

Antimalarial Activity of Some Organotin(IV) Chlorobenzoate Compounds against *Plasmodium falciparum*

Sutopo Hadi *, Mona Dwi Fenska, Rama Aji Wijaya, Noviany and Tati Suhartati

Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences,
University of Lampung, Bandar Lampung, Indonesia 35145

Abstract: This paper reported the comparative study on antimalarial activity of some organotin(IV) derivatives with some chlorobenzoic acid derivatives used as the ligands. The compounds were synthesized by reacting the intermediate products of dibutyltin(IV) oxide, diphenyltin(IV) dihydroxide and triphenyltin(IV) hydroxide, with chlorobenzoic acid. The antimalarial activity was performed against *Plasmodium falciparum*. The results showed that the IC₅₀ of the compounds tested were about the same with the chloroquine (2×10^{-3} µg/mL) used as the positive control, but unlike chloroquine which has been known to have resistance as antimalarial, these organotin(IV) compounds prepared are not resistant to the Plasmodium. The result also showed that the derivative of triphenyltin(IV) has higher IC₅₀ respective to others.

Keywords: antimalarial activity; comparative study; IC₅₀; organotin(IV) chlorobenzoate; *P. Falciparum*.

1. Introduction

Malaria, a disease caused by Plasmodium, has been known since a century ago and continues to be a significant public health problem in Indonesia and other tropical countries. Due to the broader effect caused by malaria, WHO pays attention to this disease by a program called Roll Back Malaria(RBM) where a few points of this program were immediate diagnoses and specific treatment to eradicate malaria¹⁻³. The malaria cases in Indonesia between the periods of 1997 – 2001 increased sharply, including in the Provinces of Java and Bali by ten times, while outside these Provinces were increased 4-5 times. These cases were also followed by resistance cases toward standard drugs used in the malaria treatments, the chloroquine and the sulfadoxine-pyrimethamine. In some provinces, there were more than 25% resistance cases which cause the use of these standard drugs to be much more limited; therefore efforts to find new potent antimalarial drugs are urgently required³.

The organotin(IV) compounds continue to attract many chemists because of their strong effect in many biological tests^{4,5}. The critical factor affecting their biological activities is determined by the organic type groups present in Sn atom⁶, whereas the nature of the anionic groups present is only as a secondary factor⁷. The investigations on the coordination of carboxylates and their derivatives into organotin compounds have led to the isolation of some new organotin(IV) carboxylates, and carboxylate derivatives which have

shown some engaging biological activities such as antitumor and anticancer⁸⁻¹¹, antimicrobial⁹⁻¹², antifungal activity^{6,12,13}, anticorrosion inhibitor¹⁴⁻¹⁷, antiplasmodial^{18,19} and the latest development of these compounds has led the new finding as antimalarial; therefore the investigation of organotin(IV) as possible antimalarial is still very challenging, and therefore have attracted much attention^{18,19}.

Based on the fact that organotin(IV) compounds have been found to have a promising result as an antimalarial activity, in this paper, we reported the application and antimalarial activity study of some organotin(IV) benzoate against *P. falciparum*.

2. Results and Discussion

The syntheses of organotin(IV) chlorobenzoate have successfully been prepared following the previous results. In this work, we synthesized three organotin(IV) chlorobenzoates of dibutyltin(IV) dichlorobenzoate, [(n-C₄H₉)₂Sn(OOCC₆H₄Cl)₂] (3), diphenyltin(IV)dichlorobenzoate[(C₆H₅)₂Sn(OOCC₆H₄Cl)₂] (6) and triphenyltin(IV) chlorobenzoate, [(C₆H₅)₃Sn(OOCC₆H₄Cl)] (9), from their chlorides [(n-C₄H₉)₂SnCl₂] (1), [(C₆H₅)₂SnCl₂] (4) and [(C₆H₅)₃SnCl] (7), respectively, where these reactions were conducted via [(n-C₄H₉)₂SnO] (2), [(C₆H₅)₂Sn(OH)₂] (5) and [(C₆H₅)₃SnOH] (8) respectively similar to the known procedure used^{10-13, 16-18}. The data of microanalysis for the compounds synthesized are tabulated in Table 1,

*Corresponding author: Sutopo Hadi

Email address: sutopo.hadi@fmipa.unila.ac.id

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where all values obtained are excellent and are close to the calculated values.

