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Phytochemical screening, in vitro and in silico antibacterial investigation of *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* extract

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1 **Phytochemical screening, in vitro and in silico antibacterial investigation of**
2 ***Elaeocarpus ganitrus* extract**

3
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14
15 **Abstract**

16 This study evaluated phytochemical composition, and in vitro and in silico antibacterial activity
17 of *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* extract. *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* leaves, seed and fruit powder were
18 extracted with absolute ethanol. Then, the extract was identified phytochemical compounds
19 qualitatively and evaluated the antibacterial activity through in vitro against *Staphylococcus*
20 *aureus* and *E. coli*. Molecular docking was conducted to evaluate the antibacterial mechanism
21 of *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* extract. *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* leaves, seeds, and fruits extract
22 presented positive tannin, saponin, cardiac glycoside, quinone, steroids, terpenoids, and
23 anthocyanins. In vitro analysis performed *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* leaves strong inhibited
24 *Staphylococcus aureus* growth and medium inhibition against *E. coli*. structure activity
25 relationship revealed 14 of 72 compounds have high antibacterial activities. molecular docking
26 of 7 compounds showed inhibition activity of D-alanin ligase of *Staphylococcus aureus*. Those
27 compounds blocked the activity of D-alanine ligase at inhibitor sites of enzyme, and might be
28 disrupted the cell wall synthesis. In conclusion, *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* contained several
29 phytochemical compounds and has antibacterial activity both in vitro and in silico
30 investigation.

31
32 **Keywords:** *Antibacterial activity; D-alanine ligase; Elaeocarpus ganitrus; Phytochemical*

33

34 Introduction

35 Microbial infections, including bacteria and viruses, cause a spectrum of clinical
36 manifestations, including mild to severe impacts on the body's biological systems (Deets &
37 Vance, 2021; Freer & Pistello, 2018; Kularatne & Dalugama, 2022). Infectious conditions can
38 reduce the body's condition, resulting in the potential for secondary infections (Calder et al.,
39 2020; Netea et al., 2016). Secondary infections are a pathogenic factor that can reduce the
40 body's immunity (Calder et al., 2020).

41 The use of immunomodulatory supplements can increase the body's resistance, thereby
42 reducing the risk of secondary infections (Allegra et al., 2022; Pecora et al., 2020; Samad et
43 al., 2021). Efforts to increase the body's immune system are often carried out using vitamins,
44 supplements and immunostimulant ingredients (Dong et al., 2015). Herbal medicines have
45 been widely used to increase the body's immunity, this is because herbal medicines are more
46 effective, efficient and safe (Chavda et al., 2022; Frazzoli et al., 2023; Phu et al., 2020; Shaito
47 et al., 2020).

48 *Elaeocarpus ganitrus*, known as genitri, is widely used in medical therapy worldwide
49 (Krishna et al., 2013; Prasannan et al., 2020; Vijayaraghavan et al., 2018). This plant grows
50 abundantly in Indonesia, especially in Java, Sulawesi, Bali, Timor, Kalimantan and Sumatra
51 (Brambach et al., 2016). Ganitri plants in Central Java are found in the districts of Cilacap,
52 Kebumen, Kendal, Brebes, Purworejo, Banjarnegara, Wonosobo, Banyumas, Temanggung,
53 Semarang and Karanganyar (Rohandi & Gunawan, 2015). Habitat Elaeocarpaceae grows at an
54 altitude of up to 2.000 meters above sea level, prefers soil with a pH of 5 to 6.5, an average
55 temperature of 20°C, and a humidity level of around 80% (Hardainiyan, Nandy, & Chaudhary,
56 2015).

