al Kimiya: Jurnal Ilmu Kimia dan Terapan,
p-ISSN: 2407-1897, e-ISSN: 2407-1927
Vol. 11, No. 2 (104-111), December 2024/Jumādā al-ākhirah 1446

IDENTIFICATION OF ACTIVE COMPOUNDS AND FORMULATION AS AN ANTISEPTIC MOUTHWASH FROM THE PLANT *Cassia fistula* L. AS A PREVENTIVE MEASURE AGAINST DENTAL AND ORAL DISEASES CAUSED BY THE BACTERIA *Enterococcus faecalis*

HARIZON[1*] AND FEBBRY ROMUNDZA[1]

[1]Departement of Chemistry Education, Universitas Jambi, Jambi-Muara Bulian Street No. KM 15, Mendalo Darat, Muoro Jambi, Jambi, Indonesia

*Corresponding Author email: Harizon@unja.ac.id

Article Information

Received: Aug 21, 2024
Revised: Oct 25, 2024
Accepted: Nov 22, 2024
Published: Dec 30, 2024

DOI: 10.15575/ak.v11i2.38474

Keywords:
Antiseptic; *Cassia fistula L*; bacteria *Enterococcus faecalis*; antibacterial.

Abstract

A compound with the molecular formula $C_{15}H_{24}O$ has been identified as Caryophyllenol-II through analysis using HR-TOF-MS, IR, and NMR spectroscopy. The ^{13}C-NMR spectrum indicates that this compound is a bicyclic sesquiterpenoid, characterized mainly by the presence of a hydroxyl group replacing an epoxide ring and the addition of an olefinic bond. The relationship between the compounds analyzed from *Cassia fistula* L. and their antibacterial activity against *Enterococcus faecalis* can be explained through the identification of bioactive compounds with specific mechanisms to inhibit or kill the bacteria. Compounds from *Cassia fistula* L. have significant potential as an antibacterial agent against *Enterococcus faecalis*, particularly through membrane disruption and bacterial enzyme inhibition mechanisms. Further research on their role, either individually or in combination with other compounds, could support the development of *C. fistula*-based antiseptic products, such as mouthwash, for the prevention and treatment of oral and dental diseases. Additionally, this research explores the antibacterial potential of *Cassia fistula* L. in developing an antiseptic mouthwash. Extracts from *Cassia fistula* L. are known to contain active compounds such as flavonoids, alkaloids, and tannins, which demonstrate effectiveness against *Enterococcus faecalis*, as a primary cause of dental and oral infections. The mouthwash formulation based on this extract was tested in vitro and proposed as a natural and safer alternative compared to synthetic chemical-based products for the prevention of dental and oral infections. This study indicates the significant potential of *Cassia fistula* L. in supporting oral health through effective antiseptic products. These findings support the use of traditional medicinal plants like *Cassia fistula* L. as a source of active compounds for the development of effective natural antiseptics and have the potential to reduce dependence on synthetic antiseptics while also promoting economic empowerment through simple industries.

INTRODUCTION

The continuous use and production of synthetic antiseptics not only eliminate fungi and bacteria but can also accelerate the emergence of resistant pathogenic strains [1]. Moreover, the use of synthetic antiseptics can lead to the death of normal flora [2] Therefore, alternative bacterial control methods derived from natural sources, particularly from traditional medicinal plants, are needed [3]. Dental caries and periodontitis are common dental and oral diseases often caused by pathogenic bacteria, one of which is *Enterococcus faecalis*. This bacterium is known for its high resistance to various antibiotics, posing a significant challenge in the treatment of endodontic infections [4]. Hence, the development of more effective and natural prevention and treatment alternatives is necessary [5].

Natural materials have been long used in traditional medicine due to their higher safety and minimal side effects compared to synthetic chemicals. One plant known for its antibacterial potential is *Cassia fistula* L., also known as the Golden Shower tree [6]. This plant contains various active compounds, such as flavonoids, alkaloids, saponins, tannins, and anthraquinones, which have been proven to have activity against various pathogens, including *Enterococcus faecalis* [7].

