

## Synthesis of *N*-phenethyl-*p*-methoxycinnamamide and *N*-morpholinyl-*p*-methoxycinnamamide, *In Vitro* and *In Silico* Study as $\alpha$ -Glucosidase Inhibitor

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**Abstract:** Aromatic ginger (*Kaempferia galanga* L.) is one of the natural sources containing ethyl-*p*-methoxycinnamate, which is known to have beneficial activity, especially as an  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitor. This study aims to convert ethyl-*p*-methoxycinnamate into amide form as *N*-phenethyl-*p*-methoxycinnamamide (**4a**) and *N*-morpholinyl-*p*-methoxycinnamamide (**4b**) through some synthetic ways then tested their activity as an  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitor. The FTIR spectra of **4a** present a short single peak at  $3269.34\text{ cm}^{-1}$  that belongs to the N-H group, while spectra of **4b** show no absorption band between  $3200\text{--}3400\text{ cm}^{-1}$  due to its tertiary amide structure. Spectroscopy analysis through <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR exhibits the successful synthesis of both compounds. Bioactivity test results show that compound **4b** has better activity than **4a**. In molecular dynamics simulation, the binding energy of compounds **4a** and **4b** reveal that both compounds have a similar binding energy of about  $-98980.8$  and  $-97696.7\text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ , respectively.

**Keywords:** aromatic ginger (*Kaempferia galanga* L.); cinnamamide derivatives;  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitor; molecular docking; MD simulation

## ■ INTRODUCTION

Aromatic ginger (*Kaempferia galanga* L.) is one of the traditional medicine which is known to contain ethyl-*p*-methoxycinnamate (EPMC) [1], ethyl cinnamate [2], isopimarane-type diterpenoids [3-4]. The other chemical compounds were  $\delta$ -3-carene, 1,8-cineole, borneol, and pentadecane [5]. The two most abundant compounds in the aromatic ginger essential oil were trans-ethyl-*p*-methoxycinnamate and trans-ethyl cinnamate [1-2,5]. Ethyl-*p*-methoxycinnamate and its derivatives had many benefits, including as anticancer [6-8], anti-inflammatory [9-10], anti-tuberculosis [11], anti-neoplastic [12], antimicrobe [13], and antidiabetic [14] agents. The study of *K. galanga* L. extract as an antidiabetic using the Gavage method every day for one month found that diabetic rats before and after treatment with *K. galanga* L. extract

showed a significant difference in reducing the amount of blood glucose [15].

In addition, the cinnamic acid derivative compound had an antidiabetic activity which had been shown to reduce plasma glucose concentrations in diabetic rats by reducing the excessive activity of glucose-6-phosphatase, hepatic hexokinase, glucokinase, and phosphofructokinase and increasing liver glycogen in diabetic rats but did not change plasma glucose concentrations in normal rats. The antihyperglycemic effect of *p*-methoxy cinnamic acid worked by increasing insulin secretion and glycolysis and reducing gluconeogenesis [16] and significantly inhibited the formation of advanced glycation end products (AGEs). This result proved that cinnamic acid and its derivatives could effectively protect BSA from

fructose by mediated protein glycation and reduced fructosamine level [17].

Other studies showed that the conversion of cinnamic acid to amide form gave a better activity as an antidiabetic, especially inhibition of  $\alpha$ -glucosidase [18-20]. This research started with the isolation of ethyl-*p*-methoxycinnamate from aromatic ginger and, through some synthetic ways, changed to amide form by using phenethylamine and morpholine. The synthesized compounds were continued to *in vitro* analysis as an  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitor and *in silico* analysis by using homology modeling [21], molecular docking [22-24], and stability analysis through molecular dynamics simulation [25-26].

## ■ EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

### Materials

Materials used in this research were *p*-methoxycinnamic acid, benzene, thionyl chloride, pyridine, triethylamine (TEA), phenethylamine, morpholine, HCl 3%, NH<sub>4</sub>Cl, chloroform, ethyl acetate, *n*-hexane, anhydrous Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, *p*-nitrophenyl- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranoside,  $\alpha$ -glucosidase enzyme, Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, and buffer phosphate pH 7.

### Instrumentation

Instrumentations utilized were Fourier-Transform Infrared (FTIR) and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectroscopy. The FTIR spectra were recorded using Spectrophotometer Shimadzu Prestige 21, while the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra were obtained by using Spectrometer Agilent operating at 500 MHz and 125 MHz for <sup>1</sup>H- and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR, respectively. The melting points of each crystal were counted on the electrothermal apparatus.

### Procedure

#### Conversion method

In this stage, there were two cinnamide derivatives converted. The conversion method scheme is shown in Fig. 1. The procedure was started by isolating ethyl-*p*-methoxycinnamate (**1**) from aromatic ginger (*Kaempferia galanga* L.). Then it was converted into the amide derivatives by some synthetic methods below.

