Southeast Asian Medicinal Plants with Angiotensin Converting Enzyme (ACE) Inhibition Properties

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: This article aims to provide a summary of medicinal plants in the Southeast Asian countries that have an angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitory activity that is therapeutically useful for treating hypertension. Methods: This review paper is a result of extensive searches via electronic database platforms, including Pubmed, Google Scholar, Scopus, and Science Direct with the keyword search terms: ACE enzyme, Southeast Asia countries, plants, and extracts. Results: Thirty-four articles on ACE inhibition activity of 76 Southeast Asian medicinal plants were found and further reviewed. Several plants from Malaysia (Chassalia curviflora, Citrus hystrix, Murraya koenigii, Senna garrettiana), Indonesia (Gnetum Gnemon, Momordica charantia, Nasturtium officinale, Peperomia pellucida, Pereskia saccharose), and Thailand (Mammea siamensis) were found to exhibit strong ACE inhibitory activity in vitro. Bioactive compounds such as 3',4', dihydroxy-3-5 dimethoxy flavone-7-Oβ-rhamnose and quercetin-3-O-glucoside showed the highest potency in exhibiting the ACE inhibition activity in this review. Conclusions: This review suggests for an in-depth investigation on the potent crude extracts for the potential development of complementary herbal medicines as well as on the potent ACE inhibitor compounds for further development as new ACE inhibitor candidates for hypertension therapy.

Key words: ACE, Angiotensin-converting enzyme, Antihypertensive, Medicinal plants, Southeast Asia.

KEY MESSAGE

This review paper aims to provide an extensive review of traditional medicinal plants found in Southeast Asia region with inhibition activity against ACE enzyme as an insight for the potential discovery of new antihypertensive drugs.

INTRODUCTION

Hypertension has become one of the global health problems in this decade. Hypertension is a condition of high blood pressure that occurs when the arteriolar resistance increases within blood vessels resulted from the increased peripheral arteriolar smooth muscle tone. There was a massive increase from 594 million of hypertension cases in 1975 to 1.13 billion of cases in 2015 throughout the world. In Malaysia alone, the prevalence of hypertension for this decade (2010-2017) seems to be stagnantly high with the prevalence of 29.2 % when compared to previous decade's prevalence (2000-2010) with the value of 28.7 %.

In the human body, blood pressure is controlled by two overlapping mechanisms, the baroreflexes and the renin-angiotensin-aldoesterone system (RAAS). RAAS involves several organs releasing enzymes including the kidney that releases renin which is also known as angiotensinogenase. Renin is synthesized mainly in the juxta-glomerular apparatus and is secreted into the circulation in response to hypotension and hypernatremia.⁴ Renin will act on circulating angiotensinogen by

cleaving the N-terminal segment of angiotensinogen to form the biologically inert decapeptide hormone, the angiotensin I (Asp-Arg-Val-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro-Phe-His-Leu). Angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) which is a zinc ion-dependent dipeptidyl carboxypeptidase then hydrolyzes angiotensin I by cleaving the carboxyl terminal His-Leu dipeptide to form the active octapeptide angiotensin II (Asp-Arg-Val-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro-Phe). The binding of angiotensin II to angiotensin II type 1 (AT1) receptor causes contraction of vascular smooth muscle cells leading to increased vascular resistance, and it also stimulates the production of aldosterone in the adrenal cortex which in turn increases renal sodium resorption and potassium secretion.5 Blocking the ACE enzyme reduces the formation of angiotensin II; increases the number of bradykinin, an endothelium-dependent vasodilator; and also reduces aldosterone secretion, all these lead to a reduction in blood pressure^{1,6} and have contributed to the clinical use of ACE inhibitors in managing hypertension.

Captopril, the prototype ACE inhibitor drug was first developed by employing quantitative structure activity-based modifications following the finding on one of the peptides (bradykinin-potentiating factor) from the venom of Brazilian lancehead viper *Bothrops jararaca* that can inhibit the conversion of angiotensin I into angiotensin II by inhibiting the ACE activity.⁷ Captopril was then approved by Federal Drug Administration for oral use, and currently, there are several subclasses of ACE inhibitors which include sulfhydryl (-SH) containing



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analogs, carboxyl (-COOH) containing analogs, phosphoryl (-PO $_2$) containing analogs, hydroxamic non-amino acid derivatives, peptides and peptidomimetics with different potencies depending on their affinity towards the zinc-binding site on the ACE. 8

Despite the therapeutic benefits of ACE inhibitors, sulfhydryl (-SH) containing analogs lead to many side effects including skin rash and taste sense impairment because of its sulfhydryl component presence; this has led to the development of non-sulphur captopril analogs such as enalapril and lisinopril. However, there are also several other adverse effects commonly found in patients on ACE inhibitors including of persistent dry cough, low blood pressure (in hypovolemic states), hyperkalemia and in some cases, angioedema which results from an increased bradykinin level, as well as malformation of fetus if taken by the pregnant woman. Despite the emergence of angiotensin-receptor blockers (ARB) as an alternative drug choice with less of these side effects, ACE inhibitors were more protective in the advancement and hospitalization of the hypertensive patient for heart failure as compared to ARB. Thus, the use of ACE inhibitors remains relevant in the current practice of managing hypertension.

Henceforth, studies exploring the new effective ACE inhibitor drug with fewer side effects are continually emerging. Bioactive peptides from marine organisms like fish, shellfish, seaweed, microalgae, molluscs; the food proteins such as milk, ovalbumin, turtle eggs, cheese, chicken eggs, casein; and some plant-derived peptides extracted from legumes, corn, bitter melon seeds, algae, mushrooms have shown very promising ACE inhibition activities. Despite so, there are also some extracted bioactive compounds from various phytochemical groups in medicinal plants such as hydrolysable tannins, phenylpropanes, proanthocyanidins, flavonoids, xanthones, fatty acids, terpenoids, alkaloids, oligosaccharides and peptide amino acids were identified to have ACE inhibitory activity. Nonetheless, this review paper focuses on bioprospecting the medicinal plants with the ACE inhibition activity.

