



# In Vitro Antioxidant and Cytotoxic activity of Brown Alga *Padina Boergesenii*

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## Abstract:

Brown alga, *Padina boergesenii* was collected from the Mandapam coast used for this present study. The phytochemical screening of the methanol extract of *P. boergesenii* revealed the presence of the Phenolic, flavonoids, tannins, and terpenoids. The total phenolic and flavonoid content were found to be  $84.96 \pm 0.40$  mg/g expressed as Gallic acid equivalent,  $85.42 \pm 0.97$  mg/g expressed as Quercetin equivalent respectively. Antioxidant activity of the methanol extract was determined by the Phosphomolybdenum method and the scavenging activity on DPPH and Nitric oxide was evaluated. The methanol extract has shown the maximum antioxidant and scavenging activity among all other extract. Cytotoxicity of methanol extract against the liver cancer cell line Hep G2 was checked by MTT assay and the  $IC_{50}$  value were found to be 1.67 mg/ml. The present study has proved *P. boergesenii* has strong antioxidant and cytotoxic activity which may be utilized for the drug development.

**Keywords:** *Padina boergesenii*, antioxidant, cytotoxicity.

## INTRODUCTION

Seaweeds are a group of photoautotrophic, multicellular algae occurring in marine environments. They can perform photosynthesis and the term includes some members of the red, brown and green algae. Seaweeds are commercially important renewable resource and they are used as food, medicine, fertilizer (1). Seaweeds also possess a wide application in food and pharmaceutical industry (2). It has become an untapped resource for the potential bioactive compounds as compared to terrestrial plants for food and health benefits. Among the diverse group of marine organisms, algae are considered as a most nutritious and possess wide range of bioactive compounds. Consumption of the marine algae is thought to ameliorate some inflammatory disorders; breast cancer and high cholesterol level. Seaweeds are considered as excellent sources of bioactive compounds such

as carotenoids, dietary fibre, protein, vitamins (3) essential fatty acids and minerals (4). Seaweed lipids has been drawn attention because of the presence of important bioactive molecules like conjugated fatty acids and pigments that have wide range of physiological effects in the treatment of tumours and other cancer related problems (5). It possesses various pigments such as Fucoxanthin, Zeaxanthin,  $\beta$  Carotene and Anthocyanin derivatives (6). It considers as an important resource of long chain polyunsaturated fatty acid (PUFA) (n-3; n-6) which is fundamental for the formation of structural lipids and components of cell membrane (6). Excessive intake of PUFA n6:n3 ratio will promote the pathogenesis of many diseases, including cardiovascular disease, cancer, and inflammatory and autoimmune disease (7). Recent decades, Seaweeds have been recognized as valuable source of antibiotic production, could be an indicator for the synthesizing secondary

metabolites (8). *Padina boergesenii* -abrown alga, member of the class Phaeophyceae commonly found in coastal regions along continental shelf. Brown algae are said to be a rich source of various bioactive components like polyphenols, alkaloids, flavonoids, terpenoids etc. These secondary metabolites are helpful in studying various physiological effects i.e. either it is harmful or curative on human health (9). The main objective of the present study is to evaluate the antioxidant and cytotoxic activity of brown alga *P. boergesenii* collected from Rameswaram, Gulf of Mannar, India.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Sample collection:

Brown alga *Padina boergesenii* (Allender & Kraft) were collected from Mandapam region, Gulf of Mannar lying along the longitude from 78°08 'N to 79°30' E and along the latitude 8°35' to 9°25' during the low tide (temperature was 34-36°C) in the month of September 2013. The samples were cleaned and washed with sterile water to remove the dust particles, shade dried and then powdered with the help of a mechanical grinder.

### Preparation of the crude extract

Ten grams of the powdered sample was extracted with 100 mL of four different solvents petroleum ether, dichloromethane, ethyl acetate and methanol. The mixture was kept in the shaker at 150 rpm for 48 hours. The extracts were centrifuged for 3 minutes at 3000 rpm. The supernatant was stored at 4°C which was used for further analysis (10).