57 Research results have identified various Elaeocarpaceae phytochemicals, namely
58 carbohydrates, proteins (Joshi et al., 2012), alkaloids, flavonoids, glycosides, fatty acids,
59 triterpene tannins, steroids and saponins (Das & Medhabati, 2014). Additionally, hydrocarbon
60 compounds, alcohols, sesquiterpenes, diterpenoids, triterpene alcohols, phytosterols, fatty
61 acids, and pheophytin have been identified in *Elaeocarpus ganitrus*, along with steroids,
62 tannins, glycosides, alkaloids, quinones, coumarins, phenols, and flavonoids (Jain et al., 2019;
63 Wu et al., 2008). The pericarp of genitri fruit contains saponins, anthocyanins, tannins,
64 alkaloids, phenols, flavonoids (Deivasigamani et al., 2018; Hardainiyan, Nandy, & Chaudhary,
65 2015; Hardainiyan, Nandy, & Saxena, 2015).

66 The diversity of Elaeocarpaceae phytochemical composition provides biological and
67 pharmacological activity in the body. *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* seeds have shown anti-

68 inflammatory, analgesic, hypoglycemic, antihypertensive, hydrocholeretic, smooth muscle
69 relaxant, antiulcerogenic and antimicrobial effects (Xie et al., 2018; Yashwant Kumar et al.,
70 2011). Genitri leaves contain routine compounds as antibacterial agents (Makhouri & Ghasemi,
71 2017). Quercetin, phytosterol, rudrakin, and elaeocarpidin, performed as antioxidants, anti-
72 inflammatory, and anti-hypertension (Dubey, 2018). However, the exploration of *Elaeocarpus*
73 *ganitrus* phytochemical compounds and antibacterial activity was limited. Therefore, this study
74 evaluated the phytochemical screening and antibacterial activity through *in vitro* and *in silico*
75 studies.

76

77 **Materials and methods**

78 *Materials*

79 Genitri leaves and fruit are picked from the forest edge of the Karangploso Malang area
80 in fresh condition, not wilted, the color of the fruit is purplish blue. Plant identification was
81 carried out at the Malang Materia Medika Laboratory, with identification numbers:
82 067/1046/102.20/2023. Leaves and fruit were washed with water and cut into pieces. The fruit
83 is peeled to separate the seeds. Then all ingredients were dried separately in an oven at 70°C.
84 The leaves, fruit and seeds are separately ground to make a fine powder.

85

86 *Methods*

87 *Herbal Plant Extraction*

88 Leaves, fruits and seeds of genitri powder 100 g was dissolved in 1000 ml of 96%
89 ethanol and soak for 24 hours at room temperature. The homogenate was filtered by 0.45
90 micron filter paper. The filtrate was evaporated by a rotary evaporator at a temperature of 55°C
91 at a speed of 120 rpm. Then, dried by oven at 50°C for three days.

92

93 *Phytochemical screening*

94 Phytochemical identification of *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* was conducted by qualitative
95 assays. Tannin was tested by reacting 1 ml of extract with 2 ml of 5% Ferric chloride. The
96 positive reaction was marked by dark blue or greenish black solution (Roghini &
97 Vijayalakshmi, 2018). Saponins was observed by mixing 2 ml of extract and 2 ml of distilled
98 water, then shaken vigorously for 15 min. Foam layer in solution was represented saponin
99 (Patel et al., 2016). Glycosides was detected by making solution containing 3 ml of chloroform,
100 10% ammonia solution, and 2 ml of extract. Pink color indicated presence of glycosides
101 (Roghini & Vijayalakshmi, 2018; Soulef et al., 2014). Cardiac Glycosides was identified by

