

Study of the extract activities of *Buas buas* leaves (*Premna pubescens*) as immunostimulant on rats (*Rattus novegicus*)

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Abstract: *Buas buas* (*Premna pubescens*) is one of the plants in Indonesia which is believed to have medicinal properties, but it is not certain. This plant is consumed by the Malay community, one of the tribes in North Sumatra - Indonesia, as vegetables, especially during the fasting month. This paper describes the effects of ethanol extract of leaves of *Buas buas* as an immunostimulant in rats (*Rattus norvegicus*). The experiments were performed on 24 tail of male rats, which were three months old, weighing 140-180 g. There were four groups of experiment ie Group A₀ was given Carboxy Methyl Cellulose mice (CMC) (control group), group A₁ was given 500 mg/ kg bw of Ethanol Extracts of *Buas buas*. Group A₂, given ethanol extracts of *Buas buas* 500 mg / kg bw + SRBC, and the group A₃ only given Sheep Red Blood Cell (SRBC). After this experiment, apigenin levels were analyzed by High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) Agilent 1220. Then the activity of immunostimulation is determined by measuring the leukocyte count, percentage of lymphocytes, antibody titers, the levels of immunoglobulin M (IgM), immunoglobulin G (IgG), and lysozyme with ABX Micros 60. The group A₂ is seen the highest group of in the number of leukocytes, antibody titer levels, imonoglobulin G (IgG), and imonoglobulin M. The amount of lysozyme owned group A₂ is 0:04 ug / ml, whereas other treatments to obtain results that are not different relative significantly. Provision of Ethanol Extracts of *Buas buas* on mice can increase the leukocytes, lymphocytes, antibody titers, IgM, IgG and Lysozyme.

Keywords: *Premna Pubescens*, Titer Antibodies, Lymphocytes, SRBC, IgG, IgM, Lysozyme

1. Introduction

The immune system can be improved with the use of traditional medicine. Body's immune system increases the resistance of cells to fight disease. Traditional medicine can be used as treatment efforts (self-medication) to support modern medicine, because the plant is effective in improving the immune system and increase antioxidant activity in humans [1]. One of the plant in Indonesia, which has not been known and used widely, which have medicinal properties, is called *Buas buas* (*Premna pubescens*) as shown in Figure 1.

The leaves of this plant are consumed by the Malay community, one of the main tribes in Indonesia, especially North Sumatra just as fresh vegetables or cooked vegetables. The shape of the leaves of this plant looks like Figure 2.



Figures 1. *Buas buas* Plants (*Premna pubescens*)



Figure 2. *Buas buas* Leaf

Some of the other *Premna* genus has been studied, that related to the content of secondary metabolites owned and usefulness. *Corymbosa Premna* compounds containing apigenin, which is one of the derivatives of the alkaloid. Secondary metabolites as *anti-hyperglycemic* activity. The previous research found a significant reduction of total cholesterol, Low Density Lipoproteins (LDL) cholesterol, Very Low Density Lipoproteins (VLDL), and an increase in the High Density lipoproteins (HDL) in adult wistar rats [2]. Apigenin can inhibit, prevent and treat cancer cells. These five common types of flavonoids, are *myricetin*, *kaempferol*, *quercetin*, *luteolin* and *apigenin*. Flavonoid *apigenin* is *nontoxic* who has the ability as an anti-tumor and chemotherapy agents, and inhibits the growth of *vascular endothelial protease inhibitors* [3, 4, 5].

The development of cervical cancer cells (*Uh La*) in G1 phase can be prevented by lowering the activity of Bcl-2 protein expression by apigenin, which acts as an *anti-apoptotic* [6]. Flavonoid apigenin is nonmutagenik, which prevents the growth of human *neuroblastoma* cells [7]. This demonstrates the efficacy of *Buas buas* leaves, which have apigenin compounds can increase of the body's defense system, because it has an activity as an *immunostimulant*, which can stimulate the immune system non-specific and specific when no antigen. *Immunostimulatory* consists of biological and synthetic compounds that enhance the body's non-specific defense mechanisms in animals that provide the comprehensive protection [8].