**Isolation of ethyl-*p*-methoxycinnamate (1).** The dried aromatic ginger (*Kaempferia galanga* L.) was chopped using a blender until smooth and became a powder. Totally 30 g of aromatic ginger was extracted by the soxhletation method in *n*-hexane solvent for 6 h. The mixture was filtered and evaporated until the volume was about 10 mL. The mixture was cooled at room temperature until white crystals were formed. The pureness of the crystal was tested in TLC, and the melting point was also determined. Pure crystals were weighed and characterized using FTIR spectrophotometers. A white crystal with a melting point of 46–48 °C (0.33% of yield). FTIR (KBr):  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3000–3100 (C-H sp<sup>2</sup>), 2980.02 (C-H sp<sup>3</sup>), 1707 (C=O ester), 1633.71 (C=C olefin), 1421.54 and 1367.53 (CH<sub>3</sub>), 1253.73 (C-O phenolic), 1168.86 (C-O methoxy), 983.70 (1,2-disubstituted), and 829.39 (*para*-disubstituted aromatic).

***p*-Methoxycinnamate acid (2).** A white crystal with a melting point of 166–168 °C and 77.91% of yield. FTIR (KBr):  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3200 (O-H carboxylate), 3000–3100 (C-H sp<sup>2</sup>), 2935.66 (C-H sp<sup>3</sup>), 1683.86 (C=O carboxylate), 1624.06 (C=C olefin), 1595.13 and 1510 (C=C aromatic), 1255.56 (C-O phenolic), 1168.86 (C-O methoxy), and 941.26 (C=C olefin *trans* 1,2-disubstituted).

***p*-Methoxycinnamoyl chloride (3).** A pale-yellow crystal. There was no spectroscopy data due to the rapidness of the compound changing to an acidic form (**1**).

***N*-phenethyl-*p*-methoxycinnamamide (4a).** A white crystal with a melting point of 110–112 °C and 42% of yield. FTIR (KBr):  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3269.34 (-NH), 3057.17 (C-H saturation), 2931.80 (C-H sp<sup>3</sup>), 1654.92 (C=O amide), 1620.00 (C=C olefin), 1450.47 (C-N), 1253.73 (C-O phenolic), and 829.39 (*para* disubstituted Ar). <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz, chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$ , ppm: 7.57 and 6.20 (2H, *d*, *J* = 15.55 Hz), 7.42 (2H, *d*, *J* = 8.75 Hz), 7.25 (5H, *m*, aromatic), 6.86 (2H, *d*, *J* = 8.75), 5.72 (1H, *s*, N-H amide), 3.81 (3H, *s*, methoxy), 3.64 (2H, *q*, *J* = 6.65 Hz), and 2.88 (2H, *t*, *J* = 6.95 Hz). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (125 MHz, chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$ , ppm: 166.36 (C-1), 160.96 (C-7), 140.75 (C-3), 139.07 (C-3'), 129.45 (C-5 and C-9), 128.78 (C-4' and C-8'), 128.63 (C-7' and C-5'), 127.62 (C-4),

126.63 (C-6'), 118.33 (C-2), 114.32 (C-6 and C-8), 55.45 (C-10), 40.90 (C-1'), and 35.83 (C-2').

***N*-morpholinyl-*p*-methoxycinnamamide (4b).** A pale-yellow crystal with a melting point of 96–98 °C and 16.04% of yield. FTIR (KBr):  $\nu$  (cm<sup>-1</sup>) 3061 (C-H sp<sup>2</sup>), 2854–2922 (C-H saturation), 1647 (C=O amide conjugated), 1512 and 1600 (C=C aromatic), 1305 and 1433 (-CH<sup>3</sup> and -CH<sup>2</sup>-), 1255 (-C-N amide), 1112 (C-O ether), 821 (*para*-substituted Ar), and 979 (C-H olefin trans), <sup>1</sup>H-NMR (500 MHz, chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$ , ppm: 7.6574 (1H, *d*, *J* = 15.2 Hz), 7.4633 (2H, *d*, *J* = 8.7 Hz), , 6.8845 (2H, *d*, *J* = 8.3 Hz), 6.7039 (1H, *d*, *J* = 15.4 Hz), 3.8208 (3H, *s*), and 3.6857 (8H, *m*). <sup>13</sup>C-NMR (125 MHz, chloroform-*d*)  $\delta$ , ppm: 165.98 (C-1), 143.05 (C-3), 129.49 (C-5), 127.95 (C-4), 114.34 (C-8), 114.06 (C-2), 66.99 (C-2'), 61.05 (C-7), 55.47 (C-10), 46.30 (C-1'), and 42.59 (C-3').

