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Deciphering the Mechanism of Action *Cosmos caudatus* Compounds Against Breast Neoplasm: A Combination of Pharmacological Networking and Molecular Docking Approach with Bibliometric Analysis

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Cosmos caudatus is a widely used traditional medicinal plant in Indonesia for cancer treatment. However, the mechanism of action of plants in treating breast neoplasms remains unclear. Thus, the active ingredients of *C. caudatus* and possible molecular pathways against breast neoplasms were investigated using pharmacological networks. The active compounds were screened using Lipinski and ADME parameters. Targets for the compounds were obtained using SwissTargetPrediction. Target diseases were identified using the Therapeutic Target Database, whereas disease pathways were analyzed using the Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes. Network pharmacology was constructed using Cytoscape. Protein-protein interactions were constructed using STRING. Gene ontology and KEGG were analyzed using DAVID. Molecular docking confirmed that the compounds and targets exhibited the best interactions. The compounds, targets, and pathways with the highest degrees in the breast neoplasm network were eriodictyol, ABCC1, and signal transduction, respectively. EGFR is the key target of PPIs. GO enrichment in BP, MF, CC, and KEGG regulated NF-KB transcription factor activity, chromatin, transcription coactivator binding, and pathways in cancer, respectively. Molecular docking with the best score on interaction 5-O-methylvisammioside-SLC2A1 (PDB ID: 6THA) (– 10.3 kcal mol–1). The compound 5-O-methylvisammioside may have pharmacological activity in breast cancer through signal transduction pathways.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Cosmos caudatus (Asteraceae) is known as a kenikir in Indonesia. It has been widely used in traditional medicine because of its pharmacological activities and beneficial effects on human health. This plant, mainly its leaves, is widely utilized for treating diabetes, osteoporosis, hyperlipidemia, cancer, and hypertension; and is used as an antibacterial, antifungal, antioxidant, and anti-inflammatory agent. The leaves can be consumed in the form of fresh vegetables or tea drinks, either alone or in combination with other plants (Ahda *et al*., 2023; Cheng *et al*., 2015; Firdaus *et al*., 2021; Rafi *et al*., 2023; Sharifuldin *et al*., 2016; Yusoff *et al*., 2021), as well as anti-aging skin (Loo *et al*., 2023). The potential of this plant is even more promising because of its shallow toxic effects and because it can be consumed without risk (Ahda *et al*., 2023; Cheng *et al*., 2015; Herlina *et al*., 2021). Many in vitro tests, in vivo experiments, and clinical trials have been conducted to confirm the potential of this plant (Ahda *et al*., 2023).

The leaves of this plant have been reported to contain compounds such as flavonoids and their derivatives, other phenolics, and volatile oils (Ahda *et al*., 2023; Firdaus *et al*., 2021; Rafi *et al*., 2023; Seyedreihani *et al*., 2017; Sharifuldin *et al*., 2016). Metabolomic approaches identified compounds such as quercetin, kaempferol, myricetin, catechin, luteolin, apigenin, quercetin 3-O-rhamnoside (quercitrin), quercetin 3-O-glucoside, quercetin 3-Oarabinofuranoside, rutin, phenolic acid, chlorogenic acid, α-Linolenic acid, myo-inositol, diterpenoids, costunolide, and stigmasterol which have potential in the treatment of diabetes mellitus (Ahda *et al*., 2023; Cheng *et al*., 2015). Essential oils such as α-Cadinene, (E)-Ocimene, 2,6-Dimethyl-1,3,5,7-octatetraene, α-Copaene, β-Elemene, caryophyllene, α-Humulene, γ-Muurolene, Bergamotene, β-Selinene, Bicyclogermacrene, α-Farnesene, δ-Cadinene, stigmasterol, lutein, 4,4' bipyridine, and costunolide which have reported to possess antimutagenic, antimicrobial, and antifungal properties (Ahda *et al*., 2023; Lee & Vairappan, 2011; Yusoff *et al*., 2021). Quercetin glycosides, chlorogenic, neo-chlorogenic, and cryptochlorogenic compounds act as antioxidants (Firdaus *et al*., 2021; Rafi *et al*., 2023; Shui *et al*., 2005; Widiyantoro & Harlia, 2021). Catechin, quercetin, rutin, kaempferol, and chlorogenic acid are antihyperlipidemic compounds (Rahman *et al*., 2017). Ascorbic acid, quercetin, and chlorogenic acid are anti-inflammatory (Cheng *et al*., 2015). C. caudatus leaf extract is reported to have activity against HeLa cells, so it has enormous potential for inhibiting cancer cell proliferation, especially breast cancer. Nevertheless, the molecular profile of the compound, target, disease, pathway, and their mechanisms remain unknown. Networking pharmacology and molecular docking methods can offer a preliminary understanding of the underlying mechanisms.

