effects of circulating ROS. Previously, a study that investigated natural antioxidants as dietary supplements was shown to be effective in regressing cancer^[3]. Over the years, microbes have risen on the stage of prominence as producers of useful drugs against debilitating diseases^[4–10].

The bacteria genus of *Streptomyces* is characterized as a gram-positive, filamentous, soil-dwelling and saprophytic in nature^[11, 12]. The soil consists of a diverse microbial community which includes bacteria such as *Streptomyces*^[13] and competition for nutrients can be extremely intense^[14]. Nevertheless, *Streptomyces* adapted well to the surrounding environment and this may be justified by the fact that they carry a large genome size with high G-C content^[15–21] that enable the production of vast array of enzymes, proteins and secondary metabolites to process variety of materials needed for growth and survival^[22–26]. The genus of *Streptomyces* under the Actinobacteria phylum are by far the most recognized producers of current drugs and secondary metabolites with diverse biological activities^[4, 27–31]. There is renewed interest in the *Streptomyces* strains and species lurking in understudied ecological niches and awaiting discoveries which can aid development of new and needed drugs^[32–34]. Additionally, there is growing evidence suggesting *Streptomyces* from the understudied mangrove habitat as potential sources of antioxidants in the pharmaceutical industries^[35–50].

The mangrove forest is a unique ecosystem which consists of stretch of forests at the confluence of land and the marine ecosystems. Concentrated mostly in 15 countries with an estimated coverage of 75% of their coastline margin^[51], mangrove forests are home to a rich microbial community^[52] which remain relatively understudied for their biologically active properties^[53–56]. Herein, we report a *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5 with antioxidant potential that was previously isolated from the soil in the mangrove forest of Malaysia. In addition, GC-MS analysis detected 11 known compounds present in the methanolic extract of *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5. Overall, this study supports the notion of mangrove forest in Malaysia harbouring promising *Streptomyces* that have yet to be investigated for important biologically active compounds.

Materials and Methods

Sampling and maintenance of *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5

The soil sample for the present study, was collected from mangrove forest in Tanjung Lumpur, Malaysia (MUSC-TLS4 3°48'21.3" N 103°20'3.3"E) in December 2012^[43, 57, 58]. Soil sample collected consisted of portion of the soil layer just beneath 2–3 mm of the surface with a depth up to 30 cm and was achieved by a sterile trowel. Soil samples were aseptically packed into a plastic bag and delivered safely to be stored at - 20 °C prior to air drying. Air-dried samples were then ground and processed by wet heat sterilization. Pre-treated sample

was suspended in previously autoclaved water, diluted and plated uniformly across ISP 2 media supplemented with antifungal drugs which selectively promoted growth of *Streptomyces*. Growth was monitored by continuous sub-culture onto freshly made ISP 2 media until pure isolates was achieved. Pure isolates were then kept on ISP2 agar slant and 20 % glycerol at - 20 °C as stocks for future work.

Phylogenetic analysis of *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5

The isolation of genomic DNA (gDNA) was for the purpose of amplifying the 16S rRNA region in the genome^[59, 60]. The sequenced 16S rRNA gene of *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5 was then entered into GenBank/ EMBL/ DDBJ database to retrieve member type strains with the closest match. Multiple alignment for all the member type strains retrieved from GenBank/EMBL/DDBJ database was achieved using CLUSTAL-X software^[61]. The stability of the generated phylogenetic tree was verified by following Felsenstein method^[66].

Phenotypic characterization of *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5

Phenotypic characterization of *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5 consisted of growth characteristics, physiological tolerance levels and production of extracellular enzymes. Growth characteristics of *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5 cultured at 28 °C for 7–14 days, was visually inspected on conventional nutrient media — International *Streptomyces* Project (ISP) 2, ISP3, ISP4, ISP5, ISP6, ISP7^[67], *Streptomyces* agar (SA)^[68], Nutrient agar (NA)^[69], Actinomycete isolation agar (AIA)^[70] and starch casein agar (SCA)^[71]. Soluble pigment and colony colour on each growth media were monitored^[72]. Physiological tolerance assessment of *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5 was evaluated by growing at temperature range of 4–50 °C, salinity levels of 0–10 % w/v and pH 2–10. Biochemical properties of *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5 evaluated the production of extracellular enzymes. Presence of catalase was investigated by observing bubble formation following the dropping of 3 % (v/v) hydrogen peroxide onto a culture of *Streptomyces* sp. MUSC 5^[73]. Test to detect hemolysis activity was carried out on a 5-day old culture grown on blood agar media^[74]. Production of extracellular enzymes were determined on ISP 2 media^[75].

