

# Diversity of endophytic fungi from the root bark of *Syzygium zeylanicum*, and the antibacterial activity of fungal extracts, and secondary metabolite

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**Abstract.** Syarifah, Elfita, Widjajanti H, Setiawan A, Kurniawati AR. 2021. Diversity of endophytic fungi from the root bark of *Syzygium zeylanicum*, and the antibacterial activity of fungal extracts, and secondary metabolite. *Biodiversitas* 22: 4572-4582. The decoction of the root bark of *Syzygium zeylanicum* has been used as traditional medicine, such as for treating pathogenic bacterial infections. Endophytic fungi that live in medicinal plant tissues have a high species diversity and biological activities correlate with their host. Therefore, this study aimed to explore the diversity of endophytic fungi from the root bark of *S. zeylanicum* and to determine the antibacterial activity of endophytic fungi and their secondary metabolites. In this study, we isolate and identify the endophytic fungi from the root bark of *S. zeylanicum*, continued by screening their antibacterial activity against two Gram-negative bacteria (*Escherichia coli* InaCCB5 and *Salmonella thypi* ATCC1048) and two Gram-positive bacteria (*Staphylococcus aureus* InaCCB4 and *Bacillus subtilis* InaCCB1204) by the Kirby-Bauer method. The fungal extract with the highest antibacterial activity proceeded with the isolation and determination of the structure of their bioactive compounds. The isolates were morphologically identified. Isolates that showed strong antibacterial activity were identified by molecular identification. Isolation of bioactive compounds was carried out by chromatographic techniques and the determination of the structure of pure chemical compounds was performed by the spectroscopic analysis. In total, there were 8 isolates of endophytic fungi were obtained from the root bark of *S. zeylanicum*, namely SZR1 – SZR8. SZR2 isolate has the highest antibacterial activity. Molecular identification through phylogenetic analysis showed that SZR2 isolate had high similarity with *Penicillium brefeldianum*. Isolation of bioactive compounds from SZR2 produced compound 1 in the form of light yellow crystals which showed strong antibacterial activity against *S. typhi*, *E. coli*, and *B. subtilis* with MIC values of 64 g/mL. Compound 1 was identified as p-hydroxybenzaldehyde, which was also obtained in its host. In conclusion, the endophytic fungus *Penicillium brefeldianum* produces similar secondary metabolites and antibacterial activity as its host plant.

**Keywords:** Antibacterial, bioactive compounds, endophytic fungi, *Syzygium zeylanicum*

## INTRODUCTION

Endophytic fungi are microorganisms that live in healthy plant tissues and live in mutually beneficial relationships without causing plant diseases (Schueffler and Anke 2011). Endophytic fungi have great potential to acquire medically important new compounds. In addition, they also produce various compounds and interact with other pathogenic and non-pathogenic microorganisms, thus playing a role in increasing productivity (Tayung et al. 2011; Arora and Ramawat 2017; Kothe and Turnau 2018). The efficacy of medicinal plants and their relationship with associated endophytic fungi has gained attention from scientists because of their pharmacological potential in synthesizing natural bioactive compounds (Chadwick and Marsh 2008). The Ogan ethnic-cultural group in South Sumatra has used parts of the Jambu nasi-nasi plant (*S. zeylanicum*) to treat various diseases. Leaves decoction is used to treat hypertension and diabetes (Nguyen et al. 2019), while its essential oil is used as a mosquito repellent

(Govindarajan and Benelli 2016). *S. zeylanicum* has been used by people in various parts of the world to treat infections caused by various pathogenic bacteria. This plant contains alkaloids, glycosides, phenolics, flavonoids, tannins, saponins, and steroids, with various biological activities, including as an antibacterial (Nomi et al. 2012; Anoop and Bindu 2015; Bhanu and Sabu 2017; Deepika et al. 2014; Mayasani et al. 2019). Plants that have been used as ethnomedicine for the treatment of certain diseases are promising candidates to obtain good bioactive compounds from their endophytic fungi (Uzma et al. 2019).

The development of antibiotic resistance by pathogenic bacteria poses a severe problem in the treatment of bacterial infections faced by healthcare services and has become a major concern worldwide. Therefore, the discovery of new antimicrobials is urgent. Endophytic fungi are a source of abundant species, which can produce secondary metabolites with high diversity (Li et al. 2018; Ancheeva et al. 2020). However, the resources of endophytic fungi are still under-explored. In this study, we

aimed to investigate the diversity of endophytic fungi from the root bark of *S. zeylanicum*, to obtain endophytic fungi with strong antibacterial activity, and to provide the basis for further research in obtaining novel antibiotic compounds. As far as we know, this is the first report on the diversity and antibacterial activity of endophytic fungi from the root bark of *S. zeylanicum* and its bioactive compounds.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Plant material

The fresh root bark of *Syzygium zeylanicum* (Jambu nasi-nasi) was collected from District of Penukal Abab Lematang Ilir (PALI), South Sumatra, Indonesia. The plant has been identified in the Biosystematics Laboratory, Department of Biology, Sriwijaya University, Indonesia with specimen number 331/UN9.1.7/4/EP/2020. Sampling was carried out in February 2020. The root bark used in this study is root bark derived from roots in the soil.

### Isolation of endophytic fungi

The fresh root bark was surface sterilized. It was washed with tap water until clean for  $\pm 5$  minutes and then soaked using alcohol 70% for  $\pm 3$  minutes, then rinsed with sterile distilled water for  $\pm 1$  minute, and soaked with Sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl) 3% (w/v) for 1 minute. The sterile root bark was cut aseptically, with the size of  $\pm 3 \times 0.5$  cm. Samples were placed on potato dextrose agar (PDA) media in Petri dishes and incubated at room temperature for 3-14 days. Fungal growth was observed every day until the fungal colonies were visible. Fungal colonies with different morphological characters (shape, color, and size) were further purified. Purification was carried out by transferring the colonies to a new PDA medium with a single spore isolation method, then incubated at room temperature for  $2 \times 24$  hours. The purified fungal colonies were re-cultured on PDA media as working culture (in Petri dishes) and stock cultures (in test tubes) (Fitriarni and Kasiamdari 2018; Hanin and Fitriasari 2019; Habisukan et al. 2021).