## SCREENING OF PHYTOCHEMICALS

Phytochemicals present in the extract of *P. boergesenii* were carried out by following the standard method (11).

### Test for alkaloids (Meyer's reagent)

3 mL of extract was stirred with 3 mL of 1% HCl on water bath. Mayer's reagent was then added to the mixture. Turbidity of the resulting precipitate was taken as an evidence for the presence of alkaloids.

### Test for Tannins using ferric chloride

2 mL of extract was stirred with 2 mL of distilled water, and few drops of FeCl<sub>3</sub> were added. Formation of green precipitate indicates the presence of tannins.

### Test for flavonoids

1 mL of lead acetate solution was added to 1 mL of extract. The Yellow precipitate formation was considered to be a positive test for flavonoids.

### Test for Terpenoids

2 mL of extract was dissolved in 2 mL of chloroform and evaporated to dryness. 2 mL of conc. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> was then added and heated for about 2 minutes. A greyish colour development indicates the presence of terpenoids.

### Test for Glycosides (Liebermann's test)

2 mL of extract was dissolved in 2 mL of chloroform, followed by addition of 2 mL of acetic acid. The solution was then cooled in ice and few drops of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> were added. A colour change from violet to blue to green indicates the presence of glycosides.

### Test for Steroids

2 mL of extract is combined with 2 mL of chloroform and 2 mL of conc. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>. A red colour produced in lower chloroform layer was taken as the positive test for presence of steroids.

### Total Phenolic content

Total Phenolic content present in the extract was determined using the Folin Ciocalteu reagent

(12). 0.5 mL of sample was added with 1mL of Folin Ciocalteu (1:10) reagent followed by 3 minutes incubation at room temperature. 3 mL of 1% sodium carbonate solution was then added to the mixture. The content was thoroughly mixed and kept for incubation in dark for 2 hours. The absorbance was measured at 760 nm spectrophotometrically. Gallic acid was used as standard. Results were expressed as mg/g Gallic acid equivalents.

#### Total Flavonoid content

Total flavonoid content was estimated using the method of Ebrahimadeh (13). 0.5 mL of extract was mixed with 0.1 mL of 10% temperature for 30 minutes. The absorbance of aluminium chloride, 0.1 mL of 1M potassium acetate and 2.8mL of distilled water. The contents were then incubated at room temperature and then the mixture was measured at 450nm using UV Spectrophotometer. Quercetin was used as a standard. Results were expressed as mg/g Quercetin equivalents.

#### Total Antioxidant activity

The total antioxidant activity was measured using Phosphomolybdenum method (14). Different concentration of extract was prepared. 1mL of extracts was added to 3 mL of reagent (0.6M sulphuric acid, 28mM sodium phosphate, 4mM ammonium molybdate) a reagent without the extract was used as the control. The reaction mixtures were incubated at 95°C for 90 minutes. The absorbance was measured at 635nm spectrophotometrically.

#### Reducing potential

Different concentration of the extracts in 1mL of distilled water was prepared which were with 2.5 mL of 0.2 M phosphate buffer and 2.5ml of 1 % potassium ferric cyanide. The mixture was incubated for 20 minutes at 50°C. After incubation 2.5 mL of 10% TCA was added to the mixtures and

centrifuged for 10 minutes at 3000 rpm. 2.5 mL of supernatant was mixed with 2.5mL of distilled water and 0.5mL FeCl<sub>3</sub> (0.5mL, 0.1%). The absorbance was measured at 700nm using spectrophotometer (15).

#### DPPH free radical scavenging test

The free radical scavenging activity of the extracts was studied using 1, 1-Diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl radical test (16). 1mL of different concentration of the extract was added with 0.5mL of DPPH (0.16mM DPPH in methanol). Reagent without the extract was used as control. The mixture was Vortexed and then it was incubated at room temperature at 30 minutes. After incubation 2mL of distilled water was added to it. The absorbance was measured at 517nm spectrophotometrically.