Fermentation process and extract preparation

A 10-day culture of *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5 in 10 mL of Tryptone Soya Broth (TSB) media and afterwards inoculated in 200 mL sterile Han's Fermentation Media 1 (Biomerge, Malaysia) shaken in incubator at 28 °C, 220 rpm for 10 days. Secondary metabolites in supernatant was collected by initial centrifuging followed by filtration and freeze-drying^[60]. Extraction of secondary metabolites from freeze-dried supernatant was performed using organic solvent methanol. Crude methanolic extract was collected after evaporation of methanol using of rotary evaporator and stored conveniently at - 20 °C for future use^[43].

Antioxidant assays

Scavenging of ABTS radical

Scavenging of 2,2'-azino-bis(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid) (ABTS) radical by the methanolic extract was examined according to Tan *et al.* (2017)^[41]. In short, ABTS radical (ABTS•⁺) was obtained from the reaction of 7 mM of ABTS with 2.45 mM of potassium persulfate (K₂S₂O₈). The six concentrations (0.125 mg/mL, 0.25 mg/mL, 0.5 mg/mL, 1 mg/mL, 2 mg/mL and 4 mg/mL) of methanolic extract were prepared by 2-fold dilution in 96 - well plate. The ABTS radical was then introduced into the 96 well plate. The plate was then kept in dark for 20 minutes prior to reading of the UV absorbance at 734 nm. Gallic acid served as the standard for this experiment. The following formula was used to calculate the radical scavenging activity of methanolic extract in percentage (%):

$$\% \text{ ABTS scavenging activity} = \frac{\text{Absorbance of control} - \text{absorbance of sample}}{\text{Absorbance of control}} \times 100\%$$

Scavenging of DPPH radical

Scavenging of 2, 2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) radical by the methanolic extract was performed according to Tan *et al.* (2017)^[41]. The test was run in a 96-well microplate. A series of concentration of methanolic extract was prepared in the 96-well plate by 2-fold dilution ranging from 0.125 mg/mL, 0.25 mg/mL, 0.5 mg/mL, 1 mg/mL, 2 mg/mL and 4 mg/mL. A solution of DPPH ethanol (0.016 % w/v) was then added into 96 well plates containing the methanolic extract and left standing in the dark for 20 minutes at room temperature. The UV absorbance of the mixture was read at a wavelength of 515 nm. Gallic acid was used as the control for this test. The following formula was used to calculate the radical scavenging activity of methanolic extract in percentage (%):

$$\% \text{ DPPH radical scavenging activity} = \frac{\text{Absorbance of control} - \text{absorbance of sample}}{\text{Absorbance of control}} \times 100\%$$

Chelation of metal ions

The metal chelating assay was assessed according to Adjimani and Asare^[76] and performed in a 96 well plate. Methanolic extract were prepared in the concentration of 0.125 mg/mL, 0.25 mg/mL, 0.5 mg/mL, 1 mg/mL, 2 mg/mL and 4 mg/mL and placed in individual wells. A 2mM ferrous sulfate (FeSO₄) was afterwards added into the wells followed by the addition of 5 mM ferrozine. In this reaction mixture, both methanolic extract and ferrozine compete with each other for ferrous ion. Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) was the standard used in this experiment. The following formula was used to calculate the metal chelating activity of methanolic extract in percentage (%):

$$\% \text{ Metal chelating activity} = \frac{\text{Absorbance of control} - \text{absorbance of sample}}{\text{Absorbance of control}} \times 100\%$$

