

## Isolation and Antibacterial Activities of Actinomycetes from Rhizosphere Plant Cane (*Saccharum officinarum*) on *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*

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### Abstract

The phenomenon of increasing human bacterial infections and increased resistance to antibiotics encourages the exploration of more antibiotic producers. One source of antibiotics comes from the Actinomycetes bacteria, the source of isolation comes from the rhizosphere of sugarcane plants because it is known in the rhizosphere to produce exudates that are beneficial to bacteria. The purpose of this study was to obtain Actinomycetes isolates and determine the antibacterial abilities of selected isolates. Initial isolation was carried out using Starch Casein Agar (ScA) media, then color grouping, Gram test and cell morphology observation. The next stage is testing the antibacterial activity carried out using the well method. Data obtained in the form of basic characters Actinomycetes, inhibition zone diameter and antibacterial activity count. The results showed that 4 isolates had antibacterial ability against test bacteria, among others, ACB34a isolates, ACB44c isolates, ACB44c isolates and ACB55c isolates. Based on the results of measurement and calculation of antibacterial activity against *E. coli*, it can be known in succession, among others, ACB44c isolates (9.62 mm<sup>2</sup> / 10µl) and ACB54c (0.38 mm<sup>2</sup> / 10µl), then antibacterial activity against *S. aureus*. among others, ACB44c (27.33 mm<sup>2</sup> / 10µl), ACB54c (26.41 mm<sup>2</sup> / 10µl), ACB55c (8.04 mm<sup>2</sup> / 10µl), and ACB34a (8.04 mm<sup>2</sup> / 10µl).

**Keywords:** Actinomycetes; Antibacterial; Characterization; Rizosphere of sugar cane

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The increased of disease infections and antibiotics resistance have encouraged the exploration of more antibiotic-producing sources. Actinomycetes are known to have antibacterial abilities and contribute a lot to produce antibiotics as well as bioactive molecules that influence the industrial world (Sateesh et al., 2011).

In the study of Krismawati et al. (2015) Streptomycetes members of Actinomycetes can be found in the rhizosphere and non-rhizosphere of magrove vegetation. Several isolates were found to be able to produce antibiotics against several test bacteria. The types of bacterial compounds found were thought to be Erytromycin, Tetracyclin, Rimfampicyn, Polymyxin and Chloramphenicol. According to Raningsih (2015), antimicrobial effects on plasma membranes affect their integrity. Increased permeability and leakage of cells due to damaged cell membranes causes the release of intracellular material.

According to Khanna et al. (2011), microbial diversity in the rhizosphere or around cultivated plants is a direct result of interactions and adaptations between plants and microbes. The results of interactions and adaptations are possible adaptations or resistance to plant toxins, have specific secondary metabolites producing certain antibiotics. Soils around the roots or rhizosphere have organic material that encourage the development of active microbes rather than ordinary soils or bulk soils (Geetanjali and Jain, 2016).

Rhizosphere of sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*) has loose soil structure with smooth air aeration, tolerant of pH 6-7.5 even up to pH 8 and perfect root development (Indrawanto et al., 2010). This soil condition affect the presence of Actinomycetes. Niswati et al. (2008) explained that exudates found in the rhizosphere affect the bacterial population. Sugarcane exudates are related to the presence of nitrogen, phosphate and amino acid composition. Exudates released depend

on the type of plant, monocot plants can release more exudate than dicotyledonous plants (Kato et al., 1997). The presence of Actinomycetes in plant rhizosphere has been explored on rice plants (Ambarwati, 2012), mangrove (Krismawati et al., 2015), banana (Sudarma, 2010); eggplant, potatoes, corn, cabbage, coffee, teak (Susilowati et al., 2007). The purpose of this study was to isolate Actinomycetes from sugarcane rhizosphere and determine their antibacterial ability against *Escherichia coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*.

## 2. RESEARCH METHOD

This was an observational study conducted from January to March 2019. Soil samples were obtained from the rhizosphere of the sugar cane plant (*S. officinarum*) in the Bangkal Kamal area. The implementation of isolation, initial screening, continued color grouping screening, antibacterial ability test and basic characterization were carried out in the Microbiology Laboratory of the Department of Biology.