The *immunostimulatory* activity of the leaves of *Buas buas* can be measured by several parameters, namely, *immunoglobulin G* and *immunoglobulin M* and some *hematological* parameters such as the percentage of *leukocytes*, *leukocyte* count number type, antibody titers, and *lysozyme*. *Lysozyme* is one parameter that is measured as the impact of *immunostimulant* [9]. The *immunostimulatory* activity can be measured through *serological* tests and *hematology* [10]. The immunostimulatory agents can enhance the non-specific immune system such as the number of *phagocytic* cells, *lysozyme* and other substances are soluble in serum [11]. This issue became the basis for assessing the role of the ethanol extract of *Buas buas* leaves as an immunostimulant.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Materials and Equipment

The materials used in this research is the rat feed pellet form PC 05, water (distilled water) were provided *ad libitum*, wooden hulls as litter of rats, ethanol extract of leaves of *Buas buas*, Sheep Red Blood Cell (SRBC) antigen, Carboxy Methyl cellulose (CMC). To analyze the serum immunoglobulin is used Elisa Kit Rat IgG and IgM. To analyze Lysozyme levels in serum, is used Lysozyme Kit and HPLC Apegenin Standard. Apigenin is analyzed by ABX Micros 60.

2.2. The Animal of Test

A total of twenty-four (24) rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) wistar strain male, aged 3 months with a weight range of 100-200 g, were used as experimental. The white rats were divided into 4 groups each group had 6 tails. The gender of mice used were male. White rats maintained with acclimatization in groups (two mice per cage) in animal cages made of plastic with a size of 40x30x20 cm. Maintenance is carried out at room temperature (24°C-26°C). The food is provided in the form of a standard food pellets and water *ad libitum*.

2.3. Making of Ethanol Extract of *Premna Pubescens* Leaf

The fresh *Buas buas* leaves as weight as 3420 grams is sorted to separate the leaves from the stalk leaves, insects and other debris. Subsequently these are washed 3 times, then drained. Leaves are already clean dried in drying cabinet to become brittle. The leaves are dried pulverized to obtain powder. Heavy powder obtained is 1050 grams, then extracted using Soxhlet, with 70% ethanol content. Extract obtained was concentrated with a rotary evaporator and then dried and get dry ethanol extract as much as 195 grams.

2.4. Antigen Sheep Red Blood Cell (SRBC)

Making SRBC is started by taking blood from the jugular vein of sheep. Disinfected prior lamb neck with 70% alcohol before taking blood. Alsever much as 5 CC aspirated and continued to suck blood from the jugular vein of sheep by the same amount (5CC + 5CC alsever sheep blood), using a 10 CC syringe. Eristrosit is washed with a buffer solution with pH 7.4 kolomer diluent to 40CC, and weighed to obtain a balanced position. Erythrocyte suspension was obtained with a speed of 2000 rpm for 15 min later discard supernatant there. After that, the erythrocyte sedimentation redissolved in kolomer diluent, and centrifuge process is carried back to the velocity and the same deadline. Screening process with centrifuges is done in 3 times, and the results obtained are aspirated using a pasteur pipette. SRBC stored in a tube that is inserted in a refrigerator at a temperature of 40⁰ C.

2.5. Screening Apigenin

The screening Apigenin was done starting from identification of *Buas buas* plants, testing of the active compound content in plants, and testing the apigenin, which

used a system of High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) agilent 1220 with a wavelength of 337 nm, the flow rate of 0.5 ml /min, temperature 25°C and injection volume of 10 mL.

2.6. Experiment Design

The experiment used a Completely Randomized Design (CRD) non factorial with four treatments, and each was given a six replications. The A₀ as a control group was given 0.5 ml of distilled water orally every day. The A₁ group was given 250 mg /kg bw of ethanol extract of leaves of *Buas buas* without SRBC. The A₂ group was given 250 mg/ kg bw of ethanol extract of leaves of *Buas buas* + 0.1 ml of SRBC and the A₃ group was given 0.1 ml SRBC. SRBC given on day 8 and day 15. It refers to the blood samples were obtained from all test animals at the day 31st, through the neck decapitation. Serum was separated for measurement of several parameters.

2.7. Evaluation of Immunostimulants Activity

Blood samples of mice obtained by decapitation neck in all mice that had been given each treatment on the day 31st. Blood collected in the tube which has been given an *anticoagulant* (EDTA), and then analyzed by using ABX Micros 60. *Hemagglutination* method is used to test the antibody titers.