Currently, few review papers have compiled the medicinal plants with ACE inhibition activities from all over the world ^{7,13-15}, however, none of these papers focused on the medicinal plants from Southeast Asia region. Southeast Asia region is rich with underexplored medicinal plants. In this region, at least 2,200 medicinal and poisonous plants recorded in the literature in which they wildly inhabit open spaces (59 %) and forest (31 %) or they are cultivated (10 %). The studied medicinal plants are usually the ones that are commonly found in the open, disturbed space; on the other hand, plants that inhabit forest may be largely left unexplored. The huge remaining forest land in the Southeast Asia region becomes a vast reservoir for plant-derived drug discovery. Hitherto, this study aims to provide an extensive review of traditional medicinal plants found in Southeast Asia region with inhibition activity against ACE enzyme as an insight for the new potential discovery of antihypertensive drug.

METHODOLOGY

The bibliographic search was performed in the following databases: PubMed, Google Scholar, Scopus, and Science-Direct. These databases were searched for relevant studies which include at least one of the following keywords: (i) Angiotensin converting enzyme, (ii) Southeast Asia countries specifically Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Brunei, Vietnam, Philippines, Laos, and also Myanmar, (iii) plants and (iv) extract. Only articles that met the following conditions were included: i) Articles on ACE inhibition studies of crude extracts, fractions, and isolated compounds of plants, thus, studies related to protein or peptides activity on ACE inhibition were omitted, and ii) Articles include ACE inhibition studies on plants that were commonly found in the Southeast Asian countries. No limit was placed on the search time frame to retrieve all relevant papers, and the last search was

performed on April 6, 2020. About 34 papers with 76 medicinal plants have been reviewed including journal articles and proceedings.

TREND OF ACE INHIBITION STUDIES ON SOUTHEAST ASIAN MEDICINAL PLANTS

There are 76 medicinal plants across Southeast Asia with ACE inhibition activity found from studies dated back from the year 2007 until recently (Table 1). This review will discuss in terms of distribution of the plants across Southeast Asia region, the assay methods and the efficacy of plant extracts, fractions as well as bioactive compounds.

Distribution of Plants

At least 76 plants in the Southeast Asia region that has proven ACE inhibition activity (Figure 1). The majority of these studies were from Indonesia with 35 plants, contributing about 44 % of the whole studies. Following afterward Indonesia, 28 plants were from Malaysia which accounts for 37 %; nine plants were from the Philippines which accounts for 11 %; six plants were from Thailand with 7 % and the least number of studies with two plants were from Vietnam which accounts for 3 % of total studies. Since the hot and humid climate around Southeast Asia is quite similar especially at the islands of Indonesia, Philippines, and Malaysia, several plants exist across the Southeast Asia region, and are not confined in only one country. For example, *Morus alba* Lin. are studied in both countries Indonesia¹⁹ and Philippines²⁰. *Gynura procumbens*^{23,29} and *Orthosiphon stamineus* Benth^{19,37} were also studied in both Malaysia and Indonesia while *Apium graveolens* L was studied in Thailand¹⁸ and Indonesia¹⁹.

Extraction procedures

The extraction method indeed plays a massive role in obtaining the desired active compound. Extraction is a process of separating plant tissue portions that are medicinally active by utilizing standard procedures by specific solvents.⁴⁷ There are various extraction procedures adopted in the ACE inhibition studies across the Southeast Asia region; these include the commonly-used extraction methods such as maceration, infusion, decoction, and also the less-common methods such as the centrifugation and assisted-conventional methods, for instance, the microwave-assisted and also ultrasound-assisted extraction methods.

In this review, the centrifugation method was not commonly being employed except for studies involving grey oyster mushrooms⁴² and



Figure 1: ACE inhibition studies on medicinal plants across Southeast Asia

 Table 1: Medicinal Plants in Southeast Asia region with the property of inhibiting angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE).

		egion with the property of					
Scientific name	Part of plants	Type of extraction	Solvent used	Plants origin	ACE inhibitory activity (%)	IC ₅₀ (μg/ml)	Reference
Agrocybe sp.	Fruiting bodies	Infusion	Distilled water	Malaysia	NA	890 ± 0.05	17
Anacardium occidentale Linn.	Leaves	Reflux	Ethyl acetate	Thailand	64.20	NA	18
Andrographis paniculata (Burm.f.) Ness.	Herbs	Maceration	Ethanol 95%	Indonesia	29.38 ± 1.82	NA	19
Annona muricata L.	Leaves	Maceration	Ethanol 95%	Indonesia	5.57 ± 2.10	NA	19
	Leaves	Maceration	Ethanol 95%	Indonesia	37.91 ± 5.67	NA	19
Apium graveolens L.	Whole plants	Reflux	Methanol	Thailand	82.30	1,700.00	18
	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol	Philippines	43.00	NA	20
	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol - hexane	Philippines	40.00	NA	20
Artocarpus heterophyllus	Leaves	Macciation	Methanol – ethyl	Timippines	10.00	1421	
	Leaves	Maceration	acetate	Philippines	47.00	NA	20
Auricularia auricular-judae	Fruiting bodies	Infusion	Distilled water	Malaysia	NA	510.00 ± 0.02	17
Averrhoa bilimbi L.	Leaves	Maceration	Ethanol 95%	Indonesia	71.48 ± 1.71	NA	19
	Leaves	Fabricated tea bags – air dried	Water	Philippines	211.30	NA	21
Blumea balsamifera		Fabricated tea bags – oven dried	Water	Philippines	70.42	NA	21
	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol	Philippines	18.00	NA	20
Ding 211	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol - hexane	Philippines	53.00	NA	20
Bixa orellana	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol – ethyl acetate	Philippines	65.00	NA	20
	Shoots	Maceration	Hexane	Malaysia	3.00	NA	22
Carica papaya	Shoots	Maceration	Dichloromethane	Malaysia	59.77	NA	22
	Herbs	Maceration	Ethanol 95%	Indonesia	19.27 ± 5.54	NA	19
Catharanthus roseus (L.)	Leaves	Maceration	Petroleum ether	Indonesia	NA	437.00	23
G. Don.,	Leaves	Maceration	Ethyl acetate	Indonesia	NA	1,367.00	23
G. Don.,	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol	Indonesia	NA NA	402.00	23
	Leaves	Maceration	Hexane	Malaysia	48.45	NA	22
Centella asiatica	Leaves	Maceration	Dichloromethane	•	38.00	NA NA	22
Centetta astatica				Malaysia			24
	Leaves	Maceration	Water	Malaysia	73.63 ± 12.00	NA 1.06	25
	Leaves	Infusion	Water	Malaysia	NA	4.96	25
Chassalia curviflora	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol	Malaysia	NA	4.06	25
	Flower	Infusion	Water	Malaysia	NA	3.39	25
2	Flower	Maceration	Methanol	Malaysia	NA	3.71	
Citrus hystrix	Fruits	Maceration	Water	Malaysia	90.97 ± 4.60	NA	24
Collybia reinakeana P. Henn	Pileus	Maceration	Hot water	Philippines	42.00	NA	26
	Stipe	Maceration	Hot water	Philippines	42.00	NA	26
	Leaves	Maceration	water	Malaysia	88.49 ± 0.85	NA	24
Cosmos caudatus	Whole herbs	Maceration	Hexane	Malaysia	5.00	NA	22
	Whole herbs	Maceration	Dichloromethane	Malaysia	51.00	NA	22
Curcuma longa	Rhizome	Maceration	Water	Malaysia	33.89 ± 0.96	NA	24
Curcuma domestica Val	Rhizome	Maceration	Ethanol 95%	Indonesia	24.15 + 3.21	NA	19
Cyclea barbata Miers.	Leaves	Maceration	Ethanol 95%	Indonesia	35.57 + 4.54	NA	19
	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol – ethyl acetate	Philippines	NA	32.00	27
	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol	Philippines	68.84	NA	27
Eleusine indica	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol - hexane	Philippines	47.00	NA	27
	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol – ethyl acetate	Philippines	51.51	NA	27
	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol - water	Philippines	41.00	NA	27
	Leaves	Decoction	Water	Philippines	2.00	NA	27
Ganoderma lucidum	Fruiting bodies	Infusion	Distilled water	Malaysia	NA	50.00 ± 0.009	17
	Seeds	Reflux	N-hexane	Indonesia	79.28	NA NA	28
	Seeds	Reflux	Dichloromethane	Indonesia	89.92	NA	28
Gnetum gnenom l.	Seeds	Reflux	Ethylacetate	Indonesia	92.10	NA	28
Gheium ghenom i.	Seeds	Reflux	Methanol	Indonesia	90.64	NA NA	28
	Seeds	Reflux	Water	Indonesia	90.64 89.90	NA NA	28
Com andropois and a							24
Gynandropsis gynandra	Leaves	Maceration	Water	Malaysia	35.55 ± 3.85	NA	