102 mixing 0,5 ml of the extract with 2 ml of glacial acetic acid and few drops of ferric chloride.
103 Then the solution was added by 1 ml of concentrated sulphuric acid. Brown ring at the interface
104 indicates the presence of cardiac glycosides (Morsy, 2017; Roghini & Vijayalakshmi, 2018).
105 Quinones was evaluated by mixing 1 ml of extract with 1 ml of concentrated sulphuric acid.
106 Red color indicated presence of quinones (J. Kaur, 2014; Roghini & Vijayalakshmi, 2018).
107 Anthraquinones was identified by adding 10 ml of benzene to 1 ml of extract, then filter and
108 add 5 ml of 10% (v/v) ammonia to the extract and shake well. A positive indication is that the
109 solution changes to pink (S. Kaur et al., 2019; Roghini & Vijayalakshmi, 2018). Steroid was
110 observed by adding 10 ml chloroform and 10 ml H₂SO₄ slowly to 1 ml extract. Changes occur
111 in upper layer turns red and sulphuric acid layer showed yellow with green fluorescence (Al-
112 Snafi, 2015). Terpenoid was identified by mixing 0.5 ml of the extract with 2 ml of chloroform
113 and concentrated Sulphuric acid. Formation of red brown colour at the interface indicates the
114 presence of terpenoids (Roghini & Vijayalakshmi, 2018). Alkaloid was determined
115 qualitatively by adding 2 ml of extract with 2 ml of concentrated hydrochloric acid. Then few
116 drops of Mayer's reagent were added. Presence of green color or white precipitate indicated
117 the presence of alkaloids (Roghini & Vijayalakshmi, 2018). Anthocyanin was identified by
118 heating 1 mL of extract with HCl for 2 minutes. A positive result shows a red color change
119 (Fatchiyah et al., 2020).

120

121 *Antibacterial evaluation by in vitro*

122 Nutrient Agar (NA) media was prepared by dissolving 11.5 g of NA in 500 ml of
123 distilled water using an Erlenmeyer flask. Then homogenize using a magnetic stirrer. The
124 homogenized NA media was sterilized in an autoclave at 121°C for 15 minutes and left for ±30
125 minutes at room temperature until it solidified. *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli*
126 isolate was inoculated on 10 ml of physiological water and equate the turbidity level with the
127 Mc Fraland turbidity standard. Bacterial turbidity equalization was carried out using a vortex.
128 Antibacterial testing uses the disk diffusion method. *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia*
129 *coli* bacterial suspensions were inoculated on NA medium. The paper disc that had been soaked
130 in the genitri leaf extract sample for 2 hours was taken with tweezers and placed in NA medium.
131 Incubate at 37°C for 24 hours. Observe the formation of a clear zone and measure in mm. The
132 Effectiveness of inhibition was calculated by following formula (Chachad et al., 2016);

133

$$134 \text{ Effectiveness (\%)} = \frac{\text{Inhibitory zone diameter of the genitri leaves (mm)}}{\text{Diameter of the antibiotic inhibition zone (mm)}} \times 100\%$$

135 *In silico* evaluation of antibacterial activity

136 Seventy two compounds from *Elaeocarpus* in previous study was predicted their
137 bioavaibility using PASS way2drug online program (Filimonov et al., 2014). Then, the
138 bioavaibility of compounds were presented using Heatmap analysis. Seven of 72 compounds
139 that have high antibacterial activity, L-Rhamnose, D-Xylose, Isoelaecarpiline, Esculetin,
140 Trifoliol, Grandisine C, and Grandisine F was selected for molecular docking. The compound
141 structure were retrieved from PubChem NCBI database. Targeted protein for antibacterial
142 against *Staphylococcus aureus* D-alanine ligase was carried out from Protein Data Bank with
143 accession code 2I80 (Liu et al., 2006). Seven compounds and D-alanine ligase were docked by
144 Molegro virtual docker at active sites (Bitencourt-Ferreira & de Azevedo, 2019). The docking
145 center was X = 26.67; Y=13.65; Z = 32.7; Radius 11. Setting evaluator was set init string : crop
146 distance = 0; grid resolution = 0.30; ligands = false; sp2sp2 bond = false; internal h-bond =
147 false; h-bond 90 = true; Displace Water = false. MolDock SE optimizer was used for setting
148 optimizer. Setting init string: population size = 50; cavity = true; creation Energy Threshold =
149 100; pose Generator = 10,10,30; recombine = true; max simplex = 750; simplex steps = 300;
150 simplex distance factor = 1; cluster threshold = 1.00; keep max poses = 5. The binding poses
151 and three dimensional structure of complex were analyzed by PyMol 2.3 and Discovery studio
152 version 21.1.1.

