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Antiplasmodial effects of *Brucea javanica* (L.) Merr. *longifolia* Jack extracts and their combination with quinine on *Plasmodium falciparum* in culture

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Abstract: Fruits of *Brucea javanica* (L.) Merr. (“Ratchadad” in Thai) and *Eurycoma longifolia* Jack (“Plalaipeag” in Thai) are used as traditional treatment of malarial fever. Ethanol, methanol, ethyl acetate, ethyl acetate extracts were tested against the multidrug-resistant *Plasmodium fa*

Ethanol and methanol-ethanol extracts, together with methanol residue of *Brucea javanica* (L.) Merr. showed the highest antiplasmodial activities with 0.3 , 0.3 ± 0.1 and 0.3 ± 0.05 Mg/mL, respectively, comparable to chloroquine (0.17 ± 0.02 Mg/mL) and quinine (0.3 ± 0.1 Mg/mL). Methanol-ethanol extracts of roots of *E. longifolia* Jack showed higher activities than the other solvent extracts, but their activities were about 10-fold lower than those of extracts from *B. javanica* (L.) Merr. fruit. In drug combination test, the combination of *B. javanica* (L.) Merr. and *E. longifolia* Jack extracts did not appear to antagonize the effects of chloroquine and quinine. Not only well-known quassinoid glycosides and flavonoids identified by thin-layer chromatography in ethanol and methanol extracts and in methanol residue of *B. javanica* (L.) Merr. fruit and *E. longifolia* Jack, but also other compounds could be responsible for the antimalarial activity. Taken together, our extracts provided extracts containing novel active compounds that did not show the same effects as the two widely used antimalarials. This finding could lend support to the discovery of active antimalarial compounds of *Brucea javanica* (L.) Merr. and *Eurycoma longifolia* Jack as drugs for the treatment of malaria that could be used in combination in order to delay the onset of parasite drug resistance.

Key words: [Plasmodium falciparum](#), [Brucea javanica \(L.\) Merr.](#), [Eurycoma longifolia Jack](#), [traditional medicine](#), [antimalarial activity](#), [drug combination](#)

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