Chemical composition of *Citrus spp*. and oral antimicrobial effect of *Citrus spp*. peels essential oils against *Streptococcus mutans*

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: The essential oils of orange peels had a considerable potential to be used as an antimicrobial agent. The aim of this present study is to analized chemical composition of Citrus spp. And the oral antimicrobial effect of Citrus spp. peels essential oils against Streptococcus mutans. Methods: Five orange peels species were used in this study consist of Lime (Citrus aurantifolia), Tangerine (Citrus nobilis), Sweet Orange (Citrus sinensis), Lemon (Citrus limon), and Kaffir Lime (Citrus hystrix). The isolated essential oils were analyzed using gas chromatography-mass spectroscopy (GC-MS). The Streptococcus mutans ATCC 25175 was employed against the antimicrobial effect of samples. Results: The extraction yields of hydrodistilled-essential oils from Tangerine, Kaffir Lime, Sweet Orange, Lemon, and Lime provided the extraction yields of 4.20, 2.26, 1.97, 1.74 and 0.83% yields, respectively. Major component essential oils of Citrus spp. was D-Limonene. The highest antimicrobial activity against S. mutans was Lime peel essential oil, followed by Lemon, Kaffir Lime, and Sweet Orange or Tangerine. All samples showed antimicrobial activity against S. mutans with the variation of antimicrobial action depending on the constituent of D-Limonene, β-Pinene, and α-terpineol. Conclusion: Major component chemical composition of essential oils of Citrus spp. was D-Limonene and antimicrobial activity by Lime peel essential oil due to its proportional amount of D-limonene and β-pinene and the highest antimicrobial activity.

Keywords: Citrus spp. essential oils, GC-MS, Streptococcus mutans, oral antimicrobial.

INTRODUCTION

Caries has been a health problem and remains the most prevalent chronic disease in children or adults. Dental caries is a disease of teeth

hard tissue, e.g. enamel, dentin, and cementum due to the activity of microorganisms present in fermented carbohydrate.¹ The bacteria in plaque attached to the tooth surface was the type of *Streptococcus* and *Lactobacillus*.^{2,3} The bacteria

metabolized cariogenic food, mainly derived from the type of fermentable carbohydrates, such as sucrose, glucose, fructose, and maltose.⁴

Provision of fluoride toothpaste effective breakthrough combining both mechanical and chemical means to remove dental plague. However, excess intake of fluoride may cause fluorosis in teeth and bones. Dental fluorosis is qualitative damage of tooth enamel as a result of an increased concentration of fluorine around ameloblast during the formation of tooth enamel and causes tooth discoloration. The tooth becomes pale and opaque or clinically visible as white-colored mottled enamel. In cases of severe fluorosis, the enamel turns brown and brittle, so called as mottled enamel.5 Therefore, the use of an active and additive substance with a low side effect is necessary.

The essential oil is one of the active materials that can be used to prevent microbial growth. The essential oil is a complex mixture of low molecular weight compounds extracted from plants by steam distillation or various solvents. Terpenoids and phenylpropanoid is a major component of which has a distinctive aroma and biological properties. Essential oils are used for a variety of health problems in traditional medicine systems, worldwide. Shankar et al., in 2014 reviewed various pharmaceutical and biological activities such as antimicrobial, antifungal, anticancer, antimutagenic, antidiabetic, antiviral, anti-inflammatory, and antiprotozoal of essential oils of various plant families included essential oils of Rutaceae family. 6,7

Some research suggested that the essential oil of orange peels had a considerable potential for use as an antimicrobial material.⁸⁻²⁰ Testing of antimicrobial activity against oral disease and dental bacteria, *S. mutans* in particular, have not been reported. Under these conditions, this study aimed at studying the effects of five essential oils of orange peel e.g. lime (*C. aurantifolia*), tangerine (*C. nobilis*), sweet orange (*C. sinensis*), lemon (*C. limon*), and kaffir lime (*C. hystrix*) in inhibiting the growth of *S. mutans*.

The discovery of the potential and its effectiveness in inhibiting the growth of bacteria, essential oil was expected to be used as ingredients for oral and dental diseases. Thus, the problems faced by the community in terms of a toothache

caused by cavities can be resolved. The result of this study was expected to contribute to the achievement of university research in the field of oral and dental health. The aim of this present study is to investigate the oral antimicrobial effect of Citrus spp. peels essential oils against *Streptococcus mutans*.