Serum lysozyme activity was measured by following the procedure factory (Sigma Cat Number L7651). Measurement of lysozyme based on the *lysis of Micrococcus lysodeiktycus bacteria* suspension in accordance with the method developed by [12], namely through the following ways: 0.15 mg /ml. *Micrococcus lysodeiktycus* (Sigma) was dissolved in 66 mM PBS (pH 6.2). 50 mL of serum was added to 1 ml of bacterial suspension. Decrease of absorbance recorded at 0.5 and 4.5 min for 3 minutes on a spectrophotometer with a wavelength of 450 nM. One unit of lysozyme activity is defined as a decrease in absorbance of 0.001L/min. Determination of IgG and IgM is performed with serum dilution treatment, which is done through methods *Enzyme-Linke d Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA)*.

3. Result

3.1. Results of Buas Buas Plant Identification and Testing of Bioactive Compounds

Table 1. The result of phytochemical screening of ethanol extract of *Premna pubescens* leaves

Secondary Metabolites	Test result
Alkaloid	+
Flavonoid	++
Saponin	++
Steroid	+

Based on the identification of these plants, the *Buas buas* plants include *Verbenaceae*, the type of *Premna pubescens Blume*. The test results showed that the identification of

secondary metabolites of the *Premna pubescens* leaf ethanol extract was positive as *alkaloids, flavonoids, saponins, and steroids*, as shown in Table 1.

Apigenin assays contained in the ethanol extract of the *Premna pubescens* leaves, indicates that the pattern of curves owned (Figures 4) almost the same as the standard raw apigenin in Figure 3. The content of apigenin were analyzed are 0.2845 mcg/10 ml; 28,45 mcg/ml; dan 35,56 mcg/ml.

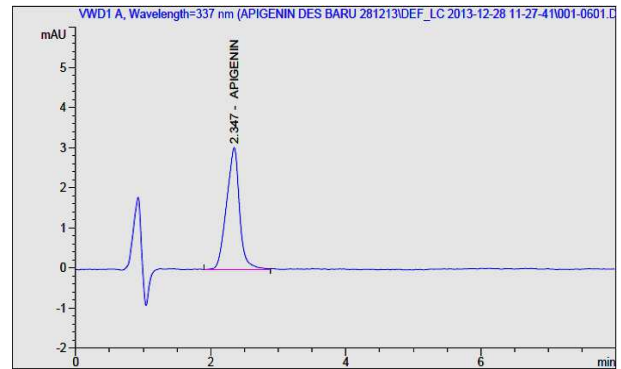


Figure 3. Chromatogram raw apigenin standards

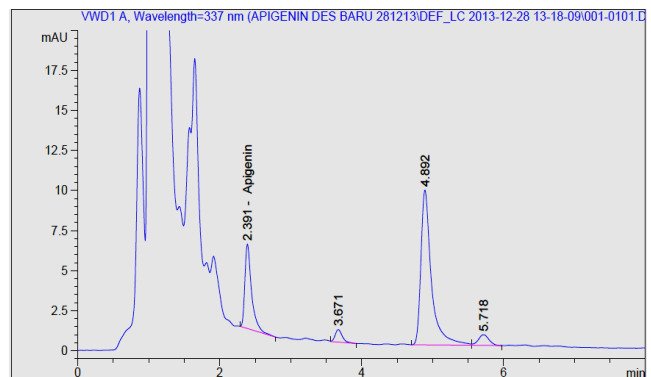


Figure 4. Chromatogram apigenin on ethanol extract of *Premna pubescens*.

3.2. Test Results of Immunostimulatory Activity of Premna Pubescens Leaf Ethanol Extract

Table 2. Effect of ethanol extract of *Premna immunostimulatory pubescens* leaves against hematocrit and blood hemoglobin mice

Treatment	Mean ± SD	
	Hematokrit (%)	Hemoglobin (gm/dl)
A ₀	36.50±5.84	11.82±2.93
A ₁	40.95±4.09	13.60±0.95
A ₂	35.75±6.19	13.13±1.26
A ₃	42.93±2.84	14.23±0.50

A preliminary description of the effect of ethanol extract of *Premna pubescens* leaves ie *hematocrit* and *hemoglobin*, shown by the average percentage of *hematocrit* on the A₃, which had an average of the highest percentages in the amount of 42.93% (exceeding normal *hematocrit* values in male rats is 32-40 %). *Hematocrit* value in the treatment A₃ shows, that the state of the viscosity of blood concentrations higher than the other three treatments. A₂ treatment had lower hematocrit percentage compared with the A₃. Likewise, the concentration of hemoglobin testing, treatment A₃ has the

highest concentration compared with other treatments hasil pengujian shown in Table 2.