	Whole plant	Maceration	Ethanol	Malaysia	NA	800.00	29
Gynura procumbens	Leaves	Maceration	Petroleum ether	Indonesia	NA	432.00	23
Gynuru procumbens	Leaves	Maceration	Ethyl acetate	Indonesia	NA	227.00	23
	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol	Indonesia	NA	453.00	23
Hericium erinaceus	Fruiting bodies	Infusion	Distilled water	Malaysia	NA	580.00 ± 0.023	17
	Leaves	Maceration	Petroleum ether	Indonesia	NA	431.00	23
Hibiscus rosasinensis	Leaves	Maceration	Ethyl acetate	Indonesia	NA	384.00	23
	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol	Indonesia	NA	271.00	23
Mammea siamensis	Whole plants	Ultrasound-assisted extraction	Ethanol 95 %	Thailand	97.50 ± 0.20	NA	30
	Shoots	Maceration	Hexane	Malaysia	4.00	NA	22
Manihot esculenta	Shoots	Maceration	Dichloromethane	Malaysia	27.00	NA	22
	Leaves	Maceration	Petroleum ether	Indonesia	NA NA	536.00	23
Melia azedarach	Leaves	Maceration	Ethyl acetate	Indonesia	NA	588.00	23
тени игеантист			· ·				23
M . 1 (' DI	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol	Indonesia	NA	483.00	19
Mesona palustris Bl.	Leaves	Maceration	Ethanol 95 %	Indonesia	36.25 + 5.71	NA	17
Mesue ferrea	Whole plants	Ultrasound-assisted extraction	Ethanol 95 %	Thailand	9.73 ± 0.09	NA	30
Mimusops elengi	Whole plants	Ultrasound-assisted extraction	Ethanol 95 %	Thailand	9.5 ± 0.30	NA	30
Momordica charantia L.	Leaves	Maceration	Ethanol	Indonesia	NA	7.52	31
поточиси спигиппи Е.	Leaves	Maceration	Ethyl acetate fraction	Indonesia	NA	4.29	31
Moringa oleifera Lam	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol	Philippines	64.23 ± 0.06	NA	32
Morinda citrifolia L.	Leaves	Maceration	Ethanol 95%	Indonesia	66.64 + 2.32	NA	19
	Leaves	Maceration	Ethanol 95%	Indonesia	46.05 + 3.07	NA	19
	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol	Philippines	22.00	NA	20
Morus alba Linn.	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol - hexane	Philippines	28.00	NA	20
THE WE WILL DAWN	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol- ethyl acetate	Philippines	48.00	NA	20
	Leaves	Maceration	Ethanol	Indonesia	NA	1.25	33
Muntingia calabura l.							33
3.6 1	Leaves	Maceration	Ethyl acetate fraction	Indonesia	NA	0.63	24
Murraya koenigii	Leaves	Maceration	Water	Malaysia	91.20 ± 4.15	NA	
Myrica esculenta	Leaves	Reflux	Methanol	Vietnam	29 .97	NA	34
	Herbs	Maceration	Ethanol 95%	Indonesia	51.94 + 2.92	NA	19
Nasturtium officinale R. Br.	Herbs	Maceration	Ethanol 70 %	Indonesia	NA	19.05	35
	Herbs	Maceration	Ethyl acetate fraction	Indonesia	NA	2.30	35
	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol	Philippines	32.00	NA	20
Numbhasa bulaccans	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol - hexane	Philippines	44.00	NA	20
Nymphaea pubescens	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol – ethyl acetate	Philippines	11.00	NA	20
Orthosiphon aristatus (Blume) Miq.	Leaves	Maceration	Water	Indonesia	69.20	NA	36
, , , , , , T	Leaves	Maceration	Ethanol 95%	Indonesia	55.41 ± 4.03	NA	19
	Leaves	Maceration	Water	Malaysia	NA	358.80 ± 24.20	37
Orthogiphon staminaus	Leaves	Maceration	Ethanol 100%	Malaysia	NA	45.80 ± 1.20	37
Orthosiphon stamineus Benth.	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol 100%		NA NA		37
эспин.				Malaysia		63.70 ± 1.10	37
	Leaves	Maceration	Ethanol 50%	Malaysia	NA	58.10 ± 2.00	37
	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol 50%	Malaysia	NA NA	78.20 ± 7.90	23
	Leaves	Maceration	Petroleum ether	Indonesia	NA	439.00	
Oxalis corniculata	Leaves	Maceration	Ethyl acetate	Indonesia	NA	325.00	23
	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol	Indonesia	NA	336.00	23
Peperomia pellucida (L.)	Herbs	Microwave-asissted extraction	Ethanol-water	Indonesia	54.73	NA	38
Kunth	Aerial Parts	Maceration	Methanol – ethyl acetate	Indonesia	NA	3.44	39
Damaskia saaskanaa Cuissl	Leaves	Maceration	Ethanol	Indonesia	NA	3.45	40
Pereskia saccharose Griseb.	Leaves	Maceration	Ethyl acetate	Indonesia	NA	1.71 x 10 ⁻³	40
Persea americana Mill.	Leaves	Maceration	Ethanol 95%	Indonesia	29.49 ± 6.24	NA	19
	Seeds	Maceration	Petroleum ether	Indonesia	NA	1,043.00	23
Persea americana	Seeds	Maceration	Ethyl acetate	Indonesia	NA	476.00	23
2 01 000 WINOI IOWIW	Seeds	Maceration	Methanol	Indonesia	NA	500.00	23
	occus	iviacci ation	MCHIAHOI	muonesia	INA	300.00	