#### Bioactivity assay as an $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitor

The procedure of bioactivity test was conducted according to the procedure reported by Kim et al. [27]. About 0.2 mL of various concentrations of the tested samples 62.5, 125, 250, 500, and 1000 ppm were added with 0.5 mL *p*-nitrophenyl- $\alpha$ -D-glucopyranose 10 mM and 5 mL buffer phosphate (pH = 7). The mixture was incubated at 37 °C for 5 min, then added 0.2 mL  $\alpha$ -glucosidase enzyme. Further incubation was done at 37 °C for 20 min. Each mixture was taken as much as 2 mL, then added 8 mL Na<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> 0.1 M. All samples measured the absorbance using a spectrophotometer UV-Vis ( $\lambda_{\max}$  350–500 nm) in triplicates. Percent of inhibition was obtained by using Eq. (1).

$$\text{Percent of inhibition (\%)} = \frac{A_{\text{control}} - A_{\text{sample}}}{A_{\text{control}}} \times 100\% \quad (1)$$

#### Homology modeling

Due to the absence of crystal structure of the  $\alpha$ -glucosidase enzyme from rice in the protein data bank, homology modeling was carried out. The 3D structure of the  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitor was built by using the SWISS-MODEL workspace [28]. The FASTA format of  $\alpha$ -glucosidase code B9F676 was submitted to run the homology model. The high similarity of the resulting model was evaluated through the Ramachandran plot [29].

#### Molecular docking

Molecular docking of compounds **4a** and **4b** through  $\alpha$ -glucosidase was performed in the AutoDock4 program [30]. The crystal structure of the  $\alpha$ -glucosidase enzyme was obtained from the result of the homology modeling stage. Each ligand (**4a** and **4b**) was optimized and prepared for docking in Chimera software [31]. Ligands were set in the active site of the enzyme, and the box grid size used was 50 × 50 × 50 Å<sup>3</sup>. The *xyz* coordinates of ligands were 2.532, 9.116, and 9.491, respectively, and the spacing was 0.375 Å. All ligands were arranged to produce ten conformations using the Lamarckian Genetic Algorithm [32] and visualized by the Discovery Studio Visualizer program [33].

#### Molecular dynamics simulation

The data of complex protein-ligand from the molecular docking was continued to molecular dynamics simulation using YASARA Dynamics software (YASARA Biosciences GmbH, Vienna, Austria) [34]. The simulation was carried out by using Amber14 force fields [35] in a periodic boundary condition, and each complex was set to have a temperature and pH physiologic of 310 K and 7.4, respectively [36]. Solvation of the complex was set in TIP3P solvent [37], and counter ions (Na<sup>+</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>) were added to normalize the system. The time step used in this simulation is 0.25 fs, and all the trajectory data was collected every 25 ps. Finally, all the complexes were running in 10 ns, and trajectory data was employed to analyze the root mean square deviation (RMSD) of carbon alpha, RMSD total of the system, RMSD ligands, root mean square fluctuation (RMSF), the radius of gyration, and Molecular Mechanics Poisson-Boltzmann Surface Area (MM-PBSA) energy.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Conversion and Characterization

In this study, the substrate, ethyl-*p*-methoxycinnamate (EPMC), was obtained from aromatic ginger (*Kaempferia galanga* L.) due to the high content of this compound had been reported [9]. In the isolation method, the percent of the yield was about 0.33%. The others research reported a variation of yield

such as 0.98% [1], 0.57% [11], and 0.026% [38]. The difference in yield can be caused by the difference in isolation methods such as extraction method, the solvent used, and extraction time.

FTIR spectra indicated that the crystal belongs to EPMC (**1**) due to the absorption at  $1707\text{ cm}^{-1}$  of the carbonyl ester strengthened by the band at  $1186.86\text{ cm}^{-1}$  of C-O from the ethyl group. Moreover, the absorption band appearing between  $3000\text{--}3100\text{ cm}^{-1}$  indicated the presence of an aromatic ring, which was supported by the band at  $1512.19$  and  $1604\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . In addition, the absorption at  $829.39\text{ cm}^{-1}$  showed that this aromatic group had *para* di-substituents which also gave overtone at  $1890.24\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . The vibration at  $1633.71\text{ cm}^{-1}$  indicated the presence of C=C olefin, which was supported by the band at  $983.70\text{ cm}^{-1}$  of *trans* 1,2-disubstituted olefin. These FTIR spectra followed the previous study about the isolation of EPMC [11]. Due to the hygroscopic property of isolated EPMC, no further spectroscopic data was performed, and it was directly converted to *p*-methoxycinnamate acid (**2**) by hydrolysis in alkaline conditions. A successful hydrolysis reaction was seen in the FTIR spectra of the crystal due to the presence of stretching O-H absorption between  $2750\text{--}3200\text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Moreover, absorption of C=O obtained in  $1683.86\text{ cm}^{-1}$  indicated that the carbonyl group belongs to a carboxylic acid moiety.

