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Molecular Docking Studies of Phytochemicals from Curcuma longa against Trehalose-6-Phosphate Phosphatases of Pathogenic Microbes

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Abstract

Trehalose-6-phosphate phosphatases (TPP) are crucial enzymes used by pathogenic microbes for trehalose sugar biosynthesis, which is later beneficial for infection and proliferation. Therefore, inhibition of TPP proteins becomes the main focus for combating pathogenic microbial infection. This study aims to investigate the binding interactions between selected phytochemicals from *Curcuma longa* against TPP enzymes regarding the binding affinities and the presence of non-covalent interactions using molecular docking software. Molecular docking of *C. longa* phytochemicals against TPP was performed utilizing various software, including PyMol, Discovery Studio Biovia 2021, AutoDock Vina, and AutoDock Tools version 1.5.7. In silico molecular docking analysis using AutoDock Vina was done to predict the binding energy and interactions of 30 ligands that belong to *C. longa* with TPP proteins from *Cryptococcus neoformans* (PDB: 5DX9), *Candida albicans* TPP C-terminal domain (PDB: 5DXI) and TPP from *Salmonella typhimurium* in complex with trehalose (PDB: 6UPD), whereas ampicillin, fluconazole and isoniazid act as the drugs control. The three-dimensional (3D) models of TPP docked with 30 phytochemicals revealed that most of them have good binding affinities to the TPP enzyme. Interestingly, anthraquinones exhibited among the highest binding affinities, ΔG : -8.4, -8.1 and -7.5 kcal/mol. In addition, quercetin is one of the ligands that exhibit the strongest binding affinity, which is -9.3 kcal/mol interaction between TPP from *C. neoformans*, and affinity binding of -7.3 and -6.2 kcal/mol interaction with TPP from *C. albicans* and *S. typhimurium* respectively. These findings suggest that turmeric phytochemicals have some potential to act as TPP inhibitors, which could contribute toward the future development of new drugs against TPP-producing pathogenic microbes. The data presented warrant validation using in vitro and in vivo assays. © 2024 Malaysian Institute of Chemistry. All rights reserved.

Author Keywords

binding affinity; *Curcuma longa*; new generation drugs; phytochemicals, molecular docking; Trehalose-6-phosphate phosphatases

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