

Investigation of Chemical Constituents in *Acacia saligna* (Labill.) H.L.Wendl. Related to Antidiabetic Activity by Anjar Purba Asmara

Thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

under the supervision of A/Prof. Alison Ung (principal supervisor) and Prof. Hui Chen (co-supervisor)

University of Technology Sydney Faculty of Science

July 2023

Certificate of Original Authorship

I, Anjar Purba Asmara, declare that this thesis is submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Doctor of Philosophy, in the Faculty of Science at the University of Technology Sydney.

This thesis is wholly my own work unless otherwise referenced or acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis.

This document has not been submitted for qualifications at any other academic institution.

This research is supported by the Australian Government Research Training Program.

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July 2023

Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to my beloved family for endless support and motivation.

Acknowledgement

All praise is due to Allah SWT for His blessings to the completion of my PhD study at UTS.

I would like to express my gratitude to my principal supervisor, Associate Professor Alison Ung, for her invaluable advice, guidance, encouragement, support, and motivation during my journey in this PhD study. I would also thank Professor Hui Chen as my co-supervisor for her advice and feedback on the research design and thesis writing.

I would gratefully acknowledge the full funding support from the Government of the Republic of Indonesia through *Program 5000 Doktor dan Beasiwa Indonesia Bangkit* organised by Ministry of Religious Affairs (MoRA) and Indonesia Endowment Funds for Education (LPDP) by Ministry of Finance.

I would also like to appreciate the assistance from Anchalee Prasansuklab, Ph.D. when setting up bioassay methods and during collecting data in Chulalongkorn University (CU), Bangkok, Thailand. I thank Dr. Tewin Tencomnao and his research group for the support during our collaborative research in CU, and Dr. Anchalee Chiabchalard for her administrative help within the data collection in CU.

All assistance from UTS lab and academic staff and my UTS laboratory mates, including Bishwajit Bokshi, Hugh Hiscock, Behjat Sheikholeslami, and Seyed Mostafa Hosseinpour Mashkani, is appreciated. All support from the Indonesian community in Sydney, especially within the difficult situation over the pandemic COVID 2020 – 2022, is also appreciated.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my wife, my sons, my mother, father, and sister in Indonesia for their unconditional support and motivation that make my life far from home less difficult.

List of Publications

- Asmara, A.P.; Prasansuklab, A.; Tencomnao, T.; Ung, A.T. Identification of Phytochemicals in Bioactive Extracts of *Acacia saligna* Growing in Australia. *Molecules* 2023, 28(3), 1028. <u>https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules280310-28</u>.
- Asmara, A.P.; Prasansuklab, A.; Chiabchalard, A.; Chen, H.; Ung, A.T. Antihyperglycemic Properties of Extracts and Isolated Compounds from Australian *Acacia saligna* on 3T3-L1 Adipocytes. *Molecules* 2023, 28(10), 4054. https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules28104054.
- Ung, A.T.; Asmara, A.P. Bioactive Phytochemicals of Acacia saligna. Molecules 2023, 28(11), 4396. <u>https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules281143-96</u>.
- Asmara, A.P.; Chen, H.; Ung, A.T. Preventing Adipogenesis and Preserving Mitochondria and GLUT-4 Functions by Extracts and Isolated Compounds of Australian Acacia saligna. *Molecules* 2023, 28(18), 6677. <u>https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules28186677</u>.

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Abbreviations

2-NBDG	2-Deoxy-2-[(7-nitro-2,1,3-benzoxadiazol-4-yl) amino]-D-
	glucose
ABTS	2,2'-Azino-bis-(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulphonic acid)
ACC	Acetyl-CoA carboxylase
AGEs	Advanced glycated end products
AMPK	Adenosine 5'-monophosphate-activated protein kinase
ANOVA	Analysis of variance
aP2	Adipocyte fatty acid binding protein 2
AS160	160 kDa substrate of Akt Ser/Thr kinase
ASK 1	Apoptosis signal-regulating kinase 1
ATP	Adenosine 5'-triphosphate
Bax	Bcl-2 associated X-protein
Bcl-2	B-cell leukemia/lymphoma 2 protein
BCS	Bovine calf serum
BHT	Butylated hydroxyl toluene
ВК	Bark
BSA	Bovine serum albumin
BuOH	Butanol
C/EBP-α	CCAAT/enhancer-binding protein-α
cAMP	3',5'-Cyclic adenosine monophosphate
cDNA	Complementary deoxyribonucleic acid
cGMP	Guanosine 3',5'-cyclic monophosphate
COSY	Correlation spectroscopy
COX-2	Cyclooxygenase-2
CREB	cAMP response element-binding protein
DCFH-DA	Dichlorodihydrofluorescein diacetate
DCM	Dichloromethane
DEPT	Distortionless enhancement by polarisation transfer
DM	Diabetes melitus
DMEM	Dulbecco's modified eagle's medium
DMSO	Dimethylsulfoxide
DPPH	2,2-Diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl or 2,2-di(4-tert-octylphenyl)-1-
	picrylhydrazyl
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid

dNTP	Deoxyribose nucleotide triphosphate
DPP-4	Dipeptidyl peptidase 4
ECL	Enhanced chemiluminescence
EDTA	Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
ESI	Electrospray ionisation
ETC	Electron transport chain
EtOAc	Ethyl acetate
EtOH	Ethanol
FAS	Fatty acid synthetase
FBS	Fetal bovine serum
FC	Flavonoid content
FFA	Free fatty acid
FL	Flower
FTIR	Fourier transform infrared
GLUT-4	Glucose transporter 4
GSH	Glutathione
GSIS	Glucose-stimulated insulin secretion
Hex	Hexane
KRPH	Krebs-Ringer phosphate 4-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-
	piperazineethanesulfonic acid
LDL	Low-density lipoprotein
LKB1	Liver kinase B1
GAE	Gallic acid equivalent
GCMS	Gas chromatography-mass spectroscopy
GDM	Gestational diabetes mellitus
GLP-1	Glucose-like peptide 1
HBSS	Hank's balanced salt solution
HMBC	Heteronuclear multiple bond correlation
HPLC	High performance liquid chromatography
HPLC-VWD	High performance liquid chromatography-variable wavelength
	detector
HRMS	High resolution mass spectroscopy
HRP	Horseradish peroxidase
HSQC	Heteronuclear single quantum coherence
IBMX	3-Isobutyl-1-methylxanthine
lgG	Immunoglobulin G

IGT	Impaired glucose tolerance	
IRS-1	Insulin receptor substrate-1	
IL-1β	Interleukin-1β	
IL-6	Interleukin 6	
ΙΚΚβ	Inhibitor of nuclear factor kappa-B kinase subunit eta	
IR	Insulin resistance	
IMT	Myo-inositol methyl transferase	
JC-1	5,5,6,6'-Tetrachloro-1,1',3,3' tetraethylbenzimi-	
	dazoylcarbocyanine iodide	
JNK	c-Jun NH₂-terminal kinases	
LF	Leaf	
m/z	Mass per charge number of ions	
MAPK	Mitogen-activated protein kinases	
MDI	Medium of differentiation induction	
MeOH	Methanol	
MFN	Mitofusin	
MGAM	Maltase-glucoamylase	
MitoSOX	Hydroethidine triphenylphosphonium cation	
MMP	Mitochondrial membrane potential	
MnSOD	Manganese superoxide dismutase	
mRNA	Messenger ribonucleic acid	
MRSA	Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus	
Mt-ROS	Mitochondrial reactive oxygen species	
MTT	3-(4,5-Dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide	
mtTFA	Mitochondrial transcription factor A	
NAC	N-acetyl cysteine	
NADPH	Nicotinamide adenin dinucleotide phosphate	
NF-kB	Nuclear factor kappa-light-chain-enhancer of activated B cells	
NMR	Nuclear magnetic resonance	
NO	Nitric oxide	
NOESY	Nuclear Overhauser Effect Spectroscopy	
NRF	Nuclear respiratory factor	
ORO	Oil red-O	
OXPHOS	Oxidative phosphorylation	
p-AMPK-α	Phosphorylation of AMPK subunit α	
PBS	Phosphate-buffered saline	

PC	Phenolic content	
PGC-1α	Peroxisome proliferator-activated response- γ coactivator-1 α	
PGE	Prostaglandin E2	
PI3K-PKB/Akt	Phosphoinositide-3-kinase-protein kinase B/Akt	
PKC	Protein kinase C	
<i>p</i> NPG	4-Nitrophenyl α-D-glucopyranoside	
PPAR-γ	Peroxisome proliferator- activated receptor γ	
PSG	Penicillin streptomycin glutamine	
PUFA	Polyunsaturated fatty acid	
PDVF	Polyvinylidene fluoride	
QE	Quercetin equivalent	
QFOF	Quadrupole time-of-flight	
RAGE	Receptor of advanced glycated end products	
RNA	Ribonucleic acid	
RNS	Reactive nitrogen species	
RT-qPCR	Quantitative reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction	
ROS	Reactive oxygen species	
RPM	Round per minute	
SAR	Structure-activity relationships	
SEM	Standard error of the mean	
Ser/Thr	Serine/threonine	
SGLT-2	Sodium-glucose co-transporter-2	
SI	Sucrose-isomaltase	
SIRT1	Silent information regulator 1	
SOD	Superoxidase dismutase	
SPLET	Sequential proton loss electron transfer	
STAT3	Signal transducer and activator of transcription 3	
T1DM	Type 1 diabetes mellitus	
T2DM	Type 2 diabetes mellitus	
TBARS	Thiobarbituric acid-reactive substances	
TBC1D4	Tre-2/BUB2/cdc 1 domain family	
TCA	Tricarboxylic acid	
TCP15	Branched1-cycloidea-proliferating cell factor 15	
TEMED	Tetramethylethylenediamine	
TLC	Thin layer chromatography	
TNF-α	Tumor necrosis factor q	

TOCSY	Total correlation spectroscopy
TZD	Thiazolidinedione
UV	Ultraviolet
v/v	Volume per volume
w/w	Weight per weight
WAT	White adipose tissue
WHO	World Health Organisation

Abstract

Acacia saligna is native to Western Australia that can grow in extreme conditions such as drought, alkaline and saline soil, and frosty surroundings. This plant produces secondary metabolites, including diverse flavonoids, cinnamic acids, and benzoic acid derivatives, to support its defence system. Reports have revealed that extracts and phytochemicals of Middle Eastern and African species possess varied bioactivities, such as antioxidant, antibacterial, antifungal, antiinflammation, and antidiabetic properties. However, there has not yet been researched on Australian species. Therefore, this study aimed to investigate the active compounds as antidiabetic from Australian *A. saligna* by bioassay-guided fractionation using a combination of rapid *in vitro* assays and 3T3-L1 adipocyte-based assays.

This study discovered that the methanolic extract of flowers (FL-MeOH), methanolic extract of leaves (LF-MeOH), and methanolic extract of bark (BK-MeOH) have excellent properties as antioxidants, a-glucosidase inhibitors, inhibitors of cellular reactive oxygen species (ROS), and modulators of glucose uptake. Additionally, our mitochondrial study revealed that these extracts can restore adipocytes' mitochondria by reducing mitochondrial ROS (mt-ROS) and increasing mitochondrial membrane potential (MMP). Further fractionation of the methanolic extracts using column chromatography with normal silica gel afforded various phytochemicals. There are five compounds isolated from FL-MeOH, including naringenin 42; naringenin-7-O- α -L-arabinofuranoside 76; isosalipurposide 1; quercitrin 4; and D-(+)-pinitol 79a. Six compounds were isolated from LF-MeOH: (-)epicatechin 77, quercitrin 4; myricitrin 11; 2,4-di-t-butylphenol 78; (-)-pinitol 79b; and dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one (3S*,5S*)-3-hydroxy-5-(2-aminoethyl) 80. Isolated phytochemicals BK-MeOH were (-)-epicatechin 77, D-(+)-pinitol 79a, and sucrose. Except for compounds 1, 4, 42, and 11, this study suggested that the isolated compounds were found in the three parts of Australian A. saligna for the first time. Furthermore, the bioassay outcomes indicated that (-)-epicatechin 77 performed best in reducing cellular ROS and mt-ROS, aligning with its inhibitory activities against DPPH and ABTS^{•+} radicals. Marked increases in cellular glucose uptake and MMP values were observed from treatment with naringenin 42, naringenin-7-O- α -Larabinofuranoside 76, D-(+)-pinitol 79a, and (-)-epicatechin 77 reflecting the positive effect of their respective extracts in glucose uptake.

To gain more insight into possible mechanisms underlying the positive effects of *A. saligna* extracts on cells, further investigation was carried out using immunoblot and quantitative reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR). Our findings revealed that FL-MeOH exerted marked increases in glucose uptake and phosphorylated 5' adenosine monophosphate-activated protein kinase- α (p-AMPK- α) due to the presence of isosalipurposide **1**, quercitrin **4**, naringenin **42**, and naringenin-*7-O-\alpha-L*-arabinofuranoside **76**. On the other hand, LF-MeOH showed corresponding effects due to quercitrin **4**, myricitrin **8**, and (–)-epicatechin **77**. FL-MeOH and its chemical constituents, naringenin **42** and *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a**, consistently increased MMP values, p-AMPK- α levels, and transcriptional levels of key regulators and reduced transcriptional levels of proinflammatory markers. Overall, the extracts and isolated chemical constituents of *A. saligna* demonstrated antidiabetic activities on 3T3-L1 adipocytes by reducing ROS and mt-ROS, stimulating glucose uptake through AMPK activation, and modulating transcriptional levels of adiponectin, PGC-1 α , and mtTFA while also reducing pro-inflammatory TNF- α and IL-6 mRNA levels to promote mitochondrial biogenesis.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. General background

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a chronic disease caused by defective insulin secretion or reduced cellular response to insulin to manage blood glucose levels ¹. Some chronic complications caused by this disorder ranked it the fourth noncommunicable disease (Figure 1) ^{1, 2}. Globally, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated 422 million people living with DM in 2014, predominantly type 2 diabetes mellitus (T2DM) and projected to rise to 629 million by 2045 ^{3, 4}. When lifestyle changes are not enough to manage blood glucose levels, antidiabetic medications must be prescribed to regulate blood sugar levels ^{2, 4}. The approach is crucial in maintaining glucose homeostasis and preventing complications associated with hyperglycaemia.



Figure 1. Percentage of global mortality factors for 41 million deaths in 2016².

T2DM is often linked to unhealthy lifestyles, such as physical inactivity, excessive intake of an energy-dense diet, smoking, and stress leading to the insensitivity of insulin in insulin-responsive cells followed by insufficient glucose-stimulated insulin secretion (GSIS) by pancreatic β -cells ^{1, 5}. Fat accumulation occurs due to excessive calorie intake and lack of exercise, which initiates insulin resistance (IR) in the liver, skeletal muscle, and adipose tissue and triggers β -cells dysfunction in the pancreas ^{6, 7}. In addition, IR relates to lipotoxicity, glucotoxicity, inflammation, and oxidative stress that impact the pancreatic β -cells ⁸.

Obesity closely correlates with T2DM since above 60–90% of T2DM patients are overweight or obese ^{6, 7, 9, 10}. Insulin regulates the metabolism of non-esterified

fatty acids (FAs) by stimulating glucose uptake in adipose tissue to promote triglyceride storage and activating lipoprotein lipase in the vasculature ^{5, 11, 12}. Obese people with continuous physical inactivity have an increased number of macrophages infiltrating fat tissues, causing increased secretion of pro-inflammatory cytokines and prooxidant species damaging vital cellular components, which could eventually lead to insulin resistance (Figure 2) ¹³⁻¹⁶.





β-cell failure could also be associated with exposure to proinflammatory agents and oxidative stress induced by a high extracellular glucose level and free fatty acids (FFAs) (Figure 3). As a response to the high FFAs level, rapid macrophage infiltration under the obese condition in pancreatic cells could modulate reactive oxygen species (ROS) production ^{18, 19}. It could produce elevated cytokines and chemokines ²⁰, altering cellular function ²¹. Meanwhile, the oxidative environment could promote the antioxidant release to maintain the free radical proportion. On the other hand, the antioxidant can be exhausted if ROS is continuously overproduced, causing β-cell damage and death in the long term resulting in insulin insufficiency.



Figure 3. Scheme of the T2DM progression due to insulin insufficiency promoted by inflammatory and oxidative state 22-24; \uparrow : increasing; \downarrow : decreasing.

1.2. Diabetes mellitus

1.2.1. Classification of DM

DM is commonly classified into type 1 (T1DM), T2DM, gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM), and a special type of diabetes ³. T1DM is non-preventable, representing 10% of the global diabetes case, and is characterised by the absolute deficiency of insulin secretion due to the destruction of the pancreatic β -cells linked to the autoimmune action. Studies revealed that it could be caused by genetic, environmental, and/or immunologic factors ²⁵. Recently, at least two chromosomal regions from the human leukocyte antigen and the insulin gene have been associated with the pathogenesis of T1DM through apoptosis induced by lymphocytes. Moreover, viruses, diets, and gut microbiota, as environmental factors, have also been identified as the inducer of an autoimmune response that can lead to abnormal pancreatic tissue destruction and inflammation. Another factor is linked to the production of autoantibodies against glutamic acid decarboxylase 65-kilodalton isoform, tyrosyl phosphatase, insulin, and zinc transporter found in the β -cells ²⁶.
On the other hand, T2DM is associated with ineffective cellular response to insulin or insulin resistance (IR) and inadequate secretion of insulin due to β -cells dysfunction. The more severe the obesity is, the more severe IR develops ²⁷. As displayed in Figure 3, accumulated FFAs can lead to inflammation-induced insulin resistance. One theory from a muscle cell-based study suggests that obesity could lead to mitochondrial dysfunction, causing defective lipid oxidation. Consequently, lipid metabolites will increase, activating serine/threonine (Ser/Thr) kinases and protein kinase C (PKC) isoforms. This sequential event can inhibit the activation of insulin receptor substrate-1 (IRS-1) and glycogen synthase ²⁸. As a result, elevated blood sugar occurs due to the failure of glucose uptake by the liver, muscle, and adipose cells ²⁹.

1.2.2. Oxidative stress associated with DM

Obesity and high glucose intake can trigger the overproduction of oxidative species. Generally, oxidants can be defined as free radicals and reactive atoms or molecules, including ROS, reactive nitrogen species (RNS), and other organic species, such as alkyl sulfanyl radicals (RS[•]) ³⁰. Among them, ROS, such as hydroxyl radical (•OH), superoxide anion ($O_2^{\bullet-}$), and hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2), is considered the predominant oxidant generated from the hyperglycaemia state. Oxidant species can generate spontaneous reactions by transferring an electron or a hydrogen atom from other molecules to compensate for their electron deficiency.

According to Brownlee ³¹, hyperglycaemia could induce the overproduced intracellular ROS via various mechanisms such as increased polyol pathway, increased formation of advanced glycated end products (AGEs), induction of PKC, and elevated hexosamine pathway flux. All these four pathogenic mechanisms have been hypothesised to occur when superoxides are overproduced by either glycation of protein or a mitochondrial electron transport chain (ETC) pathway (Figure 4). Cellular oxidation, such as NADPH oxidation, glucose autoxidation and low-density lipoprotein (LDL) peroxidation, is the major source of elevated cellular ROS levels due to accumulated fat in the 3T3L1–adipocyte cells ³²⁻³⁵. Furthermore, although the premature leaking of electrons in normal cells was estimated to be less than 1%, it is increased during hyperglycaemia ^{36, 37}. Given a markedly increased number of substrates entering the tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle, an over suppler of electron donors occurs in the mitochondrial ETC that could excessively transform molecular oxygens in between complex I and III into reactive species called mitochondrial ROS (mt-ROS) (Figure 5) ³⁸.

Abnormally high sugar level condition also contributes to the deficiency of endogenous antioxidant agents leading to oxidative stress. Superoxidase dismutase (SOD), the main enzymatic antioxidant, has been downregulated in the animal models fed by high fat and sugar diet ^{32, 39}. Previously, Arai et al. ⁴⁰ confirmed that glycosylation (glycation) and oxidation causing the reduction of the positive charge of Lysine residue located in the active site of the antioxidant could alter enzyme function and properties. Therefore, this process is most likely to play a significant role in the inactivation of the antioxidative components since glycated sites of protein are commonly observed due to prolonged exposure of glucose to protein generating covalent connection via either the Schiff base or the Amadori adduct ⁴¹.



Figure 4. An illustration of high glucose-induced ROS production in a cell. (1) Elevated blood sugar level causes comparably increased uptake of glucose into cells; (2) excess glucose induces glycation of protein to produce (3) Schiff base followed by rearrangement to form (4) Amadori compound as the intermediate of (5) advanced glycation end products (AGEs); (6) AGEs directly stimulate excess ROS production by NADPH oxidase due to neutralising endogenous antioxidants ⁴². Moreover, the glucose can also be oxidised in the cytoplasm resulting in elevated NADH and pyruvates; (7) pyruvates oxidised in the TCA cycle led to the increased NADH and FADH₂, (8) which are involved in the accumulated of electrons during ATP leading to overproduction of mt-ROS. The image was adapted from Kawahito et al. ⁴³ and created with BioRender.com.



Figure 5. An illustration of superoxide production in the mitochondrial ETC. Excess glucose and FFA-derived products lead to overproduced coenzymes (NADH and FADH₂) from the Krebs cycle. It causes accumulated electrons in coenzyme ubiquinone (CoQ) captured by O₂ to produce superoxide radicals (O₂[•]) or mt-ROS. The image was adapted from Rebolledo & Dato ⁴⁴ and created with BioRender.com.

The role of cellular ROS in exacerbating T2DM and its complications has attracted some studies on targeting ROS as a therapeutic strategy for metabolic disease. Natural products have been reported to attenuate ROS production in obese mice and 3T3-L1 adipocytes. For instance, polyphenols, flavonoids ⁴⁵, and catechins from green tea ⁴⁶ effectively reduce the ROS level during hyperglycaemia, resulting in increased glucose uptake and improved IR. With their hydroxy groups and conjugated double bonds in aromatic rings, these compounds can interact directly with reactive species ⁴⁷ and/or induce cell signalling pathways to normalise ROS homeostasis ⁴⁸. *Acacia* extract treatment has also been reported to lower cellular ROS in other mammalian cells, as documented for *A. mearnsii* ⁴⁹, *A. shaffneri* and *A. farnesiana* ⁵⁰. **1.2.3. Postprandial hyperglycaemia**

Following food ingestion in a healthy body, insulin secretion and the suppression of glucagon release are simultaneously generated in response to the increased blood glucose level. As a result, glucose uptake occurs in the liver, muscle, adipose tissue, kidney, and brain ⁵¹, which maintains postprandial glucose homeostasis ⁵². However, Mitrakou et al. ⁵³ reported that the rate of plasma glucose appearance was more pronounced in people who could not have proper insulin secretion in the first phase, which led to delayed insulin release in the next phase ^{54, 55}.

Moreover, the lower rate of post-prandial glucose to return to the pre-prandial levels in individuals with normal insulin secretion was observed by Bock et al. ⁵⁶

manifesting decreased insulin action. Those people can be categorised as people with impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) or prediabetes, referred to as post-prandial hyperglycaemia ⁵⁷.



Figure 6. Schematic diagram by which post-prandial hyperglycaemia plays its causal role in the onset of T2DM ⁵².

Post-prandial glucose, characterised by a rapidly elevated and significant plasma glucose level after a meal, has been considered one of the major risk factors leading to the progression of T2DM. One explanation was proposed by Yki-Järvinen ⁵⁸ that long-term exposure of islets to glucose causes β -cells desensitisation due to glucose-induced phosphoinositide hydrolysis that activates PKC. In addition, long-term exposure of glucose to islet cells can also inhibit first-phase insulin secretory response linked to an increased prostaglandin E2 synthesis ⁵⁹⁻⁶¹. These findings suggest that untreated IGT status could exacerbate T2DM development.

The delayed insulin secretory response could be linked to the decreased blood flow due to reduced arterioles and accelerated atherosclerosis in insulinsensitive organs resulting in the early stage of IR due to insufficient insulin and glucose delivery into the cells ⁶²⁻⁶⁴. As the insulin-mediated glucose uptake in muscle cells was estimated to be over 80% ⁶⁵, the defect of glucose uptake into muscle cells could lead to more severe hyperglycaemia inducing ROS overproduction, sorbitol formation, and glyceraldehyde-derived AGEs as the predominant structure of toxic AGEs ⁶⁶⁻⁶⁸.



Figure 7. A representative flow of causes of T2DM-associated complications linked to polyol pathway. (1) In the presence of aldose reductase enzymes, excess glucose will be reduced to sorbitol that requires the oxidation of NADPH; (2) consequently, glutathione level will decrease due to the deficiency of its cofactor, NADPH, leading to elevated oxidative stress. (3) The increase of sorbitol resulted in increased intracellular osmolality and decreased the number of myoinositol, the upstream of adenosine-triphosphatase (ATPase) ⁶⁹. (4) The accumulated fructose from the reduction of sorbitol can be turnover to glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate as the precursor of all glycolytic intermediates that increase the glycation of proteins. (5) Finally, these processes exacerbate complications such as retinopathy, neuropathy, and renal failure. The image was adapted from Taslimi et al. ⁷⁰ and created with BioRender.com.

Excess extracellular glucose has also been reported to covalently attach to proteins or lipids *via* glycation reaction to form final polymers of AGEs. The AGEs interact with the broad components, including receptors of AGEs (RAGE), intracellular and circulating proteins (e.g. lipoprotein, albumin, haemoglobin, etc.), extracellular matrix, and nitric oxide (NO) that can alter their functions to injure blood vessels ⁴².

Therapy to reduce postprandial glucose update, such as the inhibitors of intestinal enzymes of saccharide hydrolysis, α -glucosidase, is one of the options in preventing and managing T2DM development. There are three clinical synthetic inhibitors: acarbose, miglitol, and voglibose, that have been applied since 1990. However, due to the long route of the synthetic process and its side effects, the search for alternative inhibitors, including research in natural products, is still underway ⁷¹. Extracts of some *Acacia* species have been displayed to serve as inhibitors against this enzyme. This is an additional advantage because the herbs can delay saccharide

degradation and maintain glucose homeostasis by restoring redox-regulated processes in the cells.

1.2.4. Potential targets to overcome insulin resistance

1.2.4.1. ROS as the cause of disrupted cellular glucose entry

Some studies have confirmed that two main pathways, i.e., phosphoinositide-3-kinase-protein kinase B/Akt (PI3K-PKB/Akt) and adenosine 5'-monophosphate-activated protein kinase (AMPK) pathway, involved in the glucose uptake by GLUT-4 translocation ⁷²⁻⁷⁴. Oxidative stress has been demonstrated to activate stress-sensitive kinases such as IKK β and NF-kB, impair tyrosine IRS-1 phosphorylation and disrupt the subcellular localisation of PI3K in 3T3-L1 adipocytes ⁷⁵.

Interference of GLUT-4 translocation could result from defects in the insulin signalling pathway. Prolonged exposure to the cellular ROS in 3T3-L1 adipocytes also causes an impaired GLUT-4 translocation due to decreased GLUT-4 expression. On the other hand, treatment with *N*-acetyl cysteine (NAC) ⁷⁶ restored the expression of GLUT-4 and glucose uptake. Moreover, one recent in vitro study ⁷⁷ found that elevated mt-ROS were also sufficient to block GLUT-4 trafficking directly. Protein oxidation in the glucose transporter *via* direct interaction between mitochondria and endosomes has been postulated as the potential mechanism ^{77, 78}.

The overproduced mt-ROS is also believed to disrupt insulin-dependent and insulin-independent glucose uptakes. Impaired tyrosine phosphorylation IRS-1 by the excess mt-ROS has been linked to the activation of apoptosis signal-regulating kinase 1 (ASK 1), leading to mitochondrial dysfunction ^{79, 80}. Moreover, a cell-based study ⁸¹ showed that increased mt-ROS production could inhibit the expression of essential enzymes for energy-generating pathways and mitochondrial membrane potential (MMP), significantly reducing ATP production. Nevertheless, treatment with metformin can inhibit the oxidation of NADH in complex I (Figure 5) by inducing peroxisome proliferator-activated response- γ coactivator-1 α (PGC-1 α) and manganese superoxide dismutase (MnSOD) ^{82, 83} that results in the improvement of cellular glucose uptake ^{84, 85}. Figure 9 illustrates that excessive mt-ROS production can result in reduced activation of mitofusins and mitochondrial enzymes.

Despite the safety level and effective treatment of metformin through AMPKdependent and AMPK-independent pathways ⁸⁶, side effects on gastrointestinal organs, such as nausea, diarrhoea, flatulence, abdominal pain, vomiting, and loss of appetite ⁸⁷, and failure of metformin as a monotherapy of T2DM in the long term ⁸⁸ encourage researchers to develop a better 2nd line option. An ethnomedicine using herbal remedies can achieve multiple modes of action and safety. Several studies have revealed bioactive phytochemicals abilities in mt-ROS reduction ⁸⁹⁻⁹². Interestingly, phenolics and flavonoids are the most commonly reported to have modulation effects on the expression of mitofusins ⁹³ and mitochondrial enzymes, resulting in mitochondrial biogenesis ⁹⁴.



Figure 8. A schematic flow chart of insulin-independent GLUT-4 activation induced by metformin inhibiting mitochondrial ATP synthase ^{81,95-97}. The increased ratios of ADP/ATP and AMP/ATP will activate AMPK by stimulating LKB1 to phosphorylate the AMPK- α and promoting the binding of AMP to AMPK- γ to maintain the phosphorylation. The activated AMPK can stimulate the phosphorylation of AS160 and ACC, eventually activating the translocation of GLUT-4. AMPK = adenosine 5'monophosphate-activated protein kinase; LKB1 = liver kinase B1; GLUT-4 = glucose transporter-4; ACC = acetyl-CoA carboxylase; AS160 = 160 kDa substrate of Akt Ser/Thr kinase; TBC1D4 = Tre-2/BUB2/cdc 1 domain family.



Figure 9. Schematic representation of possible mechanisms of the links between overproduced mt-ROS and insulin resistance, leading to disruption in GLUT-4 translocation ^{79, 98}. mtROS = mitochondrial reactive oxygen species; ASK 1 = apoptosis signal-regulating kinase 1; JNK = c-jun NH₂-terminal kinases; MFN 1 and MFN2 = mitofusins 1 and 2; IRS-1 = insulin-receptor substrate 1. The image was created with BioRender.com.

1.2.4.2. Targeting mitochondrial dysfunction

Studies revealed that a high level of glucose intake and obesity has directly stimulated impairments of mitochondria. Gao et al. ⁷⁶ confirmed that, under hyperglycaemia and fatty acids, some changes in adipocytes mitochondria occurred, such as overproduced mt-ROS, reduced mitochondrial membrane potential, and mitochondrial content. In addition, mitochondrial oxidative capacity in obese adults was significantly reduced compared to non-obese patients ⁹⁹. Alterations in mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation (OXPHOS) can be considered one of the underlying factors of mitochondrial abnormalities. Studies on cell lines ⁷⁶, mice model ¹⁰⁰, and T2DM patients ¹⁰¹⁻¹⁰³ found that nuclear respiratory factors (NRFs) and peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor- γ coactivators-1 (PGCs-1) were lower than healthy controls. NRFs contribute to the expression of mitochondrial genes and mitochondrial DNA replication ¹⁰⁴. PGC-1 α is the primary regulator of mitochondrial replication and OXPHOS ¹⁰¹ and the co-activator of other genes in energy homeostasis ¹⁰⁵.

As depicted in Figure 10, mitochondria dysfunction can be linked to inflammation and metabolic disorders, including IR. Over-secretion of TNF- α , an inflammatory marker, can be considered a cause of mitochondrial malfunction ¹⁰⁶. Houstis et al. ¹⁰⁷ reported TNF- α -induced mt-ROS production on 3T3-L1 adipocytes.

The defective mitochondria can lead to a reduced β -oxidation rate in diabetic mice ¹⁰⁸. ATP synthases and levels of OXPHOS and palmitic acid oxidation were significantly lower in diabetic and obese animal models¹⁰⁸. According to Mello et al. ¹⁰⁹, excessive fatty acid level induces the infiltration of macrophages into the adipose tissue leading to increased pro-inflammatory cytokines. Furthermore, the inflammatory cytokines trigger the development of IR (see Figure 10). Hence, inflammation has a central position in T2DM, marking it as the potential target for treating hyperglycaemia.

Mitochondrial dysfunction impairs insulin sensitivity. Wang et al. ¹¹⁰ demonstrated the downregulated mitochondrial transcription factor A (mtTFA), a key regulator of transcription of mitochondrial genes and mitochondrial DNA replication, causing markedly decreased expression of phosphorylated Akt and GLUT-4 in 3T3-L1 adipocytes. Moreover, reduced PGC-1α alters mtTFA in the adipocytes. Targeting AMPK phosphorylation can generate multiple impacts on IR and mitochondrial defects. AMPK has been confirmed as the key regulator of PGCs activation and expression ¹¹¹. In C2C12 myocytes, the activation of PGC-1α requires adiponectin-induced AMPK activation ¹¹². Additionally, knocking out adiponectin inhibited the AMPK-PGC-1α pathway in obese mice ¹¹³.



Figure 10. An image represents a proposed mechanism of mitochondrial dysfunction as the primary cause of insulin resistance in an adipocyte model. The increased intracellular ROS triggered by obesity and metabolic challenges (e.g., excess nutrient intake) leads to mt-ROS overproduction, exacerbating the total ROS generation and decreasing mitochondrial membrane potential (MMP) and ATP production ⁸¹. The impaired mitochondria reflected by the collapse of mt-DNA content and depletion of mitochondrial biogenesis alter adiponectin level, resulting in decreased OXPHOS due to reduced activation of AMPK and PGC-1 α as its regulator ¹¹⁴. In addition, the compromised mitochondria function causes the accumulation of lipid metabolites due to the reduced β -oxidation and the increase of proinflammatory cytokines

leading to the induction of PKC isoforms and Ser/Thr kinases ^{28, 110}. Consequently, the inhibition of the insulin signalling cascade, including the disruption of GLUT-4 transduction, leads to the defect of the insulin-dependent glucose uptake pathway. Image was created with BioRender.com.

Treatment with herbal products is beneficial for the activation of AMPK. Hawley et al. ¹¹⁵ summarised that some phytochemicals are the activator, i.e., berberine, quercetin, resveratrol, genistein, capsaicin, and epigallocatechin gallate. Among six different AMPK inducers, quercetin, a flavanol found in *Acacia*, is involved in multiple mechanisms, such as increasing ADP: ATP ratio, increasing phosphorylation of Thr-172, inhibiting basal O₂ uptake, inhibiting ATP synthase and NAD-dependent histone deacetylase SIRT1 ¹¹⁶. Moreover, oral consumption of this flavonoid also enhanced the adiponectin, resulting in a 12.3% increased level of AMPK compared to control patients ¹¹⁷. These studies again emphasised the considerably advantageous natural product-based treatment in T2DM.

1.2.4.3. Study using 3T3-L1 adipocytes

The 3T3-L1 cell line is a fibroblast-like cell from Swiss mouse embryonic fibroblast. It is used to study adipose differentiation and lipid accumulation during adipogenesis and related disorders ^{118, 119}. During the process, the synthesis of triglycerides is increased, leading to an acquisition of mature adipocytes. Hence, it is a practicable model for white adipose tissue (WAT), primary storage for reserving triacylglycerol under a positive energy balance ¹²⁰. Excess WAT has been linked to obesity and severe metabolic disorders, including T2DM, hypertension and cancer. Moreover, given the accumulated fats as the risk factor for the overproduction of ROS, IR, mitochondrial malfunction, and secretion of pro-inflammatory adipokines, the 3T3-L1 adipocytes could be considered an appropriate platform to understanding the possible mechanisms of development and management of the abnormalities.

No	Reagent	Reported concentration	Effect			
1	Insulin	1 µg/mL	Stimulating triglyceride synthesis following the cellular absorption of excessive glucose ¹²¹			
2	Dexamethasone	0.25 µM	0.25 µM Inhibiting the synthesis of prostaglandin E ₁ ¹²²			
3	3-Isobutyl-1- methylxanthine	0.5 mM	Inhibiting cyclic nucleotide phosphodiesterase, increasing intracellular cAMP and cGMP ¹²³			
4	Rosiglitazone	2 µM	Activating the PPAR-γ pathway results in increased glucose uptake ¹¹⁸			

 Table 1. A list of common chemicals used in inducing 3T3-L1 cells in cell differentiation

The conversion of the fibroblast-like cells into adipocytes was induced by prodifferentiative reagents affecting lipogenic or lipolytic processes. According to Zebisch et al. ¹¹⁸, some prodifferentiative agents were demonstrated to efficiently induce the conversion of preadipose cells to adipocytes, including insulin,

dexamethasone, 3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine, and rosiglitazone (see Table 1). Once confluence, treatment with the reagents should be carried out for 48 h exposures to activate the cellular differentiation. The cells would start accumulating fat, observed as lipid droplets or intramyocellular triglycerides. The number and size are then increasing over the period. The differentiation time to acquire mature adipocytes is reported to be between 8 and 14 days ¹¹⁸. As the main accumulated lipid in the adipocytes is triglycerides ¹²⁴, the lipid droplets have commonly been selectively stained by oil red-O (ORO)-staining assay to quantify the intramyocellular lipid deposition ¹²⁵.



Figure 11. Schematic multiple steps mechanisms of insulin resistance induced by oxidative stress in 3T3-L1 adipocytes ^{75, 78, 126}. \uparrow = increased; \downarrow = decreased

The adipose 3T3-L1 can be used as a model of obesity to study cellular ROS production and IR (see Figure 11). The accumulated lipid in the cells can cause inflammatory and oxidative stress. Consequently, the proinflammatory mediators can inhibit the PI3K/PKB pathway. Moreover, the ROS can oxidise the protein binding sites for insulin-responsive elements (IRE) in GLUT-4⁷⁸, carbonylation of amino acids (Arg 246, Arg 265, and Lys 264) located in the glucose transport channel of GLUT-4¹²⁷, and/or complex formation with the DNA ¹²⁸. Eventually, these events can promote IR, characterised by the decline of cellular glucose uptake.

1.3. Pharmaceutical Treatments for Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

Some medications have been applied to treat T2DM as individual or combination therapy. Their effects and disadvantages are summarised in Table 2. However, the disease is still progressive due to other metabolic disorders ^{129, 130}. In some cases, treatment with metformin, the first-line drug, is inadequate due to its hydrophilic property causing minimal diffusion through cell membranes ¹³¹. Hypertension and cardiovascular diseases are commonly associated with T2DM ¹³², while therapy with sulfonylurea and exogenous insulin, for instance, have a greater risk of hypoglycaemia and weight gain ¹³³. Sodium-glucose co-transporter-2 (SGLT-2) inhibitors and glucose-like peptide 1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists, the latest classes of antidiabetic medication, seem to have a lower risk of those side effects but are expensive ^{134, 135}.

No	Class and examples	Year of introduction	Physiological actions	Disadvantages
1	Insulin injection	1920–1930	Act on insulin receptor	Hypoglycaemia, weight gain, mitogenic effect
2	Sulfonylureas Gliclazide Glipizide Glyburide	1956	Increase insulin release	Hypoglycaemia, weight gain, renal or liver damage
3	Biguanides • Metformin	1957	Increase insulin sensitivity and decrease hepatic glucose production	Gastrointestinal side effects: diarrhoea and flatulence, multiple contraindications: renal or liver damage, hypoxia, acidosis
4	α-Glucosidase inhibitors • Acarbose • Miglitol • Voglibose	1995	Reduce intestinal carbohydrate hydrolysis rate	Gastrointestinal side effects related to potent inhibition of α-amylase enzyme
5	Meglitinides Nateglinide Repaglinide 	1997	Increase insulin release	Hypoglycaemia, weight gain, liver damage
6	Thiazolidinedione s (TZDs) Pioglitazone Rosiglitazone	1997	Improve insulin sensitivity	Weight gain, heart disorder, liver toxicity
7	Glucose-like peptide 1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists • Exenatide • Liraglutide • Lixisenatide	2005	Stimulate the GLP-1 receptors, Increase insulin release	Gastrointestinal side effects, renal impairment
8	Dipeptidyl peptidase 4 (DPP- 4) inhibitors • Sitagliptin • Vildagliptin • Saxagliptin • Linagliptin • Alogliptin	2006	Inhibit DPP-4 enzyme, increase endogenous GLP-1 level	Liver impairment, pancreatitis risk

Table 2. List of common	pharmaceutical treatments of T2DM ¹	36-138
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No	Class and examples	Year of introduction	Physiological actions	Disadvantages
9	Sodium/glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT-2) inhibitors • Canagliflozin • Dapagliflozin • Empagliflozin	2012	Inhibit glucose reabsorption in the kidney	Polyuria, risk of urinary infections

Some studies have revealed that inhibiting the α -glucosidase enzyme and stimulating glucose uptake can be achieved using dietary flavonoids ¹³⁹⁻¹⁴². Flavonoid derivatives, such as polyphenolic compounds found in flowers, leaves, fruit, and bark, have been reported to exhibit those activities ¹⁴³. By binding the enzyme through non-covalent and reversible interactions performed by the hydroxyl group ¹⁴⁴, the phytochemicals exert strong inhibitory activity on the enzyme resulting in glucose homeostasis ¹⁴⁵. Interestingly, the natural products show lower interaction with α -amylase that could overcome the side effects of maldigestion ¹⁴⁶. In addition, the hydroxyl-contained compounds have been confirmed to stimulate GLUT-4 translocation via both IRS-1/PI3K and AMPK activations and inhibit lipid deposition resulting in an antiobesity activity (Figure 14) ^{145, 147, 148}. For example, myricitrin has been reported to increase the phosphorylation of IRS1 and Akt ^{149, 150} due to the strong intermolecular interaction with PI3K ¹⁵⁰. This compound has also been confirmed to phosphorylate AMPK by suppressing mRNA and protein expression of TNF- α and IL-6 ¹⁵¹.

No	Compound and source	Structure	Target activity	Effects	Reference
1	Quercetin Source:	ОН	α- glucosidase enzyme	↓ Postprandial hyperglycaemia	He et al. ¹⁵² , Zygmunt et al. ¹⁵³
	 Apple Red onion Broccoli	ОНОНОН	GLUT-4 via AMPK pathway	↑ Glucose uptake ↓ Fat accumulation in 3T3-L1 cells	Dhanya et al. ¹⁴⁷ , Yang et al. ¹⁵⁴
2	Kaempferol Source: • Tea	HO	α- glucosidase enzyme	Altering the secondary structure of the enzyme	Peng et al. ¹⁵⁵
	• Grape • Onion	он о	GLUT-4 via AMPK pathway	↑ Glucose uptake ↑ β-cells survival	Zhang et al.
3	(–)-Catechin Source:	OH	α- glucosidase enzyme	Inhibiting maltose breakdown	Matsui et al.
	• Tea • Grape		GLUT-4 via IRS-1/PI3K pathway	↑ Glucose uptake	Daisy et al. ¹⁵⁸

Table 3.	Some exa	amples (of secondary	metabolites	demonstrating	α-glucosidase	inhibitory
and gluco	ose uptake	e modula	ation		-	-	-

No	Compound and source	Structure	Target activity	Effects	Reference
	 Leguminous plants 				
4	Myricetin Source: • Grape • Berries • Onion	ОН НО ОН ОН ОН	α- glucosidase enzyme GLUT-4 via IRS-1/PI3K	Showing strong binding capacity to the enzyme ↑ GLUT-4 signalling	He et al. ¹⁵⁹ Kandasamy et
5	• Onion Naringenin	он о	pathway α-	pathway ↓ Postprandial	Proença et al.
	Source: • Grape • Orange • Tomatoes	HO O OH	glucosidase enzyme GLUT-4 via IRS-1/PI3K pathway	hyperglycaemia ↑ Glucose uptake	Zymunt et al.
6	Condensed tannins	R1 OH	α- glucosidase enzyme	↓ Postprandial hyperglycaemia	Chai et al. ¹⁶²
	Source: • Leguminous plants • Acacia plants • Berries • Grape	HO O OR_3 O OH OR_3 OH OH OR_3 OH OH HO OR_3 OH OH OR_3 OH OH HO OR_3 OH OH OR_3 OH OH OH OH OH OH OH OH	GLÚT-4 via IRS-1/PI3K and AMPK pathways	↑ Glucose uptake	Pinent et al. ¹⁴⁸
7	Cinnamic acid Source:	ОН	α- glucosidase enzyme	↓ Postprandial hyperglycaemia	Ernawati et al.
	Sweet potatoesCeleryGarlic		GLUT-4 via IRS-1/PI3K pathway	↑ Glucose uptake	Prabhakar et al. ¹⁶⁴
8	Chlorogenic acid Source:	HO	α- glucosidase enzyme	↓ Postprandial hyperglycaemia	Zheng et al. 165
	Coffee	HO HO OH	GLUT-4 via AMPK pathway	↑ Glucose uptake and antiobesity	Ong et al. ¹⁶⁶
9	Caffeic acid Source:	HO	α- glucosidase enzyme	Inhibiting the enzyme	Oboh et al. ¹⁶⁷
	• Coffee	HO ~~	GLUT-4 via IRS-1/PI3K pathway	↑ Glucose uptake	Huang et al. ¹⁶⁸
10	Methyl 3,4- dihydxybenzoate Source: • Nutmeg	HO HO HO	α- glucosidase enzyme	Inhibiting of the enzyme	Megawati et al. ¹⁶⁹

 \uparrow = increased; \downarrow = decreased



Figure 12. Schematic representation of some selected phytochemical roles as antidiabetic agents ^{147, 159, 170, 171}.

Indigenous Australia's knowledge of the medicinal properties of *Acacia* species ^{172, 173} has been scientifically confirmed to provide important bioactive constituents that show antidiabetic activities and prevent related complications and side effects. Flavonoid and phenolic derivatives such as kaempferol, caffeic acid, *p*-coumaric acid, (+)-catechin, (–)-epicatechin, and chlorogenic acid have been reported to contribute to the properties ¹⁷⁴⁻¹⁷⁷. However, the information regarding which compound is the primary antidiabetic agent remains unclear.

There are 1,380 species of *Acacia* worldwide, and two-thirds are native to Australia. Indigenous Australians have used the leaves, bark, and flowers as medicinal agents for centuries ¹⁷⁸. Decoction and infusion are the most common preparation of the ethnomedicinal plant applied by those people ^{173, 179, 180}. The Australian continent consisting of some arid, semiarid and dry subtropical regions, allows *Acacia* to grow and produce unique secondary metabolites ¹⁸¹. The compounds have various benefits for human health, such as anti-digestive disorder (tannins, saponins, flavonoids); antiplasmodial (tryptamine, tannins, organic acids, saponins); antioxidant (polyphenols); anticancer (triterpenoids, saponins); nutraceutical, diuretic therapy, and natriuretic therapy (polysaccharide, glucosides, gum) ^{182, 183}. Moreover, some Australian polyphenol-containing species such as *Acacia kempeana, A*.

ligulata, A. tetragonophylla, A. mearnsii, and *A. pycnantha* exhibit potential properties as antihyperglycemic agents ^{172, 173, 184-186}.

A. saligna, an Australian species, is constituted by various phytochemicals despite being considered a weed. Its flowers contain isosalipurposide **1** and chalcononaringenin 4-glucoside **2**¹⁸⁶, quercetin **3**, kaempferol **22**, naringenin **42**^{187, 188}, and some polyphenols ¹⁸⁹. The leaves contain quercetin **3**, catechin **14**, kaempferol **22**, and myricetin **11** derivatives ^{190, 191}. Other phenolic series in the phyllode, namely gallic acid **25**, syringic acid **28**, vanillin **29**, protocationic acid **30**, *p*-hydroxybenzoic acid **31**, *p*-coumaric acid **37**, salicylic acid **32**, and chlorogenic acid **40**, have been identified by Gumgumjee and Hajar ¹⁹¹. In the barks, some compound groups were identified as the derivatives of benzoic acid **24**, cinnamic acid **34**, phenolics, and condensed tannins ¹⁹²⁻¹⁹⁵. Some structures can be seen in Table 3.

The chemical components of *A. saligna* have been reported to have potential bioactivities. Ghribia et al. ¹⁸⁸ and Al-Huqail et al. ¹⁸⁷ demonstrated the flavonoids from the flowers with antioxidant, anti-acetylcholinesterase, and antibacterial activities. Its volatile phytochemicals possessing allelopathic activity indicate their possibility as a green herbicide ¹⁹² (see Table S1, pages 221–223). The phyllode extracts containing polyphenols have demonstrated antibacterial, anticandidal, and antifungal activities, while the pure compounds have exhibited antioxidant effects and cytotoxicity against liver cancer cells linked to the acetylation ^{190, 191, 196}. Buttner et al. ¹⁹⁷ reported the potential inhibition of the α -glucosidase enzyme by the leaf and bark extracts. However, the information on the cell-based study of antidiabetic activity of *A. saligna* is lacking.

1.4. Overview of Acacia saligna

1.4.1. Taxonomy

Acacia saligna (Labill.) H. L. Wendl. (1820) is the current scientific name for the species characterised by 2–10 m tall as a shrub or small tree, grey to red-brown bark, linear to lanceolate; 8–25 × 0.4–2 cm; green to glaucous leaves, and bright yellow flowers with 5–10 mm diameter ¹⁹⁸. It is native to Western Australia and was previously named Acacia cyanophylla Lindl, A. bracteate Maiden & Blakeley, A. *lindleyi* Meissner, *Mimosa saligna* Labill., and *Racosperma salignum* (Labill.) Pedley ¹⁹⁹. More recent studies have revealed that this highly polymorphic species has four subspecies (subsp.), i.e., "subsp. *saligna*" referred to the cyanophylla variant, "subsp. *pruinescens*" referred to the Tweed River variant, "subsp. *lindleyi*" referred to the typical variant, and "subsp. *stolonifera*" referred to the forest variant ²⁰⁰. On the other hand, people recognise the plant with familiar names such as Port Jackson wattle, Coojong, blue-leafed wattle, and Western Australia golden wattle. The following information shows the detailed taxonomic tree of the species taken from Maslin¹⁹⁸.