Some spectroscopy techniques have been applied to identify the compounds synthesized. The assignments of relevant FT-IR data are shown in Table 2. The presence of strong stretching band at 390 – 310 cm^{-1} is a characteristic band of Sn-Cl bond for starting materials (**1**, **4**, **7**). The Sn-Cl bond in **1**, for instance, occurred in the frequency of 334.2 cm^{-1} . The other

characteristic bands of this compound for butyl ligands as expected appeared as a stretching band at 1069 cm^{-1} , and bending vibration of C-H aliphatic stretch of the butyl at the frequency of 2956–2865 cm^{-1} . Once compound **1** is converted to **2**, the presence of the main stretching band for Sn-Cl diminished, while a new strong band at frequency of 417.4 cm^{-1} present as one of the main stretching bands. This band is characteristic for Sn-O bond in compound **2**.

Table 1. The microanalytical data of the organotin(IV) compounds synthesized.

Compound	Elemental analysis found (calculated)	
	C	H
$[(n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9)_2\text{SnCl}_2]$ (1)	31.4 (31.6)	6.0 (5.9)
$[(n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9)_2\text{SnO}]$ (2)	38.6 (38.6)	7.1 (7.3)
$[(n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9)_2\text{Sn}(\text{OOC}\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{Cl})_2]$ (3)	46.8 (46.7)	4.7 (4.6)
$[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_2\text{SnCl}_2]$ (4)	41.7 (41.9)	2.8 (2.9)
$[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_2\text{Sn}(\text{OH})_2]$ (5)	46.5 (46.9)	3.8 (3.9)
$[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_2\text{Sn}(\text{OOC}\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{Cl})_2]$ (6)	51.3 (51.6)	3.1 (2.98)
$[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3\text{SnCl}]$ (7)	55.8 (56.1)	4.0 (3.9)
$[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3\text{Sn}(\text{OH})]$ (8)	58.4 (58.9)	4.3 (4.4)
$[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3\text{Sn}(2\text{-OOC}\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{Cl})]$ (9)	57.2 (58.1)	3.8 (3.68)

The stretching band for butyls and their bending vibrations still appear as expected although the frequencies have been shifted. The formation of dibutyltin(IV) dichlorobenzoate compounds, $[(n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9)_2\text{Sn}(\text{OOC}\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{Cl})_2]$, (**3**) is confirmed by the strong asymmetric stretching bands of the carboxylate groups which is at ca. 1400 cm^{-1} and the symmetric

stretch at ca. 1600 cm^{-1} and also supported by the present of Sn-O stretching of the acid at 435 cm^{-1} , and the appearance of these bands is the critical success of the substitution reaction of **1** to **2**^{10-13, 16-18, 20}.

The FT-IR spectra change in the formation of compound **9** from **7** and **8** are shown in Fig. 1.

Table 2. The characteristic and important IR bands of the organotin(IV) compounds (cm^{-1}) synthesized.

Compound	3	6	9	References
Sn-O	434.4	594.0	735.42	800-400
Sn-O-C	1029.1	1238.2	1243.4	1050-900
Sn-Bu	674.4	-	-	740-660
CO₂asym	1419.1	1531.7	1557.5	1600-1400
CO₂sym	1558.1	1659.3	1630.4	1700-1550
C-H aliphatic	2954 – 2860	-	-	2960 – 2850
Phenyl	-	1467.0; 750.7	1428.4; 729.1	1450, 730

