

# Phytochemical analysis, antioxidant, $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitory activity, and toxicity evaluation of *Orthosiphon* *stamineus* leaf extract

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# OPEN Phytochemical analysis, antioxidant, $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitory activity, and toxicity evaluation of *Orthosiphon stamineus* leaf extract

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*Ocimum aristatum*, commonly known as *O. stamineus*, has been widely studied for its potential in herbal medicine candidate. This research aims to compare the efficacy of water and 100% ethanolic extracts of *O. stamineus* as  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitors and antioxidants, as well as toxicity against zebrafish embryos. Based on the study findings, water extract of *O. stamineus* leaves exhibited superior inhibition activity against  $\alpha$ -glucosidase, ABTS, and DPPH, with IC<sub>50</sub> values of approximately 43.623 ± 0.039  $\mu$ g/mL, 27.556 ± 0.125  $\mu$ g/mL, and 95.047 ± 1.587  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively. The major active compounds identified in the extract include fatty acid groups and their derivatives such as linoleic acid,  $\alpha$ -eleostearic acid, stearic acid, oleanolic acid, and corchorifatty acid F. Phenolic groups such as caffeic acid, rosmarinic acid, 3,4-Dihydroxybenzaldehyde, norfenefrine, caftaric acid, 2-hydroxyphenylalanine and flavonoids and their derivatives including 5,7-Dihydroxychromone, 5,7-Dihydroxy-2,6-dimethyl-4H-chromen-4-one, eupatorin, and others were also identified in the extract. Carboxylic groups and triterpenoids such as azelaic acid and asiatic acid were also present. This study found that the water extract of *O. stamineus* is non-toxic to zebrafish embryos and does not affect the development of zebrafish larvae at concentrations lower than 500  $\mu$ g/mL. These findings highlight the potential of the water extract of *O. stamineus* as a valuable herbal medicine candidate, particularly for its potent  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibition and antioxidant properties, and affirm its safety in zebrafish embryos at tested concentrations.

The utilization of herbal plants for treating various acute ailments, including diabetes, has seen a significant increase in recent times. Studies indicate that over 80% of people worldwide have resorted to herbal medicine to enhance their immune systems<sup>1</sup>. Herbal remedies have demonstrated positive effects in managing mild to moderate diseases<sup>2</sup>. Consequently, screening techniques are essential to identify potent herbal candidates for anti-diabetic drugs.

In Asia, the leaves of *Ocimum stamineus*, commonly known as *O. stamineus*, have been recognized for their potential in diabetes treatment. The leaves contain flavonoids and their derivatives, including sinensetin, which

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exhibit disease-prevention properties<sup>3,4</sup>. According to Ahda et al.<sup>5</sup>, this plant has various mechanisms of action to lower blood glucose levels, including boosting GLP-1 secretion and blocking  $\alpha$ -glucosidase and  $\alpha$ -amylase. Additionally, a nuvastic supplement made from standardized *O. stamineus* extract for administration in diabetic retinopathy (DR) patients in clinical research has been registered (registration number NCT04552600).

The efficacy and potency of herbal medicines have made them a popular preventive measure against various diseases, with fewer risks of side effects compared to synthetic drugs. It is crucial to conduct toxicity evaluations to ensure the safety of herbal remedies. Improper usage, high dosage, long-term consumption, and inadequate monitoring can lead to increased side effects and potential toxicity<sup>6–8</sup>. Therefore, toxicological assessments are necessary to ensure the safety of potent herbal candidates.

Standard toxicity evaluations typically involve clinical studies on humans, as they provide relevant data for assessing the safety of herbal medicines before market authorization<sup>8</sup>. However, prior to human testing, it is essential to conduct preliminary screening tests to assess for toxic herbs. These tests commonly employ animal models such as mice and rabbits. This study aimed to identify the non-toxic potent extracts of *O. stamineus* leaves through toxicity evaluation using zebrafish embryos.

This method for toxicity evaluation offers several advantages, including large sample size, short-term use, genetic similarity, and cost-effectiveness<sup>9,10</sup>. Previous studies have assessed the toxicity of various herbal extracts on zebrafish embryos, revealing lethal concentrations (LC<sub>50</sub>) dependent on the type of herbal and solvent used. For instance, the LC<sub>50</sub> values for water–methanol and water–ethanol extracts of *Moringa oleifera* were found to be 163.87 ± 12.88 mg/mL and 337.48 ± 30.04 mg/mL, respectively<sup>11</sup>. Norazhar et al.<sup>12</sup> demonstrated an LC<sub>50</sub> value of 419.84 µg/mL for the methanolic extract of *Christia vespertilionis*.

These findings highlight the significant impact of the type of herb and extraction solvent used on final toxicity. Notably, Sajak et al.<sup>13</sup> compared toxicity testing using zebrafish embryos and Wistar rats, finding that a polyphenolic-rich herbal mixture (P<sub>64</sub>) had an LC<sub>50</sub> of approximately 487.50 µg/mL in zebrafish embryos, despite no lethal effects being observed in rats at a dose of 2000 mg/kg body weight. Zebrafish embryos exhibited higher sensitivity in toxicity evaluations, allowing for more sensitive detection and for herbal extracts with LC<sub>50</sub> values above 500 µg/mL to be classified as non-toxic. Therefore, this research provides an original viewpoint before approval and use of this herb in future clinical studies and treatment.

## Material and methods

### Samples preparation

*O. stamineus* was planted by the civil society in Yogyakarta, Indonesia (East longitude: 107° 15' 03" and East longitude: 107° 29' 30"; South latitude: 7° 34' 51" and 7° 47' 30"). Time of cultivation: February–March 2021 (Condition: last rainy season to first dry season). Because this plant grows naturally, it can be used freely (no permission required). Taxonomic identification was performed by Hery Setiyawati<sup>38</sup>.Si (Department of Biology, Universitas Ahmad Dahlan). Fresh samples (leaf and stem) were washed and dried in an oven at 45 °C for four days. The dried samples were then ground into a powder and separated with a sieve size of 60 mesh. All procedures followed Good Agricultural and Collection Practice (GACP) scientific guidelines for starting materials of herbal origin and legislation.