Figure 13. A photograph of *A. saligna* subsp. saligna collected from Tasman St, Kurnell, NSW, on 7 October 2019 for this study.

A. saligna is commonly found on poor sandy soils and coastal dune systems within South-west Western Australia. The tree is highly tolerant against drought, saline and alkaline surroundings, and frosty locations ²⁰¹. Due to the ability to stabilise a coastal dune system, this species was cultivated in the Southern and Eastern States of Australia, such as South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania ²⁰², and some countries abroad. It has been naturalised in semi-arid areas of the Middle East and Africa including Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Lybia, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Namibia, Kenya, Tanzania, and South Africa ²⁰³. The species was also introduced to European countries of United States of America, Mexico, Uruguay, and Chile ²⁰⁴. The flowering season is usually between August and October, while mature legumes appear from November to January ¹⁹⁸.

Studies were found to report the intraspecific variation of *A. saligna* and its distribution in Australia and some naturalisation countries. Millar et al. ²⁰⁵ and George et al. ²⁰⁶ have revealed the distribution of all four subspecies in Western Australia based on their genetic structure characteistics assigned by using a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) method called Bayesian analysis. The studies found that subsp. *lindleyi* has the largest population followed by subsp. *saligna*, subsp. *stolonifera*, and

subsp. *pruinescens* in its native land. Using the same approach, however, Millar et al. ²⁰⁷ identified only three intraspecific variation in Tigray (Ethiopia), including subsp. *lindleyi*, subsp. *saligna*, and subsp. *stolonifera*. Moreover, more comprehensive report ²⁰⁸ also showed the distribution of these three with varied number of population in the wider locations, including eastern Australia, Israel, Italy, New Zealand, Portugal, South Africa, Spain and the USA. Interestingly, a unique subspecies different from those found in Western Australia assigned as a South African subspecies ²⁰⁹ was found in that regions.

1.4.2. Reported chemical composition

1.4.2.1. Flowers

Studies have revealed that flavonoid derivatives were the most common phytochemicals reported from the flowers of *Acacia saligna*, along with beneficial effects as an antioxidant ^{187, 188, 196}. Isosalipurposide **1** ^{210, 211}, chalcononaringenin 4-glucoside **2** ¹⁸⁶, and quercetin **3** ¹⁸⁸ (Figure 14) have been isolated from the ethyl acetate (EtOAc) extract of the yellow-rounded flowers of *A. saligna* growing in Tunisia. Moreover, an HPLC-based study conducted by Al-Huqail et al. ¹⁸⁷ on *A. saligna* from Egypt documented the presence of quercetin **3**, kaempferol **22**, benzoic acid **24**, syringic acid **28**, *p*-hydroxybenzoic acid **31**, salicylic acid **32**, caffeic acid **35**, *o*-coumaric acid **36**, *p*-coumaric acid **37**, ferulic acid **38**, naringenin **42**, ellagic acid **44**, catechol **45**, and caffeine **46** in the water-soluble extract of flowers. To the best of our knowledge, there is no documented information about phytochemicals isolated from the flowers of this species growing in Australia.

As plants require secondary metabolites for survival and defence, biosynthesising the compounds depends on environmental factors, including rainfall, soil, salt, temperature, and geographical variations ²¹². Environmental stress can stimulate the accumulation of bioactive compounds to cope with severe conditions. For instance, uncommon saccharides grouped in polyol derivatives are produced by plants living in a water shortage and high salinity area. These factors have induced the transcription of all genes of catalysts of pinitol biosynthesis, *myo*-inositol methyl transferase (IMT) group ²¹³. Anthocyanins, common groups found in *Acacia* species, are synthesised by the plant at a higher level when light and drought stresses occur ²¹⁴. This has been linked to the inactivation of teosinte branched1-cycloidea-proliferating cell factor 15 (TCP15), an inhibitor of anthocyanin biosynthesis, by the high light intensity. In this regard, the Australian species growing in different environments facing different challenges may produce different phytochemicals from those identified in the Middle East and Africa.



 $\begin{array}{l} {\mathsf R}^{4'} = {\mathsf H}, \, {\mathsf R}^{6'} = \beta {\text -} D{\text -} {\mathsf glucoside}, \\ {\mathsf Isosalipurposide} \; {\mathbf 1} \\ {\mathsf R}^{4'} = \beta {\text -} D{\text -} {\mathsf glucoside}, \, {\mathsf R}^{6'} = {\mathsf H}, \\ {\mathsf Chalconnaringen} \; {4'}{\text -} {\mathsf glucoside} \; {\mathbf 2} \end{array}$



R³ = H, Myricetin **10**

 $R^3 = \alpha$ -*L*-rhamnopyranoside, Myricitrin **11** $R^3 = \alpha$ -*L*-arabinopyraside, Myricetin-3-Oarabinoside **12**

 $R^3 = \beta$ -*D*-glucopyranoside, Myricetin-3-*O*-glucoside **13**



 $R^5 = R^7 = H$, Apigenin **16** $R^5 = H$, $R^7 = \beta$ -*D*-glucopyranoside, Apigetrin **17**

R5 = β -*D*-glucopyranoside, R7 = H, Salipurpin **18**



 R^3 = H, Kaempferol **22** R^3 = β -*D*-glucopyranoside, Astragalin **23**



- R³ = H, Quercetin **3**
- $R^3 = \alpha$ -*L*-rhamnoside, Quercitrin **4**

 $R^3 = \alpha$ -*L*- arabipyranoside, Quercetin-3-*O*- arabinoside **5**

R³ = rhamnosyl-glucosyl, Rutin 6

 $R^3 = \beta$ -*D*-glucupyranoside, Miquelianin **7**

 $R^3 = \beta$ -*D*-glucofuranoside, Isoquercetin 8

 $R_3 = \beta$ -D-galactopyranoside, Hyperoside 9



 $R^7 = H$, (+)-Catechin **14** $R^7 = galloyl, 7-O-Galloyl-cathecin$ **15**



 R^7 = H, Luteolin **19** R^7 = β-D-glucopyranoside, Luteolin-7-Oglucoside **20** R^7 = β-D-arabinopyranoside, Luteolin-7-

O-β-arabinoside 21



 $R^{2} = R^{3} = R^{4} = R^{5} = H, R^{2'} = OH, Benzoic$ acid**24** $<math>R^{2} = H, R^{3} = R^{4} = R^{5} = R^{2'} = OH, Gallic$ acid**25**

R² = H, R³ = R⁴ = R⁵ = OH, R^{2'} = OMe, Methyl gallate **26** R² = H, R³ = R⁴ = R⁵ = OH, R^{2'} = OPr, Propyl gallate **27** R² = H, R⁴ = R^{2'} = OH, R³ = R⁵ = OMe, Syringic acid **28** R² = R³ = R^{2'} = H, R⁴ = OH, R⁵ = OMe, Vanilin **29** R² = R³ = H, R⁴ = R⁵ = R^{2'} = OH, Protocatechuic acid **30** R² = R³ = R⁵ = H, R⁴ = R^{2'} = OH, *p*-Hydroxy benzoic **31** R³ = R⁴ = R⁵ = H, R² = R^{2'} = OH, Salicylic acid **32**



 $R^3 = \alpha$ -*L*-rhamnopyranoside, Myricetin-3-O-rhamnoside (C⁷-O-C⁷) myricetin-3-O-rhamnoside **33**





 $R^{2} = R^{3} = R^{4} = H$, Cinnamic acid $R^{2} = H$, $R^{3} = R^{4} = OH$, Caffeic acid $R^{2} = OH$, $R^{3} = R^{4} = H$, *o*-Coumaric acid $R^{2} = R^{3} = H$, $R^{4} = OH$, *p*-Coumaric acid $R^{2} = H$, $R^{3} = OMe$, $R^{4} = OH$, Ferulic acid



Chlorogenic acid 40



 R^7 = H, Naringenin **42** R^7 = *α*-*L*-rhamnosyl-(1→2)-*β*-*D*-glucopyranoside, Naringin **43**







Figure 14. Phenolics and alkaloid derivatives identified in flowers ^{187, 188}, leaves ^{189, 190, 196, 215, 216}, and barks ²¹⁷ of *A. saligna*.

1.4.2.2. Leaves

Some flavonoid derivatives such as astragalin 23¹⁸⁹; quercetin derivatives 3–5; myricetin derivatives 10–13, catechin derivatives 14, 15^{190, 196, 216}; rutin 6; taxifolin 41; naringenin 42²¹⁸; and luteolin derivatives 19–21²¹⁵ have been identified in its polar extract of leaves. In addition, using HPLC, benzoic acid derivatives (gallic acid 25, syringic acid 28, vanillin 29, protocatechuic acid 30, and p-hydroxybenzoic 31), cinnamic acid derivatives (cinnamic acid 34, caffeic acid 35, p-coumaric acid 37, ferulic acid **38**, and chlorogenic acid **40**), phenolic esters (methyl gallate **26** and propyl gallate 27), and a coumarin derivative (ellagic acid 44) observed by Guneidy et al. ²¹⁸ from ethanol (EtOH) extract, Elansary et al. ²¹⁶ from methanol (MeOH) extract, and Gumgumjee et al.¹⁹¹ from EtOH extract showed that its leaves could be considered the source of bioactive phenolic compounds. Other groups of compounds were also identified in the leaves. For instance, the methanolic extract of the leaves gave three derivatives of saponin (73–75, Figure 15) ¹⁹⁶. All the reported phytochemicals in the leaves were obtained from A. saligna collected from Middle East regions, while no phytochemicals have been reported in the leaves found in the plant growing in Australia.



 $R^1 = R^2 = H$, Erythrodiol **73** $R^1 = p$ -coumaric, $R^2 = H$, 3β -O-*trans-p*-coumaryl erythrodiol **74**



(25*S*)-5 β -spirostan-3 β -yl-3-O- β -*D*-xylopyranosyl(1 \rightarrow 3)-*O*- β -*D*-xylopyranosyl(1 \rightarrow 4)- β -*D*-galactopyranoside **75**

Figure 15. Saponin derivatives elucidated in MeOH extract of A. saligna leaves ¹⁹⁶.

Accumulated flavonols have been found co-localising with ROS in the plant cells. This phenomenon responds to abiotic-induced ROS production in plants' cytoplasm, nucleus, and cell wall ²¹⁴. Abiotic factors can influence the chemical composition of the plant extracts. For example, the leaves harvested from the Albahah region of South-west Saudi Arabia ²¹⁹ had lower gallic acid and *p*-coumaric acid content of 0.0054% and 0.0008%, respectively, than those in the leaves collected from Orman Botanical Garden Giza, Egypt ²¹⁵ with the percentage of 19.2% and 6.4%, respectively. A literature search found that the Al-Bahah region is a dry area with an annual mean rainfall of 142.6 mm/year ²²⁰ and medium to high soil salinity ²²¹ while the Giza area is an arid area estimated at 1.2 mm/year of annual rainfall ²²² with high soil salinity ²²³. Moreover, studies on drought and saline stress showed a significantly elevated level of gallic acid and *p*-coumaric acid in Lentil seeds varieties Tina ²²⁴ and wheat *Aegilops cylindrica* ²²⁵ compared to their controls. These findings imply the influences of abiotic stresses in phenolic biosynthesis.

1.4.2.3. Bark

Although no paper has reported the isolation of any single chemical from the bark of *A. saligna*, a recent study from Salem and colleagues ²²⁶ by screening the EtOH extract of barks *via* HPLC-VWD detected the presence of quercetin **3**, rutin **6**, kaempferol **22**, benzoic acid **24**, gallic acid **25**, vanillin **29**, caffeic acid **35**, *o*-coumaric acid **36**, *p*-coumaric acid **37**, ferulic acid **38**, rosmarinic acid **39**, chlorogenic acid **40**, and caffeine **46**. The barks of *Acacias* have also been documented as a source of gums and tannin derivatives ²²⁷. Indigenous Australians have applied *Acacia* barks to cure cough, rheumatic fever, and dysentery ¹⁸⁰.

1.4.3. Bioactivities of the plant

Like other species of Acacia, *A. saligna* also has been potential to manage the risk factors of certain disorders, including microorganisms and prooxidants. Leaves were frequently documented for this purpose, followed by flowers, as they have been recognised as a flavonoid-rich source ^{190, 196, 228}. Several methods were employed to determine the responsible compounds. For instance, proximate analysis, including phenolic and flavonoid content quantification, was the primary method used by most authors (60%), followed by single compound isolation and identification (23%), HPLC analysis (14%), and GCMS analysis (3%). Table S1 (Appendix A, pages 221–223) shows flavonoid derivatives were the predominant active compounds linked to the properties, followed by phenolic acids such as benzoic and cinnamic acid derivatives.

1.4.3.1. Antioxidant

Some reports have confirmed the antioxidant activity of *A. saligna* through *in vitro* assays such as DPPH and ABTS. Its flowers extracted by water demonstrated a weaker IC₅₀ value against DPPH than the positive control, butylated hydroxyl toluene (BHT) ¹⁸⁷. Phenolic and flavonoid derivatives screened using HPLC were associated with the activity. Another HPLC-based screening identified quercitrin **4**, rutinoside **6**, miquelianin **7**, isoquercetin **8**, hyperoside **9**, gallic acid **25**, and *p*-coumaric acid **37** as the significant contributors to the antioxidant activity of MeOH leaf extract ²¹⁶. In addition, a chromatographic study ²²⁶ on EtOH bark extract showed a high content of benzoic acid **24**, catechol **45**, naringenin **42**, quinol, and rutin **6**. This ethanolic extract possessed remarkable antioxidant activity against DPPH and β-carotene-linoleic acid (a bleach).

Interestingly, biflavonoid glycoside of myricetin-3-*O*-rhamnoside (C⁷-*O*-C⁷) myricetin-3-*O*-rhamnoside **33** along with myricitrin **11** isolated from a MeOH extract of the leaves neutralised ABTS cation radicals ¹⁹⁶. Isosalipurposide **1**, quercetin **3**, and naringenin **42** isolated from flowers by EtOAc were responsible for the antioxidant activity of the extract in DPPH and ABTS ¹⁸⁸. Other phytochemical groups were also recognised to contribute to the antioxidant property of *A. saligna*. Polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) were detected in the MeOH seeds extract that displayed free radical scavenging activity in DPPH and ABTS ²²⁹.

1.4.3.2. Antimicrobial

A. saligna possesses antibacterial activities. The water extract of flowers inhibited the growth of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* (minimum inhibitory concentration or MIC = 200 μ g/mL), *Enterobacter cloacae* (MIC = 300 μ g/mL), *Erwinia amylovora* (MIC = 300 μ g/mL), and *Pectobacterium carotovorum* subsp. *carotovorum* (MIC = 100 μ g/mL) ¹⁸⁷. Another work on its leaves ¹⁹⁰ documented the antibacterial activities of the EtOAc fraction against gram-positive bacteria, including *Staphylococcus aureus*

(MIC = 0.41 μ g/mL), Streptococcus pyogens (MIC = 0.46 μ g/mL), Bacillus cereus (MIC = 0.41 μ g/mL) and *B. subtilius* (MIC = 0.14 μ g/mL), and the yeast Candida albicans (MIC = 3.7 μ g/mL).

This study also found thirteen flavonoid derivatives (3 - 5, 10 - 17, and 19) and two phenolic acids (25 and 26) from the active fraction. However, the activity of the single compound was not reported. Moreover, the EtOH extract of the leaves contains predominantly phenolic acids, including gallic acid 25, syringic acid 28, vanillin 29, protocatioic acid 30, *p*-hydroxybenzoic acid 31, salicylic acid 32, *p*-coumaric acid 37, and chlorogenic acid 40 which was also found to be active against not only gram-positive bacteria such as *Micrococcus* (diameter of inhibition zone or DIZ = 27.66 mm) and *Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) (DIZ = 27.66 mm), but also gram-negative bacteria, *Escherichia coli* (DIZ = 25.66 mm), *Klebsiella pneumonia* (DIZ = 29.33 mm), and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (DIZ = 25.66 mm) ¹⁹¹. The MeOH extract of the leaves was also an inhibitor of *Listeria monocytogenes* (MIC = 0.47 mg/mL), *E. coli* (MIC = 0.31 mg/mL), *S. aureus* (MIC = 0.30 mg/mL), *B. cereus* (MIC = 0.37 mg/mL) ²¹⁶.

1.4.3.3. Antifungal

This plant has been reported to inhibit numerous species of pathogenic fungi. For instance, 3% of the aqueous extract of the flowers significantly prevented *Melia azedarach* wood from discolouration caused by *Fusarium culmorum* (38.51% of inhibition), *Rhizoctonia solani* (41.48%), and *Penicillium chrysogenum* (65.92%) ¹⁸⁷. Moreover, a preventive activity against the growth of *Aspergillus niger* (DIZ = 20 mm), *A. fumigatus* (DIZ = 25.67 mm), *A. flavus* (DIZ = 21.33 mm), and *Candida albicans* (DIZ = 23.33 mm) has also been found ¹⁹¹ in the EtOH extract of the leaves. The activity of some pathogenic fungi such as *A. ochraceus*, *A. niger*, *A. flavus*, *C. albicans*, *P. ochrochloron*, and *P. funiculosum* was also suppressed by methanolic leaves extract containing quercetin **3**, rutin **6**, miquelianin **7**, hyperoside **9**, and *p*-coumaric acid **37** as the possible contributors ²¹⁶ (Table 4).

The EtOH extract of the barks displayed fungicidal properties indicated by the inhibition of the growth of six types of *Fusarium oxysporum* isolated from different plant hosts, *Pisum sativum* L. (*F. oxysporum* 1 with MIC = 125 mg/L), *Cucurbita pepo* L. (*F. oxysporum* 2 with MIC = 125 mg/L), *Oryza sativa* L. (*F. oxysporum* 3 with MIC = 64 mg/L), *Capsicum annuum* L. (*F. oxysporum* 4 with MIC = 64 mg/L), *Physalis*

peruviana L. (*F. oxysporum* 5 with MIC = 64 mg/L), and *Vicia faba* L. (*F. oxysporum* 6 with MIC = 64 mg/L) 226 .

	MIC, MFC (mg/mL) against						
Sample	A. ochraceus	A. niger	A. flavus	C. albicans	P. ochrochloron	P. funiculosum	
<i>A. saligna</i> extract	0.30, 0.91	0.38, 0.95	0.48, 1.02	0.58, 1.42	0.43, 1.01	0.44, 1.31	
Quercetin 3	0.31, 0.63	0.20, 0.75	0.21, 0.75	0.06, 0.33	0.24, 0.70	0.29, 0.63	
Miquelianin 7	0.26, 0.52	0.17, 0.61	0.18, 0.62	0.06, 0.27	0.21, 0.60	0.26, 0.54	
Rutin 6	0.21, 0.45	0.18, 0.55	0.28, 0.62	0.25, 0.51	0.30, 0.71	0.23, 0.43	
Hyperoside 9	0.10, 0.46	0.13, 0.50	0.15, 0.52	0.21, 1.03	0.25, 1.03	0.31, 1.19	
<i>p</i> -Coumaric acid 36	0.22, 0.43	0.23, 0.45	0.21, 0.41	0.32, 0.60	0.22, 0.59	0.20, 0.40	

Table 4. Antifungal activities of MeOH extract of A. saligna leaves and its constituents ²²⁶

1.4.3.4. Inhibition of α -glucosidase

Only a few studies investigated the antidiabetic property of A. saligna. Buttner *et al.*¹⁹⁷ reported the inhibitory effects of aqueous and ethanolic leaf and bark extracts on α -amylase and α -glucosidase (Table 5). The extracts have a high flavonoid and phenolic content. Moreover, MeOH extracts of flowers, leaves, seeds, and branches can also be inhibitors of the α -glucosidase ²³⁰. In diabetic rats, the aqueous-alcoholic leaf extract decreased blood sugar levels from 255 to 117 mg/dL, indicating a change from diabetic to pre-diabetic status ²¹⁵. Although quercetin 3, myricetin 10, and luteolin 19 and their glycone forms, i.e., quercitrin 4, quercetin-3-O- β -arabinopyranoside 5. miquelianin 7, myricetrin 11, myricetin-3-O-β-12, 13, arabinopyranoside myricetin-3-*O*-β-glucopyranoside luteolin-7-O-βglucopyranoside **20**, and luteolin-7-O- β -arabinopyranoside **21** were also isolated from the extract, none presented the antihyperglycemic effects alone.

Sampla	IC ₅₀ (μg/mL) against			
Sample	α-Amylase	α-Glucosidase		
Aqueous bark extract	34.78	3.41		
EtOH bark extract	10.45	2.35		
Aqueous leaf extract	45.10	5.35		
EtOH leaf extract	17.67	3.64		

Table 5. Inhibitory activities of bark and leaf extracts of A. saligna against α -glucosidase ¹⁹⁷

1.4.3.5. Anti-inflammation

Acacia plants, including A. saligna, have anti-inflammatory activities due to the rich content of bioactive constituents. A butanol (BuOH) extract of the shoots showed potent inhibition of inflammatory markers, PGE2, COX-2, and IL-1 β in a rat model of ulcerative colitis induced by acetic acid ²³¹. Some bioactive compounds, including quercetin **3**, rutin **6**, catechin **14**, kaempferol **22**, gallic acid **25**, methyl gallate **26**, syringic acid **28**, cinnamic acid **34**, caffeic acid **35**, coumaric acid **37**, ferulic acid **38**, chlorogenic acid **40**, taxifolin **41**, naringenin **42**, and ellagic acid **44** were linked to the anti-inflammatory effects.

1.4.3.6. Antiparasitic

A. saligna, rich in phenolic and flavonoid compounds, has been believed to control the activity of parasites such as ticks. A study ²¹⁸ documented that the EtOH extract of the leaves contains a high level of condensed and hydrolysable tannin as well as derivatives of benzoic acid, cinnamic acid, flavonoids, phenolic esters, and coumarin, which might be responsible for antiparasitic activity. Furthermore, the acaricidal bioassay against *Rhipicephalus annulatus* Say indicated that the extract inhibited the catalytic activity of glutathione *S*-transferases of the hematophageal ectoparasites ²¹⁸. Consequently, the risk of drug resistance by the ticks against acaricide can be minimised.

1.4.3.7. Allelopathic

The allelopathy characteristics of *A. saligna* contribute to its invasive nature ²³². Methanolic extracts of the flowers and leaves can inhibit the germination of *Hordeum murinum* ²³³. Bioactive compounds contributing to such action include terpenes, tannins, flavonoids, and phenolics allelochemicals. Furthermore, various essential oils have been extracted from the flowers, leaves, and pods, which can restrict seed germanium and the growth of lettuce (*Lactuca sativa* L.) ¹⁹². The major allelochemical component analysed by GC-MS was dodecanoic acid.

1.4.3.8. Cytotoxicity

Some *in vitro* studies revealed the cytotoxic activity of the plant and phytochemicals on cancer cell lines. Gedara and Galala ¹⁹⁶ reported that a spirostane saponin, erythrodiol, and flavonoid series in the MeOH extract of the leaves inhibited the development of liver cancer line HEPG2 cells. This study showed that the anticancer activity of myricitrin **11** was stronger than quercitrin **4** and myricetin-3-*O*-rhamnoside (C^7 -*O*- C^7) myricetin-3-*O*-rhamnoside **33**. The finding supported the structure-activity relationships (SAR) observation that less OH in ring B and the bulky group at C-7 decreased the cytotoxicity ²³⁴. MeOH leaf extract containing quercitrin **4**, rutin **6**, miquelianin **7**, isoquercetin **8**, hyperoside **9**, and *p*-coumaric acid **37** also

induced apoptosis in several cancer cell lines, such as HT-29, HeLa, MCF-7, HEK-293, and Jurkat ²¹⁶. Chang et al. ²³⁵ and Touil et al. ²³⁶ highlighted the important features of the structure of flavonoids in cytotoxic activities. These are (i) the C2=C3 double bond, (ii) the appropriate number and position of OH, 3-OH, and (iii) 3',4'-*ortho*-hydroxylation of ring B.

1.4.3.9. Other bioactivities

A publication from Ghribia and co-workers ¹⁸⁸ suggested the antiacetylcholinesterase effects of three different extracts of flowers, i.e., dichloromethane, EtOAc, and butanol extract, due to its unique phytoconstituent, isosalipurposide. Isosalipurposide has been reported as a cholinesterase enzyme inhibitor through intermolecular interactions between enzyme active sites and the major functional groups. For instance, π - π interaction and hydrogen bindings have been formed due to the lipophilic aromatic rings A and B and the carbonyl group, respectively ²³⁷. Moreover, hydroxyls at C7 of ring A and C4' of ring B also contributed to the inhibitory properties ²³⁸.

Apart from the bioactivities mentioned above, which are beneficial for human health, *A. saligna* has also been recognised to exert a beneficial impact on ruminants. For example, aqueous extracts of flowers, leaves, and stems have prevented acidosis and microbial fermentation of ruminant feeds ²³⁹. Furthermore, the foliage of this species applied for forage demonstrated an antinematode effect by significantly reducing faecal egg count in a study with Barbarine lambs ²⁴⁰, attributed to tannins. A study on rabbits fed by *A. saligna* phyllode showed that the *Acacia* supplementation has increased reproductive parameters, such as total sperm output, sperm motility, and total functional sperm fraction ²⁴¹. In addition, due to the decreased level of thiobarbituric acid-reactive substances (TBARS) and the increased activity of glutathione *S*-transferase, the improved reproduction performance was also in line with the protecting action of phytochemicals of the leaves to the sperms from toxic by-products of peroxidation of unsaturated fatty acids ²⁴¹.

1.4.4. Other applications of Acacia saligna

1.4.4.1. Fodder

Livestock farmers in arid and semiarid areas have struggled with feedstock deficit during the autumn and summer, whereas *A. saligna* grows well in all seasons in such dry environments. Following this situation, the species has been utilised as either a sole or combined source of fodder ²⁴². *A. saligna* has a good nutrition content

to meet the demand for elementary substances for ruminants ²⁴³. On the other hand, McDonald et al. ¹⁹⁹ reported that the nutritional value of *Acacias* seems to be lower than expected when they grow in drought lands. Applying *A. saligna* as supplementary fodder is preferable ^{244, 245} since the high tannin content has been associated with unfavourable impacts on the animal, such as weight loss, when applied as the sole fodder ^{246, 247}. In contrast, when Acacia foliage was supplied to the goats, tannins were linked to the protective effect against protein degradation by catalytic enzymes in the rumen ²⁴⁸. As a result, the level of post-ruminal amino acids was higher, improving the growth of the life stock.

1.4.4.2. Food source

Seeds of *A. saligna* have been a food source for humans documented in recent years. The plant produces edible seeds (with >30% content rich in protein and soluble carbohydrate ^{249, 250}) consumed by indigenous Australians ^{251, 252} and Tigrayan people in Ethiopia ²⁵³. Moreover, study ²⁵⁴ also showed a high level of lipids (10% of dried weight), carotenoids, tocopherols, and sterols in the seeds. The methods for processing the seeds for food consumption were soaking, boiling, and roasting to eliminate toxic substances ²⁴⁹. For example, a toxic amino acid called djenkolic acid has been identified in *Acacia* seeds, including *A. saligna*, with 1.9% bioactive chemicals interfering with gut nutrient digestion to protect against predators ²⁵⁵. Roasting the seeds is the best way to reduce such content to a negligible concentration and increase phenolic compounds ^{249, 250, 256}. Furthermore, the seeds have also been considered a source of ω 6 fatty acids. A report from Youzbachi et al. ²²⁹ uncovered the high level of principal fatty acids, including linoleic (61–65%), oleic (20–23%) and palmitic acids (9–10%) in the seeds.

1.5. Research aim

This work investigated the biological activities and mechanism of actions of extracts and isolated compounds from Australian *A. saligna* (Labill.) H.L.Wendl. subs. saligna (flowers, leaves, and bark) against common causes of T2DM.

1.6. Research objectives

The objectives of this study were:

1.6.1. To determine the active extracts from the flowers, leaves, and barks of *A*. saligna (Labill.) H.L.Wendl. using the free radicals scavenging assay, α-glucosidase inhibition assay, and 3T3-L1 adipocytes, an *in vitro* model of white adipose tissue.

- 1.6.2. To isolate and elucidate the structure of bioactive compounds from the identified biologically active crude extracts through spectroscopic methods.
- 1.6.3. To determine the possible pathway involved in the cellular glucose uptake in the 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated by the active extracts and isolated compounds.
- 1.6.4. To determine the effects of *A. saligna* extracts and compounds on the mitochondrial function in 3T3-L1 adipocytes.

CHAPTER 2: RESULT AND DISCUSSION OF EXTRACTION AND BIOACTIVITIES OF EXTRACTS

2.1. Introduction of Chapter 2

This chapter aims to discuss the outcomes of plant extraction, including the yield, phenolic and flavonoid content and identified phytochemicals in the extracts using a GCMS analysis. Enormous aspects, including sample preparation, the polarity of solvents, the ratio of sample and solvent, the type of extraction, temperature, the chemical nature of the desired compounds, and the interfering substances, strongly influence the acquired bioactive phytochemicals ^{257, 258}. Among them, selecting the proper solvent for extraction is most likely the main factor in the effectiveness of desired bioactive compound isolation with solvent extraction ²⁵⁹. For instance, hexane and acetone are common solvents to extract aliphatic groups, fatty acid, terpene, and steroid derivatives, while ethanol and methanol are effective for extracting phenolic, flavonoid, and polyol derivatives ²⁶⁰. A single type of solvent is usually used for solvent extraction of plants using various traditional methods such as maceration, percolation, reflux, or soxhlation, followed by solvent fractionation. However, this approach may result in extracts with complex extracted compounds that require more plant materials, time, and solvents for purification. Hence, sequential extraction or liquidliquid partitioning can be alternative to selectively separate polarity-based compounds at the first stage of the process. As a result, the obtained extract can be less complex as compounds have been pooled into the same polarity with solvents. This approach generally starts with a less polar solvent, such as hexane, to remove lipophilic groups, followed by higher polarity to extract phenolics, flavonoids, and polar non-phenolic compounds.

A bioassay-guided separation can be applied to achieve the efficiency and effectivity of the isolation of possibly active compounds. *In vitro* assays are believed to be faster, inexpensive, and less complicated than the *in vivo* screening of active compounds ²⁶¹. The antioxidant assay is an appropriate method to meet the specificity, simplicity, and efficiency of the purification ²⁶². Moreover, as mentioned in the previous chapter, oxidative stress has been commonly linked to T2DM. Being obese and consuming a diet high in fat and glucose can induce the development of T2DM due to the overproduction of ROS. ROS can cause spontaneous reactions *via* transferring an electron or a hydrogen atom from other molecules to compensate for the electron deficiency ²⁶³. Indeed, previous studies have shown that compounds with antioxidant activity can improve glycaemic control in animal models of T2DM ¹⁰⁷. Furthermore, antioxidant and α -glucosidase inhibition assays-based fractionation

may help select the most promising extracts for further developing antidiabetic compounds from *A. saligna*. As part of this research project, we aimed to use these methods to screen the antioxidant potential of *A. saligna* extracts using vitamin C as the positive control ²⁶⁴⁻²⁶⁷.

As the main source of energy for human activities, recommended 40–70% of energy intake, dietary carbohydrates such as cereal grains, bread, and potatoes, comprise starch (60%), sucrose (20–30%), and maltose (10%) ²⁶⁸. Enzymes must hydrolyse such complex carbohydrates into monosaccharides before their absorption into the blood. One endogenous enzyme involved in carbohydrate breakdown is α -glucosidase, classified into maltase-glucoamylase (MGAM) and sucrose-isomaltase (SI) ²⁶⁹. Both enzymes consist of N-terminal (Nt-MGAM and Nt-SI) and C-terminal (Ct-MGAM and Ct-SI) catalytic sites ²⁷⁰.

One primary target for managing T2DM is α -glucosidase, as the enzyme inhibition has been associated with a 36% decrease in T2DM progression and a 34% and 49% risk reduction in hypertension and cardiovascular events, respectively ²⁷¹. Such enzymes consist of *N*-terminal and *C*-terminal catalytic sites ²⁷⁰ that cleave polysaccharides following glycosylation and hydrolysis. However, flavonoids have been evidenced to neutralise the active sites *via* hydrogen bindings by suggested groups, namely hydroxyls at C-3, -5, -7, and -8, -4', and 5' and carbonyl oxygen at C-4 ^{161, 272}. Moreover, double bonds of C2=C3 and C α =C β for chalcone have been recognised to stabilise the link between rings A and B and form a near-planar structure that supports the compounds to quickly enter the enzyme's hydrophobic pockets ^{161, 273}. As *A. saligna* is the source of such phytochemicals, and thus we also aimed to explore if any bioactive extract from *A. saligna* can exert an inhibition against a yeast α -glucosidase activity.

2.2. Sequential extraction of flowers, leaves, and barks

Twelve extracts were obtained from the sequential extraction of flowers, leaves, and bark of *A. saligna* with varied yields. Dried flowers were sequentially extracted through a four-step extraction followed by *in vacuo* solvent evaporation to give the following extracts: hexane extract of flowers (FL-hex) (1.71 g), dichloromethane extract of flowers (FL-DCM) (1.79 g), methanol extract of flowers (FL-MeOH) (26.17 g) and aqueous extract of flowers (FL-H₂O) (36.31 g). The FL-hex and FL-DCM are sticky yellow gums, while FL-MeOH and FL-H₂O are yellow powder. The dried leaves were sequentially extracted to give hexane extract of leaves (LF-hex) (3.08 g), dichloromethane extract of leaves (LF-DCM) (4.98 g), methanol extract

of leaves (LF-MeOH) (25.37 g) and aqueous extract of leaves (LF-H₂O) (13.32 g) after evaporation. The extracts appeared like flower extracts. The dried bark was also sequentially extracted to give hexane extract of bark (BK-hex) (0.68 g), dichloromethane extract of bark (BK-DCM) (2.12 g), methanol extract of bark (BK-MeOH) (18.26 g) and aqueous extract of bark (BK-H₂O) (4.34 g). Even though both BK-hex and BK-DCM are brown solids, different from the less polar-soluble extracts from the previous parts, the appearance of BK-MeOH and BK-H₂O is the same, brown powder. All extracts were stored in a -20°C freezer before further use.



Figure 16. Schematic diagrams of the outcomes of extraction of (a) flowers, (b) leaves, and (c) bark.

Figure 17 shows that more polar solvents gave higher yields than those with less polarity. The same finding was confirmed by Missio et al. ²⁷⁴ by extracting *A. mearnsii* using *n*-hexane, ethyl acetate (EtOAc), pentanol, propanol, and MeOH. The research reported that flavonoids, tannins, and saccharides were the major components of the polar extracts. Our phenolic and flavonoid content evaluation quantified compound groups in the MeOH extracts with higher estimations than those

in the hexane, dichloromethane, and water extracts. Furthermore, the GCMS analysis also indicated more extracted polar ingredients (e.g., hydroxy and amine groups) in the MeOH and aqueous extracts. Some of them are derivatives of the primary metabolites. According to Enev et al. ²⁷⁵, solvents with a higher polarity have been thought to disrupt intermolecular interactions within the matrix compounds to create a strong hydrogen bonding to the desired phytochemicals. This process allows the solvent to withdraw the target compounds from the plant tissues.

2.3. Phenolic content and flavonoid content of the extracts

The phenolic and flavonoid contents were estimated using a spectrophotometric method expressed in gallic acid equivalent (GAE) and quercetin equivalent (QE), respectively. Table 6 and Figure 17 show that all methanolic extracts have a higher estimated phenolic and flavonoid content in each part extract. This finding may support the report ²³³ that MeOH extract of Egyptian *A. saligna* flowers and leaves possessed a greater allelopathic property than non-alcoholic extract. When compared within the methanolic group, the estimated phenolic and flavonoid content can be expressed in a trend of increasing values order as FL-MeOH < LF-MeOH < BK-MeOH.

No	Extract	Phenolic content (mg GAE/g extract)	Flavonoid content (mg QE/g extract)
1	FL-hex	0.291 ± 0.03	0.845 ± 0.29
2	FL-DCM	0.99 ± 0.04	0.850 ± 0.25
3	FL-MeOH	0.998 ± 0.03	1.04 ± 0.41
4	FL-H ₂ O	0.349 ± 0.01	0.647 ± 0.36
5	LF-hex	0.503 ± 0.06	0.615 ± 0.38
6	LF-DCM	0.663 ± 0.01	1.325 ± 0.19
7	LF-MeOH	2.211 ± 0.07	2.093 ± 0.98
8	LF-H ₂ O	0.395 ± 0.01	0.679 ± 0.22
9	BK-hex	0.220 ± 0.01	0.699 ± 0.39
10	BK-DCM	0.173 ± 0.02	0.489 ± 0.30
11	BK-MeOH	2.79 ± 0.08	2.908 ± 1.38
12	BK-H ₂ O	0.420 ± 0.02	0.844 ± 0.14

 Table 6. Quantified phenolic and flavonoid content of A. saligna extracts estimated using spectrophotometric analysis

FL-hex: hexane extract of flowers, FL-DCM: dichloromethane extract of flowers, FL-MeOH: methanol extract of flowers, FL-H₂O: aqueous extract of flowers, LF-hex: hexane extract of leaves, LF-DCM: dichloromethane extract of leaves, LF-MeOH: methanol extract of leaves, LF-H₂O: aqueous extract of leaves, BK-hex: hexane extract of bark, BK-DCM: dichloromethane extract of bark, BK-MeOH: methanol extract of bark, BK-H₂O: aqueous extract of bark, BK-H₂O: aqueous extract of bark, BK-H₂O: aqueous extract of bark, BK-MeOH: methanol extract of bark, BK-H₂O: aqueous extract of bark, BK-MeOH: methanol extract of bark, BK-H₂O: aqueous extract of bark, GAE: gallic acid equivalent, QE: quercetin equivalent



Figure 17. Estimation of (a) phenolic content and (b) flavonoid content of *A. saligna* extracts. GAE: gallic acid equivalent, QE: quercetin equivalent, FL-hex: hexane extract of flowers, FL-DCM: dichloromethane extract of flowers, FL-MeOH: methanol extract of flowers, FL-H₂O: aqueous extract of flowers, LF-hex: hexane extract of leaves, LF-DCM: dichloromethane extract of leaves, LF-MeOH: methanol extract of leaves, BK-hex: hexane extract of leaves, BK-hex: hexane extract of bark, BK-DCM: dichloromethane extract of bark, BK-MeOH: methanol extract of bark. Data in mean ± SEM, **** *p* < 0.0001 (*n* = 3, One-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc).

The phenolic content of our methanolic leaves and barks extract has higher values than those reported for ethanolic extract of leaves and barks extracts of *A. saligna* in South Africa of 0.95 and 1.2 mg gallic acid equivalent (GAE)/mL, respectively ¹⁹⁷. Previous studies by Gedara & Galala ¹⁹⁶ and El-Toumy et al. ¹⁹⁰ confirmed that *A. saligna* leaves extract from 70% aqueous methanol extraction afforded various isolated compounds of polyphenols such as two different phenolic acids, flavan-3-ol, and flavonoid derivatives. Even though there is little documentation of the flowers' quantitative phenolic and flavonoid content from other studies, *A.*

saligna flower is believed to be rich in phenolic acid, chalcone, and flavanol derivatives.

2.4. Phytochemicals screened by GCMS

Following the detected compounds in the *A. saligna* extracts using the GCMS, a selective analysis was carried out through screening phytochemicals reports to ensure the presence of the volatile compounds in the plant. In brief, various phytochemical groups have been found in the samples. For instance, volatile molecules, including the derivatives of alkane, alkene, aldehyde, ether, and fatty acid, were predominantly observed in the FL-hex and LF-hex extract. Furthermore, terpenoid derivatives were found in the DCM extracts of flowers and leaves. On the other hand, more polar groups were detected in the methanolic and water extracts of all three parts of the plant. They were members of the carboxylic acid, sugar, polyol, amino acid, peptide, and heteroatom ring group.

Hexane has been reported as an effective solvent to extract long-chain carbon compounds, such as hydrocarbons, oxygenated long-chain hydrocarbon, terpenoid, and fatty acids ^{276, 277}. Many long-chain carbon compounds were also identified from the FL-, LF-, and BK-hexane extracts. For instance, saturated and unsaturated hydrocarbons were present in the extracts, along with carboxylic acid derivatives, in trace levels between 0.01% and 0.46%. Two terpene derivatives, αand β -amyrin, were detected in our DCM extract of the flowers at a very low level of 0.43 and 0.68%, respectively. Moreover, broader levels of steroids were also found in the DCM extracts of the plant, from 0.83% to 4.96%. Allelochemicals such as chondrillasterol were detected in both FL- and LF-DCM extracts, estimated for 0.83% and 4.96%, respectively. A polyol derivative, 4-C-methyl-myo-inositol or lamitol, was found at higher levels in the MeOH extracts. It was guantified for 6.42%, 42.74%, and 2.94% in FL-, LF-, and BK-MeOH extract, respectively. This compound was also found in LF-H₂O, with a high percentage of 18.99%. Further information on the phytochemicals analysed by the GCMS is presented in Figure S1-S3 (pages 221-223) and Tables S2-S4 (pages 226-241).

2.5. Antioxidant activity of extracts against the DPPH

Figure 18 and Table S5 (Appendix A, pages 241–242) show the doseresponse DPPH scavenging activity of flowers, leaves, and bark extracts obtained in this study. All non-methanolic extracts demonstrated lower activity of free radical neutralisation, whereas the methanolic samples possessed a better scavenging property. This trend agrees with the previously reported finding that polar organic solvent extract seemed to have better antioxidant activity due to its high polyphenols content ²⁶⁷. Our study also showed that phenolic and flavonoid content was higher in the methanolic extracts. The BK-MeOH extract has the highest antioxidant activity with IC₅₀ of 94.24 ± 19.89 µg/mL, followed by LF-MeOH (IC₅₀ = 190.1 ± 59.15 µg/mL) and FL-MeOH (IC₅₀ = 331.5 ± 17.21 µg/mL). Compared to vitamin C (49.97 ± 10.76 µg/mL), the decreasing order of DPPH scavenging potency among the methanolic extracts is MeOH-bark > MeOH-leaf > MeOH-flower.

Using a similar DPPH method, the crude ethyl acetate extract from flowers of *A. saligna* collected in Tunisia was shown to have an IC₅₀ of 67 µg/mL ²⁷⁸, while the water flower extract from Egyptian species showed poor activity with an IC₅₀ of 461.7 µg/mL ²²⁸. Elansary et al. ²⁷⁹ showed that their crude methanolic extract of leaves collected in Saudi Arabia has a potent antioxidant activity with an IC₅₀ of 17 µg/mL. The crude methanolic extract from barks collected in Egypt was reported ²⁸⁰ to have an IC₅₀ of 10.1 µg/mL. The variation in activities may mainly be attributed to each extract's different chemical compositions affected by the growing conditions ²⁸¹ and methods of extraction and assay.



Figure 18. The dose-response curve of the active methanolic extract of flowers, leaves, and barks and vitamin C against radical DPPH. Data in mean \pm SEM, n= 3.

2.6. Antioxidant activity of extracts against the ABTS⁺⁺

Table S7 (pages 242–243) shows the dose-response ABTS^{•+} scavenging activity of all extracts, and Figure 19 displays the dose-response curves of ABTS^{•+} scavenging capacity for all alcoholic extracts. Similar to the DPPH scavenging assay, the trend of antioxidant activity in this ABTS^{•+} radical decolourisation assay indicates
that all methanolic extracts exert higher potential than their counterparts. It is not surprising because methanol has been considered a highly effective solvent for extracting phenolic compounds with antioxidant properties. According to Figure 20, the decreasing trend of antioxidant order of the alcoholic extracts can be expressed as MeOH-bark > MeOH-leaf > MeOH-flower. Interestingly, the activity of the methanolic extract of the bark was slightly higher than the ascorbic acid, whereas its IC_{50} value appears higher compared to the methanolic extract of bark of *A. seyal*, i.e. 27 µg/mL ²⁸². This outcome suggests that the methanolic extracts could neutralise both free radicals. As Litwinienko & Ingold ²⁸² and Foti et al. ²⁸³ proposed, active extracts dissolved in alcoholic solvent could follow sequential proton loss electron transfer (SPLET) as the solvent may partially ionise the compounds.



Figure 19. The dose-response curve of the active methanolic extract of flowers, leaves, and barks and vitamin C against ABTS cation radicals, Data in mean \pm SEM, n = 3.



Figure 20. Comparison of antioxidant activity in IC₅₀ between methanolic flower, leaf, and bark extract of *A. saligna* and vitamin C in DPPH and ABTS^{•+} scavenging assay. Data in mean \pm SEM, ^{****}*p* < 0.0001, *vs* vitamin C (*n* = 3, One-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc).

2.7. Inhibitory activity against α-glucosidase

This assay screened the potentially active α -glucosidase inhibitor found in *A*. *saligna*. In a recent report, Buttner et al.¹⁹⁷ presented the excellent inhibitory properties of EtOH extract of South African *A*. *saligna* leaves and bark, indicating the presence of active inhibitors in the species. They have correlated the activities with the high content of phenolic compounds ¹⁹⁷. Moreover, the study suggested further investigation to isolate and identify the responsible compounds with the activity since there has been a gap in information regarding active compounds from this species.

Tables S9–S15 (pages 243–244) present the observed dose-response inhibition of the plant extracts and the positive control acarbose against the yeast α -glucosidase enzyme. Both hexane extracts from leaves and bark possessed similar IC₅₀ values (IC₅₀ = 285.5 ± 100.9 and 289.9 ± 29.17 µg/mL, respectively) with the positive control, acarbose (IC₅₀ = 254 ± 22.18 µg/mL). The GCMS analysis could not detect potentially active phytochemicals from these two extracts. In addition, BK-H₂O extract exerted a potent inhibition by IC₅₀ of 23.27 ± 3.88 or a nine-fold change more active than the positive control. However, its ¹H NMR spectrum revealed that the aqueous bark extract predominantly contained sucrose. Sucrose is a natural substrate of α -glucosidase to be hydrolysed into glucose and fructose ²⁸³. This may interfere with the absorbance reading of the test substrate, 4-nitrophenyl α -*D*-glucopyranoside, leading to a false-lowered chromophore absorbance. Therefore, further separation was not conducted on the extract.

Many groups working on crude extracts have highlighted the proportional relationship between the quantified total phenolic and flavonoid contents and the inhibitory activity. These compounds can inactivate the enzyme due to the formation of non-covalent bindings such as hydrogen bonding, salt bridge interactions, cation- π interactions, or electrostatic forces ²⁸⁴. However, Wu and Xu ²⁸⁵ pointed out that these compound groups are not the only ones responsible for the activities. Other classes, such as terpenes, alkaloids, or even saccharide derivatives, can also contribute to the activities of plant crude extracts.



Figure 21. The dose-response curve of the active methanolic extract of flowers (FL-MeOH), leaves (LF-MeOH), and barks (BK-MeOH), and acarbose against the yeast α -glucosidase enzyme. Data in mean ± SEM, *n* = 3.

All methanolic extracts demonstrated better activities than the other extracts of each plant part. The GCMS analysis showed the presence of a reported inhibitor of the enzyme, *trans*-cinnamic acid ^{286, 287}, in all the alcoholic extracts. Upon analysis, it is evident that the BK-MeOH extract exhibits greater inhibitory activity against the yeast α -glucosidase enzyme. Its IC₅₀ value of 4.37 ± 0.24 µg/mL surpasses the other two alcoholic extracts by over eight-fold. According to the phenolic and flavonoid content quantification, BK-MeOH has the highest estimated values of phenolic and flavonoid content. This finding aligned with those reported for the ethanolic barks extract of South African *A. saligna* with the highest inhibition and phenolic content by Buttner et al. ¹⁹⁷. These results are consistent with those of Subhan ¹⁷³ and Gulati ¹⁷² reported that alcoholic extracts from Australian *Acacias* were active against the enzyme.



Figure 22. IC₅₀ of active extracts and acarbose against the yeast α -glucosidase enzyme. Data in mean ± SEM, ***p = 0.0004; ****p < 0.0001, *vs* acarbose (*n* = 3, One-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc).

2.8. Conclusion of Chapter 2

This study showed that more extract yield was obtained from a higher polarity solvent, such as methanol, in the sequential extraction of flowers, leaves, and bark of *A. saligna*. The methanolic extracts had higher estimated phenolic and flavonoid contents than other extracts. Further screening of compounds using GCMS analysis grouped detected compounds into two groups: long-chain hydrocarbon and terpene derivatives, found in hexane and DCM extracts and electronegative group-rich compounds detected in MeOH and aqueous extracts. The *in vitro* assays of antioxidant and α -glucosidase inhibition demonstrated the positive effects of all MeOH extracts in scavenging DPPH and ABTS^{•+} radicals and inhibiting the α -glucosidase enzyme. Thus, the methanolic extracts have been selected for further separation to isolate the active compounds.

CHAPTER 3: RESULT OF CELL-BASED STUDIES OF EXTRACTS

3.1. Introduction of Chapter 3

Chapter 3 presents an in vitro study using 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated with crude The intracellular ROS production was extracts. detected by dichlorodihydrofluorescein diacetate (DCFH-DA), a ROS-sensitive reagent. It has widely been applied to detect oxidative stress in cellular models due to its simplicity. high sensitivity of changes in cellular redox state, and low cost ²⁸⁸. Cellular ROS will rapidly oxidise H₂DCF to a fluorescent product of dichlorofluorescein (DCF) that can be observed using a fluorescent spectrophotometer. The measured fluorescent intensity is directly proportional to the number of ROS formed ²⁸⁹.