Ferric reduction antioxidant power (FRAP) assay

Reduction of ferric ion was evaluated according to Adjimani and Asare^[76] with few alterations made. Series of concentration of methanolic extract ranging from 5 mg/mL, 10 mg/mL, 20mg/mL, 40 mg/mL and 80 mg/mL, were prepared in 25 µL in a 1.5 mL microcentrifuge tubes. A 25 µL from phosphate buffer (0.2 M) and 25 µL from potassium ferricyanide (1 %) were subsequently added into sterile 1.5 mL. The reaction mixtures were then heated to 50 °C and temperature kept constant for 20 minutes before cooling down to room temperature. A 25 µL of 10 % trichloroacetic acid (TCA) was afterwards added to cease the reaction. An 80 µL was transferred to wells in 96 well plate with a further addition of 20 µL of ferric chloride (FeCl₃). The UV absorbance reading was taken at wavelength of 700 nm and results expressed in equivalent dose of ascorbic acid.

Detection of compounds in methanolic extract with GC-MS

Profiling of individual constituents in the methanolic extract was achieved by using Agilent Technologies 6980N with a 5979 Mass Selective Detector^[42]. A HP-5 MS (5 % phenyl methyl siloxane) capillary column was used as helium gas carrier at 1 mL every 1 minute. Heat was gradually applied until 40 °C was reached whilst keeping it constant for 10 minutes; then, increased by 3 °C every minute until peak temperature of 250 °C keeping it constant for 5 another minutes. MS was functioning at 70 eV. Individual compounds detected by GC-MS were matched with NIST 05 reference library.

Statistical analysis

Antioxidant tests were repeated three times and the result expressed in means ± standard deviation (SD). Statistical analysis of antioxidant result was computed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences software (SPSS) and included using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) whilst Tukey's *post hoc* determined the statistical significance at *p*-value < 0.05. In order to correlate the antioxidant activity to phenolic content in methanolic extract, a Pearson's correlation in SPSS software was performed.

Results

Genomic and phylogenetic analysis of *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5

The 1489 bp 16 S rRNA sequence of *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5 (GenBank accession number KP998433) from its gDNA enabled retrieving representative of closely related taxa and manually aligned. The phylogenetic tree of *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5 is depicted in Figure 1. The phylogenetic tree constructed showed strain MUSC 5 forming sister clade with *Streptomyces drozdowiczii* NBRC 101007^T at bootstrap value of 63 %. Closest representation of taxa was established between *Streptomyces drozdowiczii* NBRC101007^T (99.52 %) followed by *Streptomyces laculatispora* BK166^T (99.37%) and *Streptomyces brevispora* BK160^T (99.30 %).