Description: A₀: as a control; A₁: given the ethanol extract of *Premna pubescens* leaves, A₂: given the ethanol extract of *Premna pubescens* leaves and SRBC, A₃: given SRBC.

Testing of the effect of *Premna pubescens* leaves ethanol extract against each concentration of blood cells namely *erythrocytes*, *leukocytes*, and *platelets* showed that blood concentrations of each treatment showed normal concentrations, ie 6.20-7.64 x 10⁶/mm³. The white rat *erythrocytes* concentration pattern has the same pattern as the percentage of *hematocrit*. The treatment A₃ has the highest concentration of *erythrocytes* after A₁ while A₀ have the lowest concentration of *erythrocytes*. The difference in

erythrocyte concentrations obtained in all four treatment have not been able to explain in detail the effect of ethanol extract of *Premna pubescens* leaves against *erythrocyte* concentrations. This is caused by differences in the four concentrations of *erythrocytes* is still quite normal and not significantly different.

Leukocyte concentration test results showed the highest concentration of leukocytes is the treatment A₃ (9.88 x 10³/mm³), while the lowest concentration is in treatment A₀ (5.50 x 10³/mm³). Treatment A₂ are also added leukocyte antigen SRBC resulted in lower concentrations than treatment A₃yaitu 7.52 x 10³/mm³. The test results are indicated in Table 3.

Table 3. Effect of ethanol extract of *Premna pubescens* leaves immunostimulatory against erythrocytes, leukocytes, and platelets

Treatment	Mean±SD		
	Eritrosit (x 10 ⁶ /mm ³)	Leukosit (x 10 ³ /mm ³)	Trombosit (x 10 ⁵ /mm ³)
A ₀	6.58±1.80	5.50±1.48	6.00±2.12
A ₁	7.41±0.36	9.82±1.36	7.35±1.05
A ₂	6.69±0.26	7.52±1.82	10.13±1.61
A ₃	7.78±0.23	9.88±2.31	8.85±0.50

Description: A₀: as a control; A₁: given the ethanol extract of leaves *Premna pubescens*, A₂: given the ethanol extract of leaves *Premna pubescens* and SRBC, A₃: given SRBC.

3.3. Test Count the Number of Leukocytes and Lymphocytes

The highest number of *leukocytes* contained in the A₂ treatment, ie the treatment given ethanol extracts of *Buas*

buas and SRBC. While the lowest is the number of leukocytes contained in the A₁ treatment, ie given only ethanol extract of *Buas buas*. The value of group A₀, as a control group, is relatively the same as the value of A₂. On the treatment given SRBC, namely the A₂ group and the A₃ group, it seems that the A₃ has a number of *leukocytes* were slightly lower than the A₂ group. The results of the calculations are shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Effect of Ethanol Extracts of *Buas buas* to the count number of leukocytes and lymphocytes.

Group	Mean ± SD	
	Leukosit (x 10 ³ /mm ³) (x 10 ³ /mm ³)	Limfosit (%)
A ₀	9.82±1.36	76.47±3.10
A ₁	5.50±1.48	71.90±7.00
A ₂	9.88±2.31	74.94±9.66
A ₃	7.52±1.82	61.98±9.41

Description: SD: Standard Deviation; A₀: as a control; A₁: given the ethanol extract of leaves *Premna pubescens*, A₂: given the ethanol extract of leaves *Premna pubescens* and antigens of sheep red blood cells, A₃: given antigen of sheep red blood cells.

3.4. Antibody Titer Test

Table 5. Effect of Ethanol Extracts of *Buas buas* to the count number and types of leukocytes.

Treatment	Mean of antibody Titer (HI)±SD
A ₀	1.00±0.89
A ₁	1.67±0.52
A ₂	7.17±0.75
A ₃	6.67±1.51

Test performed with antibody titers of hemagglutination test that is based on the agglutination of red blood cells. The

test results showed antibody titers showed the A₂ treatment are the highest values (7:17) than the other three treatments. Then the antibody titer in the treatment A₃ is 6.67. While on A₀ and A₁ showed antibody titer levels were relatively similar, as shown in Table 5.