The 2-deoxy-2-[(7-nitro-2,1,3-benzoxadiazol-4-yl) amino]-*D*-glucose (2-NBDG) was then used to evaluate the real-time glucose uptake into the cytosol of 3T3-L1 adipocytes as it has a remarkable similarity of the cellular transport properties to those of glucose ^{290, 291}. This fluorescent tracer, reported as a suitable substrate for glucose transporters (GLUTs) ²⁹², enters cells and is trapped in the inner space of the cells after phosphorylation by hexokinase ²⁹³. Therefore, the fluorescent emission intensity of the detected tracer in the intracellular space can reflect the concentration of transported 2-NBDG.

The adipocytes-based study on the extracts aims to screen the suitable active extracts from the flowers, leaves, and bark of *A. saligna* as the inhibitor of cellular ROS production and modulator of cellular glucose uptake. The information from this section is also important to justify the potential extract for the next fractionation step for compound isolation.

3.2. Viability of 3T3-L1 preadipocytes treated with extracts

Our literature search found that active extract and compounds as antioxidants ²⁹⁴ and anti-obesity ²⁹⁵ tend to exert an inhibitory property on the dividing growth of pre-confluent 3T3-L1 preadipocytes. To examine the impact of extracts on the proliferation of the pre-adipose cells, an MTT (3-(4,5-dimethylthiazolyl-2)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide) was conducted on the fibroblast-like cells exposed to all extracts in three different incubation times. The assay is based on the reduction of the MTT tetrazolium (yellow) to (E,Z)-5-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)1,3-diphenylformazan (purple) by cellular oxidoreductase enzymes such as NAD(P)H-dependent. This conversion is only generated by viable cells with an active metabolism, while dead cells lose this ability. Therefore, the appeared purple colour can represent cell viability.

Figure 23 and the detailed data in Table S16 (Appendix A, page 245) showed no toxic effect from flower extracts after the treatment and incubation for 24, 48, and 72 h. Cell viability was above 70% at the highest tested concentration. Figure 24 and Table S17 (Appendix A, page 245) show that all non-methanolic did not inhibit cell growth within the tested concentration range for leaf extracts. However, the LF-MeOH extract exhibited anti-proliferative activity as the number of viable cells was below 70 % at 50 (for 72 h incubation only), 100 (except 24 h) and 200 µg/mL. The same results were documented for BK-MeOH, which had a toxic effect starting at a concentration of 50 µg/mL (except for 24 h of incubation).

Interestingly, fewer viable cells were observed for the treatment with 200 μ g/mL of the water extract of the bark. However, all bark hexane and DCM extracts were non-toxic for the preadipocytes. The same trend was found in similar research by Lin et al. ²⁹⁶, highlighting the toxicity of the EtOAc extract against the preadipocytes compared to the non-toxic effect of less polar-soluble hexane extract. They revealed higher content of phenolic compounds and flavonoids in the EtOAc-soluble extract. Among methanolic extracts, FL-MeOH treatment for up to 200 μ g/mL at all exposure times showed a harmless effect of the growth of fibroblast-like 3T3-L1 cells, whereas LF-MeOH and BK-MeOH treatment displayed toxicity in a time- and dose-dependent manner.







Figure 23. Viability of 3T3-L1 preadipocytes treated with FL extracts. FL-hex: hexane extract of flowers, FL-DCM: dichloromethane extract of flowers, FL-MeOH: methanol extract of flowers, FL-H₂O: aqueous extract of flowers. Data in mean \pm SEM, *p = 0.04; **p = 0.004; **p = 0.004; ***p = 0.0001; ***p < 0.0001, vs vehicle control (n = 3, One-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc).



Figure 24. Viability of 3T3-L1 preadipocytes treated with LF extracts. LF-hex: hexane extract of leaves, LF-DCM: dichloromethane extract of leaves, LF-MeOH: methanol extract of leaves, LF-H₂O: aqueous leaves extract. Data in mean \pm SEM, **p* = 0.03; ***p* = 0.006; ****p* = 0.0004; *****p* < 0.0001, *vs* vehicle control (*n* = 3, One-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc).



Figure 25. Viability of 3T3-L1 preadipocytes treated with BK extracts. BK-hex: hexane extract of bark, BK-DCM: dichloromethane extract of bark, BK-MeOH: methanol extract of bark, BK-H₂O: aqueous extract of bark. Data in mean \pm SEM, **p* = 0.03; ***p* = 0.008; ****p* = 0.0007; *****p* < 0.0001, *vs* vehicle control (*n* = 3, One-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc).

3.3. Cell differentiation

The progression of the differentiation experiment of this study is illustrated in Figure 27. The pre-adipose 3T3-L1 cells were grown in 96-well plates to achieve a confluent or growth-arrested state, followed by differentiation induction with a medium of differentiation induction (MDI) (set as day 0). It is important to note that fibroblast conversion into adipocytes occurs only after the cells have reached confluency ¹²⁴. Instead of adipose conversion, treatment with MDI in the dividing stage will affect the proliferation of pre-confluent cells through signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3) induction activator. On the second day, the first phase of differentiation, clonal expansion ¹²⁰, was observed by the appearance of a small number and size of cytoplasmatic lipid droplets. Madsen et al. ²⁹⁷ suggested the vital role of lipoxygenases in activating peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors (PPARγ) in this stage. Antiadipogenic activity by many natural products was observed from the treatment in this early stage by decreasing the expression of CCAAT/enhancer-binding protein- α (C/EBP- α), PPARγ ²⁹⁸, and fatty acid synthetase (FAS) ²⁹⁹. As the intermediate stage, this phase continued for the following 48 h (day-

2 to day-4). After day 4, the rate activity of FAS enzymes was reported to be declined to achieve a plateau on day 6 300 .

On day 6, the third phase, defined as the maturation or terminal stage, appeared characterised by some spherical lipid droplets. In this late phase, adipocyte fatty acid binding protein 2 (aP2) is the primary marker ³⁰¹. Tzeng and Liu also documented downregulating aP2 and FAS expression as a practical approach to suppress adipogenesis in cells ²⁹⁹. This study demonstrated the inhibitory effects on the modulation of both proteins by the treatment with 6-gingerol (5, 10, and 15 μ g/mL) at day 8. The complete maturation phase was achieved on day-8 as the rounded lipid droplets covered most spaces. The mature adipocytes are marked by their altered morphological appearance, such as bigger size, rounded, and filled with abundant lipid droplets ³⁰², whereas MDI-untreated cells retain their native fibroblast form. Synthesis of triglycerides in the differentiated cells was reported 19.5-folder higher than those observed in undifferentiated cells ³⁰⁰. According to Zebisch et al. ¹¹⁸, the mature adipocytes remain unchanged for at least four days. Any bioassay between day-8 and day-12 can generate a reliable outcome.





Figure 26. Images of 3T3-L1 cells differentiation showing the cell appearance in the following stages: (1 & 2) preadipocytes growth at day -4 & -2 of differentiating induction; (3) confluent cell at the day of the induction with MDI or M2 and (4) second day defined as early phase; and (5) fourth day as the intermediate; (6) sixth and (7) eighth day of the induction called terminal phase. The cell photographs were captured with an inverse phase contrast microscope (Infinity 1, Nikon Eclipse TS100) at a magnification of $20 \times .$ M1 = DMEM, BCS, and PSG; M2 = DMEM, FBS, PSG, rosiglitazone 2 μ M, insulin 5 μ g/mL, IBMX 0.5 mM, and dexamethasone 1 μ M; M3 = DMEM, FBS, PSG, and insulin 5 μ g/mL; M4 = DMEM, FBS, PSG.

3.4. Viability of 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated with extracts

Figure 27 shows the results of the MTT assay on 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated with four different flower extracts in a range of concentrations (25–200 μ g/mL) for 24, 48, and 72 h. All flower extracts did not show significantly toxic effects at that range as none of the differentiated cell viability was under 80%. In the previous experiments with preadipocytes, all flower extracts were non-toxic in the same concentration range. In addition, the FL-MeOH extracts showed synergistic effects on cell growth in the MTT assay of preadipocytes. Here, the methanolic flower extracts exhibited similar effects to those demonstrated by hexane, DCM, and water extract of flowers, where the viable cell percentages were between 90 and 119%.





As shown in Figure 28, the cell viabilities of the adipocytes were from 93 to 125% when incubated with hexane, DCM, MeOH, and water extracts of the leaves. This means no cytotoxic effect with an incubation time of 24 to 72 h. This aligns with the previous trend in preadipocytes except for LF-MeOH extract. The methanolic extract starting from 100 μ g/mL in the preadipocytes showed inhibitory effects in cell



growth. In contrast, the effect was not observed in the same assay on the adipose state, even in the higher 200 μ g/mL concentration.

Figure 28. Viability of 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated with LF extracts. LF-hex: hexane extract of leaves, LF-DCM: dichloromethane extract of leaves, LF-MeOH: methanol extract of leaves, LF-H₂O: aqueous leaves extract. Data in mean \pm SEM, **p* = 0.02; ***p* = 0.001; ****p* = 0.0001, *vs* vehicle control (*n* = 3, One-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc).







Similar to the above observations, in the range between 25 and 200 μ g/mL, all bark extracts demonstrated non-toxic effects within all three incubation times. The cell viability was estimated between 93 and 116%. Though the bark methanolic barks extract inhibited the preadipocyte growth at 25 μ g/mL in the previous test, it demonstrated no significant difference in cell viability at all incubation times compared to the vehicle control (see Figure 29). According to this work, all twelve extracts in the highest test concentration of 200 μ g/mL could be safe for further assay in the mature 3T3-L1 adipocytes.

3.5. Oil Red-O assay of extracts

Adipogenesis is a process behind transforming fibroblast-like cells into mature adipocytes ³⁰³, characterised by developing lipid droplets. The excessively accumulated fat in mature adipocytes can cause dysfunction of metabolic processes due to oxidative stress and decrease cellular glucose uptake leading to insulin resistance. Primary regulators of cell differentiation, including C/EBPs and PPARs ^{304,} ³⁰⁵, have been well-studied as promising targets for developing antiobesity and antiadipogenic drugs. The study of antiadipogenic effects can also be employed to link insulin resistance development and oxidative stress ³⁰⁶. Therefore, an ORO-staining assay has been carried out to evaluate the effect of *A. saligna* to the adipogenesis of cells.



Figure 30. The captured image of (a) unstained vs (b) stained 3T3-L1 adipocytes with ORO reagent. Images were photographed with an inverse phase-contrast microscope (Infinity 1, Nikon Eclipse TS100) at a magnification of $20 \times$.

There are fluctuated percentages of quantified lipid droplets between the extract-treated adipocytes and the vehicle control. According to data from Figure 31, significant anti-adipogenic activity was observed from the LF-MeOH-treated adipocytes at 50 μ g/mL. It was estimated to be 28.68% of reduced lipid droplets compared to the vehicle control. A similar effect was observed in the positive control treatment with NAC at 10 mM for 29.55%. A slight decrease of lipid droplets was observed from treatment with hexane leaf extract (LF-hex) 50 μ g/mL, BK-MeOH 50 μ g/mL, LF-MeOH 12.5 μ g/mL, FL-H₂O 12.5 μ g/mL, and *N*-acetyl cysteine (NAC) 5 mM for 10.18, 11.9, 15.35, 16.81, and 22.14, %, respectively. On the other hand, a significantly increased lipid droplets percentage was shown from the treatment with BK-MeOH 12.5 μ g/mL, dichloromethane leaf extract (LF-DCM) 50 μ g/mL, dichloromethane bark extract (BK-DCM) 12.5 μ g/mL for 30.4, 40.9, and 45.9%, respectively.



Figure 31. Lipid content from ORO staining assay on the 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated with extracts during the progress of cell differentiation. FL-hex: hexane extract of flowers, FL-DCM: dichloromethane extract of flowers, FL-MeOH: methanol extract of flowers, FL-H₂O: aqueous extract of flowers, LF-hex: hexane extract of leaves, LF-DCM: dichloromethane extract of leaves, LF-MeOH: methanol extract of leaves, LF-MeOH: methanol extract of leaves, BK-hex: hexane extract of bark, BK-DCM: dichloromethane extract of bark, BK-MeOH: methanol extract of bark, BK-MeOH: methanol extract of bark, BK-H₂O: aqueous extract of bark, BK-MeOH: methanol extract of bark, BK-H₂O: aqueous extract of bark, BK-MeOH: methanol extract of bark, BK-H₂O: aqueous extract of bark, and NAC = *N*-acetyl cysteine. Data in mean \pm SEM, **p* = 0.02; ***p* = 0.009, *vs* vehicle control (*n* = 3, One-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc).

3.6. Measurement of cellular ROS level

All extracts have been evaluated for their effect on intracellular ROS production in the white adipocytes to select the promisingly active fractions among twelve samples. The accumulation of lipids in the 3T3-L1 cells model can lead to ROS overproduction due to NADPH oxidation, glucose autoxidation and low-density lipoprotein (LDL) peroxidation. In the previous antioxidant assays, all alcoholic extracts demonstrated inhibitory properties against free radicals. Similarly, the plant's methanolic extracts also positively affected the reduction of cellular ROS production. Our study with DCFH-DA-staining assay found that the cellular ROS level in 3T3-L1 adipocytes was about 50% higher than those observed in non-differentiated 3T3-L1 cells. Among twelve *A. saligna* extracts, all methanolic extracts demonstrated a noticeable dose-dependent ROS reduction.

Methanolic extracts of leaf and bark reduced cellular ROS accumulation in 3T3-L1 adipocytes within the tested concentration, while FL-MeOH exerted reduction only between 100 and 200 µg/mL. As shown in Figure 32, the decreasing pattern of ROS in the adipocytes appeared for all MeOH extracts. At the lowest dose, LF- and BK-MeOH decreased ROS by 6.56 and 10.89%, respectively, whereas no reduction was observed for FL-MeOH treatment. Furthermore, treatment with 200 µg/mL of BK-

MeOH extract showed a significant decrease in the cellular ROS level, estimated for 37.43% of the adipocytes control, almost twice and thrice of those observed from LFand FL-MeOH treatment, respectively. Taken together, the order of reduction of ROS accumulation can be expressed as BK-MeOH > LF-MeOH > FL-MeOH. The extracts' ability to reduce ROS accumulation in 3T3-L1 adipocytes reflects and follows the trend of their *in vitro* antioxidant activities found in our earlier finding ³⁰⁷. Elansary et al. reported the connection between the significant reduction of ROS accumulation and the strong antioxidation of their methanolic leaf extract (17 µg/mL) of *A. saligna* in various cancer cell lines ²¹⁶.





(c)

Figure 32. Detected cellular ROS of 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated with (a) FL extracts, (b) LF extracts, and (c) BK extracts compared to NAC as the positive control. FL-hex: hexane extract of flowers, FL-DCM: dichloromethane extract of flowers, FL-MeOH: methanol extract of flowers, FL-H₂O: aqueous extract of flowers, LF-hex: hexane extract of leaves, LF-DCM: dichloromethane extract of leaves, LF-MeOH: methanol extract of leaves, LF-H₂O: aqueous extract of leaves, LF-MeOH: methanol extract of leaves, EF-H₂O: aqueous extract of leaves, LF-MeOH: methanol extract of leaves, LF-H₂O: aqueous extract of leaves, LF-MeOH: methanol extract of leaves, LF-H₂O: aqueous ext





Polyphenol and flavonoid-rich herbal extracts have been demonstrated to ameliorate the overproduction of intracellular ROS from various models. A study by Marimoutou and co-workers ³⁰⁸ compared the bioactive contents and antioxidant

capacity of leaves of three Indian Ocean medicinal plants for obesity and diabetes, namely *Antirhea borbonica*, *Doratoxylon apetalum*, and *Gouania mauritiana*. Among the three, *D. apetalum* possessed the highest values of phenolic and flavonoid contents (7% gallic acid equivalent and 2.8% catechin equivalent, respectively), antioxidant capacity against DPPH (61.1% compared to 75% inhibition by vitamin C), and ROS reduction in 3T3-L1 adipocytes (20%). This work suggested that cellular ROS's reductive effect aligned with the bioactive contents and DPPH scavenging capacity.

Studies on cellular ROS inhibition by Acacia species have also confirmed this property to be correlated with phenolic compounds. Methanolic barks extract of A. mearnsii reduced ROS level in mouse macrophage RAW 264.7 cell line ⁴⁹. This work showed that high content of polyphenol and flavonoid content (843.9 mg GAE/g and 30.3 mg QE/g, respectively) as well as ABTS scavenging activity (7.1 mmol Trolox/g equivalent) aligned with the inhibition of intracellular ROS level (roughly 25% compared to blank control). Moreover, two species of A. shaffneri and A. farnesiana have been reported to exert a similar trend in a study with pig kidney LLC-PK1 cells ⁵⁰. Methanolic pods extract of *A. farnesiana* with higher phenolic content than that quantified for A. shaffneri (213 and 76 mg GAE/g, respectively) showed a two-fold change higher on the ROS reduction percentage at 200 ppm treatment. The role of phenolic compounds is well known to involve direct scavenging against ROS and indirect impact through cell signalling pathways. Hydroxyl groups and conjugated C=C bonds are beneficial in stabilising the interaction between the phytochemicals and the free radicals ³⁰⁹. Furthermore, the phytochemicals have also been reported to inhibit three major MAP kinases, namely ERK, p38, and JNK, resulting in reduced NADPH oxidase-dependent formation of ROS and other superoxide anions ³¹⁰. The activity has been linked to the OH at C5 and C7 of ring A and C4 of ring B for flavonoids and the increased number of OH in other phenolics.

Our study also showed a similar finding. As presented in Chapter 2, the MeOH extracts with higher PC and FC content had higher ROS reduction percentages than those estimated for non-alcoholic extracts at concentrations ranging between 50 and 200 μ g/mL. Interestingly, the decreasing order of PC and FC content among the three MeOH extracts agreed with the reductive ability of ROS, where BK-MeOH and FL-MeOH were quantified to have the highest and lowest values, respectively. This is the first report of the reductive activity of *A. saligna* extracts on the production of 3T3-L1 adipocytes ROS.

3.7. Cellular glucose uptake assay of extracts

This experiment aimed to assess the effects of all A. saligna extracts ranging between 12.5 and 50 µg/mL on the glucose uptake simulation in the adipose 3T3-L1 model. The 2-(N-(7-nitrobenz-2-oxa-1,3-diazol-4-yl)-amino)-2-deoxyglucose (2-NBDG) uptake assay was then performed to evaluate their activity. All extracts showed dose-dependent glucose uptake modulation at tested concentrations of 12.5 and 50 µg/mL. However, the increased uptake by hexane extracts of flowers and leaves, dichloromethane extracts of flowers and bark, and aqueous extracts of flowers and leaves were not observed. At 12.5 µg/mL, FL-MeOH, LF-DCM, LF-MeOH, BK-MeOH, and BK-H₂O showed an increase in glucose uptake in the 13.5-41.5% range compared to vehicle control. Marked increases in glucose uptake by 98 and 85% were observed when treated with 50 µg/mL LF-MeOH and FL-MeOH, respectively. At 50 µg/mL FL-, LF-, and BK-MeOH performed better than metformin at 10 µM. Overall improvement in the uptake of 2-NBDG at 50 µg/mL can be expressed as LF-MeOH > FL-MeOH > BK-MeOH > BK-hex > BK-H₂O > LF-DCM, as shown in Figure 34 and Table S24 (page 248). The methanolic extracts, once again, exerted more quantitative activity than their extract counterparts.

Some reports have detected phenolic and flavonoid derivatives in extracts related to the modulation of cellular glucose uptake in 3T3-L1 adjpocytes. According to Luan and colleagues ³¹¹, phenolic compounds from an aqueous extract of Potentilla anserina L. at 50 µg/mL, including derivatives of chlorogenic acids, caffeic acids, and myricetin glycones, were involved in the increased expression of phosphorylated Akt resulting in an enhanced level of glucose uptake (4 and 1.5 fold higher compared to untreated control, respectively). In another report, quercetin saccharides and benzoic acid derivatives in MeOH extract of Ipomoea batatas leaves were detected as the vital contributors in the enhanced Akt activation and glucose uptake ³¹². This documentation suggested that phenolic and flavonoid-rich extracts demonstrated modulating effects on the 2-NBDG assay for cellular glucose uptake evaluation. Thus, the higher content of both compound groups in our methanolic extracts will likely play an essential role in glucose uptake. The involvement of these compounds in the multiple cellular pathways such as activation of Akt, induction of p-AMPK, inhibition of inflammatory markers (TNF- α , IL-6, and IL-1 β) ³¹³ and induction of adiponectin secretion ³¹⁴ can be the possible mechanisms related to the effects.

Apart from the excellent outcomes of the methanolic extracts, other fractions, namely LF-DCM, BK-hex, and BK-H₂O extract, also demonstrated a positive impact.

Around 20% increase in glucose uptake was observed in the treatment by LF-DCM extract. Previously, our GCMS analysis showed some terpene groups in the extract, including chondrillasterol; $(3\beta,5\alpha)$ -stigmasta-7,25-dien-3-ol; $(3\beta,5\alpha,22E)$ -ergosta-8(14),15,22-trien-3-ol; cholesta-5,17(20)-diene-3 β ,16-diol, 22,26-epoxy-; and $(3\beta,5\alpha,24S)$ -stigmast-7-en-3-ol. Many compounds with triterpenoid core structures have been reported to have a stimulatory effect on glucose uptake in the adipocytes by activating Akt 315 and inhibiting pro-inflammatory markers such as TNF- α , IL-6, and IL-1ß ³¹⁶. A treatment with hexane bark extract at 12.5 and 50 µg/mL gave 9.4 and 40% of improved glucose uptake, respectively. From the GCMS experiment, phthalic acid of 2-methoxyethyl tetradecyl ester was found in the extract as the major volatile component. Interestingly, this compound has also been detected in the DCM extract of leaves. The last active extract, BK- H_2O , has a 21.8 and 32.2% of increasing effect at 12.5 and 50 µg/mL, respectively. Two compounds were detected as 1-(1propenylthio)-propane and 3-O-methyl-D-glucose. However, no documentation has been found for their activity in the related glucose uptake assays.



Figure 34. Estimated 2-NBDG uptake by 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated with extracts of *A. saligna*. FL-hex: hexane extract of flowers, FL-DCM: dichloromethane extract of flowers, FL-MeOH: methanol extract of flowers, FL-H₂O: aqueous extract of flowers, LF-hex: hexane extract of leaves, LF-DCM: dichloromethane extract of leaves, LF-MeOH: methanol extract of leaves, LF-H₂O: aqueous extract of leaves, BK-hex: hexane extract of bark, BK-DCM: dichloromethane extract of bark, BK-MeOH: methanol extract of bark, BK-DCM: dichloromethane extract of bark, BK-MeOH: methanol extract of bark, BK-H₂O: aqueous extract of bark, BK-MeOH: methanol extract of bark, BK-H₂O: aqueous extract of bark, BK-MeOH: methanol extract of bark, BK-H₂O: aqueous extract of bark, BK-MeOH: methanol extract of bark, BK-H₂O: aqueous extract of bark, Data in mean ± SEM, ^{**}p = 0.007 for FL-MeOH and ^{**}p = 0.006 for LF-MeOH, *vs* vehicle control (*n* = 3, One-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc).

3.8. Conclusion of Chapter 3

Using *A. saligna*'s flower, leaf, and bark extracts on the 3T3-L1 cell-based tests has shown promising properties for T2DM remedies. Out of twelve extracts,

three methanolic extracts, namely FL-, LF-, and BK-MeOH extracts, demonstrated a consistent bioactivity outcome with those recorded from the previous *in vitro* assays of free radicals scavenging and inhibition of the yeast α -glucosidase enzyme. All three were active as inhibitors of cellular ROS production and stimulators of cellular glucose uptake on the differentiated 3T3-L1 cells in the safe concentration for the adipocytes below 200 µg/mL. In the study of lipid droplets level with ORO assay, the inhibitory activity of adipogenesis of 3T3-L1 cells was observed from the treatment with LF- and BK-MeOH extracts during the entire stages of differentiation. Furthermore, these data can justify the selected alcoholic extracts for further isolation of bioactive compounds.

CHAPTER 4: RESULT OF COMPOUND ISOLATION AND MOLECULAR ELUCIDATION

4.1. Introduction of Chapter 4

Our earlier works showed remarkable properties of all three alcoholic extracts over the non-alcoholic groups on neutralising free radicals and inhibiting αglucosidase activity. The consistent trend of bioactivity of the methanolic extracts was found in the cell-mediated study, including intracellular ROS reduction and glucose uptake stimulation suggesting the need for fractionation and separation of the active extracts. Therefore, a study of compound isolation and identification described in this chapter was performed to reveal the molecular structure of phytochemical constituents in the FL-, LF-, and BK-MeOH extracts. The separation of compounds was carried out by column chromatography. The structure elucidation of isolated compounds was assigned by spectroscopic approach, including FTIR, NMR, and HRMS analysis. The information obtained from this chapter is essential to provide primary data on individual compounds isolated from Australian *A. saligna* for the first time. The data can assist those who work on drug design and discovery and natural product chemistry to attempt to lead compound-based drug development, optimised compound isolation, and structure-activity relationship (SAR) study.

4.2. Structure identification of isolated compounds

4.2.1. Four flavonoids and one cyclitol from the FL-MeOH fraction

4.2.1.1. Naringenin 42

A yellow powder subfraction A1 (10.5 mg, 9.63%, Rf = 0.8, EtOAc/MeOH/HCOOH/H₂O of 50:2:3:6 as the TLC eluent) was obtained from a column chromatography-based purification of FL-MeOH-A of methanolic extract of flower eluted by 100% of EtOAc with silica gel 60 as the stationary phase. As shown in Table 7, a geminal couple of protons resonating within upfield regions at δ 2.615 and 3.027 (${}^{2}J_{H3a-H3b}$ = 17 Hz, Figure 37b) ppm has cross-peaks correlations with the anomeric proton at δ 5.256 ppm (${}^{3}J_{H2-H3a}$ = 12.92 Hz and ${}^{3}J_{H2-H3b}$ = 3 Hz). According to heteronuclear multiple bonds correlation (HMBC) information, a carbonyl was observed next to the geminal protons. This system is most likely to represent the ring C of a dihydroflavone (Figure 37a). The following information supports the statement:

1. An aromatic ring A with meta couple (J = 2.16 Hz, Figure 37b) by H6 (5.805 ppm) and H8 (5.818 ppm) links to it confirmed by HMBC cross-peaks relationships for H2 to C9, H3b to C10, and H6 to C4.



Figure 35. The spectral image of ¹H NMR of naringenin 42 from methanolic extract of flowers



Figure 36. The spectral image of ¹³C NMR of naringenin 42 from methanolic extract of flowers

	FL-MeOH-A1					Naringenin ³¹⁷	
No	δ ¹ H in ppm (m, <i>J</i> Hz, integration)	δ ¹³ C (ppm)	COSY	НМВС	NOESY	δ ¹ H in ppm (m, <i>J</i> Hz, integration)	δ ¹³ C (ppm)
2	5.26 (dd; 12.92, 2.9; 1H)	80.63	H3a, H3b	C4, C9, C1'	H3a (strong), H3b (weak), H2' (weak)	5.34 (dd; 13, 3; 1H)	80.5
3a	3.03 (dd; 17.12, 12.92; 1H)	44.20	H2, H3b	C2, C4, C1'	H2 (strong), H3b (strong), H2' (weak)	3.1 (dd; 17, 13; 1H)	44
3b	2.62 (dd; 17.04, 3.06; 1H)		H2, H3a	C1', C2, C4, C10	H2 (weak), H3a (strong)	2.7 (dd; 17, 3; 1H)	
4	-	197.93	-	-	-	-	197.8
5	-	165.62	-	-	-	-	165.5
6	5.81 (d; 2.16; 1H)	97.19	H8	C4, C5, C8, C10	-	5.88 (d; 2; 1H)	97.1
7	-	168.50	-	-	-	-	168.4
8	5.82 (d; 2.16; 1H)	96.31	H6	C6, C9, C10	-	5.9 (d; 2; 1H)	96.2
9	-	165.04	-	-	-	-	164.9
10	-	103.5	-	-	-	-	103.4
1'	-	131.22	-	-	-	-	131.1
2'	7.23 (dd; 6.76, 1.78, 1H)	129.18	H3	C2, C3', C6', C4'	H2 (weak), H3a (weak), H3' (strong)	7.31 (m; 1H)	129
3'	6.74 (dd; 6.64, 2.02, 1H)	116.47	H1	C1', C5', C4'	H2' (strong)	6.82 (m; 1H)	116.4
4'	-	159.18	-	-	-	-	159
5'	6.74 (dd; 6.64, 2.02; 1H)	116.47	H1	C1', C3', C4'	H6' (strong)	6.82 (m; 1H)	116.4
6'	7.23 (dd; 6.76, 1.78; 1H)	129.18	H3	C2, C2', C5', C4'	H5' (strong)	7.31 (m; 1H)	129

Table 7. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD), ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₃OD), and 2-D NMR data of compound from FL-MeOH-A1 compared to reported naringenin **42**

2. The linkage of the ring C to *p*-substituted aromatic ring B with two tall downfield peaks at δ 6.737 (H2' and H6') and 7.231 ppm (H3' and H5') was found by the HMBC cross-peaks for H2 to C1' as well as H2' to C2 (Figure 36c) and a weaker cross-peaks correlation from the nuclear overhauser effect spectroscopy (NOESY) spectrum attributing the farther through-space relationship between H2 and H2' (Figure 36d).



Figure 37. (a) The main skeleton of naringenin **42** (C₁₅H₁₂O₅; MW = 272.257), key connections of proton-to-proton ((b) \leftrightarrow COSY and (d) \leftrightarrow NOESY) and proton-to-carbon ((c) \leftrightarrow HMBC) of naringenin **42** isolated from the methanolic flowers extract.

Its NMR data agreed with those reported by Du et al. ³¹⁷ for 5,7-dihydroxy-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)chroman-4-one, known as naringenin **42**. Naringenin **42** has previously been detected in the crude water extract of *A. saligna* flowers by HPLC with weak DPPH scavenging activity ¹⁸⁷. Nevertheless, the singly isolated compound has not been found in the literature. As the flavanone has an epimeric centre at C2, ring B can give two optically active configurations, (2*S*)- or (2*R*)-flavanone ³¹⁸. Our study showed that the specific optical value of the isolate was $[\alpha]^{23}$ = -16.68° (c 0.1, EtOH). This finding confirms a report that the laevorotatory (–)- or (2*S*)-flavanone is the most common one isolated from plants ³¹⁸.

4.2.1.2. Naringenin-7*O*-*α*-*L*-arabinofuranoside 76

A unique flavanone glycone was isolated from FL-MeOH-A3 of the methanolic flower extract (15.5 mg, 14.22%, Rf = 0.33 with TLC mobile phase of EtOAc/MeOH/AcOH/H₂O = 50:2:3:6). The δ of C-13 of the core skeleton of flavanone

moiety was identified as naringenin which is identical to those reported by Olsen et al. ³¹⁹. The following data confirmed the typical proton peaks of flavanone:

- An ABX-system comprising the geminal proton of H3a (2.606 ppm, td, *J* = 17.64, 2.95 Hz, 1H) and H3b (2.946 ppm, m, 1H) coupled to proton H2 (5.255 ppm, td, *J* = 12.96, 2.8 Hz, 1H) in ring C assigned by correlation spectroscopy (COSY) relationship (Figure 37).
- 2. The *p*-substituted aromatic ring B is represented by two stronger downfield signals of δ 7.223 ppm (dd, *J* = 8.56, 3.16 Hz, H2' and H6') and δ 6.735 ppm (dd, *J* = 8.64, 1.96 Hz, H3' and H5').
- 3. The catechol ring A identified by tiny upfield signals for aromatic at δ 6.406 ppm (d, *J* = 2.2 Hz, H8) *o*-coupled to δ 6.059 ppm (d, *J* = 2.24 Hz, H6).



Figure 38. Key connections of proton-to-proton (\leftrightarrow COSY; \leftrightarrow NOESY) and proton-to-carbon (\leftrightarrow HMBC) of naringenin-7-*O*-*a*-*L*-arabinofuranoside **76** (C₂₀H₂₀O₉; MW = 404.37) isolated from the methanolic flowers extract.

Furthermore, the δ of C-13 of the sugar moiety is identical to those reported for arabinofuranoside by Zhang et al. ³²⁰. The detailed descriptions of proton signals are as follows:

- 1. The anomeric proton of δ 4.78 ppm (d, *J* = 7.48 Hz, H1") represented an α conformation with smaller J constants due to the equatorial-axial relationship of H1" to H2",
- 2. triplet couple of H3" (3.45 ppm, J = 8.4 Hz) and H4" (3.51 ppm, J = 8.08 Hz) with higher *J* constants representing equatorial-equatorial relationship as an indication of *L* orientation of the sugar,
- geminal protons of 3.97 ppm (m, H5"a) and 3.78 ppm (m, H5"b) as the typical signals for a furanose ring. To confirm this, a total correlation spectroscopy (TOCSY) experiment showed that the sugar is a 5-membered ring.



Figure 39. The spectral image of ¹H NMR of naringenin-7-O-α-L-arabinofuranoside 76 from methanolic extract of flowers



FL-MeOH-A4b cc2 on 2021

Figure 40. The spectral image of ¹³C NMR of naringenin-7-O- α -L-arabinofuranoside **76** from methanolic extract of flowers



Figure 41. The spectral image of ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of naringenin-7-*O*-*α*-*L*-arabinofuranoside 76 from methanolic extract of flowers



Figure 42. The spectral image of ¹H-¹³C HSQC NMR of naringenin-7-*O*-*α*-*L*-arabinofuranoside 76 from methanolic extract of flowers



Figure 43. The spectral image of ¹H-¹³C HMBC of naringenin-7-*O*-*α*-*L*-arabinofuranoside **76** from methanolic extract of flowers



Figure 44. The spectral image of ¹H-¹H NOESY NMR of naringenin-7-O-α-L-arabinofuranoside 76 from methanolic extract of flowers

No	¹ Η (δ ppm, m, <i>J</i> in Hz, integration)	δ ¹³ C (ppm)	COSY	TOCSY	NOESY	НМВС
2	5.35 (td; 12.96, 2.8; 1H)	80.48	H3a H3b	H3a, H3b	H3b (stronger), H3a (weaker)	C4, C2', C6'
3a	2.70 (td; 17.64, 2.95; 1H)	16 15	H2, H3b	H2, H3b	H2	C4, C10
3b	3.04 (m; 1H)	40.45	H2, H3a	H2, H3a	H2	C4, C2, C1'
4	-	193.22	-	-	-	-
5	-	166.70	-	-	-	-
6	6.15 (d; 2.24; 1H)	99.56	H6	H8	H8	C4, C5, C8 C10
7	-	167.16	-	-	-	-
8	6.50 (d; 2.2; 1H)	100.49	H8	H6	H6	C4, C7, C6, C9, C10
9	-	162.51	-	-	-	-
10	-	107.21	-	-	-	-
1'	-	131.12	-	-	-	-
2'	7.31 (dd; 8.56, 3.16; 1H)	129.14	H3', H6'	H3', H6'	H3' (stronger), H2 (weaker)	C2, C1', C3', C4'
3'	6.83 (dd; 8.64, 1.96; 1H)	116.46	H2', H5'	H2', H5'	H2'	C2', C4'
4'	-	159.13	-	-	-	-
5'	6.83 (dd; 8.64, 1.96; 1H)	116.46	H3', H6'	H3', H6'	H6'	C6', C4'
6'	7.31 (dd; 8.56, 3.16; 1H)	129.14	H2', H5'	H2', H5'	H5'	C2, C1', C5', C4'
1"	4.78 (d; 7.48; 1H)	105.16	H2"	H2", H3", H4"	H8 (stronger), H2", H3", H4"	C7, C2"
2"	3.57 (m; 1H)	74.81	H1"	H1", H3", H4", H5"a, H5b"	H1", H5"a	-
3"	3.45 (t; 8.4; 1H)	78.79	-	H1", H2", H4", H5"a, H5b"	H1", H5"a, H5"b	C2"
4"	3.51 (t; 8.08; 1H)	77.3	H5"b	H1", H2", H3", H5"a, H5b"	H1", H5"a, H5"b	C2"

Table 8. The 1- and 2-D NMR data of the isolate from FL-MeOH-A3 in CD₃OD

No	¹ Η (δ ppm, m, <i>J</i> in Hz, integration)	δ ¹³ C (ppm)	COSY	TOCSY	NOESY	НМВС
5"a	3.97 (m; 1H)	62.68	H5"b	H2", H3", H4", H5b"	H2", H3", H4", H5"b	-
5"b	3.78 (m; 1H)		H4", H5"a	H2", H3", H4", H5a"	H3", H4", H5"a	-

By a 2D NMR experiment of HMBC, the sugar moiety was confirmed to attach to 70 of the aromatic ring A (Figure 38). Moreover, NOESY data also showed a strong cross-peaks relationship between H1" of the sugar and H8 of aromatic ring A, representing a closer space configuration. The IR spectra gave prominent numbers at 3300.70 (-OH stretching); 2920.64 (sp³ CH stretching); 1605.11 (C=O carbonyl stretching); 1515.07 (C=C aromatic stretching); and 1021.40 cm⁻¹ (C–O bending). The [M + H]⁺ of subfraction A3 was 405.1189. Therefore, this finding confirms the molecular formula of C₂₀H₂₀O₉ (calculated m/z [M + H]⁺ = 405.1186) for naringenin-7-*O*- α -*L*-arabinofuranoside **76** with a melting point of 229–230 °C and [α]²³= -44.54° (c 0.1, MeOH).

4.2.1.3. Isosalipurposide 1

A chalcone glycoside derivative (yellow powder of B1b, 9.13 mg, 4.43%) was isolated from FL-MeOH of the methanolic flower extract. The *p*-coumaroyl group was confirmed by the downfield shift of the proton olefin skeleton ($\delta_{H\alpha}$ 8.01 ppm, $\delta_{H\beta}$ 7.69 ppm) with *E* geometric orientation (*J*~16 Hz), a carbonyl (δ_{C} 194.44 ppm), and the two doublets ($\delta_{H2,6}$ 7.61 ppm 8.61 Hz, $\delta_{H3,5}$ 6.85 ppm 8.75 Hz) in the *para*-disubstituted aromatic ring. The second phenyl (ring A) was elucidated as a trioxygenated aromatic with *meta*-coupling of protons (~2.2 Hz) at two upfield chemical shifts due to the inductive effects of adjacent hydroxyls.

The glycone moiety was assigned as a cyclohexane-like chair ring of glucose due to a β -anomeric proton at 5.09 ppm with $J_{H1"-H2"} = 7.4$ Hz and the vicinal axial-axial couplings (7.5–8.75 Hz) of the H2"–H3", H3"–H4", and H4"–H5" indicating the OH groups in the equatorial position ¹⁸⁸. Furthermore, the protons on C6" (δ_{H6a} 3.62 ppm, δ_{H6b} 3.99 ppm) were identified by the geminal coupling (~12 Hz) and their similar vicinal coupling (5.32 and 5.28 Hz) to H5" indicating the *gauche* relationship between both and H5". This glucopyranoside was linked to oxygen in C6', confirmed by its similar ¹³C chemical shift with that reported isosalipurposide (Table 9). Due to the close similarity of δ ¹³C, therefore, the compound could be considered as isosalipurposide (Figure 47), a member of isoliquiritigenin as a common group in *Leguminosae* plants ³¹⁸, which was previously isolated by Imperato ¹⁸⁶, Ghouila et al. ²¹¹, and Ghribia et al. ¹⁸⁸.



Figure 45. The spectral image of ¹H NMR of isosalipurposide 1 from methanolic extract of flowers


Figure 46. The spectral image of ¹³C NMR of isosalipurposide 1 from methanolic extract of flowers

		FL-MeO	Isosalipurposide ³²¹			
No	δ ¹ H in ppm (m, <i>J</i> in Hz, integration)	δ ¹³ C (ppm)	COSY	НМВС	δ ¹ H in ppm (m, <i>J</i> Hz, integration)	δ ¹³ C (ppm)
1	-	128.47	-	-	-	128.3
2, 6	7.61 (d; 8.64; 2H)	131.74	H3, H5	Cβ, C3, C4	7.62 (d; 8.0; 1H), 7.62 (d; 8.0; 1H)	131.8, 132.2
3, 5	6.85 (d; 8.72; 2H)	116.85	H2, H6	C2, C6, C1, C4	6.87 (d; 8.0; 1H), 6.87 (d; 8.0; 1H)	116.9, 116.9
4	-	161.01	-	-	-	161.8
α	8.01 (d; 15.52; 1H)	125.88	Ηβ	C1, C=O	8.02 (d; 15.0; 1H)	144.2
β	7.69 (d; 51.56; 1H)	144.12	Ηα	Ca, C2, C1, C=O	7.68 (d; 15.0; 1H)	125.8
C=O	-	194.44	-	-	-	194.8
1'	-	107.46	-	-	-	107.8
2'	-	165.77	-	-	-	165.9
3'	6.18 (d; 2.24; 1H)	95.63	H5'	C1', C2', C4', C5', C=O	6.26 (s; 1H)	95.9
4'	-	161.75	-	-	-	161.1
5'	6.02 (d; 2.28; 1H)	98.35	H3'	C1', C2', C3', C6'	6.03 (s; 1H)	98.5
6'	-	167.70	-	-	-	161.4
1"	5.09 (d; 7.4; 1H)	101.82	H2"	C2", C3"	5.15 (d; 7.8; 1H)	101.9
2"	3.44 (t; 8.75; 1H)	74.97	H1", H3	C4", C3"	3.39–3.46 (m; 1H)	75.3
3"	3.37 (t; 8.25; 1H)	78.45	H4", H2"	C6", C2"	3.60 (dd; 10.5, 7.5; 1H)	76.3
4"	3.47 (d; 7.5; 1H)	71.10	H3"	C1", C2"	3.47–3.50 (m; 1H)	72.1
5"	3.39 (m; 1H)	78.41	H6"a, H6"b	C4", C2", C1", C3", C6"	3.54–3.57 (m; 1H)	76.7
6"a	3.62 (dd; 12, 5.32; 1H)	62.24	H6"b, H5"	C5"	3.76 (dd; 12.6, 1.5; 1H)	62.3
6"b	3.99 (dd; 11.36, 5.28; 1H)	02.34	H6"a, H5"	C5", C2"	3.94 (dd; 12.6, 1.5; 1H)	62.3

Table 9. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD), ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₃OD), and 2D NMR data of compound from sub-fraction B1b of the methanolic flower extract compared to reported isosalipurposide **1**



Figure 47. Molecular structure of isosalipurposide **1** ($C_{21}H_{22}O_{10}$; MW = 434.4) ¹⁸⁸ from the methanolic flower extract.



Figure 48. (a) The key connections of proton-to-proton (\leftrightarrow COSY) and (b) proton-to-carbon (\leftrightarrow HMBC) of isosalipurposide **1**.

4.2.1.4. Quercitrin 4 from flowers

Another structurally different flavonoid glycoside was obtained from the yellow powder of sub-fraction B2 of methanolic extract of flower (24.77 mg, 12.02%). Two different aromatic systems, triohydroxyl (ring A) and diohydroxyl (ring B), were assigned. Ring A has two shielded protons: H6 (6.21 ppm) *meta*-correlated to H8 (6.38 ppm) while, due to both electron-withdrawal (ring C) and -donation (-OH), ring B comprises benzene-generic protons, H6' (7.32 ppm) *meta*- and *ortho*-coupling to H2' (7.35 ppm) and H5' (6.92 ppm), respectively.

The glycone part has been assigned as α -rhamnoside with α -anomer (δ 1" 5.36 ppm, 1.48 Hz), axial-equatorial couplings of H2"–H3" (~3 Hz), axial-axial of H3"– H4" (~9 Hz), and a proton methyl coupled to H5" (6 Hz). The sugar unit has unique coupling constants of anomeric proton and methyl doublet of ~6 and ~1.3 Hz, respectively ³²². The close similarity of the ¹³C NMR of C3 suggests that the monosaccharide is attached. In addition, the core skeleton has been confirmed as quercetin by comparison of δ ¹³C with those reported in Table 10. In other words, the isolated molecule could be quercetin-3-*O*-rhamnoside, trivially called quercitrin (Figure 51).



Figure 49. The spectral image of ¹H NMR of quercitrin 4 from methanolic extract of flowers



Figure 50. The spectral image of ¹³C NMR of quercitrin 4 from methanolic extract of flowers

		FL-MeOł	Quercitrin 323			
No	δ ¹ H in ppm (m, <i>J</i> in Hz, integration)	δ ¹³ C (ppm)	COSY	НМВС	δ ¹ H ppm (m, <i>J</i> Hz, integration)	δ ¹³ C (ppm)
2	-	146.57	-	-	-	149.9
3	-	136.38	-	-	-	136.2
4	-	179.80	-	-	-	179.6
5	-	158.68	-	-	-	163.2
6	6.21 (d; 2.12; 1H)	99.95	H8	C4, C8, C10, C9	6.13 (d; 2.5; 1H)	100.2
7	-	166.01	-	-	-	167.2
8	6.38 (d; 2.08; 1H)	94.85	H6	C4, C5, C6, C7, C10	6.29 (d; 2.5; 1H)	95.3
9	-	163.37	-	-	-	158.6
10	-	106.05	-	-	-	105.6
1'	-	123.12	-	-	-	123.1
2'	7.35 (s; 1H)	117.07	-	C2, C6', C3', C4'	7.28 (s; 1H)	116.9
3'	-	149.95	-	-	-	146.4
4'	-	159.46	-	-	-	159.2
5'	6.92 (d; 8.28; 1H)	116.51	H6'	C2, C3, C2', C1', C3', C4', C6'	6.86 (d; 7.9; 1H)	116.4
6'	7.32 (dd; 8.28, 2.14; 1H)	123.01	H5'	C2, C2', C3', C4'	7.25 (d; 7.9; 1H)	122.8
1"	5.36 (d; 1.48; 1H)	103.69	H2"	C4"	5.29 (d; 1.2; 1H)	103.5
2"	4.23 (dd; 3.28, 1.68; 1H)	72.05	H1", H3"	-	4.17 (m; 1H)	71.9
3"	3.76 (dd; 9.36, 3.44; 1H)	72.26	H4"	-	3.70 (d; 6.7; 1H)	72.2
4"	3.36 (t; 1H)	73.40	H3"	C5"	3.32 (d; 9.6; 1H)	73.4
5"	3.42 (d; 6.12; 1H)	72.18	H6"	-	3.35 (m; 1H)	72
6"	0.95 (d; 6.08; 3H)	17.80	H5"	-	0.86 (d; 6.1; 3H)	17.7

Table 10. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD), ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₃OD), and 2D NMR data of compound from sub-fraction B2b of the methanolic extract of flowers compared to reported quercetin-3-O-rhamnoside (quercitrin **4**)



Figure 51. Molecular structure of quercitrin 4 from the methanolic extract of flowers.

This finding is not surprising as the isoliquiritigenin group is the precursor of flavonol derivatives in Leguminosae ³¹⁸, like *A. saligna*, which may lead to the existence in the sample. Both compounds with quercetin were previously identified in crude ethanolic extract of *Coryloposis coreana* Uyeki flowers reported by Seo et al. ³²⁴ and associated with its DPPH scavenging activity ($IC_{50} = 56.1 \mu g/mL$). Moreover, quercitrin has been well known as the active inhibitor of α-glucosidase from leguminous plants ^{322, 325, 326}. Thus, these facts may justify the corresponding bioactive constituents in FL-MeOH extract to be further investigated, and the biological results of this investigation will be discussed in biological results and discussion in Chapter 5.

4.2.1.5. D-(+)-pinitol 79a from flowers

Table 11 shows 1D- and 2D-NMR data of the subfraction FL-MeOH-B3b from the methanolic flower extract (15 mg, 7.28%) by which the protons were found between 3 and 4 ppm. The connectivity among them can be summarised as follows:

- 1. Protons 1 and 6 couple have large vicinal coupling constants of 6.08 Hz representing geometrically different orientations (equatorial-equatorial).
- 2. Protons H1 to H2 and H6 to H5 shared the same coupling constants (J = 2.08 Hz), suggesting an equatorial-axial relationship.
- 3. Three equatorial-equatorial coupling systems ($J \sim 9$ Hz) are observed for H2 to H3, H3 to H4, and H4 to H5.
- According to C-13 and C-DEPT data, H7 has been confirmed as a methoxy (-OCH₃).

The obtained data were identical to those reported for *D*-pinitol **79a** by Raya-Gonzalez et al. ³²⁷. This inositol ether was first isolated in the sugar pine (*Pinus lambertiana*) by Anderson et al. ³²⁸ and first documented in the genus Acacia in *A. nilotica* ³²⁹. The compound has been actively confirmed as an antidiabetic ^{330, 331}, antioxidant ³³², and α -glucosidase inhibitor by its synthesised derivatives ³³³. However,



Figure 52. The spectral image of ¹H NMR of *D*-pinitol 79a from methanolic extract of flowers



Figure 53. The spectral image of ¹³C NMR of *D*-pinitol 79a from methanolic extract of flowers

No		FL-MeOH-B3b	Pinitol ³²⁷			
	δ H in ppm (m, <i>J</i> in Hz, integration)	COSY	δC (ppm)	НМВС	δ ¹ H in ppm (m, <i>J</i> Hz, integration)	δ ¹³ C (ppm)
1	2.97 (m; 6.08, 2.08; 2H)	H2	71.62	C6, C2, C3	2.95 (m; 2LI)	71.89
6	3.87 (m; 6.08, 2.08; 2H)	H5	71.42	C1, C4, C5	3.65 (III, ZH)	71.67
2	3.68 (dd; 9.96, 2.86; 1H)	H1, H3	69.78	C1, C3	3.66 (dd; 9.90, 2.60; 1H)	70.02
3	3.21 (t; 9.64, 1H)	H2, H4	82.73	C2, C4, C7	3.19 (t; 9.72; 1H)	82.96
4	3.51 (t; 9.56, 1H)	H3, H5	72.08	C3, C5	3.50 (t; 9.76; 1H)	72.32
5	3.62 (dd; 9.96, 2.86; 1H)	H4, H6	70.49	C4, C7	3.61 (dd; 9.98, 2.60; 1H)	70.73
7	3.46 (s; 3H)	-	59.68	C3	3.45 (s; 3H)	59.88

Table 11. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O), ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, D₂O), and 2D NMR data of compound from FL-MeOH-B3b compared to reported 3-O-methyl-*D*-chiro-inositol (*D*-(+)-pinitol **79a**) there seems to be no related documentation in any paper about isolating D-(+)-pinitol **79a** in any part of *A. saligna*.



