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## Cytotoxic Activity of Green Seaweed *Halimeda tuna* Methanolic Extract Against Lung Cancer Cells

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# Cytotoxic Activity of Green Seaweed *Halimeda tuna* Methanolic Extract Against Lung Cancer Cells

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## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Conceptualization, A.M. and M.G.; Methodology, A.M and M.G; Software, A.M.; Validation, A.H., M.G. and A.M.; Formal Analysis, A.M. and M.G.; Investigation, A.H.; Resources, M.G.; Data Curation, M.G.; Writing–Original Draft Preparation, M.G.; Writing – Review & Editing, A.M. M.G. A.M. and N.N., R.S., and Z.Z.; Visualization, .X.; Supervision, A.M. and N.; Project Administration, M.G.; Funding Acquisition, M.G.

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**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

# Cytotoxic Activity of Green Seaweed *Halimeda tuna* Methanolic Extract Against Lung Cancer Cells

**Abstract.** Lung cancer is a malignant tumor that attacks the lungs generated by carcinogenic free radicals such as cigarette smoke. Seaweed contains bioactive compounds that have the potential to reduce cancer-causing free radicals. This study aimed to determine the phytochemical content and cytotoxic activity of *Halimeda tuna* seaweed extract against lung cancer cells (A549). The *H. tuna* sample was macerated using methanol for 24 h. Cytotoxic test of *H. tuna* crude extract used the MTT test against A549. The crude extract was phytochemically tested and analyzed using gas chromatography–mass spectrometry (GC-MS). The results showed that the *H. tuna* crude extract had cytotoxic activity against A549 with an  $IC_{50}$  value of 2771  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ . The phytochemical test showed that *H. tuna* crude extract contained flavonoids and steroids. GC-MS spectra showed the presence of fatty acid compounds including palmitic acid, oleic acid, myristic acid, palmitoleic acid and stearic acid. Based on the results can be concluded that *H. tuna* extract had cytotoxic activity against A549 with low cytotoxicity to be used as a chemo-preventive agent.

**Keywords:** anticancer; cytomorphology; flavonoid; green seaweed; steroid

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Lung cancer is one of the most dangerous deadly diseases. The death rate from lung cancer worldwide can reach one million people annually; even in Indonesia, this disease is ranked 4th in the world [1]. Cancer is a metabolic syndrome that is one of the leading causes of death and morbidity worldwide. Primary cancer-triggering factors include genetic, epigenetic, environmental, and hormonal that cause mutations [2]. The leading cause of lung cancer is caused by long-term exposure to carcinogenic substances, especially substances that enter through the respiratory process, such as air pollution and cigarette smoke. Many have reported that lung cancer is associated with smoking habits. As many as 65% of the risk of lung cancer is suffered by males, especially those aged over 40 years [1]. The most effective cancer treatment, namely chemotherapy, still has various side effects, such as nausea, hair loss, pain, fatigue, and diarrhea. In the long term, these symptoms can harm the patient's quality of life and are at risk of death [3].

1 Most Asian people use complementary medicine such as dietary supplements, herbal  
2 products, and other traditional treatments [4]. One of the herbal medicines or natural  
3 ingredients from the fisheries sector is seaweed. Seaweed contains various secondary  
4 metabolites, such as flavonoids, phenolics, and tannins [5]. Seaweed also contains phenolic  
5 compounds, polysaccharides, polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs), proteins, vitamins, and  
6 minerals. These compounds show biological activity and have the potential to be used as drugs  
7 to ward off cancer, tumors, thrombosis, diabetes, inflammation, and other degenerative  
8 diseases [5-8]. These bioactive compounds can be used as antioxidant, anticancer, antibacterial,  
9 anti-inflammatory, and antiviral agents [9].