### Identification of endophytic fungi

The identification of endophytic fungi was based on their macroscopic and microscopic characters. Observations of colony characteristics included: (i) colony color and reverse side color, (ii) colony surface: granular, powdery, mountainous, slippery. (iii) Presence or absence of exudate drops, (iv) Presence or absence of radial lines (radial furrow) from the center of the periphery of the colony, (v) presence or absence of concentric circles. Microscopic observations include the shape of the hyphae or mycelium, the shape of the spores, the color of the spores, the presence or absence of a septum on the hyphae, and other microscopic characteristics. The phenotypic identification data were compared to the identification key literature such as Pictorial Atlas of Soil and Seed Fungi Morphologies of Cultured Fungi and Key to Species (Watanabe 2010), Larone's medically important fungi

(Walsh et al. 2018), and Fungi and Food Spoilage (Pitt and Hocking 2009).

### Cultivation and extraction

All endophytic fungal strains were cultivated by placing 6 blocks of pure culture grown on PDA ( $\pm 6$  mm in diameter) into a 300 mL Potato Dextrose Broth (PDB) medium. Each isolate was cultivated in 5 Erlenmeyer with a volume of 300 mL PDB. The culture was then incubated under static conditions at room temperature for 4 weeks. After incubation, mycelium and broth culture were separated using filter paper. The culture medium was extracted using ethyl acetate (1:1) three times. The ethyl acetate extract was separated from the culture medium by separating funnel and evaporated using a rotary evaporator (Deepika et al. 2014; Habisukan et al. 2021). The extract was concentrated using an oven at 40°C. The concentrated extract and biomass were weighed using an analytical balance.

### Antibacterial activity test

The antibacterial activity was carried out by the Kirby-Bauer method using NA (Nutrient Agar) medium against four bacterial isolates, namely two Gram-negative bacteria (*Escherichia coli* InaCCB5 and *Salmonella thypi* ATCC1048 and two Gram-positive bacteria (*Staphylococcus aureus* InaCCB4 and *Bacillus subtilis* InaCCB1204). The endophytic fungal extract was dissolved with dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO). The blank disc paper was dripped with 20  $\mu$ L of an endophytic fungal extract with a concentration of 400  $\mu$ g/disk, then left until all the solvent evaporates completely. Positive control was Tetracycline 30  $\mu$ g/disk. The disc paper with the test solution was placed on the NA medium that has been inoculated with the test bacteria. Then it is incubated for 1x24 hours at a temperature of 37° C. After incubation, the inhibition zone was observed using a caliper to measure the inhibitory zone diameter. The measurement of the antibacterial activity of the sample and the criteria for the diameter of the inhibition zones were determined by the following equation (Elfita et al. 2019) :

$$\text{Weak: } \frac{A}{B} \times 100\% < 50\%;$$

$$\text{Middle: } 50\% \leq \frac{A}{B} \times 100\% < 70\%;$$

$$\text{Strong: } \frac{A}{B} \times 100\% > 70\%$$

Where:

A: Inhibition zone (mm) of the test sample

B: Inhibition zone (mm) of standard antibiotics

Determination of the MIC of the pure compound isolated from SZR2 was carried out in the concentration range of 256–1 g/mL. Positive antibacterial was determined by the diameter of inhibition zone  $> 9$  mm at a certain concentration series. The lowest concentration in the bacterial positive series is defined as the MIC value (Ding et al. 2019).

### Molecular analysis of ITS rDNA

Identification of isolates based on the internal transcribed spacer (ITS) region of DNA (rDNA). Amplification was carried out using universal primers ITS1 (5'-TCCGTAGGTGAACCTGCGG-3') and ITS 4 (5'-TCCTCCGCTTATTGATATGC-3') (Diongue et al. 2019). The DNA sequences of the forward and reverse primers were compiled using the Bioedit program. The sequence results were then identified to the level of taxa species using the online bioinformatics method of the Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST) at the website address <http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi>. Subsequently, multiple alignments were performed using the Mega 6 program (Tamura et al. 2013) use the CLUSTAL W method and the phylogenetic tree was constructed using the Neighbor-joining tree method with a bootstrap value of 1000 (Katoch and Pull 2017; Kuswyasari et al. 2019; Potshangbam et al. 2017).

### Bioactive compound isolation and identification

The crude extract with strong antibacterial activity was separated using column chromatography (stationary phase: silica gel) and eluted with gradient elution (n-hexane: ethyl acetate: methanol). Eluates were collected in vials with a volume of 10 ml and monitored by TLC analysis to obtain subfractions. The subfraction identified as having active secondary metabolites was then purified by column chromatography until pure compounds were obtained. The structures of the compounds were identified by spectroscopic methods include  $^1\text{H-NMR}$ ,  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ , HMQC, HMBC (Budiono et al. 2019).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

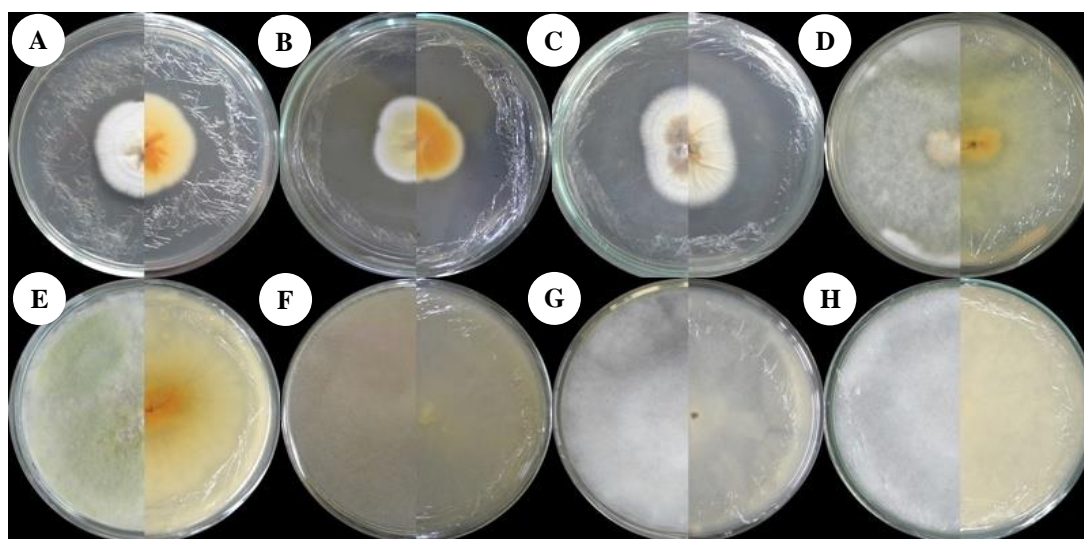
The purpose of the isolation of fungal endophytes from *S. zeylanicum* is to identify and investigate the fungal