The tools used were soil tester, incubator, test tube, haemocytometer, centrifuge, vortex, oven, petri dish, ose, cotton, microscope, glass cover, object glass, measuring cup, beaker glass, spiritus lamp, aluminum foil, water bath, woll yarn, filter paper and tissue paper, pestle mortar, analytical scales. The materials used in this study include, ScA media, Oatmeal, *Escherichia coli* FNCC 0091 and *Staphylococcus aureus* FNCC 0047, NaCl, crystal violet, methylene blue, iodint, safranin, sterile distilled water, 75% alcohol and 96% alcohol, Nyastin (Fungicide), Nutrient Agar, Nutrient Broth, starch, K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, KNO<sub>3</sub>, Casein, MgSO<sub>4</sub>.7H<sub>2</sub>O, Agar, 3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, sucrose.

The procedure carried out in the study included making Oatmeal media with composition (10 g soluble starch, 2 g K<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub>, 2 g KNO<sub>3</sub>, 0.3 g Casein, 0.05 g MgSO<sub>4</sub>.7H<sub>2</sub>O, 0.02 g CaCO<sub>3</sub>, 0.01 g

FeSO<sub>4</sub>.7H<sub>2</sub>O, 15 g Agar, 1000 mL aquadest water and pH 7 (Mohseni et al., 2013), Sca media with composition (50 g oatmeal, 5 g sucrose, 20 g agar and 1000 mL aquades), NA, NB and test bacterial preparation for *E. coli* and *S. Aureus*.

Bacterial preparation was done by growing *E. coli* dan *S. aureus* on NB then the bacteria was counted its cell density using haemocytometer. The next stage was taking soil samples with five sampling points forming zigzag patterns in sugar cane gardens, measuring soil temperature, pre-treatment (heating 50 ° C soil samples) in the oven to kill gram negative bacteria and other non-target spores, isolating isolates which grows in ScA media and color grouping. Color grouping is a grouping of isolates grown on Oatmeal media so that it is based on the color of the mycelium substrate, the color of the aerial mycelium and mycelium pigmentation.

The stages were continued with purification of isolates which showed the key character of Actinomycetes. Key characteristics of members of the Actinomycetes include the character of the colonies in the ScA media, appearance of the mycelium in the agar media Oatmeal, cell morphology and gram staining. The suspected isolates then undergo antibacterial ability tests using difusion method. The isolates used in this test were suspected Actinomycetes on NB medium for 48 hours which were centrifuged. As much as 10 µL of supernatant applied in the diffusion method. The zone of inhibition formed around the well then observed and measured (Usmati and Marwati, 2007).

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results of the initial isolation were successfully obtained 37 isolates and 23 of them were thought to be Actinomycetes. The results of measurements of soil temperature using soil tester showed a temperature of 30° C with a pH of 6.5.

**Table 1. Results of Isolation and Initial Screening of Actinomycetes Bacteria (Starch Casein Agar) and Colony Morphology)**