10 Several studies have shown that seaweed from the *Halimeda* genus consists of bioactive  
11 compounds, including polyphenols, diterpenes, fatty acids, and sterols, that show anticancer  
12 activities [10,11]. One potential seaweed species as an anticancer is the green seaweed  
13 *Halimeda tuna* from Aceh waters. Previous research has been carried out related to the  
14 bioactivity of seaweed originating from Aceh waters, such as *H. macroloba* [12], *H. opuntia*  
15 [13], and *H. tuna* [14]. Green seaweed is abundant in Indonesia and mainly used in the food  
16 sector, however, green seaweed is rarely used in the pharmaceutical and health fields. Research  
17 shows that green seaweed contains bioactive compounds such as alkaloids, flavonoids, tannins,  
18 saponins, and steroids [15]. Some of these bioactive compounds can potentially reduce free  
19 radicals that cause cancer. Several studies have been conducted on the cytotoxic activity of  
20 green seaweed, namely *Boergesenia forbesii*, which has high cytotoxic activity so it has the  
21 potential to become an anticancer [16]. Puc et al. [17] reported that *H. tuna* has cytotoxic  
22 activity against cervical cancer cells (HeLa), laryngeal cancer cells (Hep-2), and  
23 nasopharyngeal cancer cells (KB). Several species of *Halimeda sp.* contain halimedatrial  
24 compounds (diterpenetriolaldehyde), which have cytotoxic activity [18], so they have the  
25 potential as anticancer. However, the content of seaweed bioactive compounds can vary  
26 depending on the type of species, age of harvest, and environmental conditions of the habitat  
27 or place of growth [19]. Therefore, this study aimed to determine the anticancer activity of  
28 green seaweed *H. tuna* methanol extract against lung cancer cells (A549).

## 29 30 **2. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

31  
32 **2.1. Materials.** The materials used in this study were green seaweed *H. tuna*, methanol  
33 (Sigma Aldrich), ethanol, NaOH, chloroform, anhydrous acetic acid, HCl, FeCl<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>, CHCl<sub>3</sub>,  
34 H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, Dragendorfs reagent, Meyer's reagent, Wagner's reagent, lung cancer cells (A549)

1 (BPPT, Tangerang), RPMI medium, Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS), streptomycin penicillin,  
2 doxorubicin, fungizone, formazan, MTT, SDS. The tools used in this study included laboratory  
3 glasswares, Whatman filter paper no.42, rotary evaporator (D Lab RE100-Pro, Germany),  
4 nitrogen gas evaporator, hot plate stirrer (F20500011 Velp AREC Heating stirrer, Italy), ELISA  
5 microplate reader (Heales MB-580), 96-well microplate, and CO<sub>2</sub> incubator (Mettler  
6 ICO150Med, Germany).

## 7 8 2.2. Methods

9  
10 2.2.1. *Preparation and Identification of Samples.* Samples of green seaweed *H. tuna* were  
11 collected from the coast of Lhok Bubon, Samatiga Subdistrict, West Aceh District, Aceh  
12 Province. The samples were washed with fresh water to remove the adhering sand and dirt. The  
13 wet samples were then dried at room temperature. The wet and dry samples were sent to  
14 Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta. Fresh seaweed samples were identified at the Plant  
15 Systematics Laboratory, Faculty of Biology, Universitas Gadjah Mada, to determine the  
16 specific type, whereas, the dry samples were cut into 1 cm pieces using scissors. The seaweed  
17 was weighed and stored at -20 °C.

18  
19 2.2.2. *Extraction of Seaweed.* The extraction of *H. tuna* was carried out according to Yang  
20 et al. [24] with modifications. Samples of dried *H. tuna* were weighed as much as 250 g. The  
21 sample was macerated with 2 L of methanol for 24 h at room temperature and then the filtrate  
22 was filtered to remove the remaining residue carried. The filtrate was evaporated using a rotary  
23 evaporator at a temperature of 40 °C at 60 rpm. The sample was further treated using nitrogen  
24 gas to produce an extract in the form of a more concentrated paste and then extracted in the  
25 freeze dryer.

26  
27 2.2.3. *Anticancer Activity Test.* An anticancer activity test was conducted to determine  
28 whether the extracted sample had the potential as an anticancer of the lungs. The anticancer  
29 activity test was carried out based on the method according to Husni et al. [20]. Anticancer  
30 activity tests included an A549 culture, cytotoxicity, and cytomorphological testing. A549  
31 cancer cells were cultured in RPMI medium, then added 10% FBS, streptomycin, penicillin,  
32 and fungizone. Then the mixture was incubated with 5% CO<sub>2</sub> at 37°C to obtain an A549 cell  
33 culture. Furthermore, the cytotoxicity test was carried out using the MTT method. A549 cells  
34 were placed on a 96-well culture microplate that included cancer cell treatment with samples,

1 positive controls with doxorubicin, and negative controls without sample treatment. Then the  
2 mixture was incubated with 5% CO<sub>2</sub> at 37 °C for 24 h. After that, the media was discarded and  
3 then it was mixed with 100 µL MTT and incubated again for 4 h. After that, the purple format  
4 was dissolved in 100 µL 10% SDS and allowed to stand for 12 h at room temperature. Cell  
5 growth was read using an ELISA microplate reader at a wavelength of 570 nm. The percentage  
6 of live cells after exposure to fucoidan was calculated using the following equation 1.