Pharmacological networking is a comprehensive approach that can predict the interactions between compounds, target genes, diseases, and pathways, thus providing an overview of the mechanisms underlying the treatment of a particular disease. On the other hand, molecular docking is a computational technique to predict the best interaction and binding affinity between a ligand and a protein. The combination of both can provide scientific support and new technologies for rational clinical drug use and development (Huang *et al*., 2024; Syahruni *et al*., 2023; Umar *et al*., 2023). In this study, we explored the possible active compounds, targets, diseases, and pathways, as well as the molecular mechanisms of the active compounds in treating breast neoplasms using pharmacological networking and molecular docking. The research experiments' flowchart is shown in **Figure 1**.

To support this research, a bibliometric analysis was performed to understand the trend and development of research on integration network pharmacology and molecular docking

in breast neoplasm treatment. Bibliometric analysis has been widely applied to support various types of research (Demir *et al*., 2024; Ellili, 2024; Husain *et al*., 2023; Lim & Kumar, 2024; Sahidin *et al*., 2023; Solihah *et al*., 2024).

Figure 1. Flowchart of the current research exploring the mechanisms of action of compounds from Cosmos caudatus for the treatment of breast neoplasm by network pharmacology and molecular docking. GO (gene ontology), BP (biological process), MF (molecular function), CC (cellular component), KEGG (Kyoto encyclopedia of genes and genomes), PPI (protein-protein interaction), ADME (absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion).

2. METHODS

2.1. Bibliometric literature review analysis

Bibliometric analysis was used to support this research. The method used refers to Al Husaeni & Nandiyanto (2022). This analysis uses Publish or Perish (PoP) ver. 8.12.4612 (https://harzing.com/resources/publish-or-perish) and VOSviewer ver. 1.6.20. (https://www.vosviewer.com/), a Google Scholar database with the keywords "network pharmacology and molecular docking" from 2017–2024 (last seven years), and a maximum of 1000 results (including citations and patents). The data was downloaded and converted into *.csv and *.ris formats. Fields from which terms will be extracted by title and abstract fields, counting method using binary counting, the minimum number of occurrences of a term by five (threshold).

2.2. Chemical compounds of *Cosmos caudatus*

Through a metabolite profiling approach, we collected the chemicals we discovered from Cosmos caudatus from our earlier study (Rafi *et al*., 2023). Online databases, such as ChemSpider (http://www.chemspider.com/) (Pence & Williams, 2010), PubChem (https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/) (Kim *et al*., 2016), KNapSAck Family (http://www.knapsackfamily.com/KNApSAcK_Family/) (Afendi *et al*., 2012), Molbase (www.molbase.com), SpectraBase (https://spectrabase.com/), and Traditional Chinese Medicine Systems Pharmacology Database and Analysis Platform (TCMSP) (https://tcmspe.com/tcmsp.php) (Ru *et al*., 2014) provided the chemical structures and compound IDs. If these formats were not discovered in the database, chemical structures were further examined using MarvinSketch 19.6 (https://chemaxon.com/products/marvin) to retrieve canonical SMILES and PDB subsequently, using the acquired data in the form of compounds, canonical SMILES, and compound IDs. In this case, a database is created (Umar *et al*., 2023).