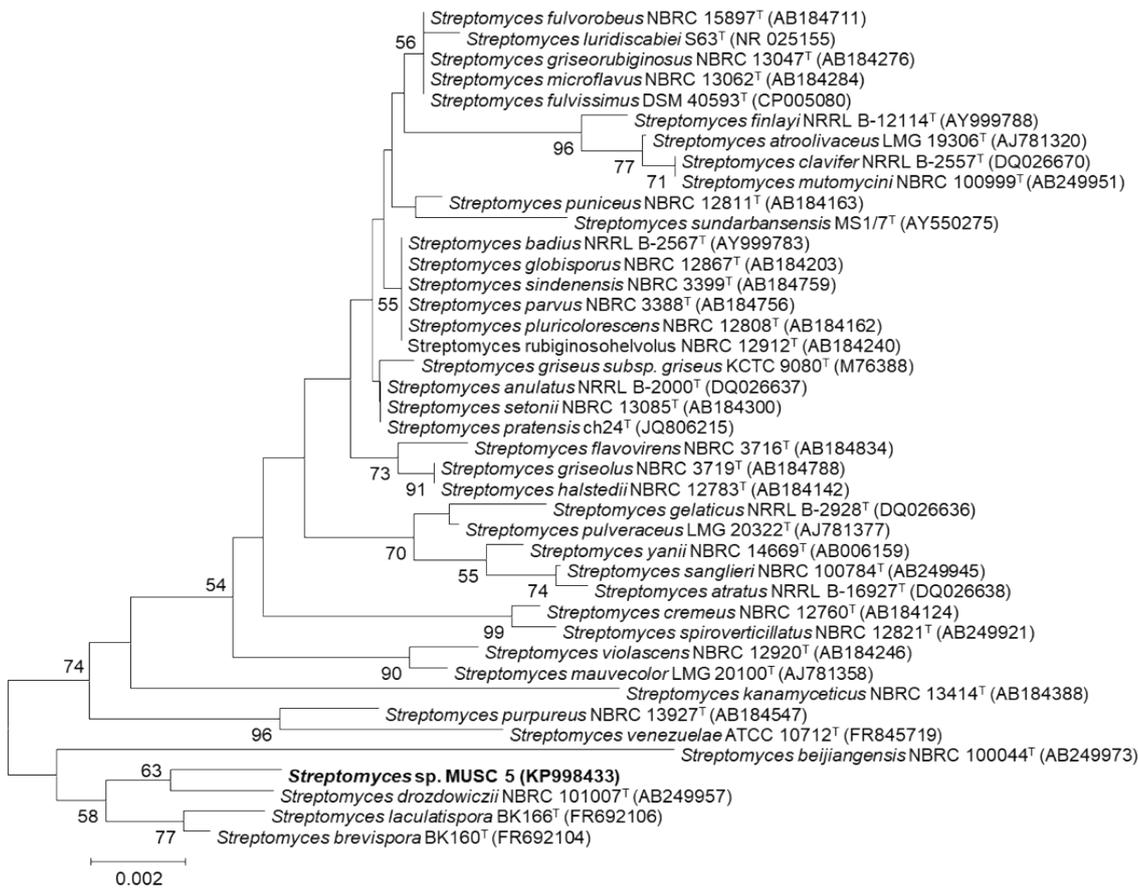


Figure 1. Neighbour-joining phylogenetic tree based on 1489 nucleotides of 16S rRNA gene sequence showing the relationship between strain MUSC 5 and closely related member strains. Numbers and nodes indicate percentages (> 50 %) of 1000 bootstrap re-sampling. Bar, 0.002 substitutions per site.

Cultural characterization, physiological tolerance and biochemical characterization

The growth of *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5 on various media is shown in Table 1. *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5 grew abundantly on ISP 2, ISP5, ISP6, ISP7 and SCA and SA after 7–14 days at 28 °C. This is in agreement by Gottlieb and Shirling who recommend ISP media for the growth of *Streptomyces*^[67]. Colour of

colony of mycelia were noted on all media grown, except ISP4. A light greyish olive and dark yellow pigments were visible on ISP 6 and NA, respectively (Table 1). Optimal conditions for growth were temperature of 26 °C, pH of 6–7 and salinity concentration of 2 % w/v. *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5 was tested positive for catalase. Results of the biochemical analysis suggested the production of catalase, xylanase and cellulase and amylase by *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5 (Table 2).

Table 1. Cultural characteristics of *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5.

Media	Growth	Colony colour		Soluble pigments
		Aerial mycelia	Substrate mycelia	
ISP 2	Well	Brilliant Greenish Yellow	Vivid Yellow	-
ISP 3	Poor	Light Olive Grey	Moderate Olive	-
ISP 4	-	-	-	-
ISP 5	Well	Dark Greyish Yellow	Light Yellowish Brown	-
ISP 6	Well	Pale Yellow	Moderate Yellow	Light greyish olive
ISP 7	Well	Light Olive Grey	Light Greyish Olive	-
AIA	Moderate	Pale Greenish Yellow	Pale Greenish Yellow	-
SCA	Well	Medium Grey	Light Greyish Olive	-
SA	Well	Light Orange Yellow	Brilliant yellow	-
NA	Moderate	Yellowish Grey	Light Greyish Yellow Brown	Dark yellow

- No growth on ISP 4 and no production of soluble pigment

Table 2. Biochemical and physiological characteristics of *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5.