No	Isolates	Characteristics							
		Growth in ScA Medium	Koloni						
			Color	Shape	Edge	Elevation	Surface	Optic	
1.	ACB14a	+	White	Circular	Entire	Convex	Rough	Opaque	
2.	ACB14b	+	White	Circular	Entire	Convex	Rough	Opaque	
3.	ACB15	+	White	Circular	Entire	Convex	Rough wrinkled	Opaque	
4.	ACB16	+	White	Circular	Filament	Ranset	Rough	Opaque	
5.	ACB24	+	White	Circular	Entire	Convex	Rough	Opaque	
6.	ACB25a	+	White	Circular	Entire	Convex	Rough	Opaque	
7.	ACB25b	+	Kream	Circular	Entire	Convex	Rough	Opaque	
8.	ACB25c	+	Kream	Circular	Entire	Convex	velvety	Opaque	
9.	ACB26a	+	Kream	Circular	Entire	Convex	Rough	Opaque	
10.	ACB26b	+	White	Circular	Entire	Convex	Rough	Opaque	
11.	ACB26c	+	Non bacterial Actinomycetes (slimy)						
12.	ACB27	+	White	Circular	Entire	Convex	Rough	Opaque	
13.	ACB34a	+	White	Circular	Entire	Convex	Rough	Opaque	
14.	ACB34b	+	White	Circular	Entire	Convex	Rough	Opaque	
15.	ACB35a	+	Non bacterial Actinomycetes (slimy)						
16.	ACB35b	+	Non bacterial Actinomycetes (slimy)						
17.	ACB35c	+	White	Circular	Entire	Pulvinate	Rough	Opaque	
18.	ACB35d	+	No growth during re-cultur						
19.	ACB36	+	White	Circular	Entire	Convex	Rough	Opaque	
20.	ACB44a	+	No growth during re-cultur						
21.	ACB44b	+	No growth during re-cultur						
22.	ACB44c	+	White	Circular	Entire	Convex	Rough	Opaque	
23.	ACB45a	+	Kream	Circular	Entire	Convex	Rough	Opaque	
24.	ACB45b	+	Non bacterial Actinomycetes (slimy)						
25.	ACB46a	+	Kream	Circular	Entire	Convex	Rough	Opaque	
26.	ACB46b	+	No growth during re-cultur						
27.	ACB54a	+	White	Circular	Entire	Convex	Rough	Opaque	
28.	ACB54b	+	White	Circular	Entire	Convex	Rough	Opaque	
29.	ACB54c	+	Krim	Circular	Entire	Convex	Rough	Opaque	
30.	ACB55a	+	No growth during re-cultur						
31.	ACB55b	+	Non bacterial Actinomycetes (slimy)						
32.	ACB55c	+	White	Circular	Entire	Convex	Rough	Opaque	
33.	ACB55d	+	No growth during re-cultur						
34.	ACB56a	+	No growth during re-cultur						
35.	ACB56b	+	No growth during re-cultur						
36.	ACB57a	+	White	Circular	Entire	Convex	Rough	Opaque	
37.	ACB57b	+	Non bacterial Actinomycetes (slimy)						

At the stage of color grouping, the data showed the appearance or color of mycelium substrate, aeral and pigmentation. As much as 13 isolates showed a color appearance, those were ACB14a, ACB14b, ACB25b, ACB25c,

ACB26a, ACB34a, ACB36, ACB44c, ACB45a, ACB46a, ACB54c, ACB55c dan ACB57a.

**Table 2. Advanced Screening Color Grouping Actinomycetes (Oatmeal Agar), Gram Tests, and Cell Morphology)**

No	Isolates	Characteristics					
		Oatmeal Agar					
		Growth	Substrat Mycellium	Aeral Mycellium	Pigmentation of mycelium	Cell Morpho	Gram
1.	ACB14a	+	Pink	Pink	-	Filamen	+
2.	ACB14b	+	White	Green	purple	Filamen	+
3.	ACB15	+	White	Grey	-	Filamen	-
4.	ACB16	+	Slimy	Green	-	Filamen	-
5.	ACB24	+	White	White	-	Filamen	-
6.	ACB25a	+	White	White	-	Filamen	-
7.	ACB25b	+	Greyish pink	Greyish pink	-	Filamen	+
8.	ACB25c	+	White	Grey	Golden yellow	Filamen	+
9.	ACB26a	+	White	-	-	Filamen	+
10.	ACB26b	+	White	Grey	-	Filamen	-
11.	ACB27	+	Pink	Pink	-	Filamen	-
12.	ACB34a	+	Pink	Pink	-	Filamen	+
13.	ACB34b	+	White	White	-	Filamen	-
14.	ACB35c	+	White	Pink	-	Filamen	-
15.	ACB36	+	Pink	Pink	-	Filamen	+
16.	ACB44c	+	Pink	White	-	Filamen	+
17.	ACB45a	+	White	White	Pink	Filamen	+
18.	ACB46a	+	White	Grey	-	Filamen	+
19.	ACB54a	+	White	Grey	-	Filamen	-
20.	ACB54b	+	White	Grey	-	Filamen	-
21.	ACB54c	+	Grey	Grey	Golden yellow	Filamen	+
22.	ACB55c	+	White	Greyish pink	-	Filamen	+
23.	Acb57a	+	Greyish green	White	-	Filamen	+

The suspected Actinomycetes were then tested for antibacterial abilities. The test was carried out by calculating the inhibition zone (Usmati and Marwati, 2007). Four isolates that showed positive result were ACB34a,

ACB44c, ACB54c and ACB55c. Table 3 and 4 showing antibacterial ability and activity of the selective isolates.

