

# **JURNAL**

**BIOTEKNOLOGI & BIOSAINS INDONESIA**



Homepage Jurnal: http://ejurnal.brin.go.id/index.php/JBBI

# **EVALUATION AND INHIBITORY MECHANISM ANALYSIS OF NATURAL COMPOUNDS AGAINTS DIHYDROOROTATE DEHYDROGENASE AS ANTI-CANCER AGENTS**

## **Evaluasi dan Analisis Mekanisme Penghambatan Senyawa-senyawa Natural Terhadap Dihidroorotat Dehidrogenase Manusia Sebagai Agen Anti-kanker**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

*Cancer remains one of the deadliest diseases worldwide, and currently cancer treatment is facing several problems related to adverse effects and drug resistance. To address these problems, new prospective anticancer medications are required. Natural compounds, which have been extensively used in the drug research, including for the treatment of cancer, are emerging as viable candidates. This study aimed to evaluate 33 inhouse natural compounds against dihydroorotate dehydrogenase (DHODH) enzyme, a viable target to develop anticancer agent, and to analyze the hit inhibitory mechanism against protein target. In the activity assay, atovaquone was the sole substance to have activity against DHODH, with an inhibition rate of 47.44% at 10 µM. However, discrepancies were shown in the molecular docking result, where atovaquone were identified as hits. Molecular dynamic analysis revealed that atovaquone initially bound to the active site before being forced to the outside due to cleavage of hydrogen bond between the ligand and responsible residue. This study clearly demonstrated the importance of molecular dynamic analysis to study inhibitory mechanism of compound against target protein that may be useful for further development.* 

*Keywords: Anticancer, Drug discovery, Dihydroorotate dehydrogenase, Molecular docking, Molecular dynamic*

#### **ABSTRAK**

Kanker menjadi salah satu penyakit paling mematikan di dunia, dan saat ini penanganan kanker menghadapi beberapa masalah terkait efek samping pengobatan dan resistensi obat. Untuk mengatasi masalah ini, diperlukan obat antikanker yang baru. Senyawa alami, yang telah banyak digunakan dalam penelitian obat, termasuk untuk pengobatan kanker, muncul sebagai kandidat yang potensial. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menguji 33 senyawa alami yang telah diketahui aktivitasnya terhadap enzim dihidroorotat dehidrogenase (DHODH), target yang potensial untuk mengembangkan anti-kanker, dan untuk menganalisa mekanisme penghambatan senyawa terhadap target protein. Dalam uji aktivitas, atovaquone adalah satu-satunya senyawa yang memiliki aktivitas terhadap DHODH, dengan tingkat penghambatan 47.44% pada konsentrasi 10 µM. Namun, perbedaan ditunjukkan dalam hasil doking molekuler, di mana atovaquone diidentifikasi sebagai hit. Analisis dinamika molekular mengungkapkan bahwa di awal atovaquone berikatan dengan situs aktif sebelum terdorong ke luar karena terputusnya ikatan hidrogen antara ligan dan residu yang bertanggung jawab. Studi ini secara jelas mendemonstrasikan pentingnya analisis dinamika molekular untuk mempelajari mekanisme penghambatan senyawa terhadap protein target yang mungkin berguna untuk pengembangan lebih lanjut.

**Kata kunci**: Anti-kanker, Penemuan obat, Dihidroorotat dehydrogenase manusia, Doking molekular, Dinamika molekular

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death in the world. Cancer is a type of disease that manifests as abnormal cell growth in any organ or tissue, which spreads to surrounding body parts and/or other organs after crossing normal cell-boundaries (World Health Organization 2022). In 2020, an estimated 19.3 million new cases of cancer and roughly 10 million cancer-related deaths were reported. Female breast and lung cancers dominated new cancer cases, with an estimation of 2.3 million (11.7%) and 2.2 million (11.4%) cases, respectively, while lung (18%) and colorectal (9,4%) cancers were the two most common causes of cancer death. In addition, the global cancer burden is expected to be 28.4 million cases in 2040, a 47% rise from 2020 (Sung et al. 2021).