#### Nitric oxide scavenging activity

Different concentration (250, 500, 750, and 1000) µg / mL of the extract were prepared. 100µl Griess reagent was taken and added to 300µl of sample. To this 2.6 mL of distilled water was added. Reagent without the extract was taken as control. The solution was incubated at room temperature for 30 minutes. Absorbance was measured at 548nm spectrophotometrically (17).

#### Cytotoxic activity against liver cancer Hep G2 cell line

Cytotoxic activity of the methanol extracts of *P. boerghesii* was screened against the liver cancer cell line Hep G2 by following the method of Zandiet *al.*, with little modifications (18). 5x10<sup>3</sup> Hep G2 cells in 100µl DMEM medium with 10% FBS per well plated in a 96 well plate and incubated overnight at 37°C in 5% CO<sub>2</sub> incubator. 10mg/ml stock of the test samples was prepared in DMEM. Samples were serially diluted from the stock using DMEM. 100 µl of these diluted samples were added to cells in triplicate wells containing 100 µl

of medium in accordance with the following layout as shown in the table 1. 100  $\mu$ l of DMEM was used as negative control and 5 $\mu$ g/ml Doxorubicin was added as internal positive control for the assay. Wells without any cells are used as blank. Plate was gently shaken and incubated at 37°C at 5% CO<sub>2</sub> for 48 hours. 20  $\mu$ l of 5mg/ml MTT in PBS was added to each well and incubated at 37°C at 5% CO<sub>2</sub> for 4 hours. Then the medium was

aspirated out and 200 $\mu$ l of Dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO) to each well. The optical density of each well was measured using Microplate reader at 570 nm. Then, the inhibition of growth is a measure of cytotoxicity and the percentage inhibition is calculated as follows:

$$\% \text{ Inhibition} = 100 - ((\text{Mean OD for test sample} / \text{mean OD for the control}) \times 100)$$

**Table 1:** Layout of Cytotoxicity test

	1	2 (mg/ml)	3 (mg/ml)	4 ( $\mu$ g/ml)	5 ( $\mu$ g/ml)	6 ( $\mu$ g/ml)	7 ( $\mu$ g/ml)	8 ( $\mu$ g/ml)
A	No Cells	Dox	1.25	250	150	25	3	0.75
B	No Cells	5	1.25	250	100	25	3	0.375
C	No Cells	5	1	250	100	12.5	3	0.375
D	Medium	5	1	200	100	12.5	1.5	0.375
E	Medium	2.	1	200	50	12.5	1.5	
F	Medium	2.5	0.5	200	50	6.25	1.5	
G	Dox	2.5	0.5	150	50	6.25	0.75	
H	Dox	1.25	0.5	150	25	6.25	0.75	

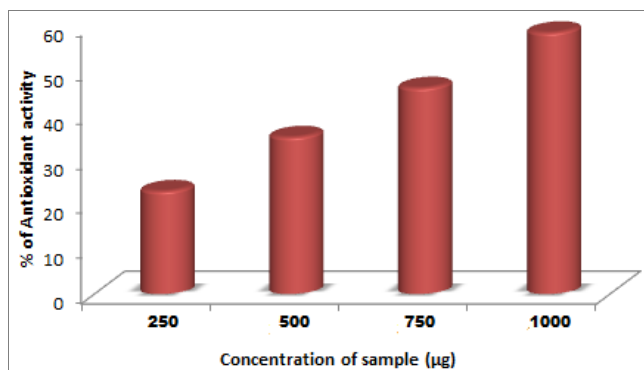
## RESULTS

*P. boergesenii* extracts were screened for the qualitative phytochemical analysis. The results revealed the presence of alkaloids, phenolics, flavonoids, tannins, terpenoids, glycosides and sterol in the methanol extract as shown in the table 2.