diversity associated with the root bark. The appearance of hyphae that emerged around surface-sterilized plant tissue indicates the growth of endophytic fungal isolates. Colonies of endophytic fungal isolates have different morphological characters. Massive hyphae growth emerged from the root bark samples, mainly white colonies and yellow pigmentation. Isolation of endophytic fungi from the Jambu nasi-nasi root bark results in 8 isolates with codes SZR1 to SZR8 (Figure 1) which have different morphological characteristics (shape, color, and size). Endophytic fungi from root bark showed colony diversity in terms of colony size, color (white, black, green, and gray), and texture (velvet, cotton, and powdery).

### Endophytic fungi morphological identification

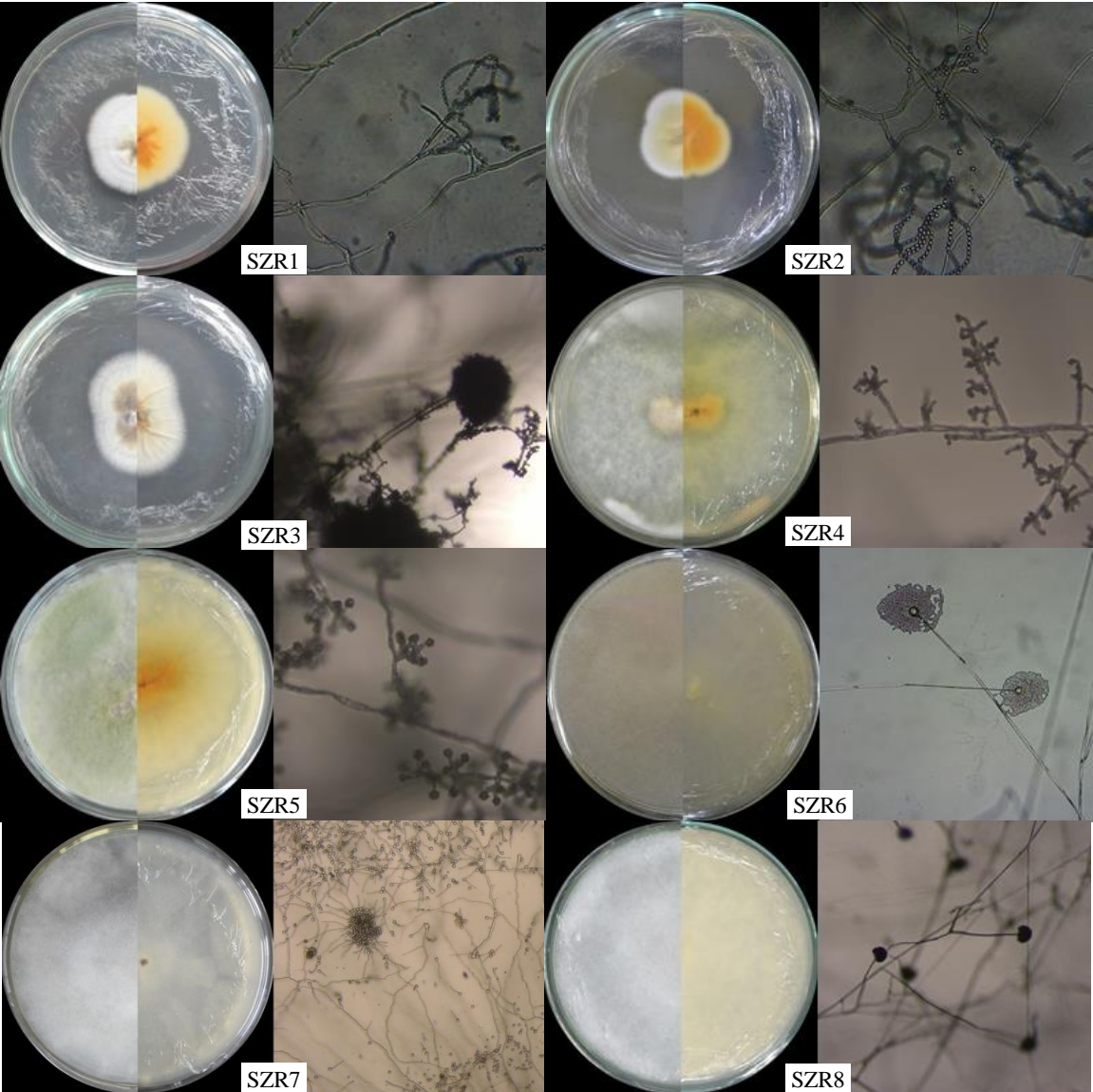
Endophytic fungi that have been isolated from *S. zeylanicum* were identified based on their morphological characters, both macroscopically and microscopically (Kumar et al. 2019). The morphology of endophytic fungi is presented in Figure 2. Macroscopic and microscopic characteristics were presented in Table 1 and Table 2, respectively.