Several studies have shown that extracts from *Cassia fistula* L. possess significant

antibacterial activity, particularly against pathogens that cause dental and oral diseases [8]. However, the use of this extract in the formulation of dental and oral health products, such as antiseptic mouthwash, has not been widely developed [9]. Natural-based antiseptic mouthwash offers a safer and more natural solution and could be an effective alternative to synthetic chemical-based products commonly used in the prevention of dental and oral infections [10].

This study aims to identify and characterize the active compounds in *Cassia fistula* L. with antibacterial activity and to develop an antiseptic mouthwash formulation based on this extract [11]. NMR, HR-TOF-MS, and IR spectroscopy are used to identify the chemical structure of the active compounds [12]. Antibacterial activity tests are conducted to evaluate the Subsequently, the test effectiveness of the extract against *Enterococcus faecalis*, followed by the formulation and stability testing of the mouthwash [13].

This research is expected to produce an effective natural antiseptic product for the prevention of dental and oral infections and contribute to public health improvement efforts [14]. One of the traditional medicinal plants known to the public for preventing dental decay due to infections in the dental canal is *Cassia fistula* L [15]. The traditional use of this plant for treating infections in the dental canal requires scientific study to ensure its measured and targeted utilization. In this study, the chemical potential of *Cassia fistula* L [16]. will be investigated for its scientific application as a treatment for diseases in the dental canal caused by bacteria, including pathogenic bacteria in the human mouth such as *Enterococcus faecalis*. The chemical potential of *Cassia fistula* L [17].

Needs to be explored to determine its types, structures, and properties. The results of this study are expected to be developed into an antiseptic formula in liquid form for rinsing or as an additive in toothpaste to address infections in the dental canal caused by oral bacteria [18]. This can benefit the general public through appropriate small-scale industries and contribute to economic empowerment bacteria were cultured, and the isolate's activity was tested at the Biotechnology Laboratory of Universitas Jambi.

EXPERIMENT

The research at the Laboratory of Agroindustry and Medicinal Plants, Faculty of Science and Technology, and the Laboratory of Biotechnology and Engineering, Faculty of Science and Technology, Universitas Jambi, began with the preparation of plant materials, test bacteria, and the isolation of pure compounds to be tested by isolating them from *C. fistula* L. bark powder based on known procedures. bacteria used in this study were *E. faecalis*. For *Enterococcus faecalis*, one commonly used strain is **ATCC 29212**, widely utilized in antimicrobial testing and research. The fungi and test bacteria were obtained from the Microbiology Laboratory of PT. Biofarma Indonesia-Bandung, with an alternative source from the Postgraduate Chemical Research Laboratory, Universitas Padjadjaran, Bandung. The formulation begins with preparing the *Cassia fistula L.* extract.

The plant material was grounded into a fine powder and subjected to solvent extraction using ethanol or methanol in a Soxhlet apparatus. The filtered extract was concentrated by using a rotary evaporator to obtain a thick paste. Base ingredients, including deionized water, preservatives, pH regulators, flavoring agents, and sweeteners, were then weighed and mixed sequentially. The solution was stirred until homogeneous and filtered to remove impurities. The final product is bottled under aseptic conditions in sterilized containers. Stability testing involves monitoring physical, chemical, and microbiological properties over time. Physical stability was evaluated by observing appearance, color, and sedimentation under normal and accelerated storage conditions. pH stability was checked periodically using a calibrated pH meter, while the antibacterial efficacy against *Enterococcus faecalis* was tested using agar well diffusion. Chemical stability was assessed using advanced techniques like HPLC or GC-MS to detect any degradation of active compounds. Microbial stability tests ensure the absence of contamination throughout the product’s shelf life. Optional tests include foaming assessment, sensory evaluations for taste and acceptability, and accelerated studies to predict shelf life. These steps ensure the mouthwash is effective, stable, and user-friendly.