2.3. Drug-likeness prediction of absorption parameters of the chemical components of *Cosmos caudatus*

Molinspiration Cheminformatics was used to calculate the absorbance parameters (physicochemical properties, lipophilicity, and drug-likeness) to follow the "five principles" of drug absorption: relative molecular mass (BM) ≤500, hydrogen bond acceptors (nON) ≤10, hydrogen donors (nOHNH) ≤5, molar refractivity 40-130, coefficient partition in water-lipid (miLogP) ≤5, and bioavailability ≥30% (Syahruni *et al*., 2023). Only compounds that met the absorption parameters were analyzed in this study.

2.4. Screening and prediction targets

The Swiss online platform databases Target Prediction (http://swisstargetprediction.ch/) (Daina *et al*., 2019) and SuperPred (http://prediction.charite.de/) (Nickel *et al*., 2014) were used to target candidate compounds that satisfied absorbance requirements (in the form of canonical SMILES). For network analysis, the top ten targets from the screening of the findings were selected.

2.5. Disease activity screening

The selected targets were subsequently evaluated using the Therapeutic Target Database (TTD) (https://db.idrblab.org/ttd/) (Chen *et al*., 2002) and the Comparative Toxicogenomics Database (CTD) (http://ctdbase.org/) (Davis *et al*., 2023) to acquire the disease categories of targets that fulfill the requirements. Next, a network was constructed using the top ten target disease candidates identified at this stage.

2.6. Screening and prediction of disease pathways

The Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) (https://www.genome.jp/kegg/) (Kanehisa & Goto, 2000) was used to examine data from the top ten diseases produced by TTD and CTD analysis (p-value <0.01) for disease pathways. Disease pathways linked to breast neoplasms were predicted using the top ten disease pathways.

2.7. Compound–target–disease–pathway network construction

To construct multi-compound–multi-target, multi-target–multi-disease, and multidisease–multi-pathway interaction networks, the active compounds of C. caudatus were imported into Cytoscape 3.10.1 software together with their possible targets, diseases, and pathways. The network was analyzed using Network Analyzer (Umar *et al*., 2023) and visualized using Cytoscape ver. 3.10.1 (https://cytoscape.org/). The network connections generated were assessed using topological properties such as degree, betweenness centrality, and closeness centrality values (Chen *et al*., 2024).

2.8. Construction of a protein-protein interaction network

The gene/protein interactions of the primary targets derived from C. caudatus were identified using the STRING search tool version 11.0 (https://string-db.org). With the highest degree of confidence, overlap was predicted, requiring a minimum interaction score of 0.900 (Homo sapiens). The protein-protein interaction (PPI) networks might be visualized by

exporting the PPI data from STRING with a threshold of >0.4 to Cytoscape ver. 3.10.1 (Shannon *et al*., 2003) by transferring the network to the Cytoscape tool. The significance of core targets is indicated by degree values in PPI network analysis. Umar *et al*. (2023) state that PPI networks use edges to describe protein-protein connections. The higher the number of lines in the network, the stronger the connection.

2.9. Gene ontology and pathway analysis

The Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) and Gene Ontology (GO) pathway analyses were carried out using STRING ver. 11.0 (https://string-db.org) (Szklarczyk *et al*., 2019) and the DAVID Bioinformatics Resources 6.8 server (https://david.ncifcrf.gov/home.jsp) (Sherman *et al*., 2022). GO enrichment was used to profile the biological process (BP), cellular component (CC), and molecular function (MF) terms of the retrieved targets. In contrast, KEGG pathway enrichment was utilized to identify significant biological pathways. The selected items have p-values and false discovery rate (FDR) values less than 0.01 (Umar *et al*., 2023). The FDR was computed using the Bonferroni procedure. We selected the top 15 KEGG pathways or GO enrichments. The data was analyzed using SRplot (http://www.bioinformatics.com.cn/en) to illustrate the GO and KEGG enrichment results.