METHODS

Type of this research is invitro experiment. Five orange peels species were used in this study consist of lime (*C. aurantifolia*), tangerine (*C. nobilis*), sweet orange (*C. sinensis*), lemon (*C. limon*), and kaffir lime (*C. hystrix*) were collected from Caringin Central Market, Bandung, West Java, Indonesia.

The equipment used in this study included glassware commonly used in the organic chemistry laboratory. Other ancillary equipment consisted of distillation Stahl. For purposes of chemical constituents analysis of essential oil, gas chromatography-mass spectroscopy (GC-MSD, Brand of Agilent, Type 7890A GC, MSD Type 5975C) with 35MS DB column (35 m, 0.25 mm i.d., 0.25 µm film thickness), and MSD detector were used.

Essential Oil Preparation

The peel of Lime (C. aurantifolia), Tangerine (C. nobilis), Sweet Orange (C. sinensis), Lemon (C. limon), and Kaffir Lime (C. hystrix) was cleaned, peeled, and cut into \pm 2 cm in order to get sufficient amount of extraction yield. Hydrodistillation for 8 hours was conducted to obtain essential oils.

GC-MSD Measurement

Chemical composition and quality of essential oils may be varied depending on climate and soil, the maturity of the fruit, the extraction technique and storage time. The chemical composition of essential oils varied depending on the environmental conditions of the plant, even within the same species.

The chemical composition of orange peel essential oil consists mainly of hydrocarbon, alcohol, ester, aldehyde, ketone, lactone oxidized, sulfur, nitrogen compound and nonvolatile compounds. The composition depended on environmental condition and genetic factors

that would produce the enzyme systems that are typical of the glandular arrangement. The analysis of chemical constituents of essential oil was performed on Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrophotometry (GC-MS).

The analysis of chemical constituents of essential oils was performed on Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrophotometry (GC-MSD) Brand Agilent (GC Type 7890A, MSD Type 5975C). A column used was DB 35MS with column length of 35 m, internal diameter of 0.25 mm, film thickness of 0.25 µm, and a MSD detector. Temperature program in operation was as follows: the initial temperature was 50°C for 1 minute, followed by temperature increase 50-250°C at a flow rate of 3.5°C/minute. As much as 1µL Citrus spp. essential oils was injected in 0.5% concentration with an injector temperature of 250°C.²⁵

Kirby Bauer Antimicrobial Activity Method Test Bacterial Rejuvenation

A stock of S. mutans ATCC 25175 was inoculated into a sterile test tube containing physiological saline suspension as much as 4 mL to reach the level of turbidity 1/2 Mac Farland. Furthermore, the test tube was then incubated for $2 \times 16-18$ hours at 37° C.

Antimicrobial Activity

Cotton sticks dipped in bacterial suspension were then applied to the surface of the agar medium until evenly distributed. A total of five samples 50µL essential oils, a positive control (antibiotic) and a negative control (methanol)

dropped on paper samir (disk) is then placed on blood agar medium, then incubated at 37° C for 2 x 24 hours. After 2 x 24 hours, the diameter of a clear zone around the wells was observed and measured using a caliper.

RESULTS

Essential oils extraction

Essential oils were obtained from peels of some orange fruits by hydrodistillation technique for eight hours, conducted multiple times to reach sufficient amount. The extraction yields of hydrodistilled-essential oils from each peel of Citrus spp. widely varied. Tangerine (*C. nobilis*), Kaffir Lime (*C. hystrix*), Sweet Orange (*C. sinensis*), Lemon (*C. limon*), and Lime (*C. aurantifolia*) provided the extraction yields of 4.20, 2.26, 1.97, 1.74 and 0.83% yield, respectively.

Chemical Composition of Lime Peel Essential Oil (C. aurantifolia)

The chromatogram of Lime peel essential oils (*C. aurantifolia*) was shown in fig. 1. The identity of the components in Lime peel (*C. aurantifolia*) essential oils was assigned by matching their spectral data with those detailed in the NIST11.L libraries which are given in table 2.