Description: SD: Standard Deviation; A₀: as a control; A₁: given the ethanol extract of leaves *Premna pubescens*, A₂: given the ethanol extract of leaves *Premna pubescens* and antigens of sheep red blood cells, A₃: given antigen of sheep red blood cells.

3.5. Measurement of Imunoglobulin G dan Imunoglobulin M

The measurement results showed that the highest levels of IgM are those of A₂, which is 3.96 ± 1:05 ng/ml, whereas IgM levels were lowest in the control treatment was 0.88 ± A₀ is 0:28 ng/ml. When compared with the treatment added

SRBC, namely A₂ and A₃, both have higher IgM levels than treatment that is added SRBC ie groups A₀ and A₁ group, as shown in Table 6.

Table 6. Effect of ethanol extract of *Buas buas* to count number and types of leukocytes

Treatment	Mean ± SD	
	Immunoglobulin M (ng/ml)	Imunoglobulin G (ng/ml)
A ₀	0.88±0.28	4.52±1.30
A ₁	1.74±0.57	8.70±0.83
A ₂	3.96±1.05	9.48±5.90
A ₃	2.20±1.05	8.96±3.61

Description: SD: Standard Deviation; A₀: as a control; A₁: given the ethanol extract of *Premna pubescens* leaves, A₂: given the ethanol extract of *Premna pubescens* leaves and antigens of sheep red blood cells, A₃: given antigen of sheep red blood cells.

On testing IgG levels, treatment A₂ have the highest levels of IgG (9:48 ± 5.90 ng/ml), while A₀ has the lowest levels of IgG 4:52 ± 1:30 ng/ml. On A₁ treatment have relatively similar levels of IgG with A₃ is 8.70 ± 0.83 ng/ml and 8.96 ± 3.61 ng/ml. Based on the difference in the number of levels obtained, IgM levels lower than IgG.

3.6. Measurement of Lisozim Levels

On *lysozyme assay*, the three treatments (A₀, A₁, A₃) have an average value unchanged at 0:03 ng/ml. While on treatment A₂ have higher levels ie 0:04 ± 0:01 ng/ml as shown in Table 7.

Table 7. Effect of ethanol extract of *Buas buas* against the percentage of white rat *lysozyme*

Treatment	Meanof Lisozim value (µg/ml)±SD
A ₀	0.03±0.02
A ₁	0.03±0.01
A ₂	0.04±0.01
A ₃	0.03±0.02

Description: SD: Standard Deviation; A₀: as a control; A₁: given the ethanol extract of *Premna pubescens* leaves, A₂: given the ethanol extract of *Premna pubescens* leaves and antigens of sheep red blood cells, A₃: given antigen of sheep red blood cells.

4. Discussion

Leukocytes are activated cells of the immune system that can respond to antigens that enter the body. On this study, Sheep Red Blood Cell (SRBC) was used as antigen due to the combination with skin proteins qualify as antigens when used to obtain the contact hypersensitivity reaction in mice. It is in base line with Kannan, Singh, kumar, Jegatheswari and Subburayalu (2007). On testing *leukocytes* known that the highest concentration of *leukocytes* is at A₂ (9.88 ± 2.31x10³ /mm³), while the lowest concentration is on the A₁ (5:50 ± 1:48 X10³/mm³).

The height of the leukocyte concentration in A₂ due to the addition of SRBC antigens so that the number of *leukocytes* increased to fight the antigen into the body of white mice. In

addition, the treatment A₂ is also added *immunostimulatory* substance that the ethanol extract of *Buas buas* mechanism that stimulates the immune system to produce more in the number of *leukocytes*. The number of *leukocytes* in the treatment added ethanol extracts of *Buas buas* and SRBC (A₂) is almost the same as the control treatment (A₀). It is clear that when rats fed ethanol extracts of *Buas buas* for 30 days, added antigen SRBC, condition endurance of mice is similar to the control condition is not added ethanol extracts of *Buas buas* and antigen SRBC. Overall, each of the number of *leukocytes* in the four treatment has a normal number of *leukocytes* ie 4.19-9.73 X10³/mm³. It is in line with the findings of [13]. Antigen given in treatment A₂ and A₃, can multiply intracellularly, making it difficult to reach antibody. To combat these intracellular antigens required *cellular immune* response, which is a function of *lymphocytes*, especially T lymphocytes. The helper T cells will recognize microorganisms or antigen via MHC class II found on the cell surface of *macrophages*. This signal is triggered lymphocytes to produce various types of lymphokines which can help the macrophages destroy microorganisms, that is in line with findings of [14].