### Extraction process

The leaf powder of *O. stamineus* was extracted using 7 ultrasonic-assisted extraction. 10 g of *O. stamineus* leaf powder was dissolved in solvent (100% ethanol and water) with a solid-to-solvent ratio of 1:10 (w/v). Both samples were sonicated for 60 min at 50 °C using an ultrasonic bath and were incubated overnight<sup>14</sup>. Filtration was used to filter the extract solution, which was then evaporated to obtain the dried extract. All extracts were freeze-dried and stored at 4 °C for further testing.

### Determination of total phenolic content

Total phenolic content (TPC) was determined using the Folin Ciocalteu method<sup>7,8</sup> described by Ahda et al.<sup>15</sup>. 25 mg extract of *O. stamineus* leaf or stem was dissolved in 25 mL Aquadest and mixed with 1.5 mL Folin Ciocalteu (1:10 in water<sup>39</sup>) for 3 min. The solution was then mixed with 1.56 mL of 7.5% sodium carbonate (w/v) and then left for 60 min. Absorbance was measured at 743 nm using a UV–Vis spectrophotometer (Shimadzu Uv–Vis 490, Japan). Gallic acid equivalent concentration was used as the standard for total phenolic concentration. Phenolic content was expressed in µg/mg GAE (gallic acid equivalent) of dry weight extract. All measurements were carried out in triplicates.

### Determination of total flavonoid content

Total flavonoid content (TFC) was determined by colorimetric method using aluminum chloride (AlCl<sub>3</sub>) as reported by Chandra et al.<sup>16</sup> with minor modifications. 25 mg of ethanolic extracts of *O. stamineus* leaf or stem was dissolved in 25 mL ethanol. 1 mL of the solution was mixed with 0.5 mL of 10% AlCl<sub>3</sub> and incubated at room temperature for 74 min. The absorbance was measured at 410 nm with a Uv–Vis spectrophotometer (Shimadzu Uv–Vis 1800, Japan). Quercetin standard was measured ranging from 5 to 20 µg/mL as the standard for total flavonoid concentration. TFC was calculated as µg/g quercetin equivalent (QE) of dried extract. All measurements were carried out in triplicates.

### Inhibition activity of DPPH (2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl) radicals

25 mg of *O. stamineus* leaf or stem was dissolved in 25 mL ethanol. The extract samples were diluted to concentrations ranging from 0 to 500 µg/mL<sup>15</sup>. 1 mL of extract solution<sup>50</sup> mixed with 1 mL of 0.05 mM DPPH solution and vortexed for 1 min. The mixture was kept for one hour. The mixture absorbance was analyzed using a

UV-Vis spectrophotometer at 516 nm (Shimadzu Uv-Vis 1800, Japan). The 50% inhibition concentration (IC<sub>50</sub>) was calculated following the equation below:

$$\% \text{ Inhibition Activity} = \left( \frac{A_0 - A_1}{A_0} \right) \times 100\%$$

where A<sub>0</sub> is the absorbance of the control, A<sub>1</sub> is the absorbance of the samples.

#### Inhibition activity of ABTS (2,2-Azino-bis(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid) radicals

The inhibition activity of ABTS radicals was analyzed using a slightly modified method previously described by Byun et al.<sup>17</sup>. The reagent was incubated for 24 h at 37 °C after being mixed with 7.4 mM ABTS and 2.45 mM potassium persulfate solution in a 1:1 (v/v) ratio. The ABTS working solution was read for use when absorbance value = 0.70 ± 0.02 at 734 nm. Briefly, 1 mL of ABTS solution was incubated with 1 mL of extract for 74 min. The solution used as a controlled standard is quercetin. ABTS radical scavenging activity was calculated using the following equation:

$$\% \text{ Inhibition Activity} = \left( \frac{A - B}{A} \right) \times 100\%$$

where A is the absorbance of the control, B is the absorbance of the test sample.

#### Determination of inhibition activity against α-glucosidase enzyme

Inhibition activity of *O. stamineus* extract was determined following slightly modified methods described by<sup>18</sup>. α-glucosidase enzyme was prepared in a sodium phosphate buffer with a pH of 6.8 (15 U/100 mL). *O. stamineus* extract (final concentration ranging between 10–100 µg/mL) was reacted with α-glucosidase for 15 min. After that, the solution was incubated for 20 min with 5 mM p-nitrophenyl α-glucopyranoside (pNPG). The final composition ratio of α-glucosidase: pNPG extract was 200 µL:200 µL:200 µL. Finally, 1 mL of 0.2 M Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> was added to break up the reaction. All solutions were analysed using a UV-Vis spectrophotometer (Shimadzu Uv-Vis 1800, Japan) at 400 nm. Percentage inhibition was determined by the equation:

$$\% \text{ Inhibition Activity} = 100 \times \left( 1 - \left( \frac{A_s - A_b}{A_c} \right) \right)$$

where A<sub>s</sub>: Absorbance of sample, A<sub>b</sub>: Absorbance of blank (without enzyme), A<sub>c</sub>: Absorbance of control (DMSO + enzyme + PNPG).

#### Chemical analysis of *O. stamineus* leaf extract using high-resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS)

Samples were prepared following Windarsih et al.<sup>19</sup> with slight modifications. Analysis was performed by adding LC-MS-grade methanol into *O. stamineus* leaf extracts (water and ethanol extract). The mixture was vortexed for 2 min before being subjected to 30 min of ultrasonication. The pellet and the supernatant were separated by centrifuging at 5000 rpm for 5 min. The supernatant was transferred to a 2 mL HPLC vial after being filtered with a 0.22 µm PTFE filter.