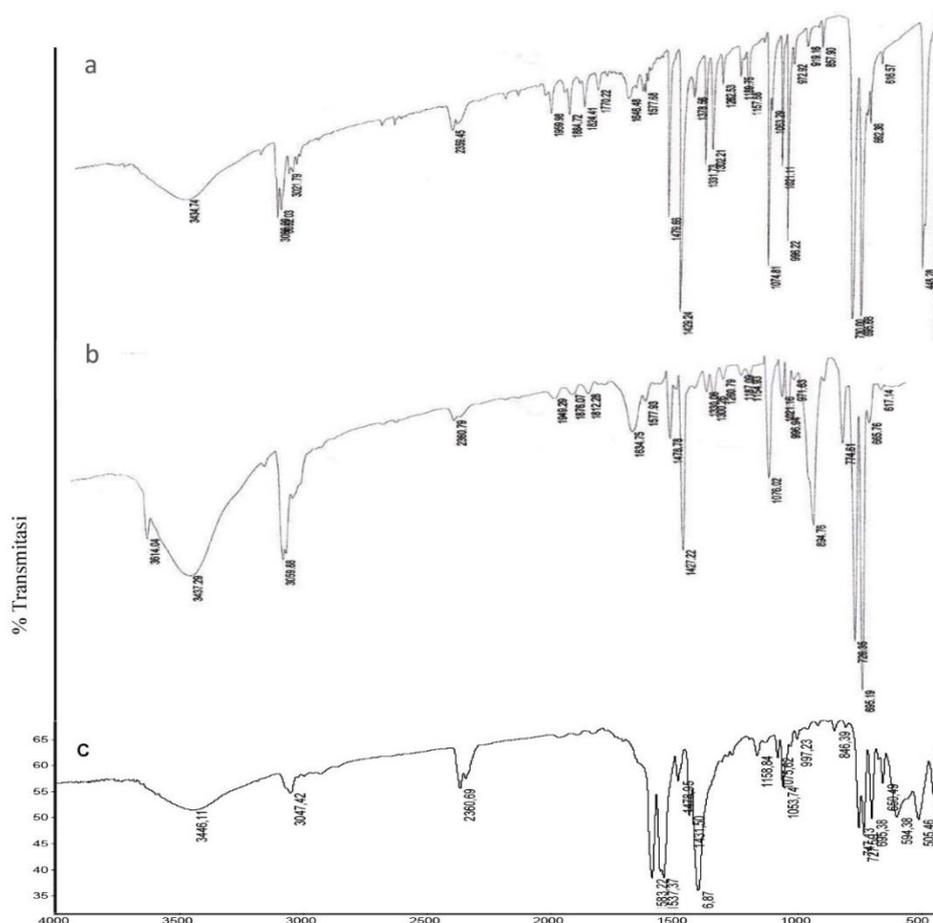


Figure 1. FT-IR spectra of (a) triphenyltin(IV) chloride (**7**); (b) triphenyltin(IV) hydroxide (**8**); (c) triphenyltin(IV) 2-hydroxybenzoate (**9**)

The results of UV analyses for the compounds tested to obtain λ_{\max} are shown in Table 3. From the data obtained, it is very clear the λ_{\max} for each compound in any steps of the reaction has been changed. The compound **1** has λ_{\max} of 210.7 nm, while compound **2** has λ_{\max} of 202.9 nm, although the shift is not big, this information gave an indication that there was a shift to a shorter λ_{\max} value when the conversion of compound **1** to **2** occurred. The wave-length shift to a shorter λ_{\max} could happen because of either the solvent used in the measurement or the effect of an auxochrome of the ligand. However, in this study, as the solvent used for all measurements was the same (methanol), the change in the λ_{\max} that occurred must

be due to the auxochrome effect. In the case of compound **1** and **2**, there is an oxide group which has electron drawing effect bigger in compound **2** than that of chloride group in **1**; thus the electron transition in **2** is hard to occur. As a result, the measured λ_{\max} was getting shorter in compound **2** than in compound **1**²⁰⁻²². Similar results are also observed for other changes as can be seen from Table 3. For example, in compound **3**, the electron drawing effect of 2-C₆H₄ClCOOH is less than chloride in **1**, so the electron transition in this molecule will be easier (the energy required is less), thus producing longer λ_{\max} , 291.3 nm.

Table 3. The λ_{\max} of the UV-Vis spectra of the organotin(IV) chlorobenzoate compounds.