Table 2 summarized that the major component essential oils of Lime peel (C. aurantifolia) was D-Limonene (R_t = 10.445 min, peak area of 38.94%), β -Pinene (R_t =8.334 min, peak area of 26.66%), and other components had peak area below 5%.

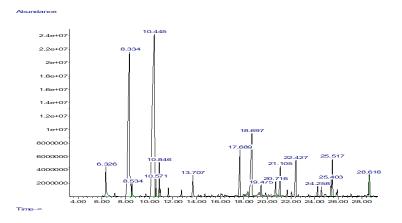


Figure 1. GC chromatogram of lime peel essential oil (c. Aurantifolia)

Table 2: chemical composition of lime peel essential oil (c. Aurantifolia)

No.	Retention time (R _t) (minute)	Peak area(%)	Compounds	Quality
1.	6.326	2.79	(1R)-2,6,6-trimethylbicyclo[3.1.1] hept-2-ena	96
2.	8.334	26.66	B-Pinene	95
3.	8.534	0.92	B-Mircene	91
4.	10.445	38.94	D-Limonene	96
5.	10.571	0.94	B-Phellandren	91
6.	10.846	1.88	o-Simene	97
7.	13.707	1.67	1,6-Octadiene-3-ol, 3,7-dimethyl-	97
8.	17.689	4.32	Terpinen-4-ol	95
9.	18.697	8.29	α-Terpineol	86
10.	19.475	0.88	2,6-Octadien-1-ol, 3,7-dimethyl-, (Z)	96
11.	20.716	1.26	Geraniol	97
12.	21.105	2.61	2,6-Octadienal, 3,7-dimethyl-, (Z)	93
13.	22.427	3.61	Cytrale	96
14.	24.258	0.65	Cyclohexane, 1-etenil-1-methyl-2, 4-bis(1-methyletenil)-, [1S- $(1\alpha,2B,4B)$]-	91
15.	25.403	1.05	Bicyclo[3.1.1]hept-2-ena, 2,6-dimethyl-6-(4-methyl-3-pentenyl)-	97
16.	25.517	2.57	Geranyl acetate	74
17.	28.618	0.98	B-Bisabolene	93

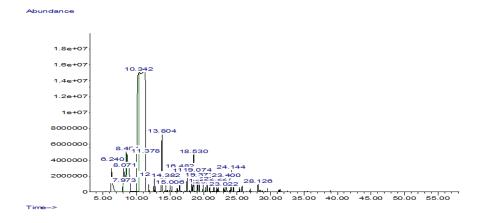


Figure 2: gc chromatogram of tangerine peel essential oil (c. Nobilis)

Chemical composition of tangerine peel essential oil (*C. nobilis*)

The GC chromatogram of Tangerine peel essential oils (C. nobilis) was shown in fig. 2. Table 3 showed the components in Tangerine peel essential oil which was assigned by matching their spectral data with those detailed in the NIST11.L libraries. Table 3 summarized that the major component essential oils of Tangerine peel (C. nobilis) was D-Limonene (R_t = 10.342 min, peak area of 50.06%), and other components had peak area below 10%.

Chemical composition of sweet orange essential oil (*C. sinensis*)

The GC chromatogram of sweet orange peel essential oils (*C. sinensis*) was shown in fig. 3. Table 4 showed that the components in Sweet Orange (*C. sinensis*) peel essential oil which was assigned by matching their spectral data with those detailed in the NIST11.L libraries.

Table 4 summarized that the major component essential oils of Sweet Orange peel (C. sinensis) was D-Limonene ($R_t = 10.354$ min, peak area of 21.74%), 1,6-octadiene-3-ol, 3,7-dimethyl-

Table 3: chemical composition of tangerine peel essential oil (c. Nobilis)