Plant Materials and Test Fungi

The plant sample used was *C. fistula* L., collected from the Senami forest area in Batanghari Regency. The plant identification was previously conducted at the Herbarium

Bogoriense in Bogor. The test bacteria used in this study were *E. faecalis*. The fungi and test bacteria were obtained from the Microbiology Laboratory of PT. Biofarma Indonesia-Bandung, meanwhile as an alternative source was taken from the Postgraduate Chemical Research Laboratory, Universitas Padjadjaran, Bandung.

Chemicals and Equipment

The solvents used for extraction and chromatography included pro-analysis (p.a) solvents and technical solvents that had been distilled, such as n-hexane, benzene, diethyl ether, methylene chloride, acetone, ethyl acetate, and methanol. A saturated solution of $Ce(SO_4)_2$ 1.5% in H_2SO_4 2N and Dragendorff reagent were used as stain detectors. Vacuum liquid chromatography with Merck silica gel 60 GF254, gravity chromatography with Merck silica gel 60 (230–400 mesh), and compound purity analysis with thin-layer chromatography on plates coated with Merck silica gel 60 GF254, 0.25 mm, will be performed according to standard procedures.

Antifungal activity testing used sabouraud dextrose agar media, including glucose, neopeptone, agar, and distilled water. The Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA) medium used potatoes, dextrose, agar, and distilled water. The antibacterial testing medium was nutrient agar, comprising yeast extract, peptone, NaCl, and agar. The nutrient broth medium included "Lab Lemco" Powder, yeast extract, peptone, NaCl, and agar. The equipment used in this research included standard laboratory glassware for chemistry, biotechnology, and microbiology laboratories, supported by additional equipment such as extraction tools, vacuum rotary evaporators, vacuum column chromatography, and gravity column chromatography. The melting point will be determined by using a Fisher John melting point apparatus, and UV-Vis, IR, NMR (Jeol ECZ series), and MS spectroscopy will be used for chemical structure determination.

Preparation of the Test Bacteria E. faecalis Culture Media

Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA) and Sabouraud Agar were used as culture media for *E. faecalis*, prepared with the following compositions:
Potato Dextrose Agar (PDA) Composition: Potatoes: 200 g**,** Dextrose: 20 g**,** Agar: 15 g**,** Distilled water: 1000 ml.
Sabouraud Dextrose Agar Composition: Glucose: 40 g, Neopeptone: 10 g, Agar: 20 g, Distilled water: 1000 ml Final pH: 5.6.

Each medium was dissolved and placed into a 1000 ml Erlenmeyer flask, then sterilized by autoclaving at 121°C (15 psi) for 15 minutes. Nutrient Agar and Nutrient Broth media for bacterial cultures were prepared with the following compositions:
Nutrient Agar Composition: "Lab Lemco" Powder: 1 g, Yeast extract: 2 g, Peptone: 5 g, Sodium Chloride: 5 g, Agar: 15 g, 28 g of medium dissolved in 1 liter of sterile distilled water, then sterilized by autoclaving at 121°C for 15 minutes.
Nutrient Broth Composition: "Lab Lemco" Powder: 1 g Yeast extract: 2 g, Peptone: 5 g, Sodium Chloride: 5 g, 13 g of medium dissolved in 1 liter of sterile distilled water, then sterilized by autoclaving at 121°C for 15 minutes.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the research results, the compound was identified as a colorless oil with the molecular formula $C_{15}H_{24}O$, as indicated by HR-TOF-MS analysis, which showed an ion peak at m/z 221.1733 [M+H]+ with four degrees of unsaturation. The IR spectrum of compound 2 is similar to that of compound 1, but along with the addition of a strong absorption from the OH group (3400 cm^{-1}). The results of measurements using an NMR spectrometer can be shown in **Figure 1**.