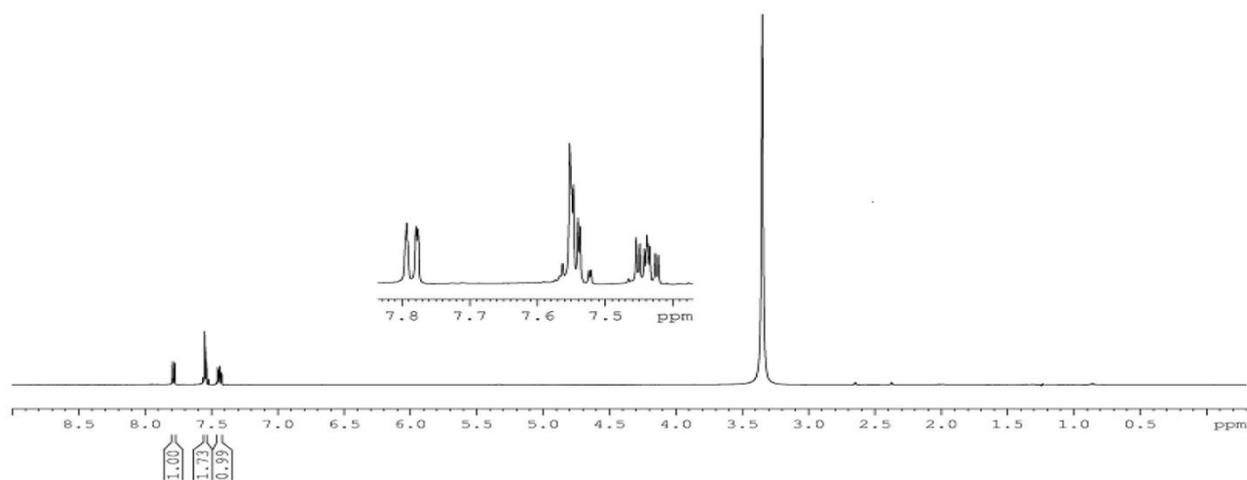
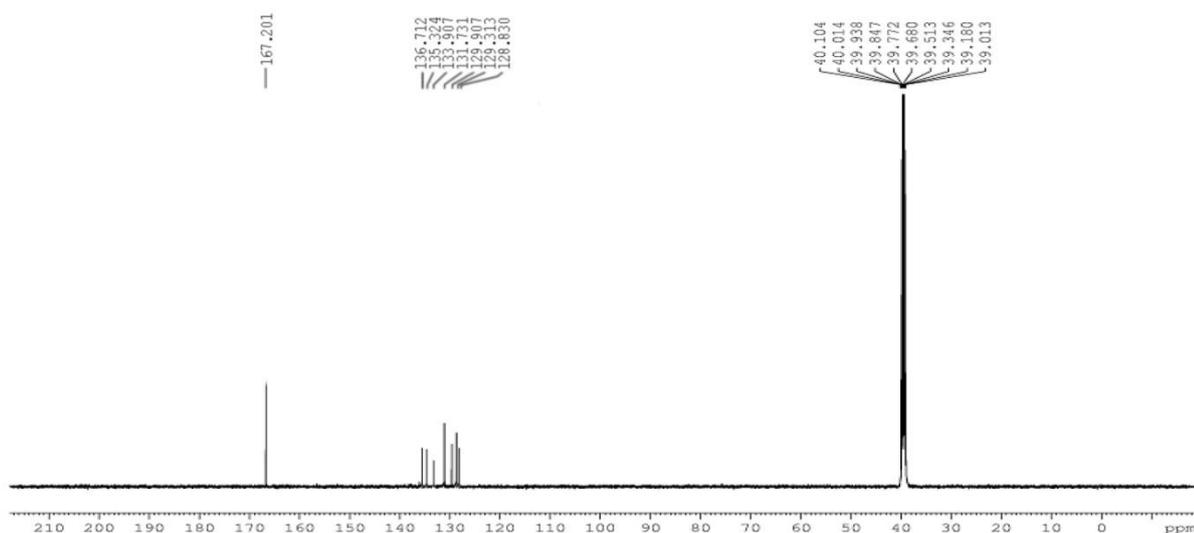
Compound	λ_{\max} (nm)		
	π - π^*	n - π	Benzene ring secondary band
$[(n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9)_2\text{SnCl}_2]$ (1)	210.7	-	-
$[(n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9)_2\text{SnO}]$ (2)	202.9	-	-
$[(n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9)_2\text{Sn}(\text{OOC}_6\text{H}_4\text{Cl})_2]$ (3)	-	291.1	-
$[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_2\text{Sn}(\text{OOC}_6\text{H}_4\text{Cl})_2]$ (6)	200.7	298.7	406.6
$[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3\text{Sn}(\text{OOC}_6\text{H}_4\text{Cl})]$ (9)	203.6	303.5	409.7

Table 4. ^1H and ^{13}C spectra of the compounds synthesized.