Catalase	+
Haemolytic	-
Enzymatic test	
Chitinase activity (2.5 % chitin)	-
Xylanase activity (0.5 % xylan)	+
Amylolytic activity (0.2 % starch)	(+)
Protease activity (2 % casein)	-
Lipase activity (1 % tributyrin)	-
Cellulase activity (0.5 % CMC)	+
Temperature (°C)	
Growth	26-37
Optimum	26
NaCl (%) tolerance	
Growth	0-6
Optimum	2
pH tolerance	
Growth	6-8
Optimum	6-7

- No activity; + activity; (+) weak activity

ABTS radical scavenging assay

Scavenging of ABTS radical by the methanolic extract was assessed by reacting ABTS radical cation with methanolic extract and thereafter observing visible colour change from blue-green to colourless. The colour change is suggestive of ABTS scavenging activity. The UV absorbance of free ABTS radical was taken at 743 nm with result showing a concentration dependent scavenging of ABTS radical ($p < 0.05$) with 24.97 ± 0.99 % as the highest activity measured at 4 mg/mL (Table 3).

DPPH radical scavenging assay

Scavenging of DPPH radical by methanolic extract was assessed based on the visible colour change from purple (DPPH radical) to yellow (diphenylpicrylhydrazine) in the reaction mixture. Quantitative analysis of this antioxidant activity was

based on the UV absorbance reading taken at 515 nm which is the wavelength that detects free DPPH radical. The result of this experiment demonstrated the DPPH radical scavenging potential of methanolic extract MUSC 5 with an activity ($p < 0.05$) of 22.95 ± 3.21 % at its highest concentration of 4 mg/mL (Table 3).

Metal chelating assay

In this experiment, the ferrozine reagent was used to assess the ferrous ion (Fe^{2+}) chelating ability of methanolic extract. The metal chelating potential of the methanolic extract was thereafter evaluated by taking the absorbance of complex of Fe^{2+} -ferrozine at 562 nm. A low absorbance reading normally suggests that most of the ferrous iron have been prevented to form complex with ferrozine by the metabolites within the methanolic extract. The result of this study indicated that methanolic extract had a metal chelating activity ($p < 0.05$) of 26.81 ± 1.05 % at 4 mg/mL (Table 3).

Table 3. Scavenging of free radicals and chelation of metal ion by methanolic extract.

Concentration (mg/mL)	Antioxidant activities (%)		
	ABTS radical scavenging activity	DPPH radical scavenging activity	Metal chelating activity
0.125	$3.04 \pm 0.54^*$	2.11 ± 4.92	3.05 ± 2.43
0.25	$4.65 \pm 0.95^*$	2.08 ± 4.73	$4.13 \pm 1.81^*$
0.5	$4.61 \pm 1.14^*$	4.35 ± 6.12	$4.97 \pm 0.65^*$
1	$6.00 \pm 1.15^*$	6.15 ± 6.73	$8.60 \pm 1.78^*$
2	$14.55 \pm 0.68^*$	$16.39 \pm 5.69^*$	$12.94 \pm 2.13^*$
4	$24.97 \pm 0.99^*$	$22.95 \pm 3.21^*$	$26.81 \pm 1.05^*$
Gallic acid ^a	$42.50 \pm 0.60^*$	-	-
Gallic acid ^b	-	$53.99 \pm 4.06^*$	-
EDTA ^c	-	-	$68.49 \pm 7.68^*$

*Statistically significant at $p < 0.05$; ^aActivity of Gallic acid at 12.5 $\mu\text{g/mL}$; ^bActivity of gallic acid at 10 $\mu\text{g/mL}$; ^cActivity of EDTA at 0.125 mg/mL

FRAP assay

Reduction potential of ferric ion to Fe^{2+} form by methanolic extract was assessed through FRAP assay. The amount of Fe^{2+} - Fe^{3+} complex formed was measured with UV wavelength light absorbance of 700 nm. Given

there is activity, the colour of the reaction mixture changes to Prussian blue and indicates the methanolic extract has reducing power. The result showed that methanolic extract absorbance was 0.77–0.85, in the dose range of 1–2 mg (Figure 2) which was equivalent to 1.73–2.15 μg of ascorbic acid.