$$7 \quad \% \text{ Life cell} = \frac{\text{absorbance of treatment} - \text{absorbance of medium}}{\text{absorbance of cell control} - \text{absorbance of medium}} \times 100\% \quad (1)$$

#### 8 9 10 2.2.4. Phytochemical assay

11  
12 2.2.4.1. *Flavonoid*. The flavonoid test was carried out to determine the content of flavonoid  
13 compounds in the sample. Five mL of 70% ethanol was added to 0.05 g of the extracted sample,  
14 then heated and filtered. Then the filtrate was taken, and two drops of 10% NaOH were added.  
15 If the color changes to yellow or orange, the sample contains flavonoids.

16  
17 2.2.4.2 *Saponin*. The saponin test was carried out based on the method as described by Lubis  
18 et al. [21]. The saponin test was carried out to determine the content of saponin compounds in  
19 the sample. A total of 0.05 g of the extracted sample was dissolved into 10 mL of hot distilled  
20 water and then shaken vigorously until foamy and cooled. Then 1 drop of 2 M HCl was added.  
21 If the foam does not disappear, then the sample contains saponins.

22  
23 2.2.4.3 *Steroid and Triterpenoid*. Steroid and triterpenoid tests were carried out as follows:  
24 chloroform was added to 0.05 g of the extracted sample to the drip plate and then allowed to  
25 dry. Then ten drops of anhydrous acetic acid were added and stirred until homogeneous. Then  
26 three drops of 96% sulfuric acid were added. If it is blue or green, then the sample contains  
27 steroids. If it is red or purple, the sample contains triterpenoids [21].

28  
29 2.2.4.4 *Tannin*. The tannin test was carried out based on the method as described by  
30 Widowati et al. [22]. A total of 0.1 g of sample was dissolved in 10 mL of hot distilled water  
31 and filtered. Then 5 mL of the sample filtrate was added with 3 drops of 1% FeCl<sub>3</sub>. If the results  
32 show a blue-black color, the sample contains tannins.

1 2.2.5 *Gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS) analysis.* GC-MS analysis was  
2 performed to identify the profile of bioactive compounds in *H. tuna* methanolic extract. The  
3 GC-MS analysis was carried out based on the method as described by Hidayah [23]. The  
4 sample to be analyzed by GC-MS was first dissolved in 5 mL methanol. Then the GC-MS  
5 analysis was carried out by injecting the sample into the injection port at a temperature of 290  
6 °C. The volatilized sample was carried by Helium gas at a flow rate of 1 mL/min through the  
7 GC column. The initial injection temperature was 80 °C and increased by 10 °C/min with a  
8 final temperature of 300 °C. Compounds are detected in the MS system by colliding  
9 compounds with electrons to form ionized molecules and record fragmentation patterns [24].  
10

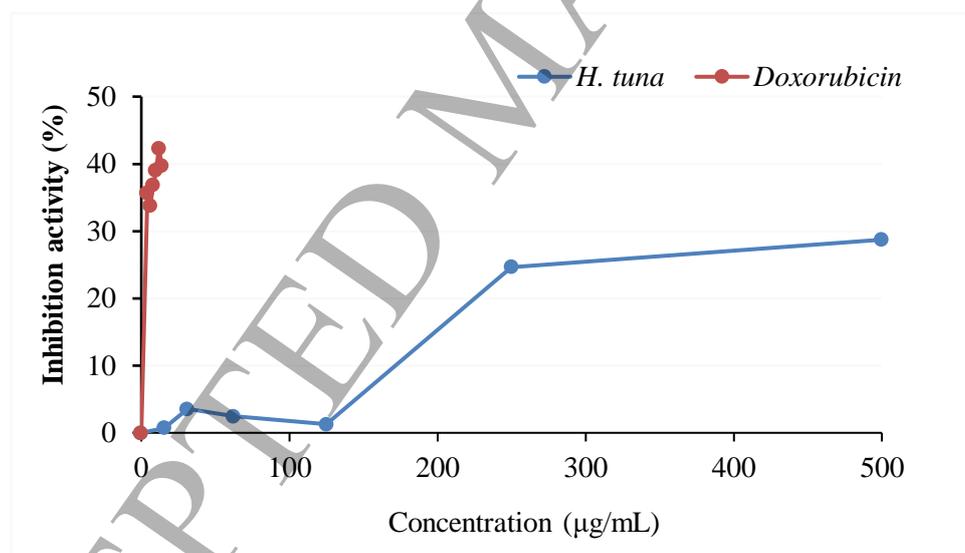
11 2.3 *Statistical Analysis.* The percentage data of inhibition was then converted to a linear  
12 regression equation calculating the IC<sub>50</sub> value. The IC<sub>50</sub> values of the linear regression results  
13 of each sample were statistically tested using SOVS (one-way ANOVA) and Tukey HSD test  
14 with a 95% confidence level.  
15