No.	Retention time (R_t) (minute)	Peak area(%)	Compounds	Quality
1.	6,240	7.81	(1S)-2,6,6-trimethylbicyclo[3.1.1] hept-2-ene	96
2.	7.973	0.70	3-Phellandrene	
3.	8.071	3.69	B-Pinene	91
4.	8.454	4.57	β-Mircene	80
5.	10.342	50.06	D-Limonene	96
6.	11.378	1.37	B -Osimene	96
7.	12.637	1.16	Cyclooctene	90
8.	13.804	8.47	1,6-Octadien-3-ol, 3,7-dimethyl-	97
9.	14.382	1.00	Nonanal	86
10.	15.006	0.51	1,3,8-p-Mentatriene	97
11.	16.482	2.18	Citronellal	94
12.	17.558	1.51	Terpinen-4-ol	95
13.	18.273	1.88	Dekanal	91
14.	18.530	4.05	α-Terpineol	86
15.	19.074	1.98	Sitronelol	
16.	19.377	1.19	2,6-Octadiene-1-ol, 3,7-dimethyl-, (Z)	
17.	19.932	0.70	trans-Carveol	87
18.	20.533	0.75	Geraniol	95
19.	20.928	0.58	Cytrale	72
20.	21.563	0.79	Cycloheksene, 4-etenyl-4-methyl-3, (1-methyletenyl)-1-(1-methyletil)-, (3R-trans)-	96
21.	22.227	0.82	Cytrale	95
22.	23.022	0.50	p-Menta-1(7),8(10)-dien-9-ol	30
23.	23.400	1.21	1-Cyclohexena-1-carboxaldehida, 4- (1-methyletil)-	96
24.	24.144	1.82	Cyclohexanea, 1-etenyl-1-methyl-2, 4-bis(1-methyletil)-, [1S-(1α ,2B,4 B	96
25.	28.126	0.69	1,6-Cyclodekadiena,1-methyl-5-metilen-8-(1-methyletil)-, $[S-(E,E)]$ -	96

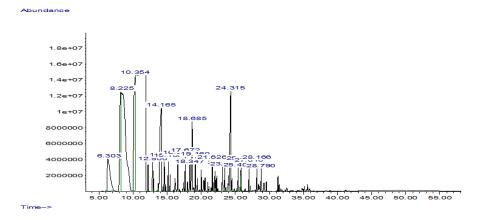


Figure 3. GC chromatogram of sweet orange peel essential oil (c. Sinensis)

(\mathbf{R}_t = 14.165 min, peak area of 14.165%), β -pinene (\mathbf{R}_t = 8.225 min, peak area of 15.37%) and other components had peak area below 11%.

Composition of lemon peel essential oil (C. limon)

The GC chromatogram Lemon (C. limon) peel essential oil was given in fig. 4. Table 5

Table 4: chemical composition of sweet orange essential oil (c. Sinensis)

No.	Retention time (R _t) (minute)	Peak area (%)	Compounds	Quality
1.	6.303	10.51	(1R)-2,6,6-trimethylbicyclo[3.1.1] hept-2-ene	96
2.	8.225	15.37	β-Pinen e	94
3.	10.354	21.74	D-Limonene	97
4.	12.900	1.78	Octanol	90
5.	14.165	15.88	1,6-Oktadien-3-ol, 3,7-dimethyl-	96
6.	14.588	1.65	Nonanal	93
7.	15.166	1.19	1,3,8-p-Mentatriena	97
8.	16.574	1.80	Citronellal	58
9.	17.672	1.83	Terpinen-4-ol	95
10.	18.347	1.70	Decanal	91
11.	18.685	5.43	α-Terpineol	90
12.	19.160	1.85	Citronellal	96
13.	21.626	1.34	(+)-4-Karena	95
14.	23.114	1.39	p-Simene	43
15.	23.451	1.16	1-Cycloheksena-1-carboxaldehida, 4- (1-methyletil)-)-(S)-	95
16.	24.315	9.15	Cyclohexanea, 1-etenyl-1-methyl-2, 4-bis(1-methyletil)-, [1S- $(1\alpha,2\beta,4\beta)$	91
17.	25.403	1.24	Geranyl acetate	83
18.	25.843	1.18	γ-Elemene	98
19.	27.010	1.18	Humulene	98
20.	28.166	1.38	1,6-Cyclodekadiena, 1-methyl-5-met ilen-8- (1-methyletil)-, [S-(E,E)]-	96
21.	28,790	1.24	Bicyclogermakrene	78

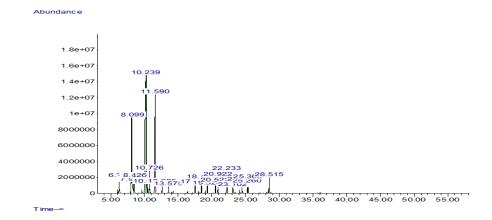


Figure 4: gc chromatogram of lemon peel essential oil (c. Limon)

showed the components in Lemon (*C. limon*) peel essential oils which were assigned by matching their spectral data with those detailed in the NIST11.L libraries.