153

154 **Results and Discussion**

155 The phytochemical screening of *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* extract showed positive tannin,
156 saponin, cardiac glycoside, quinone, steroids, alkaloid, terpenoids, and anthocyanins (Table 1).
157 Glycoside and anthraquinone did not detect on leaves, seed and fruit of *Elaeocarpus ganitrus*.
158 Alkaloids was identified on leaves and fruit extract of *Elaeocarpus ganitrus*. The
159 phytochemical compounds of *Elaeocarpus* leaves and and seeds was reported in several
160 studies. Leaves and seeds of *Elaeocarpus* genus contained geranin, alkaloids, glycosides,
161 saponins, phytosterols, flavonoids, tannin, 3-4-5 trimethoxy geranin, grandisinin, and quercetin
162 (Singh et al., 2018; Sudradjat & Timotius, 2022; Talukdar et al., 2017; Tripathy et al., 2016).
163 Previous study also reported that *Elaeocarpus sphaericus* Schum Fruit has 72 compounds,
164 which was classified as terpenoids, alkaloids, flavonoids, steroids, tannin, and saponins
165 (Primiani et al., 2022).

166 The phytochemistry of *Elaeocarpus floribundus* fruit contains cardiac glycosides,
167 anthraquinone glycosides, steroids, terpenoids and quinines in fruits (Deivasigamani et al.,
168 2018; Lakshmi et al., 2014). The phytochemical components of *Elaeocarpus tuberculatus*

169 leaves, fruit and seeds are carbohydrates, proteins and amino acids, alkaloids, flavonoids,
 170 tannins, phenols, terpenoids, steroids, triterpenoids, coumarin, saponins, quinine,
 171 glycosides (Rastogi & Sinha, 2009). Genitri seeds contain alkaloids, flavonoids, phytosterols,
 172 tannins, carbohydrate, and protein compounds (Tripathy et al., 2016). The secondary
 173 metabolite components of *Elaeocarpus recurvatus* leaves and stems are proanthocyanidins,
 174 phenolics, flavonoids (Deivasigamani et al., 2018). *Ealeocarpus serratus* and *Elaeocarpus*
 175 *variabilis* leaves flavonoids, saponins, tannins, glycosides, flavonoids tannins, steroids,
 176 tannins, terpenoids Phenols, flavonoids, sterols, amino acids, terpenoids and alkaloids (Sumana
 177 et al., 2015).

178 **Table 1. Phytochemical screening of *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* extract**

Phytochemicals	Part of a plant		
	leaves	seeds	fruit
Tannin	+	+	+
Saponin	+	+	+
Glycoside	-	-	-
Cardiac glycoside	+	+	+
Quinone	+	+	+
Anthraquinone	-	-	-
Steroid	+	+	+
Terpenoid	+	+	+
Alkaloid	+	-	+
Anthocyanins	+	+	+