Figure 54. Molecular structure of 3-*O*-methyl-*D*-chiro-inositol (*D*-(+)-pinitol) ($C_7H_{14}O_6$) from the methanolic flower extract in (a) Haworth projection, (b) chair conformation, (c) COSY (\leftrightarrow) and HMBC (\leftrightarrow) relationship.

4.2.2. Three flavonoids, one substituted phenol, one cyclitol, and one lactone derivative from the LF-MeOH fraction

4.2.2.1. (-)-Epicatechin 77 from leaves



Figure 55. (a) The main skeleton of catechin ($C_{15}H_{14}O_6$; MW = 290.97) and (b) key connections of proton-to-proton (\leftrightarrow COSY) and proton-to-carbon (\leftrightarrow HMBC) of the catechin derivative found in LF-MeOH-A1.

The 1D- and 2D-NMR data (Table 12) shows that the compound in the subfraction LF-MeOH-A1 of the methanolic leaf extract (9 mg, 11.25%) could be an aglycone flavan-3-ol derivative. A geminal couple (${}^{2}J$ = 16 Hz) of protons 4 (δa 2.87 and δb 2.52 ppm) was also assigned, representing the typical proton resonance of catechin. In detail, the following information confirms the complete structure of the compound:

- 1. Proton 6 (5.83 ppm) and 8 (5.75 ppm) are meta couple (*J* = 2.28 Hz) representing ring A.
- 2. Meta couple of H6' (6.62 ppm) to H2' (6.74 ppm) with J = 1.8 Hz and ortho couple of H6' to H5' (6.66 ppm) with J = 8 Hz represent ring B.



Figure 56. The spectral image of ¹H NMR of (–)-epicatechin 77 from methanolic extract of leaves



Figure 57. The spectral image of ¹³C NMR of (–)-epicatechin 77 from methanolic extract of leaves

N		LF-MeOH-A1						
NO	δ ¹ H in ppm (m, <i>J</i> Hz, integration)	δ ¹³ C (ppm)	COSY	НМВС	NOESY	δ ¹ H in ppm (m, <i>J</i> in Hz, integration)	δ ¹³ C (ppm)	
2	4.46 (d; 7.52; 1H)	82.99	H3	C3, C4, C2', C6', C1', C5	H4b	4.82 (br s; 1H)	79.88	
3	3.87 (m; 1H)	68.95	H2, H4a, H4b		H4a (weaker), H4b (stronger)	4.19 (m; 1H)	67.49	
4a	2.75 (dd; 16.16, 5.4; 1H)	28.60	H3, H4b	C2, C3, C5, C10	H4b	2.73 (dd; 16.8, 2.9; 1H)	20.26	
4b	2.40 (dd; 16.12, 8.16; 1H)	20.09	H3, H4a	C3, C5, C10	H4a	2.87 (dd; 16.8, 4.5; 1H)	29.20	
5	-	157.72	-	-	-	-	158	
6	5.83 (d; 2.28; 1H)	96.42	H8	C5, C10	-	5.94 (d; 2.3; 1H)	96.38	
7	-	157.98	-	-	-	-	157.67	
8	5.75 (d; 2.28; 1H)	95.64	H6	C6, C10	-	5.97 (d; 2.3; 1H)	95.88	
9	-	157.06	-	-	-	-	157.37	
10	-	100.95	-	-	-	-	100.06	
1'	-	132.35	-	-	-	-	132.28	
2'	6.74 (d; 1.84; 1H)	115.41	H5', H6'	C2, C6', C3'	H2, H3	6.98 (d; 1.9; 1H)	115.32	
3'	-	146.36	-	-	-	-	145.78	
4'	-	146.39	-	-	-	-	145.95	
5'	6.66 (d; 8.12; 1H)	116.22	H6'	C2', C1', C4'	-	6.76 (d; 8.4; 1H)	115.88	
6'	6.62 (dd; 1.88, 8.16; 1H)	120.18	H2', H5'	C2, C2', C4'	H2, H3	6.81 (dd; 8.4, 1.9; 1H)	119.39	

Table 12. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O), ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, D₂O), and 2D NMR data of compound from LF-MeOH-A1 compared to reported (–)-epicatechin **77**.

- 3. HMBC of H4 confirmed the connectivity between ring C to A and ring C to B to C10, and H2' to C2 (Figure 42b).
- The stronger cross-peaks correlation in the NOESY spectrum was observed for proton H2 and H3, H2 and H4b, and H3 and H4b, demonstrating the same spatial orientation among them.



Figure 58. (a) Key connections of proton-to-proton (\leftrightarrow NOESY) showing the spatial relationship of vicinal protons and (b) the molecular structure of (–)-epicatechin **77** with *cis-2R,3R* stereochemical orientation.

Catechin derivatives are believed to be a ubiquitous component of vascular plants such as the Acacia genus. The isolation of catechin (the catechin isomer with *trans* configuration) and 7-galloylcatechin from *A. saligna* leaves was previously reported by E-Toumy et al. ²¹⁵. However, this study did not show the specific rotation of the chiral protons. In our work, the *cis* isomer of catechin isolated from the leaves was identified as (–)-epicatechin **77**, demonstrated by its specific rotation value of $[\alpha]^{23}$ = -69.06° (c 0.1, MeOH).

4.2.2.2. 2,4-Di-*t*-butylphenol 78

A substituted monophenol derivative has been identified in the subfraction A3 of methanolic leaf extract (10 mg, 12.5%). According to the spectral information, the possible compound found in the subfraction A3 of methanolic leaves extract could be 2,4-di-*t*-buylphenol **78**. In addition, its δ proton and carbon data were also reported by those reported for 2,4-di-*t*-buylphenol **78** by Belghit et al. ³³⁴ and Dharni et al. ³³⁵ (Table 13). The data could be interpreted as follows:

- 1. Tall peaks at 1.29 and 1.40 ppm were assigned as two *tert*-butyl groups.
- Two peaks of proton at 7.01 (H5) and 7.24 (H3) ppm have small *J* values (2.4 Hz), showing their *meta*-relationship. Moreover, H5 also has large *J* values of 8.32 Hz, suggesting an *ortho*-relationship to H6 (6.64 ppm).



Figure 59. The spectral image of ¹H NMR of 2,4-di-*t*-buylphenol 78 from methanolic extract of leaves



Figure 60. The spectral image of ¹³C NMR of 2,4-di-*t*-buylphenol 78 from methanolic extract of leaves

No		LF-MeOH-A3	2,4-Di- <i>t-</i> buylphenol ^{334, 335}			
	δ H in ppm (m, <i>J</i> Hz, integration)	COSY	δ C (ppm)	НМВС	δ ¹ H in ppm (m, <i>J</i> Hz, integration)	δ ¹³ C (ppm)
1	-	-	154.93	-	-	153.38
2	-	-	136.27	-	-	134.77
3	7.24 (d; 2.44; 1H)	H5	124.45	C1, C5	7.24 (d; 2.4; 1H)	122.91
4	-	-	142.45	-	-	140.96
5	7.01 (dd; 8.32, 2.48; 1H)	H3, H6	124.37	C1, C3	7.02 (dd; 8.2, 2.4; 1H)	122.82
6	6.64 (d; 8.32; 1H)	H5	116.73	C1, C4	6.64 (d; 8.2; 1H)	115.19
7	-	-	35.85	-	-	34.31
8	-	-	35.12	-	-	33.58
9	1.40 (s, 9H)	-	30.22	C2, C3, C7	1.40 (s, 9H)	28.67
10	1.29 (s, 9H)	-	32.29	C4, C5, C8	1.29 (s, 9H)	30.76

Table 13. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD), ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₃OD), and 2D NMR data of compound from LF-MeOH-A3 compared to reported 2,4-di-*t*-buylphenol **78**

3. The shielded peak of H6 appears due to the shielding effect of the adjacent electron-donating group of hydroxyl.



Figure 61. (a) The molecular structure of phenol-2,4-*bis*(1,1-dimethylethyl) or 2,4-di-*t*-buylphenol **78** (C₁₄H₂₂O, MW = 206.32) from LF-MeOH-A3, (b) the structure with key connectivity according to COSY (\leftrightarrow), and (c) HMBC (\leftrightarrow) information.

This compound has been isolated from different groups of organisms, including plants, e.g. sweet potatoes ³²¹ and pine trees ³³⁶, and animals, e.g. marine sponge *Zygomycale* sp ³³⁷, such as the Chinese-red-headed centipede (*Scolopendra subspinipes*) ³³⁸, bacteria, and fungi ³³⁶. It has also been identified as an antioxidant ³³⁹, anticancer, antiviral ³⁴⁰, antibacterial, and antifungal ³³⁵. Moreover, as 2,4-di-*t*-buylphenol **78** demonstrated allelopathic activities against weeds and lettuces ^{341, 342}, this compound could also be linked to the herbicide properties of *A. saligna*, allowing this plant to grow uninterruptedly. Indeed, some previous works have demonstrated the strongly allelopathic ^{192, 233, 343} and antifungal activities ²¹⁶ of *A. saligna* leaves. Nevertheless, none of those reports identified 2,4-di-*t*-buylphenol **78** and tested its potential.

4.2.2.3. Quercitrin 4 from leaves

The sample of fraction LF-MeOH-B (60 mg) was eluted with an incremental gradient mobile phase (100:0, 95:5, and 9:1 of EtOAc/MeOH) through a packed column of silica gel 60 (4 g). Under a short-wave UV light inspection of its TLC plate, a major subfraction was obtained as LF-MeOH-B2 (28.6 mg, 47.67%). Table 14 shows 1D- and 2D-NMR data of an isolated compound in the sub-fraction B2. The chemical shifts of protons represent both oxygenated aromatics of ring A and B flavonol and a pyranose system. The data could be interpreted as follows:

 Upfield peaks at 6.21 and 6.37 ppm indicate a shielding effect of adjacent electron-donating groups attached to ring A (Figure 62). The small *J* values (2 Hz) show their *meta*-relationship. The peak at 6.21 ppm (H6) appears due to the *ortho*-substituent effects of two neighbouring hydroxyls, while the least shielded of 6.37 ppm (H8) could probably be due to the *o*-substituent effects between ether and hydroxyl.

- 2. Three peaks in the downfield region reflecting an electron-withdrawing environment were assigned as protons of ring B. The electron withdrawal could occur due to an alkoxy group of ring C linked to C1' (123.11 ppm), leading to up shielded nucleus of *ortho* protons of H2' (7.35 ppm) and H6' (7.31 ppm). Moreover, the meta relationship of both protons was confirmed by their small *J* value of ~2 Hz. Apart from the electron-withdrawing effect, the next upfield proton at 6.92 ppm (H5') shows an electron-donating effect of the OH group (attached at C4') on the ortho position. This proton *o*-couples to H6' deduced by the *J* value of 8.5 Hz.
- 3. A duplet anomeric peak at 5.36 ppm (J = 1.5 Hz) could indicate a α conformation of the sugar substituent. Both small and large J values (3 and 9.5 Hz) represent axial-equatorial and axial-axial couplings of H2'–H3' and H3'–H4', respectively. Moreover, a triplet peak of 3.36 ppm (J = 9.5 Hz) demonstrates axial-axial relationships of C4' towards C3' and C5'. Finally, the C5' coupling to methyl protons suggests that the sugar could be a α -rhamnopyranoside assigned as *L*form.
- 4. The connectivity between flavonol's sugar and core structure was established using HMBC. The HMBC cross-peaks of H1" and C3 suggest that the sugar moiety was attached to the oxygen of C3. Furthermore, according to Table 14, the obtained data were identical to those reported for quercitrin 4, a trivial name for quercetin-3-O-rhamnoside, by Kim et al. ³²³.



Figure 62. (a) Molecular structure of quercetin-3-O-rhamnoside from the methanolic extract of leaves (quercitrin **4**, $C_{21}H_{20}O_{11}$, MW = 448.1), and (b) key correlations within atoms based on HMBC.



Figure 63. The spectral image of ¹H NMR of quercitrin 4 from methanolic extract of leaves



Figure 64. The spectral image of ¹³C NMR of quercitrin 4 from methanolic extract of leaves

		LF-MeOH	Quercitrin 323			
No	δ ¹ H in ppm (m, <i>J</i> in Hz, integration)	δ C (ppm)	COSY	НМВС	δ ¹ H ppm (m, <i>J</i> Hz, integration)	δ ¹³ C (ppm)
2	-	146.52	-	-	-	149.9
3	-	136.37	-	-	-	136.2
4	-	179.76	-	-	-	179.6
5	-	158.63	-	-	-	163.2
6	6.21 (d; 2; 1H)	99.94	H8	C5, C7, C10	6.13 (d; 2.5; 1H)	100.2
7	-	165.96	-	-	-	167.2
8	6.37 (d; 2; 1H)	94.85	H6	C7, C9, C10	6.29 (d; 2.5; 1H)	95.3
9	-	163.32	-	-	-	158.6
10	-	106.03	-	-	-	105.6
1'	-	123.11	-	-	-	123.1
2'	7.35 (d; 2.5; 1H)	116.50	H6'	C2, C1', C3', C4'	7.28 (s; 1H)	116.9
3'	-	149.90	-	-	-	146.4
4'	-	159.43	-	-	-	159.2
5'	6.92 (d; 8.5; 1H)	117.08	H6'	C2, C1', C3'	6.86 (d; 7.9; 1H)	116.4
6'	7.31 (dd; 8.5, 2; 1H)	123.02	H2', H5'	C3', C4'	7.25 (d; 7.9; 1H)	122.8
1"	5.36 (d; 1.5; 1H)	103.66	H2"	C3	5.29 (d; 1.2; 1H)	103.5
2"	4.24 (dd; 3, 2; 1H)	72.06	H1", H3"	C3"	4.17 (m; 1H)	71.9
3"	3.77 (dd; 9.5, 3; 1H)	72.29	H2", H4"	C4"	3.70 (d; 6.7; 1H)	72.2
4"	3.36 (t; 9.5; 1H)	73.40	H3"	C5"	3.32 (d; 9.6; 1H)	73.4
5"	3.42 (d; 6; 1H)	72.18	H5"		3.35 (m; 1H)	72
6"	0.95 (d; 6; 3H)	17.78	H6"	C5", C4"	0.86 (d; 6.1; 3H)	17.7

Table 14. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CD₃OD), ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CD₃OD), and 2D NMR data of compound from LF-MeOH-B2 compared to reported quercitrin **4**.

According to these spectral data, the subfraction LF-MeOH-B2 could be considered quercitrin, a similar flavonol isolated from the methanolic extract of flowers. This compound was previously separated from ethanolic ¹⁸⁹, aqueous alcoholic ²¹⁵, and methanolic extract ¹⁹⁶ of the leaves. Furthermore, some reports demonstrated that several bioactivities, including ²¹⁵, antibacterial ¹⁹⁰, antioxidant and anticancer ¹⁹⁶ of the leaves, have been linked to this phytochemical.

4.2.2.4. Myricitrin 11

The sub-subfraction LF-MeOH-C2b (50 mg, 10.20%) was obtained through a further purification of LF-MeOH-C fraction (490 mg), which was the major fraction yielded from the fractionation of methanolic leaves extract (Figure S5, page 250). The yellow powder was collected by EtOAc/MeOH (90:10) elution out of the incremental gradient mobile phase (100:0, 95:5, 90:10, and 85:15 of EtOAc/MeOH) through a packed column of silica gel 60.

Table 15 shows 1D- and 2D-NMR data of the flavonol derivative isolated from the sub-subfraction C2b. The δ protons represent both oxygenated aromatics (two doublets at the upfield region and a singlet near the generic region of benzene) and a pyranose system (3 to 4 ppm and an anomeric peak of 5.33 ppm). The data could be interpreted as follows:

- 1. Upfield peaks at 6.21 and 6.37 ppm indicate a shielding effect of adjacent electron-donating groups attached to ring A (Figure 68). The small *J* values (1.8 and 2.3 Hz) show their *meta*-relationship. The peak at 6.21 ppm (H6) appears due to the *ortho*-substituent effects of two neighbouring hydroxyls, while the least shielded of 6.37 ppm (H8) could probably be due to the *o*-substituent effects between ether and hydroxyl.
- A taller peak at 6.96 ppm represents two symmetric protons (H2' and H6') lying between electron-withdrawing (ring C) and -donating groups (hydroxyls) in ring B. The aromatic could be a parallel trihydroxyl substituents at C3', 4', and 5' of the ring, which were confirmed by typical δs of C-13: a taller peak at 146.95 ppm representing C3' and 5' and a more upfield peak at 137.99 ppm for C4' due to the *o*-substituent effects of the adjacent groups.
- 3. An anomeric singlet peak at 5.33 ppm could indicate an α conformation of the glycone moiety. Both small and large *J* values (3.48 and 9.4 Hz) represent axial-equatorial and axial-axial couplings of H2'–H3' and H3'–H4', respectively. Moreover, a triplet peak of 3.37 ppm with larger *J* values (~9.5 Hz) demonstrates axial-axial relationships of C4' towards C3' and C5'. Finally, the C5' coupling to



Figure 65. The spectral image of ¹H NMR of myricitrin 11 from methanolic extract of leaves



Figure 66. The spectral image of ¹³C NMR of myricitrin 11 from methanolic extract of leaves

		LF-MeOH-C		Myricitrin ³⁴⁴		
No	δ ¹ H in ppm (m, <i>J</i> in Hz, integration)	δ C (ppm)	COSY	НМВС	δ ¹ H ppm (m, <i>J</i> Hz, integration)	δ ¹³ C (ppm)
2	-	159.59	-	-	-	159.2
3	-	136.46	-	-	-	136.1
4	-	179.83	-	-	-	179.5
5	-	163.38	-	-	-	163.1
6	6.21 (d; 2; 1H)	99.96	H8	C5, C8, C10	6.19 (d; 1.8; 1H)	99.7
7	-	166.12	-	-	-	164.0
8	6.37 (d; 2; 1H)	94.83	H6	C6, C7, C9, C10	6.35 (d; 2.3; 1H)	94.6
9	-	158.61	-	-	-	158.4
10	-	106.00	-	-	-	105.6
1'	-	122.06	-	-	-	121.7
2'	6.96 (s; 2H)	109.69	-	C2, C1', C3', C4'	6.94 (s; 2H)	109.6
3'	-	147.02	-	-	-	146.7
4'	-	137.99	-	-	-	137.7
5'	-	147.02	-	-	-	146.7
6'	6.96 (s; 2H)	109.69	-	C2, C1', C3', C4'	6.94 (s; 2H)	109.6
1"	5.33 (s; 1H)	103.79	H2"	C3, C2"	5.30 (d; 1.8; 1H)	103.5
2"	4.24 (s; 1H)	72.04	H1", H3"	-	4.21 (dd; 3.2, 1.8; 1H)	71.7
3"	3.8 (dd; 9.4, 3.48; 1H)	72.27	H2", H4"	-	3.76–3.78 (dd; 9.4, 3.4; 1H)	72.0
4"	3.37 (t; 9.52; 1H)	73.50	H3", H5"	-	3.31–3.34 (m; 1H)	73.2
5"	3.53 (dd; 9.66, 6.1; 1H)	72.19	H4", H6"	-	3.48–3.54 (m; 1H)	71.9
6"	0.97 (d; 6.16; 3H)	17.82	H5"	C5"	0.94–0.96 (m; 3H)	17.5

Table 15. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD), ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₃OD), and 2D NMR data of compound from LF-MeOH-C2b compared to reported myricetin– $3-O-\alpha-L$ -rhamnopyranoside (myricitrin **11**)

methyl protons suggests that the sugar could be a α -rhamnopyranoside assigned as *L*-form.



Figure 67. Molecular structure of myricetin-3-*O*-rhamnoside (myricitrin **11**) from methanolic leaf extract showing 3-D conformation of the sugar ring.

The connectivity of the main fragments of the molecule was established using an HMBC experiment. An HMBC-based correlation of H2 confirmed the link between ring B and C' and C2 (Figure 68). Moreover, the HMBC of H1" and C3 suggests that the sugar part was attached to the carbon of ring C. Furthermore, the obtained data were identical to those reported for myricitrin, a trivial name for myricetin-3-O-rhamnoside, by Hwang & Chung ³⁴⁴ (Table 15).



Figure 68. (a) Molecular structure of myricetin-3-*O*-rhamnoside (myricitrin **11**, $C_{21}H_{20}O_{12}$, MW = 464.37) and (b) key correlations within atoms based on selected HMBC.

4.2.2.5. (-)-Pinitol 79b

The LF-MeOH-C3 was isolated from the methanolic leaf extract as a white solid (80 mg, 16.33%). Complete NMR and HRMS analysis initially revealed that this compound is identical to *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a**. The obtained data were identical to those reported for *D*-(+)-pinitol by Raya-Gonzalez et al. ³²⁷ (Table 16). However, its optical rotation $[\alpha]^{23}$ = -79.44° (c 0.1, H₂O) indicates that LF-MeOH-C3 is the enantiomer (-)-pinitol **79b** ($[\alpha]^{20}$ = -61.5° (c 0.19, H₂O)) ³⁴⁵. It is known that both enantiomers of pinitol occur in various plants. However, this is the first time both enantiomers isolated





Figure 70. The spectral image of ¹³C NMR of (-)-pinitol 79b from methanolic extract of leaves

No	LF-	D-pinitol 327				
	δ ¹ H in ppm (m, J in Hz, integration)	δ C (ppm)	COSY	НМВС	δ ¹ H in ppm (m, <i>J</i> in Hz, integration)	δ ¹³ C (ppm)
1	3.99 (dd; 12, 6; 1H)	72.22	H2, H6	C2, C3	2.085 (m; 2LI)	72.32
6	3.99 (dd; 12, 6; 1H)	72.01	H5, H1	C2	3.965 (III, 2⊓)	70.02
2	3.80 (dd; 9.92, 2.44; 1H)	70.36	H1, H3	C3	3.66 (dd; 9.90, 2.6; 1H)	71.67
3	3.32 (t; 9.66; 1H)	83.30	H2, H4	C1, C2, C7	3.19 (dd; 9.9, 9.53; 1H)	82.96
4	3.63 (t; 9.6; 1H)	72.66	H5, H3	C2, C3	3.50 (dd; 9.53, 9.98; 1H)	70.73
5	3.74 (dd; 9.88, 2.56; 1H)	71.09	H6, H4	C3, C6	3.61 (dd; 9.98, 2.6; 1H)	71.89
7	3.58 (s; 3H)	60.28	-	C3	3.45 (s; 3H)	59.88

Table 16. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O), ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, D₂O), and 2D NMR data of compound from LF-MeOH-C3 compared to reported *D*-pinitol

from Australian *A saligna*. Furthermore, (–)-pinitol **79b** was exclusively isolated from the leaves of this plant.

D-pinitol is a typical secondary metabolite of plants living in water-deficit environments. This compound is a simple cyclic sugar derivative called cyclitol which is numbered counter-clockwise, indicating the *D*-configuration ³⁴⁶. The *O*-methyl group has been observed to lead to dextrorotation (optically active structure) ³⁴⁷. Both enantiomers of pinitol commonly occur in the same plant.



Figure 71. Molecular structure of (-)-pinitol **79b** (C₇H₁₄O₆) from the methanolic extract of leaves in Haworth projection with HMBC information.

4.2.2.6. 3-Hydroxy-5-(2-aminoethyl) dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one 80

A polar colourless isolated compound was obtained from the methanolic extract of leaves (50 mg, 6%) with five proton peaks within 1.84 and 4.17 ppm. This isolate has six carbons, including three $-CH_2s$ resonating in upfield (26.50 and 32.74 ppm) and mildly downfield region (38.53 ppm), two -CHs resonating in farther downfield of the singly-oxygenated saturated region (53.90 and 61.80 ppm), and a carbonyl (δ 175.27 pm). The detailed interpreted information is as follows:

- A geminal pair of protons (δ H4a and H4b of 2.16 and 1.91 ppm) was observed to couple to a doublet-doublet proton H3 bore in a chiral centre resonating in the region of singly-oxygenated carbon (δ C3 53.90 ppm).
- A multiplete peak representing 2 protons (H7) bore in an electronegative groupsubstituted C-7 was coupled to an upfield peak corresponding to H6 as -CH₂. The group was assigned as a primary amine according to the δ C7 characteristics excluded from the singly-oxygenated region and the HRMS data.
- 3. Even though proton H5 was not observed to couple to any proton, data of TOCSY and NOESY showed that this proton with a multiplete downfield spectrum could be a part of the system. The cross-peaks correlation of TOCSY demonstrated three patterns for (1) H5 to H3 and H4, as well as (2) H5 to H6 and H7, and (3) H3 to H4a and H5. Therefore, a five-membered ring could be possible as the core of this compound, where H6 and H7 seem to be the chain-like substituent attached to the chiral centre of C5.



Figure 72. The spectral image of ¹H NMR of compound **80** from methanolic extract of leaves





Figure 73. The spectral image of ¹³C NMR of compound 80 from methanolic extract of leaves



Figure 74. The spectral image of ¹H-¹H COSY NMR of compound 80 from methanolic extract of leaves



Figure 75. The spectral image of ¹H-¹³C HSQC NMR of compound 80 from methanolic extract of leaves


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Figure 76. The spectral image of ¹H-¹³C HMBC NMR of compound 80 from methanolic extract of leaves



Figure 77. The spectral image of ¹H-¹H NOESY NMR of compound **80** from methanolic extract of leaves

 NOESY information gave that H5 seems to share the same space with H4b and H6, suggesting two possible isomers of the lactone, 3*R*,5*R* and 3*S*,5*S* (Figure 78d).

No	¹ H (δ ppm, m, <i>J</i> Hz, integration)	¹³ C (δ ppm)	COSY	TOCSY	НМВС	NOESY
2	-	175.27	-	-	-	-
3	3.86 (dd; 11.8, 3.68; 1H)	53.90	H4b	H5, H4a, H4b	C2, C4, C5	H4a (strong), H4b
4a	2.16 (m; 1H)	32.74	H4b	H3, H4b, H5	-	H3 (strong), H4b (strong)
4b	1.91 (m; 1H)		H3, H4a	H3, H4a, H5	C2, C3, C5	H5 (strong), H3, H4a
5	4.17 (m; 1H)	61.80	-	H3, H4a, H4b, H6, H7	-	H4b (strong), H6
6	1.84 (m; 2H)	26.50	H7	H5, H7	C4, C5, C7	H5
7	3.26 (m; 2H)	38.53	H6	H5, H6	C5, C6	H6 (strong)

 Table 17. The 1- and 2-D NMR data of isolate from LF-MeOH-D in D₂O (400 MHz)





An aminoethyl substituent attached to the lactone ring at C5 via C6. The chemical shift of C-3 indicates that an OH is appropriately attached to C3. NOESY NMR analysis (Figure 78b) showed strong crossed peaks between H3-H4a and H5-H4b, indicating that H5 is trans to H3. The positive ESI-MS [M + H]⁺ of the isolate was 146.0818, corresponding to C₆H₁₁NO₃ (calculated m/z [M + H]⁺ = 146.0817). It has an optical rotation [α]²³ = -3.6° (c 0.1, H₂O). Its melting point was observed to be in the range of 347-350 °C. The IR spectra showed bands at 3212.08 (OH stretch); 2929.09 (CH sp³); 1707.74 (C=O stretch); and 1053.09 cm⁻¹ (C-O). Our spectral data analysis, therefore, concludes LF-MeOH-D to be (3*S*,5*S*)-3-hydroxy-5-(2-aminoethyl)-

dihydrofuran-2(3*H*)-one **80** or the (3*R*,5*R*)-enantiomer (Figure 49d). It is for the first time being isolated as a natural product from the leaves of *A. saligna*. Nothing in the literature indicates that (3*S*,5*S*)-3-hydroxy-5-(2-aminoethyl)-dihydrofuran-2(3*H*)-one **80** is a known natural product. The absolute configuration of (3*S*,5*S*)-3-hydroxy-5-(2-aminoethyl)-dihydrofuran-2(3*H*)-one **80** at C3 and C5 can be further confirmed by an X-ray crystallographic study or NMR analysis of Mosher diastereomeric esters of compound **80**.

4.2.3. One flavonoid, cyclitol, and disaccharide from the BK-MeOH fraction 4.2.3.1. (–)-Epicatechin 77 from bark

Table 18 shows 1D- and 2D-NMR data of the subfraction BK-MeOH-A1 (9 mg, 11.25%) from the methanolic bark extract. The data indicated that the compound consists of the flavan-3-ol skeleton with two patterns of aromatic rings representing rings A and B. A geminal couple (${}^{2}J$ = 16 Hz) of protons 4 (2.52 and 2.87 ppm) due to a chiral environment of the neighbouring carbon (C3) represents the typical proton resonance of a catechin derivative. Moreover, the connectivity among protons can be summarised as follows:

- 1. Proton 6 and 8 are meta couple in ring A with J = 2.2 Hz.
- 2. Proton 6' is meta couple to H2' (J = 1.8 Hz) and ortho couple to H5' (J = 8 Hz) in ring B.
- HMBC of H4 has confirmed the connectivity between ring C to A and ring C to B to C10 and H2' to C2.



Figure 79. (a) The main skeleton of catechin and (b) key connections of proton-to-proton (\leftrightarrow COSY) and proton-to-carbon (\leftrightarrow HMBC) of catechin derivative isolated from the methanolic bark extract.

This finding shows that flavonoids can also be found in the bark beside the flowers and leaves. Acacia barks have been known as the source of condensed tannin, where catechin is one of the major units of group ³⁴⁸. According to the NOESY spectrum, the type of stereochemical orientation of the isolate can be revealed. The

geminal proton of H4a and H4b showed a very strong cross-peaks correlation indicating the closer spatial distance. Moreover, proton H3 shared a stronger cross-peaks correlation with proton H4b than those with proton H4a meaning that H3 and H4b are in the same face (Figure 82a). Notably, the strong peaks correlation was also observed for proton H2 and H3 demonstrating the same spatial orientation among the twos. This relationship has also been confirmed by weak cross-peaks correlation between proton H2 and H4b, indicating they are positioned on the same face. Furthermore, its specific optical value of $[\alpha]^{23}$ = -28.72° (c 0.1, MeOH) indicated that the possible compound could be (–)-epicatechin with 2*R*,3*R* orientation (Figure 51b).



Figure 80. Key connections of (a) proton-to-proton (\leftrightarrow NOESY) showing the spatial relationship of vicinal protons and (b) the molecular structure of (-)-epicatechin from BK-MeOH-A1 with *cis-2R,3R* stereochemical orientation.

The isolation of (–)-epicatechin **77** from the barks was interesting since only flavonol derivatives were detected in the EtOH extract of *A. saligna* by Salem et al. ²²⁶. (–)-Epicatechin **77** is a member of flavan-3-ol commonly found as one of the monomers of condensed tannins or proanthocyanidins of *Acacia* barks. For example, catechin was isolated as a unit from *A. mearnsii* barks in 1960 by Roux and Maihs ³⁵⁰ and as a few of catechin-fisetinidol and catechin-robinetinidol by Drewes et al. ³⁵¹.





Figure 82. The spectral image of ¹³C NMR of (–)-epicatechin 77 from methanolic extract of bark

No		BK-Me	(–)-Epicatechin ³⁴⁹			
	δ ¹ H in ppm (m, <i>J</i> in Hz, integration)	δ ¹³ C (ppm)	COSY	НМВС	δ ¹ H in ppm (m, <i>J</i> in Hz, integration)	δ ¹³ C (ppm)
2	4.58 (d; 7.52; 1H)	81.47	H3	C3, C4, C2', C6', C1', C9	4.82 (br s; 1H)	79.88
3	3.99 (m; 1H)	67.42	H2, H4a, H4b	-	4.19 (m; 1H)	67.49
4a	2.52 (dd; 16.08, 8.2; 1H)	07.40	H3, H4b	00.00.05.00.040	2.73 (dd; 16.8, 2.9; 1H)	- 29.26
4b	2.87 (dd; 16.12, 5.4; 1H)	27.13	H3, H4a	C2, C3, C5, C9, C10	2.87 (dd; 16.8, 4.5; 1H)	
5	-	156.40	-	-	-	158
6	5.95 (d; 2.2; 1H)	94.88	H8	C5, C7, C10	5.94 (d; 2.3; 1H)	96.38
7	-	156.45	-	-	-	157.67
8	5.87 (d; 2.2; 1H)	94.09	H6	C6, C10, C7, C9	5.97 (d; 2.3; 1H)	95.88
9	-	155.53	-	-	-	157.37
10	-	99.41	-	-	-	100.06
1'	-	130.82	-	-	-	132.28
2'	6.86 (d; 1.6; 1H)	113.86	H6'	C2, C6', C1', C3'	6.98 (d; 1.9; 1H)	115.32
3'	-	144.83	-	-	-	145.78
4'	-	144.86	-	-	-	145.95
5'	6.78 (d; 8.08; 1H)	114.67	H6'	C2, C2', C1', C4'	6.76 (d; 8.4; 1H)	115.88
6'	6.74 (dd; 8.16, 1.88; 1H)	118.64	H2', H5'	C2, C2', C4'	6.81 (dd; 8.4, 1.9; 1H)	119.39

Table 18. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD), ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₃OD), and 2D NMR data of compound from BK-MeOH-A1 compared to reported (–)-epicatechin **77**.

4.2.3.2. *D*-(+)-Pinitol 79a from bark

Table 19 shows 1D- and 2D-NMR data of the subfraction BK-MeOH-B2 (10 mg, 12.5%) that allows us to establish the connectivity of the elements. All protons are likely to form a cyclohexane-like ring system with singly oxygenated groups, as the peaks are between 3 and 4 ppm. Protons 1 and 6 share the same peak indicating a symmetrical molecule due to their unique chemical environment. The connectivity among protons can be summarised as follows:

- 1. Protons 1 and 6 couple each other with large vicinal coupling constants of 9 Hz representing geometrically different orientations (equatorial-equatorial).
- 2. Two coupling constants of the same values ($J \sim 2$ Hz) that suggest sharing the same orientation: H1 to H2 and H6 to H5, represent the equatorial-axial relationship.
- 3. Three equatorial-equatorial coupling systems ($J \sim 9$ Hz) are observed for H2 to H3, H3 to H4, and H4 to H5.
- 4. According to HMBC data, H7 (methyl) links to C3, indicating that the carbon bonds an ether system instead of hydroxyl. The upfield shifting of H3 has also confirmed this due to an inductive effect of the attached ether (-OCH₃).

The obtained data were identical to those reported for *D*-pinitol **79a** by Kayed et al. ³⁵² (Table 19). *D*-pinitol **79a** is a typical secondary metabolite of plants living in water-deficit and saline environments. This compound is a simple cyclic sugar derivative called cyclitol which is numbered counter-clockwise, indicating the *D*-configuration ³⁵³. The *O*-methyl group has been observed to lead to dextrorotation (optically active structure) ³⁴⁷.



Figure 83. Molecular structure of 3-O-methyl-*D*-chiro-inositol (*D*-(+)-pinitol **79a**) ($C_7H_{14}O_6$) from the methanolic extract of bark in (a) Haworth projection and (b) chair conformation with HMBC information.



Figure 84. The spectral image of ¹H NMR of *D*-pinitol **79a** from methanolic extract of bark



Figure 85. The spectral image of ¹³C NMR of *D*-pinitol **79a** from methanolic extract of bark

No	B	K-MeOH-B2	D-pinitol 352			
	δ ¹ H in ppm (m, <i>J</i> in Hz, integration)	δ C (ppm)	COSY	НМВС	δ ¹ H in ppm (m, <i>J</i> in Hz, integration)	δ ¹³ C (ppm)
1	3.90 (dd; 9.2, 2.24; 1H)	73.89	H2, H6	-	2.01 (44:0.6.2.6:24)	72.06
6	3.90 (dd; 9.2, 2.24; 1H)	73.61	H5, H1	-	3.91 (dd, 9.6, 2.6, 2H)	71.14
2	3.76 (dd; 9.56, 2.32; 1H)	72.17	H1, H3	-	3.76 (dd; 9.68, 2.28; 1H)	70.61
3	3.27 (t; 9.42; 1H)	85.06	H2, H4	C7	3.27 (t; 9.44; 1H)	83.5
4	3.59 (t; 9.52; 1H)	74.46	H5, H3	-	3.61 (dd; 9.5; 1H)	72.89
5	3.71 (dd; 9.72, 2.14; 1H)	72.69	H6, H4	C3	3.72 (dd; 9.6, 2.6; 1H)	72.34
7	3.63 (s; 3H)	60.97	-	-	3.63 (s; 3H)	59.56

Table 19. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CD₃OD), ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CD₃OD), and 2D NMR data of compound from BK-MeOH-B2 compared to reported 3-O-methyl-D-chiro-inositol (*D*-(+)-pinitol **79a**)

4.2.3.3. Sucrose

Table 20 shows 1D- and 2D-NMR data of the subfraction BK-MeOH-C2 (25 mg, 8.33%), which allows us to establish the connectivity of the elements. The data indicated that the compound consists of twelve carbons with a single quaternary carbon and a carbon with an anomeric proton (δ H1= 5.337 ppm). The heteronuclear experiment of HMBC showed that the proton seems linked to the quaternary carbon indicating a bridge between the two systems. The systems would be two different polyhydroxy rings. The following points describe the possible ring systems:

- The anomeric proton resonates further downfield with a small *J* value (3.84 Hz) representing an equatorial proton coupled to H2. Furthermore, an axial-axial coupling system was observed for H3 and H4 and a multiplet signal for H5 next to the geminal protons of H6, indicating that this system is most likely an α-*D*glucose.
- 2. In the second ring, the quaternary carbon resonates further downfield (δ HC2' = 104.238 ppm), indicating a doubly-oxygenated carbon species. The HMBC crosspeaks relationship confirmed that it could be directly linked to a methylene carbon (-CH₂- of H1') and a CH of H3'. The H3' couples to H4' as an axial-axial pair system (*J* = 8 Hz).
- 3. The H4' and H5' coupling was observed by a COSY cross-peaks correlation. This ring system is most likely a five-membered carbon ring as the C5' was observed to link to another methylene of H6' as shown by the HMBC data (Figure 88b). According to the NMR information, this ring would be a *D*-fructofuranose.

As mentioned above, both rings connect via a glycosidic linkage connecting C1 and C2'. This means that this compound could be a disaccharide of α -*D*-glucose and *D*-fructofuranose. In other words, this is most likely to be sucrose. In addition, their chemical shifts of ¹H and ¹³C are similar to reported data for sucrose by Hernández-García and co-workers ³⁵⁴ (Table 20). The isolation of sucrose from Acacia bark was previously reported in *A. albida* ³⁵⁵ and *A. mearnsii* ³⁵⁶, while our work is the first report of the isolation of the disaccharide from this species.



Figure 86. The spectral image of ¹H NMR of sucrose isolated from methanolic extract of bark



Figure 87. The spectral image of 13 C NMR of sucrose isolated from methanolic extract of bark

No		Sucrose ³⁵⁴				
	δ ¹ H in ppm (m, <i>J</i> in Hz, integration)	δ ¹³ C (ppm)	COSY	НМВС	δ ¹ H in ppm (m, <i>J</i> Hz, integration)	δ ¹³ C (ppm)
1	5.44 (d; 3.84; 1H)	92.74	H2	C3, C2'	5.38 (d; 3.88; 1H)	94.66
2	3.58 (dd; 10, 3.84; 1H)	71.63	H1, H3	C3	3.52 (dd; 10, 3.84; 1H)	73.55
3	3.78 (t; 9.4; 1H)	73.12	H2, H4	C4	3.72 (t; 9.56; 1H)	75.05
4	3.49 (t; 9.46; 1H)	69.78	H4, H5	C3, C5, C6	3.43 (t; 9.42; 1H)	71.70
5	3.89 (m; 1H)	72.96	H4	-	3.83 (m; 1H)	74.88
6	3.85 (d; 2; 2H)	62.92	-	C4, C5	3.78 (d; 2.96; 2H)	62.59
1'	3.70 (s; 2H)	61.91	-	C2', C3'	3.63 (s; 2H)	63.82
2'	-	104.24	-	-	-	106.17
3'	4.24 (d; 8.76; 1H)	76.98	H4'	C1', C4', C5', C6'	4.18 (d; 8.76; 1H)	78.88
4'	4.00 (t; 8.54; 1H)	74.55	H4', H5'	C3', C5', C6'	4.01 (t; 1H; 8.56)	76.47
5'	3.93 (m; 1H)	81.92	H4'	C2', C4'	3.86 (m; 1H)	83.85
6'	3.84 (s; 2H)	60.68	-	C5'	3.79 (s; 2H)	64.84

Table 20. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, D₂O), ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, D₂O), and 2D NMR data of compounds from BK-MeOH-C2 compared to reported sucrose



Figure 88. Molecular structure of (a) sucrose isolated from the methanolic bark extract and (b) key connections of proton-to-proton (\leftrightarrow COSY) and proton-to-carbon (\leftrightarrow HMBC).

4.3. Conclusion of Chapter 4

Natural products from methanolic extracts of *A. saligna* were successfully isolated using a column chromatography technique yielding eleven compounds grouped into four categories. They are (i) known compounds isolated from *A. saligna*, including isosalipurposide **1** (from FL-MeOH), myricitrin **11** (LF-MeOH), and (–)-epicatechin **77** (LF- and BK-MeOH); (ii) known compounds to exist in *A. saligna* but being isolated in this work: naringenin **42** (FL-MeOH) and quercitrin **4** (FL- and LF-MeOH), (iii) known phytochemicals found elsewhere but isolated from this plant for the first time: *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a** (FL- and BK-MeOH), sucrose (BK-MeOH), (–)-pinitol **79b**, and 2,4-di-*t*-butylphenol **78** (LF-MeOH), and (iv) two novel natural products assigned as naringenin-7-O- α -*L*-arabinofuranoside **76** (FL-MeOH) and (*3S**,*5S**)-3-hydroxy-5-(2-aminoethyl) dihydrofuran-2(3*H*)-one **80** (LF-MeOH).



Figure 89. An illustrative summary of isolated compounds from FL-, LF-, and BK-MeOH extracts of *A. saligna*.

CHAPTER 5: RESULT OF BIOACTIVITIES OF ISOLATED COMPOUNDS

5.1. Introduction of Chapter 5

Mitochondrion ³⁵⁷ is an essential cellular component for converting substrates into energy. The mitochondria respiratory chain gains excess electrons converted to extra mt-ROS, causing mitochondrial dysfunction ³⁵⁸. Indeed, mitochondrial dysfunction leads to cellular insulin dysregulation ³⁵⁹⁻³⁶¹, preventing glucose entry into cells ³⁶², impaired insulin production ^{296, 363-365}, resulting in obesity and other microvascular diseases ³⁶⁶⁻³⁶⁹. Moreover, some studies on 3T3-L1 adipocytes ^{76, 89, 106, 110} showed a marked ROS accumulation and a loss of mitochondrial membrane potential (MMP). Therefore, reducing excess mt-ROS and restoring MMP to maintain mitochondria function is a promising approach to managing T2DM, obesity and related metabolic disorders.

The main objective of Chapter 5 was to investigate the bioactivities of the isolated compounds from methanolic extracts of *A. saligna*. Nine identified compounds were collectively isolated from FL-, LF-, and BK-MeOH extracts subjected to the *in vitro* assays. The bioactivity data can inform us about the effectiveness of natural products from Australian *A. saligna* as an antioxidant, antihyperglycemic, and mitochondrial protectant.

5.2. Antioxidant activities of isolated compounds

The antioxidant activity of active isolated phytochemicals followed a dosedependent manner, depicted in Figures 90 and 91. Of 10 isolated compounds, only three (–)-epicatechin **77**, quercitrin **4**, and myricitrin **11** showed consistently potent antioxidant activities against DPPH and ABTS free radicals (Figure 92). Previously, (–)-epicatechin **77** ^{370, 371}, quercitrin **4** ³⁷², and myricitrin **11** ^{373, 374} demonstrated an excellent inhibition against both free radicals. These compounds have been confirmed to be involved in the electron and proton transfer in some standard antioxidant assays, including the two methods due to two substituted C3' and C4' of the ring B by hydroxyl groups ³⁷⁵ forming a stable *ortho*-hydroxyl phenoxyl radical to increase the rate of proton transfer to the DPPH ³⁷⁶. On the other hand, the IC₅₀ of naringenin **42**, naringenin-7*O*-*α*-*L*-arabinofuranoside **76**, 2,4-di-*t*-butylphenol **78**, and 3-hydroxy-5-(2aminoethyl) dihydrofuran-2(3*H*)-one **80** did not reach 50% at the highest tested concentration (10 mM) in the DPPH assay (Table S25, Appendix C, page 252).



Figure 90. The dose-response curve of the isolated active compounds against radical DPPH. (a) isosalipurposide **1**, (b) quercitrin **4**, (c) *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a**, (d) (–)-pinitol **79b**, (e) (–)-epicatechin **77**, (e) myricitrin **11**. Data in mean \pm SEM, *n* = 3.

Furthermore, naringenin **42**, naringenin-7*O*-*α*-*L*-arabinofuranoside **76**, and 2,4-di-*t*-butylphenol **78** demonstrated a weaker neutralising activity against ABTS^{•+} cation radicals due to the relatively higher IC₅₀ values (Figure 92) than those of the three flavonoid derivatives. The activity of compound **80** was neglectable as its scavenging percentage remains under 50% even up to 10,000 µM. Given that no extended π - π conjugation in ring C reduced the possibility of resonance of the phenolic radical intermediates after proton-abstracting ³⁷⁷, it is not surprising that naringenin and its glycone form possessed lower scavenging activity in the DPPH

assay than their precursor, isosalipurposide. According to Ouyang et al. ³⁷⁸, Habstracting is the preferable starting step in the neutralisation of DPPH• radicals by accepting a proton to form a DPPH-H molecule.





Figure 91. The dose-response curve of the isolated active compounds against ABTS cation radicals. (a) naringenin **42**, (b) Compound **76**: naringenin-*7-O-α-L*-arabinofuranose **76**, (c) isosalipurposide **1**, (d) quercitrin **4**, (e) *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a**, (f) (–)-pinitol **79b**, (g) (–)-epicatechin **77**, (h) 2,4-di-*t*-butylphenol **78**, (i) myricitrin **11**. Data in mean \pm SEM, n = 3.



Figure 92. Comparison of the IC₅₀ of the compounds obtained by (a) DPPH and (b) ABTS^{•+} scavenging assay. **1**: isosalipurposide; **4**: quercitrin; **11**: myricitrin; **42**: naringenin; **76**: naringenin-7*O*- α -*L*-arabinofuranose **77**; (–)-epicatechin; **78**: 2,4-di-*t*-butylphenol; **79a** : *D*-(+)-pinitol, **79b**: (–)-pinitol; Vit C: Vitamin C. Data in mean ± SEM, ^{***}p = 0.0002; ^{****}p < 0.0001, *vs* vitamin C (*n* = 3, One-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc).

The presence of quercitrin **4** (4.13% w/w) and perhaps naringenin **42** (1.75% w/w) and isosalipurposide **1** (1.52% w/w) in FL-MeOH supports the activity exerted by this extract. The presence of the three active antioxidants, namely (–)-epicatechin **77** (0.9% w/w), quercitrin **4** (2.86% w/w), and myricitrin **11** (5% w/w), logically supports the activity of LF-MeOH observed in both DPPH and ABTS assays. Quercitrin **4** and myricitrin **11** were also found in the leaf extract of Egyptian *A. saligna* ¹⁹⁶. The potent antioxidant activity of the leaf extract reported by Elansary et al. ²⁷⁹ was extensively exerted by many other flavonoids and polyphenols in the extract, as indicated in their HPLC analysis.

BK-MeOH extract is the most active in DPPH and ABTS assays (Table S5 and S7, pages 241–243). However, only 2.53% w/w of active (–)-epicatechin **77** is present in this extract, in which *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a** (17.83% w/w) is the main component. In this case, the presence of (–)-epicatechin **77** may partly explain the high activity exerted by BK-MeOH in both assays. The inconsistent activities of *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a** found between DPPH and ABTS assays would inadequately support the activity exerted by BK-MeOH. In comparison, the antioxidant activity of Egyptian crude ethanolic bark extract was reported with IC₅₀ = 10.1 µg/mL ²⁸⁰. The potent activity of their bark extract was attributed to the presence of flavonoid antioxidant compounds (naringenin, kaempferol, and rutin) and phenolic group (gallic acid, vanillin acid, caffeic acid, ferulic acid, and chlorogenic acid).

5.3. Inhibitory activity of isolated compounds against α -glucosidase

The inhibitory activity against yeast α -glucosidase enzymes was applied to screen the activity of the phytochemicals. They demonstrated dose-dependent inhibition on the cleavage of saccharide analogue by the enzyme (Figure 93). (-)-Epicatechin 77 (IC₅₀ = 63.58 ± 11.83 µM), D-(+)-pinitol 79a (IC₅₀ = 74.69 ± 0.226 µM), naringenin **42** ($IC_{50} = 89.71 \pm 10.22 \,\mu$ M), isosalipurposide **1** ($IC_{50} = 116.5 \pm 26.40 \,\mu$ M), (-)-pinitol **79b** (IC₅₀ = 164.2 \pm 8.362 μ M), and quercitrin **4** (IC₅₀ = 177.3 \pm 11.34 μ M) inhibited the enzyme better than naringenin-7O- α -L-arabinofuranose **76**, 2,4-di-tbutylphenol 78, myricitrin 11, and the positive control, acarbose. Compound 80 showed no inhibition against the enzyme across the range of test concentrations. Notably, D-(+)-pinitol 79a is a potent inhibitor and 2-fold more active than its enantiomer (–)-pinitol **79b**. It is important to note that acarbose exerts more inhibitory activity against mammalian α-glucosidase enzyme than the yeast enzyme. Pacillia et al. ³⁷⁹ reported that naringenin **42** displayed an effective inhibition against the yeast enzyme (IC₅₀ = 6.51 μ M). However, it was poor when tested on the rat intestinal glucosidase (IC₅₀ = 384μ M). They also reported that the positive control acarbose inhibited the rat α -glucosidase more effectively than the yeast enzyme. Therefore, further investigation is required to confirm the inhibitory activity of our extracts and active compounds against the mammalian α -glucosidase enzyme.