SZR1 isolate had a velvety colony texture with a yellowish-white color; the key species of this isolate was a non-verticillate phialide with dangling subglobose conidia so that the SZR1 isolate was close to *Paecilomyces victorae* (Watanabe 2010). SZR2 has almost the same colonies as SZR1 isolates with greenish-white colonies, conidiophores form was monoverticillate penicillin consisting of several phialides, metulae, and catenulate conidia at the apex: pointed phialides pens with abruptly pointed ends. The characteristics of SZR2 based on the book Watanabe (2010) are close to the genus *Penicillium*. Molecular analysis of SZR2 suggests that SZR2 was close to *Penicillium brefeldianum*.

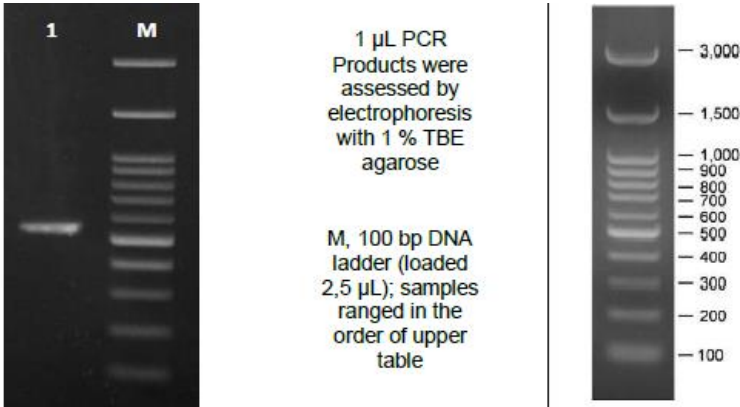


**Figure 1.** Endophytic fungi from the root bark of *Syzygium zeylanicum*. Isolate code: A. SZR1; B. SZR2; C. SZR3; D. SZR4; E. SZR5; F. SZR6; G. SZR7; and H. SZR8





**Figure 2.** Morphology of endophytic fungi from the root bark of *Syzygium zeylanicum* (macroscopic and microscopic characters)



**Figure 3.** Electrophoresis results of ITS rDNA sequences of endophytic fungus SZR2

**Table 1.** Colony characteristics of endophytic fungi from the root bark of *Syzygium zeylanicum*

Code	Surface colony	Reverse colony	Structure	Elevation	Pattern	Exudate drops	Radial line	Concentric circle
SZR1	Greenish white	Yellowish white	Velvety	Rugose	Zonate	-	-	√
SZR2	Yellowish green	Light yellow	Velvety	Rugose	Zonate	-	-	√
SZR3	Black and White around	Broken White	Powdery	Rugose	Zonate	-	√	-
SZR4	Greenish-yellow	Light yellow	Cottony	Raised	Spread	-	-	-
SZR5	Greenish-yellow	Yellowish white	Cottony	Raised	Spread	-	-	-
SZR6	Gray	Gray	Cottony	Raised	Spread	√	-	-
SZR7	White	White	Cottony	Umbonate	Spread	-	-	√
SZR8	Milky white	Yellowish white	Cottony	Umbonate	Spread	-	-	√

Note: (-): present; (√): absent

**Table 2.** Microscopic characteristics of *Syzygium zeylanicum* endophytic fungi

Isolate	Spore	Shape	Hyphae	Characteristic	Species of Identification
SZR1	Conidia	Verticillate	Septate	Hyaline conidiophyte, verticillate	<i>Paecilomyces victorae</i>
SZR2	Conidia	Globose	Septate	Bearing monoverticillate penicilla	<i>Penicillium brefeldianum</i>
SZR3	Conidia	Globose	Septate	Globose vesicle, conidia black in mass	<i>Aspergillus niger</i>
SZR4	Conidia	Subglobose	Septate	Spore masses apically, conidia globose	<i>Trichoderma harzianum</i>
SZR5	Conidia	Subglobose	Septate	Ovate conidia, short phialides, densely arranged	<i>Trichoderma aureoviridae</i>
SZR6	Sporangiospore	Globose	Coenocytic	Sporangiophores erect, branched, rhizoidal basally; vesicles hyaline globose.	<i>Syncephalastrum racemosum</i>
SZR7	Ascospore	Subglobose	Septate	Ascocarps with well-developed hair	<i>Chaetomium</i> sp.
SZR8	Sporangiospore	Globose	Coenocytic	Sporangiophores hyaline, erect. Sporangia dark; columellae hemispherical subglobose	<i>Absidia repens</i>

The isolate of SZR3 had the characteristics of a powdery texture with black colonies in the middle and white at the edges. SZR3 has septate hyphae, hyaline conidiophores with spherical vesicles surrounded by masses of black conidia, characteristic of this isolate leading to *Aspergillus niger* (Walsh et al. 2018).

SZR4 and SZR5 isolates have almost the same colonies with cotton texture and whitish green color (Figure 2). Both isolates had branching conidiophores, with a mass of spores in each phialide, SZR5 had oval conidia, short, thick, tightly arranged conidia so that they were close to *Trichoderma aureoviride*, while the conidia in isolate SZR4 were globose so this isolate is close to *Trichoderma harzianum* (Watanabe 2010). SZR6 has a cottony texture and spreads quickly gray. SZR6 has erect, branched, rhizoid sporangiophores at the base; a globose hyaline vesicle. Based on these characters, SZR6 is close to the *Syncephalastrum racemosum* (Walsh et al. 2018; Watanabe 2010).

SZR7 and SZR8 had white colonies with cotton texture but different colors of the reverse side where SZR8 had darker yellow color (Figure 2). Microscopically the two isolates had different characteristics. The ascocarps of SZR7 have elongated hairs around the ascocarps. The characteristics of SZR7 lead to *Chaetomium* sp. (Watanabe 2010). Meanwhile, SZR8 has hyaline sporangiophores, erect, dark sporangia with the subglobose hemispherical columella. These characteristics of SZR8 point to the species of *Absidia repens* (Watanabe 2010; Hoffmann et al. 2007).