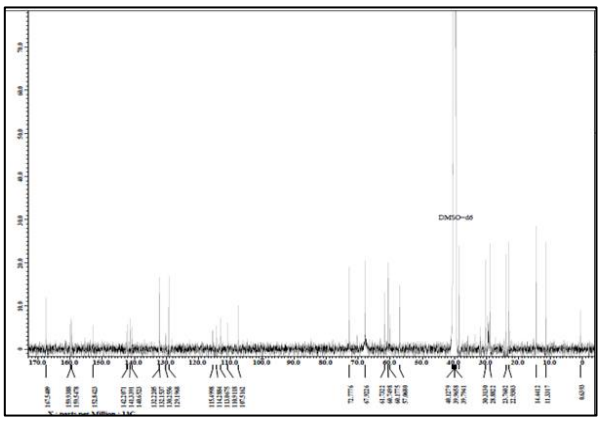

Figure 1. Results of measurements using an NMR spectrometer.

The ^{1}H-NMR spectrum shows the signals for three methyl groups on tertiary carbons with chemical shifts at δH 1.62 ppm (3H, s, CH3- 12), 1.00 ppm (3H, s, CH3-14), and 0.95 ppm (3H, s, CH3-15).

The ^{13}C-NMR spectrum indicates the

presence of fifteen carbon signals, which are classified based on the DEPT 135° spectrum, consisting of three sp^3 methyls [δC 22.8 (C-12), 30.0 (C-13), 15.7 (C-15)], one sp^2 methylene [δC 109.8 (C-13)], four sp^3 methylenes [δC 28.6 (C-2), 34.3 (C-6), 32.6 (C-7), 39.7 (C-10)], one sp^2 methine [δC 126.1 (C-4)], four sp^3 methines [δC 50.3 (C-1), 42.6 (C-9), 126.1 (C-12)], one oxygenated carbon [δC 69.7 (C-5)], two sp^2 quaternary carbons [δC 137.7 (C-4), 154.8 (C-8)], and one sp^3 quaternary carbon [δC 33.2 (C-11)].

Compound 2 requires two olefinic bonds based on the ^{13}C-NMR data, accounting for two of the four degrees of unsaturation, indicating a bicyclic sesquiterpenoid core structure. The comparison of NMR data between compounds 2 and 1 shows similarities. The difference lies in the presence of a hydroxyl signal in compound 2, which replaces the epoxide ring (C-5) and adds an olefinic bond (C-3/4). According to the report by. compound with data identical to that of compound 2 has been identified as Caryophyllenol-II. Therefore, compound 2 is identified as Caryophyllenol-II. The structure obtained from this experiment can be shown in **Figure 2**.

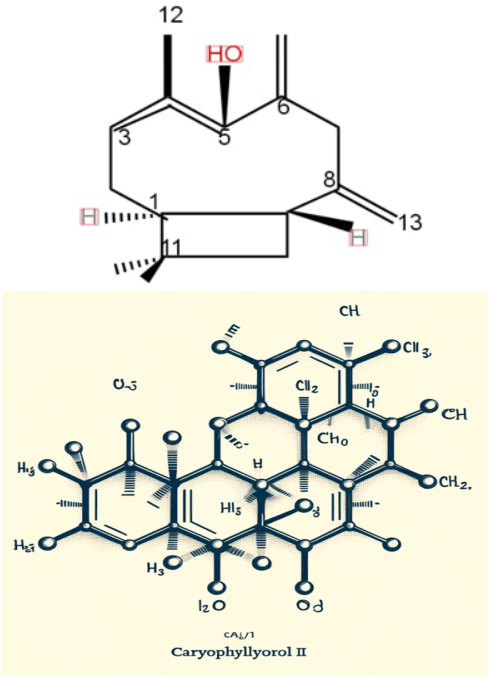

Figure 2. Structure of caryophyllenol II compound.