### 16 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

17  
18 3.1. *Yield of Extract.* The yield is the result of a comparison between the total mass of *H.*  
19 *tuna* extract in the form of paste with the initial mass of *H. tuna* in the form of dried seaweed  
20 [30]. The yield of *H. tuna* methanolic extract obtained was 0.17±0.04%. The methanol extract  
21 of *H. tuna* had a lower yield when compared to the methanol extract of *H. macroloba* (0.34%)  
22 and the ethyl acetate extract of *H. macroloba* (0.28%), but higher than the *n*-hexane extract of  
23 *H. macroloba* (0.04%) [25]. Gazali et al. [12] also reported that the yield of ethanol extract of  
24 *H. macroloba* (2.32%) was higher than the yield of ethyl acetate extract (1.26%), and *n*-hexane  
25 extract (1.03%). The difference in yield can be caused by the type of solvent and different  
26 species. Different solvents can affect the yield due to the level of polarity. According to Muzaki  
27 et al. [30], the yield value decreases along with the decrease in the polarity of the solvent. In  
28 addition, the solvent will attract bioactive compounds that have the same polarity. The type of  
29 seaweed species also affects the yield because it depends on its compounds. According to  
30 Purwaningsih and Deskawati [26], the content of bioactive compounds in seaweed is  
31 influenced by the type of species, harvest season, harvest age, and geographical location.  
32

1 3.2 Anticancer Activity. *H. tuna* methanolic extract was assayed for its cytotoxic activity  
2 against A549. The inhibition of the growth of A549 by *H. tuna* methanolic extract and  
3 doxorubicin is presented in Figure 1 while their IC<sub>50</sub> is shown in Table 1. The morphological  
4 attributes of the cells were monitored under an inverted microscope after the cells were  
5 incubated. The morphological attributes of A549 that were exposed and not exposed to *H. tuna*  
6 extract are illustrated in Figure 2. A cytotoxicity test was carried out on *H. tuna* methanolic  
7 extract against A549 to determine whether the sample had potential as an anticancer and  
8 directly affected cell death [17]. The MTT test is a method that can be used to determine the  
9 toxic properties of a compound. The MTT test results of *H. tuna* extract, and doxorubicin on  
10 A549 (Figure 1) showed that the dose given to cancer cells was directly proportional to the  
11 inhibition of cancer cell growth. *H. tuna* extract with a dose of 500 µg/mL could hinder the  
12 growth of cancer cells by 28.72% while doxorubicin (as a standard drug) at a dose of 14 µg/mL  
13 could hinder the growth of cancer cells by 39.68% (Figure 1). This is because doxorubicin is a  
14 widely used drug for anticancer chemotherapy. However, doxorubicin works non-selectively  
15 and is toxic to cancer cells and normal cells [27].

16



17

18 **Figure 1.** Effect of concentration of *H. tuna* and doxorubicin on inhibition of proliferation of  
19 lung cancer cell A549.

20

21 Prasetyaningrum *et al.* [28] indicated that the cytotoxicity of a substance based on its IC<sub>50</sub>  
22 is divided into three levels: potential cytotoxic (IC<sub>50</sub> <100 µg/mL), moderate cytotoxic (100  
23 µg/mL < IC<sub>50</sub> <1000 µg/mL), and low cytotoxic (IC<sub>50</sub> >1000 µg/mL). Furthermore, according  
24 to the National Cancer Institute [29], a compound can be classified as a strong anticancer agent  
25 if its IC<sub>50</sub> is <20 µg/mL. The cytotoxicity test on the crude extract of *H. tuna* showed low  
26 cytotoxic values (IC<sub>50</sub> value of 2771 µg/mL). A substance with low cytotoxicity can be used

1 as a chemo-preventive agent. The chemo-preventive ability indicates that the crude extracts of  
2 *H. tuna* can be used to prevent and hinder the growth of cancer cells and also trigger apoptosis.