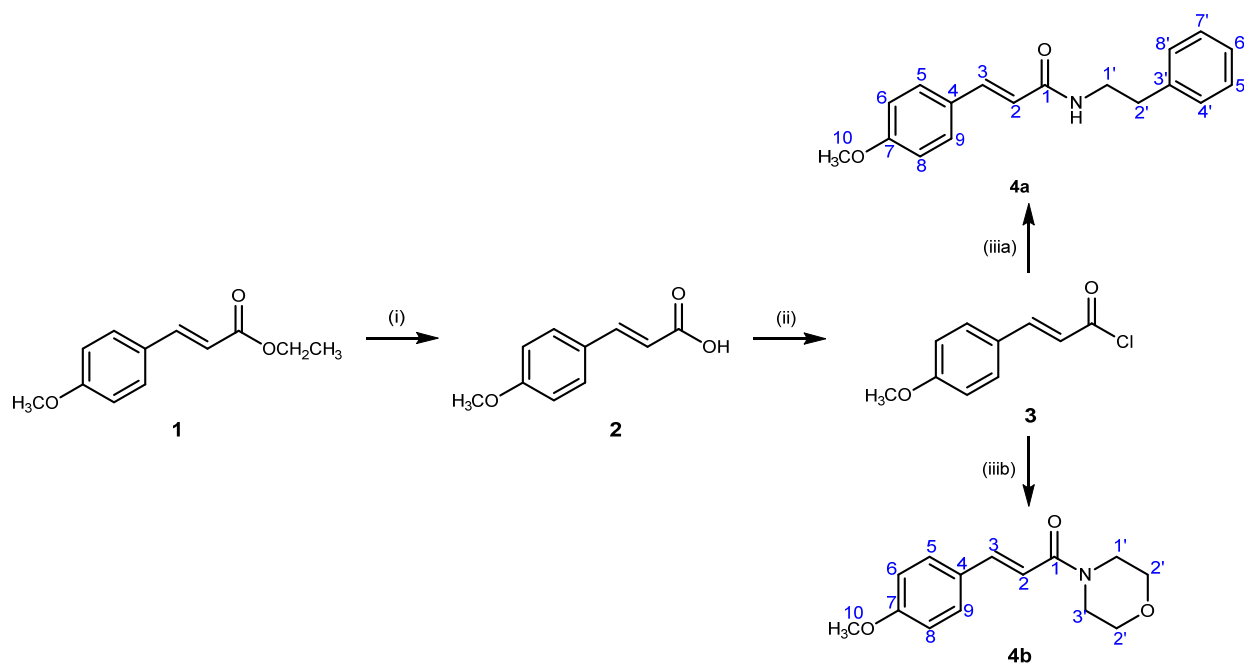
The melting point value of isolated EMPC had a range value of  $46\text{--}48\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and this value was quite similar to the result of Umar et al. [38], who had isolated and obtained the melting point of EMPC was about  $49\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The difference in melting point value may be due to the different conditions of the tested location, such as pressure or temperature. The same thing was also found in the melting point of *p*-methoxycinnamate acid (**2**), the resulting melting point was about  $166\text{--}168\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and the melting point of **2** based on the data in the chemical safety data sheet is about  $170\text{--}173\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Chlorination of **2** was done in four hours (based on TLC control) by the addition of thionyl chloride. This chlorination step was conducted to increase the reactivity of the carbonyl group before amidation. The structure of

this reaction product was expected to be **3**. However, in this stage, no spectroscopy data resulted because the crystal was simply returned to its acidic form by moisture conditions. Therefore, the amidation stage was directly carried out after chlorination (*in situ* process). In this step, two amine compounds were used, namely phenethylamine and morpholine, to produce *N*-phenethyl-*p*-methoxycinnamamide (**4a**) and *N*-morpholinyl-*p*-methoxycinnamamide (**4b**), respectively. Pyridine and triethylamine were used in the reaction mixture to bind HCl which was produced as a by-product in both amidation reactions. The synthesis pathways of **4a** and **4b** from EPMC are shown in Scheme 1.

The structure of both amidation products was confirmed by FTIR,  $^1\text{H-NMR}$ , and  $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  spectra. In FTIR spectra of **4a**, there was a short single peak at  $3269.34\text{ cm}^{-1}$  that belongs to the N-H group, while spectra of **4b** showed no absorption band between  $3200\text{--}3400\text{ cm}^{-1}$  because it is a tertiary amide. Vibration at  $1654.92\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (**4a**) and  $1647.21\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (**4b**) corresponded to C=O conjugated from the amide group that was supported by vibration at  $1450.47\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (**4a**) and  $1433.11\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (**4b**) of C-N stretching bands. In addition, the presence of the phenethyl group in **4a** was also confirmed by the absorption band at  $746.45$  and  $700.16\text{ cm}^{-1}$ , indicating the presence of an additional mono-substituted aromatic ring.