Naringenin **42** exhibited much better inhibition, calculated a 10-fold higher value of IC_{50} than its glycone derivative, the naringenin-7*O*- α -*L*-arabinofuranose **76**. This observation agrees with the report from Jung et al. ³⁸⁰ that glycolised flavanone was linked to a lower inhibitory activity against the enzyme. The flavonol derivative of myricitrin **11** showed relatively lower activity in this study than quercitrin **4**.





Figure 93. The dose-response curve of the isolated active compounds against α -glucosidase enzyme. (a) naringenin **42**, (b) compound **76**: naringenin-*7O*- α -*L*-arabinofuranose, (c) isosalipurposide **1**, (d) quercitrin **4**, (e) *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a**, (f) (–)-pinitol **79b**, (g) (–)-epicatechin **77**, (h) myricitrin **11**, (i) 2,4-di-*t*-butylphenol **78**. Data in mean ± SEM, *n* = 3.



Figure 94. IC₅₀ of isolated compounds compared to acarbose. **1**: isosalipurposide; **4**: quercitrin; **11**: myricitrin; **42**: naringenin; **76**: naringenin-*7O*- α -*L*-arabinofuranose; **77**: (–)-epicatechin; **78**: 2,4-di-*t*-butylphenol; **79a**: *D*-(+)-pinitol; **79b**: (–)-pinitol. Data in mean ± SEM, *p = 0.03, ****p < 0.0001, *vs* acarbose (n = 3, One-way, ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc).

The inhibitory activity of (–)-epicatechin **77** against α -glucosidase was reported to have IC₅₀ values of 0.95 μ M to 12.3 mM ³⁸¹⁻³⁸³. For naringenin **42**, variable IC₅₀ values were also observed in the 6.51 to 75 μ M ^{379,384}. Furthermore, the literature indicates that the reported IC₅₀ values of these compounds and other flavonoids are dispersed and variable ³⁸⁵.

The structure-activity relationships (SAR) investigation by Proença et al. ³⁸⁵ suggested that flavonoids with two phenolic groups at the A or B ring and a hydroxy group at C3 possessed the highest α -glucosidase inhibitory activity. He et al. ³⁸⁶ and Şöhretoğlu et al. ³⁸⁷ further reiterated that the number of phenolic groups on ring B is

vital for the activity. Their docking study indicated that the B ring of the flavonoids located deep inside the active side of the enzyme and the presence of the phenolics significantly improved interactions via hydrogen bonding. On the other hand, bulky flavonoid glycosides showed poor inhibition due to their inability to access the binding pocket, which explains the poor activity of naringenin-7*O*- α -*L*-arabinofuranose **76**, quercitrin **4**, myricitrin **11**, and compound **80**. *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a** is a cyclic polyol known to have highly beneficial effects on inflammation and related diseases, such as T2D ³⁸⁸. To the best of our knowledge, it is for the first time that both enantiomers of pinitol were shown to be inhibitors against the yeast α -glucosidase enzyme.

It is noteworthy that *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a** (17.83% w/w) is the principal component in BK-MeOH and would be the main contributor to the α-glucosidase inhibitory activity observed in the BK-MeOH (IC₅₀ = 4.37 ± 0.24 µg/mL) in combination from (–)epicatechin **77** (2.53% w/w). *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a** has previously been documented as the weak α-glucosidase inhibitor ³⁸⁹. (–)-Pinitol **79b** (8% w/w), (–)-epicatechin **77** (0.9%), and quercitrin **4** (2.86%) contribute to inhibitory activity exerted by LF-MeOH (IC₅₀ = 38.69 ± 1.01 µg/mL). In FL-MeOH, *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a** (2.5%) and three mid-range active compounds, namely naringenin **42** (1.75%, w/w), isosalipurposide **1** (1.52%), and quercitrin **4** (4.13%), are the main contributors to the activity found in FL-MeOH (IC₅₀ = 34.93 ± 2.67 µg/mL).

5.4. Cell viability of 3T3-L1 cell line treated with isolated compounds

According to Figures 95–104, all ten isolated compounds demonstrated varied toxic effects towards the growth of 3T3-L1 preadipocytes up to 125 μ M. Naringenin derivatives from the flowers showed a non-toxic effect as more than 75% of viable cells ³⁹⁰ incubated with the isolated compounds for 24-, 48-, and 72-h were observed. Previously, naringenin **42** has been reported by Nishina et al. ³⁹¹ to demonstrate no significant toxicity for the same cells up to 100 μ M, whereas no documentation has been found for naringenin-7-*O*-*α*-*L*-arabinofuranoside **76**. The isolated (–)-epicatechin **77** could be applied to the pre-confluent cell experiments within the range of more than 80% viable cells in all treatments, 24-, 48-, or 72-h. Our finding aligns with the report from Ardevol et al. ³⁹² confirming the non-toxic effect on 3T3-L1 cells by epicatechin at 300 μ M.

Some isolated compounds, however, exhibited a slightly different outcome. An alkylphenol (2,4-di-*t*-buylphenol **78**) is slightly toxic (< 75% viable cells) for the preadipocytes exposed to 125 μ M for over 72-h. This compound was reported as an antiviral, antifungal, antioxidant, and antimicrobial component in some plants, such as sweet potatoes ³⁹³. Nevertheless, no study has been reported on this compound in the 3T3-L1 cells. Interestingly, the viable cells exposed to the chalcone isosalipurposide **1** for 48 h have been somewhat lower than the safe point, 70%. However, both 24- and 72-h incubation gave different observations with a much higher percentage of cell viability of 86.14 and 81.83%, respectively. Myricitrin **11**, in contrast, could be excluded for safe treatment between 62.5 and 125 μ M due to significantly decreased cell viability in all incubation times. Therefore, the safe working concentration for myricitrin **11** is likely below 31.25 μ M for the treatment of the preadipocytes.



Figure 95. Viability of (a) 3T3-L1 preadipocytes and (b) adipocytes treated with naringenin 42 for 24-, 48-, and 72-h. Data in mean \pm SEM, **p* = 0.013; ***p* = 0.003, *vs* vehicle control (*n* = 3, One-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc).



Figure 96. Viability of (a) 3T3-L1 preadipocytes and (b) adipocytes treated with naringenin-7*O*- α -*L*-arabinofuranoside **76** for 24-, 48-, and 72-h. Data in mean ± SEM, *p = 0.01; **p = 0.004; ***p = 0.0008, *vs* vehicle control (n = 3, One-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc).



Figure 97. Viability of (a) 3T3-L1 preadipocytes and (b) adipocytes treated with isosalipurposide **1** for 24-, 48-, and 72-h. Data in mean \pm SEM, **p* = 0.04; ****p* = 0.0008, *vs* vehicle control (*n* = 3, One-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc).



Figure 98. Viability of (a) 3T3-L1 preadipocytes and (b) adipocytes treated with quercitrin **4** for 24-, 48-, and 72-h. Data in mean \pm SEM, n = 3.



Figure 99. Viability of (a) 3T3-L1 preadipocytes and (b) adipocytes treated with *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a** for 24-, 48-, and 72-h. Data in mean \pm SEM, **p* = 0.02, *vs* vehicle control (*n* = 3, One-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc).



Figure 100. Viability of (a) 3T3-L1 preadipocytes and (b) adipocytes treated with (–)-pinitol **79b** for 24-, 48-, and 72-h. Data in mean \pm SEM, n = 3.



Figure 101. Viability of (a) 3T3-L1 preadipocytes and (b) adipocytes treated with (–)-epicatechin **77** for 24-, 48-, and 72-h. Data in mean \pm SEM, **p* = 0.03; ***p* = 0.001, *vs* vehicle control (*n* = 3, One-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc).



Figure 102. Viability of (a) 3T3-L1 preadipocytes and (b) adipocytes treated with 2,4-di-*t*-butylphenol **78** for 24-, 48-, and 72-h. Data in mean \pm SEM, ^{*}*p* = 0.01; ^{**}*p* = 0.001; ^{****}*p* < 0.0001, *vs* vehicle control (*n* = 3, One-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc).



Figure 103. Viability of (a) 3T3-L1 preadipocytes and (b) adipocytes treated with myricitrin **11** for 24-, 48-, and 72-h. Data in mean \pm SEM, **p* = 0.05; ***p* = 0.001; *****p* < 0.0001, *vs* vehicle control (*n* = 3, One-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc).



Figure 104. Viability of (a) 3T3-L1 preadipocytes and (b) adipocytes treated with 3-hydroxy-5-(2-aminoethyl) dihydrofuran-2(3*H*)-one) **80** for 24-, 48-, and 72-h. Data in mean \pm SEM, **p* = 0.02; ****p* = 0.002; ****p* = 0.0002; *****p* < 0.0001, *vs* vehicle control (*n* = 3, One-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc).

A cell viability test of 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated with isolated compounds was also carried out to evaluate the toxicity effects of the phytochemicals between 15.63 and 125 μ M during 24, 48, and 72 h of incubation. According to Tables S28–S37 (pages 254–256) and Figures 95–104 above, all compounds could be considered safe for the adipose cells within the concentration range. This finding aligns with the previous MTT assay of the compounds in 3T3-L1 pre-adipocytes except for isosalipurposide **1** at 125 μ M for 48-h, myricitrin **11** at 62.5 and 125 μ M for all incubation times, and compound **80** at 62.5 and 125 μ M for 72-h. The same trend was also observed for LF-MeOH and BK-MeOH extracts; although these were toxic at 100

 μ g/mL for pre-adipocytes, the harmful effect on adipocytes did not appear up to the highest concentration, 200 μ g/mL. From here, it can be said that the compounds can be applied for other assays against the mature adipocytes in the indicated concentration.

5.5. Oil Red-O staining assay of adipocytes treated with isolated compounds

The ORO-staining assay was then applied to determine the impact of isolated compounds of methanolic extracts on lipid content in 3T3-L1 adipocytes. Most isolated compounds possessed anti-adipogenic activity during the differentiation process of 3T3-L1 cells, as depicted in Figure 105. The tested compounds exhibited higher lipid droplet percentage reductions at 10 μ M than the vehicle control. At 10 μ M, a slight reduction was observed for 2,4-di-*t*-buylphenol **78** (9.86%), *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a** (10.88%), quercitrin **4** (11.88%), naringenin **42** (14.41%), and (–)-pinitol **79b** (16.92%). Furthermore, the lactone derivative and (–)-epicatechin **77** showed moderate reductions of lipid droplets estimated at 19.13 and 21.15%, respectively. Myricitrin **11** significantly reduced lipid accumulation by 25.28%, seven times higher than that at 0.5 μ M suggesting the change through a dose-dependent manner. This activity reflects the potent inhibition in lipid production by its corresponding LF-MeOH extracts. In contrast, naringenin-7-*O*- α -*L*-arabinofuranoside **76** did not alter the LDs content at 0.5 and 10 μ M, while isosalipurposide did not affect the reduction of lipid droplets at 10 μ M.



Figure 105. Estimated lipid content from ORO staining assay on the 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated with isolated compounds during differentiation. NAC = *N*-acetyl cysteine. Data in mean \pm SEM, **p* = 0.03; *****p* = 0.00008, *vs* vehicle control (*n* = 3, One-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc).

5.6. Cellular ROS reduction assay on adipocytes treated with isolated compounds

Isolated compounds, such as (–)-epicatechin 77, quercitrin 4, and myricitrin 11, showed potent antioxidant activities against DPPH and ABTS free radicals ³⁰⁷. This suggests that the strong antioxidant activities of these compounds may also affect ROS accumulation and help explain the observed reduction in ROS accumulation by the extracts. The ability of isolated compounds to reduce cellular ROS was evaluated using the same protocol. Figure 106 and Table S39 (pages 257-258) present the result of the DCFH-DA assay on the cells treated with 0.5 and 10 µM of isolated compounds. In general, treatment at 0.5 µM did not show a significant reducing effect compared to vehicle control of adipocytes. There was around onetenth ROS reduction in the treatment with two enantiomers of pinitol, whereas relatively steady ROS levels were observed from treatment with other isolated compounds. A noticeable decreasing effect was found in the treatment with 10 µM of the two active compounds isolated from BK-MeOH extract, (-)-epicatechin 77 and D-(+)-pinitol **79a**, indicating the most active ones with a reduction percentage of 28.55 and 30.76%, respectively. D-(+)-pinitol 79a demonstrated more activity than its enantiomer, (-)-pinitol **79b**, consistent with the previous finding on DPPH and ABTS scavenging.

Flavanol derivatives, including (–)-epicatechin **77**, have been reported to possess better scavenging activities on neutralising ROS than many monomeric flavones and flavonols ³⁰⁹. The DPPH and ABTS assays outcome showed that (–)-epicatechin **77** exerted more inhibition percentage than flavone derivatives, including naringenin **42** and naringenin-*7-O-\alpha-L*-arabinofuranoside **76** and flavonol derivatives, such as quercitrin **4** and myricitrin **11**. Furthermore, activation of the cell signalling system has also been reported to play a key role in the protective effect of bioactive compounds against overproduced ROS. For instance, activation of Akt and AMPK pathways has been correlated to the decreasing effects of glycoside flavonoids on ROS production in 3T3-L1 adipocytes ³⁹⁴.





Furthermore, naringenin-7-O- α -L-arabinofuranoside **76** and 3-hydroxy-5-(2aminoethyl) dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one **80** had an inhibitory effect at 10 μ M estimated for 23.36 and 7.33% reduction, respectively. However, this finding does not reflect the weak antioxidant activities observed in DPPH and ABTS assays, as reported in our previous study ³⁰⁷. This anomaly is that naringenin-7-O- α -L-arabinofuranoside **76** and 3-hydroxy-5-(2-aminoethyl) dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one 80 might chemically interact with DPPH or ABTS differently than cellular ROS. They could possess cellular ROS reductive activity by directly scavenging the ROS and were indirectly involved in cellular signalling pathways. For instance, flavanone, the core skeleton of naringenin-7-O- α -L-arabinofuranoside **76**, scavenged hydroxyl and peroxide radicals attributed to the hydroxyl group at C4' of ring B³⁹⁵. Moreover, naringenin groups demonstrated modulation of endogenous glutathione ³⁹⁶ and activation of the nuclear factor erythroid 2-related factor 2 (Nrf2) pathway ³⁹⁷. Lactone derivatives have been reported to suppress a cellular redox regulator called nuclear factor-kB (NF-kB) ³⁹⁸. Further investigation is needed to evaluate the possible mechanisms causing the antioxidant of both compounds in the adipocytes.

Naringenin-7-*O*- α -*L*-arabinofuranoside **76** showed slightly less percentage of ROS reduction at both tested concentrations (0.94 and 23.36% at 0.5 and 10 μ M) than those for naringenin (1.3 and 24.18 %). The glycosylated 7-OH of ring A can decrease anti-ROS activity ³⁹⁹. The chalcone derivative, isosalipurposide, exerted lower activity (19.87% at 10 μ M) than naringenin and its glycoside derivative, naringenin-7-*O*- α -*L*-arabinofuranoside **76**. Saturated C2,3 and opened ring C of

chalcone have been described as the factor of its decreased inhibition by Limasset et al. ³⁹⁹ compared to flavanone.

5.7. Measurement of mt-ROS and MMP on adipocytes treated with isolated compounds

Given that accumulated mt-ROS on adipocytes can trigger carbonylation in mitochondrial proteins and affect the antioxidant enzymes such as superoxide dismutase of MnSOD and SOD2, reducing mt-ROS can restore mitochondrial health. An increasing MMP can manifest the restored mitochondria. The increased MMP has been reported to improve endogenous mitochondrial antioxidants to convert superoxide into harmless H_2O^{400} .

Monitoring changes in MMP can be conducted using a membrane-permeant 5,5,6,6'-tetrachloro-1,1",3,3" tetraethylbenzimi-dazoylcarbocyanine iodide (JC-1) dye assay. In the MMP study, the cationic lipophilic JC-1 dye accumulates in polarised mitochondria to form aggregates (J-aggregate) that fluoresce red. Upon depolarisation for the cytoplasm, JC-1 leaves the inner mitochondrial membrane, which disaggregates into monomers (JC-1 monomer) that fluoresce green. The degree of depolarisation is determined by the ratio of red: green fluorescence or Jaggregates/JC-1 monomers. A healthy mitochondrion possesses more negative charges in its mitochondrial matrix due to proton transfer from the matrix to intermembrane space. Therefore, healthy mitochondria admit red fluorescence compared to mitochondria with lower membrane potential, which fluoresce green. In other words, it has a higher ratio ⁴⁰¹. Our study showed that the mt-ROS and Jaggregates/JC-1 monomers ratio of undifferentiated 3T3-L1 cells were 29.55% lower and 0.91-fold higher than those measured for the adipocytes, respectively. In addition, treatment with a mitochondria-targeted drug, metformin, demonstrated mt-ROS reduction of 34.26% and a 2-fold higher ratio of J-aggregates/JC-1 monomers than vehicle control. Thus, these parameters can reflect the normalisation of the mitochondria function.

As presented in Table S40 (page 258), the exposure to FL-, LF-, and BK-MeOH extracts at the higher concentration (50 μ g/mL) seems to positively impact the health of adipocytes' mitochondria, indicated by the decreased mt-ROS level and increased value of the J-aggregates/JC-1 monomers ratios compared to untreated adipocytes group. All methanolic extracts demonstrated a reducing effect on mt-ROS levels at 50 μ g/mL (Figure 107a). The methanolic flower extract reduced the level of mt-ROS by 31%, while LF- and BK-MeOH reduced it by 52% and 58%, respectively.



Figure 107. Estimated mt-ROS level of 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated by (a) methanolic extracts, metformin, and (b) isolated compounds. Compound **2** = naringenin-7-O- α -L-arabinofuranoside, compound **80** = 3-hydroxy-5-(2-aminoethyl) dihydrofuran-2(3*H*)-one). Data in mean ± SEM, **p* = 0.02; ***p* = 0.003; *****p* = 0.00002, *vs* vehicle control (*n* = 3, One-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc).







⁽b)

The trend of decreasing mt-ROS level was also displayed in the incubation of adjpocytes with all isolated compounds (see Table S41, page 258). The flavanone 42 and naringenin-7-O-α-L-arabinofuranoside derivatives (naringenin 76). isosalipurposide, flavonol derivatives (quercitrin 4 and myricitrin 11), pinitols, and (-)epicatechin 77 showed better impacts on the reduction (ranged 28.37 to 54.18% of reduction) than those exerted by 3-hydroxy-5-(2-aminoethyl) dihydrofuran-2(3H)-one 80 at both tested concentrations of 0.5 and 10 µM (10.88 and 22.22%, respectively). The reductive effect of lactone derivative was insignificant, reflecting similar findings with previous assays that this compound has poor antioxidant activity ³⁰⁷. (-)-Epicatechin 77 demonstrated significant impacts at 5 and 10 µM, indicating that this flavanol possesses strong antioxidant properties. This finding aligns with the marked inhibitory activities against DPPH and ABTS⁺⁺ radicals, suggesting that a scavenger of both free radicals can inhibit cellular ROS production.

In the MMP study presented in Figure 108 and Table S40 and S41 (page 258), treatment with methanolic extracts and all isolated compounds at the higher concentration seems to maintain the health of adipocytes' mitochondria, indicated by more than 100% value of the J-aggregates/JC-1 monomers ratios. The FL-MeOH treatment exerted a fold-change of 3 of the ratios, while BK- and LF-MeOH showed 2.47- and 1.79-fold increases in the ratios, respectively. In addition to the marked

Figure 108. Estimated ratio of J aggregates/JC-1 monomers percentage in 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated by (a) methanolic extracts and (b) isolated compounds. Data in mean \pm SEM, **p* = 0.03, ***p* = 0.001, ****p* = 0.0002, ****p* = 0.0002, *****p* = 0.00001, *vs* vehicle control (*n* = 3, one-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc tests).
activity of FL-MeOH, its bioactive constituents, namely naringenin **42**, naringenin-7-*O*- α -*L*-arabinofuranoside **76**, and *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a**, demonstrated significant protective effects at 10 μ M on MMP status. Indeed, naringenin is well-studied to prevent mitochondrial dysfunction by improving the expression of Bcl-2 and downregulating Bax and Caspase-3 of neuro 2A cells ⁴⁰².

Three isolated phytochemicals of LF-MeOH, namely (–)-epicatechin **77**, *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a**, and (–)-pinitol **79b**, demonstrated significant protective effects on mitochondria of the adipocytes at 10 μ M with J-aggregates/JC-1 monomers ratios between 18 to 94% higher than metformin. *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a**, showing excellent activity in mitochondrial protection, was also found as the active constituent of BK-MeOH along with (–)-epicatechin **77**. It is 1.5-fold more effective than metformin at the same test concentration of 10 μ M. Pinitol has been shown to protect mitochondria by increasing intracellular glutathione (GSH) and endogenous antioxidant of glutathione reductase in P12 cells ⁴⁰³. Notably, *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a** has been used as a natural health supplement to provide therapeutic benefits in treating T2D. It is also a natural antidiabetic and insulin regulator with anti-inflammatory ⁴⁰⁴ and hepatoprotective ³³² activities.

Apart from their role in the protein signalling pathway, flavonoids have been believed to modulate the level of endogenous antioxidant enzymes, such as SOD, catalase, glutathione peroxidase, and glutathione-*S*-transferase ⁴⁰⁵. Notably, naringenin **42** and (–)-epicatechin **77** demonstrated outstanding reduction of mt-ROS and protection of mitochondria. In studies on human vascular endothelial cells, (–)-epicatechin **77** has been confirmed to alter the mt-ROS production under a designed stress induction ⁴⁰⁶ through activating AMPK- α and SIRT1 (sirtuin 1) signalling pathway ⁴⁰⁷.

Here we showed that the mitochondrial health of adipocytes was enhanced by incubation with methanolic extracts of *A. saligna* and its isolated phytochemicals at the tested concentration. This was confirmed by the comparable data of reduction of mt-ROS concentration and increase of J-aggregates/JC-1 monomers ratio with those observed from the treatment with metformin and normal fibroblast-like 3T3-L1 cells. The normal MMP status allows protons produced by the mitochondrial respiratory chains to transfer proportionally from the mitochondrial matrix to the intermembrane. The recovered mitochondrial respiration is an indication of healthy mitochondria. Additionally, preventing excessive mt-ROS production helps safeguard endogenous antioxidant enzymes from oxidation and maintain mitochondrial redox balance.

5.8. Cellular glucose uptake of adipocytes treated with isolated compounds

As the promising extract with outstanding activity in the modulation of glucose uptake, compounds isolated from the flowers, leaves, and bark extracts were subjected to the assay. We further evaluated the isolated compounds' ability to improve glucose uptake in 3T3-L1 adipocytes. The outcome would help to determine which compounds were responsible for stimulating the glucose uptake observed in the active extracts. The outcome is reported in Figure 109 and Table S42 (page 259). A slightly positive enhancement in the uptake stimulation was observed in the treatment at 0.5 μ M by naringenin-7-O- α -L-arabinofuranoside **76** (7.6% increase), isosalipurposide 1 (10.7%), D-(+)-pinitol 79a (8.5%), (-)-epicatechin 77 (8.3%), and myricitrin 11 (22.7%) compared to vehicle control. At 10 µM, an increase in 2-NBDG uptake was observed across all compounds (except lactone derivative). Interestingly, (–)-epicatechin **77** performed the best, about 50% better than metformin (10 μ M, 38% increase) and insulin (100 nM, 40.6%). Other compounds, such as naringenin-7-O- α -L-arabinofuranoside 76 (56.4% increase), isosalipurposide 1 (61%), quercitrin 4 (51%), D-(+)-pinitol 79a (43.9%), 2,4-di-t-buylphenol 78 (31.2%) and myricitrin 11 (52.3%), showed marked improvement in glucose uptake. Therefore, their effects on glucose uptake support improving their respective extracts' glucose uptake.

A previous study by Gao et al. (2010) showed that the impaired mitochondria of white adipose tissue could reduce glucose uptake due to insulin resistance ⁷⁶. So far, we demonstrated that the most active extract, LF-MeOH at 50 µg/mL, showed a 2-fold increase in glucose uptake of vehicle control, possessed mt-ROS reduction and J-aggregates/JC-1 monomers ratio 52.57% and 1.8-fold change, respectively. At 10 μ M, (–)-epicatechin **77** with 87.9% increased glucose uptake was observed to reduce 54.06% mt-ROS and 2.3-fold ratio change. This finding indicates that treatment with *A. saligna* methanolic extracts and compounds protect mitochondria in adipocytes and consequently enhances cellular glucose.

The well-known flavonoid derivatives such as (–)-epicatechin **77**, quercitrin **4**, and myricitrin **11**, as well as the inositol, D-(+)-pinitol **79a**, demonstrated modulating effect on this assay. Some publications, summarised in Table 21, have reported the insulin-dependent pathway as the major mechanism involved in their action. In addition, a molecular docking model has shown that quercitrin **4** has a great affinity to PI3K and Akt protein as a confirmation of the role of this compound in the activation

of GLUT 4 via PI3K/Akt pathway ⁴⁰⁸. Moreover, (–)-epicatechin **77** and myricitrin **11** have been confirmed to improve glucose uptake through the insulin-independent route by activating AMPK activity.



Figure 109. Bar charts representing 2-NBDG uptake by 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated with isolated compounds. Data in mean \pm SEM, *p = 0.01, *vs* vehicle control (n = 3, One-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc).

Table 21. Summary of the possible pathways involved in the glucose uptake assay for the related phytochemicals based on the literature search

No	Compound	Reported pathway of glucose	uptake (GU) modulation
	Compound	IRS-PI3K/Akt	AMPK
1	Naringenin 42	Improving GU on HTR-8/SVneo and human umbilical vein endothelial cell (HUVEC) cells	Improving GU on L6 rat myotubes ¹⁵³
2	Naringenin-7-Ο-α-L- arabinofuranoside 76	n.d.	n.d.
3	Isosalipurposide 1	n.d.	n.d.
4	Quercitrin 4	Improving GU on human Simpson-Golabi-Behmel syndrome (SGBS) cells 408	n.d.
5	<i>D</i> -(+)-pinitol 79a	Improving GU on HepG2 cells ⁴¹⁰ ; 3T3-L1 adipocytes ^{411, 412}	n.d.
6	(–)-Pinitol 79b	n.d.	n.d.
7	(–)-Epicatechin 77	Improving GU on renal NRK- 52E cells ^{413, 414} ; human HepG2 cells ⁴¹⁵ ; 3T3-L1 adipocytes ⁴¹⁶	Improving GU on renal NRK-52E cells ⁴¹³ ; human HepG2 cells ⁴¹⁵
8	2,4-Di- <i>t</i> -buylphenol 78	n.d.	n.d.
9	Myricitrin 11	Improving GU on 3T3-L1 adipocytes ¹⁴⁹ ; L6 myoblast cells ¹⁵⁰	Improving GU on 3T3-L1 adipocytes ¹⁴⁹
10	3-Hydroxy-5-(2- aminoethyl) dihydrofuran-2(3 <i>H</i>)- one 80	n.d.	n.d.

n.d = no documentation found

5.9. Conclusion of Chapter 5

This study confirmed that isolated compounds from the MeOH extracts of *A. saligna*, flavonoid and polyol groups could surpass oxidative stresses. It was reflected by the decreased cellular ROS and mt-ROS levels of 3T3-L1 adipocytes. As a result, the biogenesis of the mitochondria was maintained based on the increased values of MMP. These also aligned with previous observations that the active compounds were scavengers of DPPH and ABTS^{•+} free radicals. Moreover, treatment with the phytochemicals demonstrated improved glucose uptake in the adipocytes. This finding can be correlated to the protective impacts of the compounds against oxidative stress in the cells.

CHAPTER 6: RESULT OF IDENTIFICATION OF BIOLOGICAL PATHWAYS

6.1. Introduction of Chapter 6

An overproduction of hyperglycemia-induced cellular ROS correlates with altered GLUT-4 trafficking in 3T3-L1 adipocytes ⁴¹⁷. This study suggested that ROS can directly oxidise thiol (SH) groups (cysteine residues) in the nuclear protein binding site of the DNA, leading to decreased GLUT-4 expression. Moreover, a recent in vitro study ⁷⁷ found that elevated mt-ROS can oxidise proteins in the translocation machinery of GLUT-4, such as GLUT-4 storage vehicle and *trans*-Golgi network. This event leads to the degradation of the structure and function of GLUT. Furthermore, another in vitro study ⁴¹⁸ showed that increased mt-ROS could cause the lower expression of essential enzymes for energy-generating pathways and the reduction in MMP, significantly reducing ATP production. Consequently, the GLUT-4 translocation cannot occur due to the ATP shortage required for adenosine monophosphate-activated protein kinase (AMPK) activation.

The AMPK pathway regulates GLUT-4 translocation to the cellular membrane to facilitate glucose uptake in glucose deposition tissue, i.e., skeletal muscle and adipose tissue ⁷²⁻⁷⁴. Some of our isolated compounds from MeOH extracts, such as myricitrin **11**, naringenin **42**, and epicatechin **77**, are known to be involved in the pathways. Activation of AMPK is also linked to the biogenesis of mitochondria. Phosphorylation of AMPK subunit α (p-AMPK- α) has been shown to upregulate PGC- α , resulting in increased expression of mitochondrial transcription factor A (mtTFA). As the activation of AMPK can be induced by metformin, the first-line anti-diabetic drug, *via* inhibition of mt-ROS production ⁸⁴, the effect of MeOH extracts and the constituents on this pathway may need to be evaluated because they also have an antioxidant property demonstrated by our study.

⁴¹⁹. Moreover, besides ROS production, the excessive triglyceride deposits in adipocytes can promote the pro-inflammatory response leading to impaired glucose homeostasis ⁴²⁰. The levels of cytokines increase proportionally to adiposity and insulin resistance ⁴²¹. Thus, the TNF- α and IL-6 mRNA levels as members of cytokines were also measured to assess the effect of samples on the transcription of the inflammatory markers.

6.2. AMPK pathway activation

The decrease of AMPK-α has been reported as the primary cause of mitochondrial dysfunction due to the impaired activation of OXPHOS in the mitochondria ⁷⁶. The lower activation of AMPK is also thought as the consequence of the malfunction of mitochondria initiated by obesity-induced ROS overproduction. Hence, treatment with our alcoholic extracts and the isolated compounds seems promising to inhibit the mt-ROS production and suppress the insulin resistance in adipocytes by improving the insulin-independent glucose uptake pathway.

Our previous assays displayed the MeOH extracts of the A. saligna as the most active ones. Therefore, we further explored how the extracts and their isolated compounds, except for lactone 80, increased glucose uptake in 3T3-L1 adipocytes. An evaluation of a signalling pathway involved in the glucose uptake in the differentiated 3T3-L1 cells treated with all methanolic extracts was carried out using the western blot analysis. The study focused on activating AMPK- α as this pathway has been reported to be linked to mitochondrial function. Impairment of AMPK- α occurs when the mitochondria function has been compromised. Supplementary Tables S43 and S44 (Appendix C, page 258) and Figure 110 show that phosphorylation of AMPK- α (p-AMPK- α) improved with the increased concentration of extracts or compounds. These results indicate that activation of AMPK-α and expression of p-AMPK- α occurred with increased dosing of the extracts. Treatment with FL-MeOH 50 μ g/mL showed the most potent expression of p-AMPK- α among the three extracts. One observes the correlation between the improvement of glucose uptake (Figure 35) and increases in AMPK phosphorylation (when treated with 50 µg/mL of extracts). FL-, LF-, and BK-MeOH demonstrated increased glucose uptake and increased phosphorylation by 85.3 and 77%, 98 and 58.5%, and 61.6 and 49.1%, respectively. These results indicated that the extracts increased glucose uptake by activating AMPK- α signalling pathway.



(b)

Figure 110. The ratio of p-AMPK- α to AMPK- α protein in 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated with (a) MeOH extracts and (b) isolated compounds. Data in mean ± SEM, *p = 0.02; *p = 0.003, **p = 0.0002, vs vehicle control (n = 3, One-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc). FL-MeOH = methanolic extract of flower, LF-MeOH = methanolic extract of leaf, BK-MeOH = methanolic extract of bark, compound 42 = naringenin, 76 = naringenin-7-O- α -L-arabinofuranoside, 1 = isosalipurposide, 4 = quercitrin, 79a = D-(+)-pinitol, 79b = (-)-pinitol, 77 = (-)-epicatechin, and 11 = myricitrin.

The possible link between glucose uptake and the AMPK signalling pathway of isolated compounds was also evaluated. After being treated with 10 μ M of the

compounds, we observed enhanced AMPK- α phosphorylation compared to the vehicle control across all compounds (except **79a**). A marked increase in the expression of phosphorylated AMPK- α was observed for naringenin **42** (48.4%), naringenin-7-*O*- α -*L*-arabinofuranoside **76** (111.8%), isosalipurposide **1** (96.6%), quercitrin **4** (48.6%), (–)-epicatechin **77** (43.2%), and myricitrin **11** (56%). The highest expression of p-AMPK- α was observed on the test of naringenin-7-*O*- α -*L*-arabinofuranoside **76** at 10 μ M. These mentioned compounds improved glucose uptake in 3T3-L1 adipocytes (Figure 109). Therefore, our study suggests that these compounds stimulate glucose uptake via AMPK (phosphorylation demonstrated by the methanolic extracts). *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a** was shown to improve glucose uptake; however, its ability to activate AMPK- α was not observed at 10 μ M.

As aforementioned, excessive levels of mt-ROS can decrease MMP in adipocytes, disrupting cellular uptake of glucose and AMPK- α . The decrease in p-AMPK- α has been suggested as the primary cause of mitochondrial dysfunction due to the impaired activation of oxidative phosphorylation in the mitochondria ⁴²². Reduced activation of AMPK signalling is also thought of as the consequence of mitochondria dysfunction initiated by obesity-induced ROS overproduction.

A. saligna methanolic extracts and the isolated compounds are promising inhibitors of cellular ROS and mt-ROS production. Furthermore, the extracts and the compounds markedly increased glucose uptake and p-AMPK-α in 3T3-L1 adipocytes. Activation of the AMPK pathway has also been linked to reduced cellular ROS and mt-ROS production in 3T3-L1 adipocytes ⁷⁸. In addition, this pathway can protect the downstream target GLUT-4 from structural degradation and dysfunction due to excessive ROS levels ^{417, 419, 422}. These findings suggest that glucose transporters can be activated by the AMPK pathway to facilitate glucose entry into the fat cells.

6.3. Expression of mRNAs related to the mitochondrial biogenesis

Treatment with all methanolic extracts of *A. saligna* increased the expression of target mRNAs, including adiponectin, PGC-1 α , and mtTFA. A slightly increased expression of adiponectin (approximately 7% increase compared to the vehicle control group) was found from the treatment with all three MeOH extracts at 12.5 µg/mL, whereas a significant increase, 28.92% higher than the control, was only observed by treatment with FL-MeOH extract at 50 µg/mL. Meanwhile, at 12.5 µg/mL, treatment with BK-MeOH demonstrated significantly increased expression of PGC-1 α and mtTFA estimated for 9.9% and 10.7%, respectively. Moreover, the expression of PGC-1 α was significantly upregulated when treating FL-, LF-, and BK-MeOH at 50

 μ g/mL by 11.4, 13.4, and 10.7% increased, respectively. On the other hand, only adipocytes treated with FL- and BK-MeOH extracts at 50 μ g/mL showed a significant increase of mtTFA expression by 11.5 and 12.6%, respectively. Figure 111 and Table S45 (page 260) show that FL-MeOH extract consistently impacted the target gene expression. This information is consistent with the highest MMP change 2-fold from FL-MeOH treatment at 50 μ g/mL. Overall, these findings iterate the positive effect of the methanolic extracts on the adipocytes' mitochondrial biogenesis, as previously monitored by the reduction of mt-ROS and improvement of MMP status, as observed through the decrease of mt-ROS and enhancement of MMP status. This was achieved by stimulating the transcriptional expression of adiponectin, PGC-1 α , and mtTFA.



Figure 111. The relative expression of (a) mRNA of adiponectin, (b) PGC-1 α , and (c) mtTFA of 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated with MeOH extracts. The gene expression was normalised by the housekeeping gene β -actin. Data in mean ± SEM; *p = 0.02; **p = 0.002, vs vehicle control (n = 3, One-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc). FL-MeOH = methanolic extract of flower, LF-MeOH = methanolic extract of leaf, BK-MeOH = methanolic extract of bark.

Furthermore, to evaluate the effect of isolated compounds, the change in the gene level was then quantified using the same qPCR protocol. All compounds at 0.5 μ M showed a slight increase in the transcriptional level of the adiponectin, PGC-1 α , and mtTFA mRNA (see Figure 112 and Table S46 page 261). In addition, treatment with 10 μ M showed a slight change in the increased expression of mtTFA, ranging from 3% to 6%. However, significant elevation of adiponectin by 14.42% and PGC-1 α by 12.1% was observed over incubation at 10 μ M with naringenin **42** and *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a**, respectively.



(c)

Figure 112. The relative expression of mRNA of (a) adiponectin, (b) PGC-1 α , and (c) mtTFA of 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated with isolated compounds. The gene expression was normalised by the housekeeping gene β -actin. Data were in mean ± SEM; **p* = 0.02; ***p* = 0.002, *vs* vehicle control (*n* = 3, One-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc).

A consistent trend was also found between these data and those observed from their remarkable MMP change. In the MMP assay, exposure to naringenin **42** and *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a** increased MMP by 1.67- and 2-fold in the adipocytes. Interestingly, naringenin **42** and *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a** were found in FL-MeOH extract with percentages (w/w) of 1.75% and 2.5%, respectively. These two active compounds can then be considered to reflect the noticeable impact of FL-MeOH extract on the change of the gene level. Naringenin **42** has previously been reported to modulate mRNA expression of adiponectin and PGC-1 α in human white adipocyte cultures linked to increased energy expenditure and insulin sensitivity ⁴²³. In obese mice, *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a** induced PGC-1 α mRNA expression by up-regulating cAMP response element-binding protein (CREB) ⁴²⁴.

6.4. Expression of mRNAs of inflammatory markers

The transcriptional levels of two common cytokines in adipocytes, TNF- α and IL-6, were altered in the *A. saligna* MeOH extract-treated adipocytes compared to the vehicle control group. Marked reducing effect on the expression of TNF- α and IL-6 can be seen from the FL-MeOH-treated adipocytes at 50 µg/mL estimated for 15.9% and 10.5% decrease, respectively. At the same concentration, treatment with LF-MeOH extract demonstrated a somewhat lower impact than the methanolic extract of flowers with 11.6% and 10.4% decrease of TNF- α and IL-6, respectively, while treatment with BK-MeOH showed the lowest effect due to 12% reduction in TNF- α expression and the similar level of IL-6 with the vehicle control. In other words, this study suggests that treatment with FL-MeOH exhibited pronounced inhibition of the pro-inflammatory gene expression in the adipocytes.



Figure 113. The relative expression of mRNA of (a) TNF- α and (b) IL-6 in 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated with MeOH extracts. The gene expression was normalised by the housekeeping gene β -actin. FL-MeOH = methanolic extract of flower, LF-MeOH = methanolic extract of leaf, BK-MeOH = methanolic extract of bark. Data were in mean ± SEM; **p* = 0.04, *vs* vehicle control (*n* = 3, One-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc).



(b)

Figure 114. The relative expression of mRNA of (a) TNF- α and (b) IL-6 in 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated with isolated compounds. The gene expression was normalised by the housekeeping β -actin. Data were in mean ± SEM; **p* = 0.04 and 0.02, *vs* vehicle control (*n* = 3, One-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc).

The isolated compounds reduced the mRNA expression of two proinflammatory adipokines. Treatment with naringenin-7-O- α -L-arabinofuranoside **76** and D-(+)-pinitol **79a** at 10 µM demonstrated a significant decrease in TNF- α expression by 14.2% and 19.6%, respectively. In addition, the noticeably decreased expression in TNF- α was also found by naringenin **42** and quercitrin **4** treatment at the same dose by 11% and 12.7%. For IL-6 mRNA expression, naringenin **42**, quercitrin **4**, D-(+)-pinitol **79a**, and naringenin-7-O- α -L-arabinofuranoside **76** exerted a non-significant inhibitory effect. All these phytochemicals isolated from FL-MeOH extract indicate the active constituents linked to the inhibitory activity of the methanolic extract of flowers against the two cytokines. Given that TNF- α and IL-6 can impair the adiponectin pathway and mitochondrial biogenesis ^{425, 426}, our finding also suggests that *A. saligna* extracts and the phytoconstituents can protect the mitochondria in the adipocytes from the harmful effects of the pro-inflammatory cytokines.

6.5. Conclusion of Chapter 6

Our methanolic extracts and isolated compounds were involved in activating the AMPK- α of the 3T3-L1 adipocytes in a dose-dependent manner. This finding showed a consistent correlation between the improvement of glucose uptake and increases in phosphorylation of AMPK- α in 3T3-L1 adipocytes when treated with extracts and their corresponding isolated compounds. The markedly increased glucose uptake by (–)-epicatechin **77**, quercitrin **4**, and myricitrin **11** reflected the best glucose uptake of their corresponding LF-MeOH. FL-MeOH showed the highest expression of p-AMPK- α among the three extracts. These results were supported by the marked increase in p-AMPK- α when treated with isolated compounds such as naringenin **42**, naringenin-7-*O*- α -*L*-arabinofuranoside **76**, isosalipurposide **1**, and quercitrin **4**. Among them, (–)-epicatechin **77** performed well for all tested activities and significantly increased phosphorylated AMPK- α levels, suggesting that its effects could be partly mediated through activating the AMPK signalling pathway.

The methanolic extracts and phytochemicals have promoted mRNA levels of key regulators of mitochondrial biogenesis, including adiponectin, PGC-1 α , and mtTFA. Among the three methanolic extracts, FL-MeOH treatment showed a consistently marked increase in mRNA levels. The chemical constituents, naringenin 42 and D-(+)-pinitol 79a, have been noticed as the active compounds related to the impact of FL-MeOH extract by the significant increase of the mRNA expression. Moreover, the methanolic flower extract also markedly reduced the transcriptional expression of pro-inflammatory TNF- α and IL-6. The activity of naringenin 42, quercitrin 4, D-(+)-pinitol 79a, and naringenin-7-O- α -L-arabinofuranoside 76 was confirmed as the active constituents behind the impact of FL-MeOH against the cytokines. These findings align with the above outcome: FL-MeOH exerted the highest promoting impact on the restoration of MMP and phosphorylation of AMPKα. This suggests that A. saligna extracts and the isolated compounds can promote adipocytes' mitochondria health by inducing adiponectin, PGC-1a, and mtTFA expression and reducing the expression of inflammatory TNF- α and IL-6, resulting in increased AMPK phosphorylation and cellular glucose uptake.

CHAPTER 7: CONCLUSION AND FUTURE DIRECTION

7.1. General conclusion

Successive solvent extraction with *n*-hexane, dichloromethane (DCM), methanol (MeOH), and water solvent gave twelve different types of extracts of *A. saligna* with varied phytochemical contents. Using bioassays of antioxidants with DPPH and ABTS^{•+} radicals scavenging and α -glucosidase inhibition followed by 3T3-L1 adipocytes in vitro assays to measure essential parameters, including cellular and mitochondrial ROS, MMP, lipid droplets, and cellular glucose uptake, we confirmed that methanolic *A. saligna*'s flower, leaf, and bark extracts possessed the most promising properties for T2DM remedy. Our study found a consistent bioactivity of FL-, LF-, and BK-MeOH extracts between *in vitro* assays of free radicals scavenging, inhibition of the yeast α -glucosidase enzyme, and the cell-based assays. Furthermore, these data can be used to justify the bioactive extracts for further isolation of bioactive compounds.

Eleven compounds were obtained from FL-, LF-, and BK-MeOH extracts through isolation using column chromatography techniques. Spectroscopic methods using FTIR, 1D and 2D NMR, and HRMS suggested the presence of various classes of compounds, including chalcone, flavanone, flavan-3-ol, flavonol, alkyl phenol, cyclitols, and lactone derivatives. Five compounds were isolated from FL-MeOH, including naringenin **42**, naringenin-7-O- α -L-arabinofuranoside **76**, isosalipurposide **1**, quercitrin **4**, and D-(+)-pinitol **79a**. Flavonoid derivatives including (–)-epicatechin **77**, quercitrin **4**, and myricitrin **11** were the most isolated compounds found in the LF-MeOH, followed by 2,4-di-*t*-butylphenol **78**, (–)-pinitol **79b**, and ($3S^*,5S^*$)-3-hydroxy-5-(2-aminoethyl) dihydrofuran-2(3*H*)-one **80**. Isolated phytochemicals BK-MeOH were (–)-epicatechin **77**, D-(+)-pinitol **79a**, and sucrose. Except for compounds **1**, **4**, **42**, and **11**, this study suggests that the isolated compounds were found in three parts of Australian *A*. *saligna* for the first time.

The flavonoid and cyclitol derivatives isolated from MeOH extracts of *A*. *saligna* helped to reduce oxidative stress in adipocytes. These extracts were able to lower the levels of cellular ROS and mt-ROS. Among the derivatives, (–)-epicatechin **77** was found to be the most effective in reducing both types of ROS. This is consistent with its ability to inhibit DPPH and ABTS^{•+} radicals. The active compounds that increased MMP values were effective in repairing mitochondria in adipocytes. Significant increases in MMP were found in the adipocytes incubated with naringenin **42**, naringenin-*7-O-α-L*-arabinofuranoside **76**, *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a**, (–)-pinitol **79b**, and

(-)-epicatechin **77**. Moreover, the treatment with (-)-epicatechin **77** showed significant modulation of cellular glucose uptake. Based on the findings, the active compounds that produced positive results in the bioassays are consistent with those found in the methanolic extracts.



Figure 115. A summary of the effects of methanolic extracts of *A. saligna* and the isolated compounds on suppressing oxidative stress, promoting cellular glucose uptake *via* AMPK activation, and restoration of mitochondria of the adipocytes by increasing mRNA expression of key regulators and reducing mRNA expression of pro-inflammatory cytokines in the 3T3-L1 adipocytes (Blunt arrows (\perp): inhibiting, sharp arrows (\rightarrow): stimulating).

Our study also showed a consistent correlation between the improvement in glucose uptake and an increase in the p-AMPK- α in 3T3-L1 adipocytes when treated with extracts and their corresponding isolated compounds. The marked increases in glucose uptake and p-AMPK- α were observed from the FL-MeOH and LF-MeOH treatments. Naringenin **42**, naringenin-7-*O*- α -*L*-arabinofuranoside **76**, isosalipurposide **1**, and quercitrin **4** supported the activities of FL-MeOH while (–)-epicatechin **77**, quercitrin **4**, and myricitrin **8** were corresponding for LF-MeOH. This study, therefore, suggests that the cellular glucose uptake could be partly mediated via the activation of the AMPK signalling pathway.

The consistent trend between increasing effects on MMP values, p-AMPK- α , and increased transcriptional levels of key regulators of mitochondrial biogenesis, namely, adiponectin, PGC-1 α , and mtTFA, was also found in this study. The consistent data has been shown by FL-MeOH supported by its chemical constituents, naringenin **42** and *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a**. Moreover, our study also attributes the noticeably reducing effects of FL-MeOH against TNF- α and IL-6 to these two phytochemicals

along with quercitrin **4** and naringenin-7-O- α -L-arabinofuranoside **76**. Overall, *A*. *saligna* extracts and the isolated chemical constituents demonstrated antidiabetic activities on 3T3-L1 adipocytes by reducing ROS and mt-ROS, modulating transcriptional levels of adiponectin, PGC-1 α , and mtTFA and reducing pro-inflammatory TNF- α and IL-6 mRNA levels to promote mitochondrial biogenesis.

7.2. Future direction

This study demonstrated the potential of Australian A. saligna extracts and the chemical constituents for treating T2DM based on the studies using 3T3-L1 adipose cells. This is the first study of the Acacia species conducted in the 3T3-L1 adipocytes to reveal the active phytochemicals and the mode of action to stimulate cellular glucose uptake and restore mitochondria. This work can help those who work on natural product research, and the related field obtain effective successive polar solvent extraction on plants. Moreover, the information from bioassays can highlight the multiple actions of phytochemicals constituting the active extracts in scavenging free radicals, inhibiting α -glucosidase enzyme, stimulating vital components in adipocytes, such as AMPK phosphorylation; GLUT-4 transduction; PGC-1a activation, and also inhibiting of pro-inflammatory markers. However, this study only focuses on white adipose tissue (WAT) as the study model. T2DM is a complex disorder that involves multiple metabolic tissues and organs, such as muscles, kidneys, liver, pancreas, and brain. In addition, this study only employed a single type of normal-phase silica gel to afford the isolated compounds. Therefore, further studies to provide guidelines for developing comprehensive data on the potential of this species as listed in the following points:

- 1. A study on animal models of T2DM is needed to confirm the findings in 3T3-L1 adipocytes. This study will also observe the effects of *A. saligna* extracts and compounds on glucose metabolism in muscles.
- Further study in other cell lines, such as skeletal C2C12 cells, β-cells, renal tissues, and liver tissues, can be carried out to extend the effects of the plant on other tissues involved in the onset of T2DM. Moreover, further animal studies can be conducted to study the effects on several vital organs such as the pancreas, skeletal tissues, liver, kidney, and brain.
- Separation using reverse-phase silica gels and reverse-phase HPLC can be carried out to discover more polar compounds, such as tannin derivatives, that were not isolated from this current study.