Analysis was performed using a Thermo Scientific Vanquish UHPLC system with a binary pump coupled with high-resolution mass spectrometry Q-Exactive Orbitrap. Separation was performed on a Thermo Scientific™ Acclaim™ VANQUISH™ C18 stationary phase column with the particle size 1.7 µm, column dimensions (150 mm 2.1 mm ID 2.2 m), LC-MS-grade water (Merck) containing 0.1% formic acid (A) and 58% MS-grade methanol (Merck) containing 0.1% formic acid (B) as a mobile phase. 10 µL of the sample was injected into the column with a flow gradient of 0.3 µL/min from 5 to 90% B in 20 min and maintained at 95% A for 5 min. For mass spectrometric conditions, the sheath gas flow rate was set at 32 arbitrary units (AU), while the auxiliary and sweep gas flow rates were set at 8 and 4 AU, respectively. Scanning was carried out on both MS1 and MS2, with MS1 having a resolution of 70,000 and MS2 having a resolution of 17,500. Analysis was carried out concurrently in positive and negative ionization modes, with the collision energy set at 10 eV and the analytes scanned in the range of 66.7–1000 m/z. The chemical compositions of untargeted and targeted metabolites were identified using Compound Discoverer 3.2 software. The compounds were then examined for peak extraction using MzCloud and ChemSpider databases, with annotated masses ranging from -5 ppm to 5 ppm. Only chemicals with a complete MzCloud and ChemSpider match were selected for analysis. Peak intensities were modified to represent the overall spectrum intensity.

#### Toxicity evaluation using zebrafish embryos

Toxicity testing was performed following the OECD test guideline (TG) 236 described by Nipuni et al.<sup>20</sup> with slight modifications. This procedure has been approved by the IIUM ethics committee, namely the IIUM Animal Care and Use Committee (I-ACUC) with register number: IACUC 2022-018. Zebrafish AB strain eggs (age < 5 h) were used in this study. 100% ethanolic and water extracts of *O. stamineus*, negative control (E3 medium), positive control (4 mg/L of 3,4-dichloroaniline in E3 medium), and solvent control (1% dimethyl sulfoxide in E3 medium) were used in this investigation. Each group contained 20 eggs for each test concentration and 4 eggs as the internal plate control for each plate. Each well contained 300 µL of the solution consisting of 150 µL of E3 medium and 150 µL of the sample in 1% dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO). Zebrafish deaths were counted at intervals of 24 h, 48 h, 72 h, and 96 h. LC<sub>50</sub> was calculated via zebrafish mortality. Besides toxicity, teratogenicity criteria



such as the frequency and severity of morphological abnormalities and hatching rate were also recorded. All methods are reported in accordance with Arrive guidelines.

### Data analysis<sup>35</sup>

The data was expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation (SD). One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed; significant values were set at confidence intervals of up to 95% and  $p < 0.05$ .

### Ethics approval and consent to participate

Ethics approval granted by IIUM under approval no. IACUC 2022-018.

## Results<sup>46</sup> and discussion

### Yields, total phenolic content (TPC), and total flavonoids content (TFC) of *O. stamineus* extracts

The extraction process of herbs is an important factor in the industry, due to the need for producing high yields while retaining bioactivity. Extracted herbs typically yield around 33.69 wt%, 6.05%, 4.42%, and 3.08% using various solvents such as water, ethyl acetate, ethanol, and n-hexane<sup>83</sup>, respectively<sup>21</sup>. The results of this study show that different solvents used in extraction affect final yields. This is consistent with the findings of Ghasemzadeh et al.<sup>22</sup>, who report that increasing solvent polarity tends to increase yields. Extraction using 100% ethanol had no significant effect on yields between the leaf and stem of *O. stamineus*, whereas water extraction of *O. stamineus* leaves produced higher yields compared to stems.

Furthermore, *O. stamineus* water extract contained more TPC than other extracts. The highest concentration of TFC was found in 100% ethanolic extract of *O. stamineus* leaves (See Table 1). According to Ibrahim and Jaafar<sup>23</sup>, *O. stamineus* leaves contained around  $3.11 \pm 0.27$  mg/g and  $1.47 \pm 0.21$  mg/g of TPC and TFC, respectively. Meanwhile, *O. stamineus* stems contained less TPC and TFC than its leaves. Therefore, the antioxidant activity of *O. stamineus* leaves is predicted to be greater than its stem. Hence, the assessments of  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitory activity, antioxidant properties, and toxicity on zebrafish embryos were performed using 100% ethanolic and water extracts of *O. stamineus* leaves.

### *O. stamineus* leaf extract as $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitors and antioxidants

*O. stamineus* leaves were previously reported for their<sup>34</sup> anti-diabetes, antioxidant, and anti-inflammation activities, as reported by Wang et al.<sup>24</sup>. Therefore, the goal of this study is to assess the activity of 100% ethanolic extract and water extract of *O. stamineus* leaves as antioxidants and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitors. In a previous study, isolated sinensetin from this herb inhibited  $\alpha$ -glucosidase ( $IC_{50} \sim 0.66$  mg/ml), while<sup>13</sup> crude extract had an  $IC_{50}$  of 4.63 mg/ml<sup>25</sup>. To reduce the activity of  $\alpha$ -glucosidase, sinensetin binds to the polar residues (Arg194, Ser343, Asp450, Glu443, Cys447, Tyr340, Gln220, Glu339, Ser453) and hydrophobic residues (Ala341, Pro338, Pro446, Val342, Trp213) of the molecule<sup>26</sup>.