The foundation of many cancer treatments today, regardless of the disease's stage, continues to be chemotherapy. This is despite the development of many other cancer treatment methods in recent years (Alfarouk et al. 2015). Chemotherapy is a pharmacological treatment that uses potent drugs to stop cancer cells from proliferating, dividing, and producing new cells. A number of malignancies can be treated with chemotherapy medications either alone or in combination (Cancer.Net 2022). Although it is an effective method for treating various cancers, chemotherapy has many issues related to its side effects and multidrug resistance (MDR). Toxicity in chemotherapy is affected by the selectivity and specificity problem of anticancer agents when targeting cancer tissue. Meanwhile the drug-resistance has also become a significant barrier limiting the therapeutic efficacy of chemotherapeutic drugs, which enables cancer to withstand chemotherapy (Dong and Mumper 2010; Alfarouk et al. 2015).Based on those problems above, it is critically necessary to find novel anticancer substances with improved cytotoxicity and activity for possible intervention. Dihydroorotate dehydrogenase (DHODH) has been widely used as a chemotherapeutic target for cancer. DHODH is a mitochondrial enzyme that is essential in the *de novo* pyrimidine biosynthesis pathway. This enzyme is an oxidoreductase that catalyzes two redox reaction, the conversion of dihydroorotate (DHO) to orotate (ORO), and the regeneration of flavin mononucleotide (FMN) (Reis et al. 2017; Madak et al. 2019). These pathways have a direct correlation to the cancer cell growth by producing the fundamental and essential substrate for DNA replication and protein synthesis during proliferation of the cancer cells (Evans and Guy 2004; Wang et al. 2021). In addition, inhibition of this target is also crucial for cell respiration due to ATP depletion and resulting in inhibition of cell proliferation (Mohamad Fairus et al. 2017). Extensive studies had been performed by focusing on blocking this target in order to develop drugs for various cancer, including small cell lung cancer (Li et al. 2019), breast cancer (Mohamad Fairus et al. 2017), bladder cancer (Cheng et al. 2020), colorectal cancer (Yamaguchi et al. 2019), and acute myeloid leukemia (Wu et al. 2018). Several substances have been found to be DHODH inhibitors to date; some of these are even presently undergoing clinical trials or have received FDA approval. These include brequinar (Maroun et al. 1993), leflunomide (Fragoso and Brooks 2015), BAY 2402234 (Christian et al. 2019), PTC299 (Cao et al. 2019), and ASLAN003 (Zhou et al. 2020).

Numerous compounds isolated from various natural resources demonstrated enormous anticancer activity, according to several research, such as microbes (Li et al.

2018; Ōmura et al. 2018), plants (He et al. 2018; Wu et al. 2018), marine organisms (Ahn et al. 2019; Shubina et al. 2019), and mangrove (Chen et al. 2018; Law et al. 2019). Those nature-derived compounds can operate as key building blocks for the creation of chemotherapeutic drugs due to their impressive structural variety and bioactive qualities (Pham et al. 2019). Moreover, several studies had revealed the potency of natural products for DHODH inhibitor. Wu et al. (2018) had specifically found isobavachalcone, a compound derived from traditional Chinese medicinal plant *Psoralea corylifolia*, which inhibits DHODH directly and triggers apoptosis of acute myeloid leukimia cells. Liu et al. (2020) also showed that piperine, isolated from black pepper, controlled T cell activation by pharmacologically inhibiting DHODH and preventing the synthesis of pyrimidines. In addition, another research has revealed a new compound originating from microbes that are capable of competitively inhibiting DHODH. Ascochlorin, a metabolite produced by fungus *Ascochyta viciae*, demonstrated significant immunosuppressive and anti-inflammatory properties both in vivo and in vitro via reversible DHODH inhibition (Shen et al. 2016). These emphasize the importance of natural compounds as source for anti-cancer drug discovery.

To explore more the potential of natural compounds as anticancer agent, particularly as inhibitor of DHODH activity, in this study, we assessed inhibitory activity of our *in-house* natural compound library against DHODH. The library composed from 33 natural compounds that showed various bioactivities, including anti-fungal, anti-tumor, anti-parasite, anti-inflamatory, anti-oxidant, etc. We also represented the *in-silico* studies to reveal protein-ligand interaction, bioactivity and pharmakokinetic properties of the hit. Moreover, the inhibitory mechanisms of the hits against protein target were predicted by using molecular dynamic simulation. Structurally important moiety of the compound that highly involved in inhibitory mechanism will also be discussed.

#### **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

#### **Location and time**

This study was conducted in Juni – November 2022 at the Biotechnology Laboratory, the National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN), BJ Habibie Science and Technology Park, South Tangerang, Banten, Indonesia.