CHAPTER 8: EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

8.1. Experiments of extraction

8.1.1. Materials

Unless otherwise expressed, all chemicals were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA). The solvent for extraction includes *n*-hexane, dichloromethane, and methanol. The solvents for GCMS were acetonitrile and methanol of HPLC grade. Chemicals for phenolic and flavonoid content experiments were Folin-Ciocalteu reagent, sodium carbonate, ethanol (Point of Care Diagnostics, Australia), aluminium chloride, ammonium acetate, gallic acid, and quercetin. The antioxidant assay used DPPH (2,2-di(4-tert-octylphenyl)-1-picrylhydrazyl), ABTS (2,2'-azino-bis-(3-ethylbenzothiazoline-6-sulphonic acid)), and ascorbic acid (Merck, Germany). Chemicals for α -glucosidase inhibition were α -glucosidase enzyme from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (lyophilized powder, 23 units/mg), 4-nitrophenyl α -Dglucopyranoside (*p*NPG, ≥99%), acarbose (99%), and dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO), KH₂PO₄ and K₂HPO₄ (Ajax Chemicals, Australia), Na₂CO₃ (Chem-Supply, Australia). Ultrapure water was purified using an Aurium pro-VF ultrapure water system (Gottingen, Germany).

3T3-L1 murine cell lines were supplied by American Type Tissue Culture/ATCC (Manassas, USA). The following reagents were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (USA): Dulbecco's Modified Eagle's Medium High Glucose (DMEM), bovine calf serum (BCS), penicillin, streptomycin glutamine (PSG), fetal bovine serum (FBS), rosiglitazone, dexamethasone, 3-isobutyl-1-methylxanthine (IBMX), insulin, phosphate-buffered saline (PBS), trypsin-EDTA solution 0.25%, bovine serum albumin (BSA), and dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO). Chemicals for cell-based studies were Oil Red-O (ORO), formaldehyde 10%, solution isopropanol, dichlorodihydrofluorescein diacetate (DCFH-DA), (3-(4,5 dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2, 5 diphenyltetrazolium bromide) (MTT), metformin, N-acetylcysteine (NAC), and Hank's balanced salt solution (HBSS). A Krebs-Ringer phosphate HEPES (KRPH) buffer was prepared from NaCl 118 mM, KCl 5 mM, KH₂PO₄ 1.2 mM, CaCl₂ 1.3 mM, MgSO₄ 1.2 mM, and HEPES 30 mM in a certain volume of milli-Q water. The 2-NBDG (2-deoxy-2-[(7-nitro-2,1,3-benzoxadiazol-4-yl) amino]-D-glucose) was purchased from Thermo-Fisher Scientific (USA).

8.1.2. Extraction protocol

The samples, including leaves, flowers, and stem barks, were collected from 12 Tasman Street, Kurnell, Sutherland Shire, NSW (34°00'48.2" S 151°12'27.7" E) on

7 October 2019. The plant was identified by Andrew Orme, a technical identification officer from the National Herbarium of NSW, as *Acacia saligna* (Labill.) H.L.Wendl. The wattle was further identified as subspecies saligna by Bruce Maslin from the Western Australia Herbarium. All samples were washed with flowing water to remove undesired matter, air-dried for a week, and finely powdered. The extraction applied a four-step sequential extraction with gradually increasing polarity of the solvents: *n*-hexane (hex), dichloromethane (DCM), methanol (MeOH) and water (H₂O) in a shaker over 48 hours at 30°C as shown in Figure 116.



Figure 116. Illustration of the extraction procedures of the plant.

8.1.3. Spectrometric estimation of phenolic and flavonoid content

Phenolic and flavonoid content was estimated using a spectrophotometric method in microtiter plates.

8.1.3.1. Estimation of phenolic content (PC)

Phenolic content (PC) quantification was generated using a modified Folin-Ciocalteu method adapted from Zhang et al. ⁴²⁷. Briefly, samples (1 mg/mL, 20 μ L) and the serial standard gallic acid solution (3.125–100 μ g/mL, 20 μ L) were individually mixed with Folin-Ciocalteu reagent (100 μ L) in a 96-well microplate. After 5 min, Na₂CO₃ solution (7.5%, 80 μ L) was added, followed by 2 h in the dark at room temperature. The absorbance was measured with a Perkin Elmer (EnSpire 2300 Multilabel Reader) microplate reader at λ 750 nm after an auto mix for 1 min. The PC of the extracts were determined using the following formula:

$$PC = C \times \frac{V}{m}$$

PC is the phenolic content in the extract (mg gallic acid equivalent (GAE)/g extract), *C* is the estimated concentration of gallic acid of the samples established from the curve of calibration (mg/mL), *V* is the volume of extract (mL), and *m* is the mass of the extracts (g).

8.1.3.2. Estimation of flavonoid content (FC)

Using the method adapted from Nurcholis et al. ⁴²⁸, each sample (1 mg/mL, 50 μ L) or standard quercetin ethanolic solution (3.125–100 μ g/mL, 50 μ L) and AlCl₃ ethanolic solution (10%, 10 μ L) were mixed in each well followed by adding EtOH (96%, 130 μ L) and then let to stand for 3–5 min. Ammonium acetate solution (1M, 10 μ L) was added into the mixture prior to a 40 min-incubation in the dark at room temperature. The optical density was measured at λ 415 nm, and the TFC was expressed in mg quercetin equivalent (QE)/g determined by:

$$FC = C \times \frac{V}{m}$$

FC is the flavonoid content in the extract (mg QE/g extract), *C* is the estimated concentration of quercetin of the samples established from the curve of calibration (mg/mL), *V* is the volume of extract (mL), and *m* is the mass of the extracts (g).

8.1.4. Screening of phytochemicals using gas chromatography-mass spectroscopy (GCMS) analysis

An analytical screening of volatile and lower molecular weight phytochemicals using a GCMS was performed to assist in analysing the potential bioactive of crude extracts. All extracts were dissolved in the analytical grade solvents (acetonitrile and methanol) and then made up to 1 ppm. The sample and the blank solvent were subjected to an Agilent 6890GC coupled with Agilent 5973n MS (EI) equipped with a capillary column (length of 30 m, diameter of 0.25 mm, and film thickness of 0.10 μ m) with a total run time of 30 min. The initial and working temperatures of the column were 50 and 340°C. Helium was used as the carrier gas at a 1 mL/min flow rate. Identification of the possible molecules was based on the library data of the instrument.

8.2. Experiments of DPPH and ABTS^{®+} scavenging assays

The DPPH-free radical scavenging study based on a 96-well plate reading approach was performed following Jiang, Li, Ma, Jiang, He, Qiu, Li and Wang ⁴²⁹ and Chen, Bishop, Tanambell, Buchanan, Smith and Quek ⁴³⁰ with slight modifications of the protocol. Briefly, a 180 μ L of DPPH 0.2 mM ethanolic solution was pipetted into each well (Corning, USA), followed by 20 μ L of ethanolic solution of extracts, isolated compounds, or ascorbic acid in a different concentration and, for the blank solution, 20 μ L of ethanol. The blank extract and the blank positive solution were prepared by adding 180 μ L of ethanol into 20 μ L of samples and ascorbic acid solution. The plate was then incubated in a dark condition for 30 min at 30°C. The absorbance was observed using a microplate reader (Tecan Infinite M1000 PRO, Austria) at 517 nm.

The percentage of DPPH scavenging activity was determined by:

DPPH scavenging activity (%) =
$$\left[1 - \left(\frac{A_1 - A_2}{A_0}\right)\right] \times 100\%$$

 A_0 is the absorbance of the blank solution (DPPH 0.2 mM + EtOH), A_1 is the absorbance of the sample (sample + DPPH 0.2 mM), and A_2 is the absorbance of the blank sample (sample in EtOH). The value was then converted into IC₅₀ (µg/mL) from a graph correlating sample concentration (µg/mL) and DPPH scavenging activity (%). The results were expressed as mean ± standard error mean (SEM) of three separate experiments (n = 3).

The ABTS^{•+} solution was prepared by generating a reaction between ABTS 7 mM and potassium persulfate 2.45 mM (1:1 of v/v) at room temperature for 16-18 h ⁴³¹. The ABTS^{•+} solution was diluted to achieve an acceptable measurement at 734 nm ⁴³². The same experimental procedure used in the DPPH radical scavenging assay was applied to measure the percentage of ABTS^{•+} radical scavenging. The absorbance was observed using a microplate reader (Tecan Infinite M1000 PRO, Austria) at 734 nm.

8.3. Experiment of α-glucosidase inhibition assay

The enzyme deactivation assay followed the modified microplates method adapted from Ning, Zhai, Huang, Peng, Hu, Xiao, Wen, Lin, Zhao and Bian ⁴³³ with minor modifications. As illustrated in Figure 117, a volume of 20 μ L of the plant extract or isolated compounds in different concentrations, acarbose solution (31.25–1000 μ g/mL), or solvent control was mixed with α -glucosidase (40 μ L, 0.075 U/mL in potassium phosphate buffer solution (PBS, 100 mM) with pH 6.8) in 96-well polystyrene plates (Corning Incorporated, NY, USA) and then incubated for 15 min at

37°C. Afterwards, *p*NPG solution in PBS (40 μ L, 1 mM) was added to the mixture, followed by further incubation for 30 min at 37°C. In order to terminate the reaction, Na₂CO₃ (100 μ L, 200 mM) was added to the wells. The spectrophotometric observation was then conducted to determine the absorbance of *p*-nitrophenol released from the reaction under 405 nm wavelength in a microplate reader (Tecan Infinite M1000 PRO, Austria). The percentage of inhibition was calculated from the following formula:

Percentage of inhibition (%) =
$$\frac{A_c - A_s}{A_c} \times 100\%$$

Where A_c is the absorbance of the solvent control and enzymatic reaction system and A_s is the absorbance of the sample with the enzymatic reaction system, the inhibitory activity was expressed in the value of half minimal inhibitory concentration (IC₅₀).



Figure 117. Representative illustration of the α -glucosidase inhibition assay.

8.4. Cell-based studies

8.4.1. Protocol of cell subculture

The parent cells were taken from passaged 2 (P2) cell stock stored on June 21^{st} , 2019. The cells were cultivated in a 25 cm² of tissue culture flask (Corning, USA) with a density of 0.3×10^5 cells/mL in a complete growth medium of DMEM (90%, v/v)

supplemented with BCS (9%, v/v) and PSG (1%, v/v). The cells were incubated in a humid environment of 37° C with 5% CO₂. Once 70–80 % confluent had been obtained, the medium was aspirated from the cells and washed with 5 mL of sterile PBS solution. The cells were detached from the flask by incubation for 3–5 minutes with 3 mL of trypsin-EDTA. Into the detached cells, a fresh medium of 3 mL was added to terminate the trypsinisation, followed by spinning down with a centrifuge at 150 rpm for 5 min at 25 °C. After resuspending with another complete medium and counting cell numbers, the other cell line works can be performed for cryopreservation, cell passage, or cell differentiation.

8.4.2. Protocol of cell viability experiment on 3T3-L1 preadipocytes with MTT assay

The preadipocytes were seeded in three different 96-well plates ($3x10^3$ cells/mL per well) containing 100 µL of growth medium and then incubated for 24-h ($37 \,^{\circ}$ C/ 5% CO₂). The old medium was replaced by an identical volume of each fresh extract-containing medium in a range of concentration (25, 50, 100, and 200 µg/mL) or isolated compound-containing medium (15.63, 31.25, 62.5, and 125 µM) followed by incubation for a further 24- (plate A), 48- (plate B), and 72-h (plate C). After incubation and discarding solution, the cells were washed with PBS and then exposed to 100 µL of fresh medium containing 10 µL of MTT (5 mg/mL in PBS). After incubation for another 4 hours, the supernatant was replaced by 100 µL of DMSO and adequately mixed. The absorbance was measured using a microplate reader (Tecan Infinite M1000 PRO, Austria) at 570 nm. The percentage of cell viability is expressed in the:

Cell viability (%) = $\frac{\text{absorbance of sample}}{\text{absorbance of control}} \times 100\%$

8.4.3. Protocol of cell differentiation

The 3T3-L1 preadipocytes (70–80% confluent from a culture flask) were grown in a 96-well microtiter plate ($3x10^3$ cells/well in 100 µL final volume of basal medium 1 (M1 = 90% DMEM, 9% BCS, and 1% PSG)) and incubated for 48 h in a humid condition (37° C & 5% CO₂) for adherence of the cells. After 48 h, the old M1 was replaced with new M1, and the cells were incubated for another 48-h (day -2 to 0) to get 100% confluent. The M1 was replaced by an identical volume of M2 (9% FBS, 1% PSG, and 90% DMEM containing rosiglitazone 2 µM, dexamethasone 2.2 mM, IBMX 500 mM, and insulin 4 mg/mL) followed by incubation for 48 h (day 0 to 2). After incubation and M2 removal at day 2 of differentiation, new M3 (90% DMEM, 9% FBS, 1% PSG and insulin) were added, followed by incubation to day 6 with medium replacement every 48-h. On day 6, M3 was replaced by M4 (90% DMEM, 9% FBS, and 1% PSG), followed by another 48-h incubation.

Cell	growth	100% confluent	Lipid dr	oplets format development	ion and	Excessive lipid droplets			
48 h	48 h (day - 2 to 0)	48 h (day 0 to 2)	48 h (day 2 to 4)	48 h (day 4 to 6)	48 h (day 6 to 8)	Between day 8 & 12			
Feed M1	Feed M1	Feed M2	Feed M3	Feed M3	Feed M4	Treatment with extracts/ compounds			
Preadipocyte mature									

Figure 118. Schematic workflow diagram of the cell differentiation. 8.4.4. Protocol of cell viability experiment on 3T3-L1 adipocytes

The differentiated 3T3-L1 cells grown in three 96-well microtiter plates (Corning, USA) were exposed to 100 μ L of fresh test solution containing flower, leaf, and bark extracts in a range of concentrations (25–200 μ g/mL) or isolated compounds (15.63–125 μ M) and incubated for a further 24 (plate A), 48 (plate B), and 72 h (plate C). After incubation, the solution was replaced with 100 μ L of fresh medium containing 10 % MTT solution (5 mg/mL in PBS). The treated cells were then incubated for additional 4 hours. Once finished the last incubation, the MTT solution was replaced by 100 μ L of DMSO to homogenous. The absorbance was measured at wavelength 570 via a multiwell plate reader (Tecan Infinite M1000 PRO, Austria). Each concentration was performed twice times whereby each experiment was done in triplicate. The percentage of cell viability is expressed in the:

Cell viability (%) = $\frac{\text{absorbance of sample}}{\text{absorbance of control}} \times 100\%$

8.4.5. Experiment of ORO staining assay

This assay protocol was adapted from Kraus et al. ⁴³⁴. On the day of induction of differentiation (day 0), the confluent preadipocytes are exposed to the differentiation medium of induction in the presence of extracts (12.5 and 50 μ g/mL) or isolated compounds (0.5 and 10 μ M) followed by 48 hours incubation. The cells were fed with fresh basal media containing insulin in the presence of the extracts every other 2 days until day 8 of the induction. On the day of staining (day 8), the treated

cells and control are washed with PBS and then fixed with 10% of formalin solution (dissolved in PBS, 100 μ L/well) for 30 min at room temperature. The cells were washed with 60% of isopropanol and then stained with 60% of Oil Red O (0.7 g of ORO/200 mL of isopropanol, 100 μ L/well) for 1 h at room temperature. After liquid removal, the stained cells are washed with water and eluted with 100% isopropanol. The plate was incubated for 10 min at room temperature with a shaker. The absorbance was measured at 510 nm through a microplate reader. The lipid level was expressed by:

Fold change of adipogenesis = $\frac{\text{Absorbance of treated adipocytes}}{\text{Absorbance of control}} \times 100\%$

8.4.6. Experiment of cellular ROS reduction assay using dichlorodihydrofluorescein diacetate (DCFH-DA)

The ROS detection experiment *via* DCFH-DA assay was adapted from Hadrich et al. ²⁸⁹. On day 8 of cell differentiation, the previous medium was eliminated and replaced with 100 μ L of fresh basal medium for vehicle control (untreated adipose cells), *N*-acetylcysteine (NAC) solution (5 and 10 mM) as the positive control, and the same volume of the culture medium (DMSO 0.1%) containing extracts of flowers, leaves, and bark of *A. saligna* in various concentration (25–200 μ g/mL) or isolated compounds (0.5 and 10 μ M) then incubated for 48 h. After discarding the supernatants, the cells were gently washed with PBS, added 10 μ M of DCFH-DA solution (100 μ L), covered with aluminium foil, and then incubated for 45 min at 37 ° C. Afterwards, the supernatants were removed, and the cells are washed with HBBS, then added HBBS (100 μ L). The intensity of fluorescence corresponding to the intracellular ROS concentration was read at excitation and emission wavelength of 485 and 530 nm, respectively, with a plate fluorescence reader for 0-, 5-, 10-, and 15-min. The percentage of ROS level is calculated by:

$$ROS \ level = \frac{Fluorescence of treated adipocytes}{Fluorescence of control} x \ 100\%$$

8.4.7. Experiment of cellular glucose uptake assay

A glucose uptake simulation has been carried out using a 2-NBDG fluorescent assay in 96-well polystyrene black microplates (Corning, USA) for all extracts and isolated compounds on 3T3-L1 adipocytes adapted from Nooron et al. ⁴³⁵. On day-8 after the induction, the differentiated cells were serum-starved overnight in the humidified condition with low glucose DMEM and BSA 0.1%. After medium

removal, further incubation of the adipocytes for 1 h was carried out with the KRPH buffer solution. After another incubation for 30 min at 37 °C with the following treatment:

- 1) extracts (12.5 and 50 μ g/mL) or isolated compounds (0.5 and 10 μ M);
- 2) vehicle medium (vehicle control); and
- insulin (100 nM) and metformin (10 μM) as the positive control 1 and 2, respectively;

all dissolved in the KRPH buffer (100 μ L per well), another identical volume of KRPH buffer containing 2-NBDG (80 μ M) was added into each well, followed by further incubation for 30 min.

After medium removal and washed by ice-cooled PBS, the fluorescence was measured using a microplate reader (PerkinElmer) at excitation (λ_{ex}) and emission wavelength (λ_{em}) of 485 and 535 nm, respectively. The glucose uptake values were expressed by:

2-NBDG uptake :
$$\left(\frac{F_1}{F_0}\right) \times 100\%$$

where F_1 and F_0 were the fluorescence of a sample and the vehicle control, respectively.

8.5. Experiment of compound isolation and molecular structure elucidation 8.5.1. Materials for fractionation and isolation

Silica gel 60 Å/40–63 μ m particle size for flash chromatography, silica gel (SiO₂) 60 F₂₅₄-coated Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) aluminium sheets and methanol-d₄ were supplied by Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA). The solvents used in the analytical grade were methanol, ethyl acetate, dichloromethane, and formic acid.

8.5.2. Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC) experiment

The tested extracts or fractions solution was spotted onto the baseline of the TLC plate and then placed in the closed TLC chamber for the separation development. Once the eluent reached the determined front line, the plate was removed from the chamber for solvent evaporation. The developed spots were inspected under a UV lamp at 254 nm wavelength.

8.5.2.1. Fractionation and TLC profile of FL-MeOH

The FL-MeOH extract (600 mg) was fractionated by column chromatography with silica gel 60 (Sigma-Aldrich, USA) packed in a column chromatography (socket joint 25/29, cone 19/26, Ø 18 mm, 200 mm effective length) by which DCM/MeOH (95:5, 90:10, 85:15, and 80:20) was the mobile phase according to the TLC

examination. The fractionation afforded three main fractions: FL-MeOH-A (109 mg), FL-MeOH-B (206 mg), and FL-MeOH-C (40 mg). Under a shortwave UV light, its TLC plate showed a single broad spot and two broad spots for FL-MeOH-A and -B, respectively, while a broad spot closer to the baseline was observed for FL-MeOH-C. According to its ¹H NMR profile, the fraction FL-MeOH-C was observed as impure -B. Therefore, a further column purification was carried out to the fractions A and B with details as follows:

- The normal phase silica column with the incremental gradient EtOAc/MeOH mobile phase (100:0 to 80:20) over FL-MeOH-A gave three sub-fractions, i.e., FL-MeOH-A1 (10.5 mg, Rf = 0.8, identified as naringenin 42), -A2 (mixture), and -A3 (15.5 mg, Rf = 0.333 identified as naringenin-7O-α-*L*-arabinofuranose 76).
- The normal phase silica column with EtOAc/MeOH (100:0 to 80:20) over FL-MeOH-B gave six sub-fractions, i.e., FL-MeOH-B1a (0.2 mg, mixture of hydrocarbons),- B1b (9.13 mg, Rf = 0.528, identified as isosalipurposide 1), -B2a (23.2 mg, impure B2b), -B2b (24.77 mg, Rf = 0.518, quercitrin 4), -B3a (88.1 mg, impure B3b), and -B3b (15 mg, Rf = 0.168, identified as *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a**).

Table	22 .	Obtained	fractions	from	the	fractionation	of	FL-MeOH	extract	by	the	column
chrom	atog	raphy										

No	Mobile (%	system v/v)	Collected	Designed code	Weighed mass (mg) and percentage			
	DCM	MeOH	Inaction		(w/w)			
1	100	0	1 12		100 19 17%			
	95	5	1-13	FL-MeOTI-A	109, 10.1770			
2	90	10	14–23	FL-MeOH-B	206, 34.44%			
4	85	15	24–29	FL-MeOH-C	40, 6.7%			
5	0	100	-	Rest	245, 40.83%			

Table 23. Obtained sub-fractions from the fractionation of FL-MeOH-A extract by the column chromatography

No	Mobile (%)	system v/v)	Collected	Designed	Weighed mass (mg) and	Identified	
NO	EtOAc	MeOH	fraction	code	percentage (w/w)	compound	
1	100	0	1–4	FL-MeOH-	10.5, 9.63%	Naringenin	
				A1		42	
2	95	5	5–14	FL-MeOH-	12 2 11 100/		
3	90	10	15–20	A2	12.2, 11.1970	-	
4	05	15	21 – 34	FL-MeOH-	15 5 14 000/	Compound	
4	60	15	35 – 41	A3	15.5, 14.22%	76	
5	0	100	-	Rest	70.8, 64.95%	-	







(c)

Figure 119. Photographed images of TLC plates under a UV lamp at 254 nm for (**a**) FL-MeOH extract with a mobile phase of DCM/MeOH (75:25), (**b**) FL-MeOH-A fraction with EtOAc/MeOH/HCOOH/H₂O of 50:2:3:6, and (**c**) FL-MeOH-B fraction with EtOAc/MeOH/HCOOH/H₂O of 50:2:3:6.

Table 24. Obtained sub-fractions from the fractionation of FL-MeOH-B extract by the column chromatography

No	Mobile system (% v/v)		Collected	Designed	Weighed mass (mg) and	Identified
	EtOAc	MeOH	fraction	code	percentage (w/w)	compound
1	100	0	1–13	FL-MeOH- B1a	0.2, 0.10%	-
			7 – 14	FL-MeOH- B1b	9.13, 4.43%	lsosalipurposide 1
2	05	5	14–20	FL-MeOH- B2a	23.3, 11.31%	-
2 95		5	21–27	FL-MeOH- B2b	24.77, 12.02%	Quercitrin 4
3	90	10	28–46		88.1, 42.72%	-

No	Mobile system (% v/v)		Collected	Designed	Weighed mass (mg) and	Identified	
NO	EtOAc Me		fraction	code	percentage (w/w)	compound	
4	95	15	37–57	FL-MeOH- B3a			
4	60	15	58 – 68	FL-MeOH- B3b	15, 7.28%	<i>D</i> -(+)-pinitol 79a	
5	0	100	-	Rest	45.5, 22.09%	-	

8.5.2.2. Fractionation and TLC profile of LF-MeOH

The LF-MeOH extract (1 g) was fractionated to give four major fractions: LF-MeOH-A (80 mg), -B (60 mg), -C (490 mg), and -D (50 mg). The proton NMR of LF-MeOH-D, assigned as 3-hydroxy-5-(2-aminoethyl) dihydrofuran-2(3*H*)-one **80** that the fraction was relatively pure, and no further purification was required. However, further purification using EtOAc/MeOH eluent system was conducted for the other three fractions resulting in some sub-fractions as follows:

- Three sub-fractions, i.e., LF-MeOH-A1 (9 mg, assigned as (–)-epicatechin 77), -A2 (mixture), and -A3 (10 mg, 2,4-di-*t*-butylphenol 78) were obtained from the purification of fraction A.
- Three sub-fractions were obtained from fraction B as LF-MeOH-B1 (2.3 mg, mixture of hydrocarbons), -B2 (27.5 mg, assigned as quercitrin 4) and -B3 (12 mg, impure -B2).
- Five sub-fractions: C1 (5 mg, mixture), C2a (26.8 mg, impure C2b), C2b (50 mg, assigned as myricitrin 11), C2c (27.8 mg, mixture of C2b and C3), and C3 (80 mg, *D*-(–)-pinitol 79b) were isolated from the fraction C of the methanolic extract of leaves.

No	Mobile system (% v/v)		Collected	Designed	Weighed mass (mg) and	Identified	
NO	DCM	MeOH	fraction	code	percentage (w/w)	compound	
1	100	0	1–26		00 00/	-	
2	95	5	27–40		00, 0%	-	
3	90	10	41–50	LF-MeOH-B	60, 6%	-	
4	85	15	51–81	LF-MeOH-C	490, 49%	-	
5	80	20	82–90	LF-MeOH-D	50, 6%	Compound 80	
6	0	100	-	Rest	320, 32%	-	

 Table 25. Obtained fractions from the fractionation of LF-MeOH extract by the column chromatography

Table 26. Obtained sub-fractions from the fractionation of LF-MeOH-A extract by the column chromatography

No	Mobile (%)	system v/v)	Collected	Designed	Weighed mass (mg) and	Identified	
	EtOÀc MeOH		fraction	code	percentage (w/w)	compound	
1	100	0	1–4	LF-MeOH- A1	9, 11.25%	(–)-Epicatechin 77	
2	95	5	5–9	LF-MeOH- A2	18.5, 23.13%	-	
3	90	10	11–17	LF-MeOH- A3	10, 12.5%	Compound 78	
4	0	100	-	Rest	42.5, 53.13%	-	

Table 27. Obtained sub-fractions from the fractionation of LF-MeOH-B extract by the column chromatography

No	Mobile (%	system v/v)	Collected	Designed	Weighed mass (mg) and	Identified	
NO	EtOAc	MeOH	fraction	code	percentage (w/w)	compound	
1	100	0	1–5	LF-MeOH- B1	2.3, 3.83%	-	
2	95	5	6–16	LF-MeOH- B2	28.6, 47.67%	Quercitrin 4	
3	90	10	17-21	LF-MeOH- B3	12, 20%	-	
4	0	100	-	Rest	17.1, 28.5%	-	

Table 28. Obtained sub-fractions from the fractionation of LF-MeOH-C extract by the column chromatography

Na	Mobile (%	system v/v)	Collected	Designed	Weighed mass (mg) and	Identified		
NO	EtOAc	MeOH	fraction	code	percentage (w/w)	compound		
1	100	0	1–13	LF-MeOH- C1	5, 1.02%	-		
2	95	5	14–28	LF-MeOH- C2a	26.8, 5.47%	-		
2			00 10		29–39	LF-MeOH- C2b	50, 10.20%	Myricitrin 11
3	90	10	40–68	LF-MeOH- C2c	27.8, 5.67%	-		
4	85	15	69–85	LF-MeOH- C3	80, 16.33%	(–)-Pinitol 79b		
5	0	100	-	Rest	300.4, 61.31%	-		



(d)

Figure 120. Photographed images of TLC plates under a UV lamp at 254 nm for (**a**) LF-MeOH extract with a mobile phase of DCM/MeOH (75:25), (**b**) LF-MeOH-A fraction with EtOAc/HCOOH/H₂O of 9:1:1, (**c**) LF-MeOH-B fraction with EtOAc/MeOH/HCOOH/H₂O of 50:2:3:6, and (**d**) LF-MeOH-C fraction with EtOAc/MeOH/HCOOH/H₂O of 50:2:3:6.

8.5.2.3. Fractionation and TLC profile of BK-MeOH

According to the proton NMR spectra of BK-MeOH extract, saccharidederived compounds appeared as the major component in the methanolic extract, indicated by strong multiplet peaks between 3 and 4 ppm. Some minor peaks in the aromatic region were also observed in the data representing possible phenolic derivation species. Given that the extracted components were most likely to be more polar, the mobile phase of the fractionation was EtOAc and MeOH with increasing polarity. Three main fractions, BK-MeOH-A, -B, and -C, were collected. Furthermore, each fraction can be grouped into two sub-fractions according to the TLC profile. The detailed assignment of the methanolic bark isolated compounds was as follows:

- 1. NMR peaks of sub-fraction BK-MeOH-A1 (7.6 mg) were identical with (–)epicatechin **77**, while sub-fraction -A2 was impure (–)-epicatechin **77**.
- The sub-fraction B2, assigned later as *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a** (53.5 mg), was estimated as the main isolated compound of the methanolic bark extract, whereas impure *D*-(+)-pinitol **79A** was in BK-MeOH-B1 (1.1 mg).
- A common disaccharide, sucrose (25 mg), confirmed by its spectroscopic data, was found as the component of BK-MeOH-C2, along with its impure form in subfraction-C1 (33.5 mg).



Figure 121. Photographed image of TLC plate under a UV lamp at 254 nm for BK-MeOH extract with a mobile phase of EtOAc/HCOOH/H₂O (9:1:1).

Table	29 .	Obtained	fraction	from	the	fractionation	of	BK-MeOH	extract	by	the	column
chrom	atogi	raphy										

No	Mobile system (% v/v)		Collected	Code of	Weighed mass (mg) and	Identified
	EtOAc	MeOH	fraction	fraction	percentage (w/w)	compound
1	100	0	1–8	BK-MeOH- A1	7.6, 2.53%	(–)-Epicatechin 77
2	95	5	9–11	BK-MeOH- A2 (mixture)	2.9, 1%	-
3	00	10		BK-MeOH- B1	1.1, 0.37%	-
4	90	10	12–20	BK-MeOH- B2	53.5, 17.83%	<i>D</i> -(+)-pinitol 79a
5	85	15		BK-MeOH- C1	33.5, 11.17%	-
6			21–30	BK-MeOH- C2	25, 8.33%	Sucrose
7	0	100	31–35	Rest	54.5, 18.17%	-

8.5.3. Structure identification of isolated compounds

Isolated pure compounds were structure characterised by specific optical rotation (Jasco P-2000 Polarimeter), melting point (Gallenkamp apparatus), GCMS (Agilent 6890GC coupled with Agilent 5973n MS (EI), FTIR (Nicolet-FTIR 6700), HRMS (Agilent 6510 QTOF Mass Spectrometer (ESI)), 1D and 2D NMR (Bruker 400 MHz and Agilent 500 MHz). Analysis of 1D NMR, including proton and carbon-13 & carbon-DEPT, was conducted to determine the main elemental components of the compounds. The 2D NMR analysis of the isolated phytochemicals, including COSY and HSQC, was carried out to build the molecule's connectivity.

8.5.3.1. Spectral data analysis of compounds from FL-MeOH

Naringenin **42**: FL-MeOH-A1 (10.5 mg, 1.75% w/w) is a yellow solid: IR (v_{max}, cm⁻¹) 3246.22 (-OH), 2919.77 (sp3 CH), 1709.65 (C=O), 1597.51 (C=C aromatic), and 1013.25 cm-1 (C–O); HRMS (EI) m/z 273.0684 [M + H]⁺, cald for C₁₅H₁₂O₅ 273.0685; m.p. 253–255 °C; $[\alpha]^{23}$ = -16.68° (c 0.1, EtOH) [literature ⁴³⁶ $[\alpha]^{22}$ = -14.7° (c 0.36, EtOH)].

Naringenin-7-*O*- α -*L*-arabinofuranoside **76**: FL-MeOH-A3 (15.5 mg, 2.58% w/w) is yellow powder: IR (v_{max}, cm⁻¹) 3300.70 (-OH stretching), 2920.64 (sp³ CH stretching), 1710 C=O), 1605.11 (C=C), and 1021.40 cm⁻¹ (C–O); HRMS (EI) m/z 405.1189 [M + H]⁺, cald C₂₀H₂₀O₉ 405.1186; m.p. 229–230 °C; [α]²³= -44.54° (c 0.1, MeOH).

Isolisalipurposide **1**: FL-MeOH-B1b is a yellow powder (9.13 mg, 1.52% w/w): IR (v_{max} , cm⁻¹) 3255.08 (-OH), 2930.83 (sp³ CH), 1601.61 (C=O), 1550.28 (C=C), and 1070.60 cm⁻¹ (C-O); HRMS (EI) m/z 435.1298 [M + H]⁺, cald C₂₁H₂₂O₁₀ 435.1291; m.p. 174–175 °C; $[\alpha]^{23}$ = -119.02° (c 0.1, MeOH).

Quercitrin **4**: FL-MeOH-B2b (24.77 mg, 4.13% w/w) is yellow powder: IR (v_{max} , cm⁻¹) 3248.57 (-OH), 2936.97 (sp³ CH), 1652.71 (C=O), 1499.15 (C=C), 1198.56 and 1070.60 cm⁻¹ (C–O); HRMS (EI) m/z 449.1072 [M + H]⁺, cald C₂₁H₂₁O₁₁ 449.1084; m.p. 180–183 °C; [α]²³= -120.86° (c 0.1, MeOH).

D-(+)-Pinitol **79a**: FL-MeOH-B3b (15 mg, 2.5% w/w) is white solid: IR (v_{max}, cm⁻¹) 3328.27 (-OH), 2918.85 (sp³ CH), and 1034.21 cm⁻¹ (C–O); HRMS (EI) m/z 195.0865 [M + H]⁺, cald C₇H₁₄O₆ 195.0869; m.p. 171–172 °C; $[\alpha]^{23}$ = +44.80° (c 0.1, H₂O) [lit. ³⁴⁵ $[\alpha]^{23}$ = +69.7° (c 0.56, MeOH)].

8.5.3.2. Spectral data analysis of compounds from LF-MeOH

(-)-Epicatechin **77**: LF-MeOH A1 (9 mg, 0.9%) isolated as colourless solids: IR (v_{max} , cm⁻¹) 3270.79 (-OH); 2920.04 (sp³ CH); 1598.57 (C=C); and 1013.97 cm⁻¹

(C–O); HRMS (EI) m/z 291.0871 [M + H]⁺ cald C₁₅H₁₄O₆ 291.0869; m.p. 240–243 °C; $[\alpha]^{23}$ = -69.06° (c 0.1, MeOH) [lit. ⁴³⁷ $[\alpha]^{23}$ = -69.7° (c 0.56, MeOH)].

2,4-di-*t*-butylphenol **78**: LF-MeOH-A3 (10 mg, 1% w/w) is a yellow solid: IR (v_{max} , cm⁻¹) 3330.29 (-OH), 2921.70 (sp³ CH), 1592.96 (C=C, aromatic), and 1029.41 cm⁻¹ (C–O); GC-MS analysis showed a single peak (r_t = 13.919 min) with m/z peak at 206.1, which represents C₁₄H₂₂O; m.p. 61–62 °C.

Quercitrin **4**: LF-MeOH-B2 (28.6 mg, 2.86% w/w) is yellow solid: IR (v_{max}, cm⁻¹) 3286.53 (-OH), 2927.28 (sp³ CH), 1652.21 (C=O), 1599.51 and 1498.15 (C=C), 1197.61 and 1070.60 cm⁻¹ (C–O); HRMS(EI) m/z 449.1081 [M + H]⁺, cald C₂₁H₂₁O₁₁ 449.1084; m.p. 180–183 °C; $[\alpha]^{23}$ = -212.80° (c 0.1, MeOH).

Myricitrin **11**: LF-MeOH-C2b (50 mg, 5% w/w) is a yellow powder: IR (v_{max} , cm⁻¹) 3266.81 (-OH), 2930.51 (sp³ CH), 1652.84 (C=O), 1499.04 (C=C aromatic), 1197.39 and 1070.60 cm⁻¹ (C–O); HRMS (EI) m/z 465.1037 [M + H]⁺, cald C₂₁H₂₀O₁₂ 465.1033; m.p. 193–195 °C; [α]²³= -246.32° (c 0.1, MeOH).

(-)-Pinitol **79b**: LF-MeOH-C3 (80 mg, 8%) a white solid: IR (v_{max} , cm⁻¹) 3389.09 (-OH), 3302.90 and 2907.93 (sp³ CH), 1068.27 and 1070.60 cm⁻¹ (C–O); HRMS (EI) m/z 195.0863 [M + H]⁺, cald C₇H₁₄O₆ 195.0869; m.p. 175–177 °C; [α]²³= -79.44° (c 0.1, H₂O) [lit. ³⁴⁵ [α]²⁰= -61.5° (c 0.19, H₂O)].

 $(3S^*,5S^*)$ -3-Hydroxy-5-(2-aminoethyl) dihydrofuran-2(3*H*)-one **80**: LF-MeOH-D (50 mg, 5% w/w) a colourless solid: IR (v_{max}, cm⁻¹) 3212.08 (OH), 2929.09 (sp³ CH), 1707.74 (C=O) and 1053.09 (C-O), HRMS (EI) m/z 146.0818 [M + H]⁺; cald C₆H₁₁NO₃ 146.0817; m.p. 347-350 °C.

8.5.3.3. Spectral data analysis of compounds from BK-MeOH

(-)-Epicatechin **77**: BK-MeOH-A1 (7.6 mg, 2.53%) is colourless solid: IR (v_{max} , cm⁻¹) 3220.47 (-OH); 2919.54 (sp³ CH); 1604.73 (C=C); and 1031.13 cm⁻¹ (C–O); HRMS (EI) m/z 291.0859 [M + H]⁺ cald C₁₅H₁₄O₆ 291.0869; m.p. 240–243 °C; [α]²³= -28.72° (c 0.1, MeOH) [lit. ⁴³⁷ [α]²³= -69.7° (c 0.56, MeOH)].

D-(+)-Pinitol **79a**: BK-MeOH-B2 (53.5 mg, 17.83% w/w) is white solid: IR (v_{max} , cm⁻¹) 3290.16 (-OH), 2920.20 (sp³ CH), 1066.12 and 1070.60 cm⁻¹ (C–O); HRMS (EI) m/z 195.0865 [M + H]⁺, cald C₇H₁₄O₆ 195.0869; m.p. 171–172 °C; [α]²³= +90.82° (c 0.1, H₂O) [lit. ³⁴⁵ [α]²³= +69.7° (c 0.56, MeOH)].

8.6. Experiments of mt-ROS and MMP assays

8.6.1. Materials of mitochondrial assays

Unless otherwise mentioned, all chemicals were supplied by Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO, USA). The main chemicals for the assays were metformin, JC-1 (5,5,6,6'-tetrachloro-1,1',3,3' tetraethylbenzimi-dazoylcarbocyanine iodide), insulin, and bovine serum albumin (BSA). The MitoSOX (hydroethidine triphenylphosphonium cation) was purchased from Thermo-Fisher Scientific (USA).

8.6.2. Mt-ROS level measurement using mitoSOX staining reagent

A hydroethidine triphenylphosphonium cation (MitoSOX red) is a lipophilic hydroethidium member for staining mt-ROS. Due to the charge difference between the mitochondrial intermediate membrane and mitochondrial matrix, the triphenylphosphonium substituent (TPP⁺) can stimulate the hydroethidium entry into the inner space of the mitochondrion. Then, the cation is attracted to the negatively charged environment of the mitochondrial matrix, where mt-ROS is most likely present. It can be oxidised by the mt-ROS to produce 2-hydroxyethidium that exhibits a red fluorescent emission at λ_{em} 510 ⁴³⁸. Hence, the more intense optical density indicates a higher level of the observed mt-ROS.



Dihydroethidium

2-hydroxyethidium (red fluorescence)

Figure 122. A simplified oxidation reaction of the dihydroethidium group to form the red dyeing indicator of mt-ROS ⁴³⁹.

The modified protocol from Kauffman et al. ⁴⁴⁰ was adapted for the experiment of the mt-ROS probe using the mitoSOX in the 96-well black plates. The mature 3T3-L1 adipocytes were incubated for 24 h with basal medium containing DMSO 0.1% and methanolic extracts (12.5 and 50 μ g/mL) or isolated compounds (0.5, 5, and 10 μ M). The basal medium (vehicle medium) was used as the blank control, while metformin (10 μ M) was a positive control. Following the incubation and medium discarding, the treated mature adipose cells were then exposed to 5 μ M of MitoSOX Red in 100 μ L of PBS for tagging the mt-ROS, covered with aluminium foil, and incubated for 30 min. Afterwards, the cells were washed with PBS twice, and 100

 μ L of PBS was added. The fluorescence was read with the PerkinElmer microplate reader at λ_{ex} 510 and λ_{em} 580 nm. The obtained data were expressed in percentage of the observed parameter:

Mt-ROS level (%) = $\frac{OD \text{ of treated adipocytes}}{OD \text{ of blank control}} \times 100\%$

where OD is the optical density of the fluorescence observation.

8.6.3. Mitochondrial membrane potential (MMP) measurement using JC-1 staining reagent

A fluorescent cationic dye, 5,5,6,6'-tetrachloro-1,1",3,3" tetraethylbenzimidazoylcarbocyanine iodide (JC-1), is a lipophilic reagent that can be used to monitor the health status of mitochondria in cells ⁴⁴¹. It can readily enter the inner side of the mitochondrial matrix, which is a more negatively charged region for a healthy mitochondrion due to proton transfer from the mitochondrial matrix to intermembrane space. Thus, it forms a complex product called J-aggregate. The difference in exhibiting fluorescence between unreacted JC-1 reagent (JC-1 monomer) and Jaggregate is green and red, respectively, which can predict the degree of MMP.

In a normal MMP and healthy mitochondrion, more accumulated Jaggregates are produced due to higher interaction between the cation and negatively charged matrix resulting in more intense red fluorescence in the assay. Unhealthy mitochondria with lower MMP will have a lower red fluorescence as the mitochondrial matrix has a less negative charge. Therefore, more JC-1 monomer is present, producing more intense green fluorescence. Hence, the ratio of red to the green shift of the probe expresses the status of MMP. The normal mitochondria have a higher MMP value, which can be indicated by a high ratio ⁴⁰¹. The normal MMP status allows protons produced by the mitochondrial respiratory chains to transfer proportionally from the mitochondrial matrix to the intermembrane. It indicates the recovered mitochondrial respiration that can produce homeostasis energy. Moreover, inhibiting excessive mt-ROS reduction can protect endogenous antioxidant enzymes from oxidation and maintain mitochondrial redox balance.



Figure 123. Molecular structure of JC-1 labelling agent.

The MMP measurement by JC-1 was carried out in the 96 multiwell black plates by following Harshkova et al. ⁴⁴² with a slight modification. Similar to those described for labelling mt-ROS, after the 24 h treatment with the methanolic extracts (12.5 and 50 µg/mL) or isolated compounds (0.5, 5, and 10 µM), blank control, and positive control of metformin (10 µM), the mitochondria of adipocytes were stained with 3 µM of JC-1 for 30 min in the humidified incubator. Following the PBS washing twice and PBS (100 µL) addition, the fluorescent optical density was read at λ_{ex} 488 nm and λ_{em} 530 nm (green JC-1 monomers) and λ_{ex} 443 nm and λ_{em} 590 nm (red JC-1 aggregates). The obtained data were converted to a ratio of J-aggregates to JC-1 monomers (R). The MMP was expressed as a percentage of the ratio of J-aggregates to JC-1 monomers for samples (Rs) normalised by the ratio for vehicle control (Rc).

J-aggregates to JC-1 monomers ratio (% of control) = $\frac{Rs}{Rc} \times 100\%$

8.7. Experiment of immunoblot analysis

8.7.1. Materials for immunoblot study

The following materials were supplied by Merck (Germany): polyvinylidene fluoride (PDVF) membranes, skim milk powder, Immobilon ECL Ultra Western HRP substrate, RIPA lysis buffer, glycine, Bradford reagent, hydrochloric acid, sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS). The other materials were Tween-20 (Vivantis Inc., USA), Tris (Vivantis Inc., USA), ammonium peroxide sulphate, sodium hydroxide, protein and ladder standard solution, acrylamide/bis-acrylamide solution 30% (HiMedia Laboratories, India), tetramethylethylenediamine or TEMED (PanReac AppliChem & ITW Reagents, Germany), and Laemmli sample buffer (BioRad Laboratories, USA). The following materials were purchased from Cell Signalling Technology (USA): protease inhibitor cocktail, primary antibodies (p-AMPK-α, AMPK-α, and α-tubulin), and goat anti-rabbit IgG horseradish peroxidase-conjugated (HRP-conjugated) secondary antibody.

8.7.2. Protocols for immunoblot study

The protocol of immunoblot analysis was adapted from Lee et al. ⁴⁴³ with a minor change. After being treated with the indicated agents, the cells were washed in ice-chilled PBS, harvested by 100 μ L of lysis buffer, and then spun for 10 minutes at 12,000 RPM at 4°C. The Bradford-based protein content was carried out using BSA as the standard with a range of concentration (0.0375–6 mg/mL) in a 96-well plate. The lysates were then heated at 95 °C for 10 min and centrifugation at 5,000 RPM for 2 min.
Electrophoresis of supernatant containing 20 µg of proteins was performed using SDS-polyacrylamide (10%) gels followed by electrophoretic transfer of separated proteins to polyvinylidene fluoride (PDVF) membranes (Merck, Germany). Afterwards, the membranes were blocked with 5% non-fat milk (Merck, Germany) solution for 1 h and then incubated with the appropriate primary antibodies' solution of 1:1,000 (Cell signalling, USA) overnight at 4 °C. After washing with Tris-buffered saline and Tween 20 (0.1%), the membranes were incubated with goat anti-rabbit IgG horseradish peroxidase-conjugated (HRP-conjugated) secondary antibodies (1:10,000) for an hour at room temperature. Bands were then visualised with ECL western blotting reagents (Merck, Germany), and the chemiluminescent images were captured using Chemidoc (Amersham Image-quant 800). A stripping step was performed before reprobing with other antibodies (total AMPK and α -tubulin). The captured bands were analysed using Image J (National Institute of Health, USA) to quantify the protein expression.

8.8. Quantitative reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR)

8.8.1. Materials for RT-qPCR

The following materials were supplied by Promega (Wisconsin, USA): nuclease-free water, dNTP mix (10 mM), reverse transcription kits of cDNA first-strand synthesis, and random primers. The following target primers (TaqMan[™] GeneExpressionAssay (FAM)) were purchased from Thermo-Fisher Scientific (Massachusetts, USA):

No	Primers	Catalogue No
1	Adiponectin	4331182/ assay ID: Mm04933656_m1
2	PGC-1α	4331182/ assay ID: Mm01208835_m1
3	mtTFA	4331182/ assay ID: Mm00447485_m1
4	TNF-α	4331182/ assay ID: Mm00443258_m1
5	IL-6	4331182/ assay ID: Mm00446190_m1
6	β-Actin	4331182/ assay ID: Mm02619580 g1

Table 30. List of target primers used for the RT-qPCR experiments

The other materials were Trizol reagent for RNA isolation (Sigma-Aldrich, USA), 96well PCR plate and adhesive seals (Bio-Rad, California, USA), solvents including isopropanol, chloroform and ethanol (Point of Care Diagnostics, Australia), and master mix for RT-PCR (Meridian Bioscience, Ohio, USA).

8.8.2. Protocol of the RT-qPCR experiment

The RNA of treated adipocytes was extracted using Trizol reagent, followed by precipitation with isopropyl alcohol, three times washing with 75% EtOH in nuclease-free water, solvent evaporation, and dissolving in nuclease-free water. The concentration of RNA was quantified using a Nanodrop 2000 spectrometer (Thermo-Fisher Scientific, USA).

The first-strand cDNA was synthesised from 1 μ g of the isolated RNA according to the protocol of the manufacturer. The reaction was conducted in a Bio-Rad T100 Thermal Cycler (California, USA). The concentration of cDNA product used as a template for amplification of RT-qPCR was estimated using the nanodrop apparatus.

The qPCR was carried out in a Bio-Rad CFX96 Real-Time System (California, USA) following the manufacturer of the kit. The reaction was conducted in the following stages: polymerase activation (95°C, 2 min), denaturation (95°C, 10 s), and annealing step (60°C, 30 s) for 50 cycles.

8.9. Statistical analysis

A descriptive analysis using GraphPad Prism 9 (San Diego, CA, USA) was conducted to determine the mean \pm standard error mean (SEM) from the three separate experiments (n = 3). The difference between the two means of each sample and the vehicle control optical densities were calculated using a one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's or Dunnett's post hoc tests where p < 0.05 was considered significant.