Table 2 shows that 100% ethanolic<sup>73</sup> extract had  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibition activity compared to the water extract. According to a previous study<sup>81</sup>  $IC_{50}$  of the methanolic and ethanolic extracts of *O. stamineus* leaves were in the upper range of 1250 ppm<sup>27</sup>. Due to its ability to inhibit ABTS and DPPH radicals, the *O. stamineus* leaf water extract can be used as an antioxidant. The antioxidant capacity of this herb measured using Oxygen Radical

<i>O. stamineus</i> extract	Yield (%)	total phenolic content ( $\mu$ g/mg)	Total flavonoid content ( $\mu$ g/mg)
Leaf			
100% ethanol	$7.009 \pm 0.536^a$	$18.28 \pm 0.649^a$	$49.07 \pm 0.144^a$
Water	$13.45 \pm 0.890^b$	$84.37 \pm 0.351^b$	$5.066 \pm 0.032^b$
Stem			
100% ethanol	$6.214 \pm 0.754^a$	$16.10 \pm 0.595^c$	$10.81 \pm 0.582^c$
Water	$2.709 \pm 0.385^c$	$75.33 \pm 1.078^d$	$4.301 \pm 0.048^d$

**Table 1.** Yields, TPC, and TFC of *O. stamineus* extracts.  $n = 3$ , Tukey's test,  $p < 0.05$ . <sup>a-d</sup> mean Values with different alphabet are significantly different at  $P < 0.05$ .

<i>O. stamineus</i> extract	$\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibition $IC_{50}$ ( $\mu$ g/mL)	ABTS inhibition $IC_{50}$ ( $\mu$ g/mL)	DPPH inhibition $IC_{50}$ ( $\mu$ g/mL)
100% ethanol	> 150	$64.03 \pm 0.108^a$	$134.0 \pm 0.099^a$
Water	$43.62 \pm 0.039^a$	$27.56 \pm 0.125^b$	$95.05 \pm 1.587^b$
Quercetin	$20.23 \pm 0.890^b$	$2.209 \pm 0.002^c$	$2.215 \pm 0.029^c$

**Table 2.** Inhibitory<sup>42</sup> activity of *O. stamineus* leaf extracts towards  $\alpha$ -glucosidase, DPPH, and ABTS.  $n = 3$ , Tukey's test,  $p < 0.05$ . <sup>a-c</sup> mean Values with different alphabet are significantly different at  $P < 0.05$ .

Absorbance Capacity (ORAC) and DPPH methods were  $65.21 \pm 2.41$   $\mu\text{mol Trolox equivalent/g}$  and  $\mu\text{mol Trolox equivalent/g}$ , respectively<sup>27</sup>.

The active components present in the *O. stamineus* leaf, including sinensetin, contributes to the extract's potency<sup>25</sup>. According to Yam et al.<sup>28</sup>, increasing the polarity of the solvent used reduces sinensetin, 3'-hydroxy-5,6,7,4'-tetramethoxyflavone, and Eupatorin content in the extract. However, the water extract of *O. stamineus* leaves has high potency as an  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitor and antioxidant agent, as reported in Table 2. The difference in biological activities between the two extracts may be influenced by other active compounds present. Therefore, this study uses HR-MS to identify chemical compounds that are active in these extracts.

### Toxicity evaluation of *O. stamineus* extracts using zebrafish embryos

Herbal remedies are currently preferred in the medical sector. However, their effectiveness, efficiency, and safety are crucial consideration factors before use in treatment. Zebrafish embryos are a frequently used model to test for the toxicity of herbs. Their use in pre-clinical studies provides the link between in-vitro and in-vivo studies<sup>29</sup>. Zebrafish embryo toxicity (ZFET) testing offers a number of advantages, including the large sample size, low cost, and simple handling<sup>9,30</sup>. Therefore, this toxicity evaluation model was used in this study.

According to Table 3, 100% ethanolic extract of *O. stamineus* leaves had a worse effect on Zebrafish embryo development than water extract when concentration was below 100  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ . The survival rate of zebrafish larvae exposed to 100% ethanolic *O. stamineus* leaf extract at 22.5  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  was less than 50%, while the survival rate of zebrafish larvae contacted by water extract at 800  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  was still higher than 90% (Fig. 1). Less pigmentation, delayed hatching, yolk edema, heart edema, and crooked backbone were among the physical defects present in numerous zebrafish embryos (see Fig. 2).

Lethal concentration 50 ( $\text{LC}_{50}$ ) of the 100% ethanolic extract and aqueous extracts of *O. stamineus* leaves was 21.623  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  and  $> 800$   $\mu\text{g/mL}$ , respectively. According to prior work by Ismail et al.<sup>31</sup>, the water extract of *O. stamineus* has an  $\text{LC}_{50}$  of 1685  $\mu\text{g/mL}$ , therefore the results reported here are consistent with previous findings. According to the recommendations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, compounds with  $\text{LC}_{50}$  values of between 400 and 1000  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  are classified as non-toxic<sup>12,32</sup>. In light of this research, *O. stamineus* leaf water extract is classified as a non-toxic herbal preparation.