The results show that the number of lymphocytes in the treatment A₀, is the highest among the three other treatments ie 76.47 ± 3:10%, while the percentage of *lymphocytes* that at least is at A₃ treatment. The low percentage of *lymphocytes* in A₃ caused by the administration of SRBC antigens, are not added *immunostimulatory* substances such as in the commission of A₂. So when the antigen is given without adding *immunostimulatory* substances, the body is not stimulated to produce more antibodies. On the A₂ treatment, administration of antigen followed by the addition of *immunostimulatory* substances will increase the production of *immunoglobulin* and approaching the normal value is 76-98%, in line with [13].

On antibody titer testing, measurements on changes in the number of antibodies in an immune response in the body that the highest antibody titers found in A₂ treatment, which is treatment given immunostimulatory substances such as apigenin in ethanol extracts of *Buas buas* and antigen SRBC. Given antigen triggers the body's immune system to produce antibodies. In addition, the treatment is added antigen (A₂ and A₃), A₂ has a higher antibody titers value than A₃ is also caused by the presence of *immunostimulatory* substances that help increase the production of antibodies, thereby reducing the duration of the *inflammatory* reaction. It is in line the

statement of [15], that the increase of humoral response due to SRBC showed an increase in the responsiveness of *macrophages*, and B and T lymphocytes in antibody synthesis. This is also consistent with the results obtained in the percentage of lymphocytes in the treatment of A₂ (74.94 ± 9.66%) higher than A₃ (61.98 ± 9.66%).

Imunoglobulin M is used as a parameter in this study because it is the first time that antibodies present in the immune response to the antigen and the primary antibody in blood group naturally in accordance with the opinion of [16]. The results show that the highest levels of IgM is in A₂ (1:05 ± 3.96 ng/ml) is the treatment given immunostimulatory substance ethanol extracts of *Buas buas* and SRBC. While only added SRBC treatment and no immunostimulatory substance (A₃) have lower levels of IgM (2:20 ± 1:05 ng/ml). High levels of IgM in A₂ shows that the immunostimulatory substances such as apigenin in ethanol extracts of *Buas buas* can increase the production of IgM. Similarly, immunoglobulin G, is used as a parameter of this study, because the percentage of *immunoglobulin G* has at most percentage is about 75% of the total *immunoglobulins*. This is in line with the opinions of [16]. The test results also show that A₂ has the highest levels of IgG is 9:48 ± 5.90 ng/ml. The lowest level of IgG and IgM was on the treatment A₀, ie 0.88 ± 0:28 ng/ml and 4:52 ± 1:30 ng/ml. In [14] is explained that the appearance of antibodies in the form of *immunoglobulins* in the blood due to the differentiation of B lymphocytes, antibodies that bind to the antigen forming antigen-antibody complexes can activate complement and lead to the destruction of the antigen. In order to differentiate B lymphocytes, and make antibodies, its' needed the help of T lymphocytes by certain signals through MHC and signals released by macrophages stimulates the production of antibodies. The percentage of lymphocytes in A₂ treatment also showed a higher percentage of lymphocytes than A₃ treatent.

Other parameters are used to determine the effect of immunostimulatory substances in the body of the rat is *lysozyme*. It is used in line with the statement of [11], that *lysozyme* can enhance the body's non-specific defense system. From these experiments it is known that the treatment A₂ has the highest levels of *lysozyme* (0:04 ug/ml), while the other treatments showed similar values ie 0:03 ug/ml. *Lysozyme* protects several places in the body which is a potential place for food for bacterial growth. In the blood, *lysozyme* provides protection, with a more powerful method to that used by the immune system.

Immunostimulatory bind specific receptors on the surface membrane of *phagocytes* and *lymphocytes*, which activate these cells to produce several enzymes including *lysozyme* to destroy *pathogens* are like the opinion of [17]. On this basis, it can be stated that the ethanol extract of *Buas buas* is to be as antibacterial as reported by [18].

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