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Appendix A

Table S1. Summary of reported bioactivities of various parts of *A. saligna* along with the possibly responsible phytochemicals

No	Bioactivities	Plant parts	Havesting location	Compound identification methods	Corresponding compounds	Reference	
			Tunisia	NMR and mass spectrometry	Isosalipurposide 1, quercetin 3, and naringenin 42	197	
1		Flowers	Egypt	HPLC	Quercetin 3, kaempferol 22, benzoic acid 24, syringic acid 28, <i>p</i> -hydroxy benzoic acid 31, salicylic acid 32, caffeic acid 35, <i>o</i> -coumaric acid 36, <i>p</i> -coumaric acid 37, ferulic acid 38, naringenin 42, ellagic acid 44, catechol 45, and caffeine 46	196	
	Antioxidant	Leaves	Leaves	Egypt	NMR and mass spectrometry	Quercitrin 4 , myricitrin 11 , myricetin-3-O-rhamnoside (C^7 -O- C^7) myricetin-3-O-rhamnoside 33 , erythrodiol 73 , 3 β -O- <i>trans-p</i> -coumaryl erythrodiol 74 , and 25S-5 β -spirostan-3 β -yl-3-O- β -D-xylopyranosyl (1 \rightarrow 3)-O- β -D-xylopyranosyl (1 \rightarrow 4)- β -D-galactopyranoside 75	54
			Saudi Arabia	HPLC	Quercetin 3 , rutin 6 , miquelianin 7 , isoquercetin 8 , hyperoside 9 , apigetrin 17 , gallic acid 25 , salipurpin 18 , and <i>p</i> -coumaric acid 37	220	
		Seeds	Tunisia		Polyphenols, flavonoids, and fatty acids	231	
		Barks	Egypt	HPLC	Quercetin 3 , rutin 6 , kaempferol 22 , benzoic acid 24 , gallic acid 25 , vanillin 29 , caffeic acid 35 , <i>o</i> -coumaric acid 37 , <i>p</i> -coumaric acid 36 , ferulic acid 38 , rosmarinic acid 39 , chlorogenic acid 40 , and caffeine 46	230	
		Flowers	Egypt	HPLC	Quercetin 3, kaempferol 22, benzoic acid 24, syringic acid 28, <i>p</i> -hydroxy benzoic acid 31, salicylic acid 32, caffeic acid 35, <i>o</i> -coumaric acid 36, <i>p</i> -coumaric acid 37, ferulic acid 38, naringenin 42, ellagic acid 44, catechol 45, and caffeine 46	196	
2	Antibacterial		Saudi Arabia	HPLC	Quercetin 3 , quercitrin 4 , rutin 6 , miquelianin 7 , isoquercetin 8 , hyperoside 9 , apigetrin 17 , salipurpin 18 , gallic acid 25 , and <i>p</i> -coumaric acid 37	220	
		Leaves	Egypt	NMR and mass spectrometry	Quercetin 3 , quercitrin 4 , quercetin-3-O-arabinoside 5 , myricetin 10 , myricitrin 11 , myricetin-3-O-arabinoside 12 , myricetin-3-O-glucoside 13 , catechin 14 , 7-O-Galloyl-cathecin 15 , apigenin 16 , apigetrin 17 , luteolin 19 , luteolin-7-O-glucoside 20 , gallic acid 25 , and methyl gallate 26	199	
3	Antifungal	Flowers	Egypt	HPLC	Quercetin 3, kaempferol 22, benzoic acid 24, syringic acid 28, <i>p</i> -hydroxy benzoic acid 31, salicylic acid 32, caffeic acid 35, <i>o</i> -coumaric acid 36, <i>p</i> -	196	

No	Bioactivities	Plant parts	Havesting location	Compound identification methods	Corresponding compounds	Reference
					coumaric acid 37 , ferulic acid 38 , naringenin 42 , ellagic acid 44 , catechol 45 , and caffeine 46	
		Leaves	Saudi HPLC		Quercetin 3 , rutin 6 , miquelianin 7 , isoquercetin 8 , gallic acid 25 , hyperoside 9 , apigetrin 17 , salipurpin 18 , and <i>p</i> -coumaric acid 37	220
		Barks Egypt		HPLC	Quercetin 3 , rutin 6 , kaempferol 22 , benzoic acid 24 , gallic acid 25 , vanillin 29 , caffeic acid 35 , <i>o</i> -coumaric acid 36 , <i>p</i> -coumaric acid 37 , ferulic acid 38 , rosmarinic acid 39 , chlorogenic acid 40 , and caffeine 46	230
4	Anticancer	cancer Leaves		NMR and mass spectrometry	Quercitrin 4 , myricitrin 11 , myricetin-3-O-rhamnoside (C^7 -O- C^7) myricetin-3- O-rhamnoside 33 , erythrodiol 73 , 3 β -O- <i>trans-p</i> -coumaryl erythrodiol 74 , 25S-5 β -spirostan-3 β -yl-3-O- β -D-xylopyranosyl (1 \rightarrow 3)-O- β -D-xylopyranosyl (1 \rightarrow 4)- β -D-galactopyranoside 75	54
			Saudi Arabia	HPLC	Quercetin 3 , rutin 6 , miquelianin 7 , isoquercetin 8 , hyperoside 9 , apigetrin 17 , salipurpin 18 , gallic acid 25 , and <i>p</i> -coumaric acid 37	220
5	Anti- acetylcholine- esterase	Flowers	Tunisia	NMR and mass spectrometry	Isosalipurposide 1	197
					<i>Roots</i> : benzyl benzoate 69 , benzyl benzoate 69 , hexahydrofarnesyl acetone 71 , phenylethyl salicylate, 2-phenylethyl benzoate	
					<i>Stems</i> : dodecanoic acid (syn. Lauric acid), tetradecanoic acid, pentadecane 62 , dodecanoic acid 64 , tetradecanoic acid 70 , hexahydrofarnesyl acetone 71 , heptyl valerate, heptadecane, pentadecane, and benzyl butyrate	
6	Allelopathic	ic Flowers, leaves, stems, roots	Tunisia	GC-FID and GC/MS	<i>Leaves</i> : linalool 47 , nonanal 48 , α -terpineol 49 , decanal 50 , geraniol 52 , thymol 54 , 2-methyl butyl heptanoate 56 , eugenol 57 , decanoic acid 58 , (<i>E</i>)-geranyl acetone 59 , (<i>E</i>)- β -ionone 60 , pentadecane 62 , tridecanal 63 , dodecanoic acid 64 , tetradecanal 65 , benzophenone 66 , pentadecan-2-one 67 , pentadecanal 68 , benzyl benzoate 69 , hexahydrofarnesyl acetone 71 , pentadecanal, benzyl benzoate, and heptadecane-2-one 72	201
					<i>Flowers</i> : linalool 47 , α -terpineol 49 , β -cyclocitral 51 , geraniol 52 , (<i>E</i>)-dec-2- enal 53 , 1,2-dihydro-1,1,6-trimethylnaphthalene 55 , decanoic acid 58 , (<i>E</i>)- geranyl acetone 59 , (<i>E</i>)- β -ionone 60 , tridecan-2-one 61 , dodecanoic acid	

No	Bioactivities	Plant parts	Havesting location	Compound identification methods	Corresponding compounds	Reference
					64 , pentadecan-2-one 67 , pentadecanal 68 , tetradecanoic acid 70 , hexahydrofarnesyl acetone 71 , heptadecane-2-one	
					<i>Pods</i> : 2-methyl butyl heptanoate 56 , (<i>E</i>)-geranyl acetone 59 , (<i>E</i>)- β -ionone 60 , tridecan-2-one 61 , dodecanoic acid 64 , hexahydrofarnesyl acetone 71 , , heptadecane, and methyl hexadecanoate	
7	Fermentation	Leaves & twigs	Saudi Arabia		Tannins	232
		Stems	Australia		Tannins	233
8	Anti-parasite	Leaves	Egypt	HPLC	Quercetin 3, rutin 6, catechin 14, gallic acid 25, methyl gallate 26, propyl gallate 27, syringic acid 28, vanillin 29, cinnamic acid 34, caffeic acid 35, <i>p</i> -coumaric acid 37, ferulic acid 38, chlorogenic acid 40, taxifolin 41, naringin 43, and ellagic acid 44	222
			Tunisia		Tannins	234 235
9	α-glucosidase inhibition	Barks & leaves	South Africa		Phenolics	205
10	Antihyperglycemic	Leaves	Egypt	HPLC	Quercetin 3 , quercitrin 4 , quercetin 3- <i>O</i> -arabinoside 5 , miquelianin 7 , myricetin 10 , myricitrin 11 , myricetin 3- <i>O</i> -arabinoside 12 , myricetin 3- <i>O</i> -glucoside 13 , luteolin 19 , luteolin 7- <i>O</i> -glucoside 20 , and luteolin 7- <i>O</i> - β -arabinoside 21	219
11	Antiinflammation	Shoots	Egypt	HPLC	Quercetin 3, rutin 6, catechin 14, taxifolin 41, kaempferol 22, gallic acid 25, methyl gallate 26, syringic acid 28, cinnamic acid, caffeic acid 35, coumaric acid 36, ferulic acid 38, chlorogenic acid 40, naringenin 42, and ellagic acid 44	236





Figure S1. Spectral images of GCMS analysis of (A) FL-hex, (B) FL-DCM, (C) FL-MeOH, and (D) FL-H₂O extracts

No	Extract	Compound name/ group/ molecular formula	Retention time (min)	Area (%)	Structure	Reported sources	Bioactivities
1	FL-hex	(<i>E</i>)-14-Hexadecanal (alkenal, C ₁₆ H ₃₀ O)	14.93	0.01	O H	Leaves of <i>Justicia secunda</i> Vahl [279]; <i>Melia dubia</i> barks [280]; leaves of <i>Cymbopogon</i> <i>martini</i> [281]	ND
2	FL-hex	8-Heptadecene (alkene, C ₁₇ H ₃₄)	15.83	0.06		Leaves of Cymbopogon martini [281]; Ophrys insectifera flowers [282]	ND
3	FL-hex	Nonadecane (alkane, C ₁₉ H ₄₀)	16.05	0.15		Rosaceae plant family [286]; Diplotaxis harra and Erucaria macrocarpa [287]; Rosa damascena Mill [288]	Antioxidant, antifungal [286]; antimicrobial [287]
4	FL-hex	2,5-Dimethyl-3- hexanone (ketone, C ₈ H ₁₆ O)	16.12	0.02		Oncorhynchus mykiss [290]; Mentha piperita [291]; Melia azedarach [292]; Eruca sativa Mill. Leaves [293]; Schizonepeta tenuifolia Briq [294]	Antioxidant [291]
5	FL-hex	Hexadecane (alkane, C ₁₆ H ₃₄)	17.14	0.11		Rosa damascena Mill [288]	ND
6	FL-hex	6,10,14-Trimethyl- 2-pentadecanone (ketone, C ₁₈ H ₃₆ O)	17.63	0.18		Leaves of Ficus elastica Roxb. ex Hornem [296]; roots and leaves of Adiantum flabellulatum [297]; leaves of Leucaena leucocephala (Lamk.) de Wit [298]; Biebersteinia multifida DC. (Biebersteiniaceae) [299]; Herniaria incana Lam. [300]; Ficus lutea Vahl., Ficus polita Vahl., and Ficus thonningii Blume [301]; leaves of Ficus Linn. (Moraceae), Ficus elasticoidies De Wild., Ficus ovata Vahl and Ficus natalensis subsp. leprieurii (Miq.) C.C. Berg [302]; aerial parts of Senecio giganteus Desf. [303]; Cirsium japonicum var. ussurience	ND

Table S2. The list of identified compounds in hexane flower extract of Acacia saligna by GCMS

No	Extract	Compound name/ group/ molecular formula	Retention time (min)	Area (%)	Structure	Reported sources	Bioactivities
						Kitamura [304]; leaves of <i>Synurus deltoides</i> (Arr.) Nakai [305]	
7	FL-hex	1,2,4- Benzenetricarbo- xylic acid, 1,2- dimethyl ester (carboxylic acid, C ₁₁ H ₁₀ O ₆)	18.19	0.41	HOHOO	<i>Cnidium monnieri</i> (L.) Cusson [317]	ND
8	FL-hex	2-Methylhepta-noic acid (carboxylic acid, C ₈ H ₁₆ O ₂)	18.47	0.03	ОН	Leaves of Stachytarpheta indica [318]; leaves of Indigofera suffruticosa [319]; Crematogaster species: C. mimosae, C. nigriceps, and C. sjostedti [320]	ND
9	FL-hex	Tetradecanoic acid, 10,13-dimethyl-, methyl ester (carboxylic acid, C ₁₇ H ₃₄ O ₂)	18.45	0.01		Roots of <i>Oroxylum indicum</i> (L.) Benth. ex Kurz [321]; <i>Caulerpa peltat</i> e [322]	Antioxidant [322]
10	FL-hex	<i>L</i> -Serine (amino acid, C ₃ H ₇ NO ₃)	19.15	0.02		Trifolium repens L., Lolium perenne L., Zea mays L., Brassica napus L., Lycopersicon esculentum Mill. and Medicago sativa L. [323]	ND
11	FL-hex	Octacosane (alkane, C ₂₈ H ₅₈)	20.69	0.02		Aquilaria agallocha Roxb [329]; leaves of <i>Ipomoea</i> <i>carnea</i> [330]; flowers of Prunus mahaleb L. [309]; <i>Withania somnifera</i> roots [331]; leaves of <i>Ludwigia</i> <i>octovalvis</i> (Jacq.) Raven [332]	ND
12	FL-hex	Tetracosane (alkane, C ₂₄ H ₅₀)	21.86	0.02		Rosa damascena Mill [288]	ND

No	Extract	Compound name/ group/ molecular formula	Retention time (min)	Area (%)	Structure	Reported sources	Bioactivities
13	FL-hex	2-Methyleicosane (alkane, C ₂₁ H ₄₄)	21.88	0.46		Epiphyllum oxypetalum leaves [333]; <i>Trichosanthes</i> <i>dioica</i> root [334]; fruits of <i>Salvadora persica</i> L. [335]	Antimicrobial [334, 335]
14	FL-DCM	<i>n</i> -Hexadecanoic acid or palmitic acid (fatty acid, C ₁₆ H ₃₂ O ₂)	18.80	0.20	ОН	Leaves of green tea (<i>Camellia sinensis</i>) [336]; fruits of <i>Tuber</i> <i>melanosporum</i> , <i>T. aestivum</i> , <i>T. magnatum</i> and <i>T. borchii</i> [337]; fruits of <i>Ceiba</i> <i>speciosa</i> (A. StHil.) [338]; and fruiting bodies of <i>Amanita spissacea</i> [339]; <i>Cirsium japonicum</i> var. ussurience Kitamura [304]; <i>Mesembryanthemum edule</i> (L.) Bolus leaves [340]	Allelopathic [337]; antioxidant and α-glucosidase inhibitor [338]; and anticancer [339]; antifungal [340]
15	FL-DCM	Chondrillasterol (steroid, C29H48O)	23.08	0.83		Leaves of <i>Vernonia adoensis</i> [341]; aerial parts of <i>Achillea</i> <i>fragrantissima</i> (Forssk.) Sch. Bip. [342]; root of <i>Pseudostellaria heterophylla</i> (Miq.) Pax [343]; and <i>Myriactis humilis</i> Merr. [344]	Antibacterial [341]; α- glucosidase inhibitor [342]; anticancer [344]; allelopathic activity [345]

No	Extract	Compound name/ group/ molecular formula	Retention time (min)	Area (%)	Structure	Reported sources	Bioactivities
16	FL-DCM	1,2- Benzenedicarbo- xylic acid, diisooctyl ester or diisooctyl phthalate (diester, $C_{24}H_{38}O_4$)	23.93	0.40		Flower of <i>Caralluma</i> <i>retrospiciens</i> [346]	Antibacterial [346]
17	FL-DCM	β-Amyrin (triterpenoid, C₃₀H₅₀O)	24.22	0.68	HO	Carmona retusa leaves [347]; root bark of Ziziphus abyssinica HochstEx. A Rich (Rhamnaceae) [348]; leaves, stem, and fruits of Coccoloba uvifera L. [349]; Centaurea arenaria M.B. ex Willd [350]; Eugenia pyriformis leaves [351]; Myrcianthes pungens leaves [352]; and Laurencia microcladia Kutzing [353]	Antidiarrheal activity [347]; anti-arthritic activity [348]; anticancer [350]; antioxidant activity [351, 352]; antimicrobial [353]
18	FL-DCM	α-Amyrin (triterpenoid, $C_{30}H_{50}O$)	2.93	0.43	HO	<i>Carmona retusa</i> leaves [347]; fruits of <i>Coccoloba</i> <i>uvifera</i> L. [349]; <i>Eugenia</i> <i>pyriformis</i> leaves [351]; <i>Myrcianthes pungens</i> leaves [352]	Antidiarrheal activity [347]; antioxidant activity [351, 352]
19	FL- MeOH	<i>trans-</i> Cinnamic acid (unsaturated carbo- xylic acid, C ₉ H ₈ O ₂)	13.72	0.16	ОН	Solanum spirale Roxb. Leaves [354]; cinnamon barks [355]; rhizomes of Distichochlamys benenica [356]; flowers of Hertia cheirifolia L. [357]; tea leaves [358]; nematode symbiont	Inhibitor of α- glucosidase enzyme [362]; anticancer, cytotoxic and antibacterial activities [354];

No	Extract	Compound name/ group/ molecular formula	Retention time (min)	Area (%)	Structure	Reported sources	Bioactivities
						Photorhabdus luminescens [359]; Croton heliotropiifolius Kunth leaves [360]; roots and aerial parts of <i>Physalis</i> <i>angulata</i> L. [361]	anti- inflammatory and antibacterial [356]; antibacterial [357]; antioxidant [358]; antifungal [359]
20	FL- MeOH	4-C-Methyl- <i>myo-</i> inositol or laminitol (polyol, C ₇ H ₁₄ O ₆)	15.68	6.42		Barks of <i>Prosopis juliflora</i> (Sw.) DC [367]; Leaves of <i>Chamaecrista nigricans</i> [368]; fruits of <i>Tetrapleura</i> <i>tetraptera</i> [369]	Antioxidant and antimicrobial [369]
21	FL- MeOH	γ-Glutamyl-ε-lysine (dipeptides, C ₁₁ H ₂₁ N ₃ O ₅)	20.44	0.36		ND	ND
22	FL- MeOH	Indole-4- carboxaldehy-de (heteroarene carbaldehyde, C₃H7NO)	20.76	0.17	N H H	Brown alga <i>Sargassum</i> thunbergii [370, 371]	Anti-obesity [370]; anti- inflammatory effect [371]

ND = no documentation





Figure S2. Spectral images of GCMS analysis of (A) LF-hex, (B) LF-DCM, (C) LF-MeOH, and (D) LF-H₂O extracts

No	Extract	Compound name/ group/ molecular formula	Retention time (min)	Area (%)	Structure	Reported sources	Bioactivities
1	LF-hex	1-Allylcyclo-hexane- 1,2-diol (alcohol, C ₉ H ₁₆ O ₂)	16.02	0.07	OH OH	Horseradish sauce produced by lactic acid bacteria and <i>Saccharomyces</i> <i>cerevisiae</i> [372]	Antioxidant [372]
2	LF-hex	Palmitic acid (fatty acid, C ₁₆ H ₃₂ O ₂)	18.81	0.19	ОН	Leaves of green tea (Camellia sinensis) [336]; fruits of Tuber melanosporum, T. aestivum, T. magnatum and T. borchii [337]; fruits of Ceiba speciosa (A. StHil.) [338]; and fruiting bodies of Amanita spissacea [339]; Cirsium japonicum var. ussurience Kitamura [304]; Mesembryanthemum edule (L.) Bolus leaves [340]	Allelopathic [337]; antioxidant and α- glucosidase inhibitor [338]; and anticancer [339]; antifungal [340]
3	LF-hex	2 <i>H</i> -1-Benzopyran-6- ol, 3,4-Dihydro- 2,5,7,8-tetramethyl- 2-(4,8,12- trimethyltridecyl)- acetate (tocotrienol, $C_{31}H_{50}O_3$)	26.69	1.03		<i>Cyperus dubius</i> Rottb. [373]	Antiviral [374]
4	LF-DCM	16-Heptadecenal (alkenal, C ₁₇ H ₃₂ O)	17.57	0.49	0~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	Leaves & nodes of Nilgirianthus ciliates [375]; Salicornia herbacea (L) [376]; the shoots of Eichhornia crassipes [377]	ND

Table S3. The list of identified compounds in Acacia saligna leaves extracts by GCMS

No	Extract	Compound name/ group/ molecular formula	Retention time (min)	Area (%)	Structure	Reported sources	Bioactivities
5	LF-DCM	Pentadecanal (alkenal, C ₁₅ H ₃₀ O)	16.01	0.33	0~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	Bacterium Pseudoalteromonas haloplanktis [378]	Antibacteria [378]
6	LF-DCM	3-Methyl-catechol (phenolic, C7H₀O₂)	18.01	0.08	OH OH	Green tea leaves [379]	Antioxidant and antiviral [379]
7	LF-DCM	3,7-Dimethyl propanoate-6-octen- 1-ol or citronellyl propionate (alkenyl ester, C ₁₃ H ₂₄ O ₂)	17.82	0.06		<i>Citrus wilsonii</i> Tanaka stems and barks [380]; leaves of <i>Plectranthus</i> <i>neochilus</i> [381]	Natural repellent [380]
8	LF-DCM	Chondrillasterol (stigmastane, C ₂₉ H ₄₈ O)	23.05	4.96		Leaves of Vernonia adoensis [341]; aerial parts of Achillea fragrantissima (Forssk.) Sch. Bip. [342]; root of Pseudostellaria heterophylla (Miq.) Pax [343]; and Myriactis humilis Merr . [344]	Antibacterial [341]; α- glucosidase inhibitor [342]; anticancer [344]; allelopathic activity [345]
9	LF-DCM	(3β,5α)-Stigmasta- 7,25-dien-3-ol (steroid, C ₂₉ H ₄₈ O)	23.93	0.71		<i>Carissa cong</i> esta root [384]; Leaves of <i>Verbascum</i> <i>speciosumwere</i> [385]; the leaves of <i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> (Gaertn.) [386]	ND

No	Extract	Compound name/ group/ molecular formula	Retention time (min)	Area (%)	Structure	Reported sources	Bioactivities
10	LF-DCM	(3β,5α,22 <i>E</i>)- Ergosta- 8(14),15,22-trien-3- ol (steroid, C ₂₈ H ₄₄ O)	24.89	4.16	HO	Fruiting body of <i>Grifola frondose</i> [387]	Inhibitor of α- glucosidase [387]
11	LF-DCM	Cholesta-5,17(20)- diene-3 β ,16-diol, 22,26-epoxy- (steroid, C ₂₇ H ₄₂ O ₃)	24.92	0.21	HO HO	ND	ND
12	LF-DCM	(3β,5α,24S)- Stigmast-7-en-3-ol (steroid, C ₂₉ H ₅₀ O)	25.36	0.38		Twigs of <i>Paederia</i> foetida L. (Rubiaceae) [388]; microalga <i>Nannochloropsis</i> sp. [389]; <i>Scenedesmus</i> <i>obliquus</i> algae [390]	Inhibitor of α- glucosidase [388]
13	LF-MeOH	<i>trans-</i> Cinnamic acid (unsaturated carboxylic acid, C ₉ H ₈ O ₂)	4.09	0.15	ОН	Solanum spirale Roxb. Leaves [354]; cinnamon barks [355]; rhizomes of Distichochlamys benenica [356]; flowers of Hertia cheirifolia L. [357]; tea	Inhibitor of α- glucosidase enzyme [362]; anticancer, cytotoxic and antibacterial activities [354]; anti-inflammatory

No	Extract	Compound name/ group/ molecular formula	Retention time (min)	Area (%)	Structure	Reported sources	Bioactivities
						leaves [358]; nematode symbiont <i>Photorhabdus</i> <i>luminescens</i> [359]; <i>Croton</i> <i>heliotropiifolius</i> Kunth leaves [360]; roots and aerial parts of <i>Physalis angulata</i> L. [361]	and antibacterial [356]; antibacterial [357]; antioxidant [358]; antifungal [359]
14	LF-MeOH	3-O-Methyl- <i>D-</i> glucose (carbohydrate, C7H14O6)	16.14	0.06	O OH OH OH OH OH	Cassia auriculata leaves [365]; leaves and stems of Allamanda cathartica L. [366]	ND
15	LF-MeOH	4-C-Methyl- <i>myo-</i> inositol or lamitol (polyols, C7H ₁₄ O ₆)	15.68	42.74		Barks of <i>Prosopis</i> <i>juliflora</i> (Sw.) DC [367]; Leaves of <i>Chamaecrista</i> <i>nigricans</i> [368]; fruits of <i>Tetrapleura</i> <i>tetraptera</i> [369]	Antioxidant and antimicrobial [369]
16	LF-MeOH	1,2-Benzenedicar- boxylic acid-1,2- dimethyl ester, or dimethyl phthalate (diester, C ₁₀ H ₁₀ O ₄)	23.40	0.06		ND	ND
17	LF-H ₂ O	<i>trans-</i> Cinnamic acid (unsaturated carboxylic acid, C ₉ H ₈ O ₂)	4.10	0.21	ОН	Solanum spirale Roxb. Leaves [354]; cinnamon barks [355]; rhizomes of Distichochlamys benenica [356]; flowers of Hertia cheirifolia L. [357]; tea leaves [358]; nematode symbiont Photorhabdus luminescens [359];	Inhibitor of α- glucosidase enzyme [362]; anticancer, cytotoxic and antibacterial activities [354]; anti-inflammatory and antibacterial [356]; antibacterial [357]; antioxidant

No	Extract	Compound name/ group/ molecular formula	Retention time (min)	Area (%)	Structure	Reported sources	Bioactivities
						Croton heliotropiifolius Kunth leaves [360]; roots and aerial parts of Physalis angulata L. [361]	[358]; antifungal [359]
18	LF-H ₂ O	4-C-Methyl- <i>myo</i> - inositol or lamitol (polyols, C ₇ H ₁₄ O ₆)	15.99	18.77		Barks of <i>Prosopis</i> <i>juliflora</i> (Sw.) DC [367]; Leaves of <i>Chamaecrista</i> <i>nigricans</i> [368]; fruits of <i>Tetrapleura</i> <i>tetraptera</i> [369]	Antioxidant and antimicrobial [369]
19	LF-H ₂ O	3-(3-Hydroxy-4- methylphenyl)- 1,1,3,5- tetramethylindan-4- ol (aryl alcohol, C ₂₀ H ₂₄ O ₂)	23.89	0.20	ОНСОН	Lignocellulosic biomass [393, 394]	ND

ND = no documentation





Figure S3. Spectral images of GCMS analysis of (A) BK-hex, (B) BK-DCM, (C) BK-MeOH, and (D) BK-H₂O extracts

No	Extract	Compound name/ group/ molecular formula	Retention time (min)	Area (%)	Structure	Reported sources	Bioactivities
1	BK-hex	Phthalic acid, 2- methoxyethyltetrade cyl ester (ester dicarboxylic, C ₂₅ H ₄₀ O ₅)	23.934	0.21		ND	ND
2	BK-DCM	(Z,Z)-5,10- Pentadecadien-1-ol (alkenol, C ₁₅ H ₂₈ O)	17.56	0.56	ОН	Roots of Astragali Radix and Angelica Sinensis Radix [395]	Erythropoiesis activity [395]
3	BK-DCM	<i>n</i> -Hexadecanoic acid or palmitic acid (fatty acid, C ₁₆ H ₃₂ O ₂)	18.83	0.70	ОН	Leaves of green tea (<i>Camellia sinensis</i>) [336]; fruits of <i>Tuber</i> <i>melanosporum</i> , <i>T.</i> <i>aestivum</i> , <i>T. magnatum</i> and <i>T. borchii</i> [337]; fruits of <i>Ceiba speciosa</i> (A. StHil.) [338]; and fruiting bodies of <i>Amanita spissacea</i> [339]; <i>Cirsium</i> <i>japonicum</i> var. ussurience Kitamura [304]; <i>Mesembryanthemum</i> <i>edule</i> (L.) Bolus leaves [340]	Allelopathic [337]; antioxidant and α- glucosidase inhibitor [338]; and anticancer [339]; antifungal [340]
4	BK-MeOH	<i>trans</i> -Cinnamic acid (unsaturated carboxylic acid, C₀H₀O₂)	4.09	0.27	ОН	Solanum spirale Roxb. Leaves [354]; cinnamon barks [355]; rhizomes of Distichochlamys benenica [356]; flowers of Hertia cheirifolia L. [357]; tea leaves [358]; nematode symbiont Photorhabdus luminescens [359]; Croton heliotropiifolius Kunth leaves [360]; roots and aerial parts of	Inhibitor of α- glucosidase enzyme [362]; anticancer, cytotoxic and antibacterial activities [354]; anti-inflammatory and antibacterial [356]; antibacterial [357]; antioxidant

Table S4. The list of identified compounds in Acacia saligna bark extracts by GCMS

No	Extract	Compound name/ group/ molecular formula	Retention time (min)	Area (%)	Structure	Reported sources	Bioactivities
						Physalis angulata L. [361]	[358]; antifungal [359]
5	ВК-МеОН	4-C-Methyl- <i>myo-</i> inositol (polyols, C7H ₁₄ O ₆)	15.73	2.94		Barks of <i>Prosopis</i> <i>juliflora</i> (Sw.) DC [367]; Leaves of <i>Chamaecrista nigricans</i> [368]; fruits of <i>Tetrapleura tetraptera</i> [369]	Antioxidant and antimicrobial [369]
6	BK-MeOH	D-Asparagine (amino acid, C₄H₀N₂O₃)	15.67	0.16	H ₂ N U O NH ₂ OH	Plants [392]	ND
7	BK-MeOH	Thymidine-5'- monophosphate (nucleoside, C ₁₀ H ₁₅ N ₂ O ₈ P)	22.44	0.06		ND	ND
8	BK-H ₂ O	1-(1-Propenylthio) propane (alkenyl sulfide, C ₆ H ₁₂ S)	5.871	0.06	~~~ ^{\$} ~~~	Shallot [396]; black garlic [397]	ND
9	BK-H₂O	3-O-Methyl- <i>D</i> - glucose (carbohydrate, C ₇ H ₁₄ O ₆)	15.83	16.23	O OH O OH OH OH	Cassia auriculata leaves [365]; leaves and stems of <i>Allamanda cathartica</i> L. [366]	ND

ND = no documentation

Table S5. DPPH scavenging activity of the extracts of A. saligna

No	Extract			DPPH se	cavenging perc	entage (%) at t	he indicated o	concentration	(µg/mL)			ICro (ug/mL)
NO	EXITACI	7.8125	15.625	31.25	62.5	125	250	500	1,000	2,000	4,000	iC50 (µg/iii∟)
1	FL-hex	-	-	6.306 ± 3.09	7.537 ± 2.97	12.19 ± 4.03	10.47 ± 4.30	11.07 ± 4.56	11.5 ± 6.78	13.64 ± 6.44	19.1 ± 6.40	>4000ª
2	FL-DCM	-	-	0.645 ± 6.16	3.976 ± 6.61	2.068 ± 7.92	3.639 ± 9.03	8.673 ± 6.85	15.91 ± 5.14	14.36 ± 5.94	22.87 ± 3.57	>4000ª
3	FL-MeOH	8.67 ± 5.44	8.05 ± 4.06	9.32 ± 1.461	16.48 ± 0.91	27.8 ± 0.03	41.57 ± 1.3	61.07 ± 1.30	74.34 ± 0.87	-	-	331.5 ± 17.21****
4	FL-H₂O	-	-	1.07 ± 2.96	2.54 ± 2.95	4.32 ± 3.34	5.45 ± 4.09	10.51 ± 2.65	18.09 ± 3.42	20.92 ± 2.11	34.78 ± 5.75	>4000ª

No	Extract			DPPH s	cavenging perc	entage (%) at t	he indicated	concentration	ι (μg/mL)			IC (ug/mL)
NO	Extract	7.8125	15.625	31.25	62.5	125	250	500	1,000	2,000	4,000	iC50 (µg/iii∟)
5	LF-hex	-	-	10.04 ± 10.46	12.43 ± 8.05	18.1 ± 5.99	18.82 ± 3.36	18.96 ± 8.98	22.26 ± 7.29	34.45 ± 9.91	60.47 ± 11.55	3,283 ± 774.3****
6	LF-DCM	-	-	1.391 ± 10.24	4.17 ± 15.54	3.49 ± 9.81	5.7 ± 8.78	14.81 ± 7.81	27.72 ± 7.85	24.3 ± 7.28	37.41 ± 7.09	>4000ª
7	LF-MeOH	10.75 ± 6.58	13.33 ± 7.44	21.33 ± 7.21	25.89 ± 7.56	38.66 ± 8.94	58.2 ± 9.95	82.6 ± 6.20	89.33 ± 0.61	-	-	190.1 ± 59.15****
8	LF-H₂O	-	-	3.61 ± 2.90	5.06 ± 3.31	7.55 ± 4.40	8.12 ± 6.56	14.03 ± 7.4	26.06 ± 5.18	31.14 ± 5.65	47.9 ± 5.08	>4000ª
9	BK-hex	-	-	2.27 ± 7.00	5.57 ± 6.03	12.39 ± 2.51	10.06 ± 3.23	9.764 ± 4.26	11.4 ± 4.02	15.11 ± 5.61	26.8 ± 5.72	>4000ª
10	BK-DCM	-	-	1.793 ± 5.00	1.497 ± 5.40	2.304 ± 5.96	6.771 ± 6.70	14.09 ± 5.68	26.35 ± 6.87	30.49 ± 5.64	49.32 ± 8.42	>4000ª
11	BK-MeOH	10.29 ± 5.22	16.13 ± 3.92	26.42 ± 2.99	37.79 ± 4.60	56.85 ± 7.27	81.14 ± 6.06	88.55 ± 0.81	89.97 ± 0.53	-	-	94.24 ± 19.89
12	BK-H ₂ O	-	-	3.256 ± 4.36	5.436 ± 4.93	7.886 ± 6.37	11.27 ± 5.48	19.53 ± 5.53	32.34 ± 6.68	42.35 ± 7.06	71.69 ± 8.54	2,446 ± 527.4****

^aNo activity higher than 50% was observed at the highest tested concentration (4000 μg/mL). Data expressed as mean ± SEM, ^{****}*p* < 0.0001 of samples against vitamin C (*n* = 3, ANOVA).

Table S6. Scavenging activity (%) and IC₅₀ values of vitamin C from DPPH scavenging assay

No	Samplo		DPPH scaven	ging percentage	e (%) at c the ind	dicated concentr	ation (µg/mL)		IC., (ug/mL)
NO	Sample	1.56	3.125	6.25	12.5	25	50	100	iC₅₀ (µg/m∟)
1	Vitamin C	1.10 ± 3.90	3.616 ± 2.89	5.15 ± 3.26	11.91 ± 4.52	24.59 ± 4.79	51.57 ± 9.65	86.88 ± 5.38	49.97 ± 10.76****
<u> </u>					. 0 / . 0		1 11 1	1	

Data in mean ± SEM; *****p* < 0.0001, *p* value was from comparing FL-MeOH and vitamin C (*n* = 3, one-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc tests).

Table S7. ABTS⁺⁺ scavenging activity of the extracts of A. saligna

No	Sampla			ABTS** se	cavenging perc	entage (%) at t	he indicated o	concentration	(µg/mL)			IC to (ug/mL)	
NO	Sample	7.8125	15.625	31.25	62.5	125	250	500	1000	2000	4000	iC50 (µg/iii∟)	
1	FL-hex	-	-	3.576 ± 7.18	4.182 ± 6.08	4.969 ± 6.37	5.11 ± 8.65	8.021 ± 7.32	11.48 ± 3.99	18.64 ± 7.78	30.49 ± 4.99	>4000ª	
2	FL-DCM	-	-	2.534 ± 6.72	5.685 ± 6.17	10.12 ± 8.06	21.08 ± 6.79	29.53 ± 6.95	41.58 ± 6.71	54.65 ± 1.00	69.16 ± 0.85	1,579 ± 240.8****	
3	FL-MeOH	7.884 ± 3.18	9.104 ± 2.21	12.09 ± 2.4	17.22 ± 1.37	27.71 ± 0.79	45.09 ± 0.60	62.72 ± 0.33	89.97 ± 2.28	-	-	316.6 ± 11.45****	
4	FL-H ₂ O	-	-	2.719 ± 4.60	4.937 ± 5.69	6.898 ± 3.36	11.08 ± 3.37	18.01 ± 4.12	28.77 ± 3.38	43.6 ± 0.22	70.28 ± 5.39	2,433 ± 103.5****	

No	Samplo			ABTS** so	cavenging perc	entage (%) at t	he indicated of	concentration	(µg/mL)			IC (ug/mL)
NO	Sample	7.8125	15.625	31.25	62.5	125	250	500	1000	2000	4000	iC₅₀ (µg/iii∟)
5	LF-hex	-	-	-1.047 ± 1.45	2.395 ± 0.20	8.864 ± 0.42	7.013 ± 1.67	13.06 ± 1.39	23.57 ± 0.98	35.42 ± 1.41	65.73 ± 0.32	2,951 ± 75.9****
6	LF-DCM	-	-	3.193 ± 0.97	7.741 ± 3.71	12.18 ± 0.69	14.69 ± 0.60	23.84 ± 1.63	37.31 ± 0.13	56.49 ± 0.78	84.04 ± 0.18	1,633 ± 41.55****
7	LF-MeOH	9.964 ± 1.74	14.58 ± 0.85	20.71 ± 0.83	27.21 ± 0.03	43.98 ± 0.02	72.22 ± 0.55	99.63 ± 0.05	99.89 ± 0.05	-	-	146.7 ± 0.99
8	LF-H ₂ O	-	-	5.21 ± 0.17	6.959 ± 2.68	8.885 ± 1.94	18.07 ± 4.66	22.23 ± 6.35	31.56 ± 6.61	44.34 ± 0.39	71 ± 1.16	2,422 ± 148.8****
9	BK-hex	-	-	0.611 ± 1.77	1.13 ± 0.08	0.039 ± 0.64	3.449 ± 0.55	3.463 ± 2.23	9.726 ± 0.99	14.92 ± 3.10	30.56 ± 0.50	>4000ª
10	BK-DCM	-	-	-3.323 ± 0.28	-2.756 ± 3.54	4.297 ± 1.63	13.23 ± 1.25	22.49 ± 0.33	30.96 ± 2.62	42.35 ± 1.82	62.81 ± 3.04	2,764 ± 165.3****
11	BK-MeOH	10.23 ± 6.29	16.81 ± 6.19	31.91 ± 5.20	52.46 ± 1.65	80.41 ± 7.44	96.87 ± 0.45	92.53 ± 3.37	99.87 ± 0.01	-	-	55.44 ± 6.84
12	BK-H₂O	-	-	-1.072 ± 6.05	3.195 ± 8.07	5.123 ± 3.34	11.29 ± 5.27	22.59 ± 4.59	40.95 ± 4.10	69.81 ± 1.83	93.68 ± 2.52	1,241 ± 97.93****

^aNo activity higher than 31% was observed at the highest tested concentration (4000 µg/mL); Data in mean ± SEM; ^{****}*p* < 0.0001, *p* value was from comparing the indicated samples and vitamin C (*n* = 3, one-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc tests).

Table S8. A	ABTS•+	scavenging	activity	(%)) and	IC50	values	of vi	tamin	С
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No	Sample		ABTS sca	venging percenta	age (%) at the indic	ated concentration	on (µg/mL)		IC (ug/mL)
NO		1.56	3.125	6.25	12.5	25	50	100	1C50 (µg/IIIL)
1	Vitamin C	2.387 ± 5.29	1.026 ± 4.74	3.058 ± 5.04	6.223 ± 6.18	17.29 ± 3.44	31.21 ± 4.53	73.56 ± 2.64	72.25 ± 4.42****

Data in mean ± SEM; *****p* < 0.0001, *p* value was from comparing FL-MeOH and vitamin C (*n* = 3, one-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc tests).

No	Extract	Percen	tage of inhibi	ition (%) at the	e indicated co	oncentration (µg/mL)	IC 50
NO	Extract	3.125	6.25	12.5	25	50	100	(µg/mL)
1	FL-hex	-2.523 ± 4.02	-3.158 ± 4.96	1.291 ± 0.72	2.861 ± 2.15	4.050 ± 1.79	4.652 ± 2.35	>100ª
2	FL-DCM	-1.785 ± 2.53	-1.682 ± 2.22	0.339 ± 2.86	0.845 ± 3.09	0.277 ± 1.89	1.875 ± 5.5	>100ª
3	FL-H ₂ O	-1.323 ± 2.81	-2.124 ± 3.21	-3.898 ± 4.64	-2.675 ± 5.69	-4.222 ± 6.54	-4.312 ± 6.65	>100ª

Table S9. Percentage of α -glucosidase inhibition (%) of flower extracts

^aNo activity higher than 5% was observed at the highest tested concentration (100 µg/mL). Data in mean ± SEM.

Table S10. Percentage of α-glucosidase inhibition	(%) of metha	anolic flowe	⁻ extract
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No	Extract	Percentage of inhibition (%) at the indicated concentration (μ g/mL)							
		25	30	40	50	60	80	(µg/mL)	
1	FL-MeOH	20.04 ± 2.45	36.39 ± 3.26	62.55 ± 10.26	83.47 ± 0.86	85.59 ± 0.48	87.93 ± 0.43	34.93 ± 2.67***	

Data in mean \pm SEM; ^{***}p = 0.0004, p value was from comparing the inhibition of the extract and acarbose (n = 3, ANOVA).

Т	able S11. Percentage of α -glucosidase inhibition (%) of leaf extracts

No	Extract	Percentage of inhibition (%) at the indicated concentration (µg/mL)							
		31.25	62.5	125	250	500	1000	(µg/mL)	
1	LE box	-0.727 ±	-0.581 ±	17.89 ±	31.74 ±	50.91 ±	67.31 ±	285.5 ±	
	LF-flex	3.28	3.69	7.03	16.58	15.02	11.81	100.9	
2		-2.421 ±	0.188 ±	-2.172 ±	-342.1 ±	-340.6 ±	-8.070 ±	>1000a	
2		6.73	5.83	5.67	335	335.1	4.38	~1000*	
3	LF-H ₂ O	-8.004 ±	-6.791 ±	-5.323 ±	-0.630 ±	22.97 ±	58.34 ±	882.6 ±	
		8.82	8.11	7.40	4.68	2.10	3.61	48.01	

^aNo activity higher than 1% was observed at the highest tested concentration (1000 μg/mL). Data in ± SEM, (*n* = 3, ANOVA)

Table S12. Percentage of α -glucosidase inhibition (%) of the methanolic leaf extract

No	Extract	Percentage of inhibition (%) at the indicated concentration (µg/mL)						
		25	30	40	50	60	80	(µg/mL)
1	LF-MeOH	15.23 ± 2.68	28.86 ± 1.33	50.30 ± 2.33	80.31 ± 0.89	84.85 ± 0.95	86.79 ± 0.77	38.69 ± 1.01 ^{***}

Data in mean \pm SEM; ^{***}*p* = 0.0004, *p* value was from comparing the inhibition of the extract and acarbose (*n* = 3, one-way ANOVA, Tukey's hoc tests).

Table S13. Percentage of α -glucosidase inhibition (%) of bark extracts

No	Extract	Percentage of inhibition (%) at the indicated concentration (µg/mL)							
		31.25	62.5	125	250	500	1000	(µg/mL)	
1	BK-hex	1.114 ± 1.43	14.27 ± 6.99	17.77 ± 4.19	42.19 ± 5.31	77.07 ± 1.55	85.22 ± 2.05	289.9 ± 29.17	
2	BK-DCM	-1.116 ± 2.49	-3.464 ± 1.02	4.055 ± 3.39	30.78 ± 13.83	53.23 ± 13.84	44.14 ± 16.84	>1000ª	
3	BK-H₂O	-4.953 ± 3.53	9.056 ± 3.14	22.09 ± 6.16	56.44 ± 7.51	79.68 ± 3.94	86.34 ± 0.09	23.27 ± 3.88****	

^a No activity higher than 45% was observed at the highest tested concentration (1000 μ g/mL); Data in mean ± SEM, ****p < 0.0001, p value was from comparing the IC₅₀ of BK-H₂O and acarbose (n = 3, one-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc tests).

No	Extract	Percentage of inhibition (%) at the indicated concentration (µg/mL)						
		3	4	5	6	8	10	(µg/mL)
1	BK-MeOH	29.20 ± 4.85	40.10 ± 2.72	57.28 ± 7.44	75.46 ± 2.15	84.45 ± 0.17	85.35 ± 0.25	4.37 ± 0.24****

Table S14. Percentage of α -glucosidase inhibition (%) of methanolic bark extract

Data in mean \pm SEM,;^{****}p < 0.0001, p value was from comparing the IC₅₀ of BK-MeOH and acarbose (n = 3, one-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc tests).

Table S15. Percentage of α -glucosidase inhibition (%) of acarbose

No	Sample	Percentage of inhibition (%) at the indicated concentration (μ g/mL)						
		31.25	62.5	125	250	500	1000	(µg/mĽ)
1	Acarbose	16.62 ± 3.95	23.06 ± 3.99	35.20 ± 2.41	47.16 ± 2.18	59.39 ± 1.37	70.64 ± 1.38	254 ± 22.18

 Table S16. Viable 3T3-L1 preadipocytes treated with flower extracts for 24, 48, and 72 h

Na	Evites of	Incubation	Viable	Viable cells (%) at concentrations of (µg/mL)					
NO	Extract	(h)	25	50	100	200			
		24	119 ± 11.85	120.5 ± 10.27	121.2 ± 21.74	139.6 ± 13.95**			
1	1 FL-hex	48	96.31 ± 4.26	99.79 ± 3.02	104.5 ± 5.24	103.9 ± 5.85			
		72	90.48 ± 1.98	101.3 ± 0.85	97.93 ± 0.45	95.92 ± 1.16			
	2 FL-DCM	24	111.4 ± 10.43	111.7 ± 6.85	123.3 ± 14.47*	120.5 ± 7.91 [*]			
2		48	88.95 ± 4.42	98.48 ± 1.82	95.34 ± 5.27	104.5 ± 4.48			
		72	87.31 ± 1.35	98.44 ± 1.09	93.95 ± 1.94	95.2 ± 0.52			
		24	112.5 ± 8.15	116.8 ± 3.31*	129.6 ± 8.14***	139.9 ± 3.66****			
3	FL-MeOH	48	100.8 ± 7.37	108.9 ± 3.94	$117.3 \pm 3.20^{*}$	118.7 ± 4.28 [*]			
		72	86.43 ± 4.11	102.5 ± 3.01	106.4 ± 0.73	105.3 ± 1.77			
		24	107.9 ± 8.86	$124.6 \pm 6.44^*$	126.5 ± 9.38 [*]	129.1 ± 16.22**			
4	FL-H ₂ O	48	87.47 ± 2.57	104.3 ± 2.77	104.4 ± 0.85	105.9 ± 4.36			
		72	81.02 ± 5.12	101.8 ± 2.34	100.1 ± 3.68	98.43 ± 1.03			

Data in mean \pm SEM; **p* = 0.04; ***p* = 0.004; ***p* = 0.0001; *****p* < 0.0001, *p* values were from comparing the indicated samples and vehicle control (*n* = 3, one-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc tests).

Table S17. Viable 3T3-L1 preadipocytes treated with leaf extracts for 24, 48, and 72 h

No	Extract	Incubation	Viable	Viable cells (%) at concentrations of (µg/mL)					
NO	Extract	(h)	25	50	100	200			
		24	109.3 ± 6.75	124.3 ± 12.45 [*]	123.6 ± 15.51 [*]	120.8 ± 10.44			
1	LF-hex	48	91.22 ± 4.61	98.83 ± 2.60	100.6 ± 2.77	97.28 ± 4.11			
		72	90.81 ± 2.60	91.6 ± 3.20	99 ± 3.24	90.95 ± 2.12			
	LF-DCM	24	107.4 ± 6.06	116.1 ± 9.92	117.8 ± 11.97	127.4 ± 13.1**			
2		48	95.28 ± 1.89	93.51 ± 5.09	99.52 ± 2.05	99.88 ± 3.88			
		72	90.9 ± 2.17	91.3 ± 1.95	98.97 ± 1.96	92.44 ± 1.80			
		24	115.3 ± 7.67	111.2 ± 3.49	72.55 ± 5.19***	41.6 ± 0.59****			
3	LF-MeOH	48	98.35 ± 2.78	87.91 ± 2.02	64.41 ± 0.52****	38.76 ± 8.63****			
		72	84.36 ± 5.46	79 ± 3.25**	70.16 ± 3.96***	54.27 ± 7.80****			
1		24	113.6 ± 10.33	118.7 ± 11.9	125.8 ± 14.27 [*]	118.6 ± 12.68			
4	LF-H ₂ U	48	93.69 ± 4.01	93.27 ± 2.34	105.6 ± 3.41	95.17 ± 4.12			

No	Extract	Incubation	Viable cells (%) at concentrations of (µg/mL)					
NO	Extract (h)	25	50	100	200			
		72	91.17 ± 2.26	90.8 ± 1.63	99.24 ± 4.32	90.71 ± 7.05		

Data in mean \pm SEM; **p* = 0.03; ***p* = 0.006; ****p* = 0.0004; *****p* < 0.0001, *p* values were from comparing the indicated samples and vehicle control (*n* = 3, one-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc tests).