3 Previous research reported the cytotoxicity of brown seaweed fucoidan extracted from  
4 *Turbinaria conoides* species against A549 with IC<sub>50</sub> of 396.46 µg/mL [30]. Polysaccharide  
5 from *Caulerpa taxifolia* showed anticancer activity against A549 with a relative IC<sub>50</sub> of 45.44  
6 µg/mL [31]. Methanol extract of brown algae *Hormophysa cuneiformis* has anticancer activity  
7 against A549 with IC<sub>50</sub> of 40.97 µg/mL [32]. Factors that can affect the content and activity of  
8 bioactive metabolites include sampling location or habitat, genetic variation, sampling time,  
9 evolution, and environmental conditions [33].

10 Doxorubicin is an anticancer medicine and an important agent for the therapy of malignant  
11 breast cancer [34]. The anticancer action of doxorubicin has been described with various  
12 molecular pathways, covering the interaction mechanism of doxorubicin with DNA, DNA-  
13 related enzymes, and cell membranes [35]. Another study has shown that *Cladosiphon*  
14 *okamuranus* fucoidan has strong antiproliferative and apoptotic reactions on MCF-7 cells in  
15 certain doses and does not affect normal cell proliferation in human mammalian epithelial cells  
16 [36]. The cell pattern is a process that requires high energy and involves four sequential stages  
17 that change from the stationary stage (G0 stage) to the proliferation stage (G1, S, G2, and M  
18 stage) and return to rest [37]. Fucoidan increases the population of hepatocarcinoma (Huh7)  
19 cells at the G0/G1 stage and decreases their population at the S stage; this result indicates that  
20 fucoidan can induce the cell pattern to persist at the G0/G1 stage [38].

21

22 **Table 1.** IC<sub>50</sub> values of *H. tuna* extract and doxorubicin against cancer cells A549

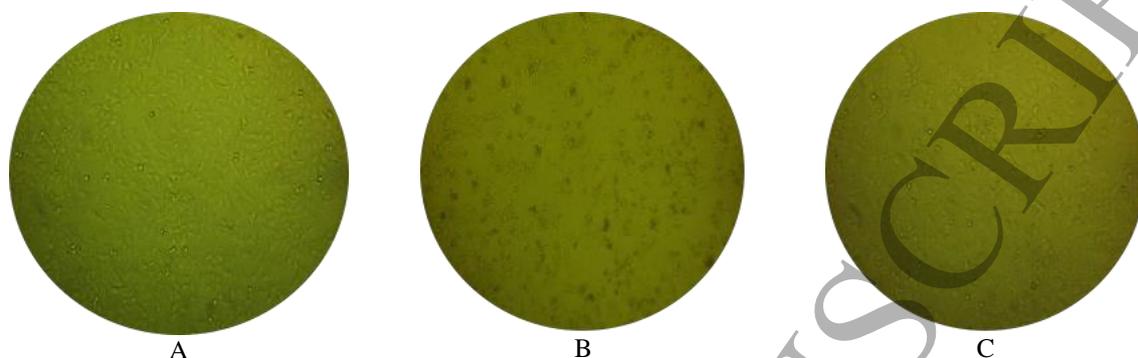
Sample	IC <sub>50</sub> (µg/mL)
<i>H. tuna</i> extract	2771 <sup>a</sup>
Doxorubicin	24.13 <sup>b</sup>

23 <sup>a/b</sup>Different letters show a significant difference (p<0.05)

24

25 The differences in the morphological attributes of A549 to *H. tuna* extract and not exposed  
26 to *H. tuna* extract are illustrated in Figure 2. The morphological characteristics of A549  
27 exposed to *H. tuna* extract and the control cells not exposed to *H. tuna* extract differed. The  
28 morphological attributes of MCF-7 cells in the control cells not exposed to *H. tuna* extract were  
29 observed as an irregular polygonal and attached to the substrate. The morphological  
30 characteristics of the cells that were exposed to *H. tuna* extract varied, that is, the cells shrank,  
31 were round, and had limited distribution patterns compared with those of the control cells. This

1 change in shape was consistent with that observed by Kim *et al.* [39] who stated that MC3T3  
 2 osteoblast cells exposed to fucoidan for 4 h have altered morphological characteristics, i.e.,  
 3 from an irregular shape to a round form with smaller sizes.