$^{13}\text{C-NMR}$  spectra of compound **4a** showed 14 signals representing 18 carbons and 11 signals exhibiting 14 carbon atoms for compound **4b**. In compound **4a**, four pairs of aromatic carbon atoms, namely C-5 and C-9, C-6 and C-8, C-7' and C-5', as well as C-4' and C-8', had identical chemical environments, thus appearing as only eight signals together with the signals of C-4, C-7, C-3' and C-6' between  $114\text{--}140\text{ ppm}$ . Similarly, the aromatic carbon atoms of **4b** were shown by four signals at  $\delta$  161.05, 129.49, 114.34, and 27.95 ppm from C-7, C-5 and C-9, C-6, and C-8, as well as C-4, respectively. C-1' and C-2' of compound **4a** appeared as the two most shielding signals ( $\delta$  40.90 and 35.83 ppm) due to their position between N amide and the aromatic ring.



**Scheme 1.** Synthesis pathways of **4a** and **4b**: (i) hydrolysis (NaOH/EtOH, reflux 60 °C, 3 h); (ii) chlorination (SOCl<sub>2</sub>/EtOH, reflux 78 °C, 4 h); (iiiia) amidation-a (phenethylamine, pyridine, and Ph<sub>3</sub>N in chloroform, r.t., 4 h); (iiib) amidation-b (morpholine, pyridine, and Et<sub>3</sub>N in chloroform, r.t., 4 h)

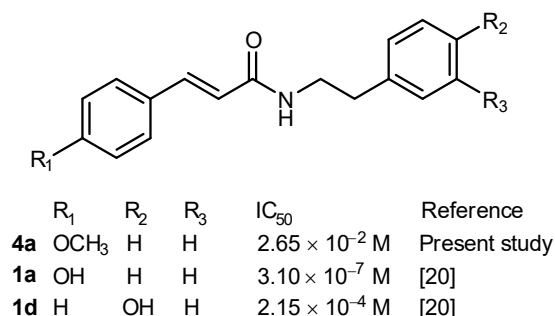
For compound **4b**, the most shielding signals were from C-1' and C-3' of morpholine moiety. Both signals appeared in different chemical shifts because the morpholine ring had an envelope conformation, which cannot be inverted at room temperature [39]. C-1' was closer to the oxygen of the carbonyl group than C-3', and C-1' appeared at a more deshielding chemical shift than C-3'. A signal at  $\delta$  66.99 ppm confirmed the two C-2' atoms of morpholine moiety, which are next to the oxygen atom. These results were in line with previous studies, which confirmed the presence of morpholine moiety by these three signals in their <sup>13</sup>C-NMR spectra [40-41]. Moreover, the most deshielding atoms of both compounds were C-1 (carbonyl carbon) and C-7 (aromatic carbon next to oxygen). The signals at  $\delta$  55.45 and 55.46 ppm represented methoxy carbon atom (C-10) of both **4a** and **4b**, respectively. In addition, the <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectra of these compounds also supported the structural elucidation of **4a** and **4b**, which show nine signal groups from 19 proton units and six signal groups from 17 proton units, respectively. All proton signals followed the chemical structure of **4a** and **4b** as *N*-phenethyl-*p*-

methoxycinnamide and *N*-morpholinyl-*p*-methoxycinnamide, respectively.

### Bioactivity Study

The newly cinnamide derivatives were tested as  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitors due to a large number of studies reporting that cinnamic acid derivatives had the potential as antidiabetic through inhibition of the  $\alpha$ -glucosidase enzyme. This enzyme was isolated from rice, and acarbose was used as a positive control in this study. The result of the inhibitory test was found that compound **4b** has a better inhibition (IC<sub>50</sub>) value of  $1.83 \times 10^{-2}$  M than **4a** was about  $2.65 \times 10^{-2}$  M. Both compounds still had a lower inhibition property if compared to acarbose ( $1.43 \times 10^{-3}$  M). Differentiation of activity from both compounds can be caused by the differences in molecular volumes of each compound. Compound **4b** had a more compact structure than **4a**, which had a phenethyl moiety. Structure comparison between **4a** and compound **1a** from another study (Fig. 1) showed that the methoxy group could influence bioactivity. In **1a**, which had a hydroxyl group, could





**Fig 1.** Structure and bioactivity of cinnamamide derivatives as an  $\alpha$ -glucosidase inhibitor

make inhibition activity stronger than if the hydroxyl group was changed to methoxy or hydrogen (**1d**) [20]. This result showed that there is a relationship between structure and compound activity.

