An Evaluation of β-Hematin Inhibition of *Goniothalamus Macrophyllus* Extracts

Sharinah Ideris and Choo Chee Yan*

MedChem Herbal Research Group, Faculty of Pharmacy, Universiti Teknologi MARA, 42300 Puncak Alam, Selangor, Malaysia; E-mail: choo715@puncakalam.uitm.edu.my

Malaria is a major public health problem caused by parasites, namely, *Plasmodium vivax*, *P. falciparum*, *P. ovale* and *P. malariae* transmitted via the bites of the female *anopheles* mosquito. The illness results in recurrent attacks of chills and fever and is characterized by high morbidity and mortality rates. *G.macrophyllus* is used traditionally to treat fever. On the basis of this, the extracts of *G.macrophyllus* are evaluated for its antimalarial activity with the β-hematin inhibition assay. During intraerythroctic growth and proliferation, hemoglobin is utilized as a major source of nutrition by the malaria parasite and haem (ferrprotoporphyrin IX) is released as a toxic byproduct. The major route of haem detoxification in the malaria parasite is through the formation of haemozoin or β-haematin. Thus, inhibition of the β-haematin is utilized as an antimalarial drug target. The ground dried roots of *Goniothalamus macrophyllus* were extracted in aqueous methanol and the crude extract was sequentially partitioned with *n*-hexane, chloroform and butanol. The crude methanol, hexane, chloroform, butanol and residual were assayed for β-hematin inhibition. The inhibitory activity was determined by colorimetric method, measured at 405 nm with a microplate reader. Chloroquine, the most widely used antimalarial drug was used as the positive control. Based on the β-haematin inhibition assay, butanol extract exhibited an IC$_{50}$ value of 32 ± 0.06 µg/ml and was most potent towards the inhibition of β-hematin compared to the other extracts.

**Keywords:** *Goniothalamus macrophyllus* extracts, β-hematin inhibition assay.