Table 5 summarized that the major component of Lemon (C. limon) peel essential oils was D-Limonene ($R_t = 10.239$ min, peak area of 41.36%), γ -Terpinene ($R_t = 11.590$ min, peak

area of 16.87%), B-Pinene (\mathbf{R}_t = 8.0995 min, peak area of 14.16%) and other components had peak area below 5%.

Chemical Composition of Kaffir Lime Essential Oil (C. hystrix)

The GC chromatogram of Kaffir Lime (C. hystrix) peel essential oils is given in fig. 5. Table

Table 5: chemical composition of lemon essential oil (c. Limon)

No.	Retention time (R_t) (minute)	Peak area (%)	Compounds	Quality
1.	6.240	2.43	(1R)-2,6,6-trimethylbicyclo[3.1.1] hept-2-ene	97
2.	7.979	1.43	B-Phellandrene	94
3.	8.099	14.16	β-Pinene	94
4.	8.426	2.35	B-Mircene	86
5.	10.239	41.36	D-Limonene	97
6.	10.451	0.95	Bicyclo[3.1.0]hept-2-ena, 4-methyl-1-(1-methyletil)-	91
7.	10.726	2.34	o-Simen	97
8.	11.590	16.87	γ-Terpinene	94
9.	12.625	1.16	Cycloheksena, 1-methyl-4-(methyletillide na)-	96
10.	13.575	0.86	1,6-Oktadien-3-ol, 3,7-dimethyl-	97
11.	17.495	1.12	3-Cycloheksen-1-ol, 4-methyl-1- (1-methyletil)-, (R)-	97
12.	18.433	1.65	α-Terpineol	80
13.	19.320	0.87	2,6-Oktadien-1-ol, 3,7-dimethyl-, (Z)	96
14.	20.522	1.32	Geraniol	97
15.	20.922	1.82	2,6-Octadienal, 3,7-dimethyl-, (Z)	76
16.	22.233	2.68	Cytrale	97
17.	23.102	0.90	Timol	95
18.	24.464	1.22	2,6-Octadien-1-ol,3,7-dimethyl-asetat, (Z)-	91
19.	25.260	1.08	1,3,6,10-Dodekatetraen-3,7,11- trimethyl-, (Z,E)-	94
20.	25.363	1.70	Geranyl acetate	68
21.	28,515	1.74	B-Bisabolen	96

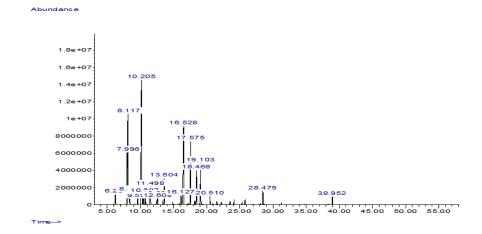


Figure 5: gc chromatogram of kaffir lime peel essential oil (c. Hystrix)

6 showed the components in Kaffir Lime (*C. hystrix*) peel essential oils which were assigned by matching their spectral data with those detailed in the NIST11.L libraries. Table 6 summarized that the major component of Kaffir Lime (*C. hystrix*)

peel essential oils was D-Limonene (\mathbf{R}_t = 10.205 min, peak area of 31.24%), B-pinene (\mathbf{R}_t = 8.117 min, peak area of 13.81%), citronellal (\mathbf{R}_t = 16.528 min, peak area of 13.41%) and other components had peak area below 5%.