5 **Figure 2.** Morphology of A549 lung cancer cells without sample treatment (A), given a  
 6 sample of *H. tuna* extract 250 µg/mL (B), and given a standard doxorubicin 14 µg/mL (C).  
 7

8 **3.3 Phytochemical Content.** The phytochemical test aims to identify chemical compounds  
 9 in samples such as flavonoids, steroids, saponins, tannins, and alkaloids. Many of these  
 10 chemical compounds are found in seaweed. The results of the phytochemical test were shown  
 11 in Table 2.

12  
 13 **Table 2.** Phytochemical analysis of *H. tuna* crude extract

Phytochemicals	Result	Indicator
Flavonoid	++	Yellow/orange color
Steroid	+++	Blue-green color
Triterpenoid	-	Red – purple color
Saponin	-	Foam
Alkaloid	+	Orange precipitate
Tannin	-	Blue-black color

14 + : low, ++ : moderate, +++ : high  
 15

16 According to Nome *et al.* [15], flavonoids were found in almost all types of green  
 17 macroalgae but with different levels, such as *Codium* sp., *Caulerpa* sp., and *Ulva* sp. Similarly,  
 18 the steroids found in the green macroalgae *Caulerpa* sp., *Halimeda* sp., *Enteromorpha* sp., and  
 19 *Codium* sp. Alkaloids are also found in green macroalgae such as *Ulva* sp. and *Caulerpa* sp.,  
 20 but little was found in *Halimeda* sp., *Enteromorpha* sp., and *Codium* sp. Gazali *et al.* [40]  
 21 reported that alkaloids, flavonoids, saponins, and tannins were found in the macroalga  
 22 *Chaetomorpha crassa*. Based on the research of Widowati *et al.* [22], *Gracilaria salicornia*  
 23 contains flavonoids, saponins, and steroids, *Halimeda gracilis* contains steroids and saponins,

1 and *H. macroloba* contains flavonoids and steroids. Gazali *et al.* [12] reported that *H. opuntia*  
2 seaweed contains alkaloids, steroids, saponins, flavonoids, phenols, and tannins. Gazali *et al.*  
3 [13] reported that the phytochemical test results showed that the *H. tuna* fractions were positive  
4 for alkaloids, flavonoids, steroids, and phenol hydroquinone compounds. Flavonoids are  
5 secondary metabolites with anticancer activity [41] because these compounds contain  
6 quercetin, genistein, or flavopiridol which can be used as cancer drugs [42]. Flavonoids as  
7 anticancer have a mechanism of inhibition of DNA topoisomerase I/II activity, decreased  
8 expression of Bcl-2 and Bcl-xl genes, and activation of endonucleases [43]. Flavonoids also  
9 have the biological ability to chelate metals, inhibiting cancer cell growth [44]. Flavonoids are  
10 polar and are mostly produced from green seaweed, so these compounds are generally easily  
11 soluble in polar solvents such as methanol [45].

12 Steroids are non-polar secondary metabolites, so they are easily extracted by polar solvents  
13 such as methanol [15]. Steroids have anticancer activity as these compounds have aromatase  
14 enzymes and sulfatase inhibitors that can inhibit the growth of cancer cells [46]. Steroids, as  
15 anticancer agents, damage mitochondrial membrane permeability in cancer cells and cause cell  
16 death or necrosis [47]. In addition, steroids can also capture reactive species such as superoxide  
17 and chelate metals [48]. The content of chemical compounds in seaweed can be influenced by  
18 environmental factors where it grows because the bioactive compounds formed are a natural  
19 response to environmental conditions where they grow, resulting in various types of chemical  
20 compounds. The ability of seaweed to produce secondary metabolites that are bioactive  
21 compounds can occur due to extreme environmental conditions [15].

22  
23 **3.4 GC-MS Analysis.** GC-MS analysis showed a GC spectra chromatogram with seven  
24 peaks (Figure 3) representing the bioactive compounds interacting with the GC column. The  
25 peak obtained was only a little and not too high, with the results of comparison with the  
26 database having a slight similarity. The bioactive activity and utilization of compounds were  
27 obtained from the NCBI web and previous studies. Compounds belonging to the flavonoid  
28 group were flemichapparin A [49]. The steroids identified in the extract consisted of stigmasta,  
29 androst-4-ene-3,17-dione, estra-1,3,5(10)-trien-17-one, 5-alpha-androstan-17-one, and 1-  
30 docosanol [50]. Some compounds that include fatty acids include palmitic acid, hexadecanoic  
31 acid, octadecanoic acid, lauric acid, 4-hexenoic acid, and dodecanoic acid [46]. The list of  
32 information on the identified compounds and the activity of the metabolite compounds from  
33 the *H. tuna* extract is explained further in Table 3.