Compounds	H in butyl or phenyl (ppm)	H in benzoate (ppm)	C in butyl, phenyl and benzoate (ppm)
$[(n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9)_2\text{Sn}(\text{OOC}\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{Cl})_2](\mathbf{3})$	H α & H β : 1.35-1.60 (m); H γ : 1.27 (m); H δ : 0.91 (t)	7.33-7.85 (m)	C α : 21.0; C β : 26.4; C γ : 25.7; C δ : 14.0; C1: 166.7; C2: 139.1; C3 & C7: 129.5; C4 & C6: 128.4; C5: 125.1
$[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_2\text{Sn}(\text{OOC}\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{Cl})_2](\mathbf{6})$	H2 & H6 7.56 (d, 4H); H3 & H5 7.45 (t, 4H); H4: 7.32 (t, 2H)	7.78 - 7.91 (d)	C1-C6 (phen) 129.3 – 128.8; C7 167.2; C8 136.7; C9 133.9; C10 129.9; C11 135.3 ; C12 126.7; C13 131.7
$[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3\text{Sn}(\text{OOC}\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{Cl})](\mathbf{9})$	H2 & H6 7.55 (d, 6H); H3 & H5 7.43 (t, 6H); H4: 7.0 (t, 3H)	7.77 - 7.90 (d)	C1-6 (phen): 131.0-126.0; C7: 167.1; C8: 139.0; C9 & C13: 130.0; C10 & C12: 128.3; C11: 127.9

The results of ^1H and ^{13}C NMR for the compounds synthesized are presented in Table 4, and the

examples of spectra for compound **6** are shown in Fig. 2 (^1H NMR) and Fig. 3 (^{13}C NMR).

**Figure 2.** ^1H NMR spectrum of Compound **6****Figure 3.** ^{13}C NMR spectrum of Compound **6**

Some important signals in the spectra obtained have been characterized carefully. The chemical shift (δ) of butyl protons attached to the tin metal appeared in the range of 0.91 ppm for H δ up to 1.35-1.60 ppm for H α and H β , and the carbons of butyl ligands are observed at position comparable with other similar compounds reported previously^{3,7,16-18,21,22}. The chemical shift of phenyl protons attached to tin metal appeared in the range of 7.0 – 7.56 ppm, while the carbon of carboxyl group of all compounds as expected appeared in the region of 167 ppm^{3,7,16-18,21,22}. The carbon atoms of the phenyl ligand as also expected appeared in δ of 131–126 ppm, while the carbons in the chlorobenzoate derivatives appeared in δ range of 140–130 ppm close to the reported values of similar compounds^{3,7,16-18,21,22}.

We have previously reported the antifungal and anticancer activity of the compounds similar to those reported in this work¹⁰⁻¹³, and it is found that optimal activity of the antifungal and anticancer was related to the number of carbon atoms of the ligand present in the organotin(IV) used^{10-13, 23}.

In general, the derivative of triphenyltin(IV) carboxylate, which contains 18 carbon atoms has the

highest activity^{10-13,23}, and surprisingly same phenomena were also observed in this work.

The results of antimalarial activity are shown in Table 5 and it was found that the derivatives of triphenyltin(IV) compounds showed the highest antimalarial activity in the series compared to the diphenyltin(IV) and dibutyltin(IV) derivatives¹⁸. Thus the number of carbon atoms present as well as the type of the ligands has a significant effect on the antimalarial activity of the organotin(IV) compounds tested²³.

The results also indicated that the organotin(IV) chlorobenzoate compounds synthesized exhibited much higher antimalarial activity compared to those of the ligands, starting materials and intermediate products. Thus, our results are consistent with a well-known fact that many biologically active compounds become more active upon complexation than in their uncomplexed forms²⁴. According to Crowe the actual biological activity of diorganotin compounds of the type RR'SnXY (R and R' = alkyl or aryl; X and Y= anions) is determined solely by the RR'Sn²⁺ moiety²⁵.

Table 5. The IC₅₀ of the compound tested.

Compounds	IC ₅₀ (μg/mL)
Chloroquine	2.0 x 10 ⁻³
[(n-C₄H₉)₂Sn(OOCC₆H₄Cl)]₂ (3)	8.7 x 10 ⁻²
[(C₆H₅)₂Sn(OOCC₆H₄Cl)]₂ (6)	9.7 x 10 ⁻²
[(C₆H₅)₃Sn(OOCC₆H₄Cl)] (9)	3.1 x 10 ⁻³

3. Conclusions

We successfully prepared the organotin(IV) chlorobenzoate compounds. Based on the discussion, the compounds synthesized have shown some promising result to be used as antimalarial drug. The derivative of triphenyltin(IV) chlorobenzoate has again shown to be most active as antimalarial agent. This is perhaps in line with other data relating to the number of carbon atom present in the compound. We are now further examining the antimalarial activity of the compounds, and we will test based on Artemisin in Combination Therapy in order to find out the potential users of these compounds for the future antimalarial drug.