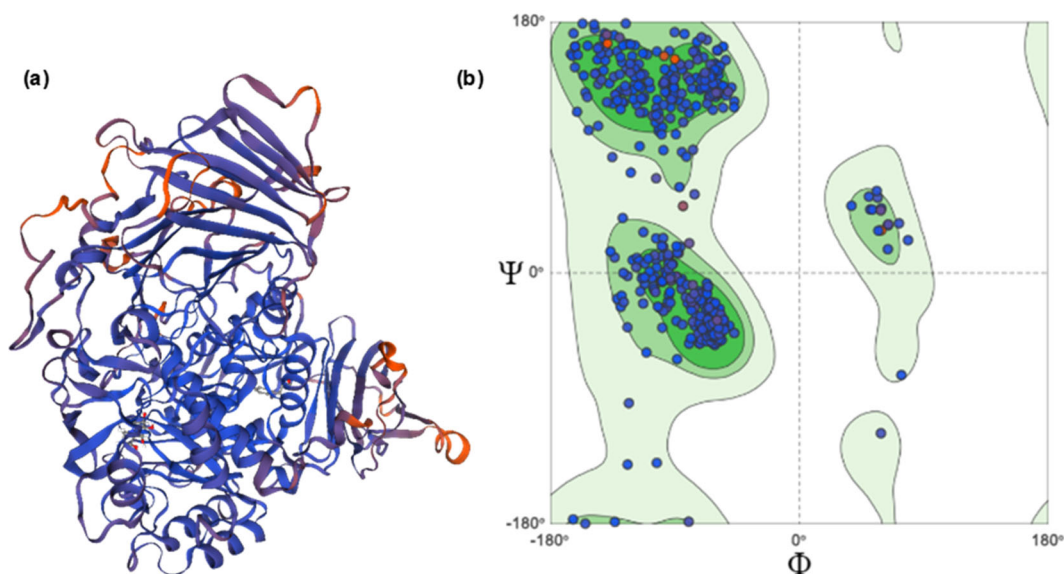
### Homology Modeling

The crystal structure of  $\alpha$ -glucosidase from rice has never been isolated before, and it makes some studies did homology modeling to create the sequence of the  $\alpha$ -glucosidase enzyme [23,29]. Another study has been attempted using different programs such as SWISS-MODEL and PDB ID 2G3M but only gave a similarity identity of about 31.35% [42], and our study resulting a better similarity index. Fig. 2 presented the result of homology modeling, showing that murine endoplasmic

reticulum  $\alpha$ -glucosidase II (PDB ID: 5IED) has a high sequence similarity index of 79%. The resulting model was validated using the Ramachandran plot, which describes the quality model through psi and phi angle. It was implied that the resulting model has a good quality due to almost residue being in the favored region (92.01%), 4.76% residue in the allowed region, 1.32% residue was rotamers outliers, and only 1.91% residue grouping as Ramachandran outliers. This model then continued to use in the molecular docking stage.

### Molecular Docking

Molecular docking analysis was carried out to find the interactions between two cinnamamide derivatives (**4a** and **4b**) against the  $\alpha$ -glucosidase enzyme. Fig. 3(a) displayed the two-dimension interaction between **4a** and  $\alpha$ -glucosidase enzyme. There were many interactions contributed, such as van der Waals and C-H bond that usually appeared in the docking results. Despite the absence of a hydrogen bond, there were many  $\pi$  stacking interactions against protein residue, such as  $\pi$ -anion interactions with Asp397 and  $\pi$ -sulfur with Met511. The interaction between ligand **4b** with  $\alpha$ -glucosidase enzyme displayed in Fig. 3(b) showed that there was an additional interaction that was not found in **4a**, which was a hydrogen bond with His644 and Phe263.



**Fig 2.** The crystal structure resulted from homology modeling (a) and Ramachandran plot of the resulting homology model (b)