Table 6: chemical composition of kaffir lime essential oil (c. Hystrix)

No.	Retention time (R _t) (minute)	Peak area (%)	Compounds	Quality
1.	6.234	1.46	(1R)-2,6,6-trimethylbicyclo[3.1.1] hept-2-ene	96
2.	7.996	7.18	Bicyclo[3.1.0]hexana, 4-methylene-1-(1-methyletil)-	91
3.	8.117	13.81	β-Pinen e	94
4.	8.420	1.50	B-Mircene	90-
5.	7.979	1,43	Cyclohexene, 1-methyl-4-(methyletillidene)-	94
6.	10.205	31.24	D-Limonene	97
7.	10.388	1.47	B-Phellandrene	91
8.	10.697	0.98	o-Simene	97
9.	11.498	2.00	γ-Terpinene	95
10.	12.522	0.66	Ethyl 2-(5-methyl-5-viniltetrahidrofuran -2-il) propan-2-il carbamate	91
11.	12.608	0.70	3-Karen	94
12.	13.604	2.96	1,6-Octadien-3-ol, 3,7-dimethyl-	97
13.	16.127	1.22	dl-Isopulegol	98
14.	16.528	13.41	Citronellal	95
15.	17.575	8.28	Terpinen-4-ol	95
16.	18.468	3.63	α-Terpineol	86
17.	19.103	5.62	Citronellol	98
18.	20.510	0.88	2,6-Oktadien-1-ol, 3,7-dimethyl-, (Z)	94
19.	28.475	1.21	α -Farnesen	
20.	38.952	0.86	2,6,9,11-Dodekatetraenal, 2,6,10- trimethyl-, (E,E,E)-	90

Table 7: diameter of inhibition zone against s. Mutans

No.	Essential Oil	Diameter (mm) of i	nhibition zone against S. mutans	Average (mm)
1.	Lime (C. aurantifolia)	10.40	11.20	11.20
2.	Tangerine (C. nobilis)	9.55	10.65	10.65
3.	Sweet Orange (C. sinensis)	10.20	10.00	10.00
4.	Lemon (C. limon)	10.50	10.50	10.50
5.	Kaffir Lime (C. hystrix)	10.40	10.40	10.40
6.	Negative Control (DMSO)	8.90	9.00	9.00
7.	Positive Control* (Chlorhexidin)	17.85	17.85	17.85

Antimicrobial activity of citrus spp. Essential oils

All hydrodistilled-essential oils of citrus peels from five citruses in 20% (v/v) concentration were tested for antimicrobial activity against *S. mutans* and the result shows in table 7. Table 7 showed that Lime peel (*C. aurantifolia*) have the highest antibacterial activity against *S. mutans*, followed by Lemon (*C. limon*), Kaffir Lime (*C. hystrix*), and Sweet Orange (*C. sinensis*)/Tangerine (*C. nobilis*).

The relationship between Antimicrobial Activity and Chemical Composition of Citrus Spp. Essential Oils

The chemical constituents of the essential oils of all types of Citrus spp. peel was mostly similar despite the difference in compositions. This caused the aroma of each orange peel essential oil had its own peculiarities. Various constituents and compositions led to differences in inhibitory effect against the growth of bacteria S. mutans, as shown in table 8. Table 8 showed that the three main components of all Citrus spp. peel essential oil was D-Limonene, B-Pinene, with three different components for the five kinds of essential oils. Tangerine peel oil contained the least B-Pinene compared to the four others citrus peel essential oil. The chemical composition that

Table 8: diameter of inhibition zone against s. Mutans

No.	Essential Oil -		Inhibitory		
NO.	Essential Oil	1	2	3	Diameter (mm)
1.	Lime (C. aurantifolia)	D-Limonene (38.94)	β-Pinene (26.66)	α-Terpineol (8.29)	10.80
2.	Tangerine (C. nobilis)	D-Limonene (50.06)	1,6 Oktadien-3-ol, 3,7-dimethyl- (8.47)	(1S)-2,6,6-trimethyl bisiklo [3.1.1] hept-2-ena (7.81)	10.10
3.	Sweet Orange (C. sinensis)	D-Limonene (21.74)	1,6-Oktadien -3-ol, 3,7-dimethyl- (15.88)	B-Pinene (15.37)	10.10
4.	Lemon (C. limon)	D-Limonene (41.36)	γ-Terpinene (16.87)	B-Pinene (14.16)	10.50
5.	Kaffir Lime (C. hystrix)	D-Limonene (31.24)	β-Pinene (13.81)	Citronellal (13.41)	10.40

Table 9: d-limonene, β-pinene, and α-terpineol composition of citrus spp. Essential oils and its inhibitory effect on s. Mutans