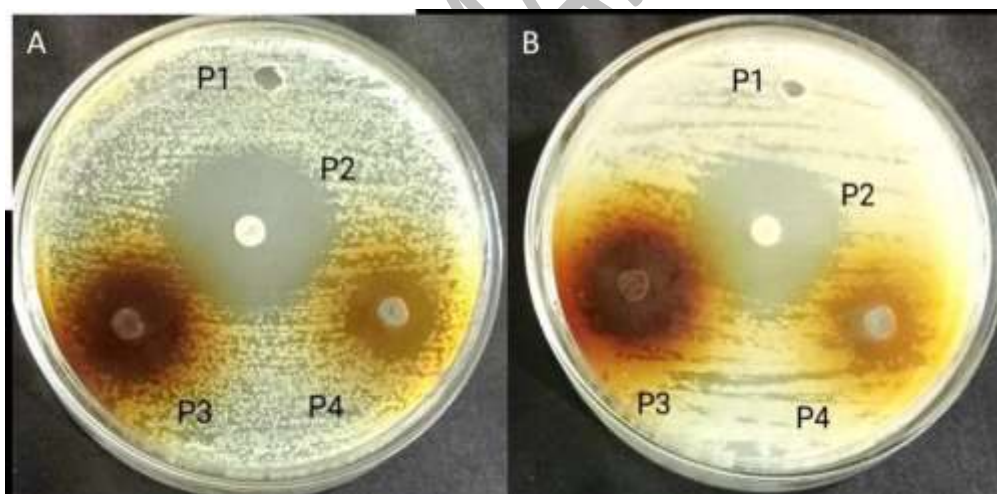
179
 180 Based on various research results, *Elaeocarpus* phytochemicals have potential as
 181 constituents, which can be used to treat microbial infections (Chockalingam et al., 2021;
 182 Sharma et al., 2016; V C et al., 2018). Flavonoids, saponins, tannins, and alkaloids from
 183 *Elaeocarpus* seed extract performed antibacterial activity (Dalei, 2016; Tripathy et al., 2016).
 184 Antibacterial activity of *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* was tested against *Staphylococcus aureus* and
 185 *Escherichia coli*. *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* leaves extract showed strong antibacterial activity
 186 against *Staphylococcus aureus* both of 20% and 60% extract concentration (Figure 1. Table 2).
 187 Comparing against cloramphenicol 30 mg, *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* leaves extract has lower
 188 antibacterial activity. The antibacterial activity of *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* leaves extract both
 189 20% and 60% against *Escherichia coli* performed lower inhibition zone than cloramphenicol
 190 30 mg. the category of antibacterial activity was medium.

191 *Staphylococcus aureus* is a gram-positive bacterium that has a thick peptidoglycan
 192 structure which facilitates the diffusion of antibacterial compounds into cells (Cui et al., 2006;
 193 Fisher & Mobashery, 2021; Szweda et al., 2012). Peptidoglycan is part of the bacterial cell wall

194 which is polar, making it easier for secondary metabolite activities to enter the bacterial cell
195 wall (Hasan et al., 2022; Rizki et al., 2023). Gram-negative bacteria (*Escherichia coli*) have
196 cell walls containing non-polar lipopolysaccharides, so it is more difficult for phytochemicals
197 to penetrate the bacterial cell walls (Aelenei et al., 2016; Muchtaromah et al., 2020).

198 Flavonoids are secondary metabolite compounds of genitri seed extract which have the
199 function of inhibiting bacterial cell membranes (Salem et al., 2014; Tagousop et al., 2018).
200 Flavonoids also inhibited the bacterial growth by several mechanism, involved disrupting
201 nucleic acid synthesis, inhibiting cytoplasmic membrane function, blocking energy
202 metabolism, blocking bacterial attachment and biofilm formation, inhibiting porins in cell
203 membranes, changing membrane permeability (Shamsudin et al., 2022; Tagousop et al., 2018).
204 Saponins performed enzyme inhibition activity and disrupt bacterial metabolism (Mabhiza et
205 al., 2016). The effectiveness of the inhibition activity of *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* leaves extract
206 was presented at Table 2. *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* leaves extract both 20% and 60% showed high
207 effective inhibition in *Staphylococcus aureus*, more than 90%. While, the effectivity of extract
208 in *Escherichia coli* was lower, less than 70%.