Based on the research results obtained, the data from the study is presented in **Table 1**. The provided data shows the ^{13}C NMR spectrum results for two compounds, namely Humulene Dioxide A and Guai-6-en-10β-ol, identified based on carbon positions and chemical shifts (δC) corresponding to their molecular structures.

Table 1. Comparison of $_{13}$C-NMR ($CDCl_3$, 125 MHz) and literatures.

Carbon Position	Compounds			
	Humulene dioxide A*		Guai-6-en-10β- ol **	
	3 δC (mult.)	δC (mult.)	4 δC (mult.)	δC (mult.)
1	38.2 (d)	38.2 (d)	51.2 (t)	51.4 (t)
2	64.3 (d)	64.3 (d)	24.2 (t)	24.3 (t)
3	60.4 (s)	60.4 (s)	33.2 (t)	33.2 (t)
4	34.2 (t)	34.2 (t)	37.1 (d)	37.2 (d)
5	25.6 (t)	25.6 (t)	43.1 (d)	43.1 (d)
6	63.2(d)	63.2 (d)	124.2 (d)	124.2 (d)
7	60.7 (s)	60.7 (s)	148.1 (s)	148.1 (s)
8	43.1 (t)	43.1 (t)	25.7 (t)	25.7 (t)
9	122.8 (d)	122.8 (d)	42.9 (t)	42.9 (t)
10	142.1 (d)	142.1 (d)	75.4 (s)	76.4 (s)
11	35.1 (s)	35.1 (s)	37.3 (d)	37.3 (d)
12	16.2 (q)	16.2 (q)	21.5 (q)	21.5 (q)
13	16.1 (q)	16.1 (q)	21.6 (q)	21.7 (q)
14	23.8 (q)	23.8 (q)	21.3 (q)	21.4 (q)
15	30.1(q)	30.1 (q)	15.3 (q)	15.2 (q)

In Humulene Dioxide A, stable chemical shifts are observed for carbon atoIRIR C-1 to C-4, with C-1 and C-2 around 38.2 ppm and 64.8 ppm, respectively, while C-3 at 60.2 ppm indicates a quaternary carbon. Carbon C-4 shows a chemical shift of 34.9 ppm, indicating a tertiary carbon. For C-5 to C-9, there is variation in chemical shifts, with C- 6 at 63.5 ppm indicating a unique electronic environment, possibly related to an oxygen functional group. C-7 and C-8 are around 60.4 ppm and 43.4 ppm, respectively, while C-9 at 122.6 ppm indicates the presence of a double bond in the ring structure. Carbons C-10 to C-15 show higher shifts, with C-10 at 142.9 ppm, typically indicating the presence of sp^2 carbon groups in a conjugated ring, while C-12, C-13, and C-14 are around 16.5 ppm and 23.4 ppm, indicating the presence of methyl (CH_3) groups attached to the ring structure. For Guai-6-en-10β-ol, the chemical shifts for C-1 to C-4 show carbon C-1 at 51.2 ppm, indicating a primary carbon attached to a hydroxyl or alkyl group, while C-2 and C-3 are at 24.0 ppm and 33.2 ppm, respectively, indicating the presence of methylene (CH_2) and methyl (CH_3) groups. C-4 shows a chemical shift of 37.2 ppm, corresponding to a tertiary carbon near a double bond. Carbons C-5 to C-9 exhibit significant chemical shifts, with C-6 at 124.1 ppm

and C-7 at 148.3 ppm indicating the presence of sp^2 carbons involved in double bonds within an alkene system, while C-8 and C-9 are at 25.2 ppm and 42.6 ppm, respectively, indicating tertiary carbons. Carbons C-10 to C-15 display characteristic shifts, with C-10 at 75.7 ppm indicating a hydroxyl group attached to an sp^3 carbon, while C-12 to C-14 are in the range of 21.3 ppm to 21.6 ppm, indicating methyl groups attached to the ring system, with C-15 at 15.3 ppm showing a terminal methyl group.