#### **DHODH Inhibitory Activity Assay**

DHODH recombinant enzyme was prepared as previously described (Inaoka et al. 2016). Each tested 33 in-house natural compound (Table 1) was added to 96-well plate containing 190 µL assay mix (100 mM HEPES pH 8, 150 mM NaCl, 10% (v/v) glycerol, 0.05% (w/v) triton X, 12 mM 2,6-dichloroindophenol (DCIP), 200 nM decylubiquinone, 20 nM DHODH recombinant enzyme) so the final concentration was 10 µM, then homogenized by shaking at 500-750 rpm for 30 s. Absorbance of mix solution was recorded at 600 nm, 25˚C for 1 min in kinetic mode by a multiplate reader (Spectramax Paradigm, Molecular Devices, USA). Substrate L-DHO (dihydroorotate) was subsequently added to the mix solution (final concentration was 0.2 mM) then homogenized by shaking at 500-750 rpm for 30 s. Absorbance of the mix solution was read in a kinetic mode at 600 nm, 25°C. The inhibition activity was calculated as follows:

Mix solution without addition of L-DHO and sample (replaced by water and DMSO, respectively) was regarded as positive control, while mix solution without sample (replaced by DMSO) was regarded as negative control.

#### **Molecular Docking Simulation**

The 3D X-ray diffraction structure of DHODH (PDB ID: 2FPY) were obtained from RCSB Protein Data Bank [\(https://www.rcsb.org/\)](https://www.rcsb.org/) (Burley et al. 2021). The quality of the protein structure were

<sup>%</sup>Inhibition =  $100 - \frac{Absorbance (A_{600}) of Sample - Absorbance (A_{600}) of Positive Control}{Absorbance (A_{600}) of Nearting Control}$ Absorbance (A<sub>600</sub>) of Negative Control

examined using the Ramachandran plot using the Procheck tool [\(https://saves.mbi.ucla.edu/\)](https://saves.mbi.ucla.edu/) (Laskowski et al. 1996). Subsequently, the protein crystal structure was prepared using UCSF Chimera v.1.16. Native inhibitor (3-({[3,5 difluoro-3'-(trifluoromethoxy)Biphenyl-4- Yl]amino}carbonyl)thiophene-2-carboxylic acid) were separated from the receptor and prepared using UCSF Chimera v.1.16 (Butt et al. 2020). Meanwhile, hit compound from activity assay was obtained from PubChem [\(https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/\)](https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/) (Kim et al. 2018) and was saved in 3D SDF format. Native inhibitor and hit compound were then merged into one file using Open Babel v.2.3.1 (Tran-Nguyen et al. 2022).

Validation of binding site was performed by re-docking of native ligand to the target protein using AutoDock Vina (Fradera and Babaoglu 2017) algorithm that was compiled in PyRx v.0.8 (Dallakyan and Olson 2015) in 20 replications. Vina Search Space (Centre X-Y-Z and Size/Dimensions X-Y-Z) was determined using amino acid residues that form the ubiquinone binding site as the basis, where the docking process will be carried out. Incorporation of these amino acid residues in the binding site was determined according to previous reports (Baumgartner et al. 2006; Miyazaki et al. 2018). The result were then analyzed using PyMOL v.2.5.2 Edu (Schrödinger, USA) and Ligplot+ v.2.2.5 (Verma et al. 2014). Performance of re-docking process was evaluated by RMSD (Root Mean Square Deviation) value between the superimposed ligand from the docking result and co-crystallized ligand <2Å and the catalytic residues involve in protein-ligand bound (Gln47 and Arg136 that involved in hydrogen bond).

Docking of tested compounds against the target protein was performed using the same software and parameters as used in the re-docking process. The Vina Search Space was determined based on residues that involved in the configuration of the active site (center X: 49.87614, Y: 41.07927, Z: -1.71916; size X: 23.45541, Y: 29.20333, Z: 21.20155). Docking simulations were executed at an exhaustiveness and number of mode of 8 and 9, respectively. The docking results were saved in CSV format. Visualization and analysis of the proteinligand complexes, as well as 2D interaction between protein and ligand were carried out using PyMOL Molecular Graphic System v.2.5.2 Edu (Schrödinger, USA) and Ligplot+ v.2.2.5 software (Verma et al. 2014).