209



210

211

212 **Figure 1.** Inhibition zone of bacterial growth against *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* leaves extract, A.
213 *Staphylococcus aureus*, B. *Escherichia coli*. P1: Negative control treatment with
214 sterile distilled water; P2: Treatment with cloramphenicol 30 mg; P3: Treatment with
215 20% *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* leaf extract; P4: Treatment with 60% *Elaeocarpus*
216 *ganitrus* leaf extract

217

218

219

220

221

222

223 **Table 2. Antibacterial activity of *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* leaves extract**

Species	Treatment	Average diameter (mm)	Inhibitory response *
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	P1	0,00±0,00	None
	P2	27 ±0,03	Strong
	P3	24,3±0,02	Strong
	P4	25,6±0,01	Strong
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	P1	0±0,00	None
	P2	28,3±0,03	Strong
	P3	15,6±0,04	Medium
	P4	19±0,02	Medium

224: P1: Negative control treatment with sterile distilled water; P2: Treatment with cloramphenicol 30 mg; P3:
 225 Treatment with 20% *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* leaf extract; P4: Treatment with 60% *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* leaf
 226 extract. *Greenwood et al., 1995.

227

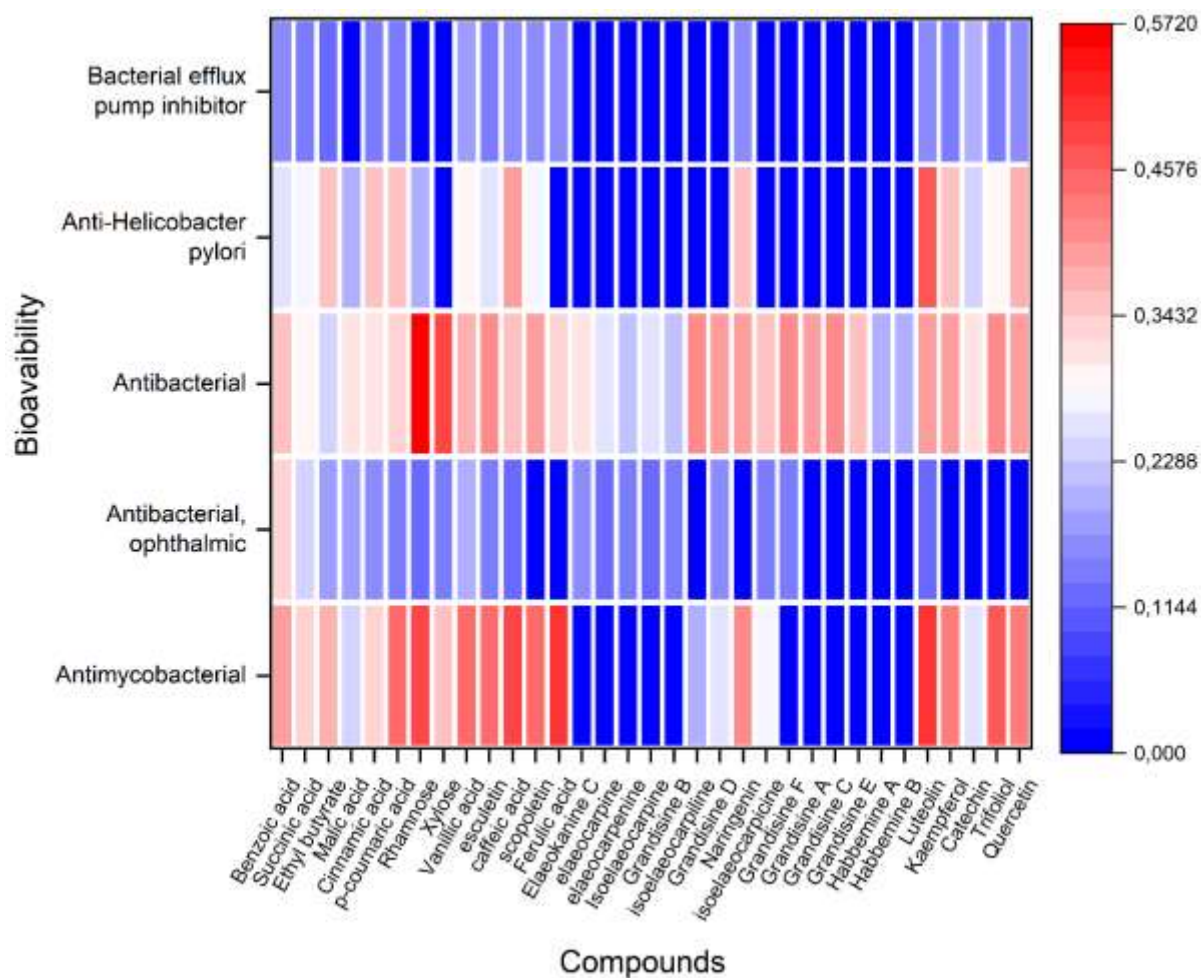
228 **Table 3. Effectiveness of the inhibitory power of genitri extract against bacteria (%)**
 229 **(Hamzah, 2019 and Pouva et al., 2008)**