2.10. Molecular docking experiment

Compound CIDs and two-dimensional (2D) structures of ligands were taken from the PubChem data repository (https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/) (Kim *et al*., 2021) and the RCSB PDB (http://www.rcsb.org/) provided the proteins (receptors) that matched the targets (specific to Homo sapiens) (Goodsell *et al*., 2020). These target genes' PDB IDs were obtained from the NCBI (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gene/) and the Protein Data Bank (PDB) (Burley *et al*., 2017). Using the MMFF94 force field and Steepest Descent algorithm, ligand optimization was carried out using the Chimera-1.17.3 program (UCSF Chimera; https://www.cgl.ucsf.edu/chimera/). PyMOL version 2.5 (https://pymol.org/2) was utilized to make structural corrections to the protein, including eliminating ligands and water. PyRx AutoDock Vina (https://pyrx.sourceforge.io/) version was used to calculate the binding energy, RMSD, amino acid residues, and bond type for the optimized ligand and receptor. Furthermore, PyMOL and BIOVIA Discovery Studio Visualizer (https://www.3dsbiovia.com) were used to visualize the ligand and receptor docking results (Umar *et al*., 2023). The lowest bond energy value (high docking value) and hydrogen bonds were selected as the best candidates.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Bibliometric analysis

In the initial search, the selected threshold found 1798 terms, and 94 met the threshold. In 2024, publications on network pharmacology and molecular docking reached 77 articles (accessed on 25 May 2024). In 2023, the number of publications was 170. In 2022, the number of publications was 103.

The increase in research on network pharmacology and molecular docking can be used as a consideration for research, especially for traditional medicinal materials that will be carried out in the future. Considerations that can be made include whether the research trend regarding the pharmacological activity of natural materials is still relevant or not (Al Husaeni & Nandiyanto, 2022; Sahidin *et al*., 2023).

A minimum of five was used for each term relationship in VOSviewer. The results of the VOSviewer analysis resulted in 51 items, 7 clusters, 575 links, and 3019 total link strengths. Cluster 1 resulted in 13 items, cluster 2 with 12 items, cluster 3 with 8 items, cluster 4 with 6 items, cluster 5 with 5 items, cluster 6 with 4 items, and cluster 7 with 3 items. Each cluster describes the relationship between two or more terms. VOSviewer has three different representations for bibliometric mapping. These representations include network, overlay, and density visualizations. The colored circles are labels for each keyword. The number of keywords in the title and abstract is closely related to the size of the circle. The size of each circle is closely related to the frequency of the keyword (Husain *et al*., 2023).

Figures 2a and 2b show the overlay and density visualization, respectively. In the overlay, the more recent the study, the brighter the visualized color. From the research data, the color of research below 2023 (2022.0–2022.6) is dark blue, while research entering 2023 is bright yellow. Figure 2a illustrates that research related to network pharmacology has decreased, but the integration of network pharmacology with other fields such as molecular docking and cancer is still lacking. The density visualization (Figure 2b) shows that the research has a density visualization with high brightness (the denser), indicating that the keyword is used most often, and vice versa, if the color fades and blends with the background, the less often it is used in research (Al Husaeni & Nandiyanto, 2022; Muñoz-Leiva *et al*., 2012).

Figure 2. The visualization of the progress of network pharmacology and docking molecular research. (a) co-word map overlay visualization and (b) co-word map density visualization. The lighter the yellow color in (a) and (b), the more research is related to the item.

3.2. Active compounds of *Cosmos caudatus*

Using LC-HRMS for metabolite profiling, a total of 70 active compounds were extracted. Some alkaloid and steroid groups were among the detected chemicals, but phenolic and terpenoid groups predominated (**Table 1**).

Table 1. The absorption parameters of *C. caudatus* compounds use the Lipinski rule of five and the drug-likeness parameter.

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Table 1. (Continue). The absorption parameters of *C. caudatus* compounds use the Lipinski rule of five and the drug-likeness parameter.

Notes: *not eligible, **no target gene. MW (molecular weight), nON (H-bond acceptor), nOHNH (H-bond donor), and MR (molar refractivity).