	Leaves	Maceration	Petroleum ether	Indonesia	NA	189.00	23
	Leaves	Maceration	Ethyl acetate	Indonesia	NA	158.00	23
	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol	Indonesia	NA	102.00	23
Phalleria marcocarpa	Fruits	Maceration	Petroleum ether	Indonesia	NA NA	162.00	23
			Ethyl acetate				23
	Fruits	Maceration	•	Indonesia	NA NA	139.00	23
DI II .I	Fruits	Maceration	Methanol	Indonesia	NA	122.00	19
Phyllanthus niruri L.	Herbs	Maceration	Ethanol 95%	Indonesia	13.74 ± 1.23	NA	
Plantago major L	Leaves	Reflux	Methanol	Vietnam	28.06 ± 0.21	NA	41
Pleurotus cystidiosus	Fruiting bodies	Infusion	Distilled water	Malaysia	NA	54.00 ± 0.002	17
Pleurotus eryngii	Fruiting bodies	Infusion	Distilled water	Malaysia	NA	67.00 ± 0.026	17
Pleurotus flabellatus	Fruiting bodies	Infusion	Distilled water	Malaysia	NA	58.00 ± 0.002	17
Pleurotus florida	Fruiting bodies	Infusion	Distilled water	Malaysia	NA	50.00 ± 0.013	17
Pleurotus pulmonarius	Fresh fruiting bodies	Centrifugation	Water	Malaysia	45.80 ± 4.13	NA	42
1 carotas paimonartas	Freeze-dried fruiting bodies	Centrifugation	Water	Malaysia	29.52 ± 6.35	NA	42
Pleurotus sajor-caju	Fruiting Bodies	Infusion	Distilled water	Malaysia	NA	56.00 ± 0.012	17
Polygonum minus	Leaves	Maceration	Water	Malaysia	89.13 ± 5.42	NA	24
Psophocarpus	Fruits	Maceration	Hexane	Malaysia	1.00	NA	22
tetragonolobus	Fruits	Maceration	Dichloromethane	Malaysia	51.00	NA	22
Ruellia tuberosa L.	Leaves	NA	Ethanol	Indonesia	NA	55.36	43
	Whole plant	Centrifugation	Crude extract	Malaysia	NA	420.00 ± 0.04	44
Sargassum siliquosum	Whole plant	Centrifugation	Fucoxanthin-rich fractions	Malaysia	NA	940.00 ± 0.67	44
	Whole plant	Centrifugation	Crude extract	Malaysia	NA	30.00 ± 0.01	44
Sargassum polycystum	Whole plant	Centrifugation	Fucoxanthin-rich fractions	Malaysia	NA	1,530.00 ± 0.27	44
Schizophyllum commune	Fruiting Bodies	Infusion	Distilled water	Malaysia	NA	320.00 ± 0.070	17
	Herbs	Maceration	Petroleum ether	Indonesia	NA	727.00	23
Scurulla artopurpurea	Herbs	Maceration	Ethyl acetate	Indonesia	NA	322.00	23
1 1	Herbs	Maceration	Methanol	Indonesia	NA	380.00	23
Senna garrettiana	Whole Plants	Ultrasound-assisted extraction	Ethanol 95 %	Malaysia	92.20 ± 2.07	NA	30
Sonchus arvensis	Leaves	Maceration	Water	Indonesia	39.67	NA	36
Solanum indicum Linn	Fruits	Maceration	Ethanol 95%	Indonesia	53.24 ± 2.88	NA	19
Solanum nigrum L.	Fruits	Maceration	Ethanol 95%	Indonesia	29.52 ± 5.95	NA	19
	Fruits	Reflux	Methanol	Thailand	76.20	NA	45
Solanum torvum Sw.	Fruits	Maceration	Methanol	Thailand	NA	1,200.00	45
Syzygium polyanthum (Wight) Walp	Leaves	Maceration	Ethanol 95%	Indonesia	53.37 ± 0.95	NA	19
(***8***/	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol	Philippines	20.00	NA	20
0			36.1 1.1	Dhilimminaa	75.00	NA	20
	Leaves	Maceration	Methanol - hexane	rimppines	75.00		
Syzygium samarangense	Leaves Leaves	Maceration Maceration	Methanol - hexane Methanol – ethyl acetate	Philippines Philippines	57.00	NA	20
Syzygium samarangense Sonchus arvensis (Linn.)			Methanol – ethyl				20
	Leaves Leaves	Maceration	Methanol – ethyl acetate	Philippines	57.00 NA	NA 46.71	
Sonchus arvensis (Linn.)	Leaves Seeds	Maceration Maceration Maceration	Methanol – ethyl acetate Ethanol 96% Petroleum ether	Philippines Indonesia Indonesia	57.00 NA NA	NA 46.71 774.00	46
	Leaves Leaves Seeds Seeds	Maceration Maceration Maceration Maceration	Methanol – ethyl acetate Ethanol 96% Petroleum ether Ethyl acetate	Philippines Indonesia Indonesia Indonesia	57.00 NA NA NA	NA 46.71 774.00 1,240.00	46
Sonchus arvensis (Linn.)	Leaves Seeds	Maceration Maceration Maceration	Methanol – ethyl acetate Ethanol 96% Petroleum ether	Philippines Indonesia Indonesia	57.00 NA NA	NA 46.71 774.00	46 23 23