Treatment	Effectiveness of inhibition (%)	
	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	<i>Escherichia coli</i>
P3	90	55,12
P4	94,81	67,13

230

231 To proposed the antibacterial mechanism of *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* extract against
 232 *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escherichia coli*, structure activity relationship of compounds was
 233 conducted. The 72 identified compounds by LCMS/MS was screened the bioavaibility as
 234 antibacterial mechanism (Figure 2). The parameter was set to filter the bioavaibility, including
 235 antimycobacterial, antibacterial ophthalmic, antibacterial, anti-*Helicobacter pylori*, and becterial
 236 efflux pum inhibitor. Out of 72 compounds, 14 had high antimycobacterial activity, one was
 237 high in antibacterial ophthalmic, 18 had high performance in antibacterial, 8 compounds in anti-
 238 *Helicobacter* activities.

239



240

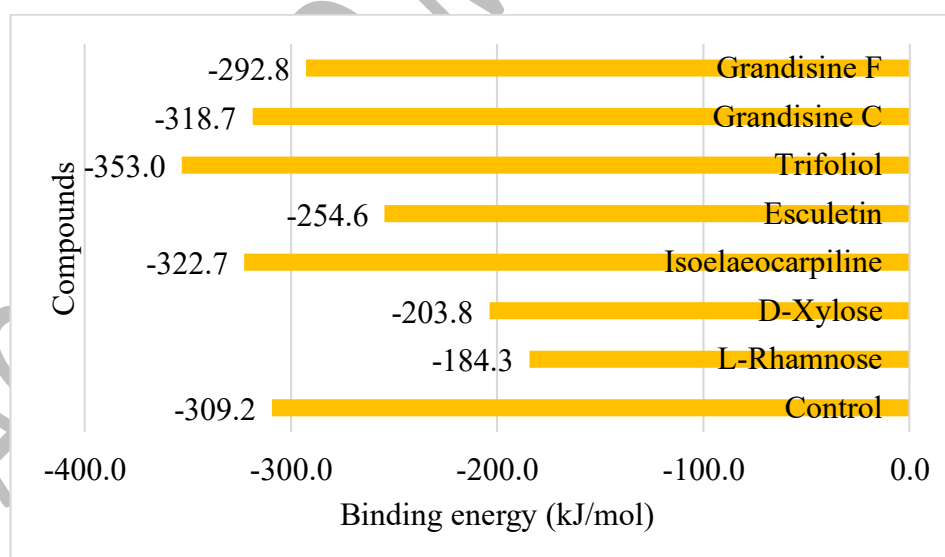
241 **Figure 2.** Antibacterial activity mechanism of *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* compounds