Based on the morphological characteristics, the isolates from the root bark of *S. zeylanicum* were grouped into three classes, i.e., Euriomycetes (SZR1, SZR2, and SZR3), Sordariomycetes (SZR4, SZR5, and SZR7), and Zygomycetes (SZR 6 and SZR8). Endophytic fungi isolated from the root bark of *S. zeylanicum* showed a variety of spore forms (verticillate, globose, and subglobose) (Table 2). Most of the isolates had septate hyphae, except isolates SZR6 and SZR8 which had coenocytic hyphae.

### Molecular analysis of ITS rDNA

Molecular characterization combined with morphological identification can identify fungus to the species level (Gherbawy and Voigt 2010). Molecular characterization was carried out on the Internal Transcribed Spacer (ITS) rDNA area. Currently, there are more than 90,000 fungal sequences in the ITS area, where this area is most widely used as a barcode area for fungi (Hibbett et al. 2011; Singh et al. 2020). PCR analysis used a pair of universal primers, namely ITS1 for the forward primers and ITS4 for the reverse primers. The amplification results of the ITS rDNA area varied by  $\pm 500$ bp (Figure 3). Sequence reading results from each of the forward and reverse primers were processed by cutting the ends of the sequences with low peaks using the Bioedit program. Furthermore, the sequences are aligned so that the compilation sequences of the forward and reverse primers from the ITS rDNA area are obtained.

Sequences from the ITS rDNA area of the SZR2 isolate were analyzed for intraspecies similarity with the data in

Genbank NCBI using the BLAST algorithm. The relationship between sequences can be observed through the construction of a phylogenetic tree using the distance calculation method, namely the neighbor-joining phylogenetic tree. The purpose of using this method is to determine the position of the isolate sequence to the closest sequence (sequences that have a small base pair difference) so that the distance between each sequence can be seen (Ahrenfeldt et al. 2017). Sequence collections were aligned using CLUSTAL W in the MEGA6 program, and a phylogenetic tree was constructed (Figure 4).

The results of the construction of the SZR2 endophytic fungal phylogeny tree are shown in Figure 4. The SZR2 phylogenetic tree shows that the isolate sequence is close to *Penicillium vanderhammenii*, *Penicillium Penarojense*, and is in the same branch as *Penicillium brefeldianum*. The phylogenetic analysis indicated that the SZR2 isolate was included in the taxonomy of *P. brefeldianum*, this was following the phenotypic character previously discussed.

### Cultivation and extraction

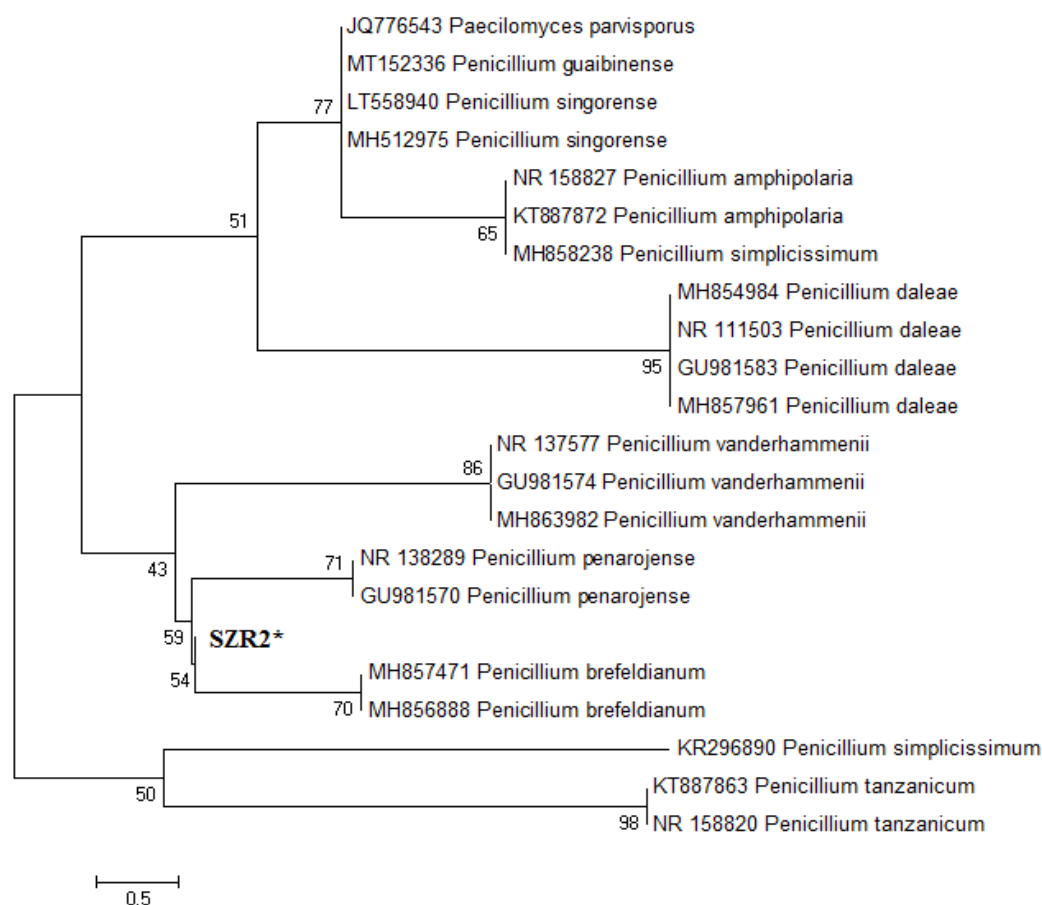
The weight of endophytic fungal extracts are as follows: SZR1= 5.9g, SZR2= 6.2g, SZR3= 5.5g, SZR4= 5.7g, SZR5= 5.1g, SZR6= 4.7 g, SZR7= 5.3 g, and SZR8= 5.8g.

### Antibacterial activity test

The antibacterial activity of the ethyl acetate extract of the endophytic fungi from the root bark of *S. zeylanicum* is shown in Table 4. The isolate that had strong antibacterial activity against four microbial pathogens was SZR2 isolate, while SZR1 and SZR4 had strong antibacterial against 3 pathogenic bacteria and moderate antibacterial activity against *B. subtilis*. SZR6 and SZR8 showed weak antibacterial activity against *B. subtilis* and moderate antibacterial activity against the other three bacterial pathogens.