This analysis indicates that the two compounds have differing structures and chemical shifts reflecting the chemical environment of each carbon. Humulene Dioxide A exhibits terpenoid characteristics with conjugated sp^2 carbons and several tertiary and quaternary carbons, while Guai- 6-en-10β-ol shows a simpler structure with alkene and hydroxyl groups.

Figure 3 is a diagram comparing the ^{13}C-NMR spectral data for the compounds Humulene Dioxide A and Guai-6-en-10β-ol based on carbon positions and chemical shifts (δC). This diagram helps in visualizing the differences and similarities in chemical shifts between the two compounds at each carbon position.

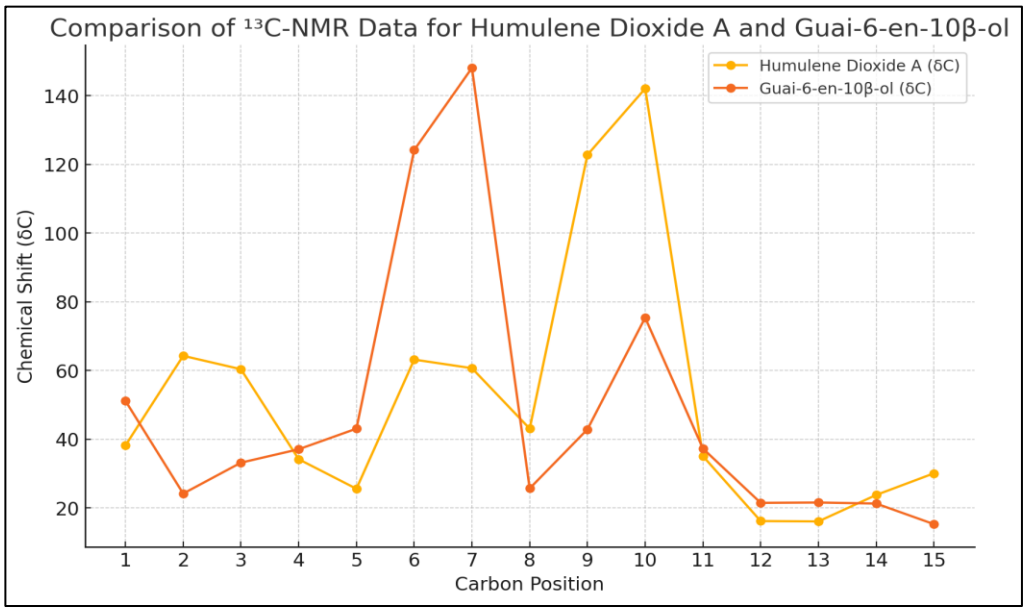

Figure 3. Diagram comparison of 13C-NMR ($CDCl_3$, 125 MHz).

Dental and oral diseases, such as dental caries and periodontitis, are often caused by *Enterococcus faecalis*, which is a major pathogen in endodontic infections. This bacterium is known to have resistance to various types of antibiotics, highlighting the need for the development of more effective and natural preventive and therapeutic alternatives [19]. One proposed solution is the use of mouthwashes based on natural substances with antiseptic properties, such as extracts from the plant *Cassia fistula* L [20]. *Cassia fistula L*., also known as the golden shower tree, has long been used in traditional medicine due to its various beneficial chemical constituents. The active compounds found in *Cassia fistula* L. [21] include flavonoids, alkaloids, saponins, tannins, and anthraquinones, which have potential as antibacterial agents. Previous research has shown that extracts from *Cassia fistula L*. exhibit activity against various pathogenic bacteria, including *Enterococcus faecalis* [22].

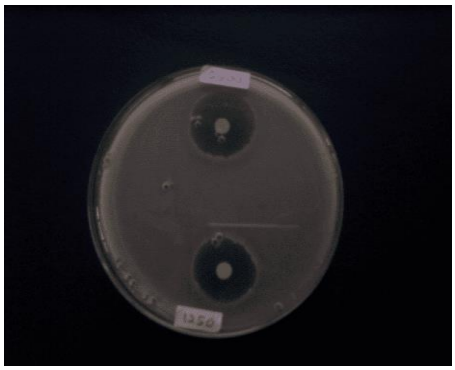

Figure 4. Bacterial activity test results.