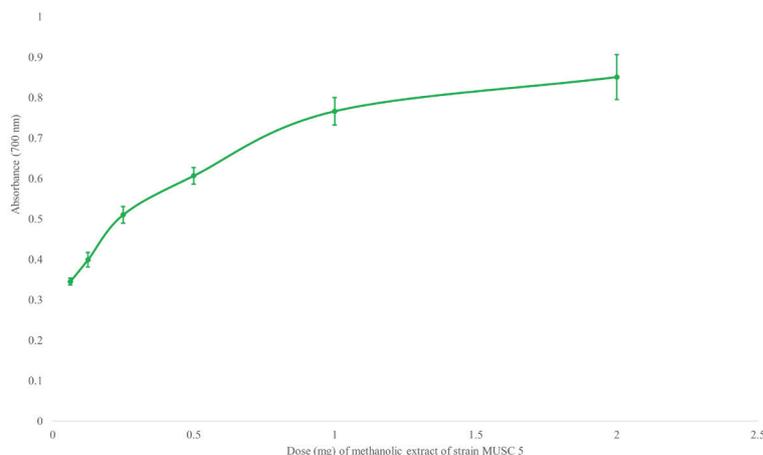


Figure 2. FRAP of the methanolic extract of *Streptomyces* sp. MUSC 5. The 6 doses (0.0625 mg, 0.125 mg, 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg and 2 mg) represents the 6 test concentrations employed (2.5 mg/mL, 5 mg/mL, 10 mg/mL, 20 mg/mL, 40 mg/mL and 80 mg/mL). Values are based on experiment run in triplicates \pm standard deviation.

GC-MS Chemical profiling of methanolic extract of *Streptomyces* sp. MUSC 5

Chemical profiling of various constituents was achieved by the use of the GC-MS together with the mass spectral

data provided by the NIST library. From this, 11 compounds identified belonged to the class of pyrrolopyrazine, esters, fatty acid esters, triterpene and an alkane. Further information regarding individual compounds are provided in Table 4 and Figure 3.

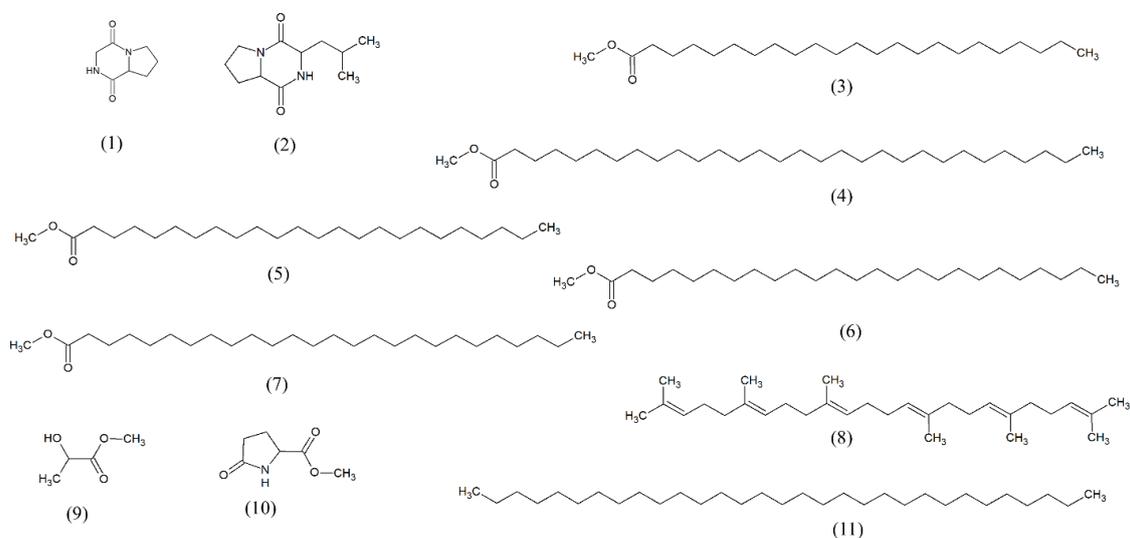


Figure 3. The molecular structures of the chemical compounds detected by GC-MS in the methanolic extract of *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5.

Table 4. Compounds detected by GC-MS.