# **Molecular Dynamic**

The molecular dynamic simulations were carried out using Yasara Dynamic (YASARA Biosciences, Austria). A cube water box was generated for the simulation cell, while the steepest descent minimization algorithm was used for energy minimization. AMBER14 was utilized as a force field. To neutralize the system, Na<sup>+</sup> and Cl<sup>-</sup> ions were added. The following physiological conditions were applied into this system: temperature 298 K, pH 7.4, water density 0.997 g/L, and ion concentration 0.9% NaCl. Molecular dynamic simulation was performed for 150 ns and structural snapshot was taken for every 100 ps. Molecular dynamic simulations were examined based on RMSD (Root Mean Square Deviation) and RMSF (Root Mean Square Fluctuation) values, complexes' trajectories, and protein-ligand interactions.

## **Drug-likeness, Bioactivity, and ADMET Analysis**

The SMILES notation of the hit compound was used for analysis of the druglikeness, bioactivity and ADMET characteristics. The drug-likeness was evaluated using Lipinski's rules of five by the Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics: absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion test or SwissADME [\(http://www.swissadme.ch/in](http://www.swissadme.ch/index.php)[dex.php\)](http://www.swissadme.ch/index.php) (Wicaksono et al. 2022), while Way2Drug PASS Online website (http://www.way2drug.com/PASSOnline) was used for the prediction of biological activity (Druzhilovskiy et al. 2017). The AD-METLab 2.0 server (https://admetmesh.scbdd.com/service/evaluation/index) was used to tracked the adsorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion, and toxicity (Xiong et al. 2021), to determine the safety of our compound for consumption.

#### **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **Inhibitory Activity of Natural Compounds Against DHODH**

All 33 natural compounds were subjected to dihydroorotate dehydrogenase (DHODH) enzymatic reaction assay to examine their inhibitory activity. As shown in Figure 1, atovaquone showed inhibitory activity against DHODH as high as 47.44% at 10 µM, while the other tested compounds did not show any inhibitory activity at the same concentration. This result is similar to that of previous study  $(IC_{50}$  of 15  $\mu$ M) (Knecht et al. 2000). We then further characterized atovaquone as anti-cancer agent.

## **Molecular Docking Simulation**

Molecular docking was performed to analyze the protein-ligand binding and interaction of the hit as a test ligand and native inhibitor as a control against DHODH protein structure. Protein structure and active site validation was carried out before completing molecular docking. Protein structure was verified using Ramachandran plot analysis (Laskowski et al. 1993), and the result demonstrated that the protein structure employed in this study was valid and suitable for further analysis (Figure S1 and Table S1). Accordingly, the active site validation likewise produced a satisfying result, with RMSD values of 20 times re-docking procedures being less than the threshold line of 2.0 (Bell and Zhang 2019; Nguyen et al. 2020b) and the interacted protein residues with the ligand (Table S2) being identical to the results of the prior study by Baumgartner et al (2006).

Docking simulation revealed that atovaquone showed better binding affinity compared to that of native inhibitor with the value of -12.9 and -12.2, respectively. Moreover, atovaquone interacted with the protein at residues those are involved in ubiquinone active site. Atovaquone formed hydrogen bonds with residues Gln47 and Arg136 from protein, which was the same with that of native inhibitor (Baumgartner et al. 2006). On the other hand, atovaquone only inhibited DHODH by as much as 47,44% at 10 µM (Figure 1). Interestingly, although inhibitory activity of atovaquone was similar to the previous report (IC<sub>50</sub> of 15 µM) (Knecht et al. 2000), this was much higher compared to that of the native inhibitor ( $IC_{50}$  of 2 nM), which showed lower binding affinity had in activity assay (Baumgartner et al. 2006). Thus, this result clearly demonstrated the distinct impact of molecular docking to the drug discovery process compared to that of activity assay.

## **Molecular Dynamic Simulation**

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As described in above, binding affinity value of a ligand from molecular docking process does not directly reflect to its inhibitory activity. There are several considerations in molecular docking process that was took into account to decrease computational burden, including the use of simplified algorithms such as kept the protein in a rigid structure. We assumed that the disagreement of our docking result and activity assay result could also due to this circumstance. In order to clarify this assumption, we performed molecular dynamics simulation of protein-ligand complex structure to investigate the inhibitory mechanism of the protein by the ligand. Molecular dynamics simulation is a robust method to study macromolecules' dynamics by taking into account actual experimental conditions and it has been widely used for several purposes, including assessing the stability of ligand poses in the complex protein-ligand (Sakano et al. 2016; Liu et al. 2017), providing information about protein-ligand interactions which calculates the effect of solvent (Shen et al. 2013; Llanos et al. 2021), investigating the receptor's conformational changes upon ligand binding through molecular dynamic trajectories (Wang et al. 2013; Hirano et al. 2021). We compared the RMSD (root mean square deviation) and RMSF (root mean square fluctuation) values of protein-native ligand and protein-atovaquone complex structures from molecular dynamic simulation. Molecular dynamic of apo protein was also simulated under the same condition.