**Table 3. Antibacterial ability**

No	Isolates	Antibacterial ability					
		<i>E. coli</i>	Diameter Clear zone	Category*	<i>S. aureus</i>	Diameter Clear zone	Category*
1.	ACB14a	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	ACB14b	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	ACB25b	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	ACB25c	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	ACB26a	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	ACB34a	-	-	-	+	3,2 mm	weak
7.	ACB36	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	ACB44c	+	3,5 mm	weak	+	5,9 mm	mediocre
9.	ACB45a	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	ACB46a	-	-	-	-	-	-
11.	ACB54c	+	0,7 mm	weak	+	5,8 mm	mediocre
12.	ACB55c	-	-	-	+	3,2 mm	weak
13.	ACB57a	-	-	-	-	-	-

\*Categorization according David and Stout (1971)

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**Table 4.** Antibacterial activity

Isolate	Antibacterial activity			
	<i>E. coli</i>	Inhibition Activity (mm <sup>2</sup> /10µl)	<i>S. aureus</i>	Inhibition Activity (mm <sup>2</sup> /10µl)
ACB34a	-	-	+	8,04 mm <sup>2</sup> /10µl
ACB44c	+	9,62 mm <sup>2</sup> /10µl	+	27,33 mm <sup>2</sup> /10µl
ACB54c	+	0,38 mm <sup>2</sup> /10µl	+	26,41 mm <sup>2</sup> /10µl
ACB55c	-	-	+	8,04 mm <sup>2</sup> /10µl

Isolation of Actinomycetes from the rhizosphere of sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*) was carried out with five sampling points (zig-substance pattern). Based on the data, 13 out of 37 isolated bacteria were suspected Actinomycetes. These 13 isolates were ACB14a, ACB14b, ACB25a, ACB26a, ACB34a, ACB36, ACB44c, ACB45a, ACB46a, ACB54c, ACB55c and ACB57a.

Several screening stages were carried out to obtain all of 13 isolates. Those stages consist of 50° C pre-treatment to kill non-target bacteria or non Actinomycetes (Sembiring, 2000), screening on ScA media and mycelium screening on the Oatmeal medium (Krismawati et al., 20015); (Retnowati et al., 2017). The appearance of colonies, mycelium, tests on initial screening has a distinctive appearance that can differentiate from other bacteria. These characteristics are related to colonies that appear rough, dry, gram-positive, color mycelium, distinctive pigmentation and cell morphology in the form of filaments.

Environmental factors showed soil temperature of 30°C, pH 6.5, and clay texture. Environmental factors such as soil conditions support the presence of Actinomycetes to live (Hasyim et al., 2013; Goodfellow et al., 1988). In addition, according to Niswati et al. (2008); Lagos et al. (2015); Sinma et al. (2015) Actinomycetes and plants have reciprocity or mutual benefit.

Sugar cane produce exudates containing amino acids, sugar, vitamins, tannins and others substances that affect the Actinomycetes or rhizobacteria. On the other hand, Actinomycetes provide benefits in the form of active degradation of organic matter, suppress plant pathogen infections and provide phosphate nutrition.

Adaptations and interactions to certain toxic substances lead to secondary metabolites production to specific antibiotics (Khanna et

al., 2011). This open up the opportunity to utilize a metabolite product in other fields, in this study against *E. coli* and *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Four isolates of Actinomycetes were able to inhibit the growth of test bacteria. Actinomycetes are a group of bacteria that produce extracellular secondary metabolites so that they are utilized in the source of antibacterial compounds without going through cell breaks (Sharma et al., 2014). Actinomycetes bacteria inhibit cell wall synthesis from test bacteria which causes a decrease in cell osmotic pressure so that test bacteria become inhibited (Jawetz et al., 2007).

A centrifugation at 3000x rpm for 15 minutes was carried out before application. The supernatant is used as a stock of antibacterial sources that are implanted in wells. Isolates that show antibacterial ability by showing clear zones around the well.

Isolates AcB34a showed a weak inhibition toward *S. aureus* with 3.2 mm clear zone, while isolate ACB44c showed weak inhibition toward *E. coli* with 3.5 mm clear zone. However ACB44c showed moderate ability in inhibit *S. aureus* with 5.9 mm inhibition zone. Similar result showed in ACB54c isolate that showed poor activity towards *E.coli* (0,7 mm) but moderate to *S. aureus* (5,8 mm). The last isolate, ACB55c, considered as weak againts *S. aureus* with a 3.2 mm inhibition zone.