### Isolation of bioactive compound

The eluate from column chromatography was monitored using thin-layer chromatography (TLC) with a mobile phase of n-hexane and ethyl acetate (5:5). TLC profile with a similar chromatogram pattern was combined into one fraction. Based on the results of the chromatogram pattern, 4 fractions were obtained, namely F1-F4. White crystals were formed in the F2 fraction, and after being purified with n-hexane, compound 1 was obtained in the form of white crystals weighing 37 mg. Compound 1 showed good antibacterial activity against *E. coli*, *S. typhi*, and *B. subtilis* with a MIC value of 64 g/mL (Table 2).



**Figure 4.** Phylogenetic tree of endophytic fungus SZR2. The construction uses the Neighbor-Joining method. The endophytic fungi SZR2 indicated by an asterisk [\*] were subject to phylogenetic analysis with related species using a neighbor-joining phylogenetic tree (bootstrap value = 1000). Sequences obtained from the BLAST results. The value on the branch shows the bootstrap value (percentage of 1000 x replications)

**Table 3.** Antibacterial activity of ethyl acetate extract of endophytic fungi from *S. zeylanicum* (SZR1-SZR8) compared to standard antibiotics (tetracyclines)

Sample (400 µg/disc)	Comparison of the inhibition zone (mm) of the sample to the inhibition zone of tetracycline antibiotics (mm) expressed in % antibacterial activity <sup>a</sup>			
	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>S. thyphi</i>	<i>B. subtilis</i>
SZR1	14.3 ± 0.6 73.4***	16.3 ± 1.6 79.7 ***	15.3 ± 1.8 73.0***	16.1 ± 0.8 67.5 **
SZR2	15.8 ± 1.5 80.7 ***	16.4 ± 0.7 80.2 ***	18.3 ± 0.8 87.2***	20.5 ± 0.5 86.1 ***
SZR3	12.9 ± 0.4 65.9 **	14.0 ± 0.6 68.5 **	15.3 ± 1.5 72.8 ***	13.4 ± 1.2 56.5 **
SZR4	15.4 ± 0.8 78.7 ***	17.0 ± 1.5 82.8 ***	14.8 ± 1.7 70.6 ***	16.1 ± 1.5 67.9 **
SZR5	13.5 ± 1.1 68.8 **	13.7 ± 0.5 66.8 **	15.0 ± 1.0 71.4 ***	14.8 ± 1.6 62.2 **
SZR6	11.6 ± 1.7 59.3 **	11.2 ± 1.0 54.5 **	10.2 ± 1.9 48.5 *	9.4 ± 1.4 39.5 *
SZR7	14.6 ± 1.1 74.6 ***	12.6 ± 1.2 61.7 **	15.4 ± 0.7 73.2 ***	13.7 ± 1.5 57.8**
SZR8	12.3 ± 1.3 63.2 **	10.9 ± 0.3 53.4 **	14.3 ± 1.5 68.1 **	10.0 ± 0.8 42.2 *
Tetracycline	19.5 ± 1.4 100 ***	20.5 ± 1.7 100 ***	21.0 ± 1.0 100 ***	23.8 ± 1.2 100 ***

Note: <sup>a</sup>: \*\*\* Strong inhibition ≥ 70% \*\* middle inhibition 50-70% \*weak inhibition < 50% (NI) No Inhibition zone

**Table 4.** MIC value of pure compound 1 and tetracycline against four bacterial isolates

Sampel	MIC Value(µg/mL)			
	<i>E. coli</i>	<i>S. aureus</i>	<i>S. thyphi</i>	<i>B. subtilis</i>
Compound 1	64	128	64	64
Tetracycline	1	1	1	1

Note: Zone of Inhibition >9 mm indicates that the compound has antibacterial activity at the appropriate concentrations

### Determination of chemical structure

The spectrum of <sup>1</sup>H-NMR of the pure compound 1 showed the presence of three protons signals including two doublet signals at H 6.95 and 7.80 ppm, each of which had two proton integrations. These two signals are in the chemical shift of the aromatic region and each has an ortho-rot constant (J = 8 Hz) which indicates that the pure compound is an aromatic compound with para position substitution. This causes two pairs of ortho protons to appear in the same chemical shift. In addition, there is a signal in the low field of 9.85 ppm H, namely in the proton aldehyde region. Based on the analysis of the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum, the pure compound is a para-substituted aromatic compound with a total of five protons.

The spectrum of <sup>13</sup>C-NMR from pure compound 1 showed the presence of five signals. The carbon type in the spectrum can be seen from the chemical shift and its intensity. All the carbon possessed by a pure compound is sp<sup>2</sup>. Carbon at C 116.0 and 132.5 ppm with high intensity indicate that there are 2 carbon equivalents in each of these signals. This is supported by the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum which shows the presence of two equivalent protons. In the spectrum, there is carbon in the low field of C 191.0 ppm, namely the carbonyl carbon region. This high-intensity pattern on the carbonyl carbon indicates that the pure compound has an aldehyde group. This is supported by the