3.3. Absorption parameters of chemical compounds

In this investigation, the Lipinksi rules of five (MW, nON, nOHNH, MR, and miLogP) and drug-likeness were satisfied by 40 of the 70 active compounds found in *C. caudatus*. **Table 1** presents specific information about the compounds and screening parameter parameters. Most compounds that were screened utilizing Lipinski's rule of five did not match the requirements for molecular weight (MW), H-bond donors (nOHNH), and H-bond acceptors (nON).

3.4. Prediction and validation of chemical components' target

Swiss Target Prediction and SuperPred are used to examine further compounds that meet the Lipinski rule of five and drug-likeness parameters to determine their targets. Of the 40 compounds, 38 had targets, and two—ingenol and methyl chlorogenate—did not have any targets in the examined database. After the identical proteins were removed from the analysis, 230 target proteins were found. From them, 165 targets were found.

3.5. Disease and pathway screening of *Cosmos caudatus* **compounds**

Two hundred thirty diseases had been identified by disease screening using the Therapeutic Target Database (TTD) and the Comparative Toxicogenomics Database of targets. Because some targets matched the same disease as other targets, 91 diseases were found out of them. After removing the same pathway data and conducting a search applying disease data, 32 pathways were identified.

3.6. Network pharmacology

The compound, target, disease, and pathway data were then selected to build a general multi-compound–multi-target–multi-disease–multi-pathway network (**Figure 3**) with topological features for evaluation of the formed network interactions presented in **Tables 2- 5** and cancer-specific networks (**Figure 4**), as well as breast neoplasms-specific networks (**Figure 5**) with topological features in **Tables 6-9**. The general pharmacology network resulted in 394 nodes and 742 edges. The cancer-specific network generated 138 and 169 nodes and edges, respectively, while the breast neoplasms network generated 41 nodes and 54 edges. We identified compounds and targets with the most degrees in the breast neoplasms-specific network, namely eriodictyol, cratoxyarborenone E, gamma-mangostin, isorhamnetin, bisdemethoxycurcumin each 3; and ABCC1 5 degrees; through the signal transduction pathway. The greater the number of degrees formed in the network, the greater the possibility of the compound, target, disease, and pathway being the key and primary mechanism in treating breast neoplasms from *C. caudatus*.

3.7. Protein-protein interaction network

In the protein-protein interaction network, nodes and edges, 40 and 229, respectively (**Figure 6**), were formed, with topological features detailed in **Table 10**. The three proteins with the highest degree, namely EGFR and NFKB1, as well as EP300 and H3-3B, were 30, 24, and 23, respectively. The nodes identified in the PPI network represent the linkages during the development of breast neoplasms.

Figure 3. A graphic representation of the interaction between *C. caudatus*'s multiple compounds, multiple targets, multiple diseases, and multiple pathways using a pharmacological networking diagram. Yellow nodes represent the compound, a target is pink, a disease is light blue, and a disease pathway is red. The blue nodes in the network represent compounds, targets, diseases, and pathways associated with cancer.

Table 2. Topological features (betweenness centrality, closeness centrality, degree, indegree, outdegree) are all compounds in the network.

Table 2. (Continue). Topological features (betweenness centrality, closeness centrality, degree, indegree, outdegree) are all compounds in the network.

Table 3. Topological features (betweenness centrality, closeness centrality, degree, indegree, outdegree) all target network (top 10 based on degree value).

Table 4. Topological features (betweenness centrality, closeness centrality, degree, indegree, outdegree) all disease networks (top 10 based on degree value).

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Table 5. Topological features (betweenness centrality, closeness centrality, degree, indegree, outdegree) are all pathway networks (top 10 based on degree value).

Figure 4. Pharmacological networks describing cancer-specific multi-compound–multitarget–multi-disease–multi-pathway interactions. Light brown nodes represent compounds, blue represents targets, pink represents disease, and blue represents disease pathways. Red nodes in the network system depict compounds, targets, diseases, and pathways associated with breast neoplasms.