1 **Table 3.** Results of identification of compound components of *H. tuna* methanol extract

Peak	RT	Area (%)	Component	Group	Activity	SI
1	12.308	32.34	stigmasta-5,22-dien-3-ol	Steroid	Antioxidant, antimycobacterial (tuberculosis), Anticancer, inhibition of chemocarcinogen [51]	19
2	13.572	7.73	androst-4-ene-3,17-dione	Steroid	Osteoporosis, antiinfectives, hyperglycemia (antidiabetic) [52]	21
3	18.010	5.03	1-docosanol	Steroid	Antiviral [53]	57
4	19.683	0.01	1-hexadecanol	Fatty Alcohol	Antioxidant, antimicrobial [54]	61
5	20.441	27.41	14-beta-h-pregna	Steroid	Cancer Prevention [55]	63
6	20.883	6.78	dodecanoic acid	Fatty Acid	Antimicrobial, relieve neuro-inflammatory [56]	34
7	21.065	20.73	hexadecanoic acid	Fatty Acid	Anti-inflammatory, antiviral, antioxidant [57]	70

2 RT: Retention Time, SI: Similarity Index

3  
 4 The activity of volatile compounds, as listed in Table 2, many compounds have anticancer-  
 5 related bioactivity. The main compound with a large percentage of area is found at peaks 1, 5,  
 6 and 7, with an area of 32.34%, 27.41%, and 20.73%, respectively. According to Singla and  
 7 Dubey [58], in predicting compounds using GC-MS, if the similarity value is low (SI<90%)  
 8 then the component should not be considered because it is less accurate. In this study, the  
 9 compound with the greatest similarity index was 70, so the compound with the largest  
 10 percentage area and the greatest similarity was used.

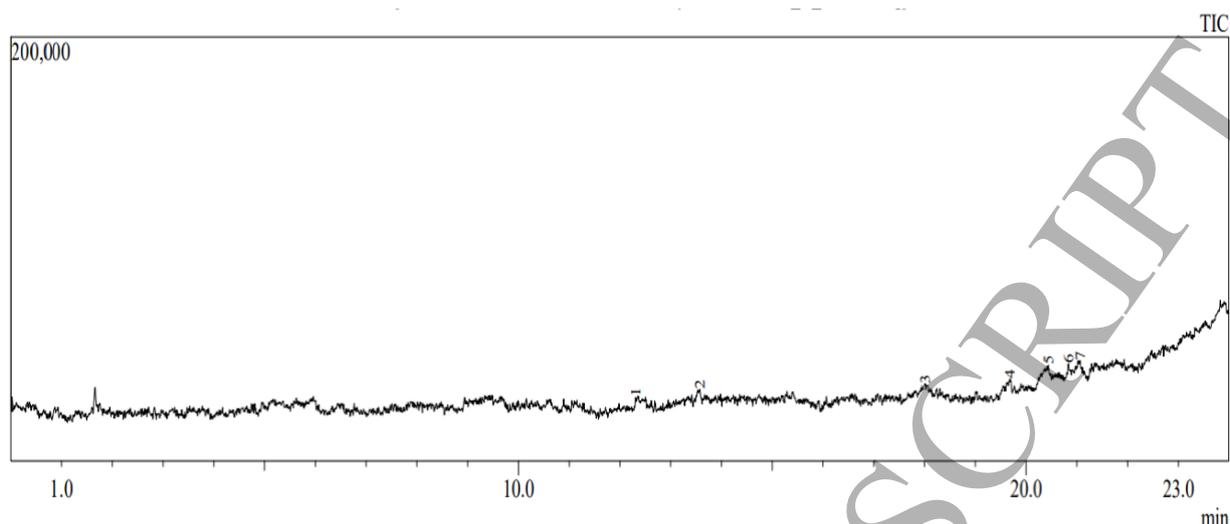
1 The active compound in peak 1 is stigmasta-5,22-dien-3-ol, with activities including  
2 antioxidant, antimycobacterial (anti-tuberculosis bacteria), anti-inflammatory, anticancer, and  
3 inhibition of chemocarcinogens. The compound stigmasta-5,22-dien-3-ol belongs to the  
4 stigmasteroid group [59]. Stigmasta-5,22-dien-3-ol has been found in the genus *Halimeda*  
5 seaweed, precisely in *H. opuntia*, with a percentage of 54.74% as the most dominant compound  
6 [60]. In this study, the stigmasta compound only had an SI of 19 so it might not be accurate  
7 and have little effect on anticancer activity.