**Table 2:** Phytochemical analysis of *P. boergesenii*

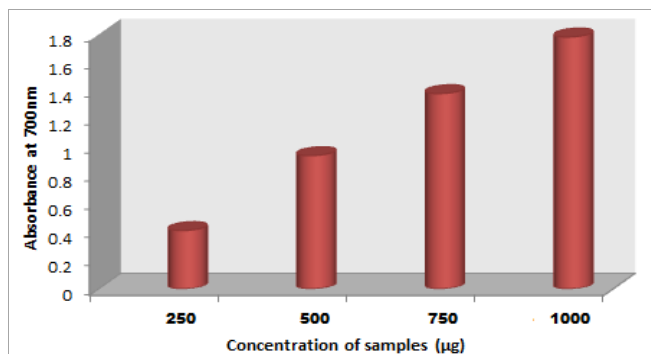
Contents	Methanol	Petroleum ether	Dichloromethane	Ethyl acetate
Alkaloids	+	-	+	-
Flavonoids	+	-	-	-
Tannins	+	+	+	+
Terpenoids	+	-	-	-
Glycosides	+	+	+	+
Sterol	+	-	-	+
Phenolics	+	-	+	-

The total phenolic content of the methanol extract *P. boergesenii* was determined by performing Folin-Ciocalteu reagent method spectrophotometrically. The phenolic content present in the extract was found to be 84.96 $\pm$ 0.40 mg/g expressed as Gallic acid equivalent. The total flavonoid content of the extract *P. boergesenii* was estimated by aluminium chloride method spectrophotometrically. The flavonoid content present in the extract was found to be 85.42 $\pm$ 0.97 mg/g expressed as Quercetin equivalent. The total antioxidant activity of *P. boergesenii* was determined using the Phosphomolybdenum method. It was found that the antioxidant activities increased with the increasing concentration. Higher antioxidant activity was exhibited at a concentration of 1000  $\mu$ g/mL is (58.5  $\pm$  0.48) % as shown in the figure 1.



**Fig.1** Total Antioxidant activity

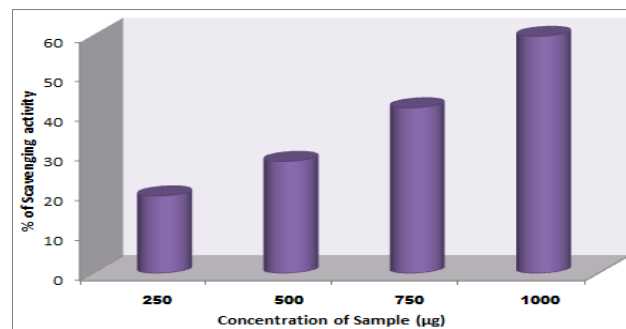
The reductive capability of the methanol extracts of *P.boergesenii* the reduction of ferric to ferrous ion transformation. Reducing power assay was an electron donor and it terminates the oxidation chain reaction by reducing the oxidized intermediates into the stable form (19). Increasing absorbance indicates the increasing reducing power. The reducing power increased with the increase in concentration, as shown in the figure 2.



**Fig. 2** Reducing power

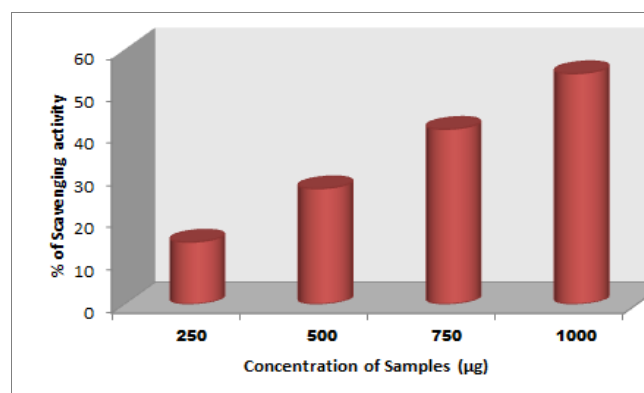
The DPPH assay is a quick and cost effective method which has frequently been used for the estimation of the antioxidant potential of different natural products. It shows that by using DPPH radical scavenging assay methanol extracts of brown alga *P. boergesenii* exhibited potent antioxidant activity in a dose-dependent manner. It also reveals that the methanol extract of *P. boergesenii* also contains a high amount of phenolic compounds. The higher scavenging

activity of *P. boergesenii* may be attributed to hydroxyl groups in the phenolic compounds, which might provide the essential component (20). It was found that the scavenging effect increased with the increase in concentration of the sample. The value obtained was  $59.70 \pm 0.21$  % at 1000 µg/ml.