Malaysian seaweeds.⁴⁴ Centrifugation-assisted extraction employs high rotational speeds and g-forces to separate the desired extract from impurities such as proteins and hydrocolloids that were present in the extract^{42, 48, 49}. In this review, microwave-assisted extraction was only reported for extracting *Peperomia pellucida*.³⁸ This method utilizes microwave electromagnetic to promote solvent penetration into the matrix and to aid the partition of analytes from the sample matrix into the solvent. It is favorable to be used for extracting polar molecules and is usually limited to gallic acid, ellagic acid, quercertin, and transresveratrol which are stable under microwave heating.⁵⁰

Ultrasound-assisted extraction was used in extracting some medicinal plants such as Mammea siamensis, Mesue ferrea, Mimusops elengi

and *Senna garrettiana*.³⁰ This method involves the use of ultrasound ranging from 20 kHz to 2000 kHz to alter and disrupt the plant cell wall; facilitating the release of compounds and enhancing the transport of the solvents into the plant cells. This method reduces extraction time and solvent consumption, however, the use of ultrasound energy may trigger the formation of some free radicals.⁵⁰

Maceration, decoction, and infusion are common extraction methods used in the studies included in this review (Table 1). Maceration is a process that involves soaking of the plant materials (coarse or powdered) in a container with any solvents, and the soaked plant materials are allowed to stand at room temperature for a certain period with frequent agitation. This process usually softens and break the plant's cell wall

to release the soluble phytochemicals. After the maceration period, the mixture is then pressed or strained by filtration. The choice of solvents will determine the type of compounds extracted from the macerated samples.⁵⁰ From the reported studies, there are distinguished methodological preferences in conducting maceration especially the temperature, period, and also solid solvent ratio. For temperature during maceration, most of these researches used room temperature^{24,29} while there were also studies that conduct the maceration at a temperature of 50 °C37 and also at high temperatures range of 80 to 90 °C using a waterbath.26 The shortest period for maceration among these studies was two hours²⁶ and some studies used longer maceration period, such as 24 hours²⁴, 48 hours^{33,35}, and the longest period of maceration was 72 hours. 19, 27, 45, 46 As for solid-solvent ratio, several studies mentioned that the ratio of 1:10³⁶, 1:8⁴⁶ and also 1:5³⁷ were used. Little that we know, the solid-solvent ratio also plays a significant role in extracting the phytochemicals. The higher the ratio, the higher the phytochemicals extracted.⁵¹ However, maceration have several disadvantages including of high consumption of solvent, thus increasing its operating cost and giving a negative effect to the environment.52

There are several other extraction methods adopted in these studies, for example is infusion. Infusion is an extraction procedure utilizing the same concept as maceration that involves soaking the plant materials in cold or hot water as the usual solvent, but for a shorter period as compared to maceration. 47,50,53 The use of water as the solvent reduces the cost and at the same time, overcomes the potential of environmental problem. Kadir & Mhd Omar²⁵ utilized both infusion and also maceration methods for Chassalia curviflora extraction. This study reported that leaves extracted using alcohol maceration have slightly better ACE inhibition activity than the leaves extracted through water infusion; while flowers extracted using the infusion method have slightly lower ACE inhibition activity than those extracted using the maceration method. The last commonly used extraction method used in this review is decoction. Decoction also applies the same concept of soaking the plant materials in a specified volume of water, but under the boiling conditions for a defined period. This extraction method is suitable for extracting heat-stable compounds, hard plants materials such as roots and barks and it usually extracted more oil-soluble compounds compared to maceration and infusion.⁵⁰

Apart from the extracting method, the solvent in the extraction process also plays a significant role in distinguishing phytochemical compounds available in the extracts. The solvent can have high polarity, for instance, water, ethanol, methanol; semi polarity such as dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO), ethyl acetate, dichloromethane; and low polarity such as hexane and petroleum ether. For example, Orthosiphon stamineus when macerated using different solvents of ethanol 100 %, methanol 100 %, ethanol 50 %, and methanol 50 % lead to different ACE inhibition activity with IC $_{50}$ values of 45.8, 63.7, 58.1, and 78.2 $\mu g/m l$, respectively. This illustrates the importance of choosing the best solvent in extracting the metabolites that exhibit the most ACE inhibition activity.

Among the solvents used throughout these studies, polar solvents were more preferred as compared to the nonpolar solvents. None of these studies that utilized petroleum ether as the solvent for extraction exhibit high or moderate activity against ACE enzyme. 23 The leaves of *Hibiscus rosasinensis*, for example, showed better $\rm IC_{50}$ for extraction via methanol than via petroleum ether. 23 Meanwhile, the seeds of $Gnetum\ gnetum\ I$. at 100 µg/ml exhibited increasing percentages of ACE inhibition with increasing polarity of organic solvents utilized. Other previous studies also showed that petroleum ether was ineffective to extract the phytochemical constituents with ACE inhibitory effect. $^{54,\,55}$ Thus, it can be concluded that the non-polar solvent especially petroleum ether are ineffective in extracting phytochemical constituents that exhibit ACE inhibition.