No.	Constituents	Retention time (min)	Molecular Formula	Molecular weight	Similarity (%)
1	Pyrrolo[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,4-dione, hexahydro-	53.752	$\text{C}_7\text{H}_{10}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$	154	94
2	Pyrrolo[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,4-dione, hexahydro-3-(2-methylpropyl)-	55.048	$\text{C}_{11}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_2$	210	81
3	Tricosanoic acid, methyl ester	58.797	$\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{48}\text{O}_2$	368	80
4	Triacontanoic acid, methyl ester	63.184	$\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{62}\text{O}_2$	466	86
5	Tetracosanoic acid, methyl ester	65.669	$\text{C}_{25}\text{H}_{50}\text{O}_2$	382	93
6	Pentacosanoic acid, methyl ester	77.07	$\text{C}_{26}\text{H}_{52}\text{O}_2$	396	93
7	Hexacosanoic acid, methyl ester	81.538	$\text{C}_{27}\text{H}_{54}\text{O}_2$	410	93
8	Squalene	76.578	$\text{C}_{30}\text{H}_{50}$	410	95
9	Propanoic acid, 2-hydroxy-, methyl ester	3.852	$\text{C}_4\text{H}_8\text{O}_3$	104	99
10	DL-Proline, 5-oxo-, methyl ester	38.665	$\text{C}_6\text{H}_9\text{NO}_3$	143	96
11	Hentriacontane	79.802	$\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{64}$	436	96

Discussion

The 16S rRNA is widely recognised as the golden standard for identification of bacteria at the genus level^[77] and was therefore applied to validate that the strain belonged to the *Streptomyces* genus^[12]. Having acquired the 16S rRNA gene sequence of *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5 with a 1489 bp, assisted with the construction of phylogenetic tree (Figure 1). Analysis of the tree placed the strain MUSC 5 within the *Streptomyces* genus. Apart from conferring the status of *Streptomyces* to the strain MUSC 5, close relations were also investigated revealing *Streptomyces drozdowiczii* NRBC 101007^T at bootstrap value of 63 %. Closest relation was established with *Streptomyces drozdowiczii* NBRC101007^T (99.52 %) followed by *Streptomyces laculatispora* BK166^T (99.37 %) and *Streptomyces brevispora* BK160^T (99.3 %). Further information regarding the physical, physiological and biochemical characteristics of *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5 was also conducted in the current study to provide phenotypic characterization and could be also useful for other research purposes. The strain was able to utilize a wide range of nutrients, produce soluble pigment and coloured colony, as shown by the result presented in Table 1. The strain showed potential in producing extracellular enzymes as well as tolerating different temperatures, salinity and pH (Table 1).

The methanolic extract was evaluated for antioxidant potential utilized a combination of radical scavenging assays and reduction power of antioxidants. The radical scavenging assays was chosen on the basis of its sensitivity and ease of performance and thus the use of ABTS and DPPH^[78]. Herein, we report the radical scavenging activity of methanolic extract as having an ABTS and DPPH activity of 24.97 ± 0.99 % and 22.95 ± 3.21 %, respectively, at 4 mg/mL (Table 3).

The metal chelation antioxidant assay was carried out to examine the potential of the methanolic extract to interfere with the formation of coloured complex between ferrozine with ferrous ion^[41]. In the biological system, Fe^{2+} is involved as a catalyst in the formation of hydroxyl radical ($OH\cdot$) through the Fenton reaction^[79]. The $OH\cdot$ are the most destructive of all ROS, and removing it from the system is critical for maintaining homeostasis. The use of antioxidants that are capable to terminate hydroxyl radicals by chelating with ferrous ion would proof worthwhile. The result of the metal chelating test show that methanolic extract had a moderate activity ($p < 0.05$) of 26.81 ± 1.05 % at 4 mg/mL (Table 3).

FRAP is an antioxidant assay that measures a different aspect of ROS by process known as dismutation. In this experiment, both the oxidation and reduction happen concurrently involving an exchange of electrons between a reductant and an oxidant^[80]. Here, the methanolic extract and ferrocyanide undergo dismutation. Given that methanolic extract possess antioxidant potential, it will exchange its electron with ferrocyanide and become oxidised. The ferricyanide is transformed to ferrocyanide and later reacted with

ferric chloride forming Fe^{2+} - Fe^{3+} complex which has an absorb UV-Vis light at 700nm. In this experiment, the FRAP value was found within the dose range of 1–2 mg (Figure 2). This was equivalent of 1.73–2.15 μ g of ascorbic acid.