Figure 5. Connectivity between multiple compounds, targets, diseases, and pathways specific to breast neoplasms. The nodes' produced degree and the number of edges interacting with them are shown by the more significant and profound blue color developed on them.

Table 6. Topological features (betweenness centrality, closeness centrality, degree, indegree, outdegree) are all compound networks, especially of breast neoplasms (top 10 based on degree value).

Table 7. Topological features (betweenness centrality, closeness centrality, degree, indegree, outdegree) all target networks, especially breast neoplasms (top 10 based on degree value).

Table 8. Topological features (betweenness centrality, closeness centrality, degree, indegree, outdegree) disease network, especially of breast neoplasms.

Table 9. Topological features (betweenness centrality, closeness centrality, degree, indegree, outdegree) pathway network especially of breast neoplasms.

Figure 6. An overview of primary targets and breast neoplasms that create protein-protein interactions (PPIs). Larger nodes and a darker pink color show more interactions between more proteins.

Table 10. Topological features (betweenness centrality, closeness centrality, clustering coefficient, and degree) of protein-protein interaction (PPI) network analysis (top 10 based on degree value).

3.8. Gene ontology and the KEGG pathway

GO analysis of target genes using BP, CC, and MF parameters positively regulated NFkappaB transcription factor activity, chromatin, and transcriptional coactivator binding. The KEGG pathway yielded pathways in cancer, microRNA in cancer, and chemical carcinogenesisreceptor activation as the top three pathways. This analysis was calculated using a p-value <0.01 and the Bonferroni method. The results of the top 15 GOs are presented in **Figure 7**.

3.9. Active component-main target of molecular docking molecular

By observing the compounds' two-dimensional (2-D) structures after docking with the target, 18 compounds that directly interact with the target were identified. Some compounds interact with the target through hydrogen bonding, and three compounds interact with the target without hydrogen bonding, namely kaempferol–4C3Z, fallacinol–7WCV, and eriodictyol–6IQ5. The lower the binding energy after docking, the more stable the conformation. The three compounds with the best binding energy are 5-Omethylvisammioside-SLC2A1 (6tha) (-10.3 kcal mol⁻¹), isorhamnetin-CYP1B1 (6iq5) (-10.1 kcal mol⁻¹), and eriodictyol-CYP1B1 (6IQ5) (-10.0 kcal mol⁻¹). At this stage, the interaction between eriodictyol–CYP1B1 (6IQ5) has no hydrogen bonds, so the interaction of eriodictyol– 5UHP $(-9.0 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1})$ is the best alternative. The binding affinities and amino acid residues are detailed in **Table 11**. The ligand-receptor interactions of the three complexes with the most hydrogen bonds were identified on 5-O-methylvisammioside–6THA, namely, Trp412, Ser80, and Asn288. Part of the docking results (3-D and 2-D) are shown in **Figure 8a-c**.

Figure 7. Gene ontology (GO) terms for cellular component (CC), molecular function (MF), biological process (BP), and KEGG pathway direct top 15, respectively, are associated with breast neoplasms.

Table 11. Ligand, receptor target, binding affinity, and amino acid residues of computational docking on the active site of *Cosmos caudatus* compounds. Bold letters indicate hydrogen bonds.

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.17509/ijost.v9i2.71856 p- ISSN 2528-1410 e- ISSN 2527-8045 **Table 11**. (Continue). Ligand, receptor target, binding affinity, and amino acid residues of computational docking on the active site of *Cosmos caudatus* compounds. Bold letters indicate hydrogen bonds.

3.10. Discussion

This study reported 70 active compounds identified in C. caudatus. After screening, 40 active compounds were identified as having good ADME ability and drug-likeness. This parameter profile (applied as a preliminary evaluation of the drug properties of natural materials) can increase the success rate of drugs, save drug development costs, reduce side effects and drug toxicity, and further guide the rational clinical use of drugs and confirm the possibility of these compounds becoming drug candidates in the treatment of breast neoplasms (Olowosoke *et al*., 2024; Syahruni *et al*., 2023; Tabti *et al*., 2024). The most common route of drug delivery is the oral route; this route is widely applied in both local and systemic treatment, in addition to its advantages such as the convenience of drug administration, cost-effectiveness, and ease of manufacturing large-scale oral dosage forms (Alqahtani *et al*., 2021; Lou *et al*., 2023).