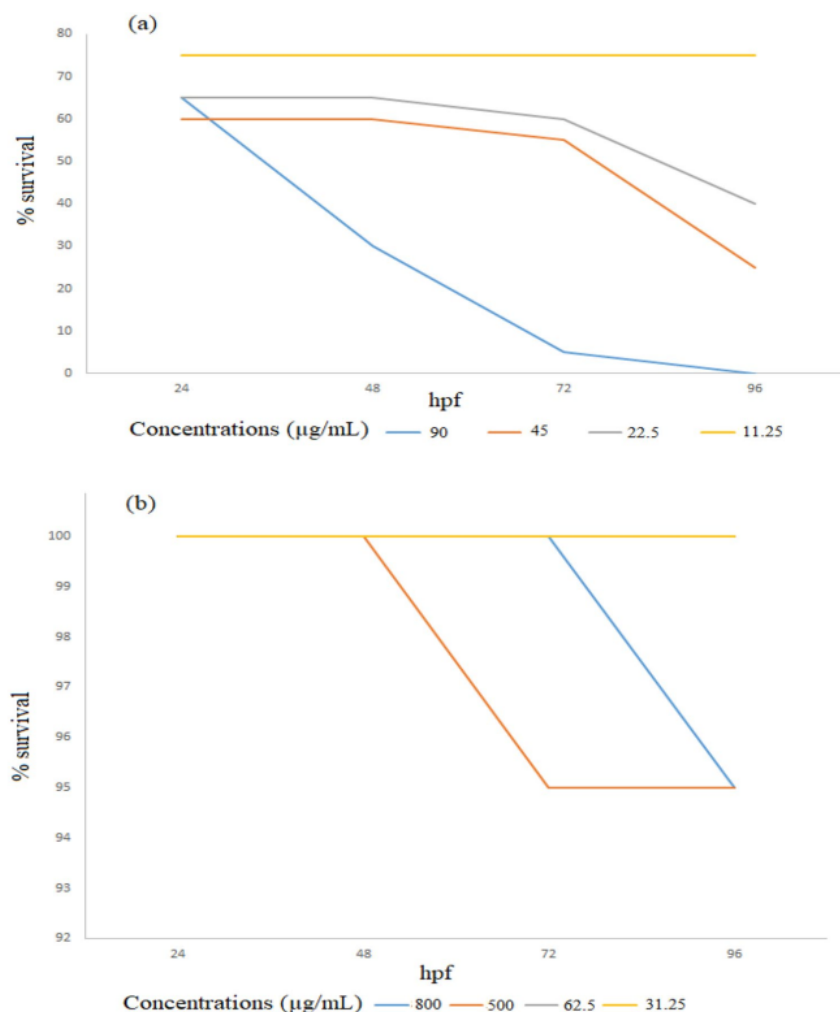
### Chemical compound profiling of *O. stamineus* leaf extract

The identification of active compounds in herbs is an important aspect of quality control. Storage condition is an important factor in maintaining consistent herb quality. This study employs high-resolution mass spectrometry (HR-MS) to identify the active compounds in *O. stamineus* leaf extracts. This analytical method predicts the active compounds in complex samples, especially herbal plants. He et al.<sup>33</sup>, utilised HR-MS to identify 167 illegal medicines found in herbal tea. Additionally, 68 compounds from *B. intermedia* and 81 compounds from *S. marginata* have been detected using HR-MS<sup>34</sup>. HR-MS combined with chemometrics is more efficient for investigating herbs used in Traditional Chinese Medicine based on quality markers<sup>35</sup>.

The HR-MS chromatograms show that water extract and 100% ethanolic extract of *O. stamineus* leaves contain different putative active compounds. According to Fig. 3, the water extract of *O. stamineus* leaves has dominant active compounds at retention times ranging between of 1–1.5 min and 20.5–23.5 min. These chemical compounds are grouped into fatty acid groups, triterpenoids, flavonoids and their derivatives, quinones, hexoses compounds, phenolic compounds, and carboxylic acid groups and their derivatives (Table 4). These compounds may explain the biological activities observed, including  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibition and antioxidant activity. The extract also contains fatty acids such as stearic acid,  $\alpha$ -eleostearic acid, linoleic acid, and others. Meanwhile,

<i>O. stamineus</i> extract	Concentration applied ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ )	Hatching defect	Less pigmentation	Yolk edema	Heart edema	Crooked backbone
100% ethanolic	90.0	+	+	+	+	+
	45.0	+	+	+	+	+
	22.5	-	-	-	-	-
	11.3	-	-	-	-	-
Water extract	800	+	+	+	+	+
	500	+	+	+	+	-
	250	-	-	-	-	-
	125	-	-	-	-	-
	62.5	-	-	-	-	-
Control	PC	+	+	+	+	+
	NC	-	-	-	-	-
	SC	-	-	-	-	-

**Table 3.** The effect of *O. stamineus* leaf extract on zebrafish embryo development for 96 hpf. PC positive control (4 mg/L of 3,4-dichloroaniline in E3 medium), NC negative control (E3 medium), SC solvent control (1% dimethyl sulfoxide in E3 medium).



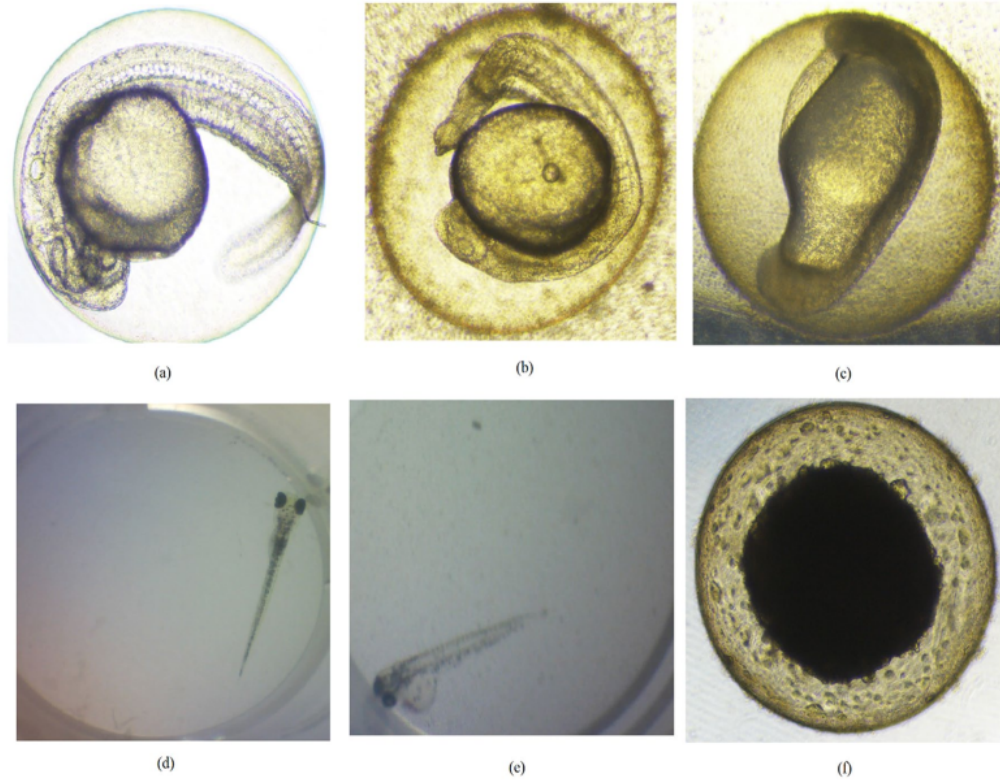
**Figure 1.** Percentage survival of zebrafish larvae during 96 hpf. (a) 100% ethanolic extract of *O. stamineus* leaves and (b) water extract of *O. stamineus* leaves.