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5. Experimental

5.1. Materials

All reagents used were AR grade. Dibutyltin(IV) dichloride $[(n-C_4H_9)_2Cl_2]$, diphenyltin(IV) dichloride $[(C_6H_5)_2Cl_2]$, triphenyltin(IV) chloride $[(C_6H_5)_3Cl]$, chlorobenzoic acid, RPMI were obtained from Sigma, water HPLC grade, sodium hydroxide (NaOH) and methanol (CH₃OH) were JT Baker products, and were used without further purification.

5.2. Characterization and instrumentations

The UV spectra were recorded in the UV region and were measured using a UV- Shimadzu UV-245 Spectrophotometer. Measurements were performed in 1 mL quartz-cells. Solutions were prepared using methanol as the solvent with the concentration of

1.0×10^{-4} M. Microelemental analyses (CHNS) were conducted using Fison EA 1108 series elemental analyser. IR spectra were measured in the range of $4000\text{--}400\text{ cm}^{-1}$ using a Bruker VERTEX 70 FT-IR spectrophotometer with KBr discs. ^1H and ^{13}C NMR spectra were obtained with a Bruker AV 600 MHz NMR (600 MHz for ^1H and 150 MHz for ^{13}C). All experiments were run in DMSO- D_6 at 298K. The number of runs used for ^1H experiments was 32 with reference at DMSO signal at 2.5 ppm, while the ^{13}C were 1000-4000 scans with the reference DMSO signal at 39.5 ppm.

5.3. Preparation of organotin(IV) chlorobenzoates

The organotin(IV) chlorobenzoates used in this work were prepared based on the procedure previously reported ^{10-13,16-18} and was adapted from the work by Szorcik *et al.* ³. An example procedure in the preparation of diphenyltin(IV) benzoate was as follows:

3.44 g (0.01 mol) $[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_2\text{SnCl}_2]$ (**1**) in 50 mL methanol was added with solution of 0.8 g (0.02 mol) NaOH in methanol. The reaction mixtures were stirred for about 60 minutes. Compound $[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_2\text{Sn}(\text{OH})_2]$ (**2**) was precipitated out as white solid, filtered off and dried in vacuo till they are ready for analysis and further reaction. The yield was 2.92 g (95 %).

0.4605 g (1.5 mmol) compound **2** in 50 mL of methanol was added with 2 mole equivalents of chlorobenzoic acid (0.235 g) and was refluxed for 4 hours at $60\text{--}62^\circ\text{C}$. After removal of the solvent by rotary evaporator, the produced compounds $[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_2\text{Sn}(2\text{-OOC}_6\text{H}_4\text{Cl})_2]$ were dried in vacuo until they are ready for analysis and further use for in vitro antimalarial activity. The yield was 1.67 g (it was more than ~ 92 %).

A similar procedure was also adapted in the preparation of dibutyltin(IV) and triphenyltin(IV) derivatives, $[(n\text{-C}_4\text{H}_9)_2\text{Sn}(2\text{-OOC}_6\text{H}_4\text{Cl})_2]$ (**3**) and $[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)_3\text{Sn}(2\text{-OOC}_6\text{H}_4\text{Cl})_2]$ (**9**), respectively. For triphenyltin(IV) only one mole equivalent of the chlorobenzoic acid was added.

5.4. In vitro antimalarial bioactivity assays

The in vitro antimalarial assays were done in the Institute of Tropical Disease, Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya Indonesia. The malaria parasite *P. falciparum* 3D7 clone was essentially propagated according to the previously published procedure ^{2,19}. Briefly, parasite cultures were propagated in tissue culture flasks containing RPMI-1640 medium supplemented with 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ gentamycin, 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ hypoxanthine, 25 mM Hepes buffer, 25 mM sodium bicarbonate, 10% AB+ human serum, 5% haematocrit and human erythrocytes with the pH maintained at 7.4. Each compound tested was first dissolved in DMSO and diluted to different concentration by adding complete malaria medium. Chloroquine was used as a positive control. To determine the

antiplasmodial activity of each isolated compound, parasites were placed in a 24-well culture plate in the presence of a wide concentration range of each compound. The parasite growth was monitored by making a blood smear that was fixed with methanol and stained with Giemsa. Total parasitaemia was calculated as the number of parasites-observed, divided by the total erythrocyte multiplied by 100%. The concentration response parasite growth data were calculated by a linear regression provided by SYSTAT Sigma Plot, using the 50% inhibitory concentration (IC_{50}). The IC_{50} value is defined as that concentration of compound producing 50% growth inhibition relative to untreated control.

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