The network generally shows the targets, diseases, and pathways with the highest degree of CYP19A1, breast neoplasms, and signal transduction, respectively. Degree in the network shows the number of targets associated with nodes based on topological analysis; the more degree values indicated, the more critical the component or target is (Cao *et al*., 2024; Sun *et* *al*., 2024). Specifically in the breast neoplasms disease-specific network, the highest degree of compounds, targets, diseases, and pathways are eriodictyol, cratoxyarborenone E, gammamangostin, isorhamnetin, and bisdemethoxycurcumin; ABCC1; breast neoplasms; and signal transduction, respectively.

Eriodictyol was reported to suppress tumor growth, inhibit mitochondrial dysfunction, and downregulate Nrf2 (NF-E2-related factor-2) in tumor tissues (Deng *et al*., 2020; Islam *et al*., 2020), besides regulating ferroptosis and cell survival through Nrf2/HO-1/NQO1 signaling pathway in ovarian cancer (Wang *et al*., 2023). Decreased Nrf2 expression in breast cancer can degrade autophagic Keap1 (Shirvanian *et al*., 2024; Xue *et al*., 2024). Cratoxyarborenone E, a xanthones compound, may have effects against breast cancer, as this compound has been reported to have toxic properties on the human oral epidermoid carcinoma (KB) cell line (Yin Bok *et al*., 2023). Gamma-mangosteen and alpha-mangosteen inhibit breast cancer cell migration and induce cellular ROS levels in MDA-MB-231 cells; in particular, γ-mangosteen suppresses CXCR4 mRNA expression which may correlate with its activity in inhibiting MDA-MB-231 cell migration (Sarmoko *et al*., 2023), as well as inducing apoptosis and inhibiting metastasis of breast cancer through regulation of the RXRα-AKT Signaling Pathway (Zhu *et al*., 2021), besides that this compound is also reported to have anticancer activity and induce apoptosis in HT29 colorectal adenocarcinoma cells (Chang & Yang, 2012). Isorhamnetin exhibits antitumor effects in breast cancer, which are mediated by Akt and MEK signaling pathways (Hu *et al*., 2015), potent cytotoxic effects via ROS-dependent apoptotic pathway in MCF-7 cells (Wu *et al*., 2018), inhibits MDA-MB-231 cell invasion by decreasing the expression and activity of MMP-2 and MMP-9, potentially related to suppression of p38 MAPK and STAT3 (Li *et al*., 2015). Isorhamnetin was also reported to inhibit the EGFR-STAT3-PD-L1 signaling pathway and block cancer growth, significantly increasing the survival rate of healthy cells. The cell membrane receptor EGFR was identified as a direct target of isorhamnetin (Mei *et al*., 2024). Bisdemethoxycurcumin decreased breast cancer (MDA-MB-231) cell viability (Huang *et al*., 2020), effectively suppressed GPR161-mediated TNBC (triple negative breast cancer) metastasis through inhibiting Twist1/MMP9-induced EMT (epithelial-mesenchymal transition) (Chou *et al*., 2021). The multidrug resistance-associated protein 1 (MRP1) encoded by the ABCC1 gene is one of the most studied ABC (ATP-binding cassette) subfamily C transporters. ABCC1, in general, leads to cell proliferation, so by inhibiting ABCC1, cell proliferation will be inhibited (He *et al*., 2021; Kunická & Souček, 2014; Nedeljković *et al*., 2021).