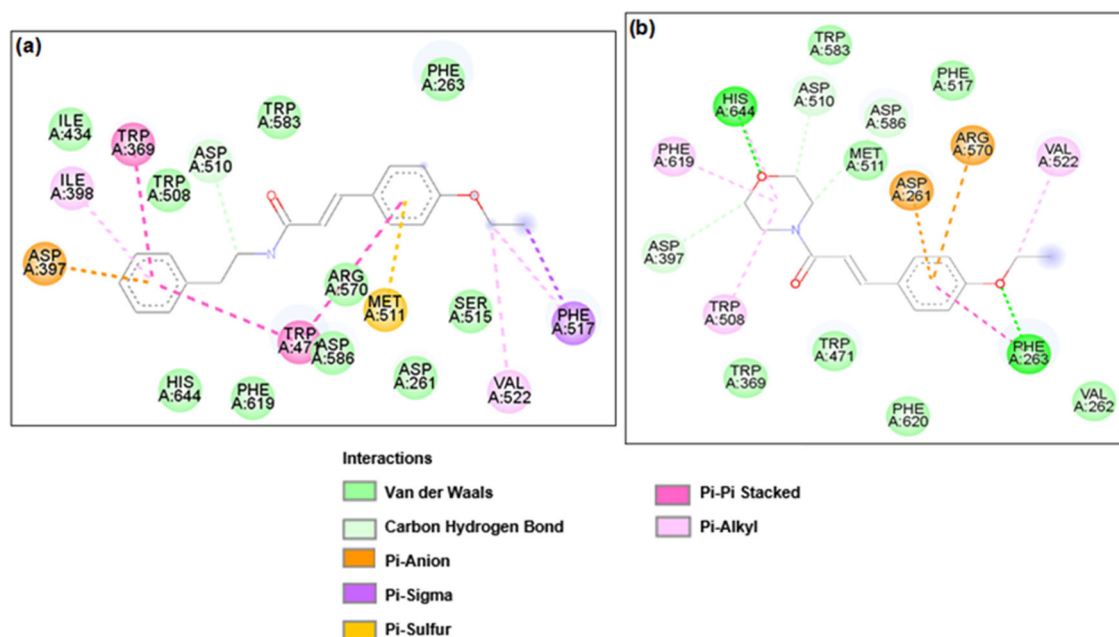


Fig 3. 2D-Interaction of (a) **4a** and (b) **4b** against  $\alpha$ -glucosidase enzyme

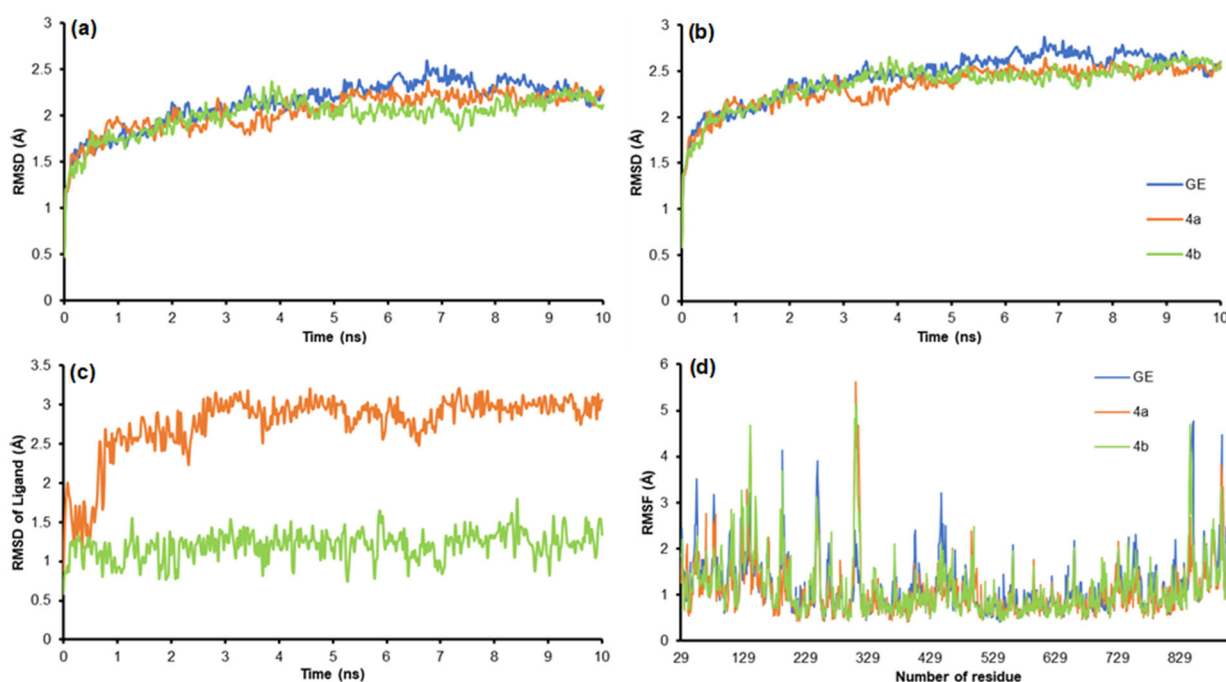
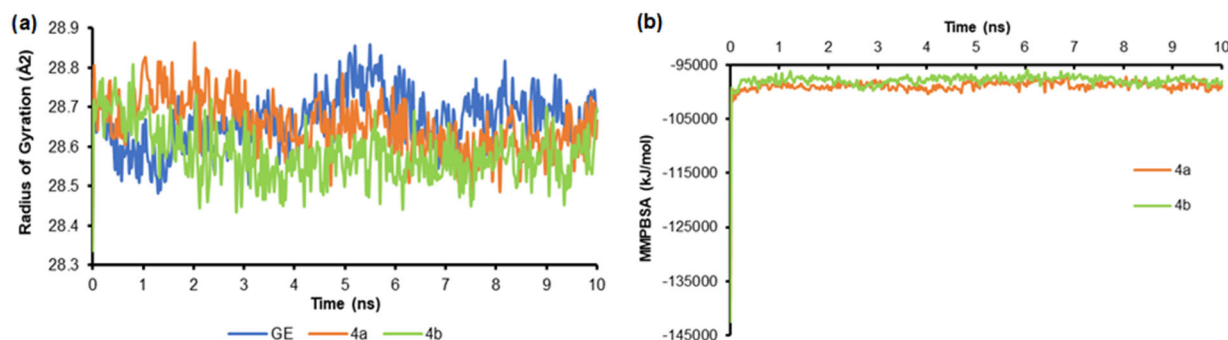