the 100% ethanolic extract contains carboxylic acid groups, flavonoid methyl ester groups, fatty acid groups, phenolic compound groups, and acyl groups. Table 86 lists the other active compounds present in this extract.

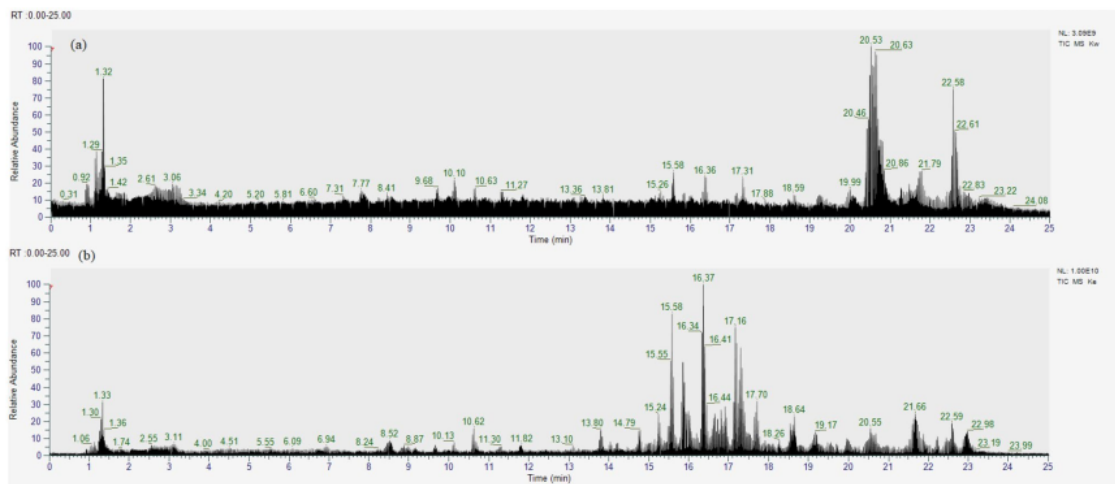
Various compounds present in both water and ethanolic extracts of *O. stamineus* leaves have the ability to prevent oxidation processes, including caffeic acid, rosmarinic acid, etc. (Table 4). Caffeic acid is a member of the phenolic family with good antioxidant properties and works synergistically with other compounds to improve its action; however, it can occasionally act as a prooxidant when consumed in excessive amounts<sup>36</sup>.

Polyphenol caffeic acid (CA), derived from hydroxycinnamic acid, has been claimed as a remedy for many kinds of illnesses including diabetes<sup>37</sup>. It can reduce blood glucose levels through the inhibition of  $\alpha$ -glucosidase and  $\alpha$ -amylase. Oboh et al.<sup>38</sup> discovered that caffeic acid had a superior ability to inhibit  $\alpha$ -amylase and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase with  $IC_{50}$  values of 3.68  $\mu$ g/mL and 4.98  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively, and that its activity was better than chlorogenic acid ( $IC_{50}$  values for  $\alpha$ -amylase and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase were 9.10  $\mu$ g/mL and 9.24  $\mu$ g/mL, respectively). This is a brief justification of the scientific data supporting the potency of both extracts as antioxidants and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitors.

Although, both extracts contain many compounds or metabolites which can potentially protect against inflammation, as previously reported. For example, kukoamine A is a reported anti-inflammation compound and is present in both water and 100% ethanolic extracts of *O. stamineus* leaves. This compound inhibits reactive oxygen species (ROS), nitric oxide (NO), prostaglandin E2, cyclooxygenase-2 activity, tumor necrosis factor- $\alpha$ , and interleukin-1, and IL-6 production, according to Wang et al.<sup>39</sup>. The extracts also contain polyunsaturated fatty acids, which are responsible for anti-inflammatory activities. However, the 100% ethanolic extract



**Figure 2.** The development of zebrafish larvae (a–c) 24 hpf; (d–f) 48 hpf. (a,e) solvent control; (b,e) water extract of *O. stamineus* leaves at 500 µg/mL; (c,f) 100% ethanolic extract of *O. stamineus* extract at 90 µg/mL.



**Figure 3.** Mass spectrum of *O. stamineus* leaf extract: (a) water extract; (b) 100% ethanolic extract.

of *O. stamineus* leaves was more harmful than the water extract of *O. stamineus* leaves. The ethanolic extract is suggested to contain the irritant methyl 4-hydroxycinnamate, which may be responsible for the death of zebrafish larvae.