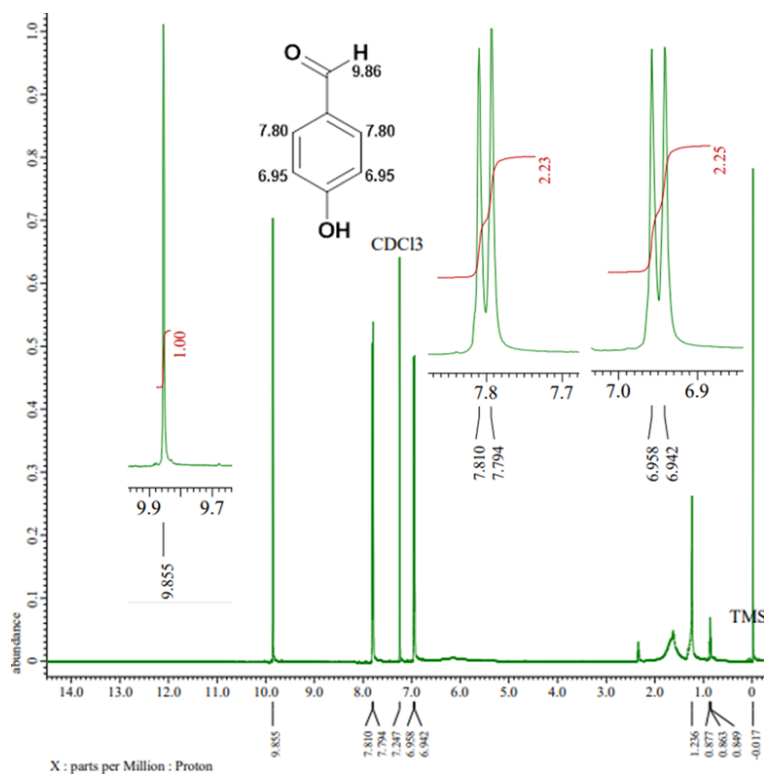
presence of an aldehyde proton signal in the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum. Signals at C 130.2 and 161.2 ppm are quaternary aromatic carbon, where carbon at 161.2 ppm is oxyaryl carbon so it is in a fairly low field. The analysis of the proton and carbon NMR spectra is reinforced by the data on the HSQC spectrum shown in Table 1 which shows that there are three <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C correlations through one bond consisting of two correlations on the aromatic ring and one correlation on the carbonyl carbon.

The HMBC spectrum (Figure 6) shows the <sup>1</sup>H-<sup>13</sup>C correlation through two or three bonds. The aromatic proton signal at H 6.95 ppm is correlated through three bonds with its equivalent aromatic carbon (δC 116.0 ppm); quaternary aromatic carbon (δC 130.2 ppm); and oxyaryl quaternary carbon (δC 161.2 ppm). The aromatic proton at H 7.80 ppm is correlated through three bonds with its equivalent aromatic carbon (δC 132.5 ppm); oxyaryl quaternary carbon (δC 161.2 ppm); and carbonyl aldehyde carbon (δC 191.0 ppm). Furthermore, the aldehyde proton is correlated through three bonds with the equivalent aromatic carbon at C 132.5 ppm. The correlation indicates that the aldehyde group is directly attached to the aromatic ring and is para-substituted with a hydroxyl group. The proton hydroxyl signal does not appear on the spectrum because the pure compound is measured with the solvent CDCl<sub>3</sub>. The 2D and 1D NMR spectral data for compound 1

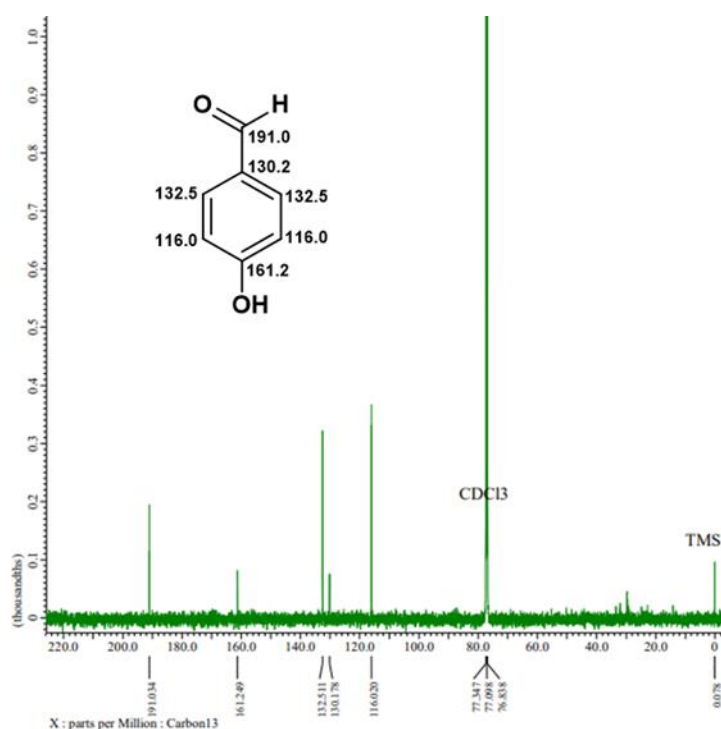
are shown in Table 5.

Based on spectroscopic analysis covering the  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR spectrum,  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR, HMQC, and HMBC, and by comparing with the spectroscopic data for the same

compound from the literature, it was identified that compound 1 was 4-hydroxybenzaldehyde or p-hydroxybenzaldehyde. Compound 1 structure is shown in Figure 7.



**Figure 5.** The spectrum of  $^1\text{H}$ -NMR of compound 1



**Figure 6.**  $^{13}\text{C}$ -NMR spectrum of compound 1



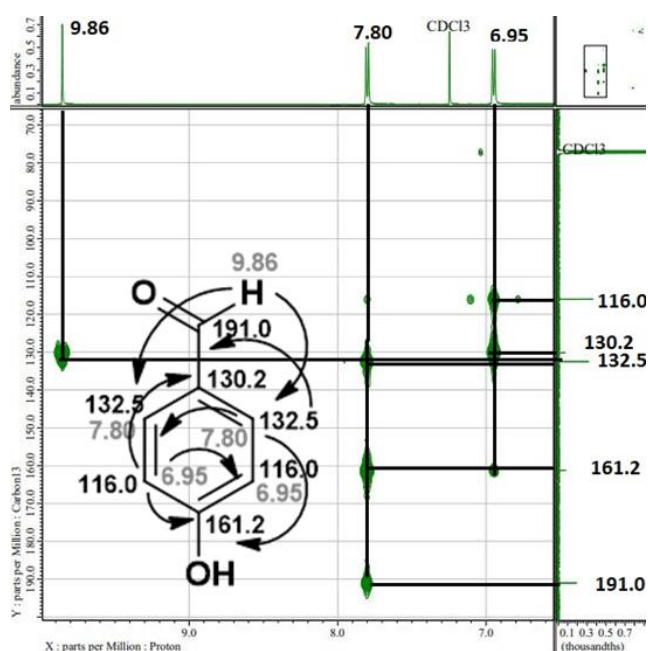


Figure 7. HMBC spectrum of compound 1

## Discussion

The isolation process was carried out on a PDA medium because fungal cultures grew faster on this medium and several species might not have been isolated before. The diversity of endophytic fungi isolates was not only found in *S. zeylanicum* but was also found in the isolation of endophytic fungi from *S. cumini* (Hanin and Fitriyani 2019), *S. aqueum* (Habisukan et al. 2021), *S. aromaticum* (Shofiana et al. 2015).