8 The active compounds in peak 5 include 14-beta-H-pregna with a similarity of 63, which  
9 has antidiabetic and cancer-preventive properties. Compound 14-beta-H-pregna belongs to  
10 steroids [61]. Compound 14-beta-H-pregna was found with an area of 55% in green seaweed  
11 extract *Chlorella vulgaris* [62]. Compound 14-beta-H-pregna is a component of the medicinal  
12 plant *Verbascum pseudoholotricum* or mullein with a similarity of 98. Mullein has antioxidant,  
13 anti-inflammatory and anti-bacterial activity [63].

14 Compounds in peak 7 include hexadecanoic acid, octadecanoic acid, dodecanoic acid, and  
15 octadecane, a group of fatty acids. Fatty acid bioactivity includes anti-inflammatory, antiviral,  
16 antioxidant, antimicrobial, and antibiotic [64]. Fatty acids function as antioxidants so that they  
17 can reduce reactive oxygen species and act as preventive agents for diseases caused by reactive  
18 oxygen species, such as cancer [37].

19 Research by Nazaruddin *et al.* [60] on the GC-MS test proved the presence of Hexadecanoic  
20 acid in *H. opuntia*. The hexadecanoic acid in *Halimeda* has antioxidant effects and is cytotoxic  
21 against the colorectal cancer cell line HCT-116. The retention time of Hexadecanoic acid in  
22 this study was 50.91 min. Nazaruddin *et al.* [11] researched *H. macroloba* using the GC-MS  
23 test with the Shimadzu QP2010 Plus GC-MS system. One of the compounds found is  
24 hexadecanoic acid. Hexadecanoic acid retention time at two different peaks had values of  
25 21.039 and 20.548 min, respectively. The RT value of the GC-MS test on *H. tuna* in this study  
26 for hexadecanoic acid had a retention time of 21.065 min with a similarity index of 70 so it  
27 was more similar to the results of the GC-MS test on *H. macroloba*.

28



1  
2 **Figure 3.** Chromatogram of *H. tuna* methanolic extract  
3

4 The *H. tuna* extract contains several fatty acid compounds. This is because, in addition to  
5 secondary metabolites, seaweed also contains primary metabolites such as protein,  
6 carbohydrates, fat, crude fiber, macro minerals, and several vitamins. Differences in the content  
7 of chemical compounds in seaweed can be influenced by the type of species and their habitat  
8 [15]. Secondary metabolites have been shown to have high bioactivity. However, fatty acids  
9 are also known to have antioxidant activity [65], so they are thought to have the potential to  
10 have cytotoxic activity. According to Asbanu *et al.* [66], several fatty acids have antioxidant  
11 bioactivity such as octadecanoic acid (stearic acid), hexadecanoic acid (palmitic acid),  
12 tetradecanoic acid (myristic acid), and 9-octadecenoic acid (oleic acid). In general, the  
13 *Halimeda* genus shifts the production of protein and fat primary metabolites to increase the  
14 production of halimedatriol and halimedatetraacetate secondary metabolites, so that the  
15 bioactive compounds of these secondary metabolites are higher than their primary metabolites  
16 [67]. However, this is also influenced by environmental conditions where it grows, resulting in  
17 a variety of compound content [68]. In addition, the solvent used is methanol, which is a  
18 universal polar solvent so that it can attract all compounds, both polar and non-polar  
19 compounds, such as fats [69]. Methanol is also one of the most widely used solvents in the  
20 extraction process of organic compounds such as oils or fats [70], so fatty acids can be carried  
21 away in the extraction process.

22  
23  
24  
25

## 4. CONCLUSIONS

*H. tuna* methanolic extract was obtained in 0.17±0.04% yield. *H. tuna* extract had cytotoxic activity against lung cancer cells (A549) with IC<sub>50</sub> 2771 µg/mL and potentially can be used as a chemo-preventive agent. Based on cytomorphological observations, changes in the morphology of cancer cells were seen before and after being treated with *H. tuna* extract samples. Metanolic extract of *H. tuna* have contents palmitic acid, oleic acid, palmitoleic acid, myristic acid, and stearic acid.

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