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ABSTRACT

**Background:** *Streptococcus mutans* is known as primary microorganism in the formation of dental plaque and tooth decay. **Aims and Objectives:** To determine the antibacterial activity of ant-nest plant ethanol extract to inhibit *S. mutans* clinical isolates growth *in vitro*. **Materials and Methods:** The ethanol extracts obtained from the ant-nest plant were studied for antibacterial activity against cariogenic *S. mutans* obtained from patients with clinically identified carious lesions, using the agar diffusion method. Chlorhexidine gluconate was used as a comparative drug. The simpisia of ant-nest plant was extracted using a maceration method. The phytochemical screening was taken using standard methods. The minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) test was performed by a macrodilution method and following by subculturing the overnight result onto the surface of agar media. **Results:** Phytochemical screening of ant-nest plant ethanol extract revealed the presence of polyphenols, flavonoids, tannins, and saponins. The extract showed intensive activity and totally inhibited the growth of *S. mutans* clinical isolates at 1.25% w/v. In comparison, the chlorhexidine gluconate, essential oil of plants, and povidone-iodine in a range tested concentration also had given inhibition effect to all hyaluronic acid resistant *S. mutans* isolates. **Conclusion:** It can be reasoned that the ethanolic extract of ant-nest plant gave potent and direct antibacterial effect on *S. mutans*.

**KEY WORDS:** Ant Nest; Antibacterial; *Streptococcus mutans*; Caries; Hyaluronic Acid

INTRODUCTION

Biofilms can be defined as oral microbial-plaque communities and attached to a surface. The microorganisms undergo transition from planktonic form two cells that attached to the host surface. These bacteria communicate through physical interactions called segregation and coadhesion, as comfortably as other physiological and metabolic interactions. Oral streptococci are present in great numbers in dental plaque, and several types interact with the enamel salivary pellicle to form a biofilm on tooth surfaces. *Streptococcus mutans* is the primary bacteria of oral streptococci that plays a significant part in the formation of dental plaque and caries. Dental caries affects 60–90% of children in industrialized countries and approximately 10–15% of adults are affected by the severe periodontal disease. These plaques-mediated diseases lead to premature dental exfoliation and have a significant impact on the quality of life. Periodontal disease has been also implicated with systemic chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease. An important element in both caries and periodontal disease is the oral microflora. As the primary etiological agent of