The antimicrobial activity of the *Cassia fistula* extract was evaluated using the agar diffusion method against *Enterococcus faecalis*. Discs impregnated with the extract at two different concentrations (2500 µg/mL and 1250 µg/mL) were placed on an agar plate inoculated with the bacterial strain. After incubation, distinct zones of inhibition were observed around both discs,

indicating effective antibacterial activity (**Figure 4**). The inhibition zone for the 2500 µg/mL concentration was significantly larger, demonstrating stronger antimicrobial potency at higher doses, whereas the 1250 µg/mL concentration produced a smaller zone, reflecting reduced efficacy at the lower concentration. These results suggest a dose-dependent relationship between the concentration of the extract and its antibacterial activity, further supporting its potential use in formulations such as antiseptic mouthwash for combating bacterial infections.

Active compound identification from *Cassia fistula* L. was conducted through extraction using suitable organic solvents, such as ethanol or methanol. This extraction process was followed by isolation and characterization of compounds using chromatography techniques like Thin-Layer Chromatography (TLC) and High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) [23]. Spectroscopy techniques such as NMR and FTIR were also used to identify the chemical structure of active compounds. After identifying the active compounds, the next step is to formulate a mouthwash that can be used as an antiseptic to prevent oral infections caused by *Enterococcus faecalis*. This formulation involves mixing the active extract with supporting ingredients such as water, preservatives, flavoring agents, and pH regulators to ensure stability and user comfort. Stability, efficacy, and safety tests were conducted to ensure that the final product has optimal antibacterial activity and is safe for consumer use [24].

The effectiveness of the mouthwash was tested through in vitro methods such as disc diffusion tests or dilution tests to determine the Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) against *Enterococcus faecalis*. Additionally, clinical trials are necessary to test the effectiveness and tolerability of the mouthwash formulation on human users. The results of these tests will indicate whether the Cassia fistula L [25]. mouthwash formulation can significantly reduce bacterial populations in the mouth and prevent dental and oral infections. This research demonstrates that *Cassia fistula L*. has great potential as a source of natural antibacterial compounds that can be formulated into antiseptic mouthwash. This product not only offers a safer and more natural alternative compared to synthetic chemical-based products but also contributes to preventive efforts in dental and oral health, especially in preventing infections.

CONCLUSION

A compound with the molecular formula $C_{15}H_{24}O$, identified through various spectroscopic techniques such as HR-TOF- MS, UV, and NMR, had been shown to be a bicyclic sesquiterpenoid known as Caryophyllenol-II. NMR spectral data reveal similarities between this compound and other compounds, with notable differences including the presence of a hydroxyl group replacing the epoxide ring and the addition of an olefinic bond. Additionally, this discussion identifies the potential antibacterial properties of the *Cassia fistula* L. plant in developing an effective antiseptic mouthwash against *Enterococcus faecalis*, a common cause of dental and oral diseases such as caries and periodontitis. Mouthwash formulations based on *Cassia fistula* L. extract may offer a safer and more natural alternative compared to synthetic chemical-based products, with a potential for widespread use in preventing dental and oral infections.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors would like to express their deepest gratitude to LPPM Universitas Jambi (Lembaga Penelitian dan Pengabdian kepada Masyarakat) for their financial and administrative support, which made this research possible. This study was conducted under the research grant provided by LPPM Universitas Jambi, and their commitment to advancing scientific research has been instrumental in the successful completion of this project. Lastly, we would like to acknowledge the contributions of our colleagues and laboratory staff who assisted in the data collection, analysis, and preparation of this manuscript. Without their support, this research would not have been possible.

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