Moreover, we found that the highly significant ACE inhibition activity usually came from studies that used polar solvent like water, ethanol, and methanol. For example, a water solvent was used to extract C. curviflora²⁵, Citrus hystrix²⁴ and Murraya koenigii.²⁴ Ethanol 100 % and 95 % were used to extract Momordica charantia³¹, Muntingia calabura³³, Pereskia saccharose⁴⁰, Mammea siamensis³⁰, and Senna garrettiana.³⁰ Methanol was also used to extract *C. curviflora*²⁵ and *G. gnemon*. ²⁸ Apart from the polar solvent, plants such as G. gnemon²⁸ and P. saccharose⁴⁰ which were being extracted using ethyl acetate, a semi-polar solvent, also have highly significant ACE inhibition activity. However, in some studies, the IC50 values of plants extracted using methanol or ethanol were smaller than the IC₅₀ values from plants extracted using ethyl acetate, while in some studies the results are in the opposite.²³ Hitherto, we conclude that both polar (water, ethanol and methanol) and semipolar (ethyl acetate) solvent were good options to extract phytochemical constituents that exhibit ACE inhibition activity.⁵²

ACE inhibition assay methods

This review also examines the assay methods that were utilized to test the ACE inhibition activity (Table 2). It was found that the Cushman and Cheung Method was the most commonly utilized ACE inhibition assay. In this assay, substrate hippuryl-histidyl-leucine (HHL) is used as a substrate to be hydrolyzed by the ACE enzyme in order to produce hippuric acid (HA). The amount of HA formed is then measured using an Ultraviolet-Visible spectrophotometer (UV-VIS) instrument at a wavelength of 228 nm. The concentration of HA formed are proportional to the ACE inhibition activity by the inhibitor, which means that the stronger the inhibition of an extract, the lower the amount of HA being produced.⁵⁶

Several studies employ the modified Cushman and Cheung method. The modifications include the usage of a different reagent which is benzene-sulfonyl-chloride (BSC) to develop the yellow color upon reaction between BSC and HA⁵⁷; and also the usage of different methods of HA measurement including of microplate reader⁵⁷ or High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC).^{58,59}

Apart from Cushman and Cheung method, there were also other types of ACE inhibition assays employed such as the Lam method and Holmquist method. The Lam method that utilizes 3-hydroxybutyrlglycyl-glycyl-glycine (3HB-GGG) is the latest ACE inhibition assay method. This method is more sensitive, simple, and precise relative to the conventional method. In this method, ACE acts upon 3HB-GGG to be cleaved into two compounds of Gly-Gly-Gly amino acid and 3-hydroxybutyric acid (3HB). The 3-HB is measured using F-kit. This method was further developed with the addition of water-soluble tetrazolium salt (WST1) and also flow injection analysis. This method was then patented in the kit form named ACE kit-WST1.⁵⁶ Meanwhile the Holmquist method utilizes tripeptide furanacryloyl (FA-PPG) substrate.21 ACE reacts upon FA-PPG to form dipeptide (glycylglycine) and furanacroyl-phenylalanine amino acid which are then measured at 328 nm and 352 nm wavelength. However, these two methods were not commonly being employed yet, specifically in the Southeast region.

EFFICACY OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN MEDICINAL PLANTS ON ACE INHIBITION

ACE inhibition activities for plants' crude extracts and fractions

In terms of the efficacy of ACE inhibition activity by the plant extracts in this study, it is identified that only five medicinal plants exhibit over 90.00 % ACE inhibition activity. These plants are *Citrus hystix* (at 500 μ g/ml), *Gnetum Gnemon l.* (at 100 μ g/ml), *Mammea siamensis* (at 1000 μ g/ml), *Murraya Koenigii* (at 500 μ g/ml) and *Senna garrettiana* (at 1000

Table 2: Assay methods used in ACE inhibitory studies on Southeast Asian medicinal plants.

ACE inhibition assay method	Substrate used	Measurement method	Reference method	ACE inhibition studies using the method
			60	18
			61	19
			57	20
			59	22
			62	24
			58	26
		HPLC, UV-VIS Spectrophotometer, Microplate Reader	57	27
	HHL Spectrophotometer,		63	30
Cushman and Cheung			57	32
Method			59	34
			61	42
			64	17
			65	23
			66	29
			61	37
			67	39
			68	44
		61	46	
Holmquist Method	FA-PPG	UV-VIS Spectrophotometer	69, 70	46
Lam Method	3HB-GGG	Microplate reader,	ACE kit-WST (Dojindo, Japan)	28, 31, 33, 35, 36, 40

 $\textbf{Note:} \ ACE: \ Angiotensin \ converting \ enzyme, FA-PPG: \ tripeptide \ furanacryloyl, \ 3HB-GGG: \ 3-hydroxybutyrlglycyl-glycyl-glycine, \ HHL: \ hippuryl-histidyl-leucine, \ HPLC: \ High-Performance \ Liquid \ Chromatography, \ UV-VIS: \ Ultraviolet-visible.$

Table 3: Bioactive metabolites found in the studied plants of Southeast Asia.

Plant scientific names	Compound presents	Part of plants	ACE inhibitory effect	Reference	
	Junipediol A-8-O-b-D-glucoside (1)	Whole plants	Good ACE inhibitory activity, with an $\rm IC_{50}$ of 75.6 $\mu g/ml$ (210 $\mu M)$	18	
	Isofraxidin-b-D-glucoside	Whole plants	Enhances the activity by interacting with ACE at different region from ${\bf 1}$.	18	
	Roseoside	Whole plants	Enhances the activity by interacting with ACE at different region from 1.	18	
Apium graveolens L.	Apigenin-7-O-b-D-glucoside	Whole plants	Enhances the activity by interacting with ACE at different region from 1.	18	
	Luteolin-7-O-b-D-glucoside	Whole plants	Enhances the activity by interacting with ACE at different region from ${f 1}.$	18	
	Icariside D2	Whole plants	Enhances the activity by interacting with ACE at different region from 1.	18	
Moringa oleifera Lam	Quercetin-3-O-glucoside	Leaves	ACE inhibitory activity of 56.37 \pm 0.0059 at 7 μ g/ml; 59.16 \pm 0.0137 % at 15 μ g/ml; and 75.74 \pm 0.0161 % at 28 μ g/ml.	32	
Morniga diegera Lam	Kaempferol-3-O-glucoside	Leaves	N/A	32	
	Corchoionoside C	Leaves	ACE inhibitory activity of 29.97 %	34	
	(6S,9R)-Roseoside	Leaves	ACE inhibitory activity of 25.63 %	34	
	Myricanol	Leaves	Weak ACE inhibitory activity.	34	
Myrica esculenta	5-Ob-D glucopyranosyl myricanol	Leaves	Weak ACE inhibitory activity.	34	
	Myricetin	Leaves	Weak ACE inhibitory activity.	34	
Peperomia pellucida (L.) Kunth.	3',4', Dihydroxy-3-5 dimethoxy flavone-7-O-β-rhamnose	Aerial parts	High ACE inhibitory activity with IC $_{50}$ value of $7.72\mu\text{g/ml}.$	39	