**Fig. 3** DPPH Radical scavenging activity

Nitric oxide plays a major role in promoting inflammatory response and the toxicity when they react with oxide radicals to form peroxynitrite which can damage the biomolecules. Nitric oxide generates when sodium nitroprusside reacts with oxygen to form nitrite. Seaweeds reduce the formation of nitrite by competing with oxygen to react with nitric oxide (21). The scavenging activity of *P. boergesenii* was found to be  $54.3 \pm 0.34$  % at a maximum concentration of 1000 µg/ml as shown in the figure 4.



**Fig. 4** Nitric oxide scavenging activity

Marine algae have been used from ancient times in Chinese herbal medicine for the treatment of cancer (22). The activity against cancer cell lines is one of the major activities of marine algae, and many algae have showed cytotoxic and antitumor activities (23). The viability of Hep G<sub>2</sub> liver cancer cell line treated with the methanolic extract of *P. boergesenii* was determined by MTT assay. It has shown the strong cytotoxic activity as shown in the table 3 and the IC<sub>50</sub> value was found to be 1.67 mg/ml.

**Table 3:** Results of Cytotoxic activity on Hep G<sub>2</sub> cell lines treatment with different concentration of methanol extract of *P. boergesenii*.

Concentration	Mean Absorbance	Sample-Blank	% Inhibition
5 mg/ml	0.296	0.281	86.9
2.5mg/ml	0.425	0.401	81.1
1.25 mg/ml	1.986	1.971	11.9
1.0 mg/ml	1.852	1.842	17.8
500 µg/ml	1.787	1.773	20.7
250 µg/ml	1.717	1.759	24.0
200 µg/ml	1.617	1.602	28.2
150 µg/ml	1.649	1.631	26.8
100 µg/ml	1.751	1.739	22.3
50 µg/ml	1.972	1.956	12.5
25 µg/ml	2.020	2.015	10.3
12.5 µg/ml	2.067	2.052	8.3
6.25 µg/ml	2.061	2.041	8.5
3 µg/ml	2.050	2.033	9.1
1.5 µg/ml	2.161	2.151	4.1
0.75 µg/ml	2.124	2.108	5.7
0.375 µg/ml	1.969	1.951	12.7

## DISCUSSIONS

Recent decades, seaweeds have been considered as a rich source of reactive oxygen species (ROS) inhibitors and can be used as additives in food and also provide a protection against oxidative damage in tissue induced by ROS (24). The present study has shown that methanol extract of *P. boergesenii* possess antioxidant activity and potential to scavenge free radicals. Few evidences are also available

that seaweeds have certain bioactive compounds with a high antioxidant and anti-proliferative activity. Seaweeds contain some bioactive compound which is not found in the terrestrial plants (25).

Antioxidant compounds has an ability to scavenge free radicals leads to the reduces the level of risk associated with oxidative stress related disease (26). Seaweeds have been attracted attention as a rich natural antioxidant source due to the toxic and mutagenic effects caused by the synthetic antioxidants (27).