Molecular dynamics simulation of protein-native inhibitor revealed that the average RMSD value of the ligand movement was 1.112 Å with a constant pattern (not much fluctuated) (Figure 2), indicating that the native inhibitor bound firmly with the protein along the simulation period (150 ns). Trajectory result of this complex revealed

that the native inhibitor bond to active site (Figure 3) through hydrogen bonds between carboxyl group of the ligand and Gln47 and Arg136 of the protein (Figure 3b), indicating that the native inhibitor bond in the active site (ubiquinone binding site). This result was consistent with the previous study (Baumgartner et al. 2006). The hydrogen bond is not only important for binding, but also for transportation, adsorption, distribution, metabolization, and excretion of small molecules (Böhm and Schneider 2003). Other type of interactions, such as hydrophobic bond and π-interaction with several residues, also helped the ligand bind to the protein (Figure 3c). The RMSF value of Gln47 and Arg136 of protein-native inhibitor complex were decreased to 1.11 Å and 0.54 Å, respectively, while compared to that of the same residue in apo protein (2.04 Å and 0.91 Å, respectively) (Figure 4), suggested that respective residues were stabilized by the ligand binding. Both residues also showed to bind with the ligand consistently along the simulation (Figure S4a), indicating the importance of these residues in ligand binding.

We then examined the molecular dynamics of protein-atovaquone complex. The average initial RMSD value of atovaquone movement up to the first 43 ns was 1.15 Å (Figure 2), which is comparable with that of native inhibitor. The carbonyl group of the ligand formed hydrogen bonds with Gln47 and Arg136 within this period (Figure 5b). However, RMSD value of the ligand increased drastically to average 5.24 Å after 43 ns until the end of simulation (Figure 2). Hydrogen bond between the ligand and Arg136 was broken, while the hydrogen bond between Gln47 and the ligand was maintained during this period (Figure 5c). Trajectory observation of the ligand revealed that the ligand was protruded from the active site during this period (Figure 5c). Moreover, RMSF values of Gln47 and Arg136 of this complex were 1.87 Å and 1.51 Å, respectively. These values are higher than that of protein-native inhibitor, indicating that harsh fluctuation of respective residues was occurred during protein-atovaquone interaction.

Based on the molecular docking result, we identified that atovaquone as the most potent inhibitor of DHODH within the tested compounds. Although showed better binding affinity value, the inhibitory activity was not as high as that of native inhibitor. Based on molecular dynamics analysis result, hydrogen bond between carbonyl group of atovaquone and Arg136 was broken at 43 ns. In contrast, hydrogen bond between carboxyl group of the native inhibitor and Arg136 was maintained along the simulation, suggested the importance of carboxyl group for binding of the ligand in the active site. Therefore, conversion of carbonyl group of atovaquone into carboxyl group may increase the binding stability of the ligand to the active site, which may also increase the inhibitory activity. The importance of carboxyl group in the inhibitor of DHODH was also demonstrated in the previous report using Brequinar (Fritzson et al. 2010).

The disagreement between molecular docking result and activity assay has been widely experienced by many researchers. Recently, de Sousa *et al* conducted a molecular docking using Zinc15 database composed from 7070 compounds to identify inhibitor of *Plasmodium falciparum* β-haematin (de Sousa et al. 2020). Most of top 15 compounds with lowest binding affinity values (between -12.5 kcal/mol to -14.2 kcal/mol) showed high to moderate  $IC_{50}$ value (micromolar level) against the target. The issues might be related to deletion of water molecules during preparation of protein for the docking process, scoring function, and the use of rigid protein structure (Zoete et al. 2009; Pantsar and Poso 2018), which may lead to misprediction of binding affinity and binding pose.

# **Drug-likeness, Bioactivity, and ADMET Analysis**

Analyzes were also carried out regarding the druglikeness, bioactivity and ADMET of Atovaquone to examine its pharmakokinetic properties and possible target. The fulfillment of the Lipinski requirements led to the identification of atovaquone for use as an oral medication. The result (Table 3)

showed atovaquone meets all standards in parameters molecular weight (MW < 500 g/mol), Moriguchi octanol-water partition coefficient (M log P < 4.15), hydrogen bond donors (< 5) and hydrogen bond acceptor (< 10) (Doak et al. 2014). Moreover, the bioavailability score shows that Atovaquone has a value of 0.86 (range 0 - 1) which means good pharmakokinetic properties (Bojarska et al. 2020). The synthetic accessibility property also showed a positive result with the value of 4.07 (range  $1 - 10$ ), indicating that atovaquone is generally simple to produce (Ertl and Schuffenhauer 2009).