	10-Hydroxy-majoroside	Leaves	High ACE inhibitory activity of 28.06% at concentration of 100 μM .	41
Plantago major L	γ '-β -D-Glucopyranoside	Leaves	Weak ACE inhibitory activity.	41
1 unugo nujoi L	6-Hydroxyapigenin 7-O-beta-D- glucoside	Leaves	Weak ACE inhibitory activity.	41
	(E)-2,3- Dihydroxycyclopentyl-3-(3',4' dihydroxyphenyl) acrylate	Fruits	Weak ACE inhibitory activity with IC $_{\scriptscriptstyle{50}}$ value of 778 $\mu g/mL$	45
Solanum torvum	Lariciresinol-4,4'-Ο-β-D- diglucoside	Fruits	Scarcely showed any ACE inhibitory activity.	45
	Methyl salicylate glycoside	Fruits	Scarcely showed any ACE inhibitory activity.	45

µg/ml) with the ACE inhibition values of 90.97 %, 90.64 – 92.10 %, 97.50 %, 91.20 % and 92.20 % respectively. There are also plant extracts that exhibit moderate ACE inhibition activity like Anacardium occidentale Linn. (64.20 %), Apium graveolens L. (82.3 %), Averrhoa bilimbi L. (65.00 - 71.48 %), Carica papaya (59.77 %), Centella asiatica (73.63 %), Cosmos caudatus (51.00 - 88.49 %), Eleusine indica (68.84 %), Moringa oleifera Lam (64.23 %), Morinda citrifolia L. (66.64 %), Nasturtium officinale R. Br. (51.94 %), Orthosiphon aristatus (Blume) Miq. (69.20 %), Orthosipon stamineus Benth. (55.41 %), Peperomia pellucida (L.) Kunth (54.73 %), Polygonum minus (89.13 %), Psophocarpus tetragonolobus (51 %), Solanum indicum Linn (53.24 %), Solanum torvum Sw. (76.20 %) Syzygium polyanthum (Wight) Walp (53.37 – 75.00 %) and also Zea mays (50.44 %).

Several plants have more than one value of percentage inhibition activity as differents studies were reported on the same plant, for example for *C. Caudatus* with the ACE inhibition values of 51.00 $\%^{22}$ and also 88.49 $\%^{24}$; *S. polyanthum (Wight) Walp* with the ACE inhibition values of 53.37 $\%^{19}$ and 75.00 $\%^{20}$; and also *A. bilimbi L.* with the ACE inhibition values of 65.00 $\%^{20}$, 70.42 $\%^{18}$ 21 and 71.48 $\%^{19}$ These discrepancies between the percent of ACE inhibition activities of the same plant might derive from different extraction protocols, varying geographical location of the plant, and also seasonal variation during the plant collection period. In addition, it is also difficult to compare the efficacy between these plants using the percentage of ACE inhibition since most plant extracts were tested at different concentrations.

Another means of comparing the effectiveness of the ACE inhibition activity is by comparing the inhibitory concentration of plant extract that can inhibit 50 percent of the ACE enzyme activity. This concept is termed as ${\rm IC}_{50}$, a usual measure of the potency of any drugs or any potential drug candidates. For instance, the lower the ${\rm IC}_{50}$, the more potent the drug. Twenty-eight medicinal plants in this review paper have reported the plant's ${\rm IC}_{50}$ values. Among these plants, six plants were identified as highly potent, indicated by a very low ${\rm IC}_{50}$ which was lower than $10~\mu \rm g/ml$. These plants are Chassalia curviflora²⁵, Momordica charantia L.³¹, Muntingia calabura L.³³, Nasturtium officinale R. Br.³⁵, Pereskia saccharose $Griseb^{40}$ and Peperomia pellucida (L.) Kunth.³⁹

C. curviflora leaves and flower exhibited ACE inhibition activity with IC₅₀ values of 4.96 μg/ml for water leaves extract, 4.06 μg/ml for methanol leaves extract, 3.39 μg/ml for water flower extract, and 3.71 μg/ml for methanol flower extract.²⁵ For *M. charantia L.*, both its ethanol crude extract and ethyl acetate fraction exhibited low IC₅₀ values of 7.54 μg/ml and 4.29 μg/ml respectively.³¹ The same goes for *M. calabura L.*, both its ethanol crude extract and ethyl acetate fraction also showed low IC₅₀ values of 1.25 μg/ml and 0.63 μg/ml respectively.³³ In addition to that, *N. Officinale R. Br.* ethanol crude extract exhibited an IC₅₀ value of 19.05

μg/ml, but its ethyl acetate fraction showed a much lower IC $_{50}$ value of 2.30 μg/ml. 35 These studies indicated that the ethyl acetate fraction of these plants exhibited higher ACE inhibition than the crude ethanolic extract. As for *P. saccharose Griseb*, both its ethanol and ethyl acetate crude extracts illustrated high potency with IC $_{50}$ values of 3.448 μg/ml and 1.714 x $^{10^{-3}}$ μg/ml respectively. 40 Lastly, the *P. pellucida (L.) Kunth* ethyl acetate fraction has an IC $_{50}$ value of 3.44 μg/ml. 39

There are also other plants with significant ACE inhibition activity with reported IC $_{50}$ values from 10 µg/ml to 100 µg/ml. These include G. lucidum 17 , N. officinale 35 , P. cystidiosus 17 , P. eryngii 17 , P. flabellatus 17 , P. florida 17 , P. sajor-caju 17 , R. tuberosa 43 , S. polycystum 44 , and S. arvensis 46 with IC $_{50}$ values of 50.00, 19.05, 54.00, 67.00, 58.00, 50.00, 56.00, 55.36, 30.00 and 46.71 µg/ml respectively.