Retention time (min)	Compounds	Structure	Annotation DeltaMass [ppm]	MS experiment	Area, 10 <sup>8</sup>	
					WE	EE
1.179	D-Glucosamine	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>13</sub> NO <sub>5</sub>	-1.76	179.07906	5.158	0.762
1.390	Gluconic acid	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	-3.39	196.05764	1.207	2.567
1.895	Nicotinic acid	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>	-0.48	123.03197	2.681	2.106
2.101	Citric acid	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	-3.64	192.02630	0.038	1.895
2.399	5-Deoxy-5-aminoshikimic acid	C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>11</sub> N O <sub>4</sub>	-3.05	173.06828	0.478	14.022
3.680	6-Oxo-pipecolinic acid	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>9</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	-2.73	143.05785	2.387	0.952
5.150	Homogentisic acid	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	-4.42	168.04152	2.179	0.595
5.194	L-Dopa	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>11</sub> NO <sub>4</sub>	-1.30	197.06855	0.819	0.303
5.380	3-(2,4,5-Trihydroxyphenyl)propanoic acid	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	-3.16	198.05220	1.834	2.528
5.635	cis-zeatin	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>13</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O	-0.08	219.11199	1.503	0.761
5.861	Isovanillic acid	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	-0.67	168.04215	0.509	0.157
6.103	NP-012551	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	-3.41	168.04168	0.779	0.499
6.132	4,5,7-Trihydroxycoumarin	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	-0.90	194.02135	0.081	0.303
6.239	Kojic acid	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	-0.40	142.02655	1.444	0.070
6.841	DL-4-Hydroxyphenyllactic acid	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	-4.33	182.05712	2.937	1.863
6.910	3,4-Dihydroxybenzaldehyde	C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	-0.88	138.03157	3.441	0.072
7.142	2,3-Dihydroxy-2-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzyl)succinic acid	C <sub>12</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	-0.29	286.06879	0.175	0.192
7.256	Fraxetin	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	2.64	208.03772	0.161	0.009
7.563	Salicylic acid	C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	-0.88	138.03157	0.601	0.020
7.601	cis-caffeic acid	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	-4.20	180.04150	0.180	0.001
7.668	Methyl 4-hydroxycinnamate	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	-0.79	178.06285	0.001	0.225
7.868	Chlorogenic acid	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>18</sub> O <sub>9</sub>	-0.50	354.09490	0.357	0.096
8.354	5,7-Dihydroxychromone	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	-2.87	178.02610	3.335	0.602
8.378	3-Amino-5-hydroxybenzoic acid	C <sub>7</sub> H <sub>7</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	-0.72	153.04248	0.395	0.018
8.527	Kynurenic acid	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>7</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	-1.90	189.04223	1.226	1.708
8.669	Trans-caffeic acid	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	-0.72	180.04213	32.337	2.173
8.670	(DL)-3-O-Methyl-dopa	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>11</sub> NO <sub>4</sub>	-2.31	211.08397	13.139	3.059
8.842	Vanillic acid	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	-4.96	168.04143	0.137	0.012
8.935	(6E)-6-(3,4-Dihydroxybenzylidene)-4-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-3-hydroxy-2H-pyran-2,5(6H)-dione	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	-0.12	356.05318	0.017	0.083
9.227	3-Hydroxy-5-methyl-L-tyrosine	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>13</sub> NO <sub>4</sub>	0.01	211.08446	0.536	0.101
9.310	Vanillin	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	-0.76	152.04723	0.957	0.011
9.415	Phaseolic acid	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	-0.53	296.05306	0.091	0.242
9.665	Pinostrobin	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	-0.09	270.08918	0.272	0.278
9.765	N-acetyl-dopamine	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>13</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	-1.74	195.08920	0.689	0.059
10.091	coniferyl aldehyde	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	-4.24	178.06224	0.179	0.006
10.096	Caftaric acid	C <sub>13</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>9</sub>	-0.06	312.04811	0.107	0.552
10.220	Norfenefrine	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>11</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>	-0.85	153.07885	3.736	0.693
10.222	2-Hydroxyphenylalanine	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>11</sub> NO <sub>3</sub>	1.21	181.07411	3.412	0.674
10.318	Melevodopa	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>13</sub> NO <sub>4</sub>	-3.05	211.08381	0.266	0.028
10.758	N-Acetyl-L-tyrosine	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>13</sub> NO <sub>4</sub>	1.10	223.08470	0.031	3.423
10.843	Vanillylamine	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>11</sub> NO <sub>2</sub>	-1.08	153.07881	0.784	0.001
11.177	4-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-7-hydroxy-5-[[[(2S,3R,4S,5S,6R)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-6-(hydroxymethyl)oxan-2-yl]oxy]-2H-chromen-2-one	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>20</sub> O <sub>11</sub>	-0.80	448.10020	0.521	0.002
11.238	2-(3,4-Dihydroxyphenyl)-5,7-dihydroxy-4-oxo-4H-chromen-3-yl 6-O-β-D-xylopyranosyl-β-D-glucopyranoside	C <sub>26</sub> H <sub>26</sub> O <sub>16</sub>	-0.76	596.13728	0.278	0.033
11.324	Umbelliferone	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>6</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	-0.37	162.03163	0.006	0.120
11.666	Quercetin-3β-D-glucoside	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>20</sub> O <sub>12</sub>	0.26	464.09559	0.956	0.003
11.855	Ferulic acid	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	-3.40	194.05725	0.675	0.022
11.931	Rosmarinic acid	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>16</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	-0.54	360.08432	11.77	2.250
12.070	4-Acetyl-29 acid	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	-0.76	152.04723	0.210	0.028
12.451	5,7-Dihydroxy-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-4-oxo-4H-chromen-3-yl 6-O-(6-deoxyhexopyranosyl)hexopyranoside	C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>30</sub> O <sub>15</sub>	-0.43	594.15822	0.151	0.004
12.546	Azelaic acid	C <sub>9</sub> H <sub>16</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	-1.22	188.10463	5.180	1.798
12.862	5-Pentylresorcinol	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>16</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	-2.09	180.11465	1.402	0.101
13.104	Isorhamnetin	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	-0.39	316.05818	0.355	0.003
13.610	Quercetin	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	-0.63	302.04246	0.812	0.118
Continued						