Several genera of fungi isolated from the root bark of *S. zeylanicum* were found on other *Syzygium* plants, such as the genus *Penicillium* found on the leaves of *Syzygium aqueum* (Habisukan et al. 2021). The genus *Aspergillus* is found in *Syzygium aqueum* (Habisukan et al. 2021), *Syzygium aromaticum* (Shofiana et al. 2015), and *Syzygium paniculatum* (Ploetz et al. 2009). *Penicillium brefeldianum* has cytotoxic activity against HepG2 and MDA-MB-231 cells, this fungus had been isolated from the root of *Pinellia ternate* (Gao et al. 2017). The endophytic fungus *Aspergillus* has a wide range of biological activities

because it produces many secondary metabolites, including alkaloids, butenolides, cytochalasins, terpenoids, -terphenyls, phenalenone, sterols, xanthenes, diphenyl ethers, and anthraquinone derivatives. The biological activities of *Aspergillus* include anticancer, antifungal, antibacterial, antiviral, antiinflammatory, antitrypanosomal, and antileishmanial activities (El-Hawary et al. 2020).

The endophytic fungi of *Trichoderma* species (SZR4 and SZR5 isolates) that are associated with plant roots can provide various benefits to their hosts such as cultural protection agents to control pathogens and promote plant growth (Cummings et al. 2016). The root-associated *Trichoderma* endophytes have been found in several tropical plants (Cummings et al. 2016) such as *Syzygium aqueum* (Habisukan et al. 2021), *Syzygium aromaticum* (Mandla 2018). The endophytic fungus SZR7 identified as *Chaetomium* was also found in *Syzygium aqueum* (Habisukan et al. 2021). *Chaetomium* is also an endophytic fungus from *Curcuma wenyujin* and produces chemical compounds such as chaetoglobosin, ergosterol, 2-methyl-3-hydroxy indole, and chaetoglobosin X. Those compounds exhibit a broader antifungal spectrum and showed the strongest cytotoxic activity against H22 and MFC cancer cell lines (Wang et al. 2012). SZR8 isolate that identified as *Absidia* was found in several plants, such as *Phragmites australis*, *Galium sanaicum*, *Meyna spinosa*, *Avicennia officinalis* (Rashmi et al. 2019), however, the discovery of *Absidia* in the genus *Syzygium* in this study was the first report.

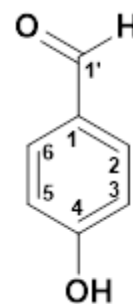


Figure 7. The structure of compound 1 as p-hydroxybenzaldehyde

Table 5. 1D and 2D NMR Spectral Data for Compound 1

No. C	$\delta_C$ (ppm) 1	H-NMR $\delta_H$ (ppm)*	HMQC $\delta_H$ (ppm), $\Sigma H$ , mult, $J$ (Hz) 1	HMBC 1
1	130.2			
2	132.5			
3	116.0	6.96	6.95 (1H, d, $J$ = 8.0 Hz)	116.0; 130.2; 161.2
4	161.2			
5	116.0			
6	132.5	7.79	7.80 (1H, d, $J$ = 8.0 Hz)	132.5; 161.2; 191.0
1'	191.0	9.82	9.86 (1H, s)	132.5

Note: \*Data source from Spectral Database for Organic Compounds SDBS No. 3444

The bootstrap value located at the branching shows the significance of the randomized data set in predicting the same branches (González-Orozco et al. 2016). *Penicillium brefeldianum* has an anamorph with *Penicillium dodgei* (Watanabe 2010). *P. brefeldianum* was recently discovered from the Chinese medicinal plant *Xanthium sibiricum* which produces compounds eupenicinicol C and eupenicinicol D (Uzma et al. 2019).

The difference in antibacterial activity of endophytic fungal extracts is due to the different content of active compounds. The antibacterial activity of the endophytic fungus from *S. zeylanicum* correlated with the antibacterial activity of the host plant. The endophytic fungal extracts were more effective against Gram-positive bacteria compared to Gram-negative bacteria (Rani et al. 2017). Several previous studies showed that *S. zeylanicum* was reported to have antimicrobial activity against *P. aeruginosa*, *E. coli*, *P. vulgaris*, *S. aureus*, *K. pneumoniae*, and *Bacillus subtilis* (Deepika et al. 2014). The abundance of phenolic and flavonoid compounds in the *S. zeylanicum* contributes to its strong antimicrobial activity (Deepika et al. 2014; Microbiol et al. 2016; Palanisamy et al. 2011; Shilpa and Krishnakumar 2015).

A previous study by Sheng-yuan et al. (2018) succeeded in finding 11 compounds from the ethyl acetate extract of stem and leaves of *Syzygium jambos*, namely genin (1); 2',4 -dihydroxy-6'-methoxy-3'-methyl chalcone (2); 2',4'-dihydroxy-6'-methoxy-3',5'-dimethyldihydrochalcone (3); 6-desmethyلسideroxylin (4); 5,7-dihydroxy-6,8-dimethyl-4'-methoxyflavone (5); p-hydroxybenzaldehyde (6); quercitrin (7); ellagic acid (8); syringin (9); glucosyringic acid (10); and adenosine (11). It was revealed that one of the compounds found in *S. jambos* was p-hydroxybenzaldehyde. This compound is also produced by the endophytic fungus SZR2. It indicates that endophytic fungi can produce compounds that are almost the same as their hosts.

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