Table S18. Viable 3T3-L1 preadipocytes treated with bark extracts for 24, 48, and 72 h

Na	Eviterant	Incubation	Vial	Viable cells (%) at concentrations of (µg/mL)					
NO	Extract	(h)	25	50	100	200			
		24	108.5 ± 3.71	107.5 ± 6.00	112.7 ± 3.91	118.6 ± 7.67**			
1	BK-hex	48	104 ± 2.46	91.88 ± 6.14	95.75 ± 4.18	101.2 ± 4.97			
		72	97.15 ± 3.88	91.33 ± 0.96	90.73 ± 2.13	99.57 ± 4.38			
		24	106.6 ± 2.00	97.54 ± 8.23	106.5 ± 4.17	111.5 ± 1.76			
2	BK-DCM	48	106.3 ± 3.59	92.63 ± 3.72	92.3 ± 2.42	93.19 ± 6.29			
		72	97.01 ± 1.30	89.15 ± 1.69	88.55 ± 2.03	98.29 ± 1.45			
	D I	24	83.08 ± 11.03	61.86 ± 3.23****	32.64 ± 4.22****	45.74 ± 6.31****			
3	BK- MeOH	48	78.44 ± 3.95*	45.67 ± 3.02****	16.19 ± 2.22****	22.33 ± 7.69****			
		72	81.56 ± 1.01	67.46 ± 4.70***	34.28 ± 11.35****	18.16 ± 6.18****			
		24	94.74 ± 7.36	109.6 ± 6.75	91.27 ± 10.38	59.01 ± 9.38***			
4	BK-H ₂ O	48	101.3 ± 2.70	104.2 ± 3.45	78.19 ± 4.85	41.15 ± 10.07****			
	ĺ	72	91 69 + 3 81	90.61 + 6.10	74 79 + 8 71*	65 71 + 14 56**			

Data in mean \pm SEM; p = 0.03; p = 0.008; p = 0.007; p < 0.001, p < 0.00

Table S19. Viable 3T3-L	1 adipocytes treated with flowers	extracts for 24, 48, and 72 h
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No	Extract	Incubation	Viab	le cells (%) at co	ncentrations of (µg/mL)
NO	Extract	(h)	25 50		100	200
		24	92.35 ± 2.70	104 ± 2.90	100.8 ± 4.64	95.33 ± 6.44
1	FL-hex	48	90.9 ± 3.39	100.6 ± 4.44	99.38 ± 5.64	97.99 ± 5.32
		72	95.55 ± 7.78	104.9 ± 8.35	106 ± 9.66	105.1 ± 11.99
	FL-DCM	24	96.93 ± 2.07	114 ± 2.37	110.6 ± 3.08	110.8 ± 3.31
2		48	97.32 ± 1.85	115.1 ± 1.21	109.9 ± 3.70	112.5 ± 5.00
		72	102.4 ± 6.31	117.7 ± 4.96 [*]	116.1 ± 6.95 [*]	$118.2 \pm 8.72^{*}$
		24	93.7 ± 1.47	105 ± 3.15	104.7 ± 3.41	100.7 ± 0.42
3	FL-MeOH	48	95.13 ± 1.73	104.2 ± 1.78	105.8 ± 3.45	105.2 ± 2.89
		72	99.67 ± 5.59	109.4 ± 3.97	107.3 ± 0.51	115.3 ± 1.70**
		24	97.96 ± 2.85	110.2 ± 2.82	110.7 ± 2.4	106.9 ± 2.86
4	FL-H ₂ O	48	100.6 ± 3.41	112.3 ± 4.83	116.3 ± 2.77	110.3 ± 3.58
		72	104.5 ± 6.90	1167 + 639	122 8 + 7 63**	116 3 + 7 82

No	Extract	Incubation	Viable	Viable cells (%) at concentrations of (µg/mL)						
NO	Exilaci	(h)	25 50		100	200				
		24	100.4 ± 2.00	101.4 ± 3.40	115.8 ± 3.51	101.5 ± 2.21				
1	LF-hex	48	101 ± 2.72	100.9 ± 4.52	116.1 ± 2.43 [*]	104.1 ± 4.66				
		72	105.1 ± 5.98	105.3 ± 5.79	120.9 ± 6.44**	109.5 ± 8.07				
	LF-DCM	24	100.3 ± 2.51	105.2 ± 3.13	120.3 ± 3.5**	102.6 ± 2.50				
2		48	103.4 ± 3.01	105.8 ± 3.06	120.2 ± 2.18**	104 ± 3.49				
		72	106.7 ± 5.60	110.2 ± 6.15	124.4 ± 5.90***	103.3 ± 1.47				
		24	95.08 ± 1.68	94.53 ± 3.66	100.4 ± 4.14	102.8 ± 5.21				
3	LF-MeOH	48	95.93 ± 1.00	93.33 ± 0.56	96.24 ± 2.46	98.23 ± 3.38				
		72	97.18 ± 3.65	98.95 ± 2.10	103.7 ± 1.72	103.7 ± 3.26				
		24	101.4 ± 1.45	98.92 ± 3.51	105.2 ± 1.37	105.7 ± 3.36				
4	LF-H₂O	48	102.6 ± 1.61	94.81 ± 1.26	105.9 ± 0.51	109 ± 2.48				
		72	105.8 ± 1.36	101.7 ± 3.02	106.8 + 3.03	$110.8 \pm 2.50^{*}$				

Table S20. Viable 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated with leaves extracts for 24, 48, and 72 h

 $[105.8 \pm 1.36] 101.7 \pm 3.92 106.8 \pm 3.93 110.8 \pm 2.59^*]$ Data in mean ± SEM, **p* = 0.02; ***p* = 0.001; ***p* = 0.0001, *p* values were from comparing the indicated samples and vehicle medium (*n* = 3, one-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc tests).

Na	Estre et	Incubation	Viable cells (%) at concentrations of (µg/mL)							
NO	Extract	(h)	25	50	100	200				
		24	109.9 ± 1.83	100.9 ± 2.85	97.77 ± 3.68	117 ± 2.61**				
1	BK-hex	48	116.5 ± 1.11**	100.1 ± 2.97	99.56 ± 2.49	115.6 ± 1.88**				
		72	117.2 ± 4.79**	103.3 ± 3.16	103.4 ± 5.66	$114.1 \pm 2.74^{*}$				
	BK-DCM	24	106.9 ± 1.87	94.18 ± 2.46	99.16 ± 3.11	112.7 ± 2.61 [*]				
2		48	112.4 ± 1.09 [*]	96.04 ± 1.46	99.32 ± 1.78	$113.5 \pm 0.44^{*}$				
		72	115.6 ± 5.76**	99.87 ± 2.53	107.2 ± 6.68	111.3 ± 3.32				
		24	103.1 ± 1.59	94.65 ± 1.94	93.74 ± 3.42	102.5 ± 5.23				
3	BK-MeOH	48	104.7 ± 3.10	100.3 ± 2.37	94.17 ± 0.96	99.57 ± 3.07				
		72	102.1 ± 3.04	100.2 ± 2.16	98.34 ± 1.39	97.81 ± 3.33				
		24	$111.2 \pm 2.40^{*}$	107.6 ± 1.83	99.51 ± 4.04	104.3 ± 3.66				
4	BK-H₂O	48	110.3 ± 1.55 [*]	113.5 ± 0.22**	96.63 ± 1.91	106.6 ± 3.42				
		72	$111.1 \pm 3.64^{*}$	112.7 ± 2.52**	101.7 ± 1.99	109.1 ± 1.45				

Data in mean \pm SEM; *p = 0.02; *p = 0.003, *p* values were from comparing the indicated samples and vehicle control (*n* = 3, one-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc tests).

Table S22. Estimated lipid content from adipogenesis assay with ORO staining agent on the 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated with extracts

No	Sampla	Fold change of	adipogenesis (%)	
NO	Sample	12.5 µg/mL	50 μg/mL	
1	Vehicle control	100	± 8.13	
2	FL-hex	105.1 ± 10.08	90.04 ± 12.87	
3	FL-DCM	131.3 ± 8.38	112.2 ± 6.66	
4	FL-MeOH	92.45 ± 11.17	95.36 ± 10.84	
5	FL- H ₂ O	83.19 ± 10.67	91.46 ± 16.75	
6	LF-hex	104.8 ± 1.46	89.82 ± 2.54	

		Fold change of	adipogenesis (%)			
No	Sample		-			
		12.5 µg/mL	50 μg/mL			
7	LF-DCM	123 ± 10.97	140.9 ± 5.32*			
8	LF-MeOH	84.65 ± 4.08	71.32 ± 3.77**			
9	LF- H ₂ O	110 ± 9.52	108.5 ± 7.98			
10	BK-hex	122.1 ± 7.01	108.3 ± 1.12			
11	BK-DCM	145.9 ± 8.56**	129.7 ± 8.21			
12	BK-MeOH	130.4 ± 4.94**	88.1 ± 4.73			
13	BK-H ₂ O	99.56 ± 4.16	95.95 ± 6.30			
14	NAC 5 mM	77.86	6 ± 5.77			
15	NAC 10 mM	70.45 ± 5.45*				

Data in mean \pm SEM; **p* = 0.02; ***p* = 0.009, *p* values were from comparing the indicated samples and vehicle control (*n* = 3, one-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc tests).

Table S23. The estimated ROS level in adjocytes exposed to ext	xtracts to	or 48 h
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No	Extracto	Cellular ROS	r ROS level (%) at the corresponding concentration (µg/mL)					
NO	Extracts	25	50	100	200			
1	FL-hex	97.61 ± 6.84	105.6 ± 15.43	105.7 ± 16.51	105.5 ± 19.43			
2	FL-DCM	118.1 ± 12.33	136.5 ± 19.54	128.9 ± 21.59	103.4 ± 15.07			
3	FL-MeOH	136 ± 13.18	100.5 ± 6.83	93.52 ± 3.77	86.13 ± 9.93			
4	FL-H ₂ O	97.55 ± 7.29	92.61 ± 8.36	95.5 ± 11.9	112.9 ± 14.45			
5	LF-hex	118.5 ± 6.84	125.4 ± 9.09	131.2 ± 12.9	120.8 ± 9.58			
6	LF-DCM	120.6 ± 7.17	121.7 ± 9.909	107.4 ± 3.75	109 ± 10.3			
7	LF-MeOH	93.44 ± 4.41	85.56 ± 3.82	85.13 ± 2.18	78.06 ± 4.92			
8	LF- H ₂ O	105 ± 1.90	105.6 ± 5.13	100.3 ± 6.44	92.53 ± 9.20			
9	BK-hex	103.3 ± 8.72	99.09 ± 4.96	103.7 ± 1.49	101 ± 0.55			
10	BK-DCM	98.9 ± 3.29	104 ± 2.973	105.2 ± 1.35	97.66 ± 4.47			
11	BK-MeOH	89.11 ± 3.67	78.87 ± 2.90	70.66 ± 4.98*	62.57 ± 0.96**			
12	BK-H ₂ O	93.39 ± 4.39	87.78 ± 7.3	85.32 ± 3.89	85.62 ± 2.27			

Data in mean \pm SEM; **p* = 0.03, **p* = 0.003, *p* values were from the inhibition of the extract *vs* vehicle control (*n* = 3, one-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc tests).

 Table S24. Observed data of glucose uptake simulation with the fluoroprobe 2-NBDG assay for all extracts on the 3T3-L1 adipocytes.

Comple	2-NBDG uptake	percentage (%)			
Sample	12.5 µg/mL	50 µg/mL			
Vehicle	100 ±	6.54			
FL-hex	74.97 ± 1.54	89.15 ± 6.80			
FL-DCM	91.74 ± 6.51	95.89 ± 23.05			
FL-MeOH	141.5 ± 27.94	185.3 ± 41.52**			
FL-H ₂ O	87.01 ± 6.63	96.55 ± 8.45			
LF-hex	89.48 ± 8.04	101.6 ± 4.84			
LF-DCM	119.8 ± 18.74	120.9 ± 19.54			
LF-MeOH	113.5 ± 6.1	198 ± 42.61**			
LF-H ₂ O	97.69 ± 4.01	101.4 ± 5.51			
BK-hex	109.4 ± 7.73	139.9 ± 18.76			
BK-DCM	86.49 ± 9.82	103 ± 14.90			
BK-MeOH	118.3 ± 9.517	161.6 ± 10.76			
BK-H ₂ O	121.8 ± 14.63	132.2 ± 22.81			
Insulin 100 nM	140.6 ± 18.36				
Metformin 10 µM	138 ± 2	28.26			

Data in mean \pm SEM; "*p* = 0.007 for FL-MeOH and "*p* = 0.006, *p* values were from comparing the indicated samples and vehicle control (*n* = 3, one-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc tests).

Appendix B



^aNote:

According to the proton NMR spectra, the following fractions were:

- 1) FL-MeOH-A2 = mixture of subfraction A1 and A3
- 2) FL-MeOH-B1a = mixture of hydrocarbons ($\delta^{1}H = 0-1.8$ ppm)
- 3) FL-MeOH-B2a = impure subfraction B2b
- 4) FL-MeOH-B3a = impure subfraction B3b
- 5) FL-MeOH-C = impure fraction B

Figure S4. Schematic representation of the outcomes of fractionation of FL-MeOH extract of A. saligna



^aNote:

According to the proton NMR spectra, the following fractions were:

- 1) LF-MeOH-A2 = mixture of subfraction A1 and A3
- 2) LF-MeOH-B1 = mixture of hydrocarbons (δ^{1} H = 0–1.8 ppm)
- 3) LF-MeOH-B3 = impure subfraction B2
- 4) LF-MeOH-C1 = mixture of hydrocarbons (δ^{1} H = 0–1.8 ppm)
- 5) LF-MeOH-C2a = impure subfraction C2b
- 6) LF-MeOH-C2c = mixture of subfraction C2b and C3

Figure S5. Schematic representation of the outcomes of fractionation of LF-MeOH extract of A. saligna



a Note:

According to the proton NMR spectra, the following fractions were:

1) BK-MeOH-A2 = impure sub-fraction A1

2) LF-MeOH-B1 = impure sub-fraction B1

3) LF-MeOH-C1 = mixture of B2 and C2



Appendix C

	- ·			Scavenging	percentage (%)) at the indicate	d concentration (µM)			
No	Sample	62.5	125	250	500	1,000	2,000	5,000	10,000	IC₅₀ (µM)
1	Isosalipurposide 1	-	15.14 ± 1.24	18.65 ± 1.74	25.34 ± 0.46	37.83 ± 2.00	56.78 ± 2.75	61.44 ± 2.74	-	1,559 ± 28.16***
2	Naringenin 42	-	-	10.06 ± 1.61	12.34 ± 1.02	14.91 ± 0.56	21.46 ± 0.74	26.55 ± 3.29	34.51 ± 0.39	>10,000ª
3	Quercitrin 4	9.75 ± 0.72	18.71 ± 1.82	38.91 ± 2.00	68.99 ± 1.13	86.6 ± 0.39	90.5 ± 0.17	-	-	322.6 ± 14.05****
4	Myricitrin 11	14.44 ± 1.88	28.65 ± 0.70	57.71 ± 1.33	93.77 ± 0.50	95.01 ± 0.14	95.38 ± 0.17	-	-	199.9 ± 4.83****
5	Naringenin-7- <i>Ο-α-L</i> - arabinofuranose 76	-	-	1.62 ± 0.37	2.62 ± 1.68	3.98 ± 0.47	7.35 ± 2.14	16.08 ± 5.11	19.62 ± 0.53	>10,000ª
6	<i>D</i> -(+)-pinitol 79a	-	-	8.23 ± 2.52	15.77 ± 2.41	29.25 ± 3.11	58.31 ± 1.55	88.25 ± 1.58	87.38 ± 0.56	1,675 ± 65.72****
7	(–)-pinitol 79b	-	-	12.39 ± 3.61	14.62 ± 1.37	20.22 ± 0.16	28.10 ± 0.57	42.58 ± 1.00	59.93 ± 2.21	6,865 ± 69.08****
8	(–)-Epicatechin 77	14.04 ± 3.44	23.44 ± 2.00	43.22 ± 1.91	65.65 ± 9.73	87.84 ± 6.31	95.28 ± 0.28	-	-	278 ± 8.62****
9	2,4-Di- <i>t</i> -butylphenol 78	-	-	8.00 ± 3.65	10.16 ± 3.02	12.05 ± 3.42	21.75 ± 4.18	24.47 ± 3.73	36.9 ± 4.20	>10,000ª
10	3-Hydroxy-5-(2- aminoethyl) dihydroxyfuran-2(3H)-one 80	-	-	-6.10	-3.31	0.02 ± 5.07	5.78 ± 5.61	8.92 ± 4.58	14.37 ± 5.29	>10,000ª
11	Vitamin C	1.86 ± 1.45	5.71 ± 2.28	6.738 ± 1.43	20.65 ± 1.62	46.58 ± 2.18	87.17 ± 2.15	-	-	1,072 ± 47.64

Table S25. The DPPH scavenging properties of the isolated compounds

^aNo activity higher than 37% was observed at the highest tested concentration (10 mM); Data in mean ± SEM, ^{***}*p* = 0.0002; ^{****}*p* < 0.0001, *p* values were from comparing the indicated compounds and vitamin C (*n* = 3, one-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc tests).

Na	Comple	Scavenging percentage (%) at the indicated concentration (µM)								
NO	Sample	62.5	125	250	500	1,000	2,000	5,000	10,000	ιC ₅₀ (μινι)
1	Isosalipurposide 1	-	-	13.98 ± 0.26	23.37 ± 1.96	36.21 ± 2.37	56.01 ± 2.29	80.17 ± 1.90	93.27 ± 0.45	1,686 ± 95.26****
2	Naringenin 42	-	19.55 ± 1.05	26.91 ± 0.12	35.88 ± 0.80	43.71 ± 0.72	55.46 ± 4.06	79.89 ± 0.76	-	1,525 ± 316.5****

Table S26. The ABTS⁺⁺ scavenging properties of the isolated compounds

Na	Sample		Scavenging percentage (%) at the indicated concentration (µM)							
NO	Sample	62.5	125	250	500	1,000	2,000	5,000	10,000	IC 50 (µIVI)
3	Quercitrin 4	14.01 ± 2.14	24.82 ± 0.34	37.36 ± 0.73	63.06 ± 1.37	85.56 ± 1.67	99.03 ± 0.06	-	-	355.3 ± 12.08
4	Myricitrin 11	14.29 ± 4.22	29.41 ± 2.13	44.56 ± 1.02	67.66 ± 1.4	82.1 ± 1.07	91.98 ± 0.95	-	-	285.9 ± 7.21
5	Naringenin-7Ο-α-L- arabinofuranoside 76	-	15.36 ± 2.00	24.98 ± 1.42	29.92 ± 1.69	34.82 ± 1.07	38.65 ± 3.00	56.29 ± 1.34	-	4,146 ± 99.15****
6	<i>D</i> -(+)-pinitol 79a	6.55 ± 5.32	15.61 ± 5.01	27.6 ± 4.14	50.66 ± 2.31	92.43 ± 0.19	99.96 ± 0.34	-	-	475 ± 24.20
7	(–)-pinitol 79b	-	5.87 ± 0.16	2.98 ± 0.83	18.5 ± 2.05	28.61 ± 1.83	48.48 ± 1.37	82.87 ± 3.41	-	2,096 ± 70.40****
8	(–)-Epicatechin 77	35.88 ± 3.58	63.17 ± 4.09	90.85 ± 2.43	99.56 ± 0.04	99.67 ± 0.09	99.85 ± 0.13	-	-	92.58 ± 13.03
9	2,4-Di- <i>t</i> -butylphenol 78	-	10.89 ± 1.68	11.94 ± 2.44	19.29 ± 0.04	27.88 ± 1.19	41.91 ± 0.25	70.9 ± 3.48	-	2,715 ± 64.02****
10	3-Hydroxy-5-(2- aminoethyl) dihydrofuran- 2(3 <i>H</i>)-one 80	-	4.35 ± 4.02	8.67 ± 6.85	1.68 ± 2.58	5.84 ± 1.27	10.46 ± 3.85	22.49 ± 5.44	-	>10,000ª
11	Vitamin C	9.40 ± 1.74	13.86 ± 3.70	30.4 ± 6.61	53.52 ± 4.17	80.4 ± 1.65	96.39 ± 1.71	-	-	460.2 ± 56.29

^aNo activity higher than 23% was observed at the highest tested concentration (5 mM). Data in mean \pm SEM, ^{****}p < 0.0001, p value was from comparing the indicated compounds and vitamin C (n = 3, one-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc tests).

No	Sampla		IC (uM)					
NO	Sample	31.25	62.5	125	250	500	1,000	1C 50 (µIVI)
1	Isosalipurposide 1	32.27 ± 5.61	37.36 ± 7.32	52.19 ± 3.49	63.69 ± 2.47	73.88 ± 1.29	82.3 ± 1.00	116.5 ± 26.40
2	Naringenin 42	28.81 ± 3.89	40.78 ± 2.19	65.64 ± 5.77	77.64 ± 4.81	93.37 ± 0.75	98.59 ± 0.61	89.71 ± 10.22*
3	Quercitrin 4	18.01 ± 2.18	28.32 ± 2.61	41.66 ± 3.69	58.19 ± 0.84	76.97 ± 0.99	87.03 ± 4.46	177.3 ± 11.34
4	Myricitrin 11	13.01 ± 6.59	16.52 ± 4.71	21.58 ± 6.71	43.06 ± 4.48	59.48 ± 1.73	88.06 ± 1.19	351.6 ± 24.88
5	Naringenin-7 <i>Ο-α-L</i> -arabinofuranoside 76	8.11 ± 2.03	14.07 ± 4.44	17.2 ± 1.41	20.81 ± 1.80	34.41 ± 2.66	76.34 ± 21.72	769.1 ± 95.82****
6	<i>D</i> -(+)-pinitol 79a	16 ± 3.03	39 ± 1.59	89.22 ± 2.40	99.74 ± 0.57	100.6 ± 0.54	100.5 ± 0.64	74.69 ± 0.23*
7	(–)-pinitol 79b	0.29 ± 6.45	1.18 ± 0.97	31.64 ± 1.35	78.43 ± 4.73	93.46 ± 1.77	96.17 ± 1.85	164.2 ± 8.36
8	(–)-Epicatechin 77	33.01 ± 6.84	48.53 ± 4.50	78.04 ± 4.6	92.36 ± 2.23	97.14 ± 0.82	99.15 ± 0.38	63.58 ± 11.83*
9	2,4-Di-t-butylphenol 78	18.57 ± 4.45	18.73 ± 5.06	27.11 ± 5.58	55.17 ± 10.98	79.26 ± 10.49	89.86 ± 7.42	259 ± 58.34
10	3-Hydroxy-5-(2-aminoethyl) dihydrofuran-2(3 <i>H</i>)-one 80	5.99 ± 7.41	12.28 ± 5.13	13.5 ± 3.35	12.55 ± 4.46	14.01 ± 1.03	10.47 ± 1.06	>1000ª

Table S27. The quantified inhibitory activity of the isolated compounds against the α -glucosidase enzyme

No	Sample							
		31.25	62.5	125	250	500	1,000	IC 50 (µIVI)
11	Acarbose	17.88 ± 1.97	28.34 ± 1.44	35.48 ± 3.47	50.6 ± 2.46	64.13 ± 1.65	74.34 ± 1.09	239.9 ± 31.74

^aNo activity higher than 11% was observed at the highest tested concentration (1 mM); Data in mean \pm SEM, p = 0.03; p < 0.0001, p values were from comparison between the indicated the compounds and acarbose (n = 3, one-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc tests).

No	Incubation (h)	Viable pre-adipocytes (%) at concentrations of (µM)				Viable adipocytes (%) at concentrations of (µM)			
		15.63	31.25	62.5	125	15.63	31.25	62.5	125
1	24	85.76 ± 2.59 [*]	85.03 ± 0.62**	89.93 ± 3.16	96.9 ± 2.45	98.67 ± 3.21	99.29 ± 3.58	97.92 ± 3.91	93.54 ± 1.92
2	48	94.8 ± 5.29	94.4 ± 4.23	91.9 ± 7.01	93.84 ± 5.66	91.82 ± 8.36	98.59 ± 4.79	98.18 ± 4.63	94.33 ± 3.55
3	72	91.34 ± 0.94	89.89 ± 1.32	84.01 ± 1.30**	83.67 ± 2.78**	92.65 ± 5.58	84.54 ± 6.28	87.11 ± 7.49	78.31 ± 2.28**

Table S28. Viable 3T3-L1 preadipocytes and adipocytes treated with naringenin 42 for 24, 48, and72 h

Data in mean \pm SEM, $^{*}p = 0.013$; $^{**}p = 0.003$, p values were from comparison between the indicated samples and vehicle control (n = 3, one-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc tests).

 Table S29. Viable 3T3-L1 preadipocytes and adipocytes treated with naringenin-7O-α-Larabinofuranoside 76 for 24, 48, and 72 h

No	Incubation (h)	Viable pre-adipocytes (%) at concentrations of (µM)				Viable adipocytes (%) at concentrations of (µM)			
		15.63	31.25	62.5	125	15.63	31.25	62.5	125
1	24	85 ± 2.43 ^{**}	94.59 ± 1.57	82.08 ± 7.24***	82.91 ± 1.85**	100.6 ± 1.39	97.51 ± 1.27	97.53 ± 2.69	96.47 ± 3.10
2	48	92.54 ± 5.02	96.35 ± 2.94	96.1 ± 2.82	93.79 ± 4.48	96.53 ± 8.24	94.4 ± 6.88	91.69 ± 6.60	90.01 ± 10.17
3	72	89.67 ± 2.5	86.07 ± 2.11**	83.11 ± 1.57**	85.88 ± 1.96**	78.09 ± 4.08 [*]	78.99 ± 5.77*	89.79 ± 5.81	90.06 ± 4.65

Data in mean \pm SEM, p = 0.01; p = 0.004; p = 0.008, *p* values were from comparison between the indicated samples and vehicle control (*n* = 3, one-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc tests).

Table S30. Viable 3T3-L1 preadipocytes and adipocytes treated with isosalipurposide '	1 for 24,	48,
and 72 h		

No	Incubation (h)	Via	ble pre-adip concentration	oocytes (% ons of (µM) at)	Viable adipocytes (%) at concentrations of (μΜ)			
		15.63	31.25	62.5	125	15.63	31.25	62.5	125
1	24	89.99 ±	94.12 ±	89.9 ±	86.14 ±	93.75 ±	96.26 ±	96.65 ±	96.92 ±
· ·		5.82	4.96	4.81	5.831	0.57*	1.82	2.25	1.87
2	48	86.43 ±	84.12 ±	86.08 ±	67.71 ±	93.21 ±	93.78 ±	95.64 ±	95.71 ±
2		3.16	5.36	4.88	10.32***	0.10	2.31	3.49	1.44
2	72	98.9 ±	93.48 ±	93.14 ±	83.81 ±	100.2 ±	101 ±	101 ±	101.3 ±
3		1.94	3.26	0.78	11.98	4.14	3.92	4.02	3.07

Data in mean \pm SEM, **p* = 0.04; ****p* = 0.0008, *p* values were from comparison between the indicated samples and vehicle control (*n* = 3, one-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc tests).

Table S31. Viable 3T3-L	1 preadipocytes	and adipocytes tr	reated with quercitrin	4 for 24, 48, and 72 h
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No	Incubation (h)	Via	ble pre-adip concentration	oocytes (% ons of (µM) at)	Viable adipocytes (%) at concentrations of (μM)				
		15.63	31.25	62.5	125	15.63	31.25	62.5	125	
1	24	91.81 ±	95.37 ±	100.2 ±	97.9 ±	97.81 ±	99.16 ±	99.1 ±	98.46 ±	
1	24	4.69	2.14	4.62	5.92	1.83	1.23	0.98	1.56	
2	48	90.86 ±	96.71 ±	98.23 ±	92.13 ±	95.74 ±	96.33 ±	98.02 ±	96.99 ±	
2		1.12	2.11	2.52	4.16	1.42	0.94	1.59	2.34	
3	72	95.78 ±	93.21 ±	90.57 ±	90.03 ±	98.54 ±	98.76 ±	99.32 ±	99.92 ±	
3		0.04	2.52	2.81	2.69	1.3	1.56	1.59	2.12	

Data in mean \pm SEM (n = 3).
No	Incubation (h)	Jubation Viable pre-adipocytes (%) at concentrations of (µM)			Viable adipocytes (%) at concentrations of (µM)				
		15.63	31.25	62.5	125	15.63	31.25	62.5	125
1	24	87.44 ±	91.1 ±	87.94 ±	83.78 ±	93.58 ±	92.6 ±	93.65 ±	95.3 ±
I	24	6.55	4.07	7.09	10.65*	3.19	2.69	3.39	3.63
2	19	96.42 ±	95.46 ±	94.25 ±	86.69 ±	94.42 ±	97.64 ±	95.06 ±	95.32 ±
2	40	2.98	1.99	2.89	2.50	4.16	3.42	3.84	4.72
3	72	99.3 ±	96.96 ±	96.3 ±	88.58 ±	97.92 ±	98.62 ±	98.19 ±	97.54 ±
		1.67	0.15	0.73	1.05	4.66	4.07	3.04	3.11

Table S32. Viable 3T3-L1 preadipocytes and adipocytes treated with *D*-(+)-pinitol **79a** for 24, 48, and72 h

Data in mean \pm SEM, **p* = 0.02, *p* value was from comparison between the indicated samples and vehicle control (*n* = 3, one-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc tests).

Table S33. Viable 3T3-L1 preadipocytes and adipocytes treated with (–)-pinitol **79b** for 24, 48, and 72 h

No	Incubation (h)	Viable pre-adipocytes (%) at concentrations of (µM)			Viable adipocytes (%) at concentrations of (µM)				
		15.63	31.25	62.5	125	15.63	31.25	62.5	125
1	24	97.69 ±	95.84 ±	96.87 ±	87.89 ±	91.36 ±	91.89 ±	91.36 ±	93.41 ±
		7.54	6.01	9.44	3.58	2.37	2.19	1.73	2.65
2	48	94.34 ±	96.21 ±	94.96 ±	86.38 ±	92.01 ±	93.7 ±	93.45 ±	93.35 ±
2		4.67	4.1	4.13	1.72	3.03	3.96	3.92	3.85
3	72	101.1 ±	99.96 ±	98.48 ±	93.05 ±	94.38 ±	93.97 ±	93.58 ±	95.94 ±
		2.25	1.24	2.39	2.50	2.90	4.30	3.58	3.92

Data in mean \pm SEM (n = 3).

Table S34. Viable 3T3-L1 preadipocytes and adipocytes treated with (-)-epicatechin 77 for 24, 48,and 72 h

No	Incubation (h)	Viable pre-adipocytes (%) at concentrations of (µM)			Viable adipocytes (%) at concentrations of (µM)				
		15.63	31.25	62.5	125	15.63	31.25	62.5	125
1	24	83.76 ± 4.13 ^{**}	86.55 ± 5.15 ^{**}	88.55 ± 4.27*	96.15 ± 4.63	98.17 ± 1.55	100.1 ± 0.94	100 ± 0.41	99.31 ± 0.77
2	48	93.15 ± 3.31	91.24 ± 3.39	96.33 ± 3.56	100.7 ± 1.64	97.94 ± 3.33	97.78 ± 4.22	98.39 ± 4.32	97.73 ± 1.01
3	72	91.39 ± 1.138	88.25 ± 1.407*	84.78 ± 2.49**	88.57 ± 2.10*	88.74 ± 7.24	94.62 ± 2.01	92.28 ± 1.38	86.87 ± 6.90*

Data in mean \pm SEM, *p = 0.03; *p = 0.001, *p* values were from comparison of the indicated samples and vehicle control (*n* = 3, one-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc tests).

Table S35. Viable 3T3-L1 preadipocytes and adipocytes treated with 2,4-di-t-butylphenol 78 for 24
48, and 72 h

No	Incubation (h)	Incubation Viable pre-adipocytes (%) at concentrations of (µM)			Viable adipocytes (%) at concentrations of (μΜ)				
		15.63	31.25	62.5	125	15.63	31.25	62.5	125
1	24	89.31 ±	97.67 ±	75.34 ±	83.19 ±	100.7 ±	98.31 ±	101.2 ±	101.5 ±
		2.59	4.13	/.34	1.54	1.05	2.16	1.52	1.60
2	48	89.89 ±	85.75 ±	86.91 ±	76.29 ±	97.8 ±	90.83 ±	101.4 ±	101.5 ±
		4.05*	4.46**	1.01**	0.36****	4.18	1.07	3.42	4.69
3	72	87.16 ±	81.78 ±	80.36 ±	73.66 ±	98.8 ±	82 ±	88.6 ±	90.2 ±
		0.71*	1.77***	0.816***	2.19****	1.35	5.34*	10.96	7.58

Data in mean \pm SEM, p = 0.01; p = 0.001; p < 0.0001, p values were from comparison between the indicated samples and vehicle control (n = 3, one-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc tests).

No	Incubation (h)	Viable pre-adipocytes (%) at concentrations of (µM)			Viable adipocytes (%) at concentrations of (µM)					
		15.63	31.25	62.5	125	15.63	31.25	62.5	125	
1	1 24	99.07 ±	91.45 ±	67.47 ±	35.62 ±	98.77 ±	97.99 ±	100 ±	100.4 ±	
		6.02	5.79	6.12**	8.23****	0.29	3.07	0.70	1.57	
2	48	93.24 ±	81.22 ±	58.5 ±	18.41 ±	95.91 ±	94.4 ±	95.05 ±	95.6 ±	
2		1.16	3.39	7.67****	9.38****	2.47	3.99*	3.17	1.52	
2	70	99.31 ±	91.81 ±	70.22 ±	27.3 ±	104.6 ±	105.4 ±	102.7 ±	104 ±	
3	12	1.50	3.18	7.59**	13.61****	5.07	5.27	2.84	3.47	
Data	Data in mean \pm SEM, $p = 0.05$; $p = 0.001$; $p < 0.0001$, p values were from comparison of the indicated samples									
and	vehicle control	(<i>n</i> = 3, one-v	vay ANOVA,	Dunnett's	post hoc test	s).				

Table S36. Viable 3T3-L1 preadipocytes and adipocytes treated with myricitrin 11 for 24, 48, and 72

h

Table S37. Viable 3T3-L1 preadipocytes and adipocytes treated with 3-hydroxy-5-(2-aminoethyl) dihydrofuran-2(3*H*)-one **80** for 24, 48, and 72 h

No	Incubation	tion Viable pre-adipocytes (%) at concentrations of (μM)			Viable adipocytes (%) at concentrations of (µM)				
	(1)	15.63	31.25	62.5	125	15.63	31.25	62.5	125
1	24	85.26 ± 2.22**	83.29 ± 3.94***	79.62 ± 2.90****	80.56 ± 2.16 ^{****}	100.2 ± 1.41	100.9 ± 1.80	97.23 ± 4.11	98.67 ± 1.84
2	48	82.4 ± 1.62***	74.3 ± 1.32****	68.46 ± 0.71****	64.26 ± 1.50****	96.19 ± 5.80	96.76 ± 5.56	95.56 ± 6.77	96.84 ± 3.16
3	72	71.71 ± 5.92****	70.59 ± 5.20 ^{****}	57.63 ± 3.09****	47.93 ± 1.76****	82.7 ± 3.24 [*]	95.72 ± 3.18	89.75 ± 6.28	85.22 ± 4.60 [*]

Data in mean \pm SEM, p = 0.02; p = 0.002; p = 0.002; p = 0.0002; p < 0.0001, *p* values were from comparison between the indicated samples and vehicle control (*n* = 3, one-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc tests).

Table S38. Estimated lipid content from adipogenesis assay with ORO staining agent on the 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated with isolated compounds within the differentiation process (day-0 to day-8)

No	Sample	Fold change of adipogenesis (%)					
		0.5 μM	10 µM				
1	Vehicle control	100 :	± 0.81				
2	Naringenin 42	90.69 ± 2.41	85.59 ± 1.77				
3	Naringenin-7Ο-α- <i>L</i> - arabinofuranoside 76	92.41 ± 4.34	92.16 ± 5.98				
4	Isosalipurposide 1	97.18 ± 8.43	100.5 ± 13.98				
5	Quercitrin 4	94.1 ± 4.59	88.12 ± 5.32				
6	<i>D</i> -(+)-pinitol 79a	92.38 ± 8.41	89.12 ± 5.64				
7	(–)-Pinitol 79b	94.99 ± 5.72	83.08 ± 1.58				
8	(–)-Epicatechin 77	87.85 ± 8.40	78.85 ± 5.68				
9	2,4-Di-t-butylphenol 78	96.27 ± 3.76	90.14 ± 3.85				
10	Myricitrin 11	96.55 ± 2.78	74.72 ± 3.67*				
11	3-Hydroxy-5-(2-aminoethyl) dihydrofuran-2(3 <i>H</i>)-one 80	84.12 ± 7.54	80.87 ± 5.62				
12	NAC 5 mM	57.69 ±	1.16****				
13	NAC 10 mM	48.87 ±	2.86****				
14	Undifferentiated	57.70 ± 0.25****					

Data in mean \pm SEM; *p = 0.03, ****p = 0.00008, p values were from comparison between the indicated samples and vehicle control (n = 3, one-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc tests)

Table S39. The estimated ROS level of adipocytes exposed to isolated compounds for 48 h

No	Isolated compounds	Cellular ROS level (%) at the corresponding concentrations (µM)			
	_	0.5	10		
1	Naringenin 42	98.7 ± 2.89	$75.82 \pm 6.20^{*}$		

No	Isolated compounds	Cellular ROS level (%) at the corresponding concentrations (µM)				
	-	0.5	10			
2	Naringenin-7 <i>O</i> -α- <i>L</i> - arabinofuranoside 76	99.06 ± 10.95	76.64 ± 5.16			
3	Isosalipurposide 1	98.33 ± 2.27	80.13 ± 7.52			
4	Quercitrin 4	102.9 ± 0.36	87.65 ± 0.72			
5	<i>D</i> -(+)-pinitol 79a	89.84 ± 0.88	69.24 ± 3.90**			
6	(–)-Pinitol 79b	88.76 ± 2.96	79.57 ± 6.40			
7	(–)-Epicatechin 77	105.5 ± 3.99	71.45 ± 4.82**			
8	2,4-Di- <i>t</i> -butylphenol 78	99.95 ± 0.93	87.94 ± 5.29			
9	Myricitrin 11	100.5 ± 7.66	78.64 ± 6.14			
10	3-Hydroxy-5-(2-aminoethyl) dihydrofuran-2(3 <i>H</i>)-one 80	99.6 ± 6.24	92.67 ± 3.20			

Data in mean \pm SEM, p = 0.05, p = 0.02, p values were from the inhibition of the isolated compound vs blank control (n = 3, one-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc tests)

Table S40. Estimated mt-ROS level (%) and J aggregates/JC-1 monomers percentage in 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated by methanolic extracts

Sample	Mt-ROS	level (%)	J aggregates (red)/JC-1 monomers (green) percentage (%)			
	12.5 µg/mL	50 µg/mL	12.5 µg/mL	50 μg/mL		
Vehicle control	100 ±	: 8.78	100 ± 9.81			
FL-MeOH	103 ± 28.33	68.44 ± 27.5	138.1 ± 23.81	303.5 ± 7.60***		
LF-MeOH	98.36 ± 9.05	47.43 ± 19.67	97.18 ± 2.06	178.8 ± 18.9		
BK-MeOH	103.3 ± 24.13	42.35 ± 3.74	123.7 ± 32.67	246.8 ± 28.65*		
Metformin 10 µM	65.74	± 2.16	206.8 ± 41.87			
Undifferentiated cells	70.45 ± 7.89		191.1 ± 11.10			

Data in mean \pm SEM, **p* = 0.03, ****p* = 0.0002, *p* values were from comparison between the indicated samples and vehicle control (*n* = 3, one-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc tests).

Table S41. Estimated mt-ROS content and J aggregates/JC-1 monomers ratio in 3T3-L1 adipocytes treated by isolated compounds.

Sampla		Mt-ROS level (%	6)	J aggregate	s/JC-1 monomers	percentage (%)	
Sample	0.5 μM	5 µM	10 µM	0.5 μM	5 µM	10 µM	
Vehicle control		100 ± 8.78			100 ± 9.81		
Naringenin 42	65.1 ± 6.03	64.53 ± 7.70	49.12 ± 10.76**	94.6 ± 2.72	173 ± 13.06	267.3 ± 31.14****	
Compound 76	72.21 ± 2.60	69.02 ± 3.03	57.19 ± 5.56*	107.4 ± 10.22	124.3 ± 16.7	206.4 ± 10.5*	
Isosalipurposide 1	78.4 ± 2.21	63.67 ± 5.00	57.01 ± 7.08*	89.28 ± 7.21	127 ± 8.40	163.7 ± 6.25	
Quercitrin 4	90.66 ± 2.30	71.63 ± 8.97	57.13 ± 3.75*	74.23 ± 11.96	104.6 ± 20.54	128.1 ± 6.69	
D-(+)-pinitol 79a	71.3 ± 7.07	71.53 ± 2.65	56.44 ± 7.68*	120.8 ± 20.13	141.9 ± 15.46	301 ± 42.09****	
(–)-Pinitol 79b	103.5 ± 4.31	63.83 ± 5.35	54.61 ± 2.56*	196.2 ± 27.88	224.2 ± 29.28*	238.2 ± 20.74**	
(–)-Epicatechin 77	67.21 ± 7.36	55.8 ± 9.62*	45.94 ± 3.54**	118.5 ± 12.86	120.2 ± 17.45	224.7 ± 31.68**	
2,4-Di- <i>t</i> - butylphenol 78	73.23 ± 1.37	68.17 ± 7.09	45.82 ± 8.21**	91.93 ± 5.01	147.9 ± 23.75	164.9 ± 8.61	
Myricitrin 11	83.97 ± 15.37	70.42 ± 17.29	67.73 ± 5.36	126.8 ± 13.49	132.2 ± 21.66	193.5 ± 14.24	
Compound 80	95.02 ± 18.26	89.12 ± 6.65	77.78 ± 7.92	147.9 ± 24.71	134.6 ± 15.02	186.7 ± 23.12	
Metformin 10 µM	Metformin 10 µM 65.74 ± 2.16			206.8 ± 41.87			
Undifferentiated cells	ed 70.45 ± 7.89		191.1 ± 11.10				

Data in mean \pm SEM; **p* = 0.03, ***p* = 0.001, ****p* = 0.0002, *****p* = 0.000001, *p* values were from comparison between the indicated samples and vehicle control (*n* = 3, one-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc tests).

Table S42.	Observed da	ata of glucose	uptake simulation	with 2-NBDG	fluorescence a	assay for i	solated
compounds	s on the 3T3-L	_1 adipocytes.					

No	Sample	2-NBDG uptake percentage (%)			
		0.5 µM	10 µM		
1	Vehicle	100 ± 6.54			
2	Naringenin 42	89.3 ± 9.47	127.3 ± 15		
3	Naringenin-7O-α-L-arabinofuranoside 76	107.6 ± 7.89	156.4 ± 22.26		
4	Isosalipurposide 1	110.7 ± 13.26	161 ± 39.47		
5	Quercitrin 4	101.6 ± 14.07	151 ± 10.03		
6	<i>D</i> -(+)-pinitol 79a	108.5 ± 11.36	143.9 ± 12.56		
7	(–)-Pinitol 79b	96.99 ± 3.25	125.6 ± 13.27		
8	(–)-Epicatechin 77	108.3 ± 1.12	187.9 ± 41.95*		
9	2,4-Di-t-butylphenol 78	86.39 ± 10.81	131.2 ± 21.57		
10	Myricitrin 11	122.7 ± 10.74	152.3 ± 24.02		
11	3-Hydroxy-5-(2-aminoethyl) dihydrofuran-2(3 <i>H</i>)- one 80	89.56 ± 7.20	96.64 ± 10.97		
12	Insulin 100 nM	140.6 ± 18.36			
13	Metformin 10 µM	138 ± 28.26			

Data in mean \pm SEM; **p* = 0.01, *p* value was from the indicated sample against the vehicle control (*n* = 3, One-way ANOVA, Dunnett's post hoc).

Table S43. Quantitative data of ratio of expressed p-AMPK- α to AMPK- α (%) by adipocytes exposed to the tested MeOH extracts

Na	Treatment	Ratio of p-AMPK-α to AMPK-α (%)			
NO	reatment	12.5 µg/mL	50 μg/mL		
1	Vehicle control	100 ± 17.16			
2	Metformin 10 µM	166.4 ± 14.08			
3	FL-MeOH	128.1 ± 10.56	177 ± 16.98*		
4	LF-MeOH	128.9 ± 12.97	158.5 ± 13.76		
5	BK-MeOH	129.7 ± 22.79	149.1 ± 25.85		

*p = 0.02, p value was of the sample against the vehicle control (n = 3, one-way ANOVA, Tukey)

Table S44. Quantitative data of ratio of expressed p-AMPK- α to AMPK- α (%) by adipocytes exposed to the tested isolated compounds

No	Treatment	Ratio of p-AMPK-α to AMPK-α (%)			
		0.5 µM	10 µM		
1	Vehicle	100 ± 13.36			
2	Metformin 10 µM	191.8 ± 21.86**			
3	Naringenin 42	123.8 ± 2.34	148.4 ± 13.56		
3	Naringenin-7 <i>O</i> -α- <i>L</i> -arabinofuranoside 76	139.1 ± 13.04	211.8 ± 30.27***		
4	Isosalipurposide 1	129.8 ± 14.7	196.6 ± 20.33**		
5	Quercitrin 4	110.7 ± 11.33	148.6 ± 12.2		
6	Myricitrin 11	109.4 ± 10.11	156 ± 8.11		
7	(–)-Pinitol 79b	94.05 ± 7.39	102.7 ± 22.67		
8	(–)-Epicatechin 77	99.62 ± 3.88	143.2 ± 17.25		
9	<i>D-</i> (+)-Pinitol 79a	91.72 ± 6.07	98.61 ± 8.55		

Data in mean \pm SEM; *p = 0.003, ***p = 0.0002, p values were from comparison between the indicated samples and vehicle control (n = 3, one-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc tests)

Treatment	Concentration	mRNAs related to mitochondrial biogenesis			Inflammatory markers' mRNAs		
Treatment		Adiponectin	PGC-1α	mtTFA	TNF-α	IL-6	
Vehicle control	-	95.98 ± 2.08	125.4 ± 2.50	125.7 ± 0.08	175.5 ± 2.81	152.6 ± 1.65	
Metformin	10 µM	98.15 ± 1.67	127.1 ± 1.9	129.4 ± 1.63	172.2 ± 0.23	148.2 ± 0.83	
	12.5 µg/mL	102.6 ± 1.00	129.7 ± 2.76	127.4 ± 3.58	179.3 ± 4.87	151.5 ± 3.25	
FL-IVIEON	50 µg/mL	124.9 ± 11.87*	136.8 ± 2.91*	137.2 ± 0.81**	159.6 ± 9.72	142.1 ± 3.19*	
	12.5 µg/mL	99.94 ± 1.68	134.1 ± 1.85	128.4 ± 4.16	174.7 ± 4.39	151.9 ± 5.10	
LE-MEOH	50 µg/mL	106.1 ± 2.72	138.8 ± 0.36**	134.4 ± 1.53	163.9 ± 7.75	142.2 ± 10.89	
BK MaQU	12.5 µg/mL	102.8 ± 4.94	135.3 ± 0.69*	136.4 ± 1.69*	180.3 ± 3.35	156.9 ± 0.45	
DK-MEOH	50 µg/mL	113.8 ± 12.33	136.1 ± 2.71*	138.3 ± 1.47**	163.5 ± 1.56	153.4 ± 1.22	

Table S45. Quantitative data of the expression of the target mRNA normalised by β-actin from the RT-qPCR of adipocytes treated with MeOH extracts

Data in mean ± SEM; *p = 0.02, **p = 0.002, p values were comparison between the indicated samples and vehicle control (n = 3, one-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc tests)

Transforment	Concentration (µM)	mRNAs related to mitochondrial biogenesis			Inflammatory markers' mRNAs		
Treatment		Adiponectin	PGC-1α	mtTFA	TNF-α	IL-6	
Vehicle control	-	95.98 ± 2.08	125.4 ± 2.5	125.7 ± 0.08	175.5 ± 2.81	152.6 ± 1.65	
Metformin	10	98.15 ± 1.67	127.1 ± 1.9	129.4 ± 1.63	172.2 ± 0.23	148.2 ± 0.83	
	0.5	97.07 ± 1.97	125.8 ± 1.52	126.9 ± 1.72	170.6 ± 6.91	151.6 ± 3.16	
Naringenin 42	10	110.4 ± 12.19*	131.6 ± 2.33	132.1 ± 0.73	164.5 ± 7.90	148.7 ± 3.03	
Naringenin-7O-α-	0.5	96.93 ± 2.52	127 ± 1.71	129.1 ± 3.44	176.6 ± 1.14	152 ± 2.56	
<i>L-</i> arabinofuranoside 76	10	103.2 ± 2.56	132.4 ± 2.86	133.3 ± 2.96	161.3 ± 5.45*	151.1 ± 2.52	
la seclia um secido d	0.5	95.85 ± 0.55	127.3 ± 2.46	130 ± 1.69	168.4 ± 2.88	152.3 ± 3.95	
	10	97.8 ± 1.14	128.4 ± 2.54	131.4 ± 1.61	165.9 ± 3.54	151.7 ± 3.22	
Quereitrin 4	0.5	95.38 ± 1.30	127.1 ± 3.45	128 ± 0.85	169.2 ± 4.88	152.9 ± 4.52	
Quercium 4	10	97.38 ± 0.54	130.4 ± 2.52	131.4 ± 2.55	162.8 ± 6.23	146.1 ± 1.68	
<i>D-</i> (+)-Pinitol 79a	0.5	95.4 ± 2.59	130.4 ± 1.51	128.8 ± 1.04	166.7 ± 2.32	151.4 ± 2.98	
	10	97.49 ± 1.83	137.5 ± 2.89*	130.2 ± 1.73	155.9 ± 6.45*	147.9 ± 3.29	
() Divital 70b	0.5	94.24 ± 3.10	126.6 ± 0.71	128 ± 3.84	169 ± 10.08	148.5 ± 5.62	
(–)-Pinitoi 790	10	95.41 ± 3.66	127.4 ± 1.24	130.3 ± 5.79	163 ± 10.05	146.5 ± 4.17	
() Enjactachie 77	0.5	95.42 ± 0.52	126.9 ± 2.46	126.8 ± 0.93	172.3 ± 6.54	150.1 ± 3.41	
	10	95.92 ± 1.03	128.5 ± 2.25	129 ± 2.10	168.4 ± 5.74	148.1 ± 1.79	
Muricitrin 44	0.5	96.18 ± 0.69	126.2 ± 1.59	130.2 ± 2.25	170.9 ± 6.85	155.4 ± 3.44	
	10	98.52 ± 0.70	134.1 ± 1.02	131.8 ± 0.72	165.6 ± 5.68	145.6 ± 9.24	

 Table S46. Quantitative data of the expression of the target mRNA normalised by β-actin from the RT-qPCR of adipocytes treated with MeOH isolated compounds

Data in mean ± SEM; *p = 0.02, p value was from comparison between the indicated samples and vehicle control (n = 3, one-way ANOVA, Tukey's post hoc tests.