Bioactive compounds from Southeast Asian medicinal plants with ACE inhibition activities

Apart from studies on plant crude extracts, there are several bioactive compounds with ACE inhibition activity found from six Southeast Asian medicinal plants such as *Apium graveolens L.* ¹⁸, *Moringa oleifera Lam* ³², *Myrica esculenta* ³⁴, *Peperomia pellucida (L.) Kunth* ³⁹, *Plantago major L* ⁴¹, and *Solanum torvum* ⁴⁵. The crude extract of *S. torvum* studied by Simaratanamongkol *et al.* ¹⁸ showed moderate inhibition against ACE enzyme at the concentration of 5 mg/ml. Although the IC ₅₀ of the crude extract did not show a potent inhibition (1,200 µg/ml), the isolated bioactive compound, (E)-2,3-dihydroxycyclopentyl-3-(3',4' dihydroxyphenyl) acrylate, showed a lower IC ₅₀ than the crude extract with an IC ₅₀ value of 778 µg/ml, indicative for a higher potency than the crude extract. ^{18,45}

As for *Plantago major* L, Nhiem *et al.*⁴¹ tested eight isolated compounds and they found that only one compound, 10-hydroxy-majoroside have the highest percentage of ACE inhibition with 28.06 %; two compounds showed a very weak activity below than 3 %, and the other compounds did not show any ACE inhibition activity at all, at the tested concentration of 100 μM. *Peperomia pellucida* showed significant ACE inhibition activity with an IC $_{50}$ value of 3.44 μg/ml, meanwhile, its flavonoid compound, 3',4', dihydroxy-3-5 dimethoxy flavone-7-Oβ-rhamnose with an IC $_{50}$ value of 7.72 μg/ml was less potent than the crude extract.³⁹ For *Myrica esculenta*, several metabolites have been isolated but only corchoionoside C and roseoside showed the most significant ACE inhibition activity with the value of 29.97 % and 25.30 % at a concentration of 100 μM.³⁴

As for *Moringa oleifera*, its active fraction at 12 μ g/ml exhibited ACE inhibition activity with the highest percentage of 95.85 \pm 0.0181%, higher than the ACE inhibition value of crude extract of ethyl acetate fraction with 64.23 \pm 0.0562 % at an unspecified concentration.³² After

purification of this fraction into two compounds (the quercetin-3-O-glucoside and kaempferol-3-O-glucoside), the quercetin-3-O-glucoside exhibited ACE inhibitory activity of 56.37 ± 0.0059 % at $7 \mu g/ml$; 59.16 ± 0.0137 % at $15 \mu g/ml$; and 75.74 ± 0.0161 % at $28 \mu g/ml$. This shows that the activity of quercetin-3-O-glucoside was lower than the active fraction (95.85 \pm 0.0181%), but it was higher than the crude extract (64.23 \pm 0.0562 %) at the highest tested concentration (28 $\mu g/ml$). On the other hand, kaempferol-3-O-glucoside was not tested due to its low availability after purification.

On the other hand, Apium graveolens exhibited unique and different ACE inhibition activity compared to other medicinal plants and its extracted compounds. A. graveolens had been fractionated into several compounds. The most significant compound that showed the highest inhibition activity among others, is a glucoside named junipediol-A-8-O-B-D glucoside with an $\text{IC}_{_{50}}$ value of 75.6 $\mu\text{g/ml}.$ The other five compounds scarcely showed ACE inhibition activities. However, a synergistic study through Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationship (QSAR) illustrated the synergistic effect of these compounds with junipediol-A-8-O-B-D glucoside. The crude extract of A. graveolens exhibited 82.30 % of ACE inhibition activity at 5 mg/ml while junipediol-A-8-O-B-D glucoside exhibited only 64.00 % of ACE inhibition activity at 500 µM. On the contrary, when tested along with the other five compounds which include isofraxidin glucoside, reseoside, apigenin glucoside, luteolin glucoside, and icariside (all at concentration of 300 μM), the mixture of compounds have a higher percentage of ACE inhibition activity of 80.70 % at the same concentration. 18 This somehow indicates the role of synergism among the bioactive compounds in determining the net activity of the whole plant extract.

In summary, isolated bioactive compounds from *S. torvum* ((E)-2,3-dihydroxycyclopentyl-3-(3',4' dihydroxyphenyl) acrylate), and *M. oleifera* (quercetin-3-O-glucoside) have higher efficacy than the crude extract; while isolated bioactive compounds from *A. graveolens* (junepediol glucoside), *P. pellucida* (3',4', dihydroxy-3-5 dimethoxy flavone-7-O- β -rhamnose) have lower efficacy than the crude extracts in exhibiting the ACE inhibition activity. Among the plausible reason for the latter is perhaps due to the synergistic activity among few bioactive compounds in the crude extract.

CONCLUSION

In overall, this review clearly illustrates the potential of Southeast Asians' medicinal plants as ACE inhibitors in which several plants from Malaysia (Chassalia curviflora, Citrus hystrix, Murraya koenigii, Senna garrettiana), Indonesia (Gnetum Gnemon, Momordica charantia, Nasturtium officinale, Peperomia pellucida, Pereskia saccharose) and Thailand (Mammea siamensis) were found to exhibit strong ACE inhibitory activity in vitro. Bioactive compounds such as 3;4', dihydroxy-3-5 dimethoxy flavone-7-O- β -rhamnose and quercetin-3-O-glucoside showed the highest potency in exhibiting the ACE inhibition activity in this review. In conclusion, this review suggests for an in-depth investigation on the potent crude extracts for the potential development of complementary herbal medicines as well as on the potent ACE inhibitor compounds for further development as new ACE inhibitor candidates for hypertension therapy.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors do not have any conflicts of interest regarding the content of the present work.

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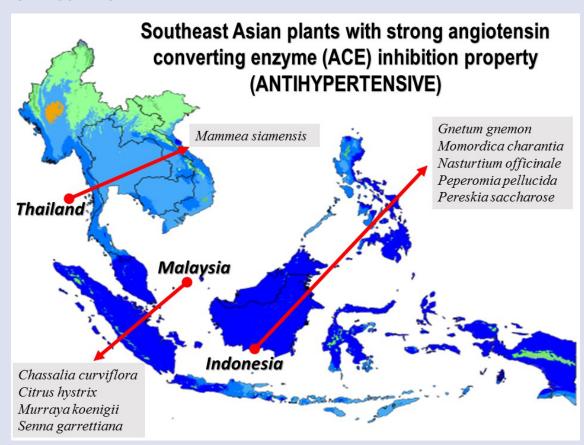
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GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



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