The resulting protein-protein interactions result in the highest levels of EGFR and NFKB1. The amount of EGFR (the epidermal growth factor receptor) overexpression determines the degree of dysregulation of its natural functions (regulation of cell proliferation, differentiation, migration, and survival), and its use as an indicator of clinical outcome has been reported in several tumor types, including breast cancer (Hermawan *et al*., 2024; Maennling *et al*., 2019; Wang *et al*., 2024). The NFKB1 signaling pathway is one of the most important links between inflammation and tumorigenesis. NFKB1 is a superfamily of transcription factors that play important roles in several types of hematological and solid tumors, including breast cancer (Concetti & Wilson, 2018; Espinoza-Sánchez *et al*., 2019; Kim *et al*., 2016).

In this study, gene ontology in biological processes (BP) showed positive NF-kappaB transcription factor activity regulation. The NF-KB signaling pathway is one of the most important links between inflammation and tumorigenesis. NF-KB is a superfamily of transcription factors that play an essential role in several types of tumors, including breast cancer. The NF-KB family has been described as an important regulator of many biological

processes, including cell proliferation, differentiation, immune response, and inflammation. The family consists of five subunits: p50 (NF-KB1), p52 (NF-KB2), p65 (RelA), c-Rel (Rel), and RelB, which combine to form functional homo- and heterodimers (Jin *et al*., 2024; Pires *et al*., 2017). CC (cellular component) chromatin is a macromolecular structure composed of DNA and histone proteins, which play an important role in transcription factors, signaling pathways, and other signals altering gene activity and cellular phenotypes. DNA and histone proteins are modified to regulate accessibility and function, and changes in these modifications are one of the hallmarks of cancer (Kim *et al*., 2024; Tao *et al*., 2024). MF (transcription coactivator binding), activation of transcription factors promotes the transcription of genes associated with tumor proliferation, metastasis, and suppression of apoptosis (Ren *et al*., 2024). KEGG analysis reveals pathways in cancer and microRNAs in cancer. MicroRNA (miRNA) is important in gene regulation and biological processes. MiRNAs can be differentially expressed in normal and malignant tissues, possibly regulating tumor progression, invasion, and metastasis in cancer (Martino *et al*., 2024; Tluli *et al*., 2023).

Molecular docking is a computational technique used to reveal interactions between components (ligands) and targets (receptors) in a network, thereby increasing the accuracy of the network. The compounds 5-O-methylvisammioside, isorhamnetin, and eriodictyol interact with SLC2A1 and CYP1B1 through several types of bonds, including hydrogen bonds. The strength and weakness of the binding affinity of the ligand to the receptor are greatly influenced by hydrogen bonds (Chen *et al*., 2016; Itoh *et al*., 2019). Solute carrier family 2 (facilitated glucose transporter) member 1 (SLC2A1) protein, also known as glucose transporter type 1 (GLUT1), is associated with tumor progression and metastasis. In breast cancer, SLC2A1 expression is closely correlated with tumor grade, contributing to carcinogenesis and higher tumor progression (Cha *et al*., 2018; Wellberg *et al*., 2016; Yan *et al*., 2015). Cytochrome P450 1B1 (CYP1B1) catalyzes the metabolism of estrogen to produce metabolites that promote the development of breast cancer. By inhibiting CYP1B1, the development of breast cancer will be inhibited (Kwon *et al*., 2024; Zheng *et al*., 2024).

4. CONCLUSION

In summary, the pharmacological network shows that the main active components of C. caudatus, especially eriodictyol, cratoxyarborenone E, gamma-mangostin, isorhamnetin, and bisdemethoxycurcumin can act on multiple targets. C. caudatus compounds affect treating breast neoplasms, primarily through the signal transduction pathway in cancer. Molecular docking showed that 5-O-methylvisammioside, isorhamnetin, and darutigenol were the top three compounds, indicating that they may play an important role in treating breast neoplasms. However, the findings in this study are only based on computer simulations that need to be demonstrated through experimental protocols.

5. AUTHORS' NOTE

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article. Authors confirmed that the paper was free of plagiarism.

6. AVAILABILITY OF DATA AND MATERIALS

The datasets analyzed during the current study are available from Abdul Halim Umar (corresponding author) upon request.

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