Given that methanolic extract demonstrated antioxidant activity, these findings have prompted further investigation into identification of the antioxidative compounds. The GC-MS has become a common tool for chemical profiling of bioactive compounds after determining their biological activities^[81]. For this reason, GC-MS was used in the present study to detect chemical constituents in the methanolic extract MUSC 5 (Table 4 and Figure 3). The GC-MS analysis led to the detection of 11 known compounds, including Pyrrolo[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,4-dione, hexahydro-(1), Pyrrolo[1,2-a]pyrazine-1,4-dione, hexahydro-3-(2-methylpropyl)- (2), Tricosanoic acid, methyl ester (3), Triacosanoic acid, methyl ester (4), Tetracosanoic acid, methyl ester (5), Pentacosanoic acid, methyl ester (6), Hexacosanoic acid, methyl ester (7), Squalene (8), Propanoic acid, 2-hydroxy-, methyl ester (9), DL-Proline, 5-oxo-, methyl ester (10) and Hentriacontane (11).

Pyrrolopyrazines exist as a class of heterocyclic compounds frequently recovered from microbial extracts. For example, compound (1) isolated from a *Bacillus* strain was identified as the active compound with strong DPPH radical scavenging activity as well as exhibiting activity against multi-drug resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*^[82]. Compound (2) among the 3 constituents present in ethyl acetate extract was identified in a marine *Streptomyces* sp. S2A as the major constituent responsible for the antioxidant activities (DPPH, ABTS, metal chelating and FRAP), antibacterial, enzyme inhibitory and cytotoxic effects^[83].

In addition to the two pyrrolopyrazine compounds, several of the fatty acid esters were also detected by GC-MS in the current study. In the current study, GC-MS detected 5 fatty acid methyl esters (3–7) in the methanolic extract of *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5. Compound (3) has been previously detected by GC-MS in microbes^[84]. Triacosanoic acid, methyl ester (4) present in a plant extract showed anticancer property^[85]. Another plant extract displaying antidiabetic activity was found to contain tetracosanoic acid, methyl ester, (5)^[86]. Both the ethanolic and water extract of propolis demonstrated antioxidant and antimicrobial activities and pentacosanoic acid, methyl ester (6) was confirmed in both extracts^[87]. Hexacosanoic acid, methyl ester (7) was reported in a plant extract demonstrating anticancer properties^[88].

Interestingly, GC-MS detected squalene (8), a biologically active triterpene, which was first reported from a shark liver oil by Tsujimoto (1916)^[89]. To date, shark liver oil has been the major source of squalene, although this compound is also naturally produced in minute quantity by *Streptomyces*. For instance, *Streptomyces* sp. QC45B was shown to synthesize squalene via the methylerythritol phosphate pathway (MEP)^[90].

Other miscellaneous compounds detected by GC-MS in the current study include propanoic acid, 2-hydroxy-, methyl ester (9) commonly known as methyl lactate. It is a volatile oil produced by plants and was detected by GC-MS in studies investigating the chemical composition of coffee

beans^[91]. Compound (**10**) was detected in methanolic extract of *Bacillus* sp. strain SB1 and *Halobacillus* sp. strain SB2 having demonstrated antioxidant activity^[92]. A long chain alkane hentriacontane (**11**) in a plant extract displayed biological activities including, antimicrobial and antioxidant activity^[93].

Conclusion

The methanolic extract of *Streptomyces* sp. strain MUSC 5 has demonstrated antioxidant activity by radical scavenging and FRAP assays. Furthermore, GC-MS analysis detected the presence of 11 compounds in the methanolic extract having a variety of known biological activity. This study adds support to the notion that understudied mangrove forest in Malaysia hold promising *Streptomyces* with antioxidant metabolites that could be resourceful in the development of safer antioxidant agents in addressing oxidative stress which has been associated with several medical conditions.

Author Contributions

K-HM, LT-HT and B-HG executed the experiments, analysed data and participated in the writing of the manuscript. Additional technical supports and proofreading were provided by LT-HT, H-LS, JW-FL. B-HG, K-GC also provided funding of the project. B-HG developed the research project.

Conflict of Interest

The authors hereby declare no competing interest.

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