No	Essential Oil -		labibitan Diameter (mm)		
No.		D-Limonene	ß-Pinene	α-Terpineol	- Inhibitory Diameter (mm)
1.	Lime (C. aurantifolia)	38.94	26.66	8.29	10.80
2.	Lemon (C. limon)	41.36	14.16	1.65	10.50
3.	Kaffir Lime (C. hystrix)	31.24	13.81	3.63	10.40
4.	Sweet Orange (C. sinensis)	21.74	15.37	5.43	10.10
5.	Tangerine (C. nobilis)	50.06	3.69	4.05	10.10

playing a role in inhibiting of *S. mutans* growth was D-Limonene and β -Pinene. Tangerine peel oil contained the highest D-Limonene, however, it possessed the lowest activity since the content of β -Pinene was very low. The highest activity was shown by lime peel essential oil (*C. aurantifolia*) containing proportional amount of D-Limonene and β -pinene. Table 9 summarized that the order of antimicrobial activity of the five essential oils of orange peel and composition of D-Limonene, β -pinene, and α -Terpineol. The inhibitory activity of essential oils against *S. mutans* reached effectiveness at proportional compositions of D-Limonene and β -Pinene with a high peak area of α -terpineol.

DISCUSSION

The essential oil has been widely used for a variety of health problems and was reviewed to possess various advantageous biological properties including antimicrobial properties. Essential oils of Rutaceae (orange) family have been reported to be significant as an antimicrobial agent. The result of this study showed that all the essential oils of orange peel were potential in inhibiting growth of *S. mutans* with the following inhibitory zone diameter value of: (1) Lime (*C. aurantifolia*)

10.80 mm; (2) Tangerine (*C. nobilis*) 10.10 mm; (3) Sweet Orange (C. sinensis) 10.10 mm; (4) lemon (C. limon) 10.50 mm; and (5) Kaffir Lime (C. hystrix) 10.40 mm. Lime essential oil was the most effective to inhibit the growth of S. mutans among other Citrus spp. This result was consistent with a previous study conducted by Suwondo S. (2007) that screened 30 types of plants and tested its activity against S. mutans serotype-c and serotype-d, which obtained that lime (C. aurantifolia) was active against both serotypes. It was also shown that the least effective Citrus spp. peel essential oil against S. mutans was Tangerine (C. nobilis) and Sweet Orange (C. sinensis). Another previous study also showed that essential oil of orange showed the lowest antibacterial activity compared to bergamot and lemon.²¹

Citrus spp. essential oils presented moderate antimicrobial activity against *S. mutans*, facultative anaerobic gram-positive bacteria, with inhibition diameter value between 10.10 mm and 10.80 mm. A similar study on gram positive bacteria showed that orange peel essential oil was more sensitive to gram-positive bacteria compared to gram-negative bacteria such as *Salmonella enteritidis* and *Escherichia coli*.^{21,22}

The chemical constituents of Citrus spp. peel essential oil was mostly similar, with the main

composition of D-Limonene and B-Pinene, despite the difference in compositions. D-Limonene is the major component of Citrus spp., however, the correlation between the D-Limonene content in each essential oil and its antibacterial activity was not significant. Tangerine (*C. nobilis*) contained the highest limonene, however, it was less effective as an antimicrobial than other four essential oils with less limonene content. It was in line with studies showing that compounds presented in larger proportions may not necessarily be responsible for the antimicrobial activity of essential oils and the consideration of the less abundant constituents was necessary.^{22,23} The presence of minor compounds may increase antimicrobial activity of essential oils due to the synergy between each major and minor components on proportional concentration that may lead to the achievement of obtaining effective antimicrobial activity. 23,24

Comparison of efficacy between essential oils within similar species was difficult to be conducted, considering the environmentally-dependent chemical composition and its constituents ratio resulting in variation of antimicrobial activities. Major and minor constituents ratio were influenced widely by genotypes, while antimicrobial activity was sensitive technique resulting in conflicting results among studies. Further study of antimicrobial activity of Citrus spp. essential oils focusing on obtaining minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) and minimum bactericidal concentration (MBC) of all five Citrus spp. essential oils against *S. mutans* were necessary to be conducted in order to obtain the purpose of this study.

CONCLUSION

Major component chemical composition of essential oils of Citrus spp. was D-Limonene and antimicrobial activity by Lime peel essential oil due to its proportional amount of D-limonene and B-pinene and the highest antimicrobial activity.

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