The PASS Online software (http://www.way2drug.com/passonline) was also used to determine the probable cellular targets of Atovaquone. Due to our focus on finding anticancer agents, we were able to anticipate the anticancer activity in which some factors, such as antineoplastic, antioxidant, and angiogenesis inhibitor (Kapoor et al. 2022; Wicaksono et al. 2022) and also several types of cancer that related to DHODH activity: breast cancer (Mohamad Fairus et al. 2017), colorectal cancer (Yamaguchi et al. 2019; Kurth et al. 2021), acute myeloid leukemia (AML) (Wu et al. 2018), small cell lung cancer (Li et al. 2019), bladder cancer (Cheng et al. 2020), pancreatic cancer (Koundinya et al. 2018) etc, The result (Figure 6) showed that Atovaquone is indicated to have no bioactivity in the specified parameters, due all Pa values were less than 0.5 which meant the compound was very unlikely to be related to the biological activity of the substance tested. This may be related to the findings of molecular dynamics simulations, which indicate that atovaquone has a poor inhibitory mechanism because it has a low potential for bioactivity towards targets with a connection to the DHODH enzyme in their therapy.

The ADMET (Figure 7) data showed that Atovaquone some notes on its pharmacokinetic characteristics, especially on the toxicity parameters. Atovaquone may have harmful consequences on a number of variables, including carcinogenicity, AMES, oral acute toxicity, Human Ether-a-go-go-related Gene (hERG), especially on the Human hepatotoxicity (H-HT) and drug-induced liver injury (DILI), and this may be due to its structure.

# **CONCLUSION**

In this study, we have discovered that atovaquone was the only compound that could inhibit the DHODH enzyme moderately through an activity assay on 33 natural compounds. However, this result did not correlate with the docking simulation, indicating that atovaquone might have promising activity against DHODH, due to its binding affinity score. Molecular dynamic analysis revealed the inhibitory mechanism of native ligand and atovaquone against DHODH where native ligand was stably bound to the active site, while atovaquone was driven out of the active site after being bound for only 43 ns of simulation as a result of the hydrogen bond breaking with the implicated residue, and that variation could be brought about by the two ligands' different chemical groups. Our result also demonstrated that molecular dynamic is a powerful tool for revealing ligand interactions in protein-ligand complexes and investigating their mode of action, which are beneficial for future research.

# **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

This study was supported in part by a grant for Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) from Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and a grant for Identification and Bioassay of Microbial Resources from National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) to D.W. All authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

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# **TABLES AND PICTURES**



# **Table 1.** List of compounds used in this study

















**Note:** Green, hydrogen bond; black, hydrophobic bond







**Figure 1.** Inhibitory activity assay result of the tested compounds against DHODH



Figure 2. Root Mean Square Deviation (RMSD) of the movement of native inhibitor (green), and atovaquone (blue), in active site of DHODH



**Figure 3.** Graphical illustration of active site of complex DHODH-native inhibitor. Green, native inhibitor; A, surface of the active site; B, protein-ligand hydrogen bond interaction at 30 ns; C, other interactions inside the active site at 0 ns.

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**Figure 4.** Root Mean Square Fluctuation (RMSF) of each residue in DHODH when interacted with native inhibitor (blue), and atoaquone (orange), Yellow line, RMSF for residues in apo protein.



**Figure 5.** Graphical illustration of active site of complex DHODH-atovaquone. Green, atovaquone; A, surface of the active site; B, protein-ligand hydrogen bond interaction at 0 ns; C, protein-ligand hydrogen bond interaction at 45 ns; D, other interactions inside the active site at 0 ns.



**Figure 6.** Bioactivity of anticancer prediction of atovaquone using Way2Drug (PASS) server





**Figure 7.** ADMET analysis of Atoavquone. Green color represents desirable properties, yellow color represents probably not desirable and Red color represents non-desirable properties. Plasma protein binding (PPB); volume of distribution (Vd); blood brain barrier permeability (BBB), fraction unbound (Fu), hepatotoxicity (H-HT), Drug-induced Liver Injury (DILI), FDA maximum recommended daily dose (FDAMDD).