Retention time (min)	Compounds	Structure	Annotation DeltaMass [ppm]	MS experiment	Area, 10 <sup>8</sup>	
					WE	EE
13.697	4-Methoxycinnamic acid	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	-0.97	178.06282	0.444	0.026
13.968	5,7-Dihydroxy-2,6-dimethyl-4H-chromen-4-one	C <sub>11</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	-2.94	206.05730	5.977	0.351
14.019	Luteolin	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	-0.72	286.04753	1.427	0.073
14.171	Aurantioobtusin	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	-0.53	330.07378	6.287	0.090
14.855	Apigenin	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	-0.39	270.05272	0.689	0.000
14.911	Retusin (flavonol)	C <sub>19</sub> H <sub>18</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	-0.04	358.10524	2.606	0.054
15.125	S-Curcumen	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>22</sub>	0.95	202.17234	0.855	0.228
15.185	Fumaric acid	C <sub>4</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	-1.04	298.08381	0.673	0.080
15.266	Salvigenin	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>16</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	-0.03	328.09468	0.774	0.000
15.468	Hispidulin	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	-1.08	300.06306	0.298	0.001
15.568	Corchorifatty acid F	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>32</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	-0.79	328.22471	11.36	1.870
15.711	Eupatorin	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>16</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	-1.05	344.08924	16.75	0.835
15.923	Morphiceptin	C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>30</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	-2.06	521.26274	1.881	0.017
16.345	(E)-10-Hydroxydec-2-enoic acid	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>18</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	-4.02	186.12485	0.161	0.037
16.410	4-Allyl-2-methoxyphenyl salicylate	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>16</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	-0.28	284.10478	0.513	0.003
16.477	10,16-Dihydroxyhexadecanoic acid	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>32</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	-1.18	288.22972	2.433	0.020
16.781	Curcumin	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>20</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	-0.82	368.12568	0.048	0.193
16.981	3,5-Dihydroxy-4',7'-dimethoxyflavone	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	-0.07	314.07902	4.064	0.249
17.008	Glycitein	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>12</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	-0.68	284.06828	1.103	0.018
17.705	Kukoamine A	C <sub>28</sub> H <sub>42</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>6</sub>	-3.71	530.30847	4.153	0.072
17.839	Ramiprilat	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>28</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	-0.80	388.19951	1.550	0.011
18.023	Asiatic acid	C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>48</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	-0.86	488.34975	10.55	0.473
18.499	6-O-Methylmangostanin	C <sub>26</sub> H <sub>30</sub> O <sub>7</sub>	-0.30	454.19902	0.223	0.001
19.152	Curcumen	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>22</sub>	0.68	202.17229	1.597	0.022
19.641	all-cis-4,7,10,13,16-Docosapentaenoic acid	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>34</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	-0.48	330.25572	0.002	0.158
20.895	Stearidonic acid	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>30</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	-0.20	276.20888	0.395	0.026
20.898	Oleic acid	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>34</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	-0.16	282.25584	0.985	73.14
20.913	Stearic acid	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>36</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	-2.48	284.27083	4.281	71.93
21.645	Eicosapentaenoic acid	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>30</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	-0.29	302.22449	1.495	0.956
21.683	14(Z)-Eicosenoic acid	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>38</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	-0.50	310.28703	0.578	31.37
21.800	α-Eleostearic acid	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>30</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	-1.05	278.22429	84.11	1.464
22.045	16-Hydroxyhexadecanoic acid	C <sub>16</sub> H <sub>30</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	0.25	272.23521	0.804	0.019
22.051	5b-Cholestane-3a,7a,12a,26-tetrol	C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>48</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	-0.89	436.35487	0.002	2.216
22.156	Oleanolic acid	C <sub>30</sub> H <sub>48</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	-0.76	456.36000	2.866	0.361
22.405	Margaric acid	C <sub>17</sub> H <sub>34</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	-0.59	270.25572	0.003	0.789
22.608	Docosahexaenoic acid	C <sub>22</sub> H <sub>38</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	-0.50	328.24006	0.264	0.430
22.810	Arachidonic acid	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>32</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	-0.54	304.24006	0.429	0.236
23.066	Linoleic acid	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>32</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	-1.22	280.23989	66.24	1.174

**Table 4.** The chemical structure formula of *O. stamineus* leaf extract. WE water extract, EE ethanolic extract, -5 < accuracy score < 5.

## Conclusions

The feasibility of use of *O. stamineus* leaves as a herbal treatment requires further investigation. Water extract of *O. stamineus* has interesting potential for use as an α-glucosidase inhibitor and antioxidant agent and is safer for human use compared to the ethanolic extract, with LC<sub>50</sub> > 800 μg/mL and 21.623 μg/mL, respectively. The activity of water extract of *O. stamineus* leaves can be attributed to several active compounds present in the extract, including fatty acid groups.

## Data availability

All data for Figs. 1, 2 and 3 and Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4 are provided in the paper.

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### Author contributions

M.A.: conceptualization, data processing, writing-original draft preparation, editing, paper revision; I.J.: supervision, paper revision; A.K.: supervision; Q.U.A.: supervision; S.N.A.M.: supervision, N.U.R.: supervision, Y.D.A.: supervision, M.U.A.: conceptualization, data processing, writing-original draft preparation, 79 ting; H.H.: writing-original draft preparation, paper re 4 sion; K.M.: paper revision; A.M.S.: paper revision, funding acquisition. All authors approved the final version of the manuscript.

### Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

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