It can be seen from the result that isolates which have the highest values to the lowest in sequence include ACB44c isolates (9.62 mm<sup>2</sup> / 10µl) and ACB 54c (0.38 mm<sup>2</sup> / 10µl), against *E. coli*, then ACB44c isolates (27.33 mm<sup>2</sup> / 10µl), ACB54c (26.41 mm<sup>2</sup> / 10µl), ACB55c (8.04 mm<sup>2</sup> / 10µl), and ACB34a (8.04 mm<sup>2</sup> / 10µl) against *S. aureus*. The value of the calculation showed the compounds had

capabilities that were classified as moderate to low.

According to Kumala et al. (2015), clear zones which appear to be bactericidal regions, namely areas where extracts or supernatants containing a compound that can kill test bacteria (*E. coli* and *S. aureus*). Whereas zones formed outside the clear zone or bactericidal area are regions of the clear zone which only inhibit the test bacteria (Kumala et al., 2015). In this study the only visible zone is the clear zone which is the extract area of the supernatant which kills the test bacteria.

This finding is supported by previous research conducted by Ambarwati (2012) showing the antibacterial ability of Actinomycetes from rhizosphere isolation of rice plants to *E. coli*. There were 3 isolates from 11 isolates who had the ability to inhibit *E. coli* with the details of one isolate in the strong category, one isolate in the moderate category and one isolate in the weak category.

According to Meklat et al. (2011), Actinomycetes antibiotics were coded by the polyketide synthetase (PKS) gene precisely PKS-I, PKS-II and enedyn-PKS. The gene code that produces Actinomycetes antibiotics can be assumed to produce various antibiotic compounds. Goodfellow et al. (1988), explained that each type of strain of Actinomycetes can produce a typical antibiotic compound. Examples are actinohordin, streptomycin, erythromycin, bialaphos, tetracenomycin, rifampicin. Pure actinomycetes can show various chemical structures, among others, anthraeyclines, aminoglycosides, glycopeptides,  $\beta$ lactams, polyenes, macrolides, tetracyclins and polyether. These compounds have important function the health field.

The mechanism of inhibition for bacteria depends on the type of compound. It is known that Actinomycetes produce a lot of metabolites harmful to bacteria. There are many compounds that have role to inhibit *E. coli* and *S. aureus*. The compounds produced by plant rhizosphere Actinomycetes erythromycin, tetracycline, rifampicin with peptide compounds, flavonoids and alkaloids. The mechanism involving the attacks on RNA (protein synthesis) and cell wall structure (cell lysis). This is based on research conducted by Krismawati et al. (2015) and Masda (2018) with similarity of isolation sources, namely

plant rhizosphere and the same test bacteria (*E. coli* and *S. aureus*).

In the study of Krismawati et al., (2015) the isolation of Actinomycetes in the mangrove rhizosphere tested on *E. coli* and *S. aureus* showed that several isolates produced metabolites such as erythromycin, tetracycline, rifampicin through Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) methods. Then in the Masda study (2018) the isolation of Actinomycetes in the rhizosphere of bitter plants produced isolates of several isolates which had the ability to inhibit the bacteria *E. coli* and *S. aureus*. At the stage of the research, TLC was carried out and the groups of peptides, flavonoids and alkaloids were found. In general, these compounds interfere with the instability of hydrogen bonds with the complexes formed so that permeability fusion of bacterial cells is disrupted and lysis occurs. The diameter of the inhibitory zone in each selected isolate on test bacteria were different. Several factors affect the diameter of the clear zone are the media composition, temperature, agar thickness (Brady and Katz, 1990); Suriani et al, 2013); (Mujahid et al., 2016). The incubation temperature also affects the enzyme activity related to denaturation and optimal bacterial growth temperature. Bacteria do not grow when they are above the maximum or below the minimum (Suriani et al., 2013). Then the composition of growth media such as carbon sources, nitrogen and special additives to the media influence bacterial or zone of growth (Mujahid et al., 2016). The medium thickness affect the visibility of the clear zone (Brady and Katz, 1990).

#### 4. CONCLUSION

As much as 13 Actinomycetes isolates were obtained from, 4 among them showed the inhibition activity against *E. coli* and *S. aureus* which range in low to moderate category.

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