This method used for the analysis of phenolic content, flavonoid content, antioxidant activity and scavenging assays such as DPPH, Nitric oxide and reducing potential refers as a convenient and accurate method for the detection of potential source of antioxidant compounds (28). The total phenolic content of *P. boergesenii* was found to be 84.96±0.40 mg gallic acid equivalents/g extract. The total flavonoid content of *P. boergesenii* was found to be 85.42±0.97 mg/g expressed as Quercetin equivalent. Phenolic compounds are having potential to acts as free radical scavengers. It's commonly found in the edible marine algae in which the antioxidant property has been correlated to their phenolic content (29). Previous studies were reported phenolic compounds play an important role in preventing the oxidative damage to tissue (30). The relationship between the total phenols and antioxidant activity has been observed in many seaweed species (31-32). Flavonoid acts as an antioxidant and free radical scavenger due to its unique chemical structure. The position of hydroxyl groups and other features in the chemical structure of flavonoids are very important for their antioxidant and free radical scavenging activities (33). Hence, the potential

scavenging activity of the *P. boergesenii* could be linked to the phenolics and flavonoids present in it.

Total antioxidant activity of *P. boergesenii* was determined by the Phosphomolybdenum method. The results observed that *P. boergesenii* have the maximum antioxidant activity of  $(58.5 \pm 0.48)$  %. Oxidative damage within the tissues is a prolonged process involving free radical chain initiation and propagation steps (34). One of the mechanisms by which antioxidants bring about their action is by scavenging free radicals (35). So, it becomes necessary to assess the scavenging ability of the brown alga *P. boergesenii* extract. Reducing potential of methanol extracts of *P. boergesenii* was evaluated using potassium cyanoferrate. The reducing ability of a compound widely varies based on the presence of reductones, which have exhibit antioxidative potential by breaking the free radical chain by donating a hydrogen atom (36). The reducing potential of the extracts is a significant indicator of antioxidant and scavenging activity. Similar reports have also been suggested by Kumaran and Karunakaran (37), Kumaret al., (38), Vijayabhaskar (3) in methanolic extracts of higher plants, brown seaweeds from India.

In this study, DPPH, Nitric oxide free radical assays were done for the evaluation of scavenging potential of methanol extract of *P. boergesenii*. 1, 1-Diphenyl-2-picrylhydrazyl (DPPH) is stable nitrogen centered free radical which can be effectively scavenged by antioxidants (39-40). Hence, it has been widely used to test the ability of compounds as free radical scavengers or hydrogen donors (41). The present study has shown that the *P. boergesenii* extract has exhibited maximum DPPH scavenging activity

$(59.70 \pm 0.21)$  % at 1000  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ . It indicates the hydrogen donating ability of *P. boergesenii*. Since the effect of antioxidant on DPPH might be due to their hydrogen donating capability (42). Nitric oxide radicals plays an vital role in inducing inflammatory response and their toxicity increases when they react with  $\text{O}_2$  radicals to form peroxynitrite, which leads to the damage in biomolecules such as proteins, nucleic acids, lipids. (21). Nitric oxide is generated when sodium nitroprusside reacts with oxygen to form nitrite. The methanolic extract of *P. boergesenii* has exhibited higher scavenging activity as  $(54.3 \pm 0.34)$  % at 1000  $\mu\text{g/ml}$ . These results suggest that *P. boergesenii* could be a capable and novel therapeutic agent for scavenging of  $\text{NO}^-$  and the regulation of pathological conditions caused by excessive generation of  $\text{NO}^-$  and its oxidation product peroxynitrite. It is believed that the antioxidant activity of phenolics is a result of their ability to act as reducing agents, free radical scavengers (43). It may be possible that the antioxidant activity of *P. boergesenii* could be the result of their high concentration of phenolic compounds.

The cytotoxic activity of the *P. boergesenii*'s methanol extract against Hep G2 liver cancer cell line was studied and the  $\text{IC}_{50}$  was found to be 1.67 mg/ml. Brown algae represent a rich source of polysaccharides and glycosides and phenolics, the activity could be connected with these compounds. *P. pavonica* aqueous extract showed cytotoxic activity against breast cancer cell line *in vitro* (44).

## CONCLUSION

In the present study, the extracts of *P. boergesenii* showed high antioxidant activity as

well as cytotoxic activity to the best of our knowledge. Very few works have been carried out with this seaweed from the region of Gulf of Mannar, Rameswaram. Hence, *P. boergesenii* can be used as a potential therapeutic intervention due to its bioactive properties.

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