242

243 Molecular docking was conducted to evaluate the inhibitory mechanism of *Elaeocarpus*
 244 *ganitrus* compounds against *Staphylococcus aureus* D-alanine ligase. Inhibitor compound, 3-
 245 Chloro-2,2-Dimethyl-N-[4-(Trifluoromethyl) Phenyl] Propanamide, was used as a docking
 246 control. The binding poses of *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* compounds against *Staphylococcus aureus*
 247 D-alanine ligase presented same binding pose with control (Figure 3). The inhibitor control
 248 bound to D-alanine ligase by 2 hydrogen bonds at residus SER20 and PRO93. Furthermore, 8
 249 hydrophobic interactions also performed in inhibitor control with D-alanine ligase. The
 250 residues that attached by hydrophobic interaction were LEU94, PHE313, MET310, PRO311,
 251 VAL117, LEU289, VAL19, and HIS96. Several binding sites of inhibitor compound were
 252 identified on *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* binding sites. PRO311 was identified in all compounds
 253 active sites. Pro93 was identified at D-Xylose, Isoeleocarpiline, Esculetin, Grandisine C, and
 254 Grandisine F binding sites. LEU94 was detected at L-Rhamnose, Isoeleocarpiline, Esculetin,
 255 Trifoliol, Grandisine C, and Grandisine F. The PHE313 was found at active site of
 256 Isoeleocarpiline, Trifoliol, Grandisine C, and Grandisine F. All compounds was showed

275 LEU94 and MET310 by Hydrophobic interactions. Trifoliol showed interaction by 4 Hydrogen
276 Bonds and 5 Hydrophobic, while grandisine C showed one Hydrogen Bond and 10
277 Hydrophobic interactions as well as grandisine F. Binding energy of ligands – protein
278 complexes were presented at Figure 4. Trifoliol revealed the lowest binding energy against D-
279 alanine ligase, with binding energy -353.0 kJ/mol, followed by isoelaecarpiline and grandisine
280 C. Low binding energy indicated tight interaction between ligands and targeted protein. The
281 binding energy of ligands – protein complex was affected by several factors, including the
282 number of hydrogend bond, hydrophobic interaction, the complex structure both of ligands and
283 protein (Bare et al., 2022, 2023; Krisnamurti & Sari, 2023; Sari, Dewi Ratih Tirto; Krisnamurti,
284 2021; Sari et al., 2020, 2022; Sari & Krisnamurti, 2022).

285 D-alanine D alanine ligase is an essential enzyme for bacterial cell wall synthesis. This
286 enzyme catalyzed D-alanine D alanine dipeptide formation by using one D-alanine as substrate
287 and second D-alanine to complete a reaction. D-alanine ligase also contributing for developing
288 new antibiotic, mutation on D-alanine ligase revealed antibiotic resistance (Liu et al., 2006;
289 May et al., 2005; Pederick et al., 2020; Wu et al., 2008; Yang et al., 2018). In this study,
290 *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* compounds bound to D-alanine D alanine ligase at inhibitor sites, as well
291 as inhibitory control. Blocking mechanisms caused weakening the bacterial cell wall leading
292 to the cell wall lysis (May et al., 2005; Wu et al., 2008; Yang et al., 2018).



293
294 **Figure 4.** Binding energy of *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* compounds – D-alanine ligase complex

295
296 **Conclusions**

297 The phytochemical compounds that identified on leaves, seed and fruit of *Elaeocarpus*
298 *ganitrus* extract were tannin, saponin, cardiac glycoside, quinone, steroids, terpenoids, and

299 anthocyanins. In vitro observation, *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* leaves extract performed that strong
300 inhibition activity against *Staphylococcus aureus* and medium inhibition against *E. coli*.
301 Molecular docking revealed seven compounds of *Elaeocarpus ganitrus*, L-Rhamnose, D-
302 Xylose, Isoelaecarpiline, Esculetin, Trifoliol, Grandisine C, and Grandisine F have high
303 bioavaibility in antibacterial and blocked D-alanine ligase in cell wall synthesis in *S. aureus*.

304

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309

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