Fig 4. Result of molecular dynamics simulation (a) RMSD of Ca graph (b) RMSD total graph (c) RMSD of ligand and (d) root mean square fluctuation (RMSF) graph

This additional interaction made the **4b** compound bind strongly with the enzyme. It was also in line with the result of the binding energy calculation that compounds **4a** and **4b** had binding energy of  $-29.7064$  and  $-30.1666$  kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, respectively.

### Molecular Dynamics Simulation

The protein and ligand complex resulting in docking analysis was subjected to molecular dynamics simulation to evaluate the interaction stability. Fig. 4(a) and 4(b) presented the root mean square deviation (RMSD) graph



**Fig 5.** (a) Radius of gyration plot of glucosidase enzyme (GE) compared with the complex of GE and ligand (b) MM-PBSA plot of each ligand

of carbon alpha and RMSD total of each complex compared with the  $\alpha$ -glucosidase enzyme. All complexes showed the RMSD value around 2 until 2.5 Å, indicating that the addition of ligands did not make any significant change in the structure of the enzyme. It was also supported by the result of root mean square fluctuation (RMSF) data (Fig. 4(d)), which showed that the addition of ligand in the structure of the enzyme did not change the number of residues significantly. Simulation in 10 ns also exhibited that ligand **4b** had a more stable structure than **4a** because of the lower RMSD value (Fig. 4(c)). The higher deviation of structure **4a** can be caused by the presence of the methylene group.

Evaluation of the complex equilibrium was done by checking the radius of gyration from each complex. Fig. 5(a) presents the analysis results that the minimum value of the graph shows the protein condition in a folded term. On the other hand, the maximum value presents the protein conformation when unfolded condition [43]. A comparison between a single protein and the protein complexing with ligands showed that the addition of ligands did not change the whole conformation of the protein due to the lower fluctuation. The complex energy was also evaluated using Molecular Mechanics Poisson-Boltzmann Surface Area (MM-PBSA) method [44], which is shown in Fig. 5(b). After 10 ns simulation time, the energy of complex **4a** and **4b** was quite similar and stable during simulation time. The average binding energy value of ligands **4a** and **4b** was -98980.8 and -97696.7 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>. This binding energy was in line with the RMSD plot.

## ■ CONCLUSION

Ethyl-*p*-methoxycinnamate isolated from aromatic ginger (*Kaempferia galanga* L.) was successfully converted into two amide compounds, namely *N*-phenethyl-*p*-methoxycinnamamide and *N*-morpholinyl-*p*-methoxycinnamamide. Both compounds had a melting point of 110–120 and 96–98 °C, respectively. Spectroscopy data from FTIR, <sup>1</sup>H-, and <sup>13</sup>C-NMR showed the presence of peaks to prove the successful synthesis stage. *In vitro* bioactivity test was resulting that compound **4b** had a better IC<sub>50</sub> value of about 1.83 × 10<sup>-2</sup> M. Binding energy result of compounds **4a** and **4b** in molecular dynamics simulation had a near value of about -98980.8 and -97696.7 kJ mol<sup>-1</sup>, respectively. Stability analysis of each complex in molecular dynamics simulation showed that the addition of ligand did not significantly change the structure of the enzyme. Furthermore, *in vitro* result was supported by *in silico* test using molecular docking and molecular dynamics simulation.

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## ■ AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Herlina Rasyid conducted research design, writing, homology modeling, and molecular docking. Firdaus, Nunuk Hariani Soekamto, Syadza Firdausiah, and



Seniwati conducted the synthesis process and bioactivity test, Reynaldi and Andi Eka Sri Rahayu conducted the conversion stage, Riska Mardiyanti conducted writing and formatting article, and Wahyu Dita Saputri conducted molecular dynamics simulation, writing, and revising the manuscript. All authors